

AN INSIDE LOOK AT “SPLIT HAPPENS”: PART 1 OF 2



Jack Weller

The Monday Morning Seniors league at Thunderhead Bowl and Grill is versatile, to say the least. Among its impressive array of personalities is one of the more nimble collections of players to grace the 28-lane establishment. “SPLIT HAPPENS” is comprised of three seasoned veterans – Jack Weller, Cameron Olson, and Bob Dorr – all of which seem to carry that little extra bounce in their step that brings out the mystique of the duckpin game.

Jack Weller is the most recent addition to the team, taking over for original roster member, Elaine

Locke, who had to step back from the league after suffering a couple of injuries.

Coming off a strong night from this past Thursday, which included a dazzling 159 game and 400+ set, Weller is no stranger to posting the big scores. His career high game is 214, and his high 3-game series is 498 – both feats occurring back in 2003 at Thunderhead “Taneytown”. But that wasn't just a one-time deal, as Jack carried a stout 133 average for the season.

Weller currently lives in Emmitsburg, Maryland, but grew up in Carroll County.

Jack started bowling at the age of 9. His father worked at the former Union Bridge bowling establishment during that timeframe, and the young Weller would accompany his dad during the work day at the lanes, roughly twice a year. Once he got accustomed to the game, Jack has been a formidable competitor to this day.

The 2022-2023 season is Weller's first stint in the Monday Morning Seniors league as a regular member. He is the eldest of three sons and also has 1 sister. Jack devoted his employment career to the educational system, working at Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg.

One of Jack's favorite interests in his spare time is Reading. He states that he is flexible in his literary tastes, but doesn't care much for “Sci-Fi”, nor romances. His pleasant and laid back persona fits right in on Monday mornings.



Cam Olson

Cam Olson is another of the youthful, smooth-featured players on the “Split Happens” team.

Much like his teammate, Weller, Cam started bowling early, right around the age of 10, and joined his first league when he was 15 years old. He grew up in Frederick, Maryland.

Olson has had a busy life, one of his highlights being serving his country in the Marine Corps. His primary vocation in his career years was that of a technician in the Manufacturing field. But Cam hasn't migrated into retirement yet. He states, “I told my wife that I

wouldn't retire until she does". He added that he would rather enjoy retirement together on a full-time basis with his soul mate.

Among his various hobbies, Cam enjoys playing golf. He started with the outdoor game after inheriting his father's golf clubs. His best round is a good one, in which he shot a 79 for 18 holes at Glade Valley Golf Club in Walkersville. Olson has been playing in a golf league on Tuesdays for the past 5 years, which runs from April to October. Cam says his 'short game' is his strong suit. Olson usually gets together on Father's Day weekend in June with his two brothers for an annual golf outing in New Market, Virginia – a tradition they've been enjoying together for the past 18 years. Cam is the youngest of three sons, and he also has 1 sister, who lives in Gettysburg.

He is also a Baltimore Ravens disciple, being a former season ticket holder. But Cam admits that he is particularly a fan of the Minnesota Vikings. "I'm still waiting for them to win the big one", Olson says with more than a trace of enthusiasm.

In regard to his youthful appearance, he attributes this to the fact that he never smoked. But Cam

also says, "I try to live the easy life, and keep stress out of it".

Cam currently lives in Libertytown, and has resided there for the past 30 years.

Olson works for RR Donnelley Printing out of Thurmont, Maryland. He's been there for 38 years. The company as of late has moved into that of an 'imaging' firm that produces billing and financial statements for a wide range of professionally established clients.

Outside of play time, Olson also is experienced in woodworking as a sideline, in which he enlists the use of a variety of saws, a router, and many homemade 'jigs'.

In prior years, Cam collected baseball cards. As of late, to complement his time in the Marine Corps, he also likes to collect military coins, of which he has amassed in the neighborhood of 30 to 40 over the last five years. Olson says he locates the different coins at flea markets and similar venues, as well as acquiring them online. Among the coins in his collection is a medallion that honors his brother-in-law, Joe Dougherty, who is the state Chief of Police in the Gettysburg area.



Some of Cam's Military Coins

On the bowling lanes, Cam's high game is 224, which he rolled at Village Lanes in Frederick, Maryland. He's had two '3-game sets' in the 520s, his highest being 524 at Walkersville Lanes. His other 520 series came at Village Lanes. Regarding Frederick bowling centers, Cam also rolled at Arcade Lanes and at the 4th Street Health Center, which had 8 lanes.

... Next week, Bob Dorr of "SPLIT HAPPENS" will be featured

BOWLING TIP: The Benefit of Breathing

The simplest things are often overlooked, yet they serve a purpose, and each of these basic tendencies are content with their modest roles in sports.

In the mid-2000s, I had the good fortune of bowling on the same team with two of bowling's best players. One was Shorty Divver, who gave a great tip on hitting the corner pins, which was touched upon in a prior

newsletter. The other iconic player was Ken Palmer. Ken had a very casual but controlled delivery, and was one of the better performers under pressure that I ever witnessed. He had a very simple but effective method of handling tense situations. It was noticeable at times that when a game was tight, he would take a deep breath before making his approach to the foul line. This

action served the purpose of keeping a cool head and remaining calm to the point of not carelessly rushing to the foul line when it was important to make a good shot.

And so, even though this is a short tip, it might help to try it once in a while, if you ever find yourself suffering a lack of confidence

PUZZLE PAGE

Last issue's Brain Teaser answers:

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| 1. Just between you and me | 5. Split Second Timing |
| 2. Blood is thicker than water | 6. Ping Pong |
| 3. Scrambled Eggs | 7. Neon Lights |
| 4. I understand | 8. Touchdown |

TANEYTOWN CROSSWORD

1	O	F	F		3	P		4	N	M		6	A	R	T	7	
8	D	L		9	S	O	L	O	I	N	G				H		
11	D	U	C	K	P	I	N	S		13		14	R	A	Y		
		15	H	I	P		16	O	T	T	E	R					
18	S	19	P	I	R	I	T		20		21	E	W	E		22	S
23	M	A	L	T	E	D		24	R	A	D	I	O		25		
26	A	N	D		S		27	W	E	S		28	G	N			
29	R	E	S	T		30		31	C	A	D		32	S	L	Y	
33	T	L		34	R	E	A	L		36	W	H	O				
		37	H	A	L	S	E	Y		38	E	O		39	N		
40	H	41	O		42	I	S	I	S		43	I	A				
44	A	N		45	L	E	O		46	S	T	R	A	Y			

ACROSS

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|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Blast _____ ! | 23. Type of milk shake |
| 4. Albuquerque, _____ | 24. Ham or transistor |
| 6. Paintings & Sculpture | 26. Love _____ Marriage |
| 8. David Letterman's initials | 27. Tenpin pro, _____ Malott |
| 9. The goal of a student pilot | 28. Initials of famous Aussie golfer |
| 11. OUR Game | 29. Take it easy |
| 13. Sunshine beam | 31. Computer-aided design |
| 15. It's near the waist | 32. Clever, cunning |
| 16. Water mammal | 33. Cowboys' legendary coach (initials) |
| 18. Ghost | 34. The _____ Deal |
| 21. Female sheep | |

DOWN

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| 1. The _____ Couple |
| 2. A severe cold |
| 3. Type of flower (plural) |
| 4. Opposite of "Yes, yes" |
| 5. The talking Palomino (2 words) |
| 6. Consented |
| 7. _____ Will be done |
| 9. Ladies garment |
| 10. "Long Island" initials |
| 12. Barbara _____ |
| 14. Little Rock, _____ |
| 17. _____ The Night Before Christmas |
| 18. Maxwell _____ |
| 19. Discussion group |
| 20. Football 6-pointer |
| 22. TV Manufacturer |
| 25. Eskimo hut |
| 27. The Prince of _____ |
| 30. Walking path |
| 31. Watch manufacturer |
| 32. To cut hair or fur |
| 35. Otherwise |
| 39. Yea, or _____ |
| 40. A laugh |
| 41. _____ the Waterfront |
| 43. _____ ! The Terror from Beyond Space |

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|--------------------------------|
| 36. _____'s on First? |
| 37. Admiral _____ |
| 38. A very long period of time |
| 40. One of Santa's words |
| 42. Egyptian goddess |
| 43. Davenport, _____ |
| 44. _____ Ounce of prevention |
| 45. Zodiac sign |
| 46. A wandering cat |

RUBBERBAND DUCKPINS

One of the variations of Duckpin Bowling that doesn't get a lot of attention is that of 'Rubberband Duckpins'. The official National Duckpin Bowling Congress started in 1927. But Rubberband Duckpins actually existed around that same timeframe, and was wildly popular in the Pittsburgh area. However, the game didn't actually come under an official means of organization with the NDBC until the 1940s.

The idea of the bands around the pins was primarily to reduce the noise level of the game. When people look at the game nowadays, the association of a rubber 'strap' around the pin belly leads people to believe that the pin action is more lively than the standard version of the game. In reality though, the pin action is more much subdued, and the pins react in a very similar fashion to that of the tenpin game. But the band around the pin's midsection does increase the collective girth of the pins and generates a lot more strikes, and thus there have been numerous "perfect 300" games. However, if you have the misfortune of chopping through on the headpin, the chances of converting such a split for a spare are practically non-existent.



Bowlers only get 2 balls per frame in the rubberband game. There aren't many bowling centers left in the United States that still have rubberband duckpins. I believe there's one 'house' in Cumberland, Maryland, and one in the Pittsburgh area, called Glassport Lanes. I did get a chance to play the game at Zips Lanes in Johnstown, PA, back in the early 2000s.

The game is still very popular in the French-speaking provinces of Canada. But in that vicinity, the bowlers all roll the ball with a backspin motion – that is, the hand is placed on top of the ball and

flipped with a backward motion, instead of a conventional roll. The reason for this is that a slow ball is the desired speed, because in front of the headpin is a small ridge – almost like a divider – upon which if a ball rolls on this protrusion slow enough, it will drop off either to the left or right of the ridge, and thus greatly reducing the chance of chopping through the headpin.

The photo above shows a regular duckpin, a rubberband duckpin for "string pinsetters", and thirdly, an old rubberband pin with "free-falling" pinsetters as are used in our version of duckpins.

EVENING TRIPLES LEAGUE UPDATE FOR 2023-2024 SEASON

The format of the Taneytown Triples league is proposed to be a little bit different than that of a standard bowling league, as it will be a combination of a team league and a singles league. The team portion will operate as a normal league, but each game is worth 3 points instead of 1 point. The singles segment will be set up in which each person is assigned an ID number at the beginning of the league. Each

week, a player will roll against a different league member within the league, using the scores that are rolled during the normal team match. The singles league will be based on 100% handicap, so it's basically a "Pins Over Average" affair. The points each team member accrues for the night will be added to his/her team points to obtain a weekly team total. So, if Team A wins 2 games in a night, the team total is 6 points.

Then the individual members' wins (1 point per Singles game win) are added to the team total for the week.

The initial plan is for a 30-week season, with a maximum of a 10-team league, to roll at 7:15 pm on Monday evenings.

We'll see how the response is to this format in the weeks ahead, and will modify a few areas, if desired across a general consensus.