

ORLANDO – As a member of the Professional Bowlers Association Hall of Fame, Mike Aulby casts a celebrity presence when he shows up each year at the Bowl Expo trade show.

That doesn't preclude the winner of all four major professional bowling championships from conducting important business.

"We finalized a deal to put Qubica/AMF automatic scoring into our center. We're also looking at possibly incorporating redemption games in the center," said Aulby, proprietor of Mike Aulby's Arrowhead Bowl in Lafayette, Ind.

"I always come to the trade show looking at both big things and small that will benefit us," adds the lefthander who was the 1979 PBA Rookie of the Year.

When Aulby purchased Arrowhead in 1997 he was still a PBA star, two year removed from his third Bowler of the Year season. Eventually he won titles in four decades (the 1970s through the 2000's) before retiring after the 2002-03 season.

Working with business partner Don Mitchell and center manager Scott Devers, Aulby soon expanded Arrowhead from 32 to 42 lanes. He also got into another sport/recreation business: ice skating rinks. He now owns two in the Indianapolis area.

As an ice rink proprietor he also attends that industry's trade show but says it is not anywhere as big as Bowl Expo.

Like many attendees, the weeklong trip to central Florida was for multiple purposes. Mike's family, including wife Tami, son C.J. and daughter Danielle came along to enjoy the sites and attractions beyond Bowl Expo.

As a Board member of the Bowling Hall of Fame and Museum, Aulby took care of other duties in Orlando beyond his own business interests. He added his input at meetings to chart a new path for the Hall of Fame as it relocates from St. Louis to the developing new International Bowling Campus in Arlington, Texas.

But unlike other proprietors and industry decision makers, Aulby fulfilled innumerable requests for autographs throughout the trade show with the same friendliness and approachable nature he always exhibited as a superstar on the lanes.

The International Bowl Expo is the showcase event of the Bowling Proprietors Association of America, which is located in Arlington, Texas.

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By Lyle Zikes, BWAA

