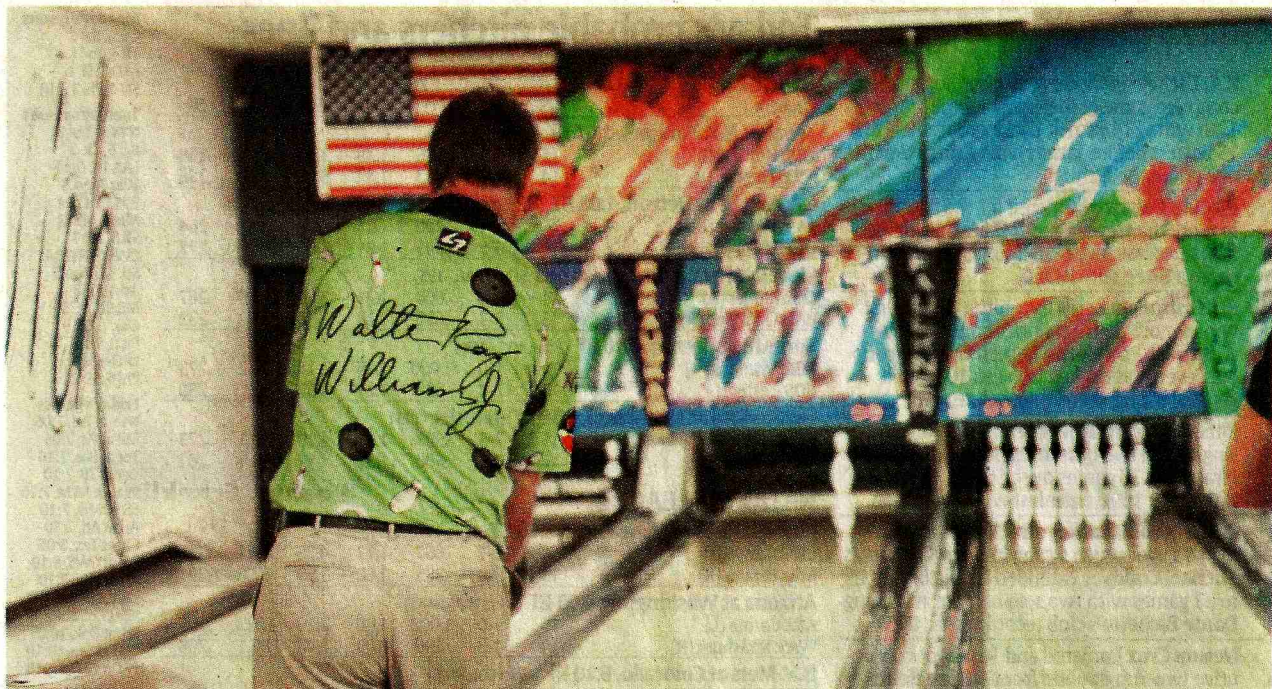


Recreation

6/27/13

BOWLING



PBA Hall of Fame member Walter Ray Williams Jr. lines up to pick up a spare during the PBA Reality Check Classic Ichiban Series South Open held at Brunswick Harbour Lanes in Melbourne. FOR FLORIDA TODAY

Williams Jr. rolls up local win

Legendary bowler shows his form at Brunswick Lanes

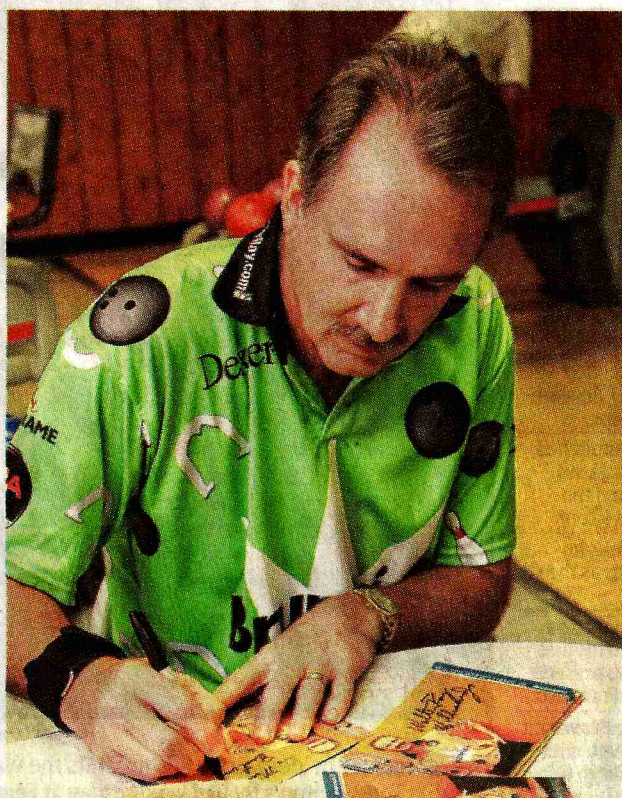
By Chris Bonanno
FLORIDA TODAY

Walter Ray Williams Jr. emerged as the grand champion from this past weekend's PBA Reality Check Classic Series South Open presented by DV8 at Brunswick Harbour Lanes in Melbourne.

"It's been really great to have the PBA," said Denny Giles, marketing manager of the lanes.

Williams Jr., who won the Ichiban Series event, limited to senior bowlers, won in a champion vs. champion roll-off against Sean Riccardi by a 206-200 score.

Of course, it's thrilling for local bowling fans to have Williams Jr. — a Hall of Famer from Ocala who holds the record for all-time standard PBA Tour career titles and total PBA earnings — come to Brevard and it's no surprise to those who follow bowling that he emerged



Walter Ray Williams Jr. signs autographs during the PBA Reality Check Classic Ichiban Series South Open held at Brunswick Harbour Lanes in Melbourne. FOR FLORIDA TODAY

victorious, either. Giles called Williams Jr. the "Michael Jordan of bowling."

Both Williams Jr. and

Riccardi both certainly earned their positions in the two-day professional event.

"It was over 20 games

that they bowled, which is a pretty substantial amount for two days," Giles said.

In addition to the professional event, there was a pro-am event on Friday night where professionals mingled and played alongside amateurs. Giles compared it to being able to "get down on the court and play with your favorite basketball player."

Some local bowlers participated in the event as well. John Donovan of Melbourne finished 33rd in the South Open, while Scott E. Stanley of Cocoa Beach placed 35th, Cocoa Beach's Mike Bauer finished 47th and Sean Hoff of Melbourne placed 53rd.

In the Ichiban Series South Open, Titusville's Dave Sill finished 23rd, Pete Couture of Titusville came in 30th, Ron Golden ended in 37th and Jay Aderhold of Melbourne placed 39th while Danny L. Gould came in 40th.

Giles points out that the overall prize pool for the event was \$30,000, which he said was very good for a regional tournament.