

Fashion and Flair at the PBA Gala

By Jackie Wyckoff



“Fashionistas” at a bowling banquet? Absolutely! The Lumber Liquidators Professional Bowlers Tour 50th Anniversary Gala was “all that”. Of course to say this was just a “bowling banquet” certainly does a disservice to Janay Leddy and the staff, management and ownership of the PBA Tour. This was indeed a “Gala”, as advertised.

Mothers, daughters, wives, girlfriends, sisters, staffers and yes, even us writers, were decked out to the nines on Saturday, January 25, for this black tie event at the Red Rock Casino, Resort and Spa.



The Husted Family

PBA Photo

Chelsea Husted led the youth category for lookin’ good in a floor length halter in cool shades of champagne, buff and brown. Tracy Weber was sporting a beautiful cocktail dress with a white wrap top and Carolyn Dorin-Ballard’s black chiffon outfit with a full-length cascading waterfall skirt was lovely.



Peggy Elias

*Photo Courtesy of
Kathy Watson*

Peggy Elias, the former Peggy Emerson, Miss Ohio 1963, was a statement in elegance. Her standout item was a beautiful pearl necklace with a diamond studded ruby pendant.

Martha Crooks, mother of Norm Duke, looked regal as a Hall of Fame mother should, in her floor length black dress with a white beaded bolo jacket to accent her petite frame. Pam LeClair’s long,



The Duke’s

PBA Photo

black gown with rhinestones criss-crossing her bare back was stupendous.



Tamia Diaz
PBA Photo

I must admit to having two absolute drop dead favorite “fashionistas”, however. PBA staffer Tamia Diaz in her candy-apple red sheath dress and those to-die-for designer Fluevog boots was on the cutting edge of couture and Michelle Angelo was classically fabulous in her deep ruby crepe gown that looked as if it was made for her.

As the song says “Everybody’s crazy ‘bout a sharp dressed man” and that was certainly true this evening. There were no slouches in the “Fashionisto”



Del Ballard & Chris Barnes
PBA Photo

department. The fellas looked fab in their suits and ties and several really got into the swing of things with a tux.



Bob Hart & Brian Voss
Photo Courtesy of Joan Taylor

The evening began with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres while the attendees were treated to live music. Dinner followed, filet mignon or seared salmon for the main course and a decadent molten chocolate

cake with custard ice cream for dessert. Then, the Hall of Fame ceremony as John Handegard, Del Ballard and Norm Duke were the first players to be inducted since 2000.



Last but certainly not least was the introduction of the PBA’s 50 greatest players, 40 of whom were in attendance. Susie Anthony accepted the honors of number one for her deceased husband, Earl. Topping off the salute to the fab-fifty was a short congratulatory speech by Peggy Elias,

whose husband Eddie Elias started the PBA and referred to those 33 founding players as “my boys”.

Hats off to Fred Schreyer, Chris Peters, Mike Slade, Fred Glaser and the staff of the Lumber Liquidators PBA Tour for pulling off a once-in-a-lifetime event with such aplomb – and so many “fashionistas” in attendance!