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Media Contact:

Chuck Kramer, WNDA President

Women's National Duckpin Association (WNDA)

Tel: 443-879-9632 E-mail: info@wndatour.com

SEARS STRIKES AGAIN; COHEN CAPTURES FIRST VICTORY

Maryland bowlers emerge victorious at Rhode Island professional duckpin tournaments

Johnston, Rhode Island - In a combined event that attracted nearly 200 bowlers from across the US and Canada, the two first place awards went to bowlers from Maryland. The Women's National Duckpin Association (WNDA) and Men's Duckpin Professional Bowlers Association (DPBA) recently held their respective Duckpin Pro Tours at Town Hall Lanes in Johnston, Rhode Island. The organizations, each comprised of the best duckpin bowlers in the game, have held the combined event in Johnston for many years and it has become a star attraction in both tour circuits.

The tournament took place on August 6-8 and consisted of a qualifying round on Friday and Saturday, divisional playoffs on Sunday, and concluded with a head-to-head elimination round. Many of the top men and women bowlers from across the US and Canada participated in this event.

Sears Strikes Again

This weekend's tournament marked the 5th event of the season for the DPBA. In a field of almost 140 bowlers, **Joey Sears** of **Stevensville, MD**, came out on top. Sears' recent victory is his third championship in his last six pro tours. makes this his third career pro tour win, all of which were won within the previous six events. Sears qualified in the 10th spot for the semi-finals with a score of 1207.

At this particular event, bowlers needed a minimum score of 1145 for their eight game qualifying round in order to advance to Sunday's divisional semi-finals. At the conclusion of Sunday's matches, bowlers who topped each division were then seeded on a ladder based on their total score from the match-play round, along with one wild-card bowler. Sears semi-finals performance earned him the fourth seed and he would have to wait to learn who he faced in his first match.

In a close first game, **Roy Cochefski Jr.** of Newington, CT, defeated **Mark Callahan** of Stewartstown, PA, 148-139. Cochefski went on to face Hall of Famer **Peter Pierce** of North Attleboro, MA. Pierce was victorious, defeating Cochefski 150-118. It was now time for Sears to step up on the lane and take on Pierce. In yet another close match, Sears was able to edge out Pierce, 139-137. Sears continued his climb up the ladder by defeating third seeded **Mark Parker** of Warwick, RI, in a 144-112 match, and then rolling a 152 to overcome the 144 game of second seed **Dave Marsh's** of Waterbury, CT. In the final match of the weekend, Sears was able to conquer the top seed and DPBA President, **Luke Robestelli** of Middletown, CT.

The next event of the DPBA season will take place on September 3-5, 2010 at Glen Burnie Lanes in Glen Burnie, MD.

Cohen Captures First WNDA Victory

A new star emerged as **Tara Cohen** of **Owings Mills, MD** seized her first WNDA Pro Tour championship this weekend. Like Sears, Cohen has been having a very successful year. In March, the two-handed bowler won the Ladies All-Star Classic at AMF Westview in Baltimore, MD, and in July, she placed 4th at the second pro tour event of the season in Hamden, CT.

At the conclusion of Saturday's qualifying round, twenty-four participants advanced to the divisional playoffs. A score of 1025 or better was needed in order to advance. At the end of Sunday's match-play, the women were also seeded on a ladder; however, unlike the men, the women are seeded based solely on their record, with score acting as a tie-breaker. Cohen was seeded second on the ladder and, like Sears, would have to wait to see who she would be up against.

In the first game, **Elena Foldeak** from Seymour, CT, defeated **Kristin Bull** of Baltimore, MD in a 136-117 game. Foldeak now had to face **Pat Rinaldi** of Bethesda, MD. Rinaldi had been bowling great all day, averaging almost 160 for her games earlier that day, which included a **game of 204**. Rinaldi continued her impressive streak, defeating Foldeak 160-131. Rinaldi was to now face Tara Cohen. Cohen took the lead and put up a score of 165 while Rinaldi

got some tough breaks and finished with 115. In the final match of the weekend, Cohen had to bowl against **Kristy Penny** of *Sparrows Point, MD*. In a match that was close the entire game, **it all came down to the final ball** of the tenth frame in which Cohen was able to edge out Penny by a single pin, 144-143.

The next event of the WNDA season will take place on September 3-5, 2010 at Pinland Lanes in Dundalk, MD.

About the WNDA

Founded in 1982, the Women's National Duckpin Association (WNDA) has been promoting the thrill and challenge of duckpin bowling competition for women. To date, we have held more than 150 events with over \$1 Million in prizes and awards.

About the DPBA

Since holding its first event in 1963, the Duckpin Professional Bowlers Association (DPBA) has been promoting the thrill and challenge of duckpin bowling competition. With over 200 members, the organization hosts eight tournaments throughout the mid-Atlantic and New England each year. Members come from Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, and Canada.