



STARS & STRIKES

AMERICA'S BOWLING NEWSMAGAZINE



Belmo is Back

Wins PBA Players Championship

and 4th USBC Masters

Tackett Rides 2016 Momentum to Win PBA Tournament of Champions





BOWL • • PINION

by Jim Goodwin

Any editorial opinions expressed here are offered to provoke thought on important and sometimes controversial issues.

Agree or disagree, we'd like to hear from you:
starsandstrikes@sbcglobal.net

What This Sport Needs is a New Good 'Ol Fashioned MegaBuck Tournament'

Last month in this column, I referenced Brian Kretzer winning the 1997 Mini Eliminator Tournament. It was part of a few items I found and commented on in Genie and Tony Franklin's Bowling News.

The problem was, it was not the Mini Eliminator . . . it was the International Eliminator, as our friend Mike Kaufman was nice enough to point out. It was an honest mistake made by two bowling publications, and thanks to Mike, I am happy to correct the record.

Kaufman, who is now the Director of Bowling for the Boyd Gaming Group, was manager of Boyd's Sam's Town Bowling Center in 1997, and many years before that. Kaufman is practically a Las Vegas icon who has seen as much big time bowling action as anyone who ever followed the sport. Today, you will find him in his office at Boyd's Orleans Hotel/Casino/Bowling Center, and he still presides over numerous tournaments, such as the recent USBC Masters, and Jeanette Robinson's Golden Ladies Classic this month.

In 1994, Kaufman teamed up with Ladies Pro Bowlers Tour President John Falzone and his staff to create the International Eliminator. It was an event and a partnership that gave Norm and Brad Edelman's High Roller Tournament, being held at the Showboat Bowling Center at the time, some healthy competition.

No one would argue that the High Roller was the cream of the crop and the event that probably invented the term 'megabuck,' but Kaufman's International Eliminator was an incredible event that was very popular during its five year run from 1995-99. And it produced the very successful spin-off event operated by Steve Sanders and Pinnacle Events, the Mini Eliminator.

A Hollywood script writer could not have penned a better ending for what actually happened in the televised finals of that first Intl Eliminator in '95.

On a very tough tournament condition, Dave Guindon, Niagara Falls, NY, defeated

James Strong, Newington, CT. 300-185 to win the \$100,000 top prize. Strong earned \$50,000, and an additional \$5000 bonus went to Guindon for the perfect game.

Because I was working with the LPBT at the time, CJ and I were there to witness the historic finals. I have seen many 300 games over the years, and this one still stands out as the best given the condition, the circumstances, and pressure Guindon was under that day. The next highest game in the five player stepladder televised finals was a 214. All of the other games were under 200.

If my memory serves me, Mike Kaufman had to get permission from his bosses during the final game to pay the bonus. It was not announced in advance because no one thought it was possible.

Brian Kretzer finished fourth in that event, then went on to win in 1997, and again in 1999. The 1996 event was won by Cincinnati's Don Scudder. In 1998, a 34 year-old bowling center mechanic, Kurt Bogner, won the \$100,000 top prize.

What made The International Eliminator so great, aside from the huge money, was that it was highly organized and highly promoted. Maybe the best promotion of the event came from members of the Ladies Pro Bowlers Tour, who talked up the event from coast-to-coast because their organization was involved. They were also eligible to bowl it; and although none of them ever made the finals competing against the men, they cashed plenty of checks.

One phenomenal aspect of the International Eliminator was its 3 in 4 cash ratio. We haven't seen another tournament before or since that had that kind of guarantee.

And the event truly lived up to its 'International' label, drawing bowlers from dozens of countries around the world. Players from Germany had a particular affection, bringing a group of 47 people to Vegas in 1998.

At their peak in the late '90s, megabuck events like the High Roller, International and Mini Eliminators, Super Hoinke, (in

Cincinnati) and perhaps a few others, gave the PBA reason to take notice. Many great players either did not turn pro or delayed membership because they could and did make more money by remaining an amateur and rolling in the short format or matchplay events rather than the grinding long formats of the pro tour.

A few times, megabuck champions earned life changing money. Just from memory, I recall that at least two of the High Roller events paid the winner \$200,000 or more. Initially, only one event of this type was held each year by the promoters involved, but as they grew in popularity, that expanded to several, and for a few years, top amateurs almost had their own tour if you counted all of the megabucks and other events like the National Team Challenge, where player brackets often paid more than the event itself.

It took a national disaster, a bankruptcy, and a near bankruptcy to kill the momentum of the megabuck events. The disaster, of course, happened on September 11, 2001. After that dark day, travel became very difficult, and very few were even in the mood to travel to Vegas or anywhere else.

In 2001, the PBA came very close to going out of business; but was saved by a group of internet moguls. In 2003, the PWBA ceased operation. We believe that these milestones changed the collective thinking of the whole industry; and few would argue that they made obtaining sponsorships much more difficult to obtain.

Is now the right time for a megabuck renaissance? It certainly is a much different world now than it was when the originals were born, but there seems to be much optimism about the economy these days, and that might be a sign that sponsors are more willing to step up to the plate. We also cannot help but notice that the professionals are not making much money these days.

Megabuck Tour anyone? Anything is possible.

XXX

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Stars & Strikes is
published monthly.

Advertising deadline is
the 15th of each month
for publication on the 1st.
Ad rates are available
upon request. Postage
paid in Rockwall, Texas.

Subscription rates are
\$20.00 per year paid in
advance. First Class
Postage included
Emailed \$12 yearly

Published by
Pin Point Promotions
2850 Red Valley Run,
Rockwall, Texas 75087



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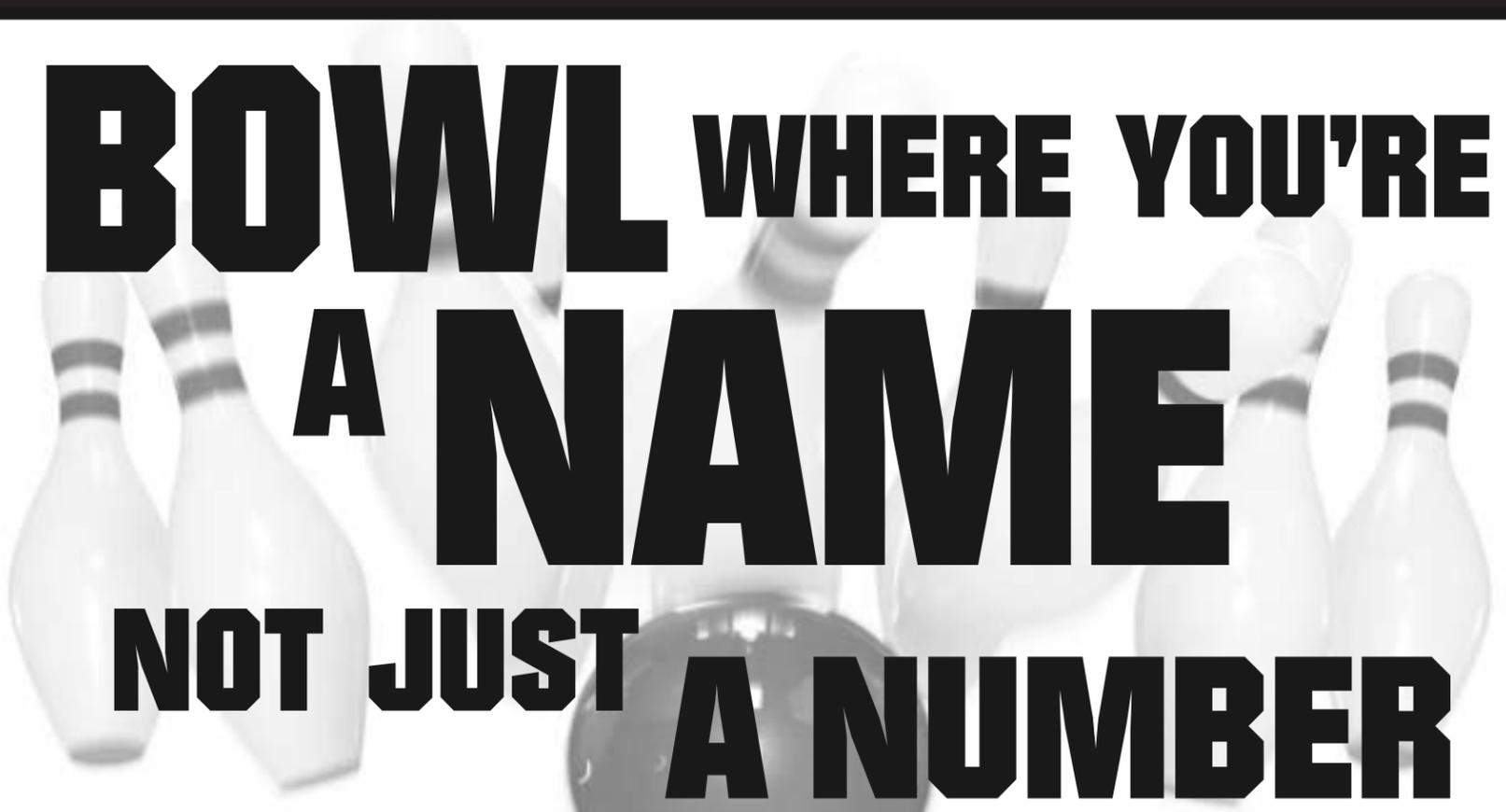
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PBA Award Winners

Photos: PBA, USBC, BPAA. Randy Gulley

BPAA TO HONOR RICHARD "DICK" CORLEY WITH VICTOR LERNER MEMORIAL MEDAL

The Bowling Proprietors' Association of America (BPAA) is proud to announce the recipients of the 2017 Bowling Industry Service Awards, the most prestigious awards presented by the bowling industry:

J. Richard "Dick" Corley (Bowl New England, Colchester, Vermont) has been selected as the 2017 BPAA Hall of Fame Inductee and recipient of the Victor Lerner Memorial Medal. The Lerner Medal is the highest honor awarded by the BPAA and recognizes an individual for a lifetime of service to the bowling industry and represents the recipient's induction into BPAA's Hall of Fame located at the International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame in Arlington, Texas.

Mr. Corley is cited for his nearly 50 years of successful bowling center management in the New England states, his many years of service to the Multi Unit Bowling Information Group (MUBIG) and Strike Ten Entertainment as well as his philosophy in sharing information with fellow proprietors to make the industry stronger.

Scott Devers (Mike Aulby's Arrowhead Bowl, Lafayette, Indiana) will be recognized with the President's Medal for his many contributions and years of service to the BPAA, specifically as chairman of the governance committee. The President's Medal is given to an individual (proprietor/manager) judged to have given exceptional support and/or made significant contributions to the association in the eyes of the current BPAA president.

Andy Bartholomy (Andy B's/Bartholomy Centers, Springfield, Missouri) will receive the coveted V.A. Wapensky Award, named after BPAA's long-time chief executive officer, "Chief" Wapensky. Mr. Bartholomy is being recognized for his leadership as longtime Smart Buy Committee Chairman and his enthusiasm for the sport of bowling. He has also been a member of the Multi Unit Bowling Information Group (MUBIG) serving as Vice

President as well as actively participating in many FEC groups and conferences.

Jason Belmonte (Orange, NSW, Australia) is being recognized with the Dick Weber



Bowling Ambassador Award, named after the legendary bowling icon, recognizing his many contributions to the game and sport of bowling, both on and off the lanes.

Roger Nyquist (Lake Shore Lanes, Albany, Oregon) will be recognized with the Ruben A. Dankoff Award for Public Policy and Legislative Service for his aggressive debates against employer mandates in the state of Oregon and Linn County. Awarded to an individual or organization who provides outstanding voluntary service on the federal, state or local government level in the development of legislation, public policy initiatives or other political efforts which benefit BPAA members or the industry as a whole, Nyquist has been an invaluable resource for proprietors and is currently serving on the BPAA Legislative Committee.

Dave Driscoll (Dave Driscoll & Associates, Mount Dora, Florida) will be recognized with the Special Projects award for his longtime efforts in promoting high school bowling and

youth bowling in the state of Florida. He was instrumental in getting bowling a varsity sport in Florida, facilitates state bowling tournaments and helps other states with high school tournaments.

Kevin Hong (Normandy Park, Washington) will receive the 2017 Media Award. As a freelance writer, photo journalist and bowling enthusiast, he has visited 57 different locations in 11 states plus Canada to gather information for his Vintage Alleys project. Hong's Facebook presence, website and work featured in many magazines, newspapers and websites earned him the Media Award.

The Greater Baton Rouge USBC Association will be recognized at the USBC Convention with the BPAA USBC Association Award, which is presented to a local USBC association who has demonstrated a high degree of cooperation with their local BPAA proprietor group. The relationship between BPAA and local USBC associations is critical since local associations represent the 'consumer' and BPAA member centers are the 'playing fields' for bowling. The BPAA appreciates how local USBC associations work with our member centers and acknowledges these relationships when they are exemplary.

Nancy Schenk, BPAA President and Awards Committee Chairman, stated, "Many excellent nominees were reviewed this year and these award recipients represent incredible leadership, unassuming service and honorable dedication, and we congratulate and thank them for their contributions to the bowling industry."

The Bowling Industry Service Awards will be presented at the Annual Awards Luncheon, Tuesday, June 20, 2017, during International Bowl Expo 2017 at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville. The Lerner Memorial Medal presentation will take place during the general session on Wednesday morning.

Donald Jones Wins \$20,000 TAT Amateur National Megabuck Bowling Event



Chris Schlemmer, Donald Jones, & Jamie McWilliams

Congratulations to 22 year old Donald Jones, of The US Navy and 29 Palms, California, for taking home the \$20,000 grand prize in the 2017 TAT Amateur National Megabuck Bowling Event. Donald shot a 199 in the final match to be crowned the TAT Amateur Nationals Champion and take home \$20,000 and the Crystal Cup. He was joined by four other bowlers in the final round including, Jorge Gomez, who finished second for \$10,000, Kevin Gagnon who finished third

for \$7,500, Terry Leong who finished fourth for \$6,000, and rounding out the top five was Robert Campagnale, finishing fifth for \$5,000. True Amateur Tournaments would like to say thank you to all our sponsors and all our participants for coming to The Orleans Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, January 31st- February 5th, and participating in the event. This year TAT featured over 9400 Games, and over 3000 entries. One of the crowd favorites, The Roto-Grip Challenge, was held on Thursday February 2nd, with over 280 bowlers vying for the \$5,000 grand prize. In the end it came down to Gerald Johnson, Aaron Horton, JD Elliot, and Eligio Lopez. 54 year old Johnson threw the winning three strikes to win the \$5,000 first place prize, while the other top three cashed for \$1,000 each. There were 35 cash spots in this event featuring separate Handicap and Scratch divisions and over 150 Roto Grip

No Rules bowling balls given to participants.

The Roto-Grip Pro staff was on site all week distributing the Hywire and No Rules to tournament bowlers. The staff was also available for questions, ball layout, pattern strategy, and coaching. Roto-Grip also brought several PBA/PWBA professional bowlers to assist TAT bowlers throughout the week, and join Chris Schlemmer and Gary Hulsenberg in the Live Stream booth.

Our next TAT event is July 2nd-9th, 2017 at The Orleans in Las Vegas. NEW to the Summer's Event is The TAT Progressive Pot starting at over \$5,000, and a new Eligibility rule that will eliminate some TAT bowlers but will give everyone else a shot at winning big.

We have our cheapest rooms ever at only \$40 weekday nights including the 4th of July. Use TAT Group Code: A7TAC07 by 5/15 to get our special rate. We hope to see everyone in July for another busy week of MegaBuck bowling in Las Vegas.



Gerald Johnson

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Come From Behind Finish Gives Chris Paul and Chris Barnes State Farm CP3 PBA Celebrity Invitational Win

LOS ANGELES – In a championship match that was decided in the 10th frame, the doubles team of nine-time Los Angeles Clippers All-Star guard Chris Paul and 18-time PBA Tour champion Chris Barnes won the State Farm CP3 PBA Celebrity Invitational at Lucky Strike LA Live in downtown Los Angeles.

Barnes and Paul beat the team of Boston Red Sox All-Star outfielder Mookie Betts and 18-time Tour winner Tommy Jones, 187-179, in the eighth edition of the event which benefits the Chris Paul Family Foundation. The pro/celebrity competition aired on ESPN.

In a back and forth alternate-frame match, Barnes converted a crucial 2-4-10 split in the eighth frame to maintain a four-pin lead. In the ninth, the Paul/Barnes team lost the lead when Paul left the 3-9 and failed to make the spare. That left the door open for Betts who converted a spare in the ninth to regain a five-pin lead heading into the 10th.

“That made me nervous,” Paul said about the championship match. “When I missed that spare in the ninth frame I knew that was big; it gave the momentum back to them. I



Chris Barnes, Chris Paul

thought that might have ended it right there but when Chris (Barnes) said we still had a chance, I had confidence he could do it.”

Jones made a spare and finished with a seven-count on his final ball in his team’s 10th frame, giving Barnes an opportunity to win the match with a double. Barnes took advantage by striking out in his 10th frame to seal the victory.

“That match had everything you

could imagine,” Barnes said. “Ups and downs, strikes, spares, opens, splits, you name it. Whenever you bowl in a doubles or team format you don’t want to let the other players down. I felt like we had an opportunity. Just like every situation where I need to strike, I just had to tell myself to breathe.”

For Paul it was his third win after winning in 2010 and 2011 with Jason Belmonte as his partner. It was

Barnes’ second title after winning with television personality Chris Hardwick in 2013.

Betts and Jones earned their berth in the final with a 177-153 win over the defending champion team of PBA Hall of Famer Pete Weber and former NFL All-Pro receiver Terrell Owens.

“I’ve wanted to bowl in this for a long time and it was everything I expected it to be,” said Betts. “It was a lot of fun. I’m a little disappointed, but you have to hand it to them. They (Paul and Barnes) did what they needed to do to win.”

The finals began with Jones and Betts beating the team of Grammy-nominated DJ Khaled and 2016 PBA Player of the Year EJ Tackett, 172-

147. The Betts/Jones team then beat the team of Denver Broncos running back CJ Anderson and 11-time Tour winner Sean Rash, 201-183, setting up the semifinal match with Weber and Owens.

Preceding the semifinal match was the Celebrity All-Star Clash that also included Paul’s Clippers teammates Austin Rivers and Luc Mbah a Moute as well as Black-ish star Miles Brown and actor JT Jackson. Betts dominated the best-ball competition, where the lowest count on a single shot was eliminated by throwing six consecutive strikes. He outlasted the nine-player field by beating Jackson who left a seven count in the final frame.

State Farm CP3 PBA Celebrity Invitational Lucky Strike LA Live, Los Angeles - Feb. 17, 2017

Alternate Frame Doubles Format Stepladder Finals:
Match One: Tommy Jones/Mookie Betts def. EJ Tackett/DJ Khaled, 172-147.
Match Two: Jones/Betts def. Sean Rash/CJ Anderson, 201-183.
Semifinal: Jones/Betts def. Pete Weber/Terrell Owens, 177-153.
Championship: Chris Barnes/Chris Paul def. Jones/Betts, 187-179.
State Farm CP3 PBA Celebrity Invitational Winners:
2017 – Chris Barnes/Chris Paul
2016 – Pete Weber/Terrell Owens
2015 – Ronnie Russell/French Montana
2013 – Chris Barnes/Chris Hardwick
2012 – Pete Weber/Jerry Ferrara/Blake Griffin
2011 – Jason Belmonte/Chris Paul
2010 – Jason Belmonte/Chris Paul
2009 – Jason Couch/LeBron James

What to expect at 2017 Bowl Expo from the Keynote Speaker, Thought Leader and Super Session Speaker



Keynote Speaker Shaquille O'Neal - *What it Takes to be a Champion*

Few individuals ever become iconic enough to be known by one name - Shaq. A revered cultural icon, Shaquille O’Neal is best known for an NBA career spanning nearly two decades and earning him the sport’s highest honors, including membership in the NBA Hall of Fame. The four-time NBA Champion, 15-time NBA All Star and three-time NBA Finals MVP has been named one of the most influential athletes by Forbes magazine, in addition to being the highest ranked NBA athlete on Nielsen’s State of the Media: Year in Sports 2010 and Business Week’s Power Sports 100.

But Shaquille O’Neal isn’t only a legendary athlete; he has also established himself as a powerful media personality and businessman over the years. Ranked among “The 100 Most Creative People in Business” last year by Fast Company magazine, O’Neal is currently an NBA analyst on TNT’s Emmy-award winning show, Inside the NBA on TNT.

In addition to being an early investor in companies such as Google, O’Neal has managed an increasingly robust personal brand, which has included television shows, a shoe line and social media/tech products. The first verified celebrity account on Twitter, O’Neal announced his NBA retirement via Tout, a new social media app that allows users to tape 15-second video statuses.



Peter Shankman Thought Leader - *The Economy of the Next Fifty Years Will be Run by Customer Service*

The days of begging for likes are over. The customer economy is all about doing likeable things. As the network gets smarter and smarter, it’ll know your favorite places before you do, and share those with the world – when the world is looking.

So if your friends are looking for a doctor in New York City, and you live there, it’ll show them who you use automatically because logic suggests that, if you go there a lot, you like the place, and your friends usually like what you like. It’s not private if you’re already posting from there, remember. What does this mean for your business? It means it’s time to start focusing on the customer experience. Without that, no amount of advertising, marketing or SEO will save you.

Learn:

The five rules of the customer economy.

Why speed matters.

How to stay "top-of-mind" in every customer's mind, from beginning to end.

How millennials, as well as Generations Z and Alpha are consuming content, and how you can get in front of them.



Mari Smith Super Session Speaker - *7 Step Formula for Facebook Marketing Success*

Bowling remains one of the top recreational sports in the US and beyond, and is a wonderful high-touch community activity. But, with the pervasion of high tech, how do you reach and connect with a wider audience online and attract them to your bowling center? Whether you’re just getting started with your Facebook and social media marketing, or you want to optimize your presence to meet specific goals, this deep dive with premier Facebook marketing expert, Mari Smith, is for you. Mari will reveal her step-by-step proven methodology for social media marketing success, and help you understand how to effectively generate quality leads through Facebook and other social channels.

At the end of this comprehensive session, you’ll walk away with a ready-to-implement Facebook Marketing Strategic Action Plan that will empower you to take your social marketing to the next level. The result: more loyal fans, more customers, and more profits!

Key takeaways include:

Mari’s exact proven process for reaching, engaging and converting your perfect prospects into raving fans and ideal customers.

How to make your phone ring off the hook with Local Awareness Ads and specific call to action buttons.

Installing the Facebook Bluetooth Beacon at your bowling center – what is it and how does it work (both organic and paid) to bring you the perfect new local customers?

EJ Tackett Wins FireLake PBA Tournament of Champions

SHAWNEE, Okla. – EJ Tackett of Huntington, Ind., had four chances to throw



doubles to take the lead, but in the end, he won his second Professional Bowlers Association major title in the 52nd FireLake PBA Tournament of Champions at FireLake Arena thanks to an unexpected error by his opponent.

Tackett, at age 24, defeated 18-time PBA Tour champion Tommy Jones of Simpsonville, S.C., 208-203, when Jones left and failed to

convert the 1-2-4-10 “washout” in the 10th frame.

Tackett, who won the 2016 PBA World Championship in December for his first major, was certain he had lost the TOC title after he failed to double in the 10th frame.

“I knew if I doubled in the 10th, I’d force Tommy to strike on the right lane,” Tackett said. “But I never in a million years expected that. Tommy has been so good in situations like that his entire career, I didn’t think I had a

chance. I was in total shock.”

After winning the DHC PBA Japan Invitational to start the year, the TOC victory gives Tackett a very early edge in defending his 2016 PBA Player of the Year title. But, he said, “it’s not even something to think about. It’s way too early and we have way too many tournaments to go.

But Tackett has demonstrated he has the skill and the confidence to stay at the top of the PBA’s elite.

“I do belong out here,” he said. “I feel like I’m going to do it, and you’re going to have to beat me. It’s not arrogance, it’s just a level of confidence I’ve never had.”

In the opening match, Tom Smallwood of Saginaw, Mich., ended Pete Weber’s bid for a

PBA-record 11th major championship, 223-203. Tied at 163 after eight frames, Smallwood finished the match first, throwing four strikes and forcing Weber to do the same to tie and force a roll-off. But the 54-year-old Weber, from St. Ann, Mo., left the 1-2-4-10 on his opening shot of the 10th frame to end the match.

England’s Dom Barrett then eliminated Smallwood, 235-202, striking on seven of his first eight shots to build an insurmountable lead after Smallwood left splits he couldn’t convert in the first and fourth frames.

Jones advanced to the title match, defeating Barrett in the semifinal match, 248-216, rolling a late string of six strikes to overcome Barrett’s early eight-pin lead.

FIRELAKE PBA TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS FireLake Bowling Center, Shawnee, Okla., Feb. 19, 2017

Final Standings

- 1, EJ Tackett, Huntington, Ind., \$50,000.
- 2, Tommy Jones, Simpsonville, S.C., \$25,000.
- 3, Dom Barrett, England, \$13,000.
- 4, Tom Smallwood, Saginaw, Mich., \$11,000.
- 5, Pete Weber, St. Ann, Mo., \$10,000.

Stepladder Results:

- Match One – Smallwood def. Weber, 223-203.
Match Two – Barrett def. Smallwood, 235-202.
Semifinal Match – Jones def. Barrett, 248-216.
Championship – Tackett def. Jones, 208-203.

Cashers after 39 games

- 6, Norm Duke, Clermont, Fla., 9,109, \$7,000.7, Jason Belmonte, Australia, 9,090, \$5,500.8, Brad Angelo, Lockport, N.Y., 9,078, \$5,000.9 (tie), Anthony Simonsen, Austin, Texas, 9,071, and Mitch Beasley, Clarksville, Tenn., 9,071, \$4,300.11, Marshall Kent, Yakima, Wash., 9,047, \$3,800.12, Wes Malott, Pflugerville, Texas, 9,038, \$3,600.13, Sean Rash, Montgomery, Ill., 9,031, \$3,400.14, BJ Moore III, Greensburg, Pa., 8,977, \$3,300.15, Stuart Williams, England, 8,972, \$3,200.16, Anthony Lavery-Spahr, Pasadena, Texas, 8,959, \$3,100.

Cashers after 31 games

- 17, Brad Miller, Maryland Heights, Mo., 7,084, \$2,700.18, Jason Sterner, Rockledge, Fla., 7,058, \$2,600.19, Bill O’Neill, Langhorne, Pa., 7,054, \$2,600.20, Chris Loschetter, Avon, Ohio, 7,043, \$2,400.21, Scott Newell, Deland, Fla., 7,012, \$2,300.22, Matthew O’Grady, Rahway, N.J., 7,007, \$2,200.23, Sean Lavery-Spahr, Pasadena, Texas, 6,986, \$2,100.24, Osku Palermaa, Finland, 6,844, \$2,000.

Belmonte Wins Barbasol PBA Players Championship for Seventh Major Title

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Three-time Professional Bowlers Association Player of the Year Jason Belmonte of Australia captured his

Masters and his second consecutive PBA Tournament of Champions back-to-back in February of 2015. Going into the Players

“It feels fantastic,” said the 33-year-old Belmonte, who won his first major in the 2011 Players Championship. “Two years is a long

said Simonsen. “There were probably a couple of shots where I should have reset myself. I’ll just use it as a learning experience.”



Dustin Abels, Barbasol VP of Marketing, Jason Belmonte, Proprietor Wayne Webb, PBA CEO & Commissioner Tom Clark

seventh major title and ended a two-year streak without a Tour win by winning the Barbasol PBA Players Championship at Wayne Webb’s Columbus Bowl.

In a championship match between two players who use the unique two-handed delivery, the top seeded Belmonte defeated Anthony Simonsen of Austin, Texas, 221-204, to notch his second Players Championship win and 13th PBA Tour title overall.

Belmonte’s win broke a dry spell that started after he won his record third straight USBC

Championship he had a string of 16 tournaments in which he made the top five but failed to win. He finished second in five of those events.

“It’s a brand new start,” Belmonte said of the new season. “I was successful staying focused the whole tournament from start to finish. I’ve learned that if you look ahead or behind you’re not staying in the moment.”

In the title match, Belmonte held a commanding 37-pin lead in the fifth frame that was too much for Simonsen to overcome.

time to wait (for a win), especially considering all the times I had made TV.

“I’ve always believed in myself but I’ll admit there’s a lot of weight off of my shoulders now after all that time because believe me, people will remind you,” he added.

The 20-year-old Simonsen, who qualified second for the finals, was trying to become the youngest player to win two PBA Tour majors. He won the 2016 USBC Masters at 19 to become the youngest to win a PBA major. “I didn’t make my best shots in that match,”

In the semifinal match, Simonsen beat Connor Pickford of Plano, Texas, 204-191, to advance to the title match. Pickford, who was trying for his first Tour singles title, teamed with Simonsen to win the 2016 Roth/Holman PBA Doubles for his first title.

In the opening stepladder match, Pickford defeated Team USA member and former Wichita State bowling star AJ Chapman, 243-154. Chapman was trying to become only the third player to win a Tour title in his first tournament as a PBA member.

In the second match, Pickford defeated Martin Larsen of Sweden 266-182 to advance to the semifinal. With four career runner-up finishes, Larsen was trying for his first Tour win.

BARBASOL PBA PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP Wayne Webb’s Columbus Bowl, Columbus, OH, Feb. 12, 2017

Final Standings

- 1, Jason Belmonte, Australia, \$40,000.
- 2, Anthony Simonsen, Austin, Texas, \$20,000.
- 3, Connor Pickford, Plano, Texas, \$12,000.
- 4, Martin Larsen, Sweden, \$11,000.
- 5, AJ Chapman, Wichita, Kan., \$10,000.

Stepladder Results

- Match One – Pickford def. Chapman, 243-154.
Match Two – Pickford def. Larsen, 266-182.
Semifinal Match – Simonsen def. Pickford, 204-191.
Championship Match – Belmonte def. Simonsen, 221-204.

Other Cashers

- 6, Andrew Anderson, Holly, Mich., 8,942, \$8,000. 7, Pete Weber, St. Ann, Mo., 8,940, \$7,000. 8, Ronnie Russell, Marion, Ind., 8,924, \$6,100. 9, Bill O’Neill, Langhorne, Pa., 8,896, \$5,500. 10, Tom Smallwood, Saginaw, Mich., 8,879, \$5,000. 11, Jakob Butturff, Tempe, Ariz., 8,846, \$4,500. 12, Tom Daugherty, Riverview, Fla., 8,839, \$4,200. 13, Shawn Maldonado, Houston, 8,826, \$3,900. 14, DJ Archer, Friendswood, Texas, 8,785, \$3,600. 15, Francois Lavoie, Canada, 8,776, \$3,400. 16, Jeff Evans, Supply, N.C., 8,725, \$3,300. 17, Marshall Kent, Yakima, Wash., 7,026, \$2,900. 18, Jason Sterner, Rockledge, Fla., 7,011, \$2,700. 19, Patrick Dombrowski, Parma, Ohio, 6,981, \$2,600. 20, Wes Malott, Pflugerville, Texas, 6,920, \$2,500. 21, Graham Fach, Canada, 6,892, \$2,500. 22, Cameron Weier, Tacoma, Wash., 6,871, \$2,300. 23, Anthony Lavery-Spahr, Pasadena, Texas, 6,857, \$2,200. 24, Jesse Buss, Belvidere, Ill., 6,834, \$2,100. 25, (tie) Darren Tang, San Francisco, 5,259, and Brad Miller, Maryland Heights, Mo., 5,259, \$1,725. 27, Richie Teece, England, 5,255, \$1,650. 28, John Szczerbinski, N. Tonawanda, N.Y., 5,241, \$1,600.

BELMONTE WINS RECORD FOURTH USBC MASTERS TITLE

LAS VEGAS - Australia's Jason Belmonte "I struck once in practice and nothing has been a trailblazer in the sport of bowling looked like I was going to have that kind of



his entire career, and he added another milestone to his growing list of accomplishments by becoming the first bowler to win the United States Bowling Congress Masters four times.

The 33-year-old entered the event's stepladder finals Sunday as the No. 1 seed and started the championship match at The Orleans Bowling Center with seven consecutive strikes, before a 7 pin ended his run at the first perfect game in a USBC Masters final.

The 279-212 win over amateur Michael Tang of San Francisco gave Belmonte his eighth major title, and second in three events, tying him with USBC and Professional Bowlers Association Hall of Famers Mike Aulby and Walter Ray Williams Jr. for second all-time behind fellow hall of famers Earl Anthony and Pete Weber, who have 10 apiece.

"Honestly, it hasn't sunken in yet, and I'm really speechless," Belmonte said. "I love this tournament and think it really brings out the best in me. To have my name etched on this trophy four times and be the only person to do that is unbelievable. It doesn't seem real."

Belmonte, who won the recent Barbasol PBA Players Championship, now has 14 PBA Tour titles in nine seasons. He won the Masters three consecutive times in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Heading into Sunday, Belmonte knew his game plan would be dependent on who else made the show and how they attacked the lanes in the games leading up to the final. Even as practice ended before the title match, Belmonte was uncertain about his look and made an educated guess.

beat him when he has that kind of look. I feel like I bowled well, so there's nothing to be mad about."

In two wins on the way to the semifinal matchup with Hoskins, Tang tossed 18 strikes to get past his brother, Darren, and Sweden's Martin Larsen.

Tang's nine-strike performance against Darren ended in a 248-212 victory. The two were separated by just two pins after four frames, but four consecutive strikes from Michael in frames five through eight allowed him to pull away for good. Darren Tang finished fourth.

It was the first TV meeting between brothers since the 1994 PBA National Championship, when David Traber defeated his brother Dale in the title match.

The last time two brothers met in the

stepladder at the Masters was 1980 when Neil Burton defeated his brother, Nelson (Bo), in the semifinal, before topping hall of famer Mark Roth for the title.

"It was fun," Michael Tang said. "I think he was trying to keep things a little looser, while I tried to stay in my zone and treat it like any other match. But it will be fun to watch back home."

In the opening match Sunday, Tang also struck nine times, including the first five frames, to defeat Larsen, 264-229. Larsen, who's still searching for his first PBA Tour title, finished fifth.

Competitors in the 395-player field this week bowled 15 games of qualifying, before a cut was made to the top 63, who joined defending champion Anthony Simonsen of Austin, Texas, in the double-elimination match-play bracket.

2017 USBC MASTERS The Orleans Bowling Center, Las Vegas

Final standings

- 1, Jason Belmonte, Australia, 279 (one game), \$30,000
- 2, Michael Tang (a), San Francisco, 951 (four games), \$22,500
- 3, Alex Hoskins (a), Brigham City, Utah, 217 (one game), \$15,000
- 4, Darren Tang, San Francisco, 212 (one game), \$11,500
- 5, Martin Larsen, Sweden, 229 (one game), \$9,000

Stepladder results

Match One - M. Tang def. Larsen, 264-229

Match Two - M. Tang def. D. Tang, 248-212

Semifinal - M. Tang def. Hoskins, 227-217

Championship - Belmonte def. M. Tang, 279-212

ROUND 3 - (Losers earn \$2,300)

Fransson def. Moore, 662-583; Sparks def. Barnes, 643-588; Cooley def. Ostrander, 714-566; Simonsen def. Malott, 709-573; Buss def. Pickford, 600-494; Daugherty def. Quintero, 693-611; Leong def. Otorala, 672-592; Lavoie def. Lorincz, 754-644; Sherman def. Loschetter, 648-599; Smallwood def. Angelo, 622-565; Novak def. Allen, 705-640; Tackett def. Duke, 699-668; Wolfe def. Lavery-Spahr, 649-619; O'Grady def. Butturff, 653-607; Bohr def. Faulkner, 651-602; M. Tang def. Williams, 691-638

ROUND 4 - (Losers earn \$2,700)

Sparks def. Fransson, 738-541; Simonsen def. Cooley, 737-637; Daugherty def. Buss, 683-639; Leong def. Lavoie, 730-717; Smallwood def. Sherman, 770-688; Tackett def. Novak, 637-607; Wolfe def. O'Grady, 633-589; M. Tang def. Bohr, 635-618

ROUND 5 - Losers earn \$3,200

Sparks def. Prather, 743-633; Dole def. Simonsen, 668-539; Holbek def. Daugherty, 668-605; Legnani def. Leong, 651-615; Smallwood def. Machuga, 657-580; Tackett def. Blanchard, 677-649; Mosley def. Wolfe, 629-609; M. Tang def. Sanders, 703-587

ROUND 6 - (Losers earn \$3,750)

(36) Mike Dole, Loves Park, Ill., def. (22) Ronnie Sparks, Redford, Mich., 682-599; (24) Lucas Legnani, Argentina, def. (33) Cotie Holbek, Burlington, Wis., 627-549; (8) EJ Tackett, Huntington, Ind., def. (6) Tom Smallwood, Saginaw, Mich., 676-616; (4) Michael Tang, San Francisco, def. (54) Jalen Mosely, Indianapolis, 650-596

ROUND 7 - (Losers earn \$4,300)

Barrett def. Dole, 741-657; D. Tang def. Legnani, 643-618; Nidiffer def. Tackett, 661-589; M. Tang def. Weber, 625-605

ROUND 8 - Losers earn \$5,200

D. Tang def. Barrett, 761-731; M. Tang def. Nidiffer, 748-628

ROUND 9 - ELIMINATION BRACKET

(High score is No. 3 seed, second high is No. 4, third high is No. 5, lowest score is eliminated, earns \$6,700).

D. Tang 742, M. Tang 716, Larsen 652, O'Neill 559

Other Cashers

65, Chad Kloss *(a), Cudahy, Wis., 3,223, \$1,400; 66(tie), Jake Peters, Henderson, Nev., and Shawn Maldonado, Houston, 3,221, \$1,337; 68, Steve Smith (a), San Diego, 3,220, \$1,300; 69(tie), Dwight Adams, Greensboro, N.C., Adam Martinez (a), San Antonio, and Brian Himmeler, Cincinnati, 3,216, \$1,260; 72, Markus Jansson, Sweden, 3,214, \$1,220; 73, Shota Kawazoe, Japan, 3,213, \$1,200; 74, Paul Moor, England, 3,210, \$1,190; 75, Michael Martell (a), Chicago, 3,208, \$1,180; 76, Cody Vaughn (a), Arvada, Colo., 3,206, \$1,170; 77(tie), Perry Crowell IV, Hoquiam, Wash., Graham Fach, Canada, and Marshall Kent, Yakima, Wash., 3,205, \$1,150; 80, Timothy Foy Jr., Seaford, Del., 3,203, \$1,130; 81, Andres Gomez, Hollywood, Fla., 3,202, \$1,120; 82, Hunter Kempton (a), Buzzards Bay, Mass., 3,195, \$1,110; 83, Mitch Hupe (a), Wichita, Kan., 3,194, \$1,100; 84, Andrew Cain, Phoenix, 3,191, \$1,075; 85, Greg Thompson Jr., San Jose, Calif., 3,188, \$1,055; 86, Daria Pajak, Babson Park, Fla., 3,187, \$1,040; 87, Casey Shephard (a), Kalamazoo, Mich., 3,186, \$1,030; 88, Tyson Branagan (a), Fort Worth, Texas, 3,183, \$1,025; 89, Brad Miller, Raytown, Mo., 3,181, \$1,020; 90(tie), Osku Palermaa, Finland, and Sean Rash, Montgomery, Ill., 3,174, \$1,012; 92, Walid Letayf (a), Mexico, 3,172, \$1,005; 93, Carlos Tobon, Hollywood, Fla., 3,169, \$1,000; 94(tie), Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., Alejandro Prats, Dominican Republic, and Ryan Zagar (a), Kenosha, Wis., 3,168, \$990; 97(tie), Bryon Smith, Roseburg, Ore., and Chad Nelson (a), Owatonna, Minn., 3,167, \$977; 99, John Conaway (a), El Mirage, Ariz., 3,166, \$970.

Parker Bohn III and Actor Quinton Aaron Win Main Event Terrell Owens PBA Super Clash

PBA Hall of Famer Parker Bohn III and actor Quinton Aaron teamed up to win three straight matches to take home the Main Event Terrell Owens PBA Super Clash title at Main Event in Katy, Texas.

NFL stars Terrell Owens, Chad "Ochocinco" Johnson and Devin Hester, along with Aaron, who portrayed NFL star Michael Oher in the hit movie "The Blind Side," headlined the all-star lineup. PBA stars competing in addition to Bohn were three-time PBA Player of the Year Jason Belmonte, Hall of Famer Norm Duke and eight-time PBA Tour winner Bill O'Neil.

In the title match, which aired live on ESPN Sunday afternoon, Aaron and Bohn were never challenged beating the Belmonte/Ochocinco

team 204-118.

The stepladder seedings for the alternate frame doubles finals were determined by a 'kickoff round' where the teams had to bowl as many strikes as possible in 90 seconds.

In the opening match, Bohn and Aaron defeated Duke and Owens, 247-211. In the semifinal, Bohn and Aaron beat Hester and O'Neill 230-180 to advance to the title match against top seed Belmonte and Ochocinco.

The show also featured a segment with Duke, Bohn, O'Neill and Belmonte performing some of their remarkable trick shots. Announcers Dave LaMont and Randy Pedersen also showed their trick shot prowess.

Two rising stars in youth bowling, 2016 Teen Masters U14 Boys' and Girls' Division

champions, Kirk Mowl of Ormond Beach, Fla., and Mabel Cummins of Elburn, Ill., participated in a special doubles exhibition where they were paired with a pro. Cummins and Belmonte, representing the New England Patriots, defeated Mowl and Tackett, representing the Atlanta Falcons, 19-18, in a four-frame match that used a special 'football' scoring system.

Earlier in the telecast Cummins substituted for the late-arriving Ochocinco in the kickoff round to help that team earn the top seed for the Super Clash.





ASK BOB

by Bob Korth

To ask a question of Bob write to askbobk@gmail.com

Bob Korth is a Pro shop owner and USA Bronze Level Coach

Q. I am in the middle of a terrible slump. Do you have any preferred slump busters?

A. There are several things you can do to bust a slump. First you have to remember you haven't forgot how to bowl. What happens in a slump is you have lost confidence in your game and many times it is just mental. When you lose confidence the you begin to press. You begin to try and figure out what you are doing wrong. You start trying to place the ball instead of roll it. You begin to squeeze the ball and the arm-swing get's very tight. I myself have just been going through a month long slump myself. I am beginning to come out of it now. Here is what I have been doing to break this slump. I went to practice and all I tried to do was loosen up my arm-swing. I worked on relaxing my hand, use a softer grip. Then just relax the shoulders and visualize the ball just hanging like it was on the end of a string. Keep my arm as loose as I could and just let the ball roll off my hand at release. Do not care at first where the ball goes just look for the feel of a very easy and relaxed swing. This is the most difficult thing to do when you are trying to score and your confidence is down. Do this for a couple of practice sessions before you put pressure back on yourself to score. You have to build trust in your swing again and start to have some fun again. Then while still in practice try shooting for score but be aware of staying with the relaxed arm-swing and you will see that you will begin to score again and best of all it will become fun again.

Q. How many different spare combinations are there in bowling?

A. Now I did not figure this out on my own but I looked it up and what I found was there are 1,023 different spare combinations. Many of these are very unusual combinations but it does show you the value of a sound spare shooting system. Also the value of practicing spares during your practice sessions. A twist on bowling for practice is to play low-ball. Try to knock down the least amount of pins you can. To play low-ball you shoot for the seven or the ten pin on the first ball. If you miss and go in the gutter on the first ball that is a strike for that frame. You must hit at least one pin on each ball, so on your 2nd ball if you go in the gutter or don't hit a pin that is a spare. After both balls if you leave five pins standing then your count is five. A perfect game is 20. Good luck on doing that. This is a great game for working on spares and is a nice variation on just throwing shots with no purpose in practice. It keeps spare practice interesting.

Q. I am getting a new ball and I have been having problems with hanging up in the thumb at release. What thumb pitch is best?

A. Thumb pitches in a bowling ball are like finger prints. They are different for everyone. Someone with a short span or very flexible fingers can use a zero or even plus pitch in the thumb. Conversely someone with a long span or very stiff fingers will require varying amounts of reverse pitch in the thumb hole. So the answer is I don't know but your local pro shop operator will know so place your trust in her/him. They should watch you bowl, check your hand and decide the best thumb pitch for you.

42 Schools, Organizations Receive Grants To Teach Bowling

ARLINGTON, Texas – Mobile bowling equipment and curriculum kits to help teach children the sport of bowling have been awarded to 42 schools and organizations through Bowler's Ed, the in-school bowling program of International Bowling Campus Youth Development.

The Bowler's Ed equipment kits help schools and organizations teach students the lifelong sport of bowling by providing educators the ability to engage kids in a true bowling experience. The kits provide a bowling-center atmosphere inside a school or gymnasium and feature activities to enhance cardiovascular health, coordination and endurance.

"IBC Youth Development's outreach to parent-teacher organizations produced a great deal of applications and we're excited to have a bowling program incorporated into so many schools through the Bowler's Ed grants," IBC Youth Committee chair Melissa McDaniel said. "It's a great tool for teachers and a tremendous way to introduce bowling to the next generation."

The Bowler's Ed grants are expected to impact more than 35,000 children in the 42 schools and organizations.

A Bowler's Ed kit is valued at \$2,200 and the New York State USBC is funding the cost of the kits to Fairley Elementary in Hannibal and Public School 11 in Staten Island.

The list of schools and organizations receiving grants:

Lake Valley PTA, Prescott Valley, Ariz.
Caurus Academy (Arizona Montessori Charter School at Anthem), Anthem, Ariz.
Friends of Crown Point Junior Music Academy, San Diego
Boys & Girls Clubs of Garden Grove, Garden Grove, Calif.

Lake Arrowhead Christian School, Twin Peaks, Calif.
Hals Academy, New Britain, Conn.
Mimosa Elementary, Roswell, Ga.
Lanikai Elementary Public Charter School, Kailua, Hawaii
South Elementary/District 47, Crystal Lake, Ill.
Southeast Area Elementary, Chicago
Western Primary School, Russiaville, Ind.
Burris Laboratory School, Muncie, Ind.
New Augusta South PTO, Indianapolis
Marshall Elementary PTO, Ft. Campbell, Ky.
Woodson Elementary PTO, Crisfield, Md.
Moccasin Elementary, Buchanan, Mich.
Detroit Parks and Recreation Department, Detroit
Silver Bay P.T.S.O., Silver Bay, Minn.
Fairway Elementary, Wildwood, Mo.
Smithville Elementary, Smithville, Miss.
Laurel Public Schools-Laurel, Laurel, Mont.
Tramway Elementary, Sanford, N.C.
Moultonborough PTA, Moultonborough, N.H.
Christa McAuliffe Middle School, Jackson, N.J.
Tremont Elementary, Medford, N.Y.
Fairley Elementary, Hannibal, N.Y.
Nathaniel Rochester Community School 3, Rochester, N.Y.
Public School 11, Staten Island, N.Y.
Andrew Jackson Elementary 145, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Little Miami Intermediate School, Maineville, Ohio
St. Anthony of Padua School, Lorain, Ohio
Village Preparatory School Woodland Hills, Cleveland
Scott School, Portland, Ore.
Thomas Fitzwater Elementary, Willow Grove, Pa.
Valley Forge Educational Services, Malvern, Pa.
Saint Phillip School, Greenville, R.I.
Lantrip Elementary, Houston
Copeland Elementary, Huffman, Texas
Ogden School District, Ogden, Utah
Mark Twain Elementary, Federal Way, Wash.
Stocker Elementary, Kenosha, Wis.
Lakewood Elementary PTO, St. Albans, W.Va.

The Bowler's Ed grant program was developed to provide opportunities to teach students the sport of bowling with instructional curriculum and equipment available to use in school or other facilities. In 2016, 65 grants were awarded to public/charter schools and organizations in 29 states, helping to introduce bowling to elementary school-age children.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF JACK BIONDOLILLO'S HISTORIC 300 GAME APPROACHES

On April 1, 1967, the PBA's post-tournament news release reported, "Jack Biondolillo socked the biggest 300 in the history of the game. His came before the

off after they tied at 227.

As the 50th anniversary of his historic feat closes in, Biondolillo, a Houston native, attended the Main Event Terrell Owens PBA



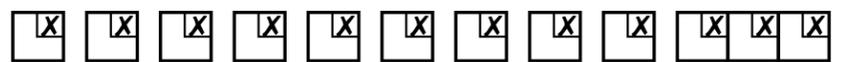
Pete McCordic, Parker Bohn III, Jack Biondolillo, Jason Belmonte, Norm Duke

American Broadcasting Company's national colored television cameras for which he collected a cool ten thou (\$10,000)..."

The first nationally-televised 300 game in PBA history – witnessed by a television audience of 25 million viewers according to PBA's release – occurred during the Firestone PBA Tournament of Champions at Riviera Lanes in Akron, Ohio, during a first-game 300-216 win over Les Schissler. Biondolillo then defeated Mike Durbin, 188-181, before losing in the semifinal match to Don Johnson, 228-172. Jim Stefanich then won the TOC, defeating Johnson, 43-36, in a two-frame roll-

Super Clash on Super Bowl Sunday in Katy, Texas, where he posed with four other PBA members who also bowled nationally-televised 300 games. Pete McCordic bowled televised 300 no. 4 in Torrance, Calif., on Jan. 31, 1987. Parker Bohn III bowled no. 13 in the USBC Masters in Reno, Nev., on May 9, 1998. Norm Duke bowled no. 16 in Tacoma, Wash., on Jan. 5, 2003. Jason Belmonte recorded no. 21 in Las Vegas on Nov. 19, 2011.

Including Biondolillo's historic 300, there have been a total of 26 nationally-televised perfect games in PBA competition.



USBC INTRODUCES TOURNAMENT RERATE LIST TO BOWL.COM

The United States Bowling Congress continually looks at ways to strengthen the integrity of the averages used by participants in USBC-certified tournaments. To provide tournament managers with additional resources, USBC has created a process for tournament managers to share bowler rerate information.

Tournament managers now can submit information on bowlers who have had averages rerated or adjusted per Rule 319c, including the reason for the rerate. USBC will compile a list of bowlers who have been rerated, and the list will be available for other tournament managers.

"We must continue to look for ways to reduce average manipulation so tournament bowlers can be more confident they are competing on a level playing field when they enter an event," USBC Executive Director Chad Murphy said. "It will be important for those who operate events to share their information on rerates so that all tournament managers can have the tools to make informed decisions when it comes to rerates or adjustments of a bowler's average."

Bowlers who have been rerated are required to report any adjustment under Rule 319c – Average Adjustments (Rerating). The rule states that the average of a bowler may be adjusted upward before participation in any event and if the assigned average is not

accepted by the bowler, the entry fee shall be refunded.

The rule further reads that unless the tournament rules state otherwise, in a handicap or classified tournament, a bowler who has had his/her average adjusted/rerated in accordance with this rule is required to report all previous assigned average adjustments/rerates, whether the bowler accepted the adjustment/rerate or not, at the time of bowling. The following information must be submitted prior to participation for possible average adjustment/rerate:

1. The name of each tournament in which an average adjustment/rerate was assigned
2. The adjusted/rerated average.

Failure to comply with these provisions is cause for a forfeiture of entry fees and prize winnings.

Tournament managers will be provided access to an online form to submit information and also will be provided access to a list of bowlers who have received an adjustment/rerate.

The USBC Rules team will be responsible for updating the information weekly during the tournament season, approximately December through May. During the remainder of the year, the information will be updated at least monthly.

Mark Gerberich, Three Former PBA Stars Enter PBA Hall of Fame

The Professional Bowlers Association's FireLake PBA Tournament of Champions week got off to a memorable start when a ballroom filled with players and special guests welcomed former PBA Commissioner

Burton said. Gerberich, who served as commissioner from 1995-2000 when the organization was sold to ex-Microsoft executives Chris Peters, Mike Slade and Rob Glaser, rose from

Elias "was one of the greatest innovators ever."

Speaking of himself, he said, "It's really, really cool to even be considered."

"I'm proud of what we

fellow inductee Hoskins for "letting" him win his Tournament of Champions title, and he thanked fellow hall of famer Danny Wiseman for letting him win his 10th title, which made him hall of fame-eligible.

"I'm up here by myself, but it took a lot of people to help me get here," Goebel added. "I have the greatest circle of family and friends a person could possibly have.

"I thank the PBA for providing the stage, the playground for me to go out and live out my dream," Goebel said. "I honestly don't know if I'm deserving when I think about the great players who are in the hall, but I thank you for putting me in with them."

Hoskins was a colorful, high-backswing power player who rolled onto the scene in 1989, winning PBA Rookie of the Year honors which led into a 12-year, 10-title career that included a pair of major championships in the 1997 and 1999 Bayer/Brunswick Touring Players Championships. He also was the 11th player in PBA history to bowl a nationally-televised 300 game (in the 1997 Ebonite Challenge).

"This is a day I've looked forward to for quite some time," Hoskins said. "It's the greatest honor I ever could have expected.

"Most people who are asked if they expect to get into the hall of fame give the politically correct answer. Not me," Hoskins said. "I had dreams and, damn it, I was going to fulfill them. I tell my kids, it you have dreams, follow them because you might get there.

"No one gets here without a great support system and I certainly had one," he added. "I owe the people who helped me a debt I can never repay."

Scroggins, who has bowled extensively at every level of PBA

competition and won at all of them as well, earned his hall of fame nod after winning eight PBA Tour titles including a pair of majors in the 2005 USBC Masters and 2009 U.S. Open.

"It's a dream come true. When I got the phone call from (PBA CEO and Commissioner) Tom Clark, a wave of emotions came over me," Scroggins said. "I just sat there and cried for about an hour, thinking about my whole career. I went to the website and looked at the list of hall of famers, and it was just amazing to realize the group I'm joining.

"I wondered if those guys had a defining moment in my career," he continued. "I had one in 1992. I had just filled out an application for a job at the post office. I needed a real job to get on with my life, but the post office wasn't hiring for another month. So my father told me to go bowl another month. I didn't cash the first week, and the second week in Las Vegas I wasn't bowling well. I called my dad and told him I was going to quit and come home. He told me to not quit for the wrong reason, to go ahead and bowl the last two weeks.

"I was in Vegas so I decided to play black jack. I was dealt a black jack...and I beat the dealer, who had 20. I thought 'this is fate,' so I went to the next PBA event and won, and the rest is history. So I can thank one hand of black jack for my career."

Scroggins also thanked his travelling roommates for their roles in his career.

"You know the saying, 'If it doesn't kill you, it'll make you stronger?' That applied to my first group of roommates," Scroggins said.

"I'm so proud to be a PBA Hall of Famer," he concluded. "I never thought I'd be standing up here."



Mark Gerberich, Bryan Goebel, Steve Hoskins, Mike Scroggins

Mark Gerberich and standout players Bryan Goebel, Steve Hoskins and Mike Scroggins into the PBA Hall of Fame.

Also recognized during the dinner were 2016 GEICO Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year EJ Tackett of Huntington, Ind.; Harry Golden PBA Rookie of the Year Francois Lavoie of Quebec City, Quebec; Steve Nagy Sportsmanship Award winner Tom Smallwood of Saginaw, Mich., and Tony Reyes Community Service Award winner Rhino Page of Orlando, Fla.

PBA Hall of Famer and long-time ABC-TV color analyst Nelson Burton Jr., who emceed the event, noted millions of people have bowled, trying to be good enough just to qualify for PBA competition, and among the thousands who have joined the PBA, only a handful have ever bowled well enough to earn admission to the hall of fame.

"This group dwells in rarified air,"

an entry-level job as PBA membership services director in 1983 to Commissioner 13 years later, was introduced by his long-time friend and former Deputy Commissioner Kevin Shippy.

"This is a long, long overdue induction," Shippy said. "It was Mark's commitment to working with the new owners that kept the organization alive."

Shippy noted that Gerberich was at the helm when ABC-TV dramatically reduced its rights fees payments to the PBA, and eventually dropped the PBA from its network lineup, but he kept the organization operating despite the hardships.

"Throughout his tenure, no one accomplished more with less than Mark did," Shippy said.

Gerberich, in his response, deflected a lot of credit to the groundwork Shippy did and he noted PBA founder Eddie

accomplished," he added. "In 1991, we got \$200,000 a show which went into the prize funds. A year later, we got \$50,000. In 1997, we were paying \$150,000 to stay on TV, so I understand exactly the difficulties the PBA faces."

The intervention of Peters and his partners, Gerberich said, "was a godsend. Without them there wouldn't be a PBA today."

Goebel, a 10-time PBA Tour winner with the 1998 Brunswick World Tournament of Champions included in his résumé, had his best season in 1994 when he won three titles.

"In 1988, I had been a pro bowler for eight years and I didn't have a title," Goebel said. "I quit my job and decided it if I was ever going to be a pro, I had to do it now. I missed a cut and came home whining. My wife Kelly said, 'well, you quit your job; you'd better go out and bowl better.'"

And he did. He jokingly thanked

JUNIOR GOLD CHAMPIONSHIPS SITES SET FOR 2018, 2019 AND 2020

Dallas, Detroit and Indianapolis will be the summer destinations for youth bowlers as International Bowling Campus Youth Development has determined sites for its national youth events for 2018 through 2020.

The Junior Gold Championships, USA Bowling National Championships and Bowling.com Youth Open will head to Dallas in 2018, Detroit will serve as the host city in 2019 and Indianapolis will be the site of the national events in 2020.

"We're excited to have Dallas, Detroit and Indianapolis play host to our youth events," said Gary Brown, IBC Managing Director of Youth Development. "These tournaments bring together the best youth bowlers in the nation and we appreciate the support of the leaders in these communities as we continue to build a future for the sport."

The 2018 Junior Gold Championships presented by The Brands of Ebonite International will be held in Dallas for just the second time. While 1,300 bowlers took part in the 2004 event in Dallas to set a participation record, the Junior Gold Championships has continued to grow and has drawn more than 3,100 participants in each of the last two years.

"We look forward to having the

nation's best youth bowlers in Dallas for the 2018 Junior Gold Championships," Dallas Sports Commission Executive Director Monica Paul said. "Dallas is a premier sports destination and we're excited to help showcase the biggest youth bowling event of the year."

Detroit will play host to the Junior Gold Championships for the third time in 2019. The 2013 event in the Motor City marked the first time the Junior Gold Championships surpassed the 2,000-participants mark. The event also was held in Detroit in 2008.

"Bowling is a big part of the Detroit sports landscape and it's great to be able to play host to these youth events," Kris Smith, Director of the Detroit Sports Commission, said. "We expect another great turnout and I'm sure the bowling community will be excited to see these outstanding youth bowlers."

Indianapolis will extend its record for most times to host the Junior Gold Championships when the tournament returns in 2020. In the first 19 years of the event, Indianapolis has been the host city five times, including 2016 when the event had a record field of almost 3,300 participants.

"Indy's long-standing tradition of holding sporting events will continue as

we welcome back the Junior Gold Championships," said Chris Gahl, senior vice president of marketing for Visit Indy. "We look forward to hosting the athletes, their families, and fans for another successful event."

The Junior Gold Championships brings together the top youth bowlers in the country to compete for scholarships and spots on Junior Team USA in six divisions - U12 Boys, U12 Girls, U15 Boys, U15 Girls, U20 Boys and U20 Girls. Athletes qualify for the event through Junior Gold leagues and tournaments.

The USA Bowling National Championships feature U12 and U15 teams that qualify through regional events while the Bowling.com Youth Open is a non-qualifying event open to all United States Bowling Congress Youth members and features singles, doubles and team events.

All events are conducted by IBC Youth Development. The Junior Gold Championships were first conducted in 1998 at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nevada, and drew 538 participants. The Youth Open Championships started in 2009 while the USA Bowling National Championships had its inaugural event in 2016.

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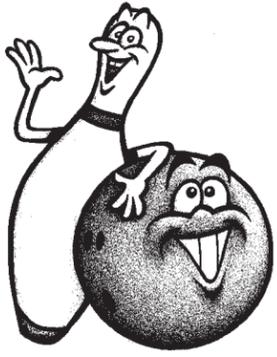
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THE FUNNY PAGE

Truth from the mouths of youngsters!

HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHOM TO MARRY?

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming. -- Alan, age 10

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. -- Kristen, age 10

WHAT IS THE RIGHT AGE TO GET MARRIED?

Twenty-three is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then. -- Camille, age 10

HOW CAN A STRANGER TELL IF TWO PEOPLE ARE MARRIED?

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids. -- Derrick, age 8

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR MOM AND DAD HAVE IN COMMON?

Both don't want any more kids. -- Lori, age 8

hip shot

by Andy White



A lot of research goes into ball returns.

WALT'S WORLD

BY WALT STEINSIEK



WHEN IS IT OKAY TO KISS SOMEONE?

When they're rich. -- Pam, age 7

The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that. -- Curt, age 7

The rule goes like this: If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do. -- Howard, age 8

HOW WOULD YOU MAKE A MARRIAGE WORK?

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a dump truck. -- Ricky, age 10

WHAT DO MOST PEOPLE DO ON A DATE?

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough. -- Lynnette, age 8

On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. -- Martin, age 10

HOW WOULD THE WORLD BE DIFFERENT IF PEOPLE DIDN'T GET MARRIED?

There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there?

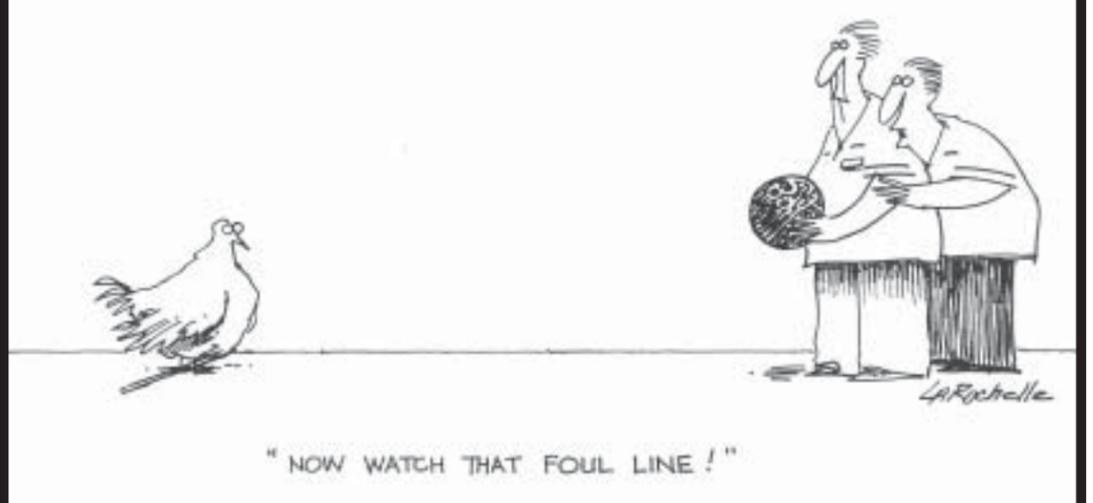
-- Kelvin, age 8

IS IT BETTER TO BE SINGLE OR MARRIED?

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them. -- Anita, age 9

BOWL-A-RAMA®

by Maurice 'MOE' LaRochelle



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb 18-July 9	USBC Open Championships, South Point Bowling Plaza, Las Vegas, NV
Mar 13-16	National Golden Ladies Classic, The Orleans, Las Vegas, NV
Mar 18-26	PBA Int'l/WBT Brunswick Euro Challenge, Munich, Germany
Apr 15-17	PBA60 Killer 'B' Open, Lane Glo Bowl, New Port Richey, FL
Apr 17-20	PBA50 Pasco County Open, Lane Glo Bowl, New Port Richey, FL
Apr 22-25	PBA50 Sun Bowl In The Villages, Spanish Springs Lanes, The Villages, FL
Apr 23-July 9	USBC Women's Championships, Baton Rouge River Center, Baton Rouge, LA
Apr 27-29	PWBA Sonoma County Open, Double Decker Lanes, Rohnert Park, CA
Apr 30-May 3	PBA50 Miller High Life Classic, George Pappas' Victory Lanes, Mooresville, NC
May 4-6	PWBA Storm Sacramento Open, Steve Cook's Fireside Lanes, Sacramento, CA
May 6-9	PBA50 Johnny Petraglia BVL Open, Farmingdale Lanes, Farmingdale, NY
May 11-13	PWBA Fountain Valley Open, Fountain Bowl, Fountain Valley, CA
May 13-16	PBA50 Tour Players Championship, Woodland Bowl, Indianapolis, IN
May 17-23	USBC Queens, Raising Cane's River Center, Baton Rouge, LA
May 23-26	USBC Senior Queens, Circle Bowl, Baton Rouge, LA
May 28-31	PBA50 Northern Claifornia Classic, Harvest Park Bowl, Brentwood, CA
June 1-3	USBC Super Senior Classic, Sam's Town, Las Vegas, NV
June 1-3	PWBA Wichita Open, Northrock Lanes, Wichita, KS
June 1-3	Xtravaganza Doubles Bowling Tournament, Red Rock Lanes, Las Vegas, NV
June 4-11	USBC Senior Masters, Sam's Town, Las Vegas, NV
June 8-10	PWBA Pepsi Lincoln Open, Sun Valley Lanes, Lincoln, NE
June 11-16	Suncoast PBA Senior U.S. Open, Suncoast BOWling Center, Las Vegas, NV
June 15-17	PWBA Greater Detroit Open, Super Bowl, Canton, MI
June 18-22	Int'l Bowl Expo, Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center, Nashville, TN
June 21-25	PWBA Players Championship, The Ashwaubenon Bowling Alley, Green Bay, WI
June 26-July 7	PBA Int'l/WBT Oklahoma Open, Shawnee, OK
June 29-July 1	PWBA Orlando Open, Boardwalk Bowl, Orlando, FL
July 5-7	High Roller for Ladies Only, Gold Coast Bowling Center, Las Vegas, NV
July 6-8	PWBA, Seminole Lanes, St. Petersburg, FL
July 9-15	Lee Evans Tournament of the Americas, Fort Lauderdale, FL
July 13-15	PWBA, AMF Gates Lanes, Rochester, NY
July 24-27	PBA50 South Shore Open, Olympia Lanes, Hammond, IN
July 27-30	PWBA Luci Bonneau Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles, Copperfield Bowl
July 29-Aug 1	PBA50 Dave Small's Championship Lanes Classic, Anderson, IN
July 31-Aug. 6	U.S. Women's Open, Plano, Texas, Plano Super Bowl
Aug 5-8	PBA50 Pro Bowl West Championship, Pro Bowl West, Fort Wayne, IN
Aug 7-16	Military Team Classic, South Point Bowling Plaza, Las Vegas, NV
Aug 10-12	PBA60 Dick Weber Championship, Pro Bowl West, Fort Wayne, IN
Aug 14-28	PBA Int'l/WBT Sweden WBT, Malmo, Sweden
Aug. 31-Sept. 3	PWBA Tour Championship, TBD
Sept 20-Oct 6	PBA Int'l/WBT Thailand, Bangkok, Thailand
Oct 9-12	Senior High Roller, The Orleans Bowling Center, Las Vegas, NV
Nov 16-22	PBA Int'l/WBT Kingdom of Saudi Open, Riyadh, Saudia Arabia
Nov 23-28	PBA Int'l/WBT Kingdom of Bahrain Open, Manama, Bahrain
Nov 29-Dec 3	PBA Int'l/WBT Kuwait Open, Kuwait City, Kuwait

L.L. Bean to Sponsor 2017 PBA League Elias Cup at Bayside Bowl

Expanded Portland, Maine center also will host MaineQuarterly.com Roth/Holman Doubles Championship

PORTLAND, Maine - Bayside Bowl and the Professional Bowlers Association announced that Bayside Bowl will host the 2017 L.L. Bean PBA League Elias Cup, sponsored by one Maine's best-known brands, and the MaineQuarterly.com Mark Roth/Marshall Holman PBA Doubles Championship in April.

"Bayside Bowl is excited to welcome L.L. Bean as the title sponsor of this year's PBA League Elias Cup. L.L. Bean is Maine's iconic brand," said Justin Alford, co-owner of Bayside Bowl. "We are also thrilled to continue our partnership with the Maine Office of Tourism. We couldn't have picked better partners to showcase the best of Maine to the country."

"Bayside Bowl and the Portland community can't wait for the Professional Bowlers Association to come back to town," said Charlie Mitchell, Bayside Bowl's managing partner. "The Elias Cup and the Roth/Holman Doubles Championship showcase the world's best bowlers, most passionate fans and incredible sponsors that realize what a big deal this event is for our state."

"We're super excited to be partnering with two great organizations, the PBA and Bayside Bowl, on this fun, unique event," said Chuck Gannon, L.L. Bean's corporate advertising manager. "This is a rare opportunity right in

our own backyard, so we're really happy to be involved. Plus, bowling is a great activity for folks of all ages, especially families."

An expansion of Bayside Bowl from its original 12 lanes to 20 lanes, plus the installation of a mezzanine and bar overlooking the new construction that is currently nearing completion provide the PBA and Bayside Bowl with an opportunity to also bring the Mark Roth/Marshall Holman PBA Doubles Championship to Maine as part of the 2017 program, which will give more PBA players a chance to bowl in Maine.

"The PBA is fired up to bring the Elias Cup back and to showcase for the first time the Roth/Holman Doubles Championship as part of our program at Bayside Bowl," said PBA CEO and Commissioner Tom Clark. "Bayside Bowl has the best audience in bowling and our players love Portland."

The entire event will take place from April 9-16. The MaineQuarterly.com Roth/Holman Doubles Championship will be aired live on ESPN on April 16 at 1 p.m. ET. The L.L. Bean PBA League Elias Cup will air on ESPN on four consecutive Sundays at 1 p.m. following the doubles telecast: April 23 and 30, and May 7 and May 14. ESPN telecasts also live stream on ESPN3 and the WatchESPN app.

IN MEMORIAM



DARRELL DUCAT

The PBA has learned of the death February 14, 2017 of long-time PBA National Championship host Darrell Ducat, the former proprietor of Imperial Lanes in Toledo, Ohio. The 91-year-old patriarch of the well-known Ducat family was living in Florida where he and son Larry were operators of Spanish Springs Lanes in The Villages.

Darrell Ducat, a PBA founding member, became the oldest player ever to bowl in a PBA tournament when he competed in the 2013 PBA50 Sun Bowl at Spanish Springs Lanes at age 87.

The Ducat family hosted more than 30 PBA tournaments over the years at bowling centers they owned in Toledo, Detroit, Winter Haven and The Villages. The PBA hadn't appeared in the Villages since 2001 when the Ducats brought the PBA back to The Villages in 2009.

Larry Ducat said he is working with the PBA to host a celebration of Darrell Ducat's life when the PBA50 Tour visits The Villages in April.

He is survived by his sons Larry and Michael Ducat; daughters Debbie Augustyniak, Terri Duerringer, Elizabeth Starr, and Tami Bonaminio; brother Paul Ducat; 14 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

ILLINOIS BOWLER RECORDS 900 SERIES

ARLINGTON, Texas – Prior to lacing up for league Friday evening at Strike N Spare II in Lockport, Illinois, Sam Esposito of Homer Glen, Illinois, had two United States Bowling Congress-certified 300 games to his credit.

By the end of the night, the 26-year-old right-hander added three more perfect games to his collection on his way to becoming the 31st bowler to roll a 900 series.

Esposito connected on 36 consecutive strikes during the Friday Classic league at Strike N Spare II to join Andrew Mank of Belleville, Illinois, as the second bowler from Illinois to achieve the score. Mank recorded his 900 series in March 2010.

After getting through the first two games, Esposito relied on his teammates and friends to keep the pressure at bay as he continued to get closer to having a perfect evening.

"After I got the second one, I thought if I could get the first few strikes of Game 3, I would be able to shake some of the nerves and have a chance at doing it," said Esposito, who had two 800 series with a high of 822 prior to Friday's performance. "My friends and teammates were trying to keep me calm, talking about work and keeping my mind off of what was happening."

Upon arriving to the 10th frame, Esposito stuck to the process that already had got him 33 consecutive strikes to start his set and was

unfazed by his surroundings.

"I knew I had a chance to do something that very few people get the opportunity to do, and my mind kind of went blank," Esposito said.

"I just wanted to do the same thing that had worked all night, not change a thing and let my body take over.

"All 38 lanes had stopped, and you could've heard a pin drop. There was absolute silence, and everybody was watching."

Despite the final shot getting right of target, the result for Esposito was the same as he entered the record books.

Esposito was greeted at the foul line after the final shot by friends and teammates, and he's appreciative of the bowling community for getting to share in the experience.

"I was worried about the final shot," Esposito said. "I got it right from where I was all night but luckily it came back and struck. I took a big, deep breath afterwards and said thank you. I got tackled by everybody, but that was amazing. It honestly still hasn't hit me that I shot three perfect games in a row. I'm still in shock, but to have everybody cheering for me and congratulating me was amazing. It shows what a great bowling community we have, and it was special to be able to share that with everybody."

Esposito's achievement is pending approval from USBC and would be the 32nd USBC-approved 900.



McEWAN REPEATS AS WORLD BOWLING TOUR FINALS CHAMPION

Simonsen captures WBT Men's title

LAS VEGAS – Two-time Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour champion Danielle McEwan of Stony Point, New York, successfully defended her World Bowling Tour Finals title by delivering a clutch strike in the final frame.

The 25-year-old right-hander's strike at The Orleans Bowling Center gave her a final score of 203, forcing two-time PWBA Player of the Year Liz Johnson of Cheektowaga, New York, to mark in her 10th frame to secure the win.

Johnson's first shot found the pocket, but she left a devastating 7-10 split and was unable to convert, finishing with a final score of 200. McEwan earned \$20,000 for the win, while Johnson netted \$10,000.

The semifinal and final matches featured the "Current Frame" scoring system, where players earned 30 pins a frame for each strike and 10 pins, plus the total from their first shot of that frame, for a spare. Players earned their total pinfall for the frame for an open.

Bowlers only compete for 10 frames in the "Current Frame" system, so there are no additional shots in the 10th frame if a player strikes or spares. The maximum score is 300.

After starting the title match with two consecutive strikes, McEwan was unable to strike again until the 10th frame, converting four multiple-pin combinations to keep herself in contention. Johnson held a 28-pin lead heading into the ninth frame but was unable to mark in her final two frames.

"In the moment, I didn't think that strike would be enough," said McEwan, who won the 2016 H.H. Emir Cup in Doha, Qatar. "I hadn't struck on that lane in a while, so I just wanted to get to the pocket. It's hard to watch that happen on the bench to someone who's such a good friend and someone I look up to, but sometimes bowling works that way. I need

to appreciate being on this side of it, because I know the other side can come just as easily."

Now, McEwan will look forward to continuing to prepare for the upcoming PWBA



Anthony Simonsen and Danielle McEwan

Tour season, which starts with the PWBA Sonoma County Open in Rohnert Park, California, on April 27-29.

"We'll definitely need some practice before then," said McEwan, who won the 2015 Smithfield PWBA Tour Championship. "My execution wasn't very good, but I walked away with the win, so I'll have to take that momentum into the season."

In the semifinal match, Johnson bested Colombia's Anggie Ramirez Perea, 268-220.

Ramirez took home \$5,000 for finishing in third place.

Anthony Simonsen of Austin, Texas, captured the men's World Bowling Tour Finals



title, defeating Sweden's Martin Larsen in the championship match, 243-213.

The 2016 United States Bowling Congress Masters champion struck on six of his first seven shots in the title tilt to build a 33-pin lead and secured the win on the bench after Larsen did not strike in the 10th frame.

The 20-year-old Simonsen found some redemption at The Orleans Bowling Center after falling short in his title defense at the USBC Masters. Simonsen finished the week

resulting in enormous national media attention that included a feature in Sports Illustrated, network television exposure and major national newspaper features.

Smallwood won a second title in the 2013 PBA Scorpion Championship and he has made 11 additional championship round appearances, including runner-up finishes in the 2011 PBA Tournament of Champions and the 2016 PBA World Championship.

"It's a really a good deal," Smallwood said, adding with a grin, "When you don't say much, people think you're nice, but it's nice to be thought of as a good guy. I spend a lot of time with (three-time Nagy award winner) Parker Bohn, and I know what kind of guy he is. To be in the group with him, and the other winners, is pretty cool."

Page is the fourth recipient of the Tony Reyes Community Service Award, honoring the popular PBA Tour champion who lost his life following a traffic accident in 2012.

Joining previous recipients Parker Bohn III, Missy Parkin and Ed Godbout, Page was nominated for his involvement over the past eight years with the Thomas Cacioppo family in New York in raising money to combat Crohns and Colitis. The Rhino Page Strike Out Crohns and Colitis fund-raisers have generated more than \$225,000 to help combat the debilitating digestive tract disorders.

In March, Page will expand his involvement by hosting the PBA Strike Out Crohns and Colitis South Open at Boardwalk Bowl in his adopted hometown, Orlando, Fla.

Support America's Troops

Indiana's E.J. Tackett Wins 2016 PBA Player of the Year Award

Quebec City's Francois Lavoie becomes Canada's first PBA Rookie of the Year

KATY, Texas - Thanks in part to a commanding performance in the end-of-season GEICO PBA World Series of Bowling in Reno, which included his first major title in the PBA World Championship, 24-year-old E.J. Tackett of Huntington, Ind., was the overwhelming choice as the 2016 GEICO Chris Schenkel Professional Bowlers Association Player of the Year.

The results of voting by his fellow PBA members and international bowling news media representatives was announced by PBA CEO and Commissioner Tom Clark during Main Event Terrell Owens PBA Super Clash.

Clark also announced that 23-year-old Quebec City native Francois Lavoie was selected as the 2016 Harry Golden Rookie of the Year, becoming the first Canadian ever to win that award. The 2016 Steve Nagy Sportsmanship Award, selected by PBA Tour players, went to Tom Smallwood of Saginaw, Mich., and the 2016 Tony Reyes Community Service Award winner for exceptional community or charitable activities was Rhino Page of Orlando, Fla.

Tackett, PBA's only four-time title winner in 2016, was involved in a highly-competitive Player of the Year race coming into the World Series where he not only won the PBA World Championship for his fourth title of the year and he was one of three players to qualify for the match play finals in all four PBA animal pattern championships (Cheetah, Chameleon, Scorpion and Shark) that are part of the WSOB. He ended the year as the PBA's earnings leader (\$154,900) and finished third in scoring average (224.49 for 490 games).

In addition to the PBA World Championship,

Tackett won titles in the 2016 Xtra Frame Storm Open, Xtra Frame PBA Team Challenge and the Bear Open during the PBA Fall Swing.

At age 24, he became the second-youngest player to win PBA's top annual individual honor. Only the late Billy Hardwick was younger when he was selected as PBA's first Player of the Year in 1963 at age 22.

"It's absolutely amazing," Tackett said. "I switched to 16 pounds at the end of the 2015 season, had some success and just kept doing what I do. I got the ball rolling the right way and kept it going all year. Winning on television gave me

a boost in confidence. I always knew I could do that, but to actually win on TV was something else.

"One thing I've always noted about the (Player of the Year) award is it's named for Chris Schenkel (the PBA Hall of Fame announced for years on ABC-TV). Most people don't know he was from my home town."

Tackett also is off to a great start in 2017, winning the PBA Tour's first event, the DHC PBA Japan Invitational in Osaka, Japan.

"I'm going to stay in the same mindset and try to make TV shows and win," he said. "That's why I do what I do - try to win."

Lavoie, who joined the PBA following a successful collegiate bowling career at Wichita State University, made four television finals during his first year, but none was more impressive than the U.S. Open where he not only won his first title - and a major at that - but

also bowled the first nationally-televised 300 game in the prestigious tournament's colorful history. The sport's oldest major championship began as the BPAA All Star in 1942.

Lavoie was involved in a Canadian-dominated Rookie of the Year race with Ontario's Graham Fach, his Team Canada teammate, who drew first blood when he won the Barbasol PBA Players Championship early in the year to become the first Canadian to win a PBA Tour title (also a major). After winning the U.S. Open, Lavoie broke open the race in the World Series, winning his second title in the PBA Shark Championship and finishing the season fifth among the PBA's average leaders (222.79 for 330 games) and seventh in earnings (\$79,920).

"Usually there aren't multiple rookies who win titles, but I was fortunate to have a strong finish and that's kind of what sealed the deal," Lavoie said. "I'm sure Graham had the same goal, but only one of us can win. To finally have it official is great."

"(Winning Rookie of the Year) was a goal," Lavoie said. "Every year on Team Canada our coach tries to help us set goals and that's one of the goals I set for myself. You try to aim high, but also set a goal that's feasible. It justifies all of the hard work I've put in."

"It's been a great year for Canadian bowling."

Smallwood, 39, has been a popular competitor since joining the PBA Tour in 2009. After losing his job with General Motors during the economic downturn, Smallwood decided to pursue his childhood dream of competing on the PBA Tour. He entered the former PBA "exempt tour" qualifier in Allen Park, Mich., and won an exemption to bowl full-time the following season. But he then pulled off a dream victory, winning the PBA World Championship for \$50,000 and his first Tour title,

