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Hoopeston man rolls 300 at National Open Championships

By AARON SMITH
 USBC Communications

RENO, Nev. – Marvin Dobkins of Hoopeston, Illinois, may have not picked up a bowling ball for a little bit prior to his appearance this week at the **United States Bowling Congress Open Championships**, but it didn't stop him from putting together a special performance during the 2023 event.

The 58-year-old right-hander took advantage of his 10 minutes of warmup prior to the start of his team event Tuesday night at the National Bowling Stadium and proceeded to roll 12 strikes in Game 1 for a 300 game.

Dobkins' 300 was the 11th of the 2023 event and sixth in team competition at the Taj Mahal of Toppins.

"We finished our leagues at the end of April," said Dobkins, who added games of 153 and 150 following his 300 for a 603 series. "I haven't picked up a bowling ball since, so I came in cold. The 10 minutes of warmup before was it. The adrenaline from rolling 300 after the first game was probably why the next two games weren't the best, but I'm glad I did it."

Although he benefited from a few Brooklyn strikes early on, Dobkins was locked in by the time he stepped up for his final frame.

The nerves may have been mounting as he tried for the second 300 game of his career, but he looked calm and collected after delivering his first two strikes of the 10th frame. He got to the pocket again for a light hit on his 12th shot, and the 7 pin was the last to fall.

"I was comfortable going in, but the first three were on

the Brooklyn side," said Dobkins, who rolled his first 300 in 2017 at Hoopeston's Fast Lanes. "I found my line and went from there. There was definitely a lot of pressure. I could feel it a little bit when I started the 10th, and by the last shot, I could really feel it. I liked the way the last ball hit but wasn't sure if it was going to carry. I was glad it did."

The 2023 event marked his third appearance at the USBC Open Championships and first visit to the 78-lane National Bowling Stadium after a couple of trips to Las Vegas and the South Point Bowling Plaza to compete at the event.

Dobkins now joins the long and storied history at both the NBS and Open Championships with his perfect performance, and he looks forward to experiencing his new role as a tournament celebrity when he returns for his next appearance.

"For my first time being in this establishment, it's interesting for sure," said Dobkins, who added sets of 527 in doubles and 513 in singles for an all-events total of 1,643 in the Standard Division. "As big as the complex is, it's pretty overwhelming."

"It's a very good feeling (to roll 300 at the Open Championships). I think it will be nice (to be announced)."

The Standard Division features bowlers with entering averages of 156-175.

The 2023 Open Championships kicked off March 4 and will conclude July 24. The 143-day tournament will feature more than 9,700 five-player teams and nearly 50,000 bowlers making their way to compete in The Big-
See OPEN on other side



MARVIN DOBKINS

Photo by USBC

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 Sandie Smith
 COUNTRY Financial
 office has moved to
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 221 Bank St., Hoopeston
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Briefly

Food cupboard updates

- Grant Township Food Cupboard is in need of pork & beans and peas. Any donations of foods or hygiene items are appreciated. Donations to the Food Cupboard are down and the number of people needing food has increased.
- The Food Cupboard Board of Directors is seeking new and younger members. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Sharon Roark, President. Meetings are held quarterly.

HMA activities

Women's Morning Donut Group meets at 8:15 a.m. every Wednesday in the large room at Hoopeston Multi Agency, 206 S. First Ave. Come join us!

Card group meets Wednesday for euchre starting 12:30.

For more information on Multi Agency programs, call (217) 283-5544 or stop by 206 S. First Ave.

At the library

Jacob Dickey, WCIA meteorologist, will speak at 2 p.m. Thursday. The program is open to all area residents of all ages.

Coffee, Craft & Conversation 10 a.m.-noon Wednesdays. Needlecrafters and, along those who do other portable handcrafts are inviting to bring their projects and enjoy a morning of fun and conversation!

For more information on library programs, call (217) 283-6711 or visit 110 N. Fourth St.



Photo/USBC

Marvin Dobkins watches pins fall on one of his 12 strikes that led to a 300 game at the United States Bowling Congress' Open Championships in Reno, Nev.

Open continued from other side

gest Little City in the World.

The USBC Open Championship is world's largest annual participatory sporting event, attracting 45,000-75,000 participants. It takes place from 7 a.m. until 2 a.m., during a stretch of about 125 consecutive days.

Bowlers compete for an estimated prize fund between \$4.5 - \$7.5 million and come from all 50 states and foreign countries such as Bermuda, Canada, England, France, Germany, Bahamas, Italy, Mexico and Switzerland.

Fire Calls

Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 9:21 p.m. Sunday to Heritage Health, 423 N. Dixie Hwy., for a report of an activated fire alarm/carbon monoxide detector in the kitchen. No injuries were reported.

Firefighters were called again to Heritage Health at 10:21 p.m. Sunday for a fire alarm. No fire was found by department personnel.

From the Blotter

While on patrol at 2:27 a.m. Sunday, officers notice spray painted graffiti on the road in the 200 block of East Main. The criminal damage to state supported property is under investigation.

Court Dispositions

June 14

Andrew C. Fink Hoopeston, complied in two cases of general nuisance, fines paid in full, cases closed.

Marty J. Fink, Hoopeston, failed to appear at status hearing for assault, found guilty by default, fined \$280; status hearing July 12.

Arias H. Toquica, Hoopeston, appeared at status hearing for two cases of dangerous dog, paid fine in one case, case closed; status hearing July 12.

Weather

Sunny, then slight chance of thunderstorms today. High 88. Tonight, chance of storms. Low 65. Tomorrow, chance of storms, then showers likely. High 82, low 65

For real time Hoopeston weather, visit justthefacts.net/weather/.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

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Truck Drivers needed. Must have clean driving record. Contact Brent @ 815-405-4000 sintruckinginc@gmail.com

City of Hoopeston Police Department is taking applications for certified police officers/part time certification is recognized. Applications ongoing; no deadline applies for certified officers.