PBA Nevada Classic to Honor Mike Aulby

January 2, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The PBA career of Mike Aulby began with a Christmas gift. He said his parents paid his expenses to compete in the 1979 Showboat Invitational.

The 18-year-old soon made the long trek from his home in Indiana to Nevada for his first PBA Tour event, commencing what would become a Hall of Fame career.

This spring, Aulby, now 64, will again make the cross-country trip to Nevada — this time for the PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic in Reno.

“It's quite an honor,” Aulby said. “I appreciate Tom (Clark)’s faith in me. I don’t have the skills to bowl anymore, so it will be great to watch and be part of it.

“Mike’s remarkable accomplishments and dedication to the sport both on and off the lanes make him a living legend,” PBA Tour Commissioner Tom Clark said. “His presence and name on the trophy will add an immeasurable level of prestige to this event.”

The PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic will be held Feb. 25-28 at Coconut Bowl at Wild Island. The finals will be held March 15 at 6 p.m. Eastern time at Reno’s National Bowling Stadium and air live on FS1.

Aulby did not win the 1979 Showboat Invitational, but his first win didn’t come long after.

He won the Showboat PBA National Championship later that year, which was also held in Las Vegas, and became the youngest player to win a major championship. That record stood for more than 35 years until Anthony Simonsen broke it in 2016.

Aulby’s 29 career PBA Tour titles rank ninth all time; his eight major victories place fourth. He was the first of five players to win Rookie and Player of the Year honors during their career. He was also the first player to complete the Super Slam by winning all five major championships.

In total, seven of the legend’s 29 titles came in the Silver State.

“I’m not a gambler by any means but I’ve always enjoyed the big centers and my success in Nevada,” Aulby said. “It’s exciting and I’m looking forward to it.”

For the latest information and updates about the 2025 PBA Tour, visit www.PBA.com and follow the PBA on Instagram, Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), TikTok and YouTube.

Teams Release Rosters for PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands

January 3, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Staff changes by Matt Russo and Andrew Anderson were the highlights of Friday's PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands roster reveal show on BowlTV, in which the eight teams each representing a major bowling ball manufacturer announced their initial rosters for the 2025 season.

The PBA Tour stars, who happen to be close friends off the lanes, opted to switch brands this offseason after enjoying successful 2024 seasons.

Russo finished a career-high seventh in points and won the PBA Scorpion Championship on DV8 staff last season. The two-handed lefty now joins two-time reigning Player of the Year EJ Tackett on MOTIV.

"Matt is a phenomenal addition to the team," MOTIV manager Brett Spangler said. "We needed a lefty, so to get the highest left-hander in (2024) points is absolutely incredible. Matt is a proven winner at the highest level and he's only now realizing his potential. I expect great things for MOTIV and Matt in the coming years."

Anderson, who won the PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship with Kris Prather and swept both PBA Elite League MVP awards, spent the last three seasons with MOTIV. He switched to 900 Global this winter, joining Sean Rash atop the Storm subsidiary's hierarchy.

"A former Player of the Year, Andrew is super pumped to be on the squad, and we are excited to have him," 900 Global manager Gary Hulsenberg said. "We had to go out and get him. We needed to add that talent."

Roto Grip's additions of Justin Knowles and Kevin McCune were the other two major changes between brands. Roto Grip manager Chris Schlemer found his lefty in Knowles, and added a 25-year-old major champion in McCune.

"Even though Kevin's rev rate is a little bit higher (than his dad's), he has versatility," Roto Grip manager Chris Schlemer said. "He can throw it hard and straight when he has to, but he's also not scared to get in and wheel it."

Several players switched teams within the same parent company, such as reigning Rookie of the Year Nate Purches moving from Brunswick to DV8 and Richie Teece sliding from Storm to 900 Global.

Players formerly staffed by Columbia 300, Track and Radical moved to different branches of the Brunswick tree as well.

Each team's complete roster can be found at the bottom of this story.

Each team was able to roster between six and 15 of their staff players who have PBA Tour priority status. Teams will be able to add, drop and trade players between Feb. 17-23.

Any player who gains priority status during the season — which would happen if a player won their first career title — will be automatically added to that team's roster.

In addition to building upon the inherent team chemistry within each brand's staff, the revamped format heightens the longstanding rivalries between the brands.

The PBA Elite League now features a point system comparable to Formula 1's Driver and Constructor standings. It is the same point system used to determine PBA Playoffs standings.

Teams will earn points in each singles title event through April's PBA Tournament of Champions. Points are weighted based on the duration and prestige of the title event.

An additional strategic element further elevates the PBA Elite League: Before each event, managers will be responsible for selecting five players to start for their team. Only the points earned by those five players will count in the PBA Elite League.

All teams will compete in the PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands Championship on April 26-27. Teams will be seeded for the extended stepladder by their season-long point totals.

The No. 4-8 seeds will compete April 26 (3 p.m. ET on FS1) with the winning team advancing to meet the top three seeds in the final round on April 27 (Noon ET on FOX).

All matches will utilize the baker format as seen in previous iterations of the PBA Elite League. The stepladder will feature single-game matches culminating with a Race-to-Two championship match.

The champions will earn $100,000 to be allocated to its players by the manufacturer.

During the regular season, players will be able to use any product-registered bowling ball available to them. For example, Roto Grip players can use Storm and 900 Global equipment; Hammer players can use Brunswick, Ebonite, Track, DV8, Radical and Columbia 300 equipment.

In the PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands Championship, however, players will be limited to their single brand's equipment. To continue the previous example, Roto Grip players will only be able to throw Roto Grip equipment in the finals — not Storm or 900 Global.

Furthermore, since not all brands produce a urethane bowling ball, no player may use urethane equipment during finals matches. The tournament director may grant an exception for equipment used exclusively for spares.

Team Rosters

900 Global

Andrew Anderson, Richie Teece, Mitch Hupé, Sean Rash, Ryan Barnes, Chase Nadeau, Chris Sloan, Chris Barnes

Managed by Gary Hulsenberg, Storm Vice President of Marketing

Brunswick

Packy Hanrahan, Graham Fach, Jason Sterner, Dom Barrett, Nate Stubler, Tim Foy Jr., Andrew Hall, Gary Faulkner Jr., Parker Bohn III

Managed by Corey Dykstra, CEO of Brunswick Bowling Products

DV8

Matt Ogle, Keven Williams, Deo Benard, Hayden Stippich, Nate Purches, Cam Crowe, Bailey Mavrick, Ryan Ciminelli

Managed by Billy Orlikowski, Brunswick Director of Consumer Product Management

Ebonite

Jake Peters, Matt Sanders, Tommy Jones, Jakob Butturff, Cristian Azcona, AJ Chapman, Brandon Runk, Kim Bolleby

Managed by Bugsy Kelly, Brunswick Director of Marketing

Hammer

Marshall Kent, Bill O'Neill, Zach Wilkins, Boog Krol, Tom Daugherty, Eric Jones, Tomas Käyhkö, Shawn Maldonado

Managed by Brian Graham, Brunswick VP of Consumer Products

MOTIV

EJ Tackett, Matt Russo, Tom Smallwood, AJ Johnson, Sam Cooley, Sean Lavery-Spahr, Nathan Bohr, Dick Allen, Ronnie Russell, Santtu Tahvanainen (granted injury exemption)

Managed by Brett Spangler, MOTIV Tour Rep

Roto Grip

Anthony Simonsen, Justin Knowles, Kris Prather, BJ Moore, Stu Williams, DJ Archer, Kevin McCune, Wes Malott

Managed by Chris Schlemer, Roto Grip Brand Manager

Storm

Jason Belmonte, Kyle Troup, Jesper Svensson, Chris Via, DeeRonn Booker, Patrick Dombrowski, Kyle Sherman, François Lavoie, Darren Tang, Thomas Larsen

Managed by Tyler Jensen, President of Storm Products, Inc.

Owen's Craft Mixers Secures Naming Rights for PBA Owen's Illinois Classic

January 6, 2025 Professional Bowlers Association

Owen's Craft Mixers will be the official mixer of the 2025 PBA Tour as part of a sponsorship agreement for the 2025 season.

Owen's will receive naming rights for the PBA Owen's Illinois Classic which will be held Feb. 3-8 at Bowlero Vernon Hills in Vernon Hills, Ill. The championship round will air Feb. 8 at 8 p.m. Eastern live on FS1.

Josh Miller and his brother-in-law, Tyler Holland, founded the Portland, Maine-based company in 2016. Miller named the company after his great, great grandfather Owen Woods.

"At Owen's, we're always looking for ways to bring people together around fun and memorable experiences," Miller said. "Partnering with the PBA aligns perfectly with our mission to infuse energy and excitement into every event we're part of. Bowling is a sport that brings fans together in a way that's both competitive and celebratory, and we're thrilled to help elevate that experience with our mixers."

In addition to naming rights, Owen's will be integrated into the PBA Tour through a sponsored element during the PBA Owen's Illinois Classic telecast, branded digital media promotions and fan activations.

An Owen's signature cocktail will be available for purchase all week at Bowlero Vernon Hills during the PBA Owen's Illinois Classic.

"This partnership represents a perfect match," PBA Commissioner Tom Clark said. "Quality, family values, social connections and great fun define Owen's and bowling, and we are excited to work together."

For the latest information and updates about the 2025 PBA Tour, visit www.PBA.com and follow the PBA on Instagram, Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), TikTok and YouTube.

Ryan Barnes Seizes the Torch

January 9, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Chris Barnes' overflowing trophy case suggests his glory days came in the mid-aughts. The look on his face watching his son Ryan embark on his own PBA career tells a different story.

Amidst the negative-20-degree temperatures that engulfed the Kansas tundra last January, Chris Barnes found solace in nostalgia.

As Barnes strolled around his old stomping grounds, he reminisced on his days at Wichita State University, the longtime collegiate bowling juggernaut.

It was on those very lanes at Bowlero Northrock — and you bet he still has a notepad filled with chicken-scratched observations about the minute pair-to-pair differences — where the former Shocker blossomed into an eventual Hall of Famer and one of the bowling's all-time greats.

One of just five PBA Rookies of the Year turned Players of the Year and one of just nine Triple Crown winners, Barnes has hoisted a championship trophy 19 times in his illustrious PBA career. After almost two decades on Team USA, his triumphs touch almost every corner of the globe.

Barnes' days as a weekly title favorite and one of the faces of the tour, however, are long gone. Now in his mid-50s, Barnes is often satisfied with making the first cut.

That was the case one particular week during the 2024 PBA Players Championship.

Barnes, the lone senior player remaining in the field, crossed paths with EJ Tackett, a man 20 years younger with a résumé already superior to Barnes'. Tackett knows what it feels like to walk into every single event as the man to beat.

A feeling once familiar, now foreign to Barnes.

A decade ago, Barnes could have beaten most of his upcoming opponents for round-robin match play in his sleep. But since his back surgery in 2015 — the same one undergone by former Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo — successes have been few and far between for Barnes.

"My bones are creaking. I don't know why I continue to do this," Barnes told Tackett.

"I do," Tackett said. "Because of that kid right over there."

A young Ryan Barnes hurls a one-handed shot during the 2013 PBA CP3 All-Stars event

This wasn't supposed to happen.

Chris Barnes and Ryan Barnes, father and son, competing together on the PBA Tour was never part of anyone's plan.

The sons and daughters of many 21st century PBA stars — Justin, Brandon and Sydney Bohn; Kevin McCune; Alyssa Ballard; Jordan Malott; Natalie Kent and so on — have been household names in the bowling community for the better part of the past decade.

Not Ryan. He spent his teenage years on the court, not the lanes.

Once or twice a year, juvenile Ryan would huck a ball down the lane for fun. He said he did have an inclination to compete on tour someday, but only after a 10-plus-year professional basketball career.

During Ryan's senior year of high school, the sub-six-footer realized the fatal flaw of his hoops ambition. Facing a dearth of college basketball offers and searching for a new challenge to funnel his unyielding competitive spirit, he turned to the family trade.

"When I first picked up a ball," Ryan said, "I wasn't really thinking. I was just bowling."

Even in the teen's fledgling state, his untapped potential became readily evident to his mother Lynda, a USBC Hall of Famer herself, and Chris.

Ryan's parents embraced his latest avocation with slight apprehension. They knew what it took to be truly great at the sport; they also knew what sort of expectations would be placed upon their son by the bowling world.

"Would bowling just be one of those hobbies teenagers pick up and abandon?" they wondered. "Or could this game become his future career?"

The Barnes' soon learned that Ryan, the ever-so-slightly older of their twin boys, was in this for the long haul.

"We went (to practice) for a few days and he wanted to go again and again," Chris said. "I thought, 'Alright, we're really doing this. Let's go to work.'"

The thing is… when you pick up a sport mere months before high school graduation, college coaches aren't exactly knocking down your door to offer you a scholarship. The NIL bagmen don't pay any mind to newbies, let alone those who aren't 6'5" with an Olympic-caliber standing broad jump.

Not that it would have mattered anyway: Ryan already knew where he wanted to spend his next four years.

On the Kansas prairie, wearing the black and gold, just like his dad.

Ryan Barnes signed to bowl at Wichita State in June 2020

Chris and Lynda, from an athlete's perspective, knew Wichita was one of the best bowling communities in the U.S. Their instincts as parents differed.

"Why would you go to Wichita?" Lynda said she asked Ryan. "You're never going to get to play."

Wichita State bowling is akin to Alabama's football program: If you're not a five-star recruit, good luck cracking the lineup.

Ryan knew it would take time to earn his keep. Teeming with teenage hubris, he also felt it wouldn't take as long as others thought.

"I wanted to make the varsity team," Ryan said. "That was the immediate goal."

Ahead of his freshman season, Ryan qualified for the developmental (JV) team at Wichita State's team trials. The varsity team included five past/present/future Junior Team USA members — not including, spoiler alert, Ryan himself — in addition to some of the most decorated youth players in the country.

"Ryan chose to come to Wichita when it was really above his level at the time," Chris said. "But there's no better place to be, in my opinion. The best bowler at Wichita State is almost never the best bowler in the city. When (Alec) Keplinger was the Collegiate Player of the Year, he could go to Northrock in the afternoon and practice with Packy Hanrahan and François Lavoie. It's one of the best bowling communities in the whole country. There's so much knowledge and so many good ways to get better if you're willing to put in the work."

During his freshman season, Ryan bowled three tournaments for the JV team. He averaged 189 for his 15 games. He said he practiced every day, turning the eight-lane bowling center inside the campus student center into his dorm room.

Midway through his sophomore season, Ryan earned a permanent promotion to the varsity team after leading an entire tournament field, including varsity players. He averaged more than 215 the rest of the season, notching an NCBCA First Team All-American berth.

Two years after trading in a basketball for a bowling ball, Ryan was an All-American collegiate bowler.

Ryan Barnes (far right) huddles with his Wichita State team during the 2022 PBA Collegiate Invitational

Let's address the elephant in the room: The Barnes' connections granted Ryan instant access to some of the best coaching and training available.

Team USA's training facility in Arlington is about an hour from the Barnes' home in Denton. Any shred of bowling knowledge unpossessed by mom or dad, of which there are very few, can be answered by a single call or text.

Neither Ryan, nor his parents, would deny Ryan benefited from these privileges. But there are plenty of players with strong genes — bloodlines, if you will — who never became professionals.

The genetic code for sending messengers has yet to be discovered.

"None of it means anything if you don't put in the work and figure out how to apply it," Chris said.

As Ryan's talent started to blossom, the nepotism comments inevitably followed. He soon learned to accept, even embrace, chatter from the peanut gallery.

"It's an unfair advantage for me," Ryan said. "I don't really see it as pressure or anything like that. If anything, I think it intimidates other people. Imagine bowling against me, and you look back and I'm talking to Chris and Lynda."

"You can't teach what they have, and they're teaching it to me."

The parallels between one-handed Chris and two-handed Ryan's bowling styles are undeniabl

After throttling EJ Tackett in the second game of 2024 PBA Players Championship match play, Chris Barnes took down Chris Via before losing to Boog Krol and Bill O'Neill.

He walked to his next pair and, in signature Barnzy fashion, barked some snarky comment toward his opponent as he set down his bag.

The pain in his back had evaporated and been replaced by an ineffable feeling, perhaps most closely defined as pride.

In the sixth game of match play, EJ Tackett took on Cristian Azcona. Jason Belmonte squared off with Keven Williams. O'Neill went head-to-head with Nate Stubler.

Chris Barnes faced Ryan Barnes.

Ryan Barnes and Chris Barnes chat during their match

Ryan, then a senior at Wichita State, and three of his Shocker teammates were awarded a commissioner's exemption to bowl the event's pre-tournament qualifier.

All four proved their mettle and advanced to the main field. All four cashed. Ryan and TJ Rock qualified for match play.

By 2024, the bowling world had caught onto the ascendance of Ryan, now a member of Junior Team USA and a collegiate national champion.

But no one could have foreseen him contending for a PBA major championship so soon.

"I was hoping this would happen someday. I didn't think it would happen by now," Chris said. "I don't know how much longer I'll be competitive. A chance to bowl against each other in match play of a major, that was a lot of the driving force (this week)."

In one of the rare, but not unprecedented, father-son matches in PBA history, Ryan snuck by Chris with a 195-193 victory.

(The Barnes duo's low scores during a high-scoring event, they insisted, are explained by the inherent characteristics of lanes 27-28. Ryan's notes from multiple years of practice and league indicated those lanes are more difficult than most other pairs; Chris' records and recollections from the 1990s corroborated his son's observations.)

Not only did Ryan gain ultimate bragging rights over his old man, but he seized 30 bonus pins, which sounds like the type of superficial detail that would overshadow an emotional, transcendent moment unquantifiable by any metric.

While that would be true, those 30 bonus pins were about to offer Ryan much more than mere ammunition to mock Dad at Thanksgiving dinner.

"We both make match play and get to bowl in a match against each other. That was awesome," Chris said. "And then I realized: Holy crap, he's going to make the show."

Chris Barnes overlooks his son, Ryan, as the two face off in match play of the PBA Players Championship

Ryan finished the first round of match play in 15th place. He tallied a 6-2 record during the second round to climb into ninth place, less than 80 pins behind fifth place.

Every time a relative novice like Ryan should have folded, or at least stumbled, he flourished. Even the time when Ryan literally face planted onto the lane — his heel stuck during his slide — he regrouped and made the spare like nothing ever happened.

To start the final round of match play, Ryan needed four strikes in the ninth and 10th frames to shut out Kris Prather. He hamboned without blinking.

"He got that from me," Lynda said with a smile.

With a berth in the televised finals fully within reach, Ryan averaged more than 243 for his next six games. Heading into a position round match against BJ Moore, Ryan found himself in sixth place and a mere 43 pins outside of the show.

To make the show, Ryan needed to beat Moore by at least 13 pins and hope none of the players beneath him in the standings usurped him. When a disastrous fifth frame from Moore opened the door for Ryan, the relentless and ruthless competitor snatched it.

Chris, himself in 15th place, had already sped through his inconsequential match. Why would he care about a meager difference in prize money when his son was bowling the biggest match of his life 30 feet away?

The veteran has bowled in a hundred of these matches and witnessed a thousand more. None quite like this.

Chris stood a few feet away wearing a matching pink and purple jersey; seldom has the line between parent and competitor been more grey.

Just two strikes lied between Ryan and the show. Unfazed by the hoard of cameras and undaunted by the magnitude of the moment, he labeled three strikes for good measure.

Ryan celebrated with a fist pump, walked off the approach and hugged his father. No words were exchanged; there didn't need to be.

"He did it in the best way, the one we always dream about," Chris said. "Whether it's basketball or baseball, you want to step up and make the big shot to make it. That's the dream come true as a competitor. As a parent, it hits different. That's all I can say."

Critics could boil Chris' entire Hall of Fame career down to shortcomings on TV. The meticulous nerd owns 19 PBA Tour titles; a more carefree competitor, those detractors would argue, might have won another dozen.

Chris has served many roles during PBA shows, from fan to player to color commentator to coach. Dad would be a new one, though.

"I thought it was interesting watching Chris and how nervous he was," Lynda said. "Standing next to him, I could feel it. He made me more nervous than anything because he wanted it for Ryan so much. He was second guessing himself: 'Did I give them the right information? Am I doing the right thing?'"

"But really it's in Ryan's hands," Lynda continued. "Ryan is going to do what Ryan does."

Lynda overlooks an emotional Chris as Ryan prepares to shoot a spare

What Ryan does is the singular thing that Chris never could: turn off his brain.

"That's the trick I don't have. I'm envious of it," Chris said. "He wasn't overthinking the process. That's when I thought this could get real fun today."

With his mom and dad sitting behind him and his entire college team to his left, Ryan started off perfect. Five frames. Five strikes.

“In the fifth frame, Ryan just dead-labeled it and I almost burst into tears,” Lynda said. “I've watched Chris bowl a thousand times and I've never felt like that. I was just so proud of how (Ryan) was managing his emotions and taking care of business. I was overwhelmed by the whole thing and I had to get myself together for him.”

During his 267-223 first win over Chris Via and narrow 224-220 win over Nate Stubler, a recent graduate of Wichita State-rival St. Ambrose University, Ryan relished the hometown atmosphere.

Ryan's Wichita State coaches and teammates celebrate a strike

“I knew I had all my guys right there,” Ryan said. "I was just trying to take advantage of that. I was trying to talk trash today and get in other people’s heads a little bit.

“I mean, I did.”

A Brooklyn strike from Bill O’Neill in the ninth frame ended Ryan’s poetic run in the semifinal match.

(Please use that link and watch Chris’ reaction in the background. It’s the funniest thing you’ll see all day.)

The rookie made the switch from urethane to reactive a couple frames too late and O’Neill, using a trick he once learned from Chris himself, went on to win the tournament.

But Ryan won the day.

Ryan thanks the crowd after his last shot of the 2024 PBA Players Championship finals

Twenty-seven years after Chris earned PBA Rookie of the Year honors, his son will be a favorite for the same honor.

Ryan Barnes, the kid who never envisioned a bowling career, will be an exempt, full-time touring player in 2025.

Ryan joined the PBA after graduating in May and spent the rest of the year competing in the PBA Southwest Region. He racked up six top-10 finishes in eight events and earned the region’s Rookie of the Year award.

“People in the bowling world (look at me differently now),” Ryan said last summer. “I gained a little bit of people's respect. I stopped becoming just Chris Barnes and Lynda Barnes’ son.”

In August’s PBA Tour Trials, Ryan secured an exempt berth on the 2025 PBA Tour. In January 2025, he won Team USA Trials, securing his first berth on the team his father presided over for two decades.

“From the beginning, I wanted to get to this level,” Ryan said. “It's like a dream because everything's going, I want to say, as planned. You make a TV show before you're (on tour), then you come out to Tour Trials and make it out. I'm just really excited to bowl against these guys in January.”

Among those competitors will be Chris himself. The living legend is no longer an exempt player, but his résumé will grant him priority entry into most, if not all, events.

Entry fees are a mere pittance to pay to be alongside your son's budding professional bowling career.

"He's reinvigorated my desire to be out here and share some of that early part as he makes his way," Chris said. "I can't wait to watch what happens next for him. Hopefully I'm around and get to enjoy it along with him versus just watching, but either way I'm excited for him. I hope he goes by every achievement that I was lucky enough to get."

"The kid doesn't know failure," Lynda said. "And I hope he never does."

John's Crazy Socks Added as 2025 PBA Sponsor

January 14, 2025 Professional Bowlers Association

John's Crazy Socks will become the official athletic sock of the PBA Tour as part of a sponsorship agreement for the 2025 season. The official PBA licensed socks will be available for purchase in-person at PBA Tour events through PBA's merchandise partner H5G and on John's Crazy Socks website.

Founded in 2016 by John Cronin, a young man with Down syndrome, and his father Mark, John's Crazy Socks has become the global leader in sock sales, offering more than 4,000 socks.

"I am so excited to work with the PBA," John Cronin said. "It is a great sport and our socks will help bowlers express their personalities and love for the game."

More than half of the company's employees have a differing ability and every package receives a thank you note from John himself and some candy.

John's Crazy Socks has an extensive Giving Back program that donates five percent of its earnings to the Special Olympics and proceeds from more than 35 select socks help raise funds for charities related to the sock's design.

In total, the company has raised more than $800,000 for their charity partners, including over $150,000 to Special Olympics New York.

More information about John's Crazy Socks' charitable contributions is available here.

"John's Crazy Socks' origin story and mission are inspiring," PBA Commissioner Tom Clark said. "Plus, the product is fun and practical for all bowlers. We are proud to partner with this organization and look forward to what we can accomplish together."

Kyle Troup and Packy Hanrahan will serve as ambassadors for John's Crazy Socks. Fans will be able to purchase custom socks online designed for Troup and Hanrahan, celebrating their unique styles and achievements.

Four PBA Sweden Events Added to 2025 Schedule

January 16, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Three International PBA Regionals in Sweden added to 2025 schedule

The Professional Bowlers Association has partnered with World Bowling Tour (WBT) Sweden, a Swedish bowling organization, to create PBA Sweden, bringing PBA Regional Tour events to the Scandinavian country.

PBA Sweden follows the PBA Japan partnership that began in 2014 and was relaunched last summer.

The first PBA Sweden event will be held Feb. 1-2, 2025 at RC Bowling in Jönköping, Sweden.

“Sweden is proud to have a big presence on the PBA Tour,” Robert Andersson, Sweden’s national team coach, said. “We know that you have to bowl against the best to have a chance to become the best. We hope and think that this cooperation will make the PBA Tour more accessible for our players and that they will be more prepared for what is to come when going to the PBA. Our goal is to have one of the best national teams in the world and we see the PBA as the best place to develop competition skills.”

“Similar to Japan, Sweden has a very strong bowling program, its leaders are trusted advocates of the sport and its players have made a strong impact on the PBA Tour, particularly during the history of the PBA World Series of Bowling,” PBA Tour Commissioner Tom Clark said. “We are proud to partner on PBA Sweden, broadening and strengthening the global impact of the PBA, while helping to inspire more people around the world to get involved with competitive bowling, PBA style.”

Four PBA tournaments will be held in Sweden in 2025, culminating with the Storm Lucky Larsen Masters (SLLM), the lone national title event of the four.

Jesper Svensson won the SLLM last season, but the most accomplished Swede in PBA history is far from the country’s only successful player. Eight Swedish players, including Svensson and fellow exempt player Kim Bolleby, cashed in 2024 PBA Tour events.

Among those eight players was longtime touring player Martin Larsen, who the SLLM is named after.

Larsen, who twice was voted the Steve Nagy Sportsmanship award winner, helped put WBT Sweden’s partnership together with the PBA.

“To have the chance to bowl and win on the PBA Tour is the ultimate goal for many bowlers, but it’s very, very tough to get there,” Larsen said. “PBA Sweden will be a great step towards that chance for Swedish players! I wish PBA Sweden was there 15 years ago!”

The winners of each of the three PBA Sweden regional events will receive an international invitation to the PBA World Series of Bowling XVII in 2026 and a spot in the Final Step 1 round of the 2025 SLLM.

Points will be tabulated across all four PBA Sweden events. The top point-earner and senior point-earner will receive an invitation to the 2025 PBA Regional Players Invitational.

The top three overall point-earners will receive a berth in PBA Tour Trials, in which they will compete for an exempt berth on the 2026 PBA Tour.

More information about the PBA Sweden events is available here.

PBA Sweden Schedule

PBA Sweden Chameleon Jönköping
Feb. 1-2
RC Bowling
Jönköping, Sweden

PBA Sweden Scorpion Eskilstuna
April 18-19
Eskilstuna Bowlingcenter
Eskilstuna, Sweden

PBA Sweden Badger Stockholm
August 9-10
New Bowl Center
Årsta, Sweden

Storm Lucky Larsen Masters
Aug. 22-31
Olympia Bowling
Helsingborg, Sweden

It's Tackett's Time

January 17, 2025 Nolan Hughes

After two straight Player of the Year seasons, EJ Tackett's stature as the man to beat is undeniable. Now what?

EJ Tackett's past two seasons have elevated his status, in the words of PBA Tour Commissioner Tom Clark, into the pantheon.

Seven titles. Four major No. 1 seeds in a single season. Three major titles. Two Player of the Year honors. Two High Average awards, including the second-highest of all time. A Hall of Fame-worthy career in about 18 months.

If you ask him about these past two years — What has been working so well? What changed in your physical or mental game? What do you make of your recent successes? — he will provide some nondescript answer along the lines of "I'm just bowling really well."

Occasionally, if you pester him with those same questions long enough, his understandable annoyance by your singular focus on his 2023 and 2024 seasons will come to the forefront.

"People are talking about how great I am now," Tackett said, "but I went on a three-year run (2016-18) where I won 11 titles. This isn't an accident."

This is where EJ Tackett always expected to be.

Tackett gazes at his 2023 U.S. Open trophy

This two-year run, not to immediately push aside Tackett's contention, began with his euphoric victory in the 2023 U.S. Open.

The win marked the proud Hoosier's first title in Indiana, completed the final leg of the Triple Crown, and closed a redemptive arc after losing the 2022 title match in demoralizing fashion.

The evidence of that trophy's value is written all over Tackett's face. The ramifications of such a rewarding success, however, may have been just as valuable.

When you achieve the single goal you've dreamed of since childhood, ascending to the pinnacle your younger self so desperately sought to reach, you realize the undiscovered vastness that remains.

"There is no limit," Tackett said.

EJ Tackett entered rarefied air with his third career POY award

Tackett's 2023 season was, to date, his magnum opus: A five-title, two-major-title, domineering campaign accentuated by two legacy-altering strikes in perhaps the greatest title bout of all time.

If the 10-pin evaded a 6-pin's love tap in Tackett's final frame of the PBA World Championship, allowing Jason Belmonte to embezzle a second major of the season from Tackett's grasp, you would be reading a very different story right now, though perhaps one you've already read before.

In 2017, Tackett and Belmonte each won four titles, but three of Belmonte's wins were majors, thus relegating Tackett's then-career year into the shadows of the two-handed titan.

For Tackett to become the era-defining star he long desired to be, regardless of the accolades already under his belt, he had to beat Belmonte head-to-head. The king had to be dethroned personally.

"He was the best in the world, and I wanted to beat him," Tackett said of Belmonte. "If I took him down, that means more and that gives you more confidence, too. This is where I belong. This is why I should be here. I didn't accidentally win this thing, you know. I beat the best player right now, and arguably of all time."

Everything came together for Tackett on that April afternoon near Milwaukee.

The ability? He's had that his whole life.

The confidence? He's never had more: "I think (the U.S. Open) impacted that a lot" Tackett said. "I've been in this situation and performed, reflecting back on that saying 'I did it then, I can do it again.'"

The motivation? He let the Tournament of Champions slip away to Belmonte earlier that season — not again.

Tackett buried two strikes to win the PBA World Championship and, once again, his visceral reaction told the world exactly what his latest conquest meant to him.

“It’s my f****** time!” Tackett bellowed towards his father in the crowd.

“BOOM!” his father responded, co-opting Belmonte's signature celebration.

The king had been overthrown, ushering in the reign of Tackett.

Over the past two seasons, Tackett has bowled 34 title events, winning seven titles (a 20.6% rate) and three majors (30%) while collecting 20 top-five (58.9%) and 25 top-10 (73.5%) finishes.

For years, critics fixated on Tackett’s perceived lower win percentage in televised matches, often brushing aside that a 20-something continued to make shows at a rate unmatched by anyone except Belmonte.

Now, fueled by a lifetime of aspiring to become the best and a decade of manifesting that ambition, Tackett is prepared to stockpile his trophy case.

“EJ knows who he is, and what that gets him,” Brett Spangler, Motiv’s tour rep and a close friend of Tackett, said in 2023. “This is a more skilled EJ than the years he won four titles. He's not just doing what he likes to do when he wins. He's being creative. He's using tools that he's had, but probably hadn't developed to a point that he could win a tournament using them.”

Tackett is about to embark on the 13th season of his career. If Tackett is as exactly successful in his next 10 seasons as the previous 10, a bold but perhaps attainable presumption, that positions him to tally:

46 career titles, one shy of Walter Ray Williams Jr.’s all-time record

10 major titles, tied with Pete Weber and Earl Anthony for second all-time

6 Player of the Year awards, tied with Earl Anthony for third all-time

“My body has to stay healthy and I have to continue to work hard and go win — there’s no way around that,” Tackett said. “At this point, it’s a numbers game. I believe in the law of averages. If I keep making shows, eventually I'm going to win. If I win one out of four, I'm going to have a pretty damn good career at the rate I'm going and the amount of shows that I make.”

You think Belmonte’s happy about Tackett snatching his throne?

Tackett’s back-to-back POYs in 2023 and 2024 marked the first two-year stretch since 2012 in which Belmonte did not win at least one Player of the Year award.

You think Belmo’s just going to sit back and let that happen unabated?

If Tackett’s still perturbed about not winning POY in 2017, imagine how Anthony Simonsen feels. Simonsen’s past two seasons are historic in their own right — six total titles with top-10 finishes in every 2023 title event — and he didn’t sniff POY either year.

You think Simonsen’s content with being second fiddle, always the bridesmaid but never the bride?

What about Kyle Troup, who beat Tackett to win two (almost three) titles in Indiana? What about Marshall Kent, or Bill O'Neill, or the other 50 exempt players, or all the past champions competing this season?

"If someone puts a target on my back because they want to take me down, that's sports. I'm there to try to make sure that doesn't happen," Tackett said. "Every time I show up to an event, I'm not there to finish second. I believe I can win every time I step on the lanes. I know that's not true and that's not going to happen, but I've always said:

"Why not? There's no rule saying I can't."

100 Things to Know Before the 2025 PBA Tour

January 19, 2025 Nolan Hughes

On the eve of a new season, the possibilities are limitless — not even the snow flurries downing the Atlantic Coast can dampen the exhilaration burgeoning in Middletown, Del.

A year ago at this time, who could have foreseen the emergence of Boog Krol? Maybe just Keven Williams.

Who would have thought DeeRoon Booker would win a major? Other than DeeRonn himself, of course.

Who could have predicted another Player of the Year campaign from EJ Tackett? Okay, maybe that one was a little less surprising.

A new season has arrived. New champions will be crowned. Legends will rise further into the stratosphere. Veterans will rewrite their legacies.

Before the action beings this week, here are 100 things you need to know:

1. The 2025 season begins in Delaware, where Boog Krol captured his first career PBA Tour title last season.

2a. Tim Foy Jr. is the only Delaware native among the 2025 exempt field.

2b. Foy made the PBA Delaware Classic finals last season.

3. In 2018, Anthony Simonsen won the PBA Xtra Frame Gene Carter's Pro Shop Classic throwing a back-up ball.

4. Last season's U.S. Open finalists — Anthony Simonsen, Jason Belmonte, Kyle Troup, EJ Tackett and Bill O'Neill — own a combined 96 career titles and 30 career major championship wins.

5. EJ Tackett and Anthony Simonsen have qualified for each of the past three U.S. Open finals.

6. Royal Pin Woodland is the only venue to have hosted all five PBA major championships.

7. Wes Malott won the last PBA Tour stop in Vernon Hills, Ill. which was in November 2008.

8a. Carmen Salvino, a PBA Hall of Famer and founding member of the PBA, turned 91 last fall and still lives in the Chicago area.

8b. Salvino was in attendance last year when Marshall Kent won the PBA Illinois Classic in Mount Prospect, Ill.

9. AJ Johnson, a Chicago native, finished runner-up in last season's PBA Illinois Classic.

10. The PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship is named after PBA Hall of Famers Mark Roth and Marshall Holman.

11. Qualifying for this year's PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship is concurrent with the PBA Illinois Classic.

12. Andrew Anderson and Kris Prather, defending champions of the PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship, also won the event in 2021.

13a. Pete Weber grew up in St. Louis, which is why the PBA Missouri Classic bears his name.

13b. Weber ranks 4th all-time with 37 career PBA Tour titles.

13c. The Weber family has three PBA Hall of Famers: Pete, Dick (Pete's father) and John (Pete's brother).

14. Anthony Simonsen, whose personality and talent is reminiscent of Weber, won the 2024 PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic.

15. Seven of Mike Aulby's 29 PBA Tour titles came in Nevada, hence the naming of the PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic.

16. The WSOB XVI will be the first WSOB with four animal pattern championships since 2017.

17. With a max field of 296 players, the WSOB XVI is poised to be the largest WSOB ever.

18. Jason Belmonte won the last PBA Tour event in Reno: the 2017 PBA World Championship.

19. EJ Tackett, who has won two consecutive PBA World Championships, also won the 2016 PBA World Championship in Reno.

20. Anthony Simonsen, Liz Johnson, Gary Faulkner Jr. and Richie Teece each won their first career title at the National Bowling Stadium.

21a. Matt Russo won the PBA Scorpion Championship last season, marking his first televised title.

21b. Ryan Ciminelli won the last PBA Viper Championship in 2015.

21c. Shawn Maldonado won the last PBA Chameleon Championship in 2021, marking his first career title.

21d. EJ Tackett, who won the PBA Shark Championship last season, has won two WSOB titles each of the past two seasons.

22a. Gianna Brandolino, who won last season's PBA LBC National Championship Clash, will be among the favorites to win the PBA Junior Girls National Championship

22b. Defending PBA Junior Boys National Championship winner, Ernesto Reynoso, will attempt to go back-to-back in 2025.

22c. Other notable PBA Junior qualifiers include Katelyn Abigania, Jos Weems, Sydney Bohn, Abigail Starkey, Trae Henrichsmeyer, Avery Domaguin and Kaitlyn Stull, the 2023 PBA Junior Girls National Championship winner.

23. Anthony Simonsen set the USBC Masters match play scoring record (250.40 average) during the 2023 Masters in Allen Park, where the 2025 event will be held.

24a. DeeRonn Booker started with 23 of 24 strikes, shooting 279 and 300, to defeat EJ Tackett in last year's USBC Masters bracket match play.

24b. Booker went undefeated in match play to win his first career title.

25. No player has won the USBC Masters more than Jason Belmonte, who has four Masters titles.

26. PBA All-Star Weekend will be the first televised PBA event to utilize certified string pinspotters.

27a. Two-handed players have won 10 of the past 24 major championships.

27b. Those majors have been won by Jason Belmonte (4), Anthony Simonsen (3), Kyle Troup (2) and Chris Via (1).

28. The record for most strikes in a PBA Strike Derby round belongs to one-handed EJ Tackett (16).

29. The PBA Players Championship will be the first televised finals held at David Small's JAX 60.

30. Michigan native Tom Smallwood finished runner-up in the PBA Players Championship last season.

31. Bill O'Neill has won two of the past five PBA Players Championships.

32a. EJ Tackett, Anthony Simonsen, Matt Ogle and Jason Sterner have qualified for the TOC finals two straight years.

33b. Jason Belmonte and Marshall Kent beat all four of those players to win each of the past two respective TOCs.

34. This will be the 35th TOC to be held at AMF Riviera Lanes.

35. Boog Krol won last season's PBA Playoffs despite starting the season without priority status.

36. Kyle Troup won the PBA Playoffs in 2021 and 2022.

37a. EJ Tackett, Anthony Simonsen and Jason Belmonte have qualified for all eight iterations of the PBA Tour Finals since 2017.

37b. Those three players, plus Kyle Troup, have each won the PBA Tour Finals twice.

38. Anthony Simonsen and Danielle McEwan have won the Storm PBA/PWBA Striking Against Mixed Doubles two straight years.

39. Sweden's Jesper Svensson won the 2024 Storm Lucky Larsen Masters.

40. Sweden will also host three PBA Regional events in 2025.

41. Managers of the new PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands teams will set their lineups before each tournament like fantasy football teams.

42a. Seven of DV8's eight players are two-handed.

42b. Seven of Storm's 10 players are major champions.

42c. Four of Hammer's eight players finished top-10 in points last season.

42d. Motiv added Matt Russo, the 2024 season's top left-handed player, in the offseason.

42e. Half of Ebonite's eight players are left-handed.

42f. Roto Grip added Justin Knowles and Kevin McCune in the offseason with the former being the team's only southpaw.

42g. 900 Global has the only father-son duo in the PBA Elite League with Chris Barnes and Ryan Barnes.

42h. Parker Bohn III's 35 career titles are more than double the amount of the rest of Brunswick's roster combined (34).

43a. Nathan Bohr was elected to the PBA Southwest Region Hall of Fame in 2015.

43b. Bohr finished 44th in points last season, meaning he was the best player to not earn an exemption.

43c. Bohr re-earned his exempt status at PBA Tour Trials, highlighted by his brilliant laneplay strategy on the final day of the tournament.

44. Jesper Svensson was the first player to win five titles by the age of 21.

45a. Tommy Jones shot 300 to win the 2020 PBA Hall of Fame Classic — on the weekend of his own Hall of Fame induction.

46a. EJ Tackett led the PBA Tour with a near-record 229.37 average last season.

46b. Tackett became the fifth player to win at least three career PBA Player of the Year awards last season.

48a. Jake Peters is a two-time recipient of the PBA Steve Nagy Sportsmanship award.

48b. His tour roommate is Richie Teece, who won the 2024 Nagy award.

49a. At 16, Deo Benard became the youngest PBA member to win a PBA Regional Tour title.

49b. Benard won his first career PBA Tour title in the PBA Cheetah Championship last season.

50a. Sean Rash won his first seven career televised matches.

50b. Rash's first loss came to Norm Duke in the 2008-09 PBA World Championship, when Duke went on to win his third consecutive major.

51. Matt Sanders is a two-time Indiana state high school champion.

52a. Anthony Simonsen was the youngest player to win a major when he won the 2016 USBC Masters.

52b. Simonsen was the youngest player to win two majors when he won the 2019 PBA Players Championship.

52c. Simonsen was the youngest player to win three majors when he won the 2022 U.S. Open.

52d. Simonsen was the youngest player to win four majors when he won the 2022 USBC Masters

52e. Simonsen was the youngest player to win five majors when he won the 2023 USBC Masters.

52f. Simonsen could be the youngest player to win six majors if he wins another by the end of the 2028 season.

53a. Matt Russo changed his release after the first event of the 2024 season, switching to a thumb-less two-handed delivery.

53b. Russo led all left-handed players in 2024 competition points.

54a. Graham Fach won the 2016 PBA Players Championship to become the first Canadian to win a PBA Tour title.

54b. That was Fach's second career PBA Tour event.

55. Cam Crowe, who won the 2020 U.S. Amateur Championship and 2021 Boys U20 Junior Gold Championships, will be among the top contenders for Rookie of the Year in 2025.

56. Chase Nadeau was a two-time 1st Team All-American at Arizona State University.

57a. Patrick Dombrowski won the PBA Regional Players Invitational two years in a row before qualifying for the 2025 PBA Tour.

57b. As a part-time PBA Tour player, Dombrowski advanced to the USBC Masters televised rounds in 2023 and 2024.

58a. Kyle Troup set the official single-season earnings record of $496,900 in 2021.

58b. Troup set the unofficial single-season record by picking out his hair 1,187 times in 2023.

59a. Packy Hanrahan only competed in four events (10 individual games) on the varsity team during his four seasons at Wichita State.

59b. Hanrahan was one of three players to win multiple titles during the 2023 PBA Tour.

60a. Nate Purches finished as the runner-up in the inaugural PBA Junior Boys National Championships.

60b. Purches became the first former PBA Junior player to win PBA Rookie of the Year in 2024.

61a. Bill O'Neill is one of five 2025 exempt players to have won at least 14 career titles and three major championships.

61b. O'Neill made the semifinals of the PBA Playoffs last season, which is farther than his beloved Philadelphia 76ers have advanced in the NBA playoffs with Joel Embiid.

62. Kris Prather can complete the Triple Crown with a U.S. Open title.

63. In the 2011-12 season, Stu Williams became the first player from England to win a PBA Tour title.

64. Eric Jones won a PBA Regional Tour title as an amateur at 15, making him the youngest to win a regional at the time.

65. In 2021, Chris Via became the first player to throw two televised 300 games in the same season.

66. BJ Moore qualified for the PBA Cheetah Championship finals in 2023 and 2024.

67. Marshall Kent was a two-time Collegiate Player of the Year for Robert Morris University.

68. Sean Lavery-Spahr tied his career high with a third-place finish in last season's PBA Illinois Classic.

69. Jason Belmonte won three majors in the 2017 season alone, a PBA record.

70. Andrew Anderson was the second-youngest PBA Player of the Year award winner at 23 years old.

71. PBA Hall of Famer Chris Barnes is a Masters title away from the Grand Slam.

72. Tom Smallwood's life story inspired the 2022 CBS sitcom "How We Roll."

73. Andrew Hall has signed an autograph as Ed Sheeran.

74. Kevin McCune won the PBA Players Championship in 2023, making the McCune's the first three-generation family of PBA Tour champions.

75. Brandon Runk is the brother-in-law of the "Ginger Assassin" Anthony Neuer.

76. Kyle Sherman started the uber-popular "Brad and Kyle" YouTube channel with fellow tour player, Brad Miller, in 2017.

77. Keven Williams recorded strike songs for several tour players, including Jason Belmonte and Kyle Troup.

78. Hayden Stippich's collegiate coach was Bob Learn Jr., aka "Mr. 300."

79. DeeRonn Booker won the showcase showdown on "The Price is Right" in 2009.

80. Bailey Mavrick has never seen either "Top Gun" movie.

81. Matt Ogle started bowling two-handed after suffering a significant wrist injury more than 15 years ago.

82. Jason Sterner's nickname is "Flash."

83. Tim Foy Jr. won the Regular Team Eagle in the 2024 USBC Open Championships.

84. Sam Cooley won the 2018 QubicaAMF Bowling World Cup.

85a. Tom Daughtery owns the record for the lowest score bowled on TV with 100

85b. His opponent, Mika Koivuniemi, shot 299.

86. Cristian Azcona is the only Puerto Rican player to win a PBA Tour title.

87a. Zach Wilkins finished top-25 in all 14 of his 2024 PBA Tour title events.

87b. Wilkins cashed in 13 of those 14 events.

87c. In the one event Wilkins did not cash, he finished one place and four pins behind the last casher.

88. Among his numerous international victories, Kim Bolleby won the 2019 AIK International Tournament in Sweden.

89. Half of François Lavoie's six career titles are majors.

90. In 2015, AJ Johnson earned the No. 1 seed for the USBC Masters finals as a senior at McKendree University.

91. Boog Krol threw 31 consecutive strikes in 2023 PBA Wichita Classic qualifying.

92. Justin Knowles is a three-time Michigan state Masters champion.

93. Nate Stubler was a two-time 1st Team All-American at St. Ambrose University.

94. Dom Barrett is one of nine players (and first European) to win the PBA's Triple Crown.

95. Chris Sloan won bronze in the 2018 World Men’s Championship Masters event, Ireland's first bowling medal.

96a. Tomas Käyhkö was named Finland’s Bowler of the Year for 2023 and 2024.

96b. Käyhkö looks to join Mika Koivuniemi and Osku Palermaa as Finnish PBA Tour champions.

97. England's Richie Teece won the 2016 European Bowling Tour rankings championship.

98. Jakob Butturff set the U.S. Open record after leading qualifying by 617 pins in 2017.

99. Mitch Hupé became the third Canadian to win a PBA Tour title during the 2023 season, winning the PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship with Packy Hanrahan.

100. Ryan Barnes was a two-time 1st Team All-American at Wichita State University.

BONUS. The PBA Delaware Classic finals, the first show of the 2025 season, will air Saturday, Jan. 25 at 5 p.m. Eastern on FS1.

Introducing the PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands

January 20, 2025 Nolan Hughes

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Email

Manufacturing brands to compete all season long in refreshed PBA Elite League format

Rosters will be revealed Friday, Jan. 3 at 5 p.m. Eastern live on BowlTV (free to watch)

The PBA's premier team competition will have a *brand* new look in 2025.

The PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands introduces teams representing eight major bowling ball manufacturers: Brunswick, DV8, Ebonite, 900 Global, Hammer, MOTIV, Roto Grip and Storm.

The adapted structure taps into the existing fandom behind bowling manufacturers and accentuates the ongoing rivalry between them.

With a point system comparable to Formula 1's Driver and Constructor standings plus an additional strategic element, the new format retains the season-long component established with the 2024 PBA Elite League.

The rivalries between manufacturing brands stem from the immense loyalty felt across all levels of the organization, from players and employees, to fans and executives.

In fact, Tyler Jensen, president of Storm Products, Inc., will be managing one of Storm's three teams himself. Jensen emphasized the pride Storm founder Bill Chrisman, who passed in September 2023, took in watching his staff players succeed.

"I've spent years watching Mr. Chrisman's face light up as Storm staff members triumphed on television using our high-performance bowling equipment," Jensen said. "His love for professional bowling ran deep. In the early days, Mr. Chrisman and his small team fought to have PBA players try his equipment. Today, we're fortunate to have a strong team of players who choose to use our products to compete and are proud to wear the logo."

Jensen's pride is echoed and perhaps elevated by MOTIV, the lone independent manufacturer in the PBA Elite League.

Scott Hewitt, the Vice President of Sales & Marketing at MOTIV, said the PBA Elite League's authentic competition allows each brand to showcase its "real team of pros."

"This is the kind of genuine rivalry that speaks to fans and players alike — it's about loyalty, passion, and true brand representation," Hewitt said. "For bowlers who already have a favorite brand, it's going to be electric seeing their brand battle it out. And for those who haven't committed to a brand yet, this format is clear, relatable, and easy to get behind — like cheering on Team USA."

For aspiring PBA Tour players, signing a staff contract with a bowling ball manufacturer represents a rite of passage. Now, a staff contract grants more than an endless supply of bowling balls: it can be a spot on one of the most exclusive bowling teams in the world.

The company with the most staff players on tour is Brunswick, who will have four teams representing their brands in the PBA Elite League.

Bugsy Kelly, Brunswick's director of marketing, will be managing the Ebonite team. He said Brunswick is excited to embrace the new team format.

"We are excited to be part of this evolution in the sport," Kelly said. "This new format presents an incredible opportunity for our established and rising stars to showcase their talent individually and, at the same time, highlight the importance of being part of a team. We respect our competitors, but look forward to hoisting the trophy at the end of the season."

While friendships and doubles teams frequently cross brand lines on the PBA Tour, the animosity between brands bubbles under the surface at all times — perhaps best exemplified by among the most quotable moments in recent PBA memory:

*"Take that you bottle b****!"*

Who could forget the now-infamous phrase Sean Rash bellowed at Jason Belmonte more than a decade ago.

What is often lost to history is that Rash, a former Brunswick and current 900 Global staffer, dropped the memorable quote during a Brunswick vs. Storm match as part of a competition between manufacturing brands.

The intensity of that rivalry — not only between Rash and Belmonte, but the brands as a whole — represents the ethos of the revamped PBA Elite League.

ROSTERS

All PBA Tour players who meet the criteria for 2025 PBA Tour priority entry — players who finished top 43 in 2024 PBA Tour competition points, finished in the top 12 in PBA Tour Trials, or won a PBA Tour title between 2015-2024 — are eligible for the 2025 PBA Elite League. A complete list of eligible players can be found at the bottom of this page.

Each brand will be able to roster 6-15 brand-sponsored eligible players. All rosters must be finalized by Jan. 1, 2025 and will be revealed Jan. 3 on BowlTV.

A midseason transaction window will be open Feb. 17-23, 2025. During that time, brands may drop a player(s) from their roster, add a player(s) who is not rostered, or trade a player(s) to another brand. Both brands in any trade must agree.

SCORING

The same competition points used to determine PBA Playoffs standings will count concurrently toward the PBA Elite League.

Before each singles title event on the 2025 PBA Tour, brand managers will each select five players from their rosters — only the points earned by those five players will count for their teams.

Standings will be updated following each singles title event. Teams will earn points in each singles title event through April's PBA Tournament of Champions.

Points are weighted based on the duration and prestige of the title event.

- **Standard-point events:** PBA Animal Pattern 1-4 Championships (part of the PBA World Series of Bowling XVI)
- **Double-point events:** PBA Delaware Classic, PBA Illinois Classic, PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic, PBA Nevada Classic, PBA Tournament of Champions
- **Triple-point events:** U.S. Open presented by Go Bowling, PBA World Championship, USBC Masters, PBA Players Championship

FINALS

The PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands Championship will be held April 26-27 at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park, Mich. Teams will select five players to compete in the two-part stepladder.

Teams will be seeded following the regular season finale in the PBA Tournament of Champions. The No. 4-8 seeds will compete April 26 (3 p.m. ET on FS1) with the winning team advancing to meet the top three seeds in the final round on April 27 (Noon ET on FOX).

All matches will utilize the baker format as seen in previous iterations of the PBA Elite League. The stepladder will feature single-game matches culminating with a Race-to-Two championship match.

The champions will earn $100,000 to be allocated to its players by the manufacturer.

EQUIPMENT

During the regular season, players will be able to use any product-registered bowling ball available to them. For example, Roto Grip players can throw Storm and 900 Global equipment; Hammer players can throw Brunswick, Ebonite, Track, DV8, Radical and Columbia 300 equipment.

In the PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands Championship, however, players will be limited to their single brand's equipment. To continue the previous example, Roto Grip players will only be able to throw Roto Grip equipment in the finals — not Storm or 900 Global.

Furthermore, since not all brands produce a urethane bowling ball, no player may use urethane equipment during finals matches. The tournament director may grant an exception for equipment used exclusively for spares.

TEAM MANAGERS

BRUNSWICK — Corey Dykstra, CEO of Brunswick Bowling Products
DV8 — Billy Orlikowski, Brunswick Director of Consumer Product Management
EBONITE — Bugsy Kelly, Brunswick Director of Marketing
900 GLOBAL — Gary Hulsenberg, Storm Vice President of Marketing
HAMMER — Brian Graham, Brunswick VP of Consumer Products
MOTIV — Brett Spangler, MOTIV Tour Rep
ROTO GRIP — Chris Schlemer, Roto Grip Brand Manager
STORM — Tyler Jensen, President of Storm Products, Inc.

A New Season Begins in Delaware

January 20, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The wait is over. A new PBA Tour season has arrived and it begins with the PBA Delaware Classic at Mid County Lanes and Entertainment in Middletown, Del.

Qualifying for the season's first title event begins at 10 a.m. ET on Tuesday and continues through Thursday. All qualifying and match play rounds will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

Players to Watch

A new season means every player is on equal footing. To learn about all 55 exempt players, check out our season preview: "100 Things to Know Before the 2025 PBA Tour."

EJ Tackett may be a three-time and two-time defending PBA Player of the Year, but those awards mean nothing in the race for the 2025 award. Tackett, Jason Belmonte, Anthony Simonsen and Kyle Troup are annual fixtures in the POY race, but Marshall Kent and Bill O'Neill have to be mentioned following their brilliant 2024 campaigns.

A year ago, Boog Krol drove 16 hours from his home in Springfield, Mo. to bowl the PBA Delaware Classic pre-tournament qualifier. He left seven days later knowing his life would never be the same. Krol made the same drive this week; this time as the defending PBA Delaware Classic champion and a two-time PBA Tour champion.

Delaware's Tim Foy Jr. figures to have plenty of fans in the house this week. Last year, he made them proud by advancing to the stepladder finals and earning fourth-place finish.

Storylines

A new wrinkle this season is the PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands.

The teams, each representing a major bowling ball manufacturer, have chosen their starting lineups for the week. Only points earned by those players will count for PBA Elite League standings.

Players on teams with a parent company can throw equipment from any brand under their umbrella during the regular season.

Format

All players will bowl 18 games of qualifying on the 35-foot Cheetah oil pattern beginning on Tuesday morning. After three six-game rounds, the top 24 players will advance to bracket match play.

Each match, starting Wednesday at 6 p.m. ET, will be the best of seven games. The four winners in the Round of 8 will advance to the stepladder finals, as will the highest-seeded loser in that round.

The stepladder finals will air live on FS1 at 5 p.m. ET on Saturday, Jan. 25.

More information on the PBA Delaware Classic is available here.

Tournament Schedule

Mid County Lanes & Entertainment | Middletown, DE

All times Eastern

Tuesday, Jan. 21
10 a.m. — Qualifying Round 1 (six games)
6 p.m. — Qualifying Round 2 (six games)

Wednesday, Jan. 22
10 a.m. — Qualifying Round 3 (six games)
Top 24 players advance to bracket match play
6 p.m. — Match Play Round of 24 (best-of-seven games)

Thursday, Jan. 23
11 a.m. — Match Play Round of 16 (best-of-seven games)
6 p.m. — Match Play Round of 8 (best-of-seven games)
Four winners plus highest-seeded Round of 8 loser advance to stepladder finals

Saturday, Jan. 25
5 p.m. — Finals | FS1

PBA Hall of Famer Gary Mage Dies at 78

January 21, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Gary Mage, a PBA Hall of Famer, died Monday surrounded by family at his home in Vancouver, Wash. Mage was 78 years old, a few days shy of his 79th birthday.

After Mage's exemplary contributions during his four-plus decades with the PBA, he was elected to the PBA Hall of Fame in 2021 and inducted in 2022.

Mage bowled on the PBA Tour primarily during the 1960s and 1970s, winning the 1972 Seattle Open, but his legacy with the PBA extends far beyond his playing days. Mage founded the PBA Northwest Region in 1979 and served as regional director until his retirement in 2020. Mage also managed the PBA West Region from 2004-2020.

“Gary Mage WAS the PBA,” PBA Tour Commissioner Tom Clark said. “He ran more professional tournaments than anyone ever, as the creator and manager of the Northwest Region and then also the West Region manager. First a player, and a player representative, Mr. Mage had countless talents, most of all his integrity and trustworthiness. Our thoughts and love to his wife Toni, family, friends and the countless PBA bowlers who looked up to him for guidance and relied on him for their careers.

“We know Gary was greeted at heaven’s gates by his great friend Earl Anthony, and the stories they’ll tell and games they’ll bowl together, will go on forever.”

When Mage announced his retirement from the PBA in 2020, he chose Josh Blanchard to succeed him in running the Northwest and West regions.

Blanchard, who was with Mage during his final days, said he felt honored to receive a call from Mage asking him to take over the regions.

“I learned a lot from him, not only about the job but about life,” Blanchard said. “Most people don't know that Gary had a pivotal moment in his life at a young age, where he was either going to become a professional bowler or he was going to go to school to become a pastor. He was pretty a religious guy, but he felt like he could influence more people's lives by staying in bowling. I would say that that's a true statement.

“He didn't care how many titles you had. He cared that you were a good person and if you needed help getting your life straight off the lanes, he was going to be there to help you.”

PBA Hall of Famer Marshall Holman was among the greatest players to come out of Mage’s beloved Northwest Region.

“Gary was a friend of mine since I was a teenager and always a great supporter of my career,” Holman said. “He was a trusted friend. I am going to miss him.”

During his 2022 PBA Hall of Fame induction, Mage spoke about his career.

“I was a bowler like all of you guys,” a smiling Mage said. “The only difference is instead of complaining about my cross, who I was following or who was throwing all the bowling balls, I made the mistake of complaining that there weren't any tournaments to bowl in the Northwest. Next thing I knew, I was the regional manager for the Northwest.

“I joined the PBA in 1965. I was able to go out on tour, and I got to bowl with all the greats. I had the privilege of being ‘that guy.’ When Dick Weber won his last title, he beat ‘that guy.’ That was me. When Earl Anthony won his last title, he beat ‘that guy.’ He was me. That was my story.”

Michael Davidson Torches Cheetah Pattern in Delaware

January 22, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Players showed zero signs of rust during the first day of competition in the 2025 season-opening PBA Delaware Classic.

Eleven players averaged north of 240 for the opening 12 games at Mid County Lanes and Entertainment in Middletown, Del. The 35-foot Cheetah pattern lived up to its high-scoring reputation.

Michael Davidson (+686) led the field after two six-game rounds, averaging more than 257. Justin Knowles, Bill O'Neill, Ryan Barnes and Jakob Butturff round out the top five.

Davidson has historically performed well at Mid County Lanes and Entertainment, finishing seventh and 18th, respectively, in Delaware's past two PBA Tour events. He advanced to the main field out of the pre-tournament qualifier (PTQ), just as defending champion Boog Krol did a year ago in Delaware.

"Historically, this building has matched up pretty well for me. That definitely helps loosen the swing up a little bit to just go out there and bowl," Davidson said. "Last season, I switched to Motiv so it took me a little bit of time to learn the equipment and bowling the PTQs makes it tough to learn. I'm much more confident and making ball changes knowing what they are going to do, and I have a different attitude overall."

Entering the final round of qualifying before the cut to the top 24 players, Davidson sits in prime position to earn a one-round bye in the bracket by finishing in the top eight.

"I looked at the scores maybe twice throughout the entire day," Davidson said. "I was just focusing on my process and doing what I needed to do. If the pins are falling, then I'm going to keep doing that. If I need to change something, I'll do that. I'm just going to keep sticking to what I've been doing, and it's been looking pretty good so far."

Qualifying continues Wednesday at 10 a.m. Eastern on BowlTV. Six games remain before the top-24 cut to bracket match play.

Trevor Roberts, another player who advanced out of the PTQ, currently occupies 24th place. Nineteen players sit within 100 pins of Roberts, including Jason Belmonte, Anthony Simonsen and Krol, the defending champion, in 43rd place.

Not only are three presumptive Rookie of the Year candidates — Ryan Barnes, Cam Crowe and Hayden Stippich — currently inside the cut, but all are in the top 15. Reigning Rookie of the Year, Nate Purches, is in 16th place.

Round 2 Leaders

1. Michael Davidson, +686
2. Justin Knowles, +621
3. Bill O'Neill, +564

4. Ryan Barnes, +535
5. Jakob Butturff, +515
6. Chris Via, +514
7. Tom Smallwood, +513
8. Graham Fach, +495
9. Tomas Käyhkö, +494
10. Andrew Anderson, +491

Davidson Inches Closer to Show, Rookies Excel in PBA Delaware Classic

January 22, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The strikes started on Tuesday at Mid County Lanes and Entertainment in Middletown, Del., and the strikes kept coming on Wednesday.

Sixteen players remain in title contention in the 2025 season-opening PBA Delaware Classic, including top seeded Michael Davidson, who set the PBA's 12-game scoring record on Tuesday.

Davidson earned the No. 1 seed for bracket match play following 18 games of qualifying on the 35-foot Cheetah pattern. His performance earned himself, along with the other top-eight qualifiers, a one-round bye in the bracket.

With the highest-losing seed in the Round of 8 earning the No. 5 seed for the stepladder finals, Davidson is one match victory away from the show.

"There's a lot of bowling left, but that's one thing to check off the bucket list," Davidson said. "My body feels good. My mind feels good. It'll be nice to unwind for the rest of the day and hopefully get a better night to sleep tonight because it's been go-go-go for the last couple days."

In the Round of 24, two-time reigning PBA Player of the Year EJ Tackett took down the reigning PBA Rookie of the Year Nate Purches.

Meanwhile, current rookie Hayden Stippich fell in a seven-game thriller with Matt Ogle. Stippich had a chance to shut out Ogle in Game 7 with a strike in the 10th or on his fill shot, but came up short each time, allowing Ogle to throw three strikes for a one-pin victory. The veteran did exactly that.

"To make match play, then win the first match and have to strike out to win, it's crazy," Ogle said. "I knew it was gonna be a tough match with him. He's a great bowler. I was glad to have had the opportunity to capitalize."

Both players represent DV8 in the PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands. Ogle, DV8's captain, helps select the team's starting lineup each week. He and manager Billy Orlikowski started Stippich this week.

“I’m very excited that he's on our team,” Ogle said.

A top-24 finish is an impressive start to a rookie campaign. Unfortunately for Stippich, it will be the third-most impressive start for a rookie this season.

Cam Crowe and Ryan Barnes qualified second and fifth, respectively, earning a bye into the Round of 16. Crowe will face Graham Fach, while Barnes will meet Ogle on Thursday at 11 a.m. Eastern on BowlTV.

Round of 16 Matches

No. 1 Michael Davidson vs. No. 17 Brandon Runk
No. 8 Andrew Anderson vs. No. 24 AJ Johnson

No. 2 Cam Crowe vs. No. 18 Graham Fach
No. 7 Justin Knowles vs. No. 23 Keven Williams

No. 3 Tomas Käyhkö vs. No. 19 Trevor Roberts
No. 6 Kyle Troup vs. No. 11 Nick Pate

No. 4 Jakob Butturff vs. No. 13 EJ Tackett
No. 5 Ryan Barnes vs. No. 12 Matt Ogle

Round of 24 Results

No. 17 Brandon Runk def. No. 16 Sam Cooley, 4-2
No. 24 AJ Johnson def. No. 9 Chris Via, 4-0

No. 18 Graham Fach def. No. 15 BJ Moore, 4-2
No. 23 Keven Williams def. No. 10 Tom Smallwood, 4-3

No. 11 Nick Pate def. No. 22 Marshall Kent, 4-2
No. 19 Trevor Roberts def. No. 14 Bill O’Neill, 4-1

No. 12 Matt Ogle def. No. 21 Hayden Stippich, 4-3
No. 13 EJ Tackett def. No. 20 Nate Purches, 4-2

Match scores are available here.

Jakob Butturff Earns Top Seed, Finals Set at PBA Delaware Classic

January 23, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The championship round of the 2025 season-opening PBA Delaware Classic is set at Mid County Lanes and Entertainment in Middletown, Del.

The stepladder finals will air live on FS1 at 5 p.m. Eastern on Saturday, Jan. 25.

Jakob Butturff earned the top seed, qualifying fourth after 18 games on the high-scoring, 35-foot Cheetah oil pattern. The left-hander defeated EJ Tackett and Ryan Barnes in best-of-seven-games bracket match play.

After a down 2024 season, which Butturff described as the worst of his career, the eight-time PBA Tour champion looks to have returned to dominant form.

Nick Pate will be the No. 2 seed, followed by Graham Fach, AJ Johnson and Michael Davidson. The top four seeds each won their respective bracket, while Davidson represented the highest-seeded loser in the Round of 8.

Pate advanced out of the pre-tournament qualifier on Monday, just like last year's PBA Delaware Classic champion, Boog Krol. Pate, who is seeking his first career title, defeated Marshall Kent, Kyle Troup and Trevor Roberts to reach the stepladder finals.

Fach took down BJ Moore, who had made two consecutive championship rounds on the Cheetah pattern, in Wednesday's Round of 24. On Thursday, Fach defeated fellow southpaws Cam Crowe and Justin Knowles.

No player had a more eventful Thursday than Johnson, escaping a seven-game thriller against Andrew Anderson (including a 289-279 Game 7 victory) before overcoming a 3-1 deficit against Davidson in the Round of 8.

Johnson said he gets his resilience and competitive attitude from his father, who celebrated his 60th birthday today.

Davidson's record-breaking qualifying performance, in which he bested Mike Aulby's 12-game scoring record, netted him the top seed for bracket match play and earned him the fifth seed for the stepladder finals.

Tickets are available for the championship round while supplies last here.

Round of 8 Results

No. 24 AJ Johnson def. No. 1 Michael Davidson, 4-3

No. 18 Graham Fach def. No. 7 Justin Knowles, 4-1

No. 11 Nick Pate def. No. 19 Trevor Roberts, 4-2

No. 4 Jakob Butturff def. No. 5 Ryan Barnes, 4-2

Round of 16 Results

No. 1 Michael Davidson def. No. 17 Brandon Runk, 4-1
No. 24 AJ Johnson def. No. 8 Andrew Anderson, 4-3

No. 18 Graham Fach def. No. 2 Cam Crowe, 4-1
No. 7 Justin Knowles def. No. 23 Keven Williams, 4-2

No. 19 Trevor Roberts def. No. 3 Tomas Käyhkö, 4-3
No. 11 Nick Pate def. No. 6 Kyle Troup, 4-1

No. 4 Jakob Butturff def. No. 13 EJ Tackett, 4-3
No. 5 Ryan Barnes def. No. 12 Matt Ogle, 4-3

DUDE Wipes Becomes Official Partner of the PBA for 2025 Season

January 24, 2025 Professional Bowlers Association

The Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) is excited to announce DUDE Wipes, the nation's leading flushable wipes brand, as a new official sponsor for the 2025 PBA Tour season. This partnership marks an exciting new chapter in the PBA's commitment to bringing fresh and dynamic collaborations to its fans, while furthering DUDE Wipes' reach to the sport's passionate and engaged audience.

DUDE Wipes' bold and innovative marketing strategy aligns perfectly with the PBA's forward-thinking approach to engaging with fans and athletes alike. Kicking off at the PBA Delaware Classic, this partnership will bring new energy to the Tour with on-air brand integrations and a variety of in-person, digital, and social media activations.

"We're incredibly excited to partner with the PBA for one simple reason, DUDES love to bowl!" DUDE Wipes CMO and co-founder Ryan Meegan said. "We're here to keep them clean whether they're at the alley on a Friday night when the nachos hit, or at home watching all the excitement of the PBA from their couch."

All 2025 PBA Tour telecasts will feature prominent DUDE Wipes branding through a sponsored on-air feature and pin sweeps. The brand will also gain visibility across PBA's digital platforms, where DUDE Wipes and the PBA will engage in collaborative social media content.

At the 2025 PBA Tour stops, fans will have the chance to experience DUDE Wipes firsthand, with product samples available for them to take with them, another way DUDE Wipes is connecting with the PBA's passionate audience and ensuring fans stay fresh all season long.

Twelve-time PBA Tour champion Kyle Troup will serve as an ambassador for DUDE Wipes. Known for his fun personality and flair on the lanes, Troup will wear DUDE Wipes branding on his uniform for select 2025 special events. He will also work closely with the brand on social media campaigns across his and DUDE Wipes channels.

"I'm super excited to be teaming up with DUDE Wipes for the 2025 PBA Tour season," Kyle Troup said. "As a bowler, staying fresh and focused is key, and DUDE Wipes is a game-changer in helping us do that. It's an honor to represent such a fun, bold brand and work with them to bring fans exciting content all year long."

DUDE Wipes will also be the presenting partner of the PBA's Friday Five content series, specifically highlighting the No. 2 moment of the week's video.

Graham Fach Ends Title Drought in Delaware

January 25, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Fach wins second career title, first since 2016

Almost nine years after winning his first career title, Graham Fach captured his second on Saturday night at Mid County Lanes and Entertainment in Middletown, Del.

Fach defeated top seed Jakob Butturff, 277-200, in the 2025 season-opening PBA Delaware Classic title match to take home the $30,000 top prize.

"I feel nothing, but I feel everything at the same time," Fach said. "I can't even begin to think of my emotional state right now. It's everything all at once, and I'm enjoying every second of it."

Fach won his first career title in the second event of his career, becoming the first Canadian to win on the tour. 3,261 days later, the now-father of two said each win feels like night and day.

"I know how hard it is to win on the PBA Tour now," Fach said. "I fought so hard for nine years trying to get back in the winner's circle. I'm not a kid anymore trying to see if I can do it. I'm out here proving to myself that I can do it. I'm proving to everyone that I can do it. More importantly, I'm comfortable doing it now."

As the drought prolonged, Fach said he began to suffer from imposter syndrome.

"I didn't really have any expectations when I joined the tour," Fach said. "I was just a kid going to give the tour a shot and I won. After that, you build expectations. When you fall short, it gets heavy. It's a big weight to bear. I started to feel like maybe I don't belong out here. Maybe I had my week and that was it."

Over the past few seasons, Fach had begun to work his way towards title contention. He finished 14th in points last season and made the PBA World Championship finals. He also dominated the PBA Elite League in Portland in 2023 and 2024.

Fach said can't specify any particular low moment during the drought, just incremental burden.

"The weight gets a little heavier each time, but to pinpoint any one event I'd say is unfair," Fach added. "It's definitely a journey, and without it I don't think this would feel as good as it does right now."

Fach said the win felt even sweeter with his wife, Jen, in attendance.

"I'm so thankful my wife was able to make the trip and witness this," he said. "She's my biggest supporter. She will go anywhere if I'm on TV. She believes in me. She watches the kids when I'm out on tour. There's no one that can do anything more than what she's doing for me. To have the support right behind me, enjoying the moment with me, I love this feeling."

Fach ran away and hid from top-seeded Butturff in an all-left-handed championship. Fach started with four strikes, while Butturff failed to notch a second strike until the sixth frame.

“I’d like to say that I handled the nerves better, but man those nerves were there,” Fach said. “Jakob is obviously world class. He’s the top seed for a reason. You expect him to be Jakob. If we replay that match, nine times out of 10 he’s that Jakob.

Butturff nearly converted his split in the fourth frame, but it may have been for naught regardless as Fach cruised to 277 with 10 strikes.

“After Jakob split, that got me thinking this could happen,” Fach said, “but you still expect Jakob to be what we all expect Jakob to be. I expected him to strike out for 230 and I knew I needed a couple more strikes to get there. It wasn’t until the ninth frame where I was able to strike and enjoy the moment. I sat down in the chair, basking in it, and realized what happened.”

Fach defeated Nick Pate in the semifinal, 249-226. Pate, who emerged from the pre-tournament qualifier (PTQ), sought his first career title. Pate needed a double in the 10th frame to upend Fach, but missed left on his first attempt.

In the second match, Fach out-struck another PTQ player in Michael Davidson, an impressive feat considering Davidson set the PBA’s 12-game scoring record during qualifying.

Davidson made the show as the highest-seeded qualifier to lose in the Round of 8 of bracket match play. He lost to AJ Johnson in that round, and earned his revenge in the first match of the stepladder finals.

The PBA Tour continues on Tuesday with qualifying of the U.S. Open presented by Go Bowling.

“Next week is next week. I want to focus on today right now,” Fach said. “You can’t go into the U.S. Open too high or too low and expect success. I’m going to have to bring myself into reality real quick, and I’m sure that tournament won’t hesitate to do so.”

Championship Round Scores

Match 1: No. 5 Michael Davidson def. No. 4 AJ Johnson, 237-232
Match 2: No. 3 Graham Fach def. No. 5 Michael Davidson, 256-242
Match 3: No. 3 Graham Fach def. No. 2 Nick Pate, 249-226
Championship: No. 3 Graham Fach def. No. 1 Jakob Butturff, 277-200

Final Standings

1. Graham Fach, $30,000
2. Jakob Butturff, $18,000
3. Nick Pate, $13,000
4. Michael Davidson, $10,000
5. AJ Johnson, $9,000

U.S. OPEN SET TO BEGIN IN INDY

JANUARY 27, 2025 NOLAN HUGHES

A green jacket and the season's first major championship are up for grabs in Indianapolis

The 2025 season is underway with Graham Fach returning to the winner's circle in Delaware.

This week, players embark on a quest for the season's first major championship at Indianapolis' Royal Pin Woodland, the only venue to have hosted all five majors.

Qualifying for the U.S. Open presented by Go Bowling begins at 8 a.m. ET on Tuesday and continues through Thursday. Match play begins on Friday, leading to the weekend's two-part stepladder finals on FS1 and FOX.

All qualifying and match play rounds will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

Players to Watch

The stars shone bright in last year's U.S. Open as Kyle Troup, Anthony Simonsen, Jason Belmonte, EJ Tackett and Bill O'Neill, who own a combined 96 career titles and 30 career major championship wins, all reached the championship round.

No player has won back-to-back U.S. Open titles since Dave Husted in 1995 and 1996. Although Troup has come close, finishing second two years ago before winning last year.

Simonsen and Tackett, the 2022 and 2023 respective champions, have made the U.S. Open finals each of the past three seasons.

Belmonte, who won the 2020 event, could further add to his G.O.A.T. case with a second U.S. Open title this week.

Only Belmonte and Mike Aulby has won all five majors once, a feat known as the Super Slam. Belmonte sits one U.S. Open title away from winning all five majors *twice* — oh, and he has won the other majors at least three times each, too.

Kris Prather, who won the 2020 PBA Tournament of Champions and 2022 PBA World Championship, would complete the Triple Crown with a U.S. Open title.

Storylines

Brunswick, largely on the back of Fach's win, leads the PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands after the first event. The cellar is occupied by all Storm teams, so they'll look to bounce back in Indy.

Each team will soon submit their roster for the second event of the season, and the triple-point could shake up the standings in a hurry.

The much-anticipated rookie class started off hot in Delaware as all three first-year PBA members advanced to match play. Ryan Barnes finished tied-sixth, losing to Jakob Butturff to miss the show, while Cam Crowe bowed out in the Round of 16 and Hayden Stippich fell in the Round of 24.

The three youngsters proved they can strike on the high-scoring Cheetah pattern. The U.S. Open should prove to be a much stiffer test.

Format

All players will bowl 24 games of qualifying across three different oil patterns. After three rounds of qualifying, the top 24 players will advance to round robin match play.

A fourth oil pattern will be used for the remainder of the event, including match play and the stepladder finals. After 24 games of match play, in which players earn 30 bonus pins for each match victory, the top nine players will advance to the stepladder finals.

The preliminary round of the stepladder finals will air live on FS1 at 4 p.m. ET on Saturday, featuring the No. 5-9 seeds. The winner of that round will advance to Sunday's finals.

The U.S. Open championship round will air live Sunday, Feb. 2 at 4 p.m. ET on FOX.

More information on the U.S. Open presented by Go Bowling is available here.

Tournament Schedule

Royal Pin Woodland | Indianapolis, IN

All times Eastern

Tuesday, Jan. 28
8 a.m. — A-squad Qualifying Round 1 (eight games)
1 p.m. — B-squad Qualifying Round 1 (eight games)
6 p.m. — C-squad Qualifying Round 1 (eight games)

Wednesday, Jan. 29
8 a.m. — B-squad Qualifying Round 2 (eight games)

1 p.m. — C-squad Qualifying Round 2 (eight games)
6 p.m. — A-squad Qualifying Round 2 (eight games)

Thursday, Jan. 30
8 a.m. — C-squad Qualifying Round 3 (eight games)
1 p.m. — A-squad Qualifying Round 3 (eight games)
6 p.m. — B-squad Qualifying Round 3 (eight games)

Top 24 players advance to round robin match play

Friday, Jan. 31
8 a.m. — Match Play Round 1 (eight games)
5 p.m. — Match Play Round 2 (eight games)

Saturday, Feb. 1
9 a.m. — Match Play Round 3 (eight games)
4 p.m. — Preliminary Stepladder finals (seeds No. 5-9, winner advances to championship round)
Live on FS1

Sunday, Feb. 2
4 p.m. — Championship Round
Live on FOX

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Live on FS1

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4 p.m. — Championship Round
Live on FOX

Via, Anderson Off to Strong Starts in U.S. Open

January 28, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Since bringing home the U.S. Open title in 2021, Chris Via has been determined to find a path back to the winner's circle.

During Tuesday's opening round of qualifying in the 2025 U.S. Open presented by Go Bowling, Via made the first, of many, steps towards that goal.

Via led the 108-player major championship field, averaging 234 to shoot 1,872 (+272) for his eight games.

"I would never be opposed to having a second green jacket, but it's pretty early to start thinking about that," Via said. "It's the U.S. Open, the lanes are going to be challenging at times. It's important to not get too down on yourself, but also not get too high. I bowled incredibly and shot 290, and then it looked like I hadn't bowled before for a couple frames after that."

Andrew Anderson, John Janawicz, Kris Prather and Anthony Simonsen round out the top five after the first round on the 44-foot pattern. Defending champion Kyle Troup and Tom Smallwood are currently tied for 23rd place, which will be the cut number after the third round of qualifying, at 1,722 (+122).

Many players, including Via and Anderson, felt scoring well on today's pattern would be crucial because they believe the tournament's upcoming patterns will pose a much stronger challenge.

"On a day that we knew there was some score out there, I think it's big to be able to get the pins when you can," Via said. "The next couple days are coming, and they're coming quickly. I know the lanes going to be a lot harder and a lot lower scoring. I'm trying to get as many pins piled up as I can right now to give me a little bit of a safety net for the next couple days."

"I'm out of energy now, but I promise if you look at me after tomorrow, it's gonna be a lot worse," Anderson said. "The grind has really just begun. That's the best way I can describe it."

A 37-foot flat oil pattern awaits for the second round of qualifying, which begins on Wednesday.

B-squad takes the lanes at 8 a.m. Eastern, followed by C-squad at 1 p.m. and A-squad at 6 p.m.

All qualifying and match play rounds will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

More information on the U.S. Open presented by Go Bowling is available here.

Round 1 Leaders

1. Chris Via, 1,872 (+272)
2. Andrew Anderson,1,864 (+264)
3. John Janawicz, 1,845 (+245)
4. Kris Prather, 1,844 (+244)
5. Anthony Simonsen, 1,837 (+237)
6. Matt Russo, 1,829 (+228)
7. Zach Weidman, 1,825 (+225)
8. Jakob Butturff, 1,804 (+204)
9. Jason Belmonte, 1,786 (+186)
10. Stu Williams, 1,783 (+183)

Full Round 1 Standings

Tournament Schedule

Royal Pin Woodland | Indianapolis, IN

All times Eastern

Wednesday, Jan. 29
8 a.m. — B-squad Qualifying Round 2 (eight games)

1 p.m. — C-squad Qualifying Round 2 (eight games)
6 p.m. — A-squad Qualifying Round 2 (eight games)

Thursday, Jan. 30
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1 p.m. — A-squad Qualifying Round 3 (eight games)
6 p.m. — B-squad Qualifying Round 3 (eight games)

Top 24 players advance to round robin match play

Friday, Jan. 31
10 a.m. — Match Play Round 1 (eight games)
5 p.m. — Match Play Round 2 (eight games)

Saturday, Feb. 1
9 a.m. — Match Play Round 3 (eight games)
4 p.m. — Preliminary Stepladder finals (seeds No. 5-9, winner advances to championship round)
Live on FS1

Sunday, Feb. 2
4 p.m. — Championship Round
Live on FOX

Via, Anderson Off to Strong Starts in U.S. Open

January 28, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Since bringing home the U.S. Open title in 2021, Chris Via has been determined to find a path back to the winner's circle.

During Tuesday's opening round of qualifying in the 2025 U.S. Open presented by Go Bowling, Via made the first, of many, steps towards that goal.

Via led the 108-player major championship field, averaging 234 to shoot 1,872 (+272) for his eight games.

"I would never be opposed to having a second green jacket, but it's pretty early to start thinking about that," Via said. "It's the U.S. Open, the lanes are going to be challenging at times. It's important to not get too down on yourself, but also not get too high. I bowled incredibly and shot 290, and then it looked like I hadn't bowled before for a couple frames after that."

Andrew Anderson, John Janawicz, Kris Prather and Anthony Simonsen round out the top five after the first round on the 44-foot pattern. Defending champion Kyle Troup and Tom Smallwood are currently tied for 23rd place, which will be the cut number after the third round of qualifying, at 1,722 (+122).

Many players, including Via and Anderson, felt scoring well on today's pattern would be crucial because they believe the tournament's upcoming patterns will pose a much stronger challenge.

“On a day that we knew there was some score out there, I think it's big to be able to get the pins when you can,” Via said. “The next couple days are coming, and they're coming quickly. I know the lanes going to be a lot harder and a lot lower scoring. I’m trying to get as many pins piled up as I can right now to give me a little bit of a safety net for the next couple days.”

“I'm out of energy now, but I promise if you look at me after tomorrow, it's gonna be a lot worse,” Anderson said. “The grind has really just begun. That’s the best way I can describe it.”

A 37-foot flat oil pattern awaits for the second round of qualifying, which begins on Wednesday.

B-squad takes the lanes at 8 a.m. Eastern, followed by C-squad at 1 p.m. and A-squad at 6 p.m.

All qualifying and match play rounds will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

More information on the U.S. Open presented by Go Bowling is available here.

Round 1 Leaders

1. Chris Via, 1,872 (+272)
2. Andrew Anderson,1,864 (+264)
3. John Janawicz, 1,845 (+245)
4. Kris Prather, 1,844 (+244)
5. Anthony Simonsen, 1,837 (+237)
6. Matt Russo, 1,829 (+228)
7. Zach Weidman, 1,825 (+225)
8. Jakob Butturff, 1,804 (+204)
9. Jason Belmonte, 1,786 (+186)
10. Stu Williams, 1,783 (+183)

Full Round 1 Standings

Tournament Schedule

Royal Pin Woodland | Indianapolis, IN

All times Eastern

Wednesday, Jan. 29
8 a.m. — B-squad Qualifying Round 2 (eight games)
1 p.m. — C-squad Qualifying Round 2 (eight games)
6 p.m. — A-squad Qualifying Round 2 (eight games)

Thursday, Jan. 30
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Live on FOX

Anderson Leads U.S. Open Through Two Rounds of Qualifying

January 29, 2025 Nolan Hughes

After a solid, top-16 finish in the season-opening PBA Delaware Classic, Andrew Anderson leads the 2025 U.S. Open presented by Go Bowling through two rounds of qualifying.

Anderson has accumulated a total pinfall of 3,609 (+409), leading the 108-player major championship field through 16 games.

After starting with games of 194, 180 and 191, Anderson averaged 236 over his final five games during Wednesday's second qualifying round.

"What a day," Anderson said. "Being -35 after three games, I said to myself to get back to even. To think that I was going to get to +145 is mind blowing. Yesterday felt like eight games; today felt like 12. The spare ball was used a lot today. I'm happy with my performance."

Anthony Simonsen, Zach Weidman, Kris Prather and AJ Johnson round out the top five after the second round on the flat, 37-foot pattern.

Anderson said his key has been embracing the challenge that the U.S. Open always presents.

"When you're throwing the ball well and not knocking over pins, you start to get into a telephone booth. *Is it the ball or is it the bowler?*" Anderson said. "I'm trying to do a really good job of not blaming myself. That way, when I do find some ball motion, I'm able to repeat at a high level."

Defending champion Kyle Troup with a total pinfall of 3,397 (+297) ranks 17th while Nathan Bohr, sitting at 3,355 (+155) occupies 24th place, which will be the cut position after Thursday's final round of qualifying.

Qualifying concludes with a 52-foot oil pattern.

“I think Thursday could be the most confusing day, especially as people are chasing the number and looking for score,” Anderson said. “It really depends on if the squad decides to play to the right or to the left. That's going to dictate everything.”

C-squad takes the lanes at 8 a.m. Eastern, followed by A-squad at 1 p.m. and B-squad at 6 p.m.

All qualifying and match play rounds will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

Round 2 Leaders

1. Andrew Anderson, 3,609 (+409)
2. Anthony Simonsen, 3,569 (+369)
3. Zach Weidman, 3,530 (+330)
4. Kris Prather, 3,495 (+295)
5. AJ Johnson, 3,482 (+282)
6. Takob Butturff, 3,480 (+280)
7. Tom Smallwood, 3,469 (+269)
8. Chris Via, 3,465 (+265)
9. Michael Martell, 3,458 (+258)
10. Jason Belmonte, 3,445 (+245)

Full Round 2 Standings

More information on the U.S. Open presented by Go Bowling is available here.

Tournament Schedule

Royal Pin Woodland | Indianapolis, IN

All times Eastern

Thursday, Jan. 30
8 a.m. — C-squad Qualifying Round 3 (eight games)
1 p.m. — A-squad Qualifying Round 3 (eight games)
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Live on FS1

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Live on FOX

2025 PBA50 Tour Schedule Released

January 30, 2025 Professional Bowlers Association

This year, the world's best aged-50-and-over bowlers will compete in the 44th season of the PBA50 Tour, culminating with the prestigious PBA50 Tournament of Champions.

The schedule includes 12 title events and five majors: the Bud Moore PBA50 Players Championship, USBC Senior Masters, PBA Senior U.S. Open, PBA50 WSOB III World Championship and the Johnny Petraglia BVL PBA50 Tournament of Champions pres. by Pleasant Day Schools.

"We are very excited to see the PBA50 Tour returning to action this summer as we feature literal legends of our sport!" Tony Lanning, the PBA50 tournament director, said. "In addition to our returning major events, we have added the PBA60 World Series of Bowling, which will offer a major championship for our super senior players."

Highlights of the 2025 PBA50 Tour include:

- The season begins in May with a two-event stop in Florida, before moving north for the season's first major in Virginia. The finals of the Bud Moore PBA50 Players Championship will take place inside the scenic two-lane facility inside Bill Moore's home.
- The players will then venture west for back-to-back majors.
- The central swing of the PBA50 Tour begins with an opportunity to compete in the PBA LBC National Championships; the third annual event hosted at Bowlero Mount Prospect near Chicago allows for PBA50 players to compete June 21-22, though players can compete any weekend between May 31 and July 13.
- Additionally, Beverly Lanes in Arlington Heights, Ill. will host the PBA50 Les Zikes PBA50/60 Doubles Regional June 27-28.
- The season resumes with the PBA50 South Shore Classic in Hammond, Ind., building up to the historic Wayne Webb's PBA60 World Series of Bowling in July. The first-ever WSOB for players aged 60-and-over will be hosted at Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl.
- The PBA60 WSOB will mirror the PBA and PBA50 WSOB's format, with two standard championships building towards the World Championship, a major title.
- The event will be followed closely by the PBA50 World Series of Bowling III at David Small's JAX 60 in Jackson, Mich. This will mark Small's 100th hosted PBA title event.

- John Janawicz, the reigning PBA50 Player of the Year, is poised to return with aspirations of adding to the seven titles he's amassed in two seasons on the tour.
- Additional PBA Hall of Famers expected to compete are Chris Barnes, Parker Bohn III, Jason Couch, Tom Hess, Mika Koivuniemi, Walter Ray Williams Jr. and Pete Weber, among others.
- The entirety of the PBA50 Tour will be livestreamed on BowlTV, the multichannel livestreaming platform and exclusive home of the PBA.
- Entries will open for the PBA50 Tour on March 5.

2025 PBA50 Tour Schedule

PBA50 majors are bolded
PBA60 events are italicized

PBA50 Fort Myers Classic
May 4-7
Lightning Strikes Lanes
Fort Myers, FL

PBA50 The Villages Classic
May 9-13
Spanish Springs Lanes
The Villages, FL

Bud Moore PBA50 Players Championship
May 16-21
Bowl America Woodbridge
Woodbridge, VA

USBC Super Senior Classic
May 28-June 1
Sam's Town Bowling Center
Las Vegas, NV

USBC Senior Masters
June 2-8
Sam's Town Bowling Center
Las Vegas, NV

PBA Senior U.S. Open
June 11-16
Highland Park Lanes
Greeley, CO

PBA50 South Shore Classic
June 23-26
Olympia Lanes
Hammond, IN

Wayne Webb's PBA60 World Series of Bowling
July 1-7
Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl
Columbus, OH

PBA60 WSOB Legend Pattern 1 Championship
July 2-3
Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl
Columbus, OH

PBA60 WSOB Legend Pattern 2 Championship
July 4-5
Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl
Columbus, OH

PBA60 WSOB World Championship
July 6-7
Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl
Columbus, OH

PBA50 World Series of Bowling III
July 10-18
David Small's JAX 60
Jackson, MI

PBA50 Ballard Championship
July 11-12
David Small's JAX 60
Jackson, MI

PBA50 Monacelli Championship
July 13-14
David Small's JAX 60
Jackson, MI

PBA50 Petraglia Championship
July 15-16
David Small's JAX 60
Jackson, MI

PBA50 WSOB III World Championship
July 17-18
David Small's JAX 60
Jackson, MI

PBA50 Hamtramck Singles Classic
July 21-24

Vision Lanes
Westland, MI

Johnny Petraglia BVL PBA50 Tournament of Champions pres. by Pleasant Day Schools
Aug. 5-9
Suburban Lanes
Morgantown, WV

Tackett Brothers Steal Show During Final Round of U.S. Open Qualifying

January 30, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Storylines ran rampant during the third and final round of 2025 U.S. Open presented by Go Bowling qualifying.

Andrew Anderson maintained his lead, followed closely by former major champions Jakob Butturff, Anthony Simonsen and Chris Via; rookie Cam Crowe climbed from 47th place to 13th; and 18-year-old high schooler Landin Jordan advanced to match play for the second consecutive year.

But the resilience of two Indiana-born brothers stole the show at Indianapolis' Royal Pin Woodland.

EJ and Zac Tackett seized two of the 24 spots in the major championship match play field, each firing blistering final rounds to surge into the cut number.

The elder brother, who has made the U.S. Open finals each of the past three years, started the day 185 pins outside the cut. After EJ started his final eight-game round with 186, that margin only grew.

Then EJ started Game 2 with the front-nine — he said he knew then and there he was going to make a run. He averaged more than 240 over his final seven games to ultimately make the cut by 21 pins.

"They pay for totals, not what you do in the first game," EJ said. "Even though I had two bad days and I was minus coming into today, I still had the opportunity to come in, put a special block together and give myself an opportunity to continue to bowl in this championship. That's one of the great things about this tournament. You can't just go out here and average 230 like nothing's going on. I fought like a dog to be able to average 234 today."

On the 52-foot pattern, EJ decided to play in between where the majority of the field played, leaving him on a proverbial island. He worked with Motiv's tour rep Brett Spangler to track where competitors were playing to capitalize on each new pair. Their plan worked to near perfection.

"When you see somebody do something like that, and you genuinely wonder if anybody else in the world can do it, you're pretty surprised," Spangler, who has known Tackett for almost 20 years, said. "He keeps doing it, so maybe I shouldn't be."

Hours later, Zac made a run of his own. He closed with games of 237, 267, 197 and 244 to surpass his older brother by six pins.

With a total pinfall of 5,360 (+560), Anderson is leading the 108-player major championship field through 24 games. He is far from content with his position.

“The tournament's not even halfway over,” Anderson said. “I'm happy about where I am at, but there’s a lot of bowling left.”

Jakob Butturff, Anthony Simonsen, Chris Via and Jason Sterner round out the top five after three rounds on respective patterns of 44-feet, 37-feet and 52-feet.

Triple-Crown hunter Kris Prather ranks 10th, while Jason Belmonte (+32), who is seeking to capture an unprecedented second Super Slam, sits in 12th place.

Nathan Bohr celebrated his 45th birthday on Thursday. His gift from the bowling gods was the two-pin margin that netted him the final berth in match play over defending champion Kyle Troup.

Twenty-four games of round robin match play kick off on Friday morning. The first eight games will commence at 10 a.m. Eastern, followed by the second round at 5 p.m.

All rounds of match play will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

The top nine players after Saturday’s final round of match play will advance to the weekend’s two-part televised championship round.

The fifth through ninth qualifiers will compete in a preliminary stepladder at 4 p.m. ET on Saturday on FS1, with the winner advancing to Sunday’s championship round at 4 p.m. ET live on FOX.

Anderson Builds Lead With Eight Games Left of U.S. Open Match Play

January 31, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Andrew Anderson finished the first round of the 2025 U.S. Open presented by Go Bowling in second place, and has maintained a lead ever since.

During the second of three match play rounds on Friday night, Anderson said he was tired of being close to the field, distancing himself from the field for the first time all week.

With a total pinfall of 9,291 (+1,291), Anderson holds a 264-pin lead with eight games of match play to go in the season’s first major championship.

“I’m more process oriented than I’ve possibly ever been,” Anderson said. “You have a choice out here: You can be results oriented, where if you throw a good shot and you get nine, you’re pissed about it. Or you can be process oriented and you can say ‘I threw a good shot, let’s learn from it.’ So far I’m learning very quickly.”

Anderson has staved off a host of former U.S. Open champions hot on his heels thus far. With eight games remaining on Saturday morning, he is focused on securing the top seed for the extended stepladder finals.

“I want to bowl for the title,” Anderson said. “The easiest way to do that is to be the No. 1 seed. My goal tomorrow morning is to do what I can to hold off EJ (Tackett) and the boys. There’s more for me to have, and therefore I’m going to try and go get it.”

Anthony Simonsen, Chris Via and EJ Tackett, who rose from 22nd place to fourth on Friday, round out the top four, which would secure them a berth in Sunday's championship round.

Though Via has yet to return to the winner's circle since winning the 2021 U.S. Open, he has been performing like that version of himself this week. While few on tour can match Via's strength and power, he noted that there have been many avenues to success this week.

"Looking through the top 24, I think it's really cool that there's no particular style," Via said. "There's a little bit of everything: lefties and righties, one-handers and two-handers, guys that hook it and guys that play straight, an 18-year-old and a 52-year-old. No one was shut out. When everyone's got a chance, it's nice to be able to bowl well and perform."

Currently in fifth through ninth and in position to compete in Saturday afternoon's preliminary stepladder finals are Tom Daugherty, Jake Peters, Jakob Butturff, Graham Fach and François Lavoie.

Daugherty, who finished seventh, 14th and 14th in the past three U.S. Open events, has climbed up the standings each round of match play. He qualified for match play in 23rd place, before rising to 13th and sixth on Friday.

"I like where I'm at," Daugherty said. "I started from the bottom, and I've worked my way up. With a big block tomorrow, maybe I can get in there. I'm throwing it well, and you have to in the U.S. Open. You can't really fake your way through it like some weeks you can."

Daugherty said he felt more comfortable once he started opening up his angles and being more aggressive. He also credited the help of Shawn Maldonado for his performance on Friday.

"(Shawn) said he's playing chess out there, and I'm just his pieces," Daugherty said. "He's moving me all over and putting different balls in my hands that I wouldn't have, and he's been right 90% of the time. If we can keep that up tomorrow, I think we'll be alright."

Michael Martell, Cam Crowe, Landin Jordan, Jason Belmonte and Kris Prather are each within 100 pins of Lavoie.

Eight games of round robin match play remain before the extended stepladder finals begin on Saturday afternoon, livestreaming on BowlTV.

The final round of match play will begin at 9 a.m. Eastern, followed by the preliminary stepladder featuring the fifth through ninth qualifiers at 4 p.m. ET on FS1.

The winner will meet the top four qualifiers in Sunday's championship round at 4 p.m. ET live on FOX.

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Eight games of round robin match play remain before the extended stepladder finals begin on Saturday afternoon, livestreaming on BowlTV.

The final round of match play will begin at 9 a.m. Eastern, followed by the preliminary stepladder featuring the fifth through ninth qualifiers at 4 p.m. ET on FS1.

The winner will meet the top four qualifiers in Sunday’s championship round at 4 p.m. ET live on FOX.

Extended Stepladder Finals Set in U.S. Open

February 1, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Andrew Anderson completed his near wire-to-wire lead of the 2025 U.S. Open presented by Go Bowling, securing the top seed for the extended stepladder finals.

Anderson will be joined in Sunday’s championship round by three former U.S. Open champions: EJ Tackett, Chris Via and François Lavoie.

Those four players will meet the winner of Saturday afternoon’s preliminary stepladder finals (4 p.m. Eastern on FS1), featuring the fifth through ninth qualifiers.

Anthony Simonsen, the 2022 U.S. Open champion, headlines the quintet of players vying for the final berth in the championship round.

As the No. 5 qualifier, Simonsen will be the top seed for the first-part of the stepladder finals.

Tom Daugherty, 18-year-old Landin Jordan, Kris Prather and last week’s champion Graham Fach also advanced.

Jason Belmonte, who sought to win his second U.S. Open and complete an unprecedented second Super Slam, finished 10th. After 48 games, Belmonte trailed Fach by 25 pins.

Anthony Simonsen Advances to Fourth Straight U.S. Open Finals

February 1, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Simonsen will meet top seed Andrew Anderson, EJ Tackett, Chris Via and François Lavoie in the first major championship final of the season

Five players remain in the fight for the coveted green jacket, awarded to the U.S. Open presented by Go Bowling champion.

Four of them — EJ Tackett, Chris Via, François Lavoie and Anthony Simonsen — already have one in their closet. The other, Andrew Anderson, earned the top seed as the tournament leader.

Anderson, Tackett, Via and Lavoie secured their berth in the finals by finishing in the top four after 48 games of qualifying and match play.

Simonsen defeated Tom Daugherty in the final match of Saturday's preliminary stepladder, featuring the fifth through ninth qualifiers, to join the star-studded quartet on Sunday.

Daugherty knocked off the surging Kris Prather, who defeated 18-year-old Landin Jordan and Graham Fach in the opening matches.

Sunday's finals will mark the fourth consecutive U.S. Open with both Tackett and Simonsen in the championship round.

Simonsen defeated Tackett in the 2022 title match, then Tackett prevailed in the 2023 championship over Kyle Troup. Troup got the best of both superstars in 2024 en route to claiming his own U.S. Open crown.

"For one person to do it is kind of unbelievable," Tackett said. "But for two guys to do it at the exact same time, in the exact same building, in the exact same tournament, I don't know what word to use for that. Special, maybe? I love this place. I know Simo does, too. He's got a lot of great memories in this building, as do I, and hopefully I can create a new one tomorrow."

Simonsen's history of success at Royal Pin Woodland dates back to 2016, when he won his first career major and became the youngest ever major champion. But to reach this year's finals, he channeled back even further.

"While I was getting ready this morning, I was thinking about what Norm Duke would have done on this pattern back in 1985," Simonsen said to USBC media. "I think that he would stand as close to the dry as he could and kind of knuckle the ball. For a couple games this morning, I tried to do my version of it. I'll probably just do that again tomorrow and see if we can get a couple games under our belt and have an understanding of what the pair is doing and go from there."

In order to reach Tackett in the semifinals, Simonsen will have to get past two-time U.S. Open champion François Lavoie, who rose from ninth place to fourth during Saturday's final round of match play, and the 2021 event champion Chris Via.

At the top of the stepladder will be Andrew Anderson, who led the event nearly wire-to-wire.

The championship round begins at 4 p.m. ET live on FOX.

More information on the U.S. Open presented by Go Bowling is available here.

Preliminary Stepladder Results

No. 8 Kris Prather def. No. 9 Graham Fach, 244-190
No. 8 Kris Prather def. No. 7 Landin Jordan, 218-170
No. 6 Tom Daugherty def. No. 8 Kris Prather, 214-177
No. 5 Anthony Simonsen def. No. 6 Tom Daugherty, 233-211

Championship Round

No. 4 François Lavoie vs. No. 5 Anthony Simonsen
Winner vs. No. 3 Chris Via
Winner vs. No. 2 EJ Tackett
Winner vs. No. 1 Andrew Anderson

EJ Tackett Adds to Legacy with Second U.S. Open Title

February 2, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Tackett completes monumental comeback for sixth career major

After two rounds of qualifying in the 2025 U.S. Open presented by Go Bowling, EJ Tackett found himself in 78th place and almost 200 pins outside the cut.

Four days later, Tackett left Indianapolis' Royal Pin Woodland with his second U.S. Open title, green jacket and the $100,000 top prize.

Tackett, who climbed all the way to the No. 2 seed after 48 games of qualifying and match play, defeated top seed Andrew Anderson in the title match 238-184, claiming the season's first major championship and his second U.S. Open crown in three years.

"It's just as emotional for different reasons," Tackett said, reflecting on his 2023 win. "Two years ago, I came back after losing (in 2022) and was able to win. This time, I won the U.S. Open as a dad. I know I won the PBA World Championship last year and Tripp was there, but this is the U.S. Open, man."

Tackett has always revered Royal Pin Woodland, the only venue to have hosted all five PBA major championships.

The Huntington county native grew up less than two hours north of the iconic bowling center, dreaming of winning a PBA Tour title on its hallowed grounds and joining the PBA legends whose championship banners forever hang from its rafters.

"Woodland is synonymous with major championships, especially this one," Tackett said. "It's hard to put it into words. I'm so grateful and lucky to have such a great bowling center, and so much history in my backyard. To be fortunate enough to win here twice, it's just special."

Tackett bowled his first U.S. Open at Woodland when he was only 16. This year, he became the 13th player to win multiple U.S. Open titles.

Over the past two seasons and change, in which Tackett has won four of 11 major championships, he has silenced any doubters who questioned whether or not he can consistently succeed at the highest level.

“I've never, ever questioned my ability,” Tackett said. “It was just a matter of being able to perform on television where I lacked for a lot of my career. The last couple years, I have been really, really good at building on that and using everything that I've learned to perform well in these situations, whether I win or not. All I have control over is me performing well. If I can go out and do that, I can always hang my head high and know that I did everything that I could. That's the mindset I have going into TV shows now, to bowl the best that I possibly can, and everything else will take care of itself.”

Tackett left back-to-back stone 9-pins to start the championship match. After that, he thoroughly dominated Anderson, who led the tournament nearly wire to wire. A few errant shots from Anderson would be all the margin Tackett needed to clinch the win before the 10th frame.

In the semifinal, Tackett fired seven straight strikes to build a lead Chris Via stood no chance of overcoming. Via lost all control of the match, low-lighted by his sixth frame in which he knocked over five total pins.

Via, the 2021 U.S. Open champion, disbarred two-time U.S. Open champion François Lavoie in the second match, firing eight strikes in his first nine frames.

Lavoie spared three consecutive 10-pins early in the opening match against Anthony Simonsen, who advanced to the championship round by winning the preliminary stepladder on Saturday afternoon. The tide turned when Simonsen left back-to-back splits in the sixth and seventh frames.

Tackett, the three-time and two-time reigning PBA Player of the Year, is off to another strong start to the 2025 season.

The PBA Tour continues on Tuesday with PBA Owen’s Illinois Classic qualifying.

Championship Round Scores

Match 1: No. 4 François Lavoie def. No. 5 Anthony Simonsen, 246-206
Match 2: No. 3 Chris Via def. No. 4 François Lavoie, 238-226
Match 3: No. 2 EJ Tackett def. No. 3 Chris Via, 245-152
Championship: No. 2 EJ Tackett def. No. 1 Andrew Anderson, 238-184

Final Standings

1. EJ Tackett, $100,000
2. Andrew Anderson, $50,000
3. Chris Via, $25,000
4. François Lavoie, $16,000
5. Anthony Simonsen, $10,000

Chicago Welcomes Two Title Events to Bowlero Vernon Hills

February 3, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The PBA Owen's Illinois Classic, as well as the PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship, are set to begin Tuesday, Feb. 4 at Bowlero Vernon Hills in Vernon Hills, Ill.

Qualifying gets underway at noon Eastern (11 a.m. local/Central) time on Tuesday.

All qualifying and match play rounds will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

Individual Storylines

EJ Tackett, coming off a sensational effort to win the U.S. Open presented by Go Bowling, looks to win his 25th career title. Tackett, who leads the tour in points through two events, would move into a tie with Brian Voss for 11th all time with a win.

Graham Fach won the season opener before earning a ninth-place finish last week. The Canadian-born lefty ranks second in points and is off to what could be a career-best season.

Andrew Anderson and Jakob Butturff earned the top seed in the season's first two events, respectively, but both players came up short in the title match.

The highly anticipated Rookie of the Year race has lived up to expectations so far. Cam Crowe leads all first-year players in points, ranking 10th overall, and this week will be competing close to his home of Orland Park, Ill.

Ryan Barnes isn't far behind, ranking 14th overall in points. Hayden Stippich kept pace with the two decorated youngsters in Delaware, but he struggled in last week's U.S. Open.

Doubles Teams to Watch

Kris Prather and Andrew Anderson have to be considered among the favorites this week. Not only are they the event's defending champions, but Anderson led the U.S. Open nearly wire to wire while Prather finished seventh.

Other former PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship include Sean Rash and Matt Ogle, Jason Belmonte and Bill O'Neill, Jesper Svensson and Kyle Troup, Packy Hanrahan and Mitch Hupé, and EJ Tackett and Marshall Kent.

Brothers-in-law Matt Russo and Nick Pate will team up, as will Brad Miller and Kyle Sherman.

The saga of Chris and Ryan Barnes has been a prevailing storyline this season, but they won't be the only father-son duo sharing the lanes this week. Wes Malott and his son Jordan are also competing together.

The Barnes bested the Malotts during the PBA King of the Lanes: Royal Family Edition in 2022.

Format

All players will bowl 18 games of qualifying on the 42-foot Carmen Salvino oil pattern beginning on Tuesday morning. Qualifying games will count towards both the PBA Owen's Illinois Classic and PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship.

The top 24 individuals will advance to PBA Owen's Illinois Classic elimination match play, which will begin Wednesday evening. The four winners in the Round of 8 will advance to the stepladder finals, as will the highest-seeded loser in that round.

The PBA Owen's Illinois Classic stepladder finals will air live on FS1 at 8 p.m. ET (7 p.m. local time) on Saturday, Feb. 8.

In the PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship, the top 16 doubles teams will advance to round robin match play, which will be held on Friday, Feb. 7. Sixteen games of baker match play will determine the five teams advancing to the championship round.

The PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship stepladder finals will be taped Saturday, Feb. 8 at 3 p.m. local/Central time and air Sunday, March 2 at 1 p.m. Eastern.

Tournament Schedule

Bowlero Vernon Hills | Vernon Hills, IL

All times Central

Tuesday, Feb. 4 | BowlTV

11 a.m. — Qualifying Round 1 (six games)

6 p.m. — Qualifying Round 2 (six games)

Wednesday, Feb. 5 | BowlTV

11 a.m. — Qualifying Round 3 (six games)

Top 24 individuals advance to PBA Owen's Illinois Classic elimination match play

Top 16 doubles teams advance to PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship round robin match play

6 p.m. — Elimination Match Play - Round of 24 (best-of-seven games)

Thursday, Feb. 6 | BowlTV

11 a.m. — Elimination Match Play - Round of 16 (best-of-seven games)

6 p.m. — Elimination Match Play - Round of 8 (best-of-seven games)

Friday, Feb. 7 | BowlTV

11 a.m. — Round Robin Match Play (eight games)

6 p.m. — Round Robin Match Play (eight games)

Saturday, Feb. 8 | FS1

3 p.m. — PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship stepladder finals (taped)

7 p.m. — PBA Owen's Illinois Classic stepladder finals (live)

Fach, Belmonte and O'Neill Leading in Illinois

February 5, 2025 Nolan Hughes

After Graham Fach dealt with a middle finger injury last week, which forced him to remove the finger insert from his bowling balls, he is back to near-100% health and top form.

Fach leads the PBA Owen's Illinois Classic through two rounds of qualifying with a total pinfall of 2,873 (+473). In the Roth/Holman PBA Doubles Championship, which uses concurrent qualifying scores, Fach and his partner Matt Sanders rank second with a combined score of 5,468 (+668).

"We've been growing together for years now, and have been able to talk a lot," Fach said. "We understand each other's games and love to help each other when we can. It's nice that we're able to be on the same pair and strike."

"We've had years where one's been on, and one's been off," Sanders said. "We've gone back and forth almost every year. So we're hoping this year we can both be on."

At first, the only thing "on" for the team was Fach's check engine light. His car broke down somewhere in Indiana on Monday.

Sanders was willing to skip the practice session to go pick him up. Instead, Fach said he walked to a rental car facility and made it to Vernon Hills on his own accord.

Matt Ogle, Eric Jones, Jason Belmonte, Chris Sloan and Ryan Barnes round out the top six individuals in PBA Owen's Illinois Classic qualifying through 12 games.

Tomas Käyhkö (+218) ranks 24th, which will be the cut after the final round of qualifying on Wednesday. Käyhkö will have his work cut out for him to stay in the number, sitting just three pins ahead of Sunday's U.S. Open champion EJ Tackett.

In the Roth/Holman PBA Doubles Championship, a few noteworthy teams find themselves in contention.

Last year's runners-up, Jason Belmonte and Bill O'Neill, dominated on Tuesday evening to surge from 18th place to the lead. The duo is averaging nearly 230 for their 24 combined games.

On the 42-foot Salvino oil pattern, named for PBA Hall of Famer and founding member Carmen Salvino, who still lives in the Chicago area, Belmonte opted to stay right even as the lanes transitioned.

Fach and Sanders, Hayden Stippich and Anthony Neuer, Matt Ogle and Sean Rash, and Kyle Troup and Jesper Svensson round out the top five doubles teams with one round to go.

Stippich and Neuer, both Pennsylvania-raised left-handers, met bowling match play in Junior Gold as youth players. Neuer said they have wanted to bowl this event together ever since, and this was the first year they were able to do it.

If there was one lesson Stippich, a rookie this season, failed to learn from his college coach Bob Learn Jr. (aka "Mr. 300"), it showed on Tuesday. Stippich had the front-11 strikes twice in his first three games... and missed the head pin on both perfect game attempts.

Both Stippich and Neuer appreciated the humor of the situation.

"I'm sure (Bob's) proud of you right now," Neuer joked to Stippich.

Two people who feel genuinely proud are Chris Barnes and Wes Malott. The PBA Hall of Famers are each bowling with their sons.

Chris and Ryan Barnes rank 10th, while Wes and Jordan Malott sit in 17th and just three pins outside the cut number.

The final round of qualifying begins at 11 a.m. (noon Eastern) on Wednesday, followed by PBA Owen's Illinois Classic elimination match play begins with the Round of 24 at 6 p.m. (7 p.m. ET)

Elimination match play continues on Thursday, then PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship round robin match play takes center stage on Friday.

Both championship rounds will be held on Saturday.

Full standings for the PBA Owen's Illinois Classic are available here.

Full standings for the PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship are available here.

Tournament Schedule

Bowlero Vernon Hills | Vernon Hills, IL

All times Central

Wednesday, Feb. 5 | BowlTV

11 a.m. — Qualifying Round 3 (six games)

Top 24 individuals advance to PBA Owen's Illinois Classic elimination match play

Top 16 doubles teams advance to PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship round robin match play

6 p.m. — Elimination Match Play - Round of 24 (best-of-seven games)

Thursday, Feb. 6 | BowlTV

11 a.m. — Elimination Match Play - Round of 16 (best-of-seven games)

6 p.m. — Elimination Match Play - Round of 8 (best-of-seven games)

Friday, Feb. 7 | BowlTV

11 a.m. — Round Robin Match Play (eight games)

6 p.m. — Round Robin Match Play (eight games)

Saturday, Feb. 8 | FS1

3 p.m. — PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship stepladder finals (taped)

7 p.m. — PBA Owen's Illinois Classic stepladder finals (live)

Malotts Strike A Lot, Qualifying Leader O'Neill Headlines Round of 16 in Illinois

February 5, 2025 Nolan Hughes

In his first tournament as a PBA Hall of Fame-electee, Bill O'Neill led the PBA Owen's Illinois Classic field into elimination match play at Bowlero Vernon Hills in Vernon Hills, Ill.

O'Neill averaged more than 237 for his 18 games of qualifying to earn the top seed and a one-round bye into the Round of 16.

O'Neill's ranked 25th after the first round, but said he figured out the 42-foot Salvino pattern during the second round on Tuesday evening.

"I moved further right, got my hand in a good spot and that gave me great ball reaction," O'Neill said. "The last two blocks were some of the best I've bowled in a long, long time."

Graham Fach, Santtu Tahvanainen, Matt Ogle, Kris Prather, Ryan Barnes, Shawn Maldonado and Nate Stubler also earned byes into the Round of 16.

During the Round of 24, Chris Via, Jason Belmonte, Sean Rash, Boog Krol, Eric Jones, Tim Foy Jr., Tommy Jones and Hayden Stippich won their respective matches to advance.

The Round of 16 will begin at 11 a.m. local/Central (noon Eastern) on Thursday.

O'Neill and Belmonte also led PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship qualifying, which takes the individuals' combined qualifying scores from the PBA Owen's Illinois Classic. The duo won the event in 2018 and finished runners-up a year ago.

Additional former doubles champions in the match play field include Matt Ogle and Sean Rash, defending champs Kris Prather and Andrew Anderson, Kyle Troup and Jesper Svensson, and Packy Hanrahan and Mitch Hupé.

But the story on Wednesday afternoon was not one, but two father-son tandems advancing to match play.

Chris Barnes and Ryan Barnes have been competing all season and maintained a top-10 position throughout qualifying. Their presence in match play could have been anticipated.

The emergence of Wes Malott and Jordan Malott, however, required the stars to align before they could put the strikes together.

Jordan is a junior at Indiana Tech University, where he plays first base for the baseball team. The team's first game of the season is Feb. 15, but the coaching staff allowed Jordan to compete this week in the PBA tournaments.

"This is surreal right now. I can't believe this is happening," Jordan told BowlTV. "It's an honor to bowl with this guy (Wes). He's won two of these doubles titles, and I'm here bowling with him in the same tournament. And he did it with Norm Duke! I'm not Norm Duke. I'm so grateful for the opportunity he gave me here."

The 21-year-old showed his age in the first round, averaging 195 to finish in 72nd place of 80 competitors. Then Jordan turned on the jets, averaging almost 240 for his final 12 games to help not only make the PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship cut with his dad, but make the PBA Owen's Illinois Classic cut himself.

Oh, and Jordan beat Wes by six pins, too.

The Malotts' run began in the second game of the third round, when Wes shot the first of back-to-back 300 games. Jordan kept pace with games of 254 and 256, then added the front-10 and 289 in the following game as well.

O'Neill, who bowled one pair to the left of the Malotts, had a front row seat to the festivities.

“The first game, Wes had a slow rolling messenger that didn’t knock the 10-pin over, and he said something like, ‘I don't got it no more,’” O’Neill said. “And then he threw 27 strikes in a row.”

“I’m a little bit of a sappy dad now,” O’Neill added. “I thought I was going to start crying. I’m in the middle of bowling and I started tearing up watching him bowl with Jordan. It was really, really cool and fun to watch.”

“It feels like the book is already written, and we're just acting the book out now,” Wes said.

The Malotts were dispatched in the Round of 24, but they will return to the lanes on Friday for PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship match play.

PBA Owen’s Illinois Classic continues on Thursday.

Both championship rounds will be held on Saturday.

Full standings for the PBA Owen’s Illinois Classic are available here.

Full standings for the PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship are available here.

Tournament Schedule

Bowlero Vernon Hills | Vernon Hills, IL

All times Central

Thursday, Feb. 6 | BowlTV

11 a.m. — Elimination Match Play - Round of 16 (best-of-seven games)

6 p.m. — Elimination Match Play - Round of 8 (best-of-seven games)

Friday, Feb. 7 | BowlTV

11 a.m. — Round Robin Match Play (eight games)

6 p.m. — Round Robin Match Play (eight games)

Saturday, Feb. 8 | FS1

3 p.m. — PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship stepladder finals (taped)

7 p.m. — PBA Owen's Illinois Classic stepladder finals (live)

Tahvanainen's Return, Rash's Homecoming Headline PBA Owen's Illinois Classic Final Field

February 6, 2025 Nolan Hughes

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From the beaming smile of Santtu Tahvanainen, to the tears of joy of Illinois native Sean Rash, to the ferocious howl of Tim Foy Jr., emotions ran high during the final round of elimination match play in the PBA Owen's Illinois Classic.

Tahvanainen, Chris Via, Rash and Foy won their Round of 8 matches to qualify for the championship round, while Matt Ogle punched his ticket as the highest-seeded loser of the round.

The stepladder finals will air live on FS1 at 7 p.m. Central (8 p.m. Eastern) on Saturday, Feb. 8.

Tahvanainen, who earned 2022 PBA Rookie of the Year honors, missed last season with a knee injury.

His grand return began not-so-grand. Coming into this week's event, Tahvanainen ranked 92nd of 94 qualifying players in points. He finished 64th in the PBA Delaware Classic and did not qualify for the U.S. Open.

This week, Tahvanainen averaged more than 232 to qualify third for match play, then defeated Boog Krol and Hayden Stippich to earn the No. 1 seed.

The 28-year-old will look to capture his first career title and become the third Finnish player to win on the PBA Tour.

After finishing third in last week's U.S. Open, Chris Via qualified ninth for match play, missing out on a one-round bye by just five pins. The 32-year-old then defeated a trio of southpaws — Jakob Butturff, Nate Stubler and Eric Jones — to reach his second consecutive championship round.

Sean Rash lives about an hour southwest of Vernon Hills in Montgomery. His homecoming week began with Tom Clark, the PBA Tour Commissioner, announcing that Rash will be inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame this spring.

Building off that momentum, Rash averaged more than 227 to qualify 12th for match play, then took down Matt Sanders, Kris Prather and Matt Ogle to make the show. After beating Ogle, his Roth/Holman Doubles Championship teammate, Rash hugged his wife, mother and father.

Ogle, who earned the No. 5 seed for the stepladder finals as the highest-seeded loser in the Round of 8, will have a chance at redemption if he can win his opening match.

That victory won't come easy against Tim Foy Jr., who slayed two giants in successive fashion. Foy, who qualified 18th and defeated Bailey Mavrick on Wednesday, defeated Graham Fach and Jason Belmonte in Thursday's match play rounds.

Foy won four PBA East Regional titles last season and earned exempt status at August's PBA Tour Trials.

While the championship round of the PBA Owen's Illinois Classic isn't until Saturday night, the action at Bowlero Vernon Hills continues on Friday. Sixteen games of round robin match play in the PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship are on tap.

All singles finalists except Tahvanainen will be competing in the doubles match play rounds. Belmonte and Bill O'Neill hold a 108-pin lead, while two father-son teams — Wes and Jordan Malott and Chris and Ryan Barnes — look to climb into the top five and qualify for the stepladder finals.

Competition begins at 11 a.m. CT (noon ET) on Friday, livestreaming on BowlTV.

Round of 8 Results

No. 3 Santtu Tahvanainen def. No. 22 Hayden Stippich, 4-1

No. 9 Chris Via def. No. 17 Eric Jones, 4-2

No. 12 Sean Rash def. No. 4 Matt Ogle, 4-2

No. 18 Tim Foy Jr. def. No. 10 Jason Belmonte, 4-2

Round of 16 Results

No. 3 Santtu Tahvanainen def. No. 14 Boog Krol, 4-0

No. 22 Hayden Stippich def. No. 6 Ryan Barnes, 4-1

No. 9 Chris Via def. No. 8 Nate Stubler, 4-3

No. 17 Eric Jones def. No. 1 Bill O'Neill, 4-2

No. 12 Sean Rash def. No. 5 Kris Prather, 4-3

No. 4 Matt Ogle def. No. 20 Tommy Jones, 4-3

No. 18 Tim Foy Jr. def. No. 2 Graham Fach, 4-2

No. 10 Jason Belmonte def. No. 7 Shawn Maldonado, 4-0

PBA Tour Finals Returns to Pennsylvania June 7-8

February 7, 2025 Professional Bowlers Association

The ninth annual PBA Tour Finals will be held June 7-8 at Steel City Bowl and Brews in Bethlehem, Pa., including nine hours of live competition on CBS Sports Network.

"The PBA Tour Finals has become a destination event for fans and a lofty goal for our elite players," PBA Tour Commissioner Tom Clark said. "The unprecedented nine hours of live coverage over the weekend on CBS Sports Network gives fans non-stop action featuring the best in the world. Engaging hosts like Lee and Krista Sandt in Pennsylvania also make the event extremely fun to attend."

"We grew up with Junior Bowling on Saturday mornings and watching the PBA Tour on Saturday afternoons," Lee Sandt said. "Hosting eight of the greatest players in the world, along with a full house of the greatest bowling fans in the world, is truly an honor and a privilege. All of us at Steel City promise to do everything we can to make this event and the entire weekend full of wonderful memories and excitement. Bring on The Tour!"

Since 2017, Anthony Simonsen, Kyle Troup, Jason Belmonte and EJ Tackett have each won the event twice. No other player has yet walked away with the PBA Tour Finals title.

Qualifying for the PBA Tour Finals consists of competition points earned over the previous two seasons. The top eight PBA Tour players through April's PBA Tournament of Champions will qualify for the event.

June 7 will feature two seeding rounds. Players will be divided into two groups based on their point totals entering the event.

On Sunday, each group will compete in a stepladder with the winners advancing to the championship match, which will air immediately following the group stepladders. The champion will receive $35,000.

Tickets for Pro-Ams, the Meet & Greet, and all PBA Tour Finals shows will be available here.

Select highlights will be available on @PBATour social handles across Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

For the latest information and updates about the 2025 PBA Tour, visit www.PBA.com and follow the PBA on Instagram, Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), TikTok and YouTube.

Past PBA Tour Finals Winners

2024 – Anthony Simonsen

2023 – Kyle Troup

2022 – Jason Belmonte

2021 – Anthony Simonsen

2020 – Kyle Troup

2019 – EJ Tackett

2018 – Jason Belmonte

2017 – EJ Tackett

PBA Tour Finals Schedule

Steel City Bowl and Brews | Bethlehem, Pa.

June 4

Pro-Ams

June 6

Meet and Greet

Practice session

June 7 | CBSSN

5 p.m. — Group 1 Qualifying (seeds No. 1, 4, 5, 8)

7 p.m. — Group 2 Qualifying (seeds No. 2, 3, 6, 7)

June 8 | CBSSN

5 p.m. — Group 1 Stepladder

7 p.m. — Group 2 Stepladder

9 p.m. — Championship

Belmonte, O'Neill Eye Redemption, Earn Top Seed in PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship

February 8, 2025 Nolan Hughes

A year ago, Jason Belmonte and Bill O'Neill came up just short in the position round and again in the title match, losing the PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship to Andrew Anderson and Kris Prather.

This year, the longtime doubles teammates seized the top seed with an emphatic performance in the position round. Belmonte and O'Neill will be the No. 1 seed for the PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship, taping Saturday afternoon at Bowlero Vernon Hills and airing March 2 at 1 p.m. Eastern on FS1.

DJ Archer and Shawn Malonado will be the No. 2 seed, with the teams of Patrick Dombrowski and Bailey Mavrick, Tim Foy Jr. and Kevin McCune, and Matt Ogle and Sean Rash rounding out the championship round.

Wes Malott and his son Jordan, hoping to complete a heartwarming, full-circle story, finished in sixth place, followed by Darren Tang and Chris Via, and defending champions Anderson and Prather.

Belmonte and O'Neill led the field through 36 games of qualifying, the combined total of their 18 individual PBA Owen's Illinois Classic qualifying games.

After leading through the entirety of the first round of match play, which shifted to baker games on dual patterns (43-foot Roth on the left lane, and 38-foot Holman on the right lane), they started the final eight-game round with three games south of 210.

Meanwhile, Archer and Maldonado started with games of 269, 289, 279 and 300 — the latter coming against Belmonte and O'Neill.

Belmonte and O'Neill rediscovered their stride late, firing 277 in Game 7 and the front-8 in the position round to lock up the top seed.

"We had struggled for a good portion of the day, either bowling 280 or 190-200," O'Neill said. "To finish the way we did there was good for our confidence. We didn't want to be the No. 3 or 4 seed, and you always want to be as high as you can."

"When we both had (a good look), I think we both bowled really well," Belmonte said. "When we didn't have it, we didn't bowl 150s or 160s. We grinded our way to 190-200. It was frustrating, but once his ball split the 8-9-pin and once mine split the 8-9-pin, we took advantage of that pair. I think that was key."

Both players said they were excited once match play began and they could truly compete as a team.

“We talked so much more,” O’Neill said, comparing baker match play to singles qualifying. “We’re invested in each other and it’s a lot more fun that way. We enjoy communicating with each other and being able to root for each other instead of kind-of-sort-of rooting for each other.”

“I got my first high-five in Game 17 of 18,” Belmonte said.

“Listen, once I was leading in the singles I was rooting for him,” O’Neill said laughing.

The Illinois events were the first O’Neill competed in since learning he will be inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame this spring.

“I'm very proud of him,” Belmonte said. “I'm very thrilled for him. We always knew he was going to be in the Hall of Fame, but until your name is etched in stone and it's official, you're not in that yet. He deserves it for an incredible career, and I hope we get an opportunity to add to that Hall of Fame career of his.”

While Archer and Maldonado came up shy in earning the top seed, the two were overjoyed to return to a championship round. This marks their fifth championship round as doubles partners.

“What gave us the edge tonight was getting the ball over the front part of the lane,” Maldonado said. “(DJ) does that naturally and I knew I had to do that, too. Our carry percentage was better and we were able to blend out the lane.”

Archer and Maldonado led the event in 2022, but fell to Marshall Kent and EJ Tackett in the title match. While the native Texans have a long history of success bowling together, they have yet to win this event.

“We just need to get a win on the show,” Maldonado said. “We've been there too many times to not get one win.”

“The last time in Milwaukee, during qualifying I bowled on the right lane and (Maldonado) bowled on the left lane,” Archer said. “And on the TV show, we switched. That won't happen. He’ll be on the right lane, and I'll be on the left lane. We’re not going to try to over-strategize it. We’ll just go out there and have a good time.”

Dombrowski and Mavrick do not have decades of experience competing together, but they will be the No. 3 seed for the stepladder finals regardless. The PBA Central Region stalwarts felt their strengths matched up well for the dual-pattern format.

“He bowls great on short patterns, and I’m better on long patterns,” Dombrowski said.

Foy and McCune have been friends for years, but this year marked their first time bowling the PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship together. The partnership pairing paid immediate dividends as the duo surged from 14th place comfortably into the finals.

McCune said the team rode Foy’s momentum after he advanced to the PBA Owen’s Illinois Classic finals on Thursday night.

“(Foy) beating Belmo to make the singles show, that gave us a big momentum boost,” McCune said. “He brought that into today and we just rolled with it. We stayed patient and trusted our shots.”

Ogle and Rash, who also both qualified for the PBA Owen's Illinois Classic finals, will look to win their second PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship title. They'll need to climb the stepladder, just as they did in 2019.

Ogle and Rash entered the position round with an 85-pin cushion over the Malotts, but the match could have spiraled after Ogle left the 3-6-9-10 in the second frame and missed them all on the spare attempt. Instead, they laughed off the gaffe (literally) and handled their business.

"It was pretty funny," Rash said. "Matt and I bowl very, very well together during qualifying as doubles partners. We're both very patient. We're both very aggressive at the same time, and we feed off each other very well.

"That's why we work so well together," Ogle said. "I probably would've done the same thing (if Rash missed the spare).

Rash credited each of their commitments to a stronger fitness and nutrition regimen to their early success this season.

Rash's week in Vernon Hills, which is about an hour from his hometown of Montgomery, began with learning he will join O'Neill as a member of the 2025 PBA Hall of Fame class.

"I knew it was gonna be a great week," Ogle said. "He's on a high. He's the local. What could go wrong?"

"The fans were great back here in Vernon Hills," Rash said. "I appreciate all the fans and support. I have so many messages on my phone. It's been a surreal week. Regardless if I win or lose on the lanes, it's been a win this week for me."

The PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship will air on FS1 at 1 p.m. ET on Sunday, March 2.

Santtu Tahvanainen Wins First Career Title in PBA Owen's Illinois Classic

February 8, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Former Rookie of the Year, Tahvanainen becomes third Finnish player to win PBA Tour title

The PBA crowned a new champion on Saturday night at Bowlero Vernon Hills in Vernon Hills, Ill.

Santtu Tahvanainen defeated Chris Via, 186-155, to win the PBA Owen's Illinois Classic. The 2022 PBA Rookie of the Year claimed his first career PBA Tour title and the $30,000 top prize.

"I feel like every bowler who starts bowling and comes over here, they dream of this moment," Tahvanainen said. "I come over to win, but actually having this moment is pretty special."

Tahvanainen became the third player from Finland to win on the PBA Tour, joining Mika Koivuniemi and Osku Palermaa.

"I deeply respect both of them, and especially their careers," Tahvanainen said. "It's a good aim to aim higher than them and to dream even bigger. That is 100% my goal. I feel like, for me, it was a monkey on the back. This has helped me down a little bit for the show and win the title, and now we get to see where we can climb."

Brett Spangler, Motiv's tour rep, said he remembers the first shot Tahvanainen ever threw on the PBA Tour, which came during the 2022 PBA World Series of Bowling.

"There are people that, for one reason or another, stand out as remarkable," Spangler said. "He's on a really short list of those people with EJ Tackett and Marshall Kent. There are probably some others, but those are the three that really stand out."

Tahvanainen's boundless joy and carefree attitude also stand out on tour. Few have seen that personality closer than Spangler, who is traveling with the young Finn this season.

"First of all, I probably wouldn't be traveling everywhere with him and rooming with him and everything if he wasn't an absolute delight. He's genuinely fun to have around," Spangler said. "He feels like being light hearted and having fun is the way that he best processes what he's seeing on the lanes. I think there's something to that. It's a totally different outlook. You see that with a lot of those special talents. It's something that sets him apart.

"He feels like a very rare and unique talent, and uniqueness is invaluable on the PBA Tour."

The 42-foot Salvino pattern — named and used in honor of PBA founding member, Hall of Famer and Chicago legend Carmen Salvino — played tricky at times during the championship round of the PBA Owen's Illinois Classic.

Matt Ogle never got comfortable in the opening match, splitting twice to shoot 168 and lose to Tim Foy Jr.

The same was true for Ogle's doubles partner Sean Rash in the second match, who also fell to Foy 242-190.

For much of the semifinal match, it looked like Foy might be on his way to his first career title. The Delaware native split in his 10th frame, opening the door for Chris Via to steal the match.

Via capitalized on the opportunity, doubling to move on to the title match with a 212-202 victory.

Neither Via nor Tahvanainen could get comfortable for very long in the championship. Tahvanainen's two doubles were the most consecutive strikes by either player.

Via, who played farther right with reactive equipment than any other player, started to lose ball reaction. He opted to chase the pattern left with Tahvanainen.

"I made a couple blind guesses there, hoping I stumbled into something really, really good," Via said. "I executed the way I wanted to, unfortunately, it was just one of those pairs that just had my number. It felt a whole lot better than 150, but it is what it is. Santtu bowled a great game and you've got to tip your hat to him."

Via moves up to third in the season's points list after finishing third in last week's U.S. Open presented by Go Bowling as well. The 32-year-old's hunt for his second career title continues.

"Obviously the loss sucks," Via said. "But at the same time, it makes you want it even more. I feel like I'm bowling really well right now. I know it's hard to win out here, but things are trending upward."

The week began with the PBA Hall of Fame announcement of Chicago-area native Sean Rash. Ending with the first career title of a 28-year-old with sky-high potential feels like a fitting culmination.

In Tahvanainen's young career, he has reached the championship round in six of his 24 events (25%).

"Based on those early numbers, I think Santtu gets to pick his ceiling," Spangler said.

"I feel like when the pattern length starts with a four, I have what it takes when I bowl really well," Tahvanainen said. "I proved it to myself and to others by making the 2023 PBA World Championship telecast. The third frame of the fifth game (of the tournament), this shot just felt amazing. The ball shaped amazingly. And I knew the pattern was good for me. Even though I was -70 after the first four games, everything just clicked.

"Next week, we bowl on a long pattern and I'm really confident about it. Hopefully we can even go back to back. That's definitely what we're aiming for."

Championship Round Scores

Match 1: No. 4 Tim Foy Jr. def. No. 5 Matt Ogle, 217-168
Match 2: No. 4 Tim Foy Jr. def. No. 3 Sean Rash, 242-190
Match 3: No. 2 Chris Via def. No. 4 Tim Foy Jr., 212-202
Championship: No. 1 Santtu Tahvanainen def. No. 2 Chris Via, 186-155

Final Standings

1. Santtu Tahvanainen, $30,000
2. Chris Via, $18,000
3. Tim Foy Jr., $13,000
4. Sean Rash, $10,000
5. Matt Ogle, $9,000

PBA Tour Rolls Into Springfield for PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic

The PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic is set to begin at Enterprise Park Lanes in Springfield, Mo.

The action gets underway on Tuesday with the pre-tournament qualifier, practice and pro-am. Qualifying begins on Wednesday.

All qualifying and match play rounds will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

Storylines

The second annual PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic will honor Show Me State legend Pete Weber.

The 37-time PBA Tour and 10-time major champion is among the winningest players the sport has ever seen, and his showmanship transcended the sport.

“To have a tournament named after you is probably the highest honor you can get,” Weber said before last year’s event. “I’m thinking this ranks up there with the fifth U.S. Open and second Triple Crown. It’s one of the best things that’s ever happened to me.”

Weber hails from St. Louis, a three-hour trek northwest, but two players in the field call Springfield itself home: Boog Krol and Keven Williams.

The two-handers will look for a win on their home turf; Williams came close in 2023, falling to Sam Cooley in the title match.

Players to Watch

This week’s oil pattern length starts with a four — 45-foot Weber — so Santtu Tahavanainen said he expects to bowl well. The Finnish star has made six championship rounds in 24 career events.

Anthony Simonsen has been up-and-down this season, but it’s hard to see the defending champion idling outside of title contention for much longer.

Bill O’Neill led qualifying in last week’s PBA Owen’s Illinois Classic, and earned the top seed in last year’s PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic. The PBA Hall of Fame-electee remains near the top of his game, and the eastern Pennsylvania native will be riding a high following the Eagles’ Super Bowl victory.

Chris Via, who leads the tour with a 228.53 average, has made back-to-back championship rounds in singles events, finishing third in the U.S. Open and second last week in Illinois. Via would like to see that upward trend continue and net his first title since 2021.

Jason Belmonte will not be competing this week. He said he is going home to Australia before heading to Reno at the end of the month.

Format

All players will bowl 18 games of qualifying on the 45-foot Dick Weber oil pattern, named and used in honor of PBA Hall of Famer and Pete’s father, beginning on Wednesday morning.

The top 24 individuals will advance to elimination match play, which will begin Thursday evening. The four winners in Friday night’s Round of 8 will advance to the stepladder finals, as will the highest-seeded loser in that round.

The PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic stepladder finals will air live on FS1 at 1 p.m. ET (noon local time) on Sunday, Feb. 16.

Tournament Schedule

Enterprise Park Lanes | Springfield, MO

All times Central

Tuesday, Feb. 11 | BowlTV
8:30 a.m. — Pre-Tournament Qualifier (seven games)

3 p.m. — Official practice session
6 p.m. — Pro-Am

Wednesday, Feb. 12 | BowlTV
11 a.m. — Qualifying Round 1 (six games)
6 p.m. — Qualifying Round 2 (six games)

Thursday, Feb. 13 | BowlTV
11 a.m. — Qualifying Round 3 (six games)

Top 24 qualifiers advance to elimination match play

6 p.m. — Elimination Match Play - Round of 24 (best-of-seven games)

Friday, Feb. 14 | BowlTV
11 a.m. — Elimination Match Play - Round of 16 (best-of-seven games)
6 p.m. — Elimination Match Play - Round of 8 (best-of-seven games)

Sunday, Feb. 16 | FS1
Noon — Championship Round (stepladder finals)

EJ Tackett Leads First Day in Missouri

February 12, 2025 Nolan Hughes

After winning the U.S. Open presented by Go Bowling in thrilling fashion, there would be no comeback from EJ Tackett in Chicago.

The two-time reigning PBA Player of the Year finished 29th in the PBA Owen's Illinois Classic and only one spot better in the PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship with Marshall Kent.

What changed ahead of this week's PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic in Springfield, Mo.?

"I beat up a 10-pin on lane 13 at home (EZ Bowl)," Tackett said. "We have string-pins, so it was the same 10-pin every time. I thought I was going to have to change it. I made sure I wasn't going to miss any more. I made them all today."

"I think a couple days off was also needed," he added. "I'm throwing it well, seeing the lane well, and then making good shots on top of that, too."

Tackett torched the 45-foot Dick Weber oil pattern at Enterprise Park Lanes with a near-240 average for his 12 games, racking up a 2,872 (+472) total pinfall.

Tim Foy Jr., Ryan Barnes, Kevin McCune and Kyle Troup round out the top five. Shawn Maldonado, Sean Lavery-Spahr and Bailey Mavrick join the quintet in position for a one-round bye for elimination match play.

Dom Barrett (+201) currently sits in 24th place, which will be the cutline after tomorrow's final round of qualifying.

Tackett won the 2024 PBA Shark Championship on a long pattern, but of course there is little to be learned from a different pattern in a different bowling center.

"Since we're using fire oil again, (the lanes) transitioned pretty quickly," Tackett said. "The first game, even though I shot 288, I felt like I was almost moving every shot. My ball just kept trying to go high, so I was inching left every shot. I ended up moving like four or five boards during the game. After that, I felt like I made pretty normal moves for a long pattern."

Tackett and Motiv seized the lead in the PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands after Tackett's U.S. Open triumph. Motiv continues to pace the league after Santtu Tahvanainen's win last week in Illinois.

"It's great to be in that position early, but there's a lot of bowling left to do for the season," Tackett said. "Everything adds up at the end of the season. Our focus (as players) is trying to be as high as possible, no matter where you are in the standings, because every point matters. And so far, so good."

Tackett has been in Motiv's lineup every week, but manager Brett Spangler has started almost every player on their roster, a testament to the team's depth and chemistry.

"I think we've got a good formula of how we're working and operating," Tackett said. "It's important every week for guys to be brutally honest with themselves and with the team. It builds everybody's trust in everyone. We know someone is not going to sit here and just say they've got a good look because they want to be on the team."

AJ Johnson's stellar second round pushed him into the top 10 as well, so Motiv is off to another promising start in the PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic.

Six games remain before the cut to elimination match play where, as they say, anything can happen. The action begins at 11 a.m. Central/local time (12 p.m. Eastern) on Thursday with the Round of 24 beginning at 6 p.m. CT.

All rounds of qualifying and match play will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

Round 2 Leaders

1. EJ Tackett, 2,872 (+472)
2. Tim Foy Jr., 2,802 (+402)
3. Ryan Barnes, 2,797 (+397)
4. Kevin McCune, 2,753 (+353)
5. Kyle Troup, 2,737 (+337)
6. Shawn Maldonado, 2,724 (+324)
7. Sean Lavery-Spahr, 2,718 (+318)

8. Bailey Mavrick, 2,695 (+295)
9. Bill O'Neill, 2,692 (+292)
10. AJ Johnson, 2,689 (+289)

Full standings are available here.

Tournament Schedule

Enterprise Park Lanes | Springfield, MO

All times Central

Thursday, Feb. 13 | BowlTV
11 a.m. — Qualifying Round 3 (six games)

Top 24 qualifiers advance to elimination match play

6 p.m. — Elimination Match Play - Round of 24 (best-of-seven games)

Friday, Feb. 14 | BowlTV
11 a.m. — Elimination Match Play - Round of 16 (best-of-seven games)
6 p.m. — Elimination Match Play - Round of 8 (best-of-seven games)

Sunday, Feb. 16 | FS1
Noon — Championship Round (stepladder finals)

EJ Tackett Headlines Round of 16 in PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic

February 13, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Through two days of the PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic, EJ Tackett has done what many have come to expect from him: dominate.

Tackett paced the 76-player field through 18 games of qualifying, averaging more than 233. Tackett led with a total pinfall of 4,208 (+608) on the 45-foot Dick Weber oil pattern at Enterprise Park Lanes in Springfield, Mo.

Ryan Barnes, Tim Foy Jr., Kyle Troup, Kevin McCune, AJ Johnson, Bill O'Neill and Chris Via rounded out the top eight, each earning a one-round bye in elimination match play

Shawn Maldonado, Tomas Käyhkö, Jake Peters, Dom Barrett, Andrew Anderson, Tom Daugherty, Timmy Tan and Zach Wilkins each won their respective match in the Round of 24 on Thursday evening.

Barrett overcame a 3-0 deficit against fellow countryman Richie Teece. Barrett won a roll-off in Game 4 before sweeping the final three games to advances.

Tackett will face Maldonado in the Round of 16 with matches beginning at 11 a.m. Central/local (12 p.m. Eastern) on Friday. All matches are the best-of-seven games and will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

Despite leading, Tackett will enter match play with an undecided gameplan.

“My ball reaction has gotten worse every block,” Tackett said. “I’ve definitely got to do something different on the fresh. My look hasn’t been very good in the beginning, but the middle has been okay. I think if I can bowl a decent first game and maybe get away with a win, I would feel pretty confident that my ball reaction would continue to get better. I have to put those games away when my ball reaction is good.”

Tackett finished third in last year’s PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic, losing a thrilling semifinal match to eventual champion Anthony Simonsen. Few players have a greater appreciation for the history of the sport than Tackett, and he said winning an event with Pete Weber’s name attached to it would be an honor.

“It is really cool to be able to recognize an icon and be a part of the event,” Tackett said. “He said it best in one of his interviews when he retired (in 2021): ‘Hate me or love me, you watched.’ He brought something to our sport that no one else could and people watched because of it, whether they liked him or not. It’s cool that there’s a tournament named after him. I think this is a precedent that we should be setting. We need a Walter Ray Williams Jr. event at some point, hopefully in Florida.”

Round of 16 Matches

No. 1 EJ Tackett vs. No. 17 Shawn Maldonado
No. 8 Chris Via vs. No. 24 Tomas Käyhkö

No. 2 Ryan Barnes vs. No. 15 Jake Peters
No. 7 Bill O’Neill vs. No. 23 Dom Barrett

No. 3 Tim Foy Jr. vs. No. 14 Tom Daugherty
No. 6 AJ Johnson vs. No. 22 Andrew Anderson

No. 4 Kyle Troup vs. No. 13 Zach Wilkins
No. 5 Kevin McCune vs. No. 12 Timmy Tan

Round of 24 Results

No. 17 Shawn Maldonado def. No. 16 Alec Keplinger, 4-3
No. 24 Tomas Käyhkö def. No. 9 Sean Lavery-Spahr, 4-1

No. 15 Jake Peters def. No. 18 Andrew Hall, 4-3
No. 23 Dom Barrett def. No. 10 Richie Teece, 4-3

No. 22 Andrew Anderson def. No. 11 Bailey Mavrick, 4-1
No. 14 Tom Daugherty def. No. 19 Sean Rash, 4-2

No. 12 Timmy Tan def. No. 21 AJ Chapman, 4-3
No. 13 Zach Wilkins def. No. 20 Sam Cooley, 4-0

Match scores are available here.

Tournament Schedule

Enterprise Park Lanes | Springfield, MO

All times Central

Friday, Feb. 14 | BowlTV
11 a.m. — Elimination Match Play - Round of 16 (best-of-seven games)
6 p.m. — Elimination Match Play - Round of 8 (best-of-seven games)

Sunday, Feb. 16 | FS1
Noon — Championship Round (stepladder finals)

EJ Tackett Earns Top Seed, Finals Set for PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic

February 15, 2025 Nolan Hughes

EJ Tackett led the PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic from the first game of qualifying to the last. After earning a one-round bye in the elimination match play bracket, the two-time reigning PBA Player of the Year won two matches to secure the top seed for the stepladder finals.

Tackett will be joined by Tim Foy Jr., Timmy Tan, Dom Barrett and Ryan Barnes in Sunday's stepladder finals, airing at 12 p.m. Central/local time (1 p.m. Eastern) on FS1, at Enterprise Park Lanes in Springfield, Mo.

Tackett, Foy, Tan and Barrett secured their berth in the finals by winning their respective bracket, with each match being the best-of-seven games. Barnes earned the fifth seed as the highest-qualifying player who lost in the Round of 8.

Tackett, who qualified first among the 76-player field, defeated Shawn Maldonado and Tomas Käyhkö to put himself one game away from his 25th career PBA Tour title.

Tackett is the second-youngest player to eclipse 20 career titles, trailing only Pete Weber himself. In fact, Tackett's 20th career title — the 2023 PBA Cheetah Championship — came 30 years *to the date* after Weber's 20th career title.

Since the start of the 2023 season, Tackett has finished top five in 22 of his 39 title events, a rate of more than 56%.

"It is awesome to know that I have an opportunity to win a tournament with Pete's name attached to it," Tackett said. "I hope I can bowl a good game on Sunday and give myself a chance to have a trophy in my trophy case that has his name on it."

After earning a one-round bye and defeating Tom Daugherty and Andrew Anderson, Foy made his third consecutive championship round appearance.

He qualified for the finals of the PBA Owen's Illinois Classic, finishing third, and the PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship, airing March 2, last week.

Foy made the PBA Delaware Classic finals last season, which was his only previous championship round appearance. Despite thoroughly dominating the PBA East Region last season, winning four titles and racking up eight top-three finishes in nine events, Foy entered this season with doubts of being a one-hit wonder.

Those doubts have been erased after making his third straight stepladder finals.

"At the beginning of the year, I just wanted to make one (show)," Foy said. "To say I made three, let alone three in a row, I'm just a kid living in a dream right now."

In still-unbelievable fashion, Tan will be making his debut championship round after defeating AJ Chapman in seven games, Kevin McCune in six games and Kyle Troup in seven games.

In the Round of 8, Troup only needed a mark in the 10th frame of Game 7 to defeat Tan. Troup's shot hit the pocket, but somehow the 5-10 remained standing. He missed right on the spare attempt, allowing Tan to advance by a single pin.

Tan did not see Troup's shot, but he heard the collective gasp of the crowd.

"I still can't believe it," Tan said.

Earlier this year, Tan won gold in the IBF World Cup team event with Rafiq Ismail, Tun Hakim and Ahmad Muaz.

Ismail was a finalist for PBA Rookie of the Year in 2018, while Zulmazran Zulkifli became the first Malaysian player to win a PBA Regional Tour title in 2023.

But perhaps Malaysia's greatest bowler today, and one of Tan's best friends, he said, is Li Jane Sin. She won two major titles and four titles overall en route to being named PWBA Player of the Year in 2024.

Tan will aim to follow Sin's winning ways and become the first Malaysian player to win a PBA Tour title.

"(Her PWBA season) definitely impacted me a lot," Tan said. "She had an incredible season and it makes me want to win just like her."

Barrett qualified in a tie for 23rd place, besting Tommy Jones by just five pins for a match play berth. He then overcame an 0-3 deficit to Richie Teece — in which they tied in Game 4, putting Barrett literally one shot from elimination — before defeating Bill O'Neill and Barnes.

"Experience is huge," Barrett said. "I think I'm pretty good at staying in the moment and taking the decisions very methodically. For me, those five steps are what counts. It's about controlling those five

steps, throwing the ball the way you're supposed to throw it, and whatever happens, happens. I think letting go of the control has probably helped me out a lot with (my mentality).

Barrett gave Barnes, the son of PBA Hall of Famer Chris Barnes, a few words of support and advice after their match — words Barrett said he would quickly come to regret once Barnes became the fifth seed for the stepladder finals as the highest-seeded loser in the Round of 8.

The opening match of the stepladder finals will be a Barrett and Barnes rematch.

Barnes made the PBA Players Championship finals last season as an amateur. This season, in his first as a PBA member, the rookie has made match play in all three PBA-run singles events, finishing sixth in Delaware and 12th in Illinois.

“I feel like I have what it takes to compete every week,” Barnes said. “It's really just figuring out how to win. That's something you have to learn and it’s not an easy thing to do. Hopefully I can continue this success and keep it going.”

The championship round will air live Sunday, Feb. 16 at 12 p.m. Central/local time (1 p.m. Eastern) on FS1.

Round of 8 Results

No. 1 EJ Tackett def. No. 24 Tomas Käyhkö, 4-2

No. 3 Tim Foy Jr. def. No. 22 Andrew Anderson, 4-0

No. 12 Timmy Tan def. No. 4 Kyle Troup, 4-3

No. 23 Dom Barrett def. No. 2 Ryan Barnes, 4-1

Round of 16 Results

No. 1 EJ Tackett def. No. 17 Shawn Maldonado, 4-1
No. 24 Tomas Käyhkö def. No. 8 Chris Via, 4-2

No. 3 Tim Foy Jr. def. No. 14 Tom Daugherty, 4-1
No. 22 Andrew Anderson def. No. 6 AJ Johnson, 4-1

No. 4 Kyle Troup def. No. 13 Zach Wilkins, 4-2
No. 12 Timmy Tan def. No. 5 Kevin McCune, 4-2

No. 2 Ryan Barnes def. No. 15 Jake Peters, 4-2
No. 23 Dom Barrett def. No. 7 Bill O’Neill, 4-2

Match scores are available here.

Tournament Schedule

Enterprise Park Lanes | Springfield, MO

Sunday, Feb. 16 | FS1
12 p.m. CT (1 p.m ET) — Championship Round

EJ Tackett wins PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic for 25th Career Title

February 16, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Tackett earned 25th career title with a wire-to-wire win.

In a battle between bowling's most recent Triple Crown winners, EJ Tackett prevailed over Dom Barrett to win the PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic.

Tackett defeated Barrett, 238-202, in the championship match on Sunday afternoon at Enterprise Park Lanes in Springfield, Mo.

"It is so cool to win an event with someone like Pete's name on it," Tackett said. "This is one of those trophies that, in 20 or 30 years when I look back on my career, it's going to be a special one, especially with his signature on it. That's something that very few people are ever going to be able to have. It's a surreal feeling."

Barrett almost replicated Anthony Simonsen's climb of last year's stepladder in this event. Barrett defeated Ryan Barnes, Timmy Tan and Tim Foy Jr. to set up a title bout with top-seeded Tackett.

After Barrett tallied an easy victory over Barnes, who had four open frames and shot 141 in the opening match, Barrett demonstrated why he is an 10-time titleist.

Timmy Tan, who sought to become the first Malaysian player to win a PBA Tour title, started strong with seven of eight strikes. But two straight single-pin spare conversions by Timmy Tan opened the door for Barrett, who doubled and got nine on his fill ball to win the match, 246-245.

Barrett fell behind Foy in the semifinal as well, but responded with seven consecutive strikes to win the match.

The title match between Tackett and Barrett had the makings of a back-and-forth thriller — until the sixth frame. Barrett left a pocket 7-10, then left and made the 3-6-10. Tackett said those shots from Barrett changed the momentum in the match.

"I felt like my next two shots were the two most important ones of the match," Tackett said. "To get up and strike twice after he missed twice was really important to keep the momentum on my side. Then Dom being Dom gets up and strikes in the eighth and ninth, exactly what you would expect from such a great champion."

Every athlete talks about how winning is the result of practice and preparation. Tackett's was put to the test in the championship's final frames.

Tackett missed the cut in last week's PBA Owen's Illinois Classic by 13 pins and he said he missed five 10-pins during the event's 18 games of qualifying. In response, the veteran said he went home and beat the nuisance to a pulp at his home center.

Tackett then left the dreaded single-pin in the ninth and 10th frames against Barrett, needing to convert both and get nine pins on his fill to clinch the win.

He aced both 10-pins, then secured his 25th career title with a strike. Tackett is tied with Brian Voss for 11th all-time and sits one title behind Don Johnson for a top-10 spot.

“I've always believed in myself," Tackett said. "I've always believed in my abilities. I always believed that I was going to win at some point. I had no idea this was even possible.”

“Watching guys like Jason Belmonte, Pete Weber, Norm Duke and Parker Bohn III, those guys were still very active and winning when I first came out in 2013,” Tackett continued. “I never thought that anything that they ever did was remotely attainable. I’m not saying that I can get to where they've gotten in the sport — but, well, maybe I can.”

Tackett, who also won the U.S. Open earlier this season, will begin his next title pursuit later this month in the PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic. The tournament gets underway Feb. 25 at Coconut Bowl in Reno, Nev.

Championship Round Scores

Match 1: No. 4 Dom Barrett def. No. 5 Ryan Barnes, 190-141
Match 2: No. 4 Dom Barrett def. No. 3 Timmy Tan, 246-245
Match 3: No. 4 Dom Barrett def. No. 2 Tim Foy Jr., 239-224
Championship: No. 1 EJ Tackett def. No. 4 Dom Barrett, 238-202

Final Standings

1. EJ Tackett, $30,000
2. Dom Barrett, $18,000
3. Tim Foy Jr., $13,000
4. Timmy Tan, $10,000
5. Ryan Barnes, $9,000

PBA Kicks Off Season's Second Swing by Honoring Mike Aulby

February 21, 2025 Nolan Hughes

After closing the first swing of the 2025 PBA Tour by honoring Pete Weber, the second swing starts with the celebration of another.

The PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic presented by Pilgrim's begins this week at Coconut Bowl at Wild Island in Reno, Nev.

The action gets underway on Tuesday, Feb. 25 with the pre-tournament qualifier and practice. Qualifying begins on Wednesday, Feb. 26. All qualifying rounds will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

The championship round will air live Saturday, March 15 at 6 p.m. Eastern on FS1 at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno. Tickets for the championship round are free.

Storylines

If the PBA Playoffs started today, Kyle Troup, Jason Belmonte, AJ Johnson, Bill O'Neill, Sean Rash and Anthony Simonsen would all fail to qualify. None of the superstars rank among the top 12 in points through four events this season.

With four majors and the World Series of Bowling left to play, nobody is pressing the panic button… yet.

But a few players who may have inquired about the panic button's location are Marshall Kent (58th in points), Jesper Svensson (59th), Packy Hanrahan (61st) and Matt Russo (69th), who each qualified for last season's playoffs.

Motiv, largely on the backs of point-leader EJ Tackett, has opened up a sizable lead in the PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands.

Motiv ranks first with 27,488 points, followed by Brunswick and Storm.

Hammer sits sixth and leads the league with more than 6,000 points left on the bench, nearly double that of any other team.

Players to Watch

In 1996, Mike Aulby became the first player to win all five majors; only Jason Belmonte has since joined the Super Slam club. Belmonte, who did not bowl the PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic, is back in the field this week.

The list of players who have made four straight championship rounds is short, much shorter than the list of PBA Tour champions. Tim Foy Jr. would love to add his name to both.

After starting the season with three straight top-10 finishes, Graham Fach finished 74th in Missouri. The Canadian-born lefty will look to get back on track this week.

Dom Barrett found his stride during match play in Springfield, climbing all the way from the 23rd qualifier to the title match. The Triple Crown winner looks to carry that momentum across the country this week.

When EJ Tackett is on his game, he has been almost unbeatable. Through four events this season, Tackett has finished 14th, first, 29th and first.

Tackett notched his 25th career title in the PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic, a trophy that Tackett said he will cherish for the rest of his life.

A 26th career title would tie Tackett with Don Johnson for 10th all time. The chance to achieve that feat in the PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic, named after a fellow Indiana legend, is undoubtedly on Tackett's mind.

Format

All players will bowl 18 games of qualifying on the eponymous 39-foot Mike Aulby oil pattern, beginning on Wednesday morning.

Instead of the elimination match play format used in Delaware, Illinois and Missouri, this event will feature the eliminator qualifying rounds.

The top 32 players after 18 games of qualifying will bowl an additional six games on Thursday evening.

The top 16 players after that round will compete in the second elimination round, in which six more games will determine the five players advancing to the championship round.

The PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic stepladder finals will air live Saturday, March 15 at 6 p.m. ET (3 p.m. local time) on FS1.

Tickets are free for the PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic and PBA Junior National Championship Finals shows on March 15.

Tournament Schedule

Qualifying: Coconut Bowl at Wild Island | Reno, Nev.
Finals: National Bowling Stadium | Reno, Nev.

All times Pacific/local

Tuesday, Feb. 25 | BowlTV
11:30 a.m. — Pre-Tournament Qualifier (seven games)
6 p.m. — Official practice session

Wednesday, Feb. 26 | BowlTV
11 a.m. — Qualifying Round 1 (six games)
6 p.m. — Qualifying Round 2 (six games)

Thursday, Feb. 27 | BowlTV
11 a.m. — Qualifying Round 3 (six games)
Top 32 qualifiers advance

6 p.m. — Elimination Round 1 (six games)
Top 16 qualifiers advance

Friday, Feb. 28 | BowlTV
11 a.m. — Elimination Round 2 (six games)
Top five qualifiers advance to championship round

Saturday, March 15 | FS1
3 p.m. — Championship Round (stepladder finals)
Tickets

2025 PBA Midseason Superlatives

February 23, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Awarding very-real and definitely-not-made-up awards after the first swing of 2025

With four title events in the books, a fifth looming — the PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship finals air Sunday, March 2 at 1 p.m. Eastern on FS1 — and a sixth about to begin, it's time to doll out some hardware.

Think of the following superlatives like the ones in your high school yearbook: Most of the winners are either super popular or a friend of the editor, one award is made up entirely to celebrate the weird kid, and everyone forgets about them within a month.

Most Outstanding Player: EJ Tackett

Who would've thought the early favorite for Player of the Year would be EJ Tackett, who has captured two of the season's first four titles? Why is everyone raising their hand?

First, Tackett won his second career U.S. Open and sixth career major title in a dramatic comeback, rising from 78th place after the second round of qualifying to the second seed for the stepladder finals.

Then he won his 25th career title in Missouri, becoming one of the youngest players to ever cross that threshold.

Tackett now sits on the precipice of more PBA history: One more title would tie him with Don Johnson for 10th all time.

Honorable mentions: Graham Fach, Chris Via, Andrew Anderson

Most Disappointing Player: Marshall Kent

Kent enjoyed a career-best season in 2024, ranking second in points and winning his first career major.

It has been an entirely different story in 2025: Kent ranks 58th in points and, outside of his 24th-place finish in Delaware, he has yet to make a cut or cash.

There is, of course, plenty of time for Kent to turn this thing around. His early-season results have been underwhelming nonetheless.

Honorable mentions: Anthony Simonsen, Jesper Svensson

Most Surprising Player: Tim Foy Jr.

Here's how Foy finished in his nine PBA East Region events last season: eighth (yawn), first, second, third, second, first, second, first and first.

So Foy tallying three straight top-five finishes on the PBA Tour isn't coming out of nowhere, but it's certainly not what anybody, including Foy himself, expected.

Perhaps it's time for all parties to recalibrate expectations.

Honorable mentions: Michael Davidson, Graham Fach, Timmy Tan

Best Comeback Player: Santtu Tahvanainen

The former Rookie of the Year missed all of last season with a knee injury. He said he didn't bowl more than 50 games between the end of the 2023 season and the start of the 2025 season.

And yet, in just his second event since the injury, Tahvanainen won the whole thing. That's the definition of "built different."

Honorable mentions: Jakob Butturff, François Lavoie, Shawn Maldonado

Most Consistent Player: Tom Smallwood

Smallwood is one of just five players to cash in all four singles events. He's finished 18th, 26th, 26th and 27th in those events.

He ranks — you guessed it — 26th overall in points.

Honorable mentions: Matt Sanders, Nathan Bohr

Most Unbelievable Moment: Kyle Troup's 5-10 Split

All Troup needed to make the PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic finals was a mark. He made a quality shot and hit the pocket, but the 5-10 withstood his wrath. Troup failed to convert the split, allowing Timmy Tan to make his first career show.

The cruel irony of Timmy Tan later leaving a pocket 5-pin to ultimately lose to Dom Barrett in the stepladder finals is noted.

Honorable mentions: Chris Via's 3-2 frame, Tim Foy Jr.'s missed 9-pin, Dom Barrett's 0-3 comeback against Richie Teece

Best Offseason Change: Andrew Anderson

A handful of exempt players changed bowling ball manufacturing brands this season, but none have succeeded with their new equipment quicker than Anderson, who switched from Motiv to 900 Global.

It’s not that Anderson wasn't successful with his previous company — in fact, he won a title and both PBA Elite League MVP awards last season — but leading the U.S. Open nearly wire to wire and adding another top-10 finish is a market improvement.

Thus far in 2025, Anderson has shown signs of returning to Player of the Year form.

Worst Offseason Change: Matt Russo

After finishing seventh in points a year ago, Matt Russo ranks 69th through four events in 2025. He has yet to cash and his best finish thus far is 47th.

Is it because he changed from DV8 to Motiv? Maybe the learning curve is steeper than he would have liked, but there are numerous other factors to consider than equipment.

Some of you may have read the previous two superlatives and want to jump to a broader conclusion. Before you make that leap, consider a Motiv player has won three of the four titles so far this season, and, in the event not won by a Motiv player, a Motiv player set a PBA scoring record.

Best Story: Malotts’ Doubles Run

Wes Malott won two of his 10 career titles at Bowlero Vernon Hills, including the most recent event in 2008. His first win in the Chicago suburb came in 2006.

His son Jordan, who was only three years old at the time, came down with a nasty viral infection that week. He spent three days in a nearby hospital while Wes competed.

Jordan recovered by the end of the week, just in time to watch his dad compete in the finals. Wes took down Mike Scroggins before taking down, of all people, Chris Barnes in the championship match. Jordan joined Wes on the lanes to help his dad hoist the trophy.

Nineteen years later, the two competed together on the very same lanes in the PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship.

Wes has largely stepped away from the tour as injuries have taken their toll and Jordan plays college baseball at Indiana Tech. So when the Malott boys laced up their shoes in Illinois, they were very much the *other* father-son duo in the field.

It didn’t take long for the Malotts to steal the spotlight, turning a cool story into a legendary one during the third round of qualifying: Wes shot back-to-back 300 games and Jordan shot nearly 800 himself.

The Malotts made match play in the PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship and both made the singles cut in the PBA Owen’s Illinois Classic. While they came up 80 pins shy of making the championship round in doubles, their performance left few dry eyes and represented an emotional, full-circle moment for their family.

Honorable Mentions: Hall of Fame surprises, Landin Jordan makes U.S. Open prelims show

Biggest Butterfly Effect: Nick Pate’s Big Break

In the final frame of the PBA Delaware Classic pre-tournament qualifier, Pate almost left a 7-10. Instead only the 10-pin remained, he made the spare and made the cut by a single pin.

If that split stood, Pate would have missed the cut to the main field, never made the PBA Delaware Classic finals, and lost 2,300 of his 2,865 points. He'd plummet from 24th in points to the mid-70s.

That could have been career-changing pin action when we look back at the end of the season.

Honorable mentions: François Lavoie almost shows up late to U.S. Open match play, Sean Rash makes the 2-8-10 against Kris Prather in PBA Owen's Illinois Classic match play, the entire tour doesn't get the flu in early February

Rash, O'Neill, Branham, Schroeder make up PBA Hall of Fame Class of 2025

February 24, 2025 Jef Goodger

Sean Rash, Bill O'Neill, George Branham III and Dave Schroeder were all elected to the PBA Hall of Fame and will be enshrined April 18 as part of PBA Tournament of Champions week in Fairlawn, Ohio.

Rash and O'Neill are being heralded for their superior performance, Branham is the first player inducted into the new pioneer category, and Schroeder is being honored for his meritorious service.

"What an amazing Hall of Fame class, representing the best of the PBA's history on and off the lanes," said PBA Tour commissioner Tom Clark. "It will be a very special evening in Fairlawn."

The 2025 PBA Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be held Friday, April 18 and will be streamed live on BowlTV.

Sean Rash

Superior Performance

Rash won each of his first four televised finals appearances and now enters the PBA Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility. In his 20-year career, Rash has won 17 PBA Tour titles, including two majors: the 2007-08 USBC Masters and 2011-12 PBA Tournament of Champions.

In the 2011-12 season, Rash earned the Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year Award along with the George Young High Average Award and Harry Smith Point Leader Award. Rash also received the Best Bowler ESPY in 2012. Since that season, Rash has won 12 more titles in three different countries and became the first player ever to bowl two televised 300 games in title events.

Clark delivered the news to Rash in front of Rash's family during the PBA Owen's Illinois Classic pro-am.

Bill O'Neill

Superior Performance

Twenty years after winning the 2005-06 Harry Golden PBA Rookie of the Year Award, O'Neill likewise enters the PBA Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility. O'Neill continues to put forth a consistently

successful career netting him 14 PBA Tour titles, three of which are majors (2009-10 U.S. Open, 2020 PBA Players Championship and 2024 PBA Players Championship).

At the time of voting, O'Neill had cashed in nearly 83% of the events in which he competed (312 out of 376). He's one of just three players to have won three different animal-pattern events at the World Series of Bowling, including his first ever title in the 2009 Chameleon Championship.

O'Neill was surprised with the news from Clark during the U.S. Open play-in stepladder live on FS1.

George Branham III

Pioneer

The first inductee into the Pioneer category of the PBA Hall of Fame, Branham was the first African American to win a PBA Tour title and, later, a major title. Branham won his first title in the 1986 Brunswick Memorial World Open, then won four more times, including the 1993 Firestone Tournament of Champions, to give him five titles in his career before retiring in 2003.

Branham's former Tour roommate, Randy Pedersen, and Clark surprised Branham prior to the 2025 U.S. Open broadcast.

Dave Schroeder

Meritorious Service

For 27 years, Schroeder was instrumental in the PBA's television productions, live streaming and media operations. Beginning as the PBA Tour media manager in 1993, Schroeder eventually held the positions of vice president of media and head of production as he defined the PBA's television broadcasts.

During his tenure, Schroeder spearheaded the transition of television production from an outsourced entity to an internal production that became one of the PBA's strongest assets. Schroeder also oversaw the PBA's live-streaming service, Xtra Frame, which grew to become another of the PBA's strongest assets, attracting the sale of the digital rights in 2018.

Surrounded by the PBA production crew, Clark interrupted Schroeder's lunch with the pleasant surprise.

Keplinger Leads Opening Rounds of PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic presented by Pilgrim's

February 27, 2025 Nolan Hughes

After advancing out of the pre-tournament qualifier (PTQ) on Tuesday, Alec Keplinger led the opening two rounds of qualifying in the PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic presented by Pilgrim's on Wednesday.

Keplinger shot 2,877 (+477) to fend off Tom Smallwood (+475) for the early pole position at Coconut Bowl at Wild Island in Sparks, Nev.

"I need to stay patient and keep making good shots," Keplinger said. "I've got to keep my foot on the gas pedal, but not force something that's not there. I tried for four frames tonight. Luckily the ball reps and I were able to think through it better than I probably would have on my own."

EJ Tackett (+450), Ethan Fiore (+406) and Andrew Anderson (+396) round out the top five.

Fiore, who led the PTQ, also led the opening six-game round of qualifying. The 20-year-old Florida native said his physical game didn't feel right at the start of the season, but went back to the basics to get back on track.

"I kept putting myself in the wrong spot of the lane because I was trying to make the ball shape too much," Fiore said. "I went back to just trying to make it simple, rolling it a little bit more, throwing it slower — what I like to do."

Though Fiore missed the first three PTQ cuts, he stayed to watch the tournament and learn.

"I do all that because it fills my mind. I have to have my brain running. Otherwise I just get bored or the next time I bowl, I get lazy. I have to watch bowling. It makes me think."

AJ Chapman sits in 32nd place, which will be the cut position after Thursday's final six-game qualifying round.

The top 32 players will advance to the first elimination round, in which pins carry over to another six-game round.

The top 16 players will advance to Friday's second and final elimination round, in which the top five players will qualify for the stepladder finals.

All rounds of qualifying and match play will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

Round 2 Leaders

1. Alec Keplinger, 2,877 (+477)
2. Tom Smallwood, 2,875 (+475)
3. EJ Tackett, 2,850 (+450)
4. Ethan Fiore, 2,806 (+406)
5. Andrew Anderson, 2,796 (+396)
6. Darren Tang, 2,790 (+390)
7. Jason Belmonte, 2,782 (+382)
8. Hayden Stippich, 2,771 (+371)
9. Jakob Butturff, 2,764 (+364)
10. Graham Fach, 2,758 (+358)

Tackett Leads Entering Final Round of PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic presented by Pilgrim's

February 28, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The name atop the PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic presented by Pilgrim's is the same name of the player who has claimed two of the season's four titles and has been the PBA Player of the Year each of the past two seasons.

EJ Tackett has averaged 238 to tally a 5,712 (+912) total pinfall through 24 games at Coconut Bowl at Wild Island in Sparks, Nev. He holds a 68-pin lead entering the final round before the cut to the finals.

Andrew Anderson (+912), Jesper Svensson (+836), Jason Belmonte (+816) and Alec Keplinger (+799) round out the top five.

Tackett led the 18-game qualifying round on the 39-foot Mike Aulby oil pattern, then added to his lead after Thursday night's first elimination round. With the top 16 players advancing to Friday's final elimination round, Tackett will look to maintain pole position and earn the top seed for the stepladder finals.

"I feel like this is the truest form of bowling," Tackett said of the elimination round format. "There's no luck of the draw. The best player is going to prevail, at least to the TV show. I prefer it this way, because I think there's less bad luck that happens. You bowl your score and you see where you fall at the end of the week.

"I had a 100-pin lead going into Game 3 tonight and I bowled 167, so anything can happen very quickly," Tackett continued. "I've got to come in and put some good games down and try to extend my lead, so once we get down to the fifth and sixth games, I don't have to press so much to try to stay in the lead. The ultimate goal is just to get on the show — if you get on the show, you have a chance to win — but the No. 1 seed is always nice."

Kris Prather, Tom Smallwood, Ethan Fiore, Sean Lavery-Spahr, Thomas Larsen, Graham Fach, Matt Ogle, Jakob Butturff, AJ Chapman, Darren Tang and Kyle Troup also advanced to Friday's final elimination round.

Tang switched to bowling two-handed after the U.S. Open earlier this year. Tang has an exemplary résumé as a one-hander, including the 2021 PBA FloBowling Bowlerstore.com Classic title and two Team USA Trials victories, but felt he needed a change in order to compete to win again.

Troup (+613) seized the last berth in the final elimination round, eclipsing Sean Rash by eight pins to advance. Troup missed the finals of the PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic after leaving a pocket 5-10 to lose to Timmy Tan in the Round of 8.

"It was probably one of the worst breaks of my career," Troup said. "I fought hard and bowled a good match. I just had to take the positives from it and apply it to this week. I remember what (my dad) Guppy said 'If it's meant to be, it's meant to be.'"

All advancing players will bowl six more games in Friday's second and final elimination round. The top five players following that round will qualify for the stepladder finals.

The PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic presented by Pilgrim's finals will air Saturday, March 15 at 3 p.m. Pacific/local (6 p.m. Eastern) on FS1. Tickets for the championship round, which includes the PBA Jr. National Championship Finals taping, are free.

All rounds of qualifying and match play will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

Elimination Round 2 Advancers | 24 Games

1. EJ Tackett, 5,712 (+912)
2. Andrew Anderson, 5,644 (+844)
3. Jesper Svensson, 5,636 (+836)
4. Jason Belmonte, 5,616 (+816)
5. Alec Keplinger, 5,599 (+799)
6. Kris Prather, 5,579 (+779)
7. Tom Smallwood, 5,569 (+769)
8. Ethan Fiore, 5,561 (+761)
9. Sean Lavery-Spahr, 5,556 (+756)
10. Thomas Larsen, 5,542 (+742)
11. Graham Fach, 5,539 (+739)
12. Matt Ogle, 5,477 (+677)
13. Jakob Butturff, 5,461 (+661)
14. AJ Chapman, 5,457 (+657)
15. Darren Tang, 5,418 (+618)
16. Kyle Troup, 5,413 (+613)

Anderson, Tackett Headline Finals Field in PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic presented by Pilgrim's

February 28, 2025 Nolan Hughes

For the second time this season, the road to a PBA Tour title goes through Andrew Anderson, who earned the top seed for the PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic presented by Pilgrim's.

EJ Tackett, Ethan Fiore, Alec Keplinger and Jesper Svensson round out the stepladder finals field.

The championship round will be held Saturday, March 15 at 3 p.m. Pacific/local (6 p.m. Eastern) on FS1. Tickets for the championship round, which includes the PBA Jr. National Championship Finals taping, are free.

Anderson led the field through 30 games of competition and two elimination rounds at Coconut Bowl at Wild Island in Sparks, Nev. He averaged more than 237 to tally a 7,117 (+1,117) total pinfall on the 39-foot Mike Aulby oil pattern.

“I think people tend to forget what I'm capable of when I'm healthy, in the right state of mind and bowling well,” Anderson said. “I've led tournaments before. I’ve led majors before. It's no surprise to me. It just kind of feels like a surprise to everybody else, so I'm trying to send a reminder that I'm capable of some really cool things.”

In an event named after an Indiana legend, another Indiana legend secured the No. 2 seed for the stepladder finals.

Tackett entered the day with the lead, but as he said himself, things can (and did) change very quickly. Anderson shot 300 to begin the second six-game elimination round, while Tackett mustered just 161.

“I bowled a little bit better the last few games, but the whole day I didn't bowl that well,” Tackett said. “Andrew did the exact opposite of that. He bowled unbelievable today. He matched up really well, but also through a ton of really good shots on top of that.”

Tackett, who won his 25th career title earlier this month in Missouri, will look to capture his second straight and third title of the season.

Tackett would tie Don Johnson for 10th all-time with a win.

“It's one of those things where it just doesn't feel real,” Tackett said. “I've talked about it before, when I came on tour I always believed in myself and I knew I was going to win at some point. But I never, never thought in a million years that I'd be where I am today. It’s a fun wave that I'm on right now, and I'm going to try to continue to ride it as long as possible.”

Fiore and Keplinger each advanced out of the event’s pre-tournament qualifier. Fiore then led the event after the first round of qualifying, and Keplinger did the same after two rounds.

The two players tied after the second elimination round, and Fiore defeated Keplinger 224-159 in a one-game roll-off to secure the No. 3 seed.

Fiore, 20, said he turned professional at 17, but largely stuck to the regional tour to improve his game. Last year, he earned a pair of top-12 finishes in last year’s World Series of Bowling and won his first regional title, which gave him the confidence to make the leap to the national tour full-time.

His self-belief paid off, securing his first berth under the bright lights in a championship round.

“It’s a lot of games all back to back at such a high level,” Fiore said of the week. “You don't see this back home or when you bowl regionals. This is something else, but it's such a good moment to have. I'm happy to be here.”

Keplinger, last year’s runner-up in PBA Rookie of the Year voting, will make his second career championship round appearance. He finished fourth in the 2024 PBA Cheetah Championship.

Keplinger has also been bowling the tour full-time. He advanced out of the PTQ in Delaware, Missouri and Nevada, earning a 20th place finish in the latter event.

“Going into Missouri, I told myself that I need to start pushing,” Keplinger said. “We're getting towards the back end of the season, and I need to do better in these qualifying rounds. You can look at getting through PTQs as a win in itself, but that's really not where it starts or ends. This is another chance to win a title and try to get as many points to stay exempt for next year. Besides winning a title, that's the big goal out here.”

After a demoralizing start to the season, which included one singles cut in four events, Svensson broke through with his best finish of 2025 this week.

“I feel like I needed this to show to myself that I'm still a competitor and I can still be a factor,” Svensson said. “The beginning of the season has been tough mentally. I had some minor injuries that were bugging me a little bit, but I've been trying my very best. I just haven’t really seen the picture correctly. It’s a big, big dub to be on the show and as the No. 5 seed, it’s a little bit of a free roll from here. With the finals at the stadium, anything can happen and I’m looking forward to it.”

The Swede staved off Tom Smallwood by seven pins and fellow southpaw Graham Fach by 10 pins for the final berth on the show.

The PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic presented by Pilgrim’s finals will be held Saturday, March 15 at 3 p.m. Pacific/local (6 p.m. Eastern) on FS1.

Tickets for the championship round, which includes the PBA Jr. National Championship Finals taping, are free.

Elimination Round 2 Standings | 30 Games

1. Andrew Anderson, 7,117 (+1,117)
2. EJ Tackett, 7,020 (+1,020)
3. Ethan Fiore, 6,983 (+983)
4. Alec Keplinger, 6,983 (+983)
5. Jesper Svensson, 6,961 (+961)
6. Tom Smallwood, 6,954 (+954)
7. Graham Fach, 6,951 (+951)
8. Matt Ogle, 6,950 (+950)
9. Kris Prather, 6,926 (+926)
10. Sean Lavery-Spahr, 6,892 (+892)
11. Jason Belmonte, 6,886 (+886)
12. Jakob Butturff, 6,868 (+868)

13. Thomas Larsen, 6,828 (+828)
14. AJ Chapman, 6,806 (+806)
15. Kyle Troup, 6,731 (+731)
16. Darren Tang, 6,668 (+668)

Belmonte, O'Neill Win PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship

March 2, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The accredited duo of Jason Belmonte and Bill O'Neill has returned to the top of the PBA Tour. The doubles tandem notched their second career PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship title, defeating DJ Archer and Shawn Maldonado in the title match, 210-169.

Belmonte and O'Neill earned the top seed, leading the field through 36 games of qualifying — the combined total of their 18 individual PBA Owen's Illinois Classic qualifying games — and 16 games of round-robin match play on dual oil patterns.

"We've been in this position so many times that this is the expectation to get to this point," O'Neill said. "Leading the tournament, I think, was the biggest key for us. Getting to where, for me, the right lane could transition to a point where I felt really comfortable. If we don't lead the tournament, and we end up third or fourth, it probably doesn't end the same."

Belmonte said the difficulty of winning the doubles event lies in the team component, needing both players to be at their best for the entire tournament.

"Throughout our career, we've had our ups and downs," Belmonte said. "There were weeks where I've had it and Bill hasn't, and then there were weeks where Bill's had it and I hadn't. To win it, you have to have two guys that are rolling it great at the same time for the whole week. Then to finish it off, you both have to execute really well on TV. It's not easy to find that combo all week."

Belmonte claimed his 32nd career PBA Tour title, while O'Neill secured his 15th career title.

The finals were taped Feb. 8 at Bowlero Vernon Hills in Vernon Hills, Ill. — one week after O'Neill learned he was elected to the PBA Hall of Fame as a member of the 2025 class.

"Getting inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame is pretty surreal," O'Neill said. "I thought about it at the beginning of my career, but I never thought I'd be in this position. I never thought I'd be able to bowl doubles with like the greatest bowler of all time and do it for a decade. So to be able to win a tournament in the same week I was [elected] to the Hall of Fame, it's pretty special. I'll never forget it. It's been an awesome bowl with (Jason) all these years and I wouldn't trade it for anything."

"One of our other really, really good friends, Tommy Jones, had the same kind of week when he was inducted into the Hall of Fame," Belmonte said. "He had a fantastic win that same week. It really meant something to me that I wanted him to also feel that. (Bill) bowled incredible all week, and I was able to just chime in here and there to just boost our scores up. I'm really thrilled to be able to do it this week.

The fifth-seeded Matt Ogle and Sean Rash won the first matches of the stepladder finals. The former doubles champions took down Tim Foy Jr. and Kevin McCune in the opening match, then bested Patrick Dombrowski and Bailey Mavrick in the second match.

Rash also learned of his election to the PBA Hall of Fame earlier in February in Illinois, where he said he has lived for the past 14 years. His bid for a perfect capstone to the week came up short as he and Ogle fell in the semifinal match to DJ Archer and Shawn Maldonado.

Archer and Maldonado, making their fifth career televised doubles championship round, notched their first career match victory in their 221-215 win.

The Texas natives ran out of steam in the title match as Belmonte and O'Neill, who finished runners-up in the event last year, were on a mission for vengeance.

Belmonte and O'Neill cruised to a 210-169 victory.

The PBA Tour continues with the PBA World Series of Bowling XVI at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev.

Competition gets underway on Tuesday, March 4. All qualifying and match play rounds will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

More information on the PBA WSOB is available here.

Championship Round Scores

Match One: No. 5 Matt Ogle and Sean Rash def. No. 4 Tim Foy Jr. and Kevin McCune, 238-172
Match Two: No. 5 Matt Ogle and Sean Rash def. No. 3 Patrick Dombrowski and Bailey Mavrick, 258-174
Match Three: No. 2 DJ Archer and Shawn Maldonado def. No. 5 Matt Ogle and Sean Rash, 221-215
Championship: No. 1 Jason Belmonte and Bill O'Neill def No. 2 DJ Archer and Shawn Maldonado, 210-169

Final Standings

1. Jason Belmonte and Bill O'Neill, $50,000
2. DJ Archer and Shawn Maldonado, $30,000
3. Matt Ogle and Sean Rash, $20,000
4. Patrick Dombrowski and Bailey Mavrick, $15,000
5. Tim Foy Jr. and Kevin McCune, $12,000

PBA World Series of Bowling XVI Preview

March 3, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The world's premier bowling event is set to begin its 16th edition with the PBA World Series of Bowling XVI.

The festivities will take place inside the iconic National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev. over the next three weeks.

More than 200 players from 19 countries around the globe will be competing for four standard titles and one major championship.

Storylines

The first time the WSOB was held at Reno's National Bowling Stadium was in 2015. Then, EJ Tackett was a one-time PBA Tour champion and former Rookie of the Year.

He will enter this year's WSOB XVI as a 25-time PBA Tour champion, six-time major champion and three-time Player of the Year.

Tackett has won multiple titles in each of the past two WSOBs, including the past two PBA World Championships. The only WSOB animal pattern championships Tackett has yet to conquer are the Viper and Chameleon Championships.

Tackett, who owns six WSOB titles, is closing in on Australian star Jason Belmonte's WSOB-record of eight titles.

Belmonte and Tackett each have won three PBA World Championship titles. They won the last two WSOB major titles held at the National Bowling Stadium as well. Other than those two superstars, only Tom Daugherty and Kris Prather have won the WSOB's major title since 2016.

Matt Russo won last year's PBA Scorpion Championship, made the PBA Shark Championship finals and led the PBA World Championship. The southpaw has struggled this season, ranking 69th in points through five events, but will look to right the ship in Reno.

Shawn Maldonado won the 2021 PBA Chameleon Championship, marking his first career PBA Tour title. Ryan Ciminelli won the 2015 PBA Viper Championship, which was the last time those oil patterns were used during the WSOB.

Players to Watch

The beauty of the WSOB is the platform it provides for new players from around the globe to prove their bowling prowess. International players have won a combined 21 WSOB titles, including five PBA World Championships.

This year, six countries will have five or more players competing: Canada (8), England (5), Finland (5), Japan (8), Malaysia (6) and Sweden (14).

Finland's Santtu Tahvanainen won 2022 PBA Rookie of the Year honors and his breakout came in the following year's WSOB XIV. He made three of four championship rounds and finished top 10 in all four events that year.

Tahvanainen missed last year's WSOB due to injury, but is back to near-top form after winning the PBA Owen's Illinois Classic earlier this season.

Japan's Shota Kawazoe finished runner-up to Tackett in last year's PBA Shark Championship. He will be one of eight Japanese players in this year's field.

Jesper Svensson, who won his first title on national television and American soil in the 2015 WSOB, headlines Sweden's 14-player WSOB XVI roster.

Format

This one's a doozy.

All players will bowl 12 games of qualifying on the 44-foot Scorpion, 38-Viper, 41-foot Chameleon and 47-foot Shark oil patterns.

The top 24 players on each pattern will advance to elimination match play in that respective standard title event. The Round of 24 will be contested on the night of each event's second round of qualifying, while the Rounds of 16 and 8 will be held on the morning of the event's championship round.

The PBA World Championship incorporates all 48 games of qualifying across all four patterns, cutting to the top fourth of the WSOB field.

Advancing players will bowl two eight-game advancer rounds on the 43-foot Earl Anthony oil pattern. The top 16 players after those rounds will advance to round-robin match play, which will be held March 20.

The top five players after a whopping 80 total games will advance to the PBA World Championship stepladder finals, airing live Saturday, March 22 at noon Pacific/local time (3 p.m. Eastern) on FOX.

Tickets for all WSOB TV shows are free.

All qualifying and match play rounds will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

Jason Belmonte Leads Opening Round of PBA Scorpion Championship

March 4, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The winningest player in PBA World Series of Bowling history is off to yet another strong start in the PBA Scorpion Championship, the first title event of the PBA World Series of Bowling XVI.

Jason Belmonte led the 201-player field with a 1,511 (+311) total pinfall for his six games on the 44-foot Scorpion oil pattern.

Tim Foy Jr., two-time defending PBA World Championship winner EJ Tackett, BJ Moore and Chris Via round out the top five at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev.

Belmonte averaged more than 251 to pace the WSOB field, which includes players from 19 countries.

The Australian star first blossomed on the PBA stage in the WSOB III, winning three titles during the event. Belmonte said he loves to see the incredible talent from across the globe come together in the WSOB.

“Being able to see those bowlers from Asia and Europe take the step and come here, that's the part that's cool,” Belmonte said. “They started there, and now they're making their way here (to the PBA). That's what I did. We aren't asking them to come over for one event or one PTQ. This tournament really does give bowlers an opportunity to get a crack at four tournaments and the World Championship.”

The PBA World Championship includes qualifying games from the PBA Scorpion Championship and upcoming PBA Viper, Chameleon and Shark Championships.

The top 50 players after those 48 combined games will move on to 16 games of advancer rounds. Then the top 16 players will bowl an additional 16 games of round-robin match play.

“I almost have tunnel vision,” Tim Foy Jr., who celebrated his 38th birthday on the opening day of qualifying, said. “If you bowl well for the big number, those sprints are going to take care of themselves. I felt confident on all four patterns. I’ve been bowling well all year, so my confidence is already high.”

Add it all up: 80 games of excellence are required to make the stepladder finals for the major championship.

“This is when I’m at my best,” Belmonte said. “When I've got (80) games to get there, I'm going to back myself against anyone in history. Since the very first World Series, I've loved the format, I've loved the grind, I've loved the challenge of the multiple patterns."

“The only thing that was going through my head today was ‘you have to make the shot,'" Belmonte continued. "Whether it's a sprint or a long fight, you have to take advantage of those moments when the pairs are nice for you. When you’re feeling good and the ball is doing the right thing, you cannot give away those shots. Doing that today, making really great shots for the whole day, that’s what I expect out of myself.”

After the second round of qualifying on Wednesday, the top 24 players in the PBA Scorpion Championship will advance to elimination match play. The Round of 24 will begin at 7 p.m. Pacific/local time (10 p.m. Eastern) Wednesday.

Ethan Fiore (+137) ranks 24th after six games.

The Rounds of 16 and 8 will take place on Sunday, March 16, leading to the championship round that day at 4 p.m. PT (7 p.m. ET) on FS1.

All rounds of PBA WSOB XVI qualifying and match play will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

Round 1 Leaders | PBA Scorpion Championship

1. Jason Belmonte, 1,511 (+311)
2. Tim Foy Jr., 1,474 (+274)
3. EJ Tackett, 1,436 (+236)
4. BJ Moore, 1,407 (+207)
5. Chris Via, 1,388 (+188)
6. Kyle Troup, 1,385 (+185)
7. Teodor Samuelsson, 1,382 (+182)
8. Jordan Jung, 1,377 (+177)
9. Michael Loera, 1,371 (+171)
10. Trevor Roberts, 1,368 (+168)

Tim Foy Jr. Leads PBA Scorpion Championship into Round of 16

March 6, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The breakthrough season of Tim Foy Jr. continued on Wednesday at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev.

Foy led the PBA Scorpion Championship field through 12 games of qualifying on the 44-foot Scorpion oil pattern. He averaged more than 240 to tally a total pinfall of 2,891 (+491), pacing the 201-player field in the first title event of the World Series of Bowling (WSOB) XVI.

The Delaware native said this is the first cut he's ever made at the WSOB, adding that his success is all part of the learning process that has led him to this breakout season.

Foy had made only one televised championship round before this season. He has already made three in 2025 and is one match victory away from a fourth.

“Years ago, if I had a good game I would be feeling good, but then the minute my look starts to go away, or I have one or two bad shots, or a pair that just doesn't look right, I always hit the panic button,” Foy said. “Now I’ve got the confidence to be like, ‘All right, it's a bad pair. I have been here. I know what to do. I can find my way through. I can navigate my way.”

Foy along with BJ Moore, Jason Belmonte, Rafiq Ismail, Cam Crowe, Trevor Roberts, Matt Ogle and EJ Tackett earned a bye to the Round of 16.

The ninth through 24th qualifiers competed in the Round of 24 on Wednesday night. All elimination bracket matches the best-of-five games.

The Rounds of 16 and 8 will take place on Sunday, March 16. The winners of each bracket and the highest-seeded loser in the Round of 8 will advance to the championship round that day at 4 p.m. PT (7 p.m. ET) on FS1.

Qualifying begins for the PBA Viper Championship on Thursday. B-squad takes the lanes at 9 a.m. PT (12 p.m. ET) followed by A-squad at 2:30 p.m. PT (5:30 p.m. ET).

Qualifying scores from the PBA Scorpion, Viper, Chameleon and Shark Championships combine for the PBA World Championship.

All rounds of PBA WSOB XVI qualifying and match play will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

Round 2 Leaders | PBA Scorpion Championship

1. Tim Foy Jr., 2,891 (+491)
2. BJ Moore, 2,864 (+464)
3. Jason Belmonte, 2,835 (+435)
4. Rafiq Ismail, 2,819 (+419)
5. Cam Crowe, 2,766 (+366)
6. Trevor Roberts, 2,727 (+327)
7. Matt Ogle, 2,723 (+323)
8. EJ Tackett, 2,720 (+320)

Round of 24 Results

No. 16 Boog Krol def. No. 17 Ahmad Muaz, 3-0
No. 24 Arnar Jonsson def. No. 9 Robin Noberg, 3-2

No. 12 Rasmus Edvall def. No. 21 Michael Loera, 3-0
No. 13 Shawn Maldonado def. No. 20 Jesper Svensson, 3-1

No. 19 Patrick Dombrowski def. No. 14 Kyle Troup, 3-1
No. 22 Ryan Barnes def. No. 11 Sean Lavery-Spahr, 3-1

No. 23 Marshall Kent def. No. 10 DJ Archer, 3-2
No. 18 Tobias Börding def. No. 15 Tomas Käyhkö, 3-0

Round of 16 Matches

No. 1 Tim Foy Jr. vs. No. 16 Boog Krol
No. 8 EJ Tackett vs. No. 24 Arnar Jonsson

No. 2 BJ Moore vs. No. 18 Tobias Börding
No. 7 Matt Ogle vs. No. 23 Marshall Kent

No. 3 Jason Belmonte vs. No. 19 Patrick Dombrowski
No. 6 Trevor Roberts vs. No. 22 Ryan Barnes

No. 4 Rafiq Ismail vs. No. 13 Shawn Maldonado
No. 5 Cam Crowe vs. No. 12 Rasmus Edvall

Singapore's Darren Ong Shoots Two 300 Games to Lead PBA Viper Championship

March 6, 2025 Nolan Hughes

In the first PBA Viper Championship in a decade, Singapore's Darren Ong tallied a pair of 300 games to celebrate the occasion.

Ong leads the PBA Viper Championship, the second title event of the PBA World Series of Bowling (WSOB) XVI, through the first six-game qualifying round. He averaged more than 248 to tally a total pinfall of 1,489 (+289) on the 38-foot Viper oil pattern.

The 29-year-old said this year is his second WSOB and he wants to enjoy the experience more this year.

"I'm soaking (the experience) in and learning each day," Ong said. "It's a privilege and honor to bowl against the best bowlers in the world, right? For us to come all the way across the world, to come and bowl here I'm just enjoying the experience and making the most of every opportunity I have. I know that it's not an opportunity that everyone gets, so I'm going to cherish it and make the most out of it."

Boog Krol, EJ Tackett, Tom Daugherty and Alec Keplinger round out the top five.

Krol won his first two career titles last season. He has not replicated that success yet this season, but said he is finding ways to enjoy himself more.

"Last year I didn't really enjoy the moment, and I kind of regret that," Krol said. "I was living too much in the past, thinking I only won in Delaware because I went Brooklyn seven times. I doubted myself a lot. This year, I'm going to enjoy everything and do whatever I can to really make it worthwhile. This is my job now, so time to enjoy it."

PWBA Tour star Verity Crawley (+182) ranks 12th after the first round, while Nick Borgaro (+163) occupies 24th place.

After the second round of qualifying on Friday, the top 24 players in the PBA Viper Championship will advance to elimination match play.

A-squad begins the day at 9 a.m. Pacific/local time, followed by B-squad at 2:30 p.m. PT (5:30 p.m. ET). The Round of 24 will begin at 7 p.m. PT (10 p.m. ET) Friday.

The Rounds of 16 and 8 will take place on Monday, March 17, leading to the championship round that day at 4 p.m. PT (7 p.m. ET) on FS1.

All rounds of PBA WSOB XVI qualifying and match play will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

Tim Foy Jr., who led PBA Scorpion Championship qualifying, leads PBA World Championship through 18 games. Jason Belmonte, BJ Moore, Tackett and Krol round out the top five of the major championship.

The PBA World Championship includes qualifying games from the PBA Scorpion Championship and upcoming PBA Viper, Chameleon and Shark Championships.

The top 50 players after those 48 combined games will advance for 16 games of advancer rounds. Then the top 16 players will bowl an additional 16 games of round-robin match play.

Round 1 Leaders | PBA Viper Championship

1. Darren Ong, 1,489 (+289)
2. Boog Krol, 1,484 (+284)
3. EJ Tackett, 1,436 (+236)
4. Tom Daugherty, 1,435 (+236)
5. Alec Keplinger, 1,427 (+227)
6. Chris Barnes, 1,418 (+218)
7. Frank Snodgrass, 1,410 (+210)
8. William Berggren, 1,400 (+200)
9. Andrew Anderson, 1,399 (+199)
10. Kevin McCune, 1,391 (+191)

Full standings are available here.

Round 3 Leaders | PBA World Championship

1. Tim Foy Jr., 4,221 (+621)
2. Jason Belmonte, 4,206 (+606)

3. BJ Moore, 4,190 (+590)
4. EJ Tackett, 4,156 (+556)
5. Boog Krol, 4,156 (+556)
6. Rafiq Ismail, 4,141 (+541)
7. Darren Ong, 4,087 (+487)
8. Kyle Troup, 4,069 (+469)
9. Shawn Maldonado, 4,064 (+464)
10. DJ Archer, 4,056 (+456)

Darren Ong, Jason Belmonte Continue Excellent Starts to PBA WSOB XVI

March 8, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Singapore's Darren Ong shot another perfect game — his third of the PBA World Series of Bowling XVI — en route to leading PBA Viper Championship qualifying on Friday at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev.

Ong led the 201-player field through 12 games of qualifying on the 38-foot Viper oil pattern with a total pinfall of 2,897 (+497). The 29-year-old averaged more than 241 to earn a bye to the Round of 16 in the second title event of the WSOB.

EJ Tackett, Boog Krol, Tom Daugherty, Kris Prather, Matt Ogle, Thomas Larsen and Jean Perez (who won a one-game roll-off over William Berggren) also earned a bye to the Round of 16, which will take place March 17.

The ninth through 24th qualifiers competed in the Round of 24, featuring best-of-five-games matches, on Friday night.

Jason Belmonte, who finished one pin shy of earning a bye, secured his second Round of 16 berth of the WSOB with a three-game sweep over Nick Borgaro.

"Since going home in the break and coming back, I definitely feel rejuvenated," Belmonte said. "Honestly, for me, it's just about feeling good. When I feel good, the ball feels good off my hand and the pins do what they're supposed to do. This week, I'm very happy to be here and I'm really enjoying the way the ball is coming off my hand."

Belmonte returned to the winner's circle earlier this season, winning the PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship with Bill O'Neill. The win ended a near-two-year title drought, though Belmonte felt he came close to winning on several occasions.

“I think there's a big difference between not winning while not having a chance, and not winning while having been one shot away from winning,” Belmonte said. “I felt like (the latter) was the case last season. I've looked at it from the perspective of ‘You're so close, the universe is just playing a few tricks on you at the moment and you’ve just got to fight through that.’ The doubles win with Bill has definitely helped because it allows me to forget about it.”

Belmonte also leads the PBA World Championship through 24 qualifying games, racking up a total pinfall of 5,614 (+814) through four rounds on Scorpion and Viper. Qualifying scores from the PBA Scorpion, Viper, Chameleon and Shark Championships combine for the PBA World Championship.

“For the first time in a long time, I’ve given myself an opportunity to just enjoy being at the top,” Belmonte said. “My job this week is to finish what I've started, and I've given myself every opportunity now to do really well, not only in the other two animal events, but also in the World Championship.”

The Rounds of 16 and 8 in the PBA Viper Championship will take place on Monday, March 17. The winners of each bracket and the highest-seeded loser in the Round of 8 will advance to the championship round that day at 4 p.m. PT (7 p.m. ET) on FS1.

Qualifying begins for the PBA Chameleon Championship on Thursday.

A-squad takes the lanes at 9 a.m. PT (12 p.m. ET) followed by B-squad at 2:30 p.m. PT (5:30 p.m. ET). The squad order will reverse for Sunday’s second round of qualifying.

Belmonte, who is on A-squad, said he is not a big fan of the multiple-squad format.

“Forget about score discrepancies, we haven’t bowled on the Chameleon for five days, so (B-squad) is going to have a really good look at how we play the lanes, what's working and what's not working,” Belmonte said. “As the week goes on, whoever bowls second probably has a little bit more of an advantage because you're going to see that first score. I’m up first tomorrow and I suppose if I’ve got three spares to start, I’m going to quickly see who's got a triple and see if I can't copy them.”

All rounds of PBA WSOB XVI qualifying and match play will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

Round 2 Leaders | PBA Viper Championship

1. Darren Ong, 2,897 (+497)
2. EJ Tackett, 2,883 (+483)
3. Boog Krol, 2,864 (+464)
4. Tom Daugherty, 2,852 (+452)
5. Kris Prather, 2,821 (+421)
6. Matt Ogle, 2,800 (+400)
7. Thomas Larsen, 2,790 (+390)
8. Jean Perez, 2,780 (+380)

Full standings are available here.

Round of 24 Results | PBA Viper Championship

No. 16 Stu Williams def. No. 17 Bailey Mavrick, 3-1
No. 24 Trevor Roberts def. No. 9 William Berggren, 3-1

No. 10 Zach Wilkins def. No. 23 Verity Crawley, 3-2
No. 15 Patrick Dombrowski def. No. 18 Andrew Anderson, 3-2

No. 14 Jesper Svensson def. No. 19 BJ Moore, 3-2
No. 11 Jason Belmonte def. No. 22 Nick Borgaro, 3-0

No. 12 Chris Barnes def. No. 21 Frank Snodgrass, 3-1
No. 20 Trevor Ashby def. No. 13 Bill O'Neill, 3-1

Round of 16 Matches | PBA Viper Championship

No. 1 Darren Ong vs. No. 16 Stu Williams
No. 8 Jean Perez vs. No. 24 Trevor Roberts

No. 2 EJ Tackett vs. No. 15 Patrick Dombrowski
No. 7 Thomas Larsen vs. No. 10 Zach Wilkins

No. 3 Boog Krol vs. No. 14 Jesper Svensson
No. 6 Matt Ogle vs. No. 11 Jason Belmonte

No. 4 Tom Daugherty vs. No. 20 Trevor Ashby
No. 5 Kris Prather vs. No. 12 Chris Barnes

Round 4 Leaders | PBA World Championship

1. Jason Belmonte, 5,614 (+814)
2. EJ Tackett, 5,603 (+803)
3. Tim Foy Jr., 5,602 (+802)
4. BJ Moore, 5,595 (+795)
5. Boog Krol, 5,536 (+736)
6. Matt Ogle, 5,523 (+723)
7. Darren Ong, 5,495 (+695)
8. Trevor Roberts, 5,439 (+639)
9. Patrick Dombrowski, 5,409 (+609)
10. Jesper Svensson, 5,408 (+608)

High Scoring Pace Defines Opening Round of PBA Chameleon Championship

March 8, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The third title event PBA World Series of Bowling (WSOB) XVI produced the highest scoring pace thus far at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev. Sixteen players averaged north of 250, and another 18 players averaged more than 240 in the first round of PBA Chameleon Championship qualifying.

Kevin McCune led the 200-player field with a total pinfall of 1,545 (+345) for his six games, eclipsing Zach Wilkins by one pin.

McCune competed on B-squad and said the torrid scoring pace produced by A-squad affected his gameplan for the 41-foot Chameleon oil pattern.

“(The high scoring pace) might make you force something a little bit sooner than what you normally would, because you know you have to strike a little bit,” McCune said. “Luckily for me, I barely moved tonight and was able to stay in one ball all six games. Hopefully I can do the same thing tomorrow because obviously the scores are going to be high and I’m only 76 pins ahead of the cut.”

EJ Tackett (+269), the two-time defending PBA World Championship winner, sits in 24th place after the first six games on Chameleon. After the second round of qualifying on Sunday, the top 24 players in the PBA Chameleon Championship will advance to elimination match play.

Wilkins, Zach Weidman, Yuma Haraguchi and Jesper Svensson round out the top five in the PBA Chameleon Championship.

Svensson, one of 14 Swedish players in the field, said it’s awesome to see so many of his fellow countrymen compete in the WSOB each year.

“It’s cool to see everybody out here and a lot of them are doing good, too,” Svensson said. “I think they can make a name for themselves and start their journey. I believe a lot of them have the abilities to be competitive out here as well, they just need to fully commit to it. And with the PBA-Sweden (Region) helping to make Swedish bowling more involved with the PBA, it’s great.”

B-squad begins the day at 9 a.m. Pacific/local time, followed by A-squad at 2:30 p.m. PT (5:30 p.m. ET). The Round of 24 will begin at 7 p.m. PT (10 p.m. ET) Sunday night.

The Rounds of 16 and 8 will take place on Tuesday, March 18, leading to the championship round that day at 4 p.m. PT (7 p.m. ET) on FS1.

All rounds of PBA WSOB XVI qualifying and match play will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

The PBA World Championship includes qualifying games from the PBA Scorpion, Viper, Chameleon and Shark Championships.

The top 50 players after those 48 combined games will advance for 16 games of advancer rounds. Then the top 16 players will bowl an additional 16 games of round-robin match play.

Jason Belmonte, who ranks 15th in the PBA Chameleon Championship, maintained his lead in the PBA World Championship. He owns a total pinfall of 7,115 (+1,115) through 30 of 48 games, an average of just over 237.

Belmonte and EJ Tackett, who ranks second in the major, have won a combined six of the last eight PBA World Championship titles.

Tim Foy Jr., who led PBA Scorpion Championship qualifying, leads PBA World Championship through 18 games. Jason Belmonte, BJ Moore, Tackett and Krol round out the top five of the major championship.

Round 1 Leaders | PBA Chameleon Championship

1. Kevin McCune, 1,545 (+345)
2. Zach Wilkins, 1,544 (+344)
3. Zach Weidman, 1,536 (+336)
4. Yuma Haraguchi, 1,534 (+334)
5. Jesper Svensson, 1,532 (+332)
6. Dallas Leong, 1,529 (+329)
7. Tun Hakim, 1,528 (+328)
8. Nathan Ruest-Lajoie, 1,528 (+328)
9. Mitch Hupé, 1,514 (+314)
10. Pontus Andersson, 1,510 (+310)
11. Brandon Flora, 1,510 (+310)

Full standings are available here.

Round 5 Leaders | PBA World Championship

1. Jason Belmonte, 7,115 (+1,115)
2. EJ Tackett, 7,072 (+1,072)
3. Tim Foy Jr., 7,052 (+1,052)
4. BJ Moore, 7,017 (+1,017)
5. Boog Krol, 6,971 (+971)
6. Jesper Svensson, 6,940 (+940)
7. Darren Ong, 6,927 (+927)
8. Trevor Roberts, 6,885 (+885)
9. Zach Wilkins, 6,864 (+864)

10. Matt Ogle, 6,850 (+850)

EJ Tackett Continues WSOB Dominance in PBA Chameleon Championship

March 10, 2025 Nolan Hughes

While the scoring pace in the PBA Chameleon Championship has yielded 20 perfect games thus far, no one in the 200-player PBA World Series of Bowling (WSOB) XVI field has struck at the rate of Canada's Mitch Hupé and Japan's Yuma Haraguchi.

Hupé and Haraguchi tied for the qualifying lead on the 41-foot Chameleon oil pattern, averaging a blistering 256.92 for their 12 games to tally a total pinfall of 3,083 (+683). They each finished three pins shy of the 12-game scoring record, which was set by Michael Davidson during the PBA Delaware Classic earlier this year.

For their efforts, Hupé and Haraguchi earned a bye to the Round of 16 in PBA Chameleon Championship elimination match play. Lanndyn Carnate, Tun Hakim, Jesper Svensson, Chris Via, Pontus Andersson and Zach Weidman also earned a bye as top-eight qualifiers.

In the Round of 24, which was contested on Sunday night, EJ Tackett and Boog Krol swept their best-of-five-games match, respectively. Tackett and Krol made the Round of 16 in all three animal pattern championships so far in the WSOB.

Thomas Larsen (aided by games of 299 and 296), Andrew Anderson, Tomas Käyhkö, AJ Johnson, Kevin McCune and Zach Wilkins also won their Round of 24 match.

The Rounds of 16 and 8 will take place on Tuesday, March 18, leading to the championship round that day at 4 p.m. PT (7 p.m. ET) on FS1.

The only two animal pattern championships Tackett has yet to win in his career are the Viper and Chameleon Championships. He has won two titles in each of the past two WSOBs.

"Winning a bunch at this tournament over the course of my career definitely makes me feel good every time we walk into this event," Tackett said. "When it says "WSOB," I wouldn't say my confidence goes up — one thing I've never really lacked is confidence in myself — but I always like my chances. Because of the amount of games that we bowl and the different things that you have to do every single day to put it together, I've always enjoyed (this event) and it's shown the success that I've had in the PBA World Championship."

Tackett is a three-time and two-time defending PBA World Champion titleist. He ranks second in the major championship through 36 games of qualifying, which includes qualifying games from the PBA Scorpion, Viper, Chameleon and Shark Championships.

Jason Belmonte, also a three-time champion of the event, sits 18 pins ahead of Tackett. Belmonte has enjoyed a narrow margin over Tackett after each round, specifically for the lead following the past three rounds.

“Jason is one of the greatest that’s ever played the game, and he hasn't really been that for the last 12-15 months. But this year, he's starting to find his way back to being *Jason Belmonte* again,” Tackett said. “If I'm able to get on the show, I expect Jason to be there as well. I think it would be really cool if we were able to have a title match rematch from (2023). I would look forward to that, but my end goal is to win the tournament and I’m going to show up and bowl to the best of my abilities no matter who it is.”

Despite Tackett’s success thus far in the WSOB, the standard title event of which he is the defending champion — the PBA Shark Championship — has yet to begin.

B-squad begins PBA Shark Championship qualifying at 9 a.m. Pacific/local time. A-squad takes the lanes at 2:30 p.m. PT (5:30 p.m. ET) on Monday. The squads will flip competition times on Tuesday, followed by the Round of 24 at 7 p.m. PT (10 p.m. ET) Tuesday night.

All rounds of PBA WSOB XVI qualifying and match play will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

Round 2 Leaders | PBA Chameleon Championship

1. Mitch Hupé, 3,083 (+683)
2. Yuma Haraguchi, 3,083 (+683)
3. Lanndyn Carnate, 3,036 (+636)
4. Tun Hakim, 3,021 (+621)
5. Jesper Svensson, 3,000 (+600)
6. Chris Via, 2,996 (+596)
7. Pontus Andersson, 2,985 (+585)
8. Zach Weidman, 2,979 (+579)

Full standings are available here.

Round of 24 Results | PBA Chameleon Championship

No. 17 Thomas Larsen def. No. 17 Gabriel Alvarez, 3-1
No. 24 Andrew Anderson def. No. 9 Nathan Ruest-Lajoie, 3-2

No. 10 Zach Wilkins def. No. 23 Trevor Roberts, 3-1
No. 15 EJ Tackett def. No. 18 Peter Fox, 3-0

No. 19 AJ Johnson def. No. 14 Jason Belmonte, 3-2
No. 11 Kevin McCune def. No. 22 Matt Zweig, 3-1

No. 21 Tomas Käyhkö def. No. 12 Shota Kawazoe, 3-2
No. 13 Boog Krol def. No. 20 Jakob Butturff, 3-0

Round of 16 Matches | PBA Chameleon Championship

No. 1 Mitch Hupé vs. No. 17 Thomas Larsen
No. 8 Zach Weidman vs. . 24 Andrew Anderson

No. 2 Yuma Haraguchi vs. No. 15 EJ Tackett
No. 7 Pontus Andersson vs. No. 10 Zach Wilkins

No. 3 Lanndyn Carnate vs. No. 19 AJ Johnson
No. 6 Chris Via vs. No. 11 Kevin McCune

No. 4 Tun Hakim vs. No. 13 Boog Krol
No. 5 Jesper Svensson vs. No. 21 Tomas Käyhkö

Round 6 Leaders | PBA World Championship

1. Jason Belmonte, 8,563 (+1,363)
2. EJ Tackett, 8,545 (+1,345)
3. Boog Krol, 8,490 (+1,290)
4. BJ Moore, 8,490 (+1,290)
5. Tim Foy Jr., 8,483 (+1,283)
6. Jesper Svensson, 8,408 (+1,208)
7. Trevor Roberts, 8,346 (+1,146)
8. Mitch Hupé, 8,340 (+1,140)
9. Darren Ong, 8,312 (+1,112)
10. Zach Wilkins, 8,287 (+1,087)

Hanrahan Leads PBA Shark Championship, Tackett Seizes PBA World Championship Pole Position

March 10, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The PBA Shark Championship, the fourth and final standard title event PBA World Series of Bowling (WSOB) XVI, is underway at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev.

Packy Hanrahan led the 199-player field with a total pinfall of 1,427 (+227) for his first six games on the 47-foot Shark oil pattern.

Ahmad Muaz, defending champion EJ Tackett, Cam Crowe and Justin Knowles round out the top five in the PBA Shark Championship.

Hanrahan finished between 92nd and 105th in the first three events, but righted the ship Monday morning.

“I pieced it together day by day, and have bowled a little bit better throughout (the WSOB),” Hanrahan said. “Some people handle it differently than others, but I know (the struggles) can’t last forever. For me, knowing that my strategy of attack could be a little better helps; eventually, you're going to match up. With the scoring pace being as high as it was last tournament, I had to reset my mindset for a new pattern. (Shark) seems a little friendlier on the left side.”

“Having a good group of friends around you that never get too low or too high helps a lot,” Hanrahan added. “Guys like Boog (Krol), BJ (Moore) and Keven (Williams) keep my spirits light no matter how it's going. It helps when Boog and BJ are tied for third in the PBA World Championship, too.”

The final round of qualifying before the PBA Shark and World Championship cuts is set for Tuesday. A-squad takes the lanes at 9 a.m. Pacific/local time, followed by B-squad at 2:30 p.m. PT (5:30 p.m. ET).

Canada’s Jordan Jung (+153) sits 24th in the PBA Shark Championship. The top 24 players after Tuesday’s second six-game round of qualifying will advance to elimination match play, beginning with Round of 24 will begin at 7 p.m. PT (10 p.m. ET) Tuesday night.

The PBA Shark Championship Rounds of 16 and 8 will take place on Wednesday, March 19, leading to the championship round that day at 4 p.m. PT (7 p.m. ET) on FS1.

Two-time defending PBA World Championship victor EJ Tackett (+1,562) seized the lead in the PBA World Championship after 42 games, which includes qualifying games from the PBA Scorpion, Viper, Chameleon and Shark Championships.

Jason Belmonte, Boog Krol, Tim Foy Jr. and BJ Moore round out the top five in the major championship.

The top 50 players after those 48 combined games will advance for 16 games of advancer rounds. Then the top 16 players will bowl an additional 16 games of round-robin match play.

All rounds of PBA WSOB XVI qualifying and match play will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

Round 1 Leaders | PBA Shark Championship

1. Packy Hanrahan, 1,427 (+227)
2. Ahmad Muaz, 1,424 (+224)
3. EJ Tackett, 1,417 (+217)
4. Cam Crowe, 1,412 (+212)
5. Justin Knowles, 1,411 (+211)
6. Nu'Man Syahmi Yusri, 1,410 (+210)
7. Nate Stubler, 1,408 (+208)
8. Lanndyn Carnate, 1,403 (+203)
9. Tom Daugherty, 1,397 (+197)
10. Jean Perez, 1,392 (+192)

Full standings are available here.

Round 7 Leaders | PBA World Championship

1. EJ Tackett, 9,962 (+1,562)
2. Jason Belmonte, 9,889 (+1,489)
3. Boog Krol, 9,848 (+1,448)
4. Tim Foy Jr., 9,776 (+1,376)
5. BJ Moore, 9,748 (+1,348)
6. Jesper Svensson, 9,739 (+1,339)
7. Darren Ong, 9,699 (+1,299)
8. Lanndyn Carnate, 9,670 (+1,270)
9. Trevor Roberts, 9,663 (+1,263)
10. Zach Wilkins, 9,648 (+1,248)

Ahmad Muaz, Landin Jordan Headline Advancers in PBA Shark Championship

March 11, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Ahmad Muaz led the 199-player field with a total pinfall of 2,872 (+472) for his 12 games of qualifying in the PBA Shark Championship, the fourth and final standard title event PBA World Series of Bowling (WSOB) XVI.

His efforts on the 47-foot Shark oil pattern landed him a first-round bye in the elimination match play bracket.

“It’s a dream come true,” Muaz said of bowling the WSOB. “For the Shark pattern, I wanted to fight for the top 50 and the PBA World Championship cut. I needed to bowl as high as I could.”

EJ Tackett, Packy Hanrahan, Jesper Svensson, Matt Ogle, Justin Knowles, Jakob Butturff and Ben Robinson also earned a bye to the Round of 16.

Tackett has made the Round of 16 in all four animal pattern championships in the WSOB. He also leads the PBA World Championship, which includes qualifying games from the PBA Scorpion, Viper, Chameleon and Shark Championships.

The ninth through 24th qualifiers on Shark competed in the Round of 24, featuring best-of-five-games matches, on Tuesday night at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev.

Jason Belmonte, Tim Foy Jr., Tom Smallwood, Kyle Troup, Ryan Barnes, Chris Via and Jean Perez each won their respective matches, but the biggest winner of the night was 18-year-old Landin Jordan.

While the PBA Junior National Championships are set to begin later this week, the former national champion has moved onto the professional ranks… with permission from his teachers.

“My parents made me get (bowling the WSOB) cleared with my teachers that I'd be able to stay caught up with all my work,” Jordan said. “I've been working online all week. I've actually taken a math quiz and a math test while I’ve been out here.”

Jordan qualified for the U.S. Open preliminary stepladder finals earlier this season, finishing eighth. He averaged 252 in his 3-1 victory over Rafiq Ismail on Tuesday night.

More importantly, the high schooler gets to extend his mini-vacation.

“‘Do I want to go back to school for a week before spring break, or do I just want to have the extra week off?’ I needed a couple hits in the 10th frame and it was definitely going through my head,” Jordan said. “This week was not going great until today, really. To be able to come out here, make a cut and then get a win in a match, it feels pretty amazing. It took a little more than I expected. Rafiq bowled amazing, and I was just fortunate to come away with this one.”

In the PBA Chameleon Championship, Jordan bowled with EJ Tackett for the duration of qualifying.

“My goal was to beat him. Unfortunately, he's EJ. It's not easy to beat him,” Jordan said. “To be able to learn from him, hear his thoughts and see his gameplan was really helpful. It allowed me to come in the second block and be a lot more successful. To cross with him and learn from him was really huge.”

Jordan will face Jakob Butturff in the Round of 16. Awaiting in a potential Round of 8 match is none other than Tackett himself.

The PBA Shark Championship Rounds of 16 and 8 will take place on Wednesday, March 19, leading to the championship round that day at 4 p.m. PT (7 p.m. ET) on FS1.

After all 48 games across the PBA Scorpion, Viper, Chameleon and Shark Championships, the PBA World Championships field has been trimmed to the top 50 players.

Tackett (+1,790) leads the field, averaging more than 237 across the four oil patterns. Jason Belmonte, Jesper Svensson, Tim Foy Jr. and Matt Ogle round out the top five of the major championship.

Pontus Andersson (+971) held off fellow Swede Martin Larsen for the final position inside the cut. Jordan (+988) also moved inside the major championship cut with his strong performance in the PBA Shark Championship.

Following a practice session on Wednesday, those 50 players will bowl two eight-game advancer rounds, one on Thursday and one on Friday. The top 16 players will bowl an additional 16 games of round-robin match play on Thursday, March 20.

The top five players will advance to the championship round on Saturday, May 22 at 3 p.m. ET on FOX.

All rounds of PBA WSOB XVI qualifying and match play will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

Round 2 Leaders | PBA Shark Championship

1. Ahmad Muaz, 2,872 (+472)

2. EJ Tackett, 2,845 (+445)
3. Packy Hanrahan, 2,829 (+429)
4. Jesper Svensson, 2,816 (+416)
5. Matt Ogle, 2,811 (+411)
6. Justin Knowles, 2,810 (+410)
7. Jakob Butturff, 2,802 (+402)
8. Ben Robinson, 2,780 (+380)

Round of 24 Results

No. 17 Tim Foy Jr. def. No. 16 Nu'Man Syahmi Yusri, 3-1
No. 9 Jason Belmonte def. No. 24 Nate Stubler, 3-1

No. 21 Tom Smallwood def. No. 13 François Lavoie, 3-0
No. 13 Kyle Troup def. No. 20 Richie Teece, 3-1

No. 19 Ryan Barnes def. No. 14 Jord Van Weeren, 3-2
No. 11 Chris Via def. No. 22 Nathan Bohr, 3-0

No. 23 Landin Jordan def. No. 10 Rafiq Ismail, 3-1
No. 18 Jean Perez def. No. 15 Cam Crowe, 3-0

Round of 16 Matches

No. 1 Ahmad Muaz vs. No. 17 Tim Foy Jr.
No. 8 Ben Robinson vs. No. 9 Jason Belmonte

No. 2 EJ Tackett vs. No. 18 Jean Perez
No. 7 Jakob Butturff vs. No. 23 Landin Jordan

No. 3 Packy Hanrahan vs. No. 19 Ryan Barnes
No. 6 Justin Knowles vs. No. 11 Chris Via

No. 4 Jesper Svensson vs. No. 13 Kyle Troup
No. 5 Matt Ogle vs. No. 21 Tom Smallwood

Full standings and match results are available here.

Round 8 Leaders | PBA World Championship

1. EJ Tackett, 11,390 (+1,790)
2. Jason Belmonte, 11,304 (+1,704)
3. Jesper Svensson, 11,224 (+1,624)
4. Tim Foy Jr., 11,185 (+1,585)
5. Matt Ogle, 11,078 (+1,478)

6. Boog Krol, 11,055 (+1,455)
7. BJ Moore, 11,045 (+1,445)
8. Trevor Roberts, 11,012 (+1,412)
9. Darren Ong, 10,981 (+1,381)
10. Mitch Hupé, 10,955 (+1,355)

EJ Tackett Maintains Lead in PBA World Championship

March 13, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The PBA World Series of Bowling (WSOB) XVI has shifted competition to the PBA World Championship.

EJ Tackett, the three-time and two-time defending champion of the event, maintained his lead of the major championship on Thursday at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev.

Tackett shot 1,827 for his first eight games on the 43-foot Earl Anthony oil pattern. He leads the 50 players remaining in the field with a total pinfall of 13,217 (+2,017) through Advancer Round 1, the first of two-eight game qualifying rounds before a cut to the top 16 players for round robin match play.

“I feel like I bowled better than my score,” Tackett said of his Advancer Round 1 performance. “Luckily, I was able to bowl a good last game (278) to kind of save the block. I definitely feel like I pulled better than my score today, but that's the way it goes sometimes. A lot of times, (the solution) is finding a different ball to go through the pins the right way and make the pocket bigger. I might drill a couple balls, see if I can get a couple different shapes going down the lane and see what happens.”

Tackett led the entire WSOB field through 48 games of qualifying, which included the 12-game qualifying rounds from the PBA Scorpion, Viper, Chameleon and Shark Championships. He was the only player in the field to reach the Round of 16 in each of the animal pattern championships.

“It's all about just giving yourself opportunities to win championships, and so far, I’m perfect in that,” Tackett said. “I qualified second in a couple of events, so If I can win my (Round of 16) match on those patterns, I’ve got a pretty good chance at making the show or even being the No. 1 seed. I’ve just got to bowl well and put myself on the show. Hopefully I can bowl well and get a lot of TV time.”

Jason Belmonte, Boog Krol, Matt Ogle and Jesper Svensson each advanced to the Round of 16 in three of four events.

Mitch Hupé led the Advancer Round 1 field with a score of 1,982, a 247.75 average, to climb from 10th to sixth place.

Pontus Andersson, the last player to make the cut, made an even further leap with a block of 1,958. He sits in 29th place and 149 pins behind 16th place, currently held by Lanndyn Carnate (+1,478) .

Andrew Anderson rose from 25th place into 14th place and inside the current cut, while Kris Prather fired two 300 games to move from 44th place to 25th.

Following Advancer Round 2, which begins at 10 a.m. Pacific/local (1 p.m. Eastern) time on Friday, the top 16 players will advance to round-robin match play in the major championship.

Advancing players will bowl an additional 16 games of round-robin match play on Thursday, March 20.

The top five players will then advance to the championship round on Saturday, May 22 at 3 p.m. ET on FOX.

All rounds of PBA WSOB XVI qualifying and match play will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

Advancer Round 1 Leaders | PBA World Championship

1. EJ Tackett, 13,217 (+2,017)
2. Jason Belmonte, 13,105 (+1,905)
3. Jesper Svensson, 13,004 (+1,804)
4. Tim Foy Jr., 12,995 (+1,795)
5. Boog Krol, 12,953 (1,753)
6. Mitch Hupé, 12,937 (+1,737)
7. Darren Ong, 12,867 (+1,667)
8. BJ Moore, 12,866 (+1,666)
9. Chris Via, 12,863 (+1,663)
10. Matt Ogle, 12,858 (+1,658)

PBA Junior to Add Military Region in 2025

March 14, 2025 Professional Bowlers Association

The 2025 PBA Junior (Jr.) Regional Qualifier tournaments will have some additional competitors vying for the PBA Jr. National Championship as the PBA Jr. program adds a new Military Region.

Four PBA Jr. Military Regional Qualifiers will be held in 2025 with the champions in each division at each event eligible to advance to the PBA Jr. National Championship in early 2026.

“Over the years, I have received numerous requests from military families to somehow integrate their junior bowlers into our PBA Jr. tournament program,” Mike Sledz, the PBA director of membership who also oversees the PBA Jr. program, said. “After several meetings with bowling program managers from all military branches, this is our first step to make this a reality.”

The military events will be held at four U.S. Air Force bases across the country and will be open to all junior bowlers who have a valid dependent military ID card. In addition, these junior bowlers will have an opportunity to join PBA Jr. at a discounted rate.

“The PBA has the utmost respect for the sacrifices that military personnel and their families make for our country,” PBA Commissioner Tom Clark said. “Being able to include junior bowlers from the military allows these talented youth to be a part of our PBA Jr. program and have a shot at that PBA Jr. National Championship title.”

“Air Force Bowling is excited to partner with the PBA Jr. program in conjunction with our Armed Forces counterparts to offer our military youth the opportunity to showcase their skills and talents on such a grand stage,” Dustin Schmidt, the U.S. Air Force bowling program specialist, said.

Military junior bowlers who join PBA Jr. as a premium member will not only receive PBA Jr. swag and a customizable H5G jersey, but will get a $50 discount on the entry fee for any PBA Jr. Regional Qualifier tournament. A 20% discount is available for PBA Jr. Military members when purchasing a membership by entering the code “MILITARY” at checkout.

Registration for the PBA Jr. Military Regional Qualifiers is open now here.

The full 2025 PBA Jr. Regional Qualifier schedule was released earlier this month.

Learn more about the PBA Jr. program and how to sign up here.

PBA JR. MILITARY REGIONAL QUALIFIERS

SOUTHWEST
May 16-18, 2025
Randolph Air Force Base / Texas

SOUTH
June 6-8, 2025
Shaw Air Force Base / South Carolina

MIDWEST / CENTRAL
August 8-10, 2025
Scott Air Force Base / Illinois

WEST
September 19-21, 2025
Travis Air Force Base / California

PBA Awards Retroactive Titles to Three PBA Tour, Six PBA50 Tour Players

March 14, 2025 Professional Bowlers Association

Throughout PBA history, there are nine instances of a player, who was not a PBA member at the time, winning a PBA Tour or PBA50 Tour title.

The player earned the trophy and money, but did not receive a champions banner (for first-time winners), an entry into the PBA Tournament of Champions, or official recognition in the PBA record books.

As of today, official title status has been granted to the below players who won national events conducted by the PBA.

Moving forward, in the rare cases that a non-member is allowed to compete in and wins a PBA Tour or PBA50 Tour event, they will be officially recognized as a PBA champion.

This decision does not involve regional titles or events conducted by any organization other than the PBA.

PBA Tour
Mats Karlsson, 1983 AMF Grand Prix of Tenpin Bowling, Crawley, England
Brian Ziesig, 2010 PBA Plastic Ball Championship, Long Island, NY
Yong-Jin Gu, 2010 Scorpion Championship, Las Vegas

PBA50 Tour
Rick Minier, 2007 Senior US Open, Las Vegas
Nick Morgan, 2008 Northern California Classic, Brentwood, CA
Eugene McCune, 2018 South Shore Open, Hammond, IN
Tore Torgersen, 2019 Senior US Open, Las Vegas
Tom Adcock, 2013 PBA50 Senior/Super Senior Doubles Classic, Decatur, IL
Warren Eales, 2018 Lucas Magazine Classic, New Port Richey, FL

Belmonte Cuts Into Tackett's PBA World Championship Lead

March 14, 2025 Nolan Hughes

EJ Tackett and Jason Belmonte continue to battle for control of the PBA World Championship, the major title event set to conclude the PBA World Series of Bowling (WSOB) XVI.

The two titans, who have won six of the last eight PBA World Championship titles, have sat in first and second place, in varying order, since the fourth round of qualifying at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev.

The two-time defending champion Tackett entered Friday's Advancer Round 2 — which included the top 50 players based on their qualifying pinfalls across the PBA Scorpion, Viper, Chameleon and Shark Championships — with a 112-pin advantage over Belmonte.

Then Belmonte started the eight-game round with games of 289 and 278, cutting into Tackett's lead by… 20 pins.

"It was something for me to set the tone for the day," Belmonte said. "(But) EJ had the front-nine in the first game, too. When I'm trying to find a way to catch him, you can't have him throw more strikes than you. I definitely got off to a lightning start, then made every spare I could. Today's job was to try and catch a few more pins on EJ and separate myself a few more pins from third place, and I did that."

Ultimately, Tackett leads the field with a total pinfall of 15,139 (+2,339). Belmonte (+2,274) ranks second through 64 games.

Tim Foy Jr., BJ Moore and Boog Krol round out the top five of the major championship.

Darren Ong, Matt Ogle, Jesper Svensson, Mitch Hupé, Chris Via, Thomas Larsen, Andrew Anderson, Kyle Troup, Lanndyn Carnate, Ethan Fiore and Zach Wilkins each qualified for the next round of the PBA World Championship.

Fiore qualified for his first championship round appearance in the PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic presented by Pilgrim's finals in February, just before the WSOB. The finals will take place Saturday, March 15 at 3 p.m. Pacific/local (6 p.m. Eastern) time at the National Bowling Stadium.

"The first couple events of the WSOB, my confidence was working at an all-time high," Fiore said. "My scores did not reflect that, so I kind of dropped the ego and went back to what I did when I was at Coconut Bowl. I stuck to the basics and put up scores to make this cut."

Round-robin match play for the major championship will take place Thursday, March 20. The top five players will then advance to the championship round on Saturday, May 22 at 3 p.m. ET on FOX.

Elimination match play and championship rounds for the animal pattern championships will take place March 16-19.

All rounds of PBA WSOB XVI qualifying and match play will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

Advancer Round 2 Leaders | PBA World Championship

1. EJ Tackett, 15,139 (+2,339)
2. Jason Belmonte, 15,074 (+2,274)
3. Tim Foy Jr., 14,818 (+2,018)
4. BJ Moore, 14,697 (+1,897)
5. Boog Krol, 14,643 (+1,843)
6. Darren Ong, 14,642 (+1,842)
7. Matt Ogle, 14,630 (+1,830)
8. Jesper Svensson, 14,622 (+1,822)
9. Mitch Hupé, 14,618 (+1,818)

10. Chris Via, 14,609 (+1,809)
11. Thomas Larsen, 14,607 (+1,807)
12. Andrew Anderson, 14,564 (+1,764)
13. Kyle Troup, 14,533 (+1,733)
14. Lanndyn Carnate, 14,491 (+1,691)
15. Ethan Fiore, 14,447 (+1,647)
16. Zach Wilkins, 14,445 (+1,645)

Andrew Anderson Wins PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic pres. by Pilgrim's

March 15, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Andrew Anderson has a penchant for revenge, and the 29-year-old executed his latest vengeance on Saturday night at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev.

The top-seeded Anderson defeated EJ Tackett, 237-181, to win the PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic pres. by Pilgrim's title and the $30,000 top prize.

Anderson, who won his first two singles titles during his 2018 PBA Player of the Year season, netted his fifth career title on Saturday.

"I started my career hoping to win one," Anderson said. "That's what everybody dreams of. Then you get one… then you win two and you're like, 'Maybe we can do something.' Now we're at that time where it's like, 'Can we start racking some titles up to maybe have a Hall of Fame bid and be in the history books?"

"I just hope that this is the start of the second part of my career, where I can start winning again, maybe not on a normal basis, but often," Anderson continued. "EJ, what he's doing is an unbelievable feat. It's un-human. It's alien. That's hard to aspire to, but if I can steal a few titles from him here and there, I'll take it."

While Anderson won the PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship with Kris Prather in 2021 and 2024, he had not won a singles title since his 2018 PBA Player of the Year season. He ended the 2,478-day gap since his 2018 PBA Xtra Frame Greater Jonesboro victory.

"I've probably thought about it at least 2,300 of them," Anderson said. "I don't even know how to describe it. It's been so long. Winning those couple doubles titles with (Kris Prather), that was huge. I loved both of those. I loved winning the PBA Elite League and MVP. I've done a lot of winning on television. That (singles title) just kept escaping me. I haven't been able to get over that hump. So it's nice to get one."

The title match marked a rematch of this season's U.S. Open title match. Tackett dethroned the again top-seeded Anderson for the green jacket, but Anderson capitalized on his opportunity for revenge this time.

“I just wanted to bowl good for myself,” Anderson said. “In the U.S. Open show, I didn't bowl good for myself. I did quite the opposite. I was like a scared little kid out there. And so for this one, I wanted to be aggressive. I played the lanes aggressively. I did everything I wanted.”

Anderson started with six consecutive strikes, while Tackett made two errant shots on the right lane, which led to two open frames.

Tackett said he “ran out of lane” after his historic semifinal victory over Ethan Fiore, which ended with a PBA-record seven-frame roll-off. The prolonged roll-off exhausted Tackett physically and emotionally, and caused the 39-foot Mike Aulby oil pattern to transition faster.

Tackett and Fiore, who was making his first career championship round appearance, tied with 238 in the semifinal, then both players struck every shot of the roll-off until Fiore left 7-pin.

Fiore defeated Alec Keplinger in the second match, which also came down to the final frame. Keplinger, the 23-year-old right-hander, needed all three strikes in the 10th frame to win the match, but left a 10-pin on his first shot.

Jesper Svensson started the opening match against Keplinger with three consecutive strikes, followed by four straight spares. Meanwhile Keplinger fired eight straight strikes from the third through 10th frames to take down the Swede.

Plenty more PBA competition will take place at the National Bowling Stadium over the next week.

The championship rounds of the PBA World Series of Bowling XVI will air Sunday through Wednesday, leading up to the PBA World Championship finals next Saturday, March 22.

Championship Round Scores

Match 1: No. 4 Alec Keplinger def. No. 5 Jesper Svensson, 257-214
Match 2: No. 3 Ethan Fiore def. No. 4 Alec Keplinger, 247-226
Match 3: No. 2 EJ Tackett def. No. 3 Ethan Fiore, 238-238 (Roll off: X-X, X-X, X-X, X-X, X-X, X-X, X-9 — longest roll-off in PBA history)
Championship: No. 1 Andrew Anderson def. No. 2 EJ Tackett, 237-181

Final Standings

Andrew Anderson, $30,000

EJ Tackett, $18,000

Ethan Fiore, $13,000

Alec Keplinger, $10,000

Jesper Svensson, $9,000

EJ Tackett and Four Potential First-Time Champions Advance to PBA Scorpion Championship Finals

March 16, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Rafiq Ismail, EJ Tackett, Tobias Börding, Ryan Barnes and Rasmus Edvall advance to stepladder finals

The first championship round of the PBA World Series of Bowling (WSOB) XVI epitomizes the potential of the global event, which is being held at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev.

The PBA Scorpion Championship finals, airing live on FS1 and the FOX Sports app at 5 p.m. Pacific/local (8 p.m. Eastern) time, includes three international players, a rookie, and a future Hall of Famer in his prime.

Malaysia's Rafiq Ismail, Germany's Tobias Börding and Sweden's Rasmus Edvall will each make their televised championship round debut, while Ryan Barnes will make his second championship round of his rookie season.

And then there's the No. 2 seed EJ Tackett, who will be making his fourth championship round appearance of the season (and his second in as many nights).

Tackett looks to tie Don Johnson for 10th all time with a 26th career title, while each of the other four players will attempt to win their first career title.

Ismail earned the top seed as the highest-seeded qualifier to emerge from the elimination bracket, which featured the top 24 qualifiers in best-of-five-games matches.

The powerful one-handed lefty previously made the championship round of the 2018 PBA Xtra Frame Greater Jonesboro Open, which was won by last night's PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic champion Andrew Anderson. He also represented the World team in the televised 2017 USA vs. the World event, also held during the WSOB at the National Bowling Stadium.

Tackett, who finished runner up to Anderson last night, is the two-time reigning PBA Player of the Year. The only player to have won two titles so far this season could seize a firm grasp on this year's POY race with a win.

Börding will aim to become the first German player to win a title on the PBA Tour. He said he has been bowling the WSOB since 2015, the same year fellow German Pascal Winternheimer made the PBA Chameleon Championship finals.

Barnes is the current front-runner for PBA Rookie of the Year, ranking eighth overall in points and first among first-year players. The son of PBA Hall of Famer Chris Barnes finished fifth in the PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic earlier this season and third in the PBA Players Championship finals as an amateur in 2024.

Edvall earned the No. 5 seed as the highest-seeded qualifier to lose in the Round of 8. He said he has been battling injuries to both knees since January 2024 and was unsure if he would be able to compete in this event. Instead, the Swede persevered and will net the best finish of his career.

The stepladder finals will begin at 5 p.m. Pacific/local (8 p.m. Eastern) time, airing live on FS1 and the FOX Sports app.

Round of 16 Results

No. 16 Boog Krol def. No. 1 Tim Foy Jr., 3-1
No. 8 EJ Tackett def. No. 24 Arnar Jonsson, 3-1

No. 18 Tobias Börding def. No. 2 BJ Moore, 3-1
No. 23 Marshall Kent def. No. 7 Matt Ogle, 3-1

No. 19 Patrick Dombrowski def. No. 3 Jason Belmonte, 3-1
No. 22 Ryan Barnes def. No. 6 Trevor Roberts, 3-1

No. 4 Rafiq Ismail def. No. 13 Shawn Maldonado, 3-2
No. 12 Rasmus Edvall def. No. 5 Cam Crowe, 3-2

Round of 8 Results

No. 8 EJ Tackett def. No. 16 Boog Krol, 3-1
No. 18 Tobias Börding def. No. 23 Marshall Kent, 3-1
No. 22 Ryan Barnes def. No. 19 Patrick Dombrowski, 3-2
No. 4 Rafiq Ismail def. No. 12 Rasmus Edvall, 3-0

Championship Round Matches

Match One: No. 4 Ryan Barnes vs. No. 5 Rasmus Edvall
Match Two: *winner* vs. No. 3 Tobias Börding
Match Three: *winner* vs. No. 2 EJ Tackett
Championship: *winner* vs. No. 1 Rafiq Ismail

Sweden's Rasmus Edvall Wins PBA Scorpion Championship For First Career Title

March 17, 2025 Nolan Hughes

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- Twitter
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Edvall becomes third Swedish player to win PBA Tour title

Sweden's Rasmus Edvall joined the illustrious ranks of PBA Tour champions Sunday night in the first title event of the PBA World Series of Bowling XVI.

Edvall climbed the stepladder finals of the PBA Scorpion Championship, defeating Ryan Barnes, Germany's Tobias Börding, EJ Tackett and Malaysia's Rafiq Ismail to secure his first career PBA Tour title and the $20,000 top prize.

Edvall defeated Malaysia's Rafiq Ismail, 224-171, in the title match at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev.

His fiancée, Emma Halttunen, and sister, Ronja Edvall, watched Edvall hoist the trophy from Sweden after 3 a.m.

“It’s an exclusive club to be in,” Edvall said. “Not many Swedes have done it, and I can't really put words into it. It’s surreal.”

Edvall’s victory came to the surprise of, well, himself.

“When I woke up this morning, I couldn't see myself winning, that's for sure,” Edvall. “I wanted to win the first match. After that, I didn’t know. I didn't have the best day at the beginning. I just had some luck, and I kept rolling with it.”

He said he did not start to realize he could actually win the title until the championship, which came following a semifinal match win over the two-time reigning PBA Player of the Year, EJ Tackett.

“Before that, not even a chance. I couldn’t even think about it,” Edvall said. “I feel like EJ is such a good bowler, when he had that last frame (leaving a 2-4-10 and an open frame), I couldn't believe it. This is not happening. It felt so unreal.”

Edvall has not bowled much since January 2024 as he has battled injuries to both knees. He said he was unsure if he would even be able to compete in the WSOB at the level he desired.

“I was a little bit insecure about how I was able to perform,” Edvall said. “I'm still not 100% — that's the thing. I can't keep bowling like this, so I need to rehabilitate and come back even stronger. This is what I love. I want to keep doing this.”

Edvall secured his berth in the championship round as the highest-seeded qualifier who lost in the Round of 8 in the elimination bracket.

He defeated Ryan Barnes in the opening match, 196-133. Barnes suffered déjà vu from his PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic finals appearance, where he mustered only 141 in his first match.

Edvall then took down another first-time European finalist in Börding, 204-189. The German kept the match more competitive, but back-to-back open frames in the fifth and sixth cost him.

Edvall prevailed over Tackett in the semifinal, 217-205. Tackett started with five of six strikes, but left consecutive splits and open frames on the left lane to close the match. Meanwhile, Edvall managed a clean game to advance.

Edvall earned some revenge over Ismail, who defeated Edvall in the Round of 8, in the title match with a 224-172 victory. Edvall again bowled a clean game, while Ismail left two open frames and failed to strike on the right lane until the 10th frame.

The WSOB continues with the PBA Viper Championship on Monday at the National Bowling Stadium.

The Round of 16 will begin at 9 a.m. Pacific/local (12 p.m. Eastern) time, followed by the Round of 8 at 11:30 a.m. PT (2:30 p.m. ET) on BowlTV. The four winners of each bracket and the highest-seeded loser in the Round of 8 will advance to the championship round.

The PBA Viper Championship stepladder finals will air live on FS1 and the FOX Sports app at 4 p.m. PT (7 p.m. ET).

The championship rounds of the PBA World Series of Bowling XVI will air Sunday through Wednesday, leading up to the PBA World Championship finals next Saturday, March 22.

The full upcoming PBA television schedule is available here.

Round of 16 Results

No. 16 Boog Krol def. No. 1 Tim Foy Jr., 3-1
No. 8 EJ Tackett def. No. 24 Arnar Jonsson, 3-1

No. 18 Tobias Börding def. No. 2 BJ Moore, 3-1
No. 23 Marshall Kent def. No. 7 Matt Ogle, 3-1

No. 19 Patrick Dombrowski def. No. 3 Jason Belmonte, 3-1
No. 22 Ryan Barnes def. No. 6 Trevor Roberts, 3-1

No. 4 Rafiq Ismail def. No. 13 Shawn Maldonado, 3-2
No. 12 Rasmus Edvall def. No. 5 Cam Crowe, 3-2

Round of 8 Results

No. 8 EJ Tackett def. No. 16 Boog Krol, 3-1
No. 18 Tobias Börding def. No. 23 Marshall Kent, 3-1
No. 22 Ryan Barnes def. No. 19 Patrick Dombrowski, 3-2
No. 4 Rafiq Ismail def. No. 12 Rasmus Edvall, 3-0

Championship Round Scores

Match 1: No. 5 Rasmus Edvall def. No. 4 Ryan Barnes, 196-133
Match 2: No. 5 Rasmus Edvall def. No. 3 Tobias Börding, 204-189
Match 3: No. 5 Rasmus Edvall def. No. 2 EJ Tackett, 217-205
Championship: No. 5 Rasmus Edvall def. No. 1 Rafiq Ismail, 224-172

Full standings and match results are available here.

Final Standings

1. Rasmus Edvall, $20,000
2. Rafiq Ismail, $13,500
3. EJ Tackett, $10,000
4. Tobias Börding, $7,500
5. Ryan Barnes, $6,000

Darren Ong's Dominance Headlines Star-Studded PBA Viper Championship Finals

March 17, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Darren Ong, Kris Prather, Zach Wilkins, Jason Belmonte and EJ Tackett advance to stepladder finals

The second championship round of the PBA World Series of Bowling (WSOB) XVI features two of the PBA Tour's biggest names, but neither matched the dominance of Darren Ong

The Singapore star earned the top seed for the PBA Viper Championship stepladder finals, awaiting to see which of Kris Prather, Zach Wilkins, Jason Belmonte and EJ Tackett can meet him in the championship.

The PBA Viper Championship finals will air live on FS1 and the FOX Sports app at 4 p.m. Pacific/local (7 p.m. Eastern) time at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev.

Ong led qualifying, firing three 300 games in the first seven games of the 12-game round. He swept Stu Williams and Trevor Roberts in the elimination bracket, featuring best-of-five-games matches, to clinch the top seed for the stepladder finals.

No Singapore player has ever won a PBA Tour title. In fact, no Singapore player had ever competed on the PBA Tour until Ong and Jaris Goh bowled in last year's WSOB XV, Goh said.

Prather, who won his first career PBA Tour title in 2019's WSOB X Scorpion Championship, seized the second seed by qualifying fifth and defeating Chris Barnes and Tom Daugherty.

Wilkins had not been able to replicate the success of his breakout 2024 season. Before the WSOB, he cashed in just two of six title events.

But Wilkins turned his season around in Reno, defeating Verity Crawley, Thomas Larsen and Tackett to make the PBA Viper Championship finals. He also qualified for round-robin match play in the PBA World Championship, which will be held on Thursday.

Belmonte has now finished in the top 11 in six straight title events this season, including his PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship victory with Bill O'Neill. Belmonte qualified 11th on Viper, before defeating Nick Borgaro, Matt Ogle and Boog Krol.

Belmonte currently ranks second in the PBA World Championship, trailing only Tackett. Belmonte and Tackett have won a combined six of the past eight PBA World Championship titles and are the two winningest players in WSOB history with nine and seven titles, respectively.

Tackett advanced to his third straight championship round of the season as the highest-seeded qualifier to lose in the Round of 8. Tackett qualified second, defeated Patrick Dombrowski, then lost to Wilkins.

Viper is one of just two WSOB animal pattern championships Tackett has yet to win. The other is Chameleon, which he also has a chance to win tomorrow.

The PBA Viper Championship stepladder finals will begin at 4 p.m. Pacific/local (7 p.m. Eastern) time, airing live on FS1 and the FOX Sports app. International viewers can watch via BowlTV.

Round of 16 Results

No. 1 Darren Ong def. No. 16 Stu Williams, 3-0
No. 24 Trevor Roberts def. No. 8 Jean Perez, 3-0

No. 2 EJ Tackett def. No. 15 Patrick Dombrowski, 3-2
No. 10 Zach Wilkins def. No. 7 Thomas Larsen, 3-0

No. 3 Boog Krol def. No. 14 Jesper Svensson, 3-0
No. 11 Jason Belmonte def. No. 6 Matt Ogle, 3-1

No. 5 Kris Prather def. No. 12 Chris Barnes, 3-1
No. 4 Tom Daugherty def. No. 20 Trevor Ashby, 3-2

Round of 8 Results

No. 1 Darren Ong def. No. 24 Trevor Roberts, 3-0
No. 10 Zach Wilkins def. No. 2 EJ Tackett, 3-0
No. 11 Jason Belmonte def. No. 3 Boog Krol, 3-2
No. 5 Kris Prather def. No. 4 Tom Daugherty, 3-2

Championship Round Matches

Match One: No. 4 Jason Belmonte vs. No. 5 EJ Tackett
Match Two: *winner* vs. No. 3 Zach Wilkins
Match Three: *winner* vs. No. 2 Kris Prather
Championship: *winner* vs. No. 1 Darren Ong

Singapore's Darren Ong Wins First Title in PBA Viper Championship

March 17, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Ong becomes first Singapore player to win PBA Tour title

For the second night in a row, an international player has claimed their first career PBA Tour title in the World Series of Bowling (WSOB) XVI.

Singapore's Darren Ong defeated EJ Tackett, 215-205, to win the PBA Viper Championship and the $20,000 top prize on Monday night at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev.

Ong, the top seed for the stepladder finals, became the first player from Singapore to win a PBA Tour title.

"I still can't believe that this actually happened," Ong said. "Through the days of qualifying and the (match play) rounds, each step made it more achievable. For it to finally all come together, it's incredible. I hope this achievement inspires other bowlers, not just in Singapore, but in Southeast Asia and Asia. We are capable of coming on tour and giving everyone here a run for their money."

While Ong is the first Singapore player to win on the PBA Tour, several Singaporean women have won on the PWBA Tour.

“Being able to be the first male to have won a title adds to the list of great things that the women’s team has already done,” Ong said. “They’ve really paved the way for us. Even though (they won) on the PWBA Tour, they have shown us that it's possible. I think that has really inspired us as well."

Tackett almost completed an epic climb of the stepladder finals, defeating Jason Belmonte, Zach Wilkins and Kris Prather before falling to Ong.

“EJ is the best bowler on the planet right now,” Ong said. “To be able to compete against him on the same stage is really a privilege and honor for myself. To take a win from him, I don’t think many of that will come by, so I will cherish this one very much.”

Tackett defeated Belmonte in a battle of the winningest WSOB players ever. The strikes came in bunches during the first half of the match, but Belmonte struggled to keep striking as the 38-foot Viper oil pattern transitioned.

Tackett then prevailed over Canada’s Wilkins, 254-237. Wilkins struck eight times, but left two 10-pins and two 7-pins. Tackett meanwhile fired nine of 10 strikes after a split in the first frame.

Prather fell victim to the same left lane that flustered Tackett in Sunday’s PBA Scorpion Championship semifinal match. After a first-frame strike, he never struck again on the lane.

Tackett started to lose the left lane himself, splitting in the eighth frame, but starting with five consecutive strikes allowed him to hold on to a 224-207 win.

It was the right lane, however, that cost Tackett the ultimate victory in the title match.

Facing an opportunity to shut out Ong in the ninth and 10th frames, Tackett left the 4-10 split in the ninth frame. Though he responded after the open frame with two strikes in the 10th, Ong only needed a mark to claim his first career title.

The Singapore star packed a strike as his teammates, Jaris Goh and Nu'Man Syahmi Yusri, erupted in the front row.

“I wish my whole team was here, but I'm still very grateful that the three of us were able to come out here on tour and bowl with the best bowlers on Earth,” Ong said.

The WSOB continues with the PBA Chameleon Championship on Tuesday at the National Bowling Stadium.

The Round of 16 will begin at 9 a.m. Pacific/local (12 p.m. Eastern) time, followed by the Round of 8 at 11:30 a.m. PT (2:30 p.m. ET) on BowlTV.

The PBA Chameleon Championship stepladder finals will air live on FS1 and the FOX Sports app at 4 p.m. PT (7 p.m. ET). International viewers can watch via BowlTV.

It will be the same schedule for the PBA Shark Championship on Wednesday, followed by the PBA World Championship finals on Saturday, March 22.

The full upcoming PBA television schedule is available here.

Round of 16 Results

No. 1 Darren Ong def. No. 16 Stu Williams, 3-0
No. 24 Trevor Roberts def. No. 8 Jean Perez, 3-0

No. 2 EJ Tackett def. No. 15 Patrick Dombrowski, 3-2
No. 10 Zach Wilkins def. No. 7 Thomas Larsen, 3-0

No. 3 Boog Krol def. No. 14 Jesper Svensson, 3-0
No. 11 Jason Belmonte def. No. 6 Matt Ogle, 3-1

No. 5 Kris Prather def. No. 12 Chris Barnes, 3-1
No. 4 Tom Daugherty def. No. 20 Trevor Ashby, 3-2

Round of 8 Results

No. 1 Darren Ong def. No. 24 Trevor Roberts, 3-0
No. 10 Zach Wilkins def. No. 2 EJ Tackett, 3-0
No. 11 Jason Belmonte def. No. 3 Boog Krol, 3-2
No. 5 Kris Prather def. No. 4 Tom Daugherty, 3-2

Championship Round Scores

Match One: No. 5 EJ Tackett def. No. 4 Jason Belmonte, 247-220
Match Two: No. 5 EJ Tackett def. vs. No. 3 Zach Wilkins, 254-237
Match Three: No. 5 EJ Tackett def. vs. No. 2 Kris Prather, 224-207
Championship: No. 1 Darren Ong def. No. 5 EJ Tackett, 215-205

Full standings and match results are available here.

Final Standings

1. Darren Ong, $20,000
2. EJ Tackett, $13,500
3. Kris Prather, $10,000
4. Zach Wilkins, $7,500
5. Jason Belmonte, $6,000

March 29, 2025

O'NEILL, KNOWLES SURVIVE ELIMINATION BRACKET, ADVANCE TO STEPLADDER FINALS AT 2025 USBC MASTERS

ALLEN PARK, Michigan – Bill O'Neill of Langhorne, Pennsylvania, and Justin Knowles of Okemos, Michigan, survived Saturday's final rounds of Elimination Bracket competition and earned the No. 3 and No. 4 seeds, respectively, for Sunday's stepladder finals at the 2025 United States Bowling Congress Masters, which is taking place at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park, Michigan.

O'Neill got through thanks to a 211-209 victory over Bailey Mavrick of Peru, Indiana, and a 217-207 win over Canada's Graham Fach.

Knowles advanced by defeating England's Dom Barrett by a final score of 255-199. Barrett earned a shot at Knowles after besting Nathan Stubler of Peru, Illinois, 215-193, during Match 2 on Saturday.

All of Saturday's Elimination Bracket Finals matches were broadcast live on FS1 and were contested inside the famed Strobl Arena inside Thunderbowl Lanes.

By virtue of their wins on Saturday, O'Neill and Knowles earned the right to join No. 1 seed Gary Haines of Babylon, New York, and No. 2 seed Anthony Simonsen of Las Vegas, the 2016, 2022 and 2023 Masters champion, on Sunday's stepladder finals telecast, which also will be held in the Strobl Arena and will be broadcast live on FOX starting at noon Eastern.

Haines was the only competitor to make it through match play at this year's tournament undefeated. As such, he'll have to be beaten twice on Sunday in order to be denied the 2025 Masters title.

Sunday's winner will take home the tournament's $100,000 first-place prize, a major title on the Professional Bowlers Association Tour and a place in bowling history.

Regardless of his performance during the stepladder finals, O'Neill has made his mark on bowling history as is evident by the fact that he'll be enshrined in the PBA Hall of Fame on April 18.

O'Neill's distinguished resume features 15 PBA Tour titles, the first of which he won at Thunderbowl during the 2009-2010 PBA World Series of Bowling Chameleon Championship.

The 43-year-old right-hander also has three major titles to his credit; however, a Masters crown isn't among them. O'Neill would love to change that fact on Sunday, but he is trying to keep his focus on the process as opposed to the outcome.

"I just have to go out there tomorrow, execute my routine and take it one shot at a time," O'Neill said. "I got too far ahead of myself in the 10th frame here today, and I don't want to do that again."

O'Neill was referring to the end of his match with Fach, which got quite a bit more dramatic than O'Neill was hoping for.

After Fach spared in the ninth frame, O'Neill stepped up for his ninth and 10th needing double-nine spare to finish at 218 and shut the Canadian out.

O'Neill put himself in position to do just that by delivering a no-doubt strike in the ninth frame and then getting a great break by crossing over for a Brooklyn strike on the first ball in the 10th.

His next shot left a 10 pin, but that was perfectly fine because as long as O'Neill could convert the spare, he'd win the match and punch his ticket to Sunday's stepladder.

But O'Neill didn't convert; instead, he missed the spare in the gutter to the right, which meant that Fach suddenly had an opportunity to strike out to tie the match and force a roll off.

It wasn't meant to be, however, as after striking on his first shot in the 10th, Fach's second delivery resulted in a high-flush 8 pin, ending the lefty's run at the 2025 Masters.

Saturday's opening match between O'Neill and Mavrick came down to the wire as well.

Despite chopping the 3-6-10 in the fourth frame, O'Neill led most of the way thanks to a Mavrick foul during a spare conversion attempt in the second frame and a two-count after a double in the seventh.

Nevertheless, Mavrick wasn't ready to give in, and after O'Neill left a pocket 7-10 split on his second ball in the 10th frame, the 26-year-old two hander found himself with a chance to win.

Already riding two strikes into the 10th frame, if Mavrick could add two more, he'd go around O'Neill and move on to face Fach in Match 4.

Mavrick delivered a clutch strike on the first ball in the 10th, but his second shot left a ringing 10 pin, which allowed O'Neill to hang on for a hard-fought victory.

O'Neill has been bowling long enough to know that good and bad breaks tend to even out in the long run. Still, he was happy to have found himself on the good side on Saturday.

"That's just the way this game goes, especially with this format and a one-game match," O'Neill said. "I've been on both sides of that sort of thing, so I try not to get too high or too

low. If you bowl these events long enough, you're going to be on the right side of those breaks at some point."

Knowles didn't really need any breaks on Saturday; that's what throwing an eight-bagger will do for you.

After beginning his match against Barrett with a ringing 7 pin, Knowles did just that, running off strikes in frames two through nine on the 44-foot 2025 Masters oil pattern to lock up the victory before either bowler stepped up for the 10th.

Although Barrett, a 10-time PBA Tour titlist and three-time major champion, was the one with far more TV experience, it was Knowles who appeared most at ease during their nationally televised bout on Saturday.

According to Knowles, that was at least partly due to having the crowd in his corner since the 33-year-old two-handed lefty hails from a town just a little over an hour away from Thunderbowl.

"I'm not usually a crazy, loud kind of guy, but the fans just bring it out of me," Knowles said. "It feels good to just vibe and feel like everyone is behind you; it's pretty special."

That wasn't the only reason for Knowles' comfort, however; it also had to do with a recent shift in his competition mindset.

"I spent so much time alone in my hotel room during the World Series of Bowling in Reno that I fell in love with bowling again," Knowles said. "I used to be a really fierce competitor, but I kind of let that go and became this easy-going, nice-to-everyone guy.

"While I was in Reno, something told me to lock in and take it a little more serious. I guess that switch flipped because I was feeling pretty comfortable and loose when we got out there with the lights today. I guess you could say the monster came out."

Knowles knows that he'll need to author a monster performance during Sunday's stepladder finals if he hopes to get through the likes of O'Neill, Simonsen and Haines.

"I need the crowd just as loud as it was today, and I'm going to have to execute at an extremely high level because there are three incredible competitors on the show, including a guy who has won this thing three times already," Knowles said. "It's going to take my absolute best."

Sunday's stepladder finals will kick off with Knowles battling O'Neill in Match 1. The winner will draw Simonsen in the semifinals to see who earns the opportunity to take on Haines for the title.

The 2025 Masters began on Monday with a sold-out field of 390 bowlers. All qualifying and match-play rounds leading up to the two telecasts were broadcast live on BowlTV.

For more information on the USBC Masters, visit BOWL.com/Masters.

2025 USBC MASTERS
At Thunderbowl Arena
Allen Park, Michigan

Saturday's Results

ELIMINATION BRACKET SEMIFINALS
One-game match
(Winners advance to Elimination Bracket finals; losers eliminated, earn $6,000)

(1) Bill O'Neill, Langhorne, Pa., def. (36) Bailey Mavrick, Peru, Ind., 211-209.
(42) Dom Barrett, England, def. (13) Nathan Stubler, Peru, Ill., 215-193.

ELIMINATION BRACKET FINALS
One-game match
(Winners advance to Sunday's FOX finals; losers eliminated, earn $8,750)

O'Neill def. (16) Graham Fach, Canada, 217-207.
(14) Justin Knowles, Okemos, Mich., def. Barrett, 255-199.

Tackett Makes Fifth Straight Singles Show in PBA Chameleon Championship

March 18, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Tun Hakim, Kevin McCune, EJ Tackett, Andrew Anderson and Mitch Hupé advance to stepladder finals

The brilliance of international players continued on Tuesday afternoon in the PBA Chameleon Championship, the third title event of the PBA World Series of Bowling (WSOB) XVI.

Malaysia's Tun Hakim earned the top seed for the PBA Chameleon Championship stepladder finals, placing himself one game away from becoming the third international player to claim their first career title in as many nights.

Hakim will meet one of Kevin McCune, EJ Tackett, Andrew Anderson or Mitch Hupé in the championship match.

The PBA Chameleon Championship finals will air live on FS1 and the FOX Sports app at 4 p.m. Pacific/local (7 p.m. Eastern) time at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev. International viewers can watch via BowlTV.

Hakim qualified fourth for the elimination match play bracket last week. He defeated Boog Krol and Jesper Svensson — the two finalists in last season's PBA Playoffs — to earn his first career championship round appearance.

In January, the Malaysian men's team won gold in the International Bowling Federation (IBF) World Cup. Since then, three members of that team have made PBA Tour championship rounds: Timmy Tan (PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic), Rafiq Ismail (PBA Viper Championship) and Hakim.

With a win, Hakim would become the first Malaysian to win a PBA Tour title.

Kevin McCune seized the No. 2 seed with an impressive striking display, even on the high-scoring, 41-foot Chameleon oil pattern.

McCune defeated Chris Via 3-1 in the best-of-five-games match with games of 278, 257, 267 and 226. Then he overcame an 0-2 deficit to Lanndyn Carnate, firing games of 236, 212, 276, 299 and 258.

McCune will look to win his second career title and first since the 2023 PBA Players Championship.

Tackett advanced to his fifth straight championship round of the season in singles events and third of the WSOB with wins over Peter Fox, Japan's Yuma Haraguchi and Canada's Zach Wilkins.

Tackett won his first two championship round appearances of the season in the U.S. Open and PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic. He has finished second, third and second during his current stretch of consecutive shows.

Chameleon is one of just two WSOB animal pattern championships Tackett has yet to win. He finished runner-up in the other, Viper, last night.

EJ Tackett could meet Andrew Anderson, who defeated Tackett in the PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic title match.

Anderson ranks second on tour in points this season and earned his fifth top-10 finish of the season in the PBA Chameleon Championship.

The 29-year-old snuck into the match play field as the No. 24 qualifier, eclipsing Sweden's William Svensson by just four pins. Anderson took down Canada's Nathan Ruest-Lajoie, Zach Weidman and Hupé to earn the No. 4 seed.

Hupé advanced to the finals as the highest-seeded qualifier to lose in the Round of 8.

The Canadian tied with Haraguchi for the qualifying lead with a 12-game block of 3,083 — three pins shy of the record set by Michael Davidson earlier this season. Hupé defeated Thomas Larsen in the Round of 16 before falling to Anderson in the Round of 8.

The PBA Chameleon Championship stepladder finals will begin at 4 p.m. Pacific/local (7 p.m. Eastern) time, airing live on FS1 and the FOX Sports app. International viewers can watch via BowlTV.

Tun Hakim Wins PBA Chameleon Championship for First Career Title

March 18, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Tun Hakim becomes first Malaysian player to win PBA Tour title

The PBA World Series of Bowling (WSOB) has always served as a global stage for the sport of bowling, and this year's WSOB XVI has been the greatest manifestation of that goal.

Malaysia's Tun Hakim won the PBA Chameleon Championship title on Tuesday night, becoming the third international player to win a PBA Tour title in as many nights.

Hakim defeated Kevin McCune, 269-227, to win his first career title and the $20,000 top prize. He became the first player from Malaysia to win a PBA Tour title.

"It's a dream come true," Hakim said. "It's amazing. I really didn't expect to win. I'm just really speechless. I need a few days to put out some words."

In January, the Malaysian men won the gold medal in the International Bowling Federation (IBF) World Cup team event. Since then, three of the four team members have made the championship round in PBA Tour events.

Timmy Tan finished fourth in the PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic, Rafiq Ismail finished as the runner-up two nights ago in the PBA Scorpion Championship, then Hakim won tonight.

"It felt great to win the World Cup and be world champions. That win really boosted our energy to try to win more," Hakim said. "I really thought Rafiq was going to win on Scorpion. After that match, I wanted to break history and be the first Malaysian to ever win a PBA title. That really boosted me up to win today."

The fourth member of the team, Ahmad Muaz, has his own opportunity in Wednesday's PBA Shark Championship.

As the top qualifier, Muaz will clinch a berth in the championship round if he wins his Round of 16 match against Tim Foy Jr. Even if Muaz were to lose in the next round, he would be the highest-seeded qualifier and thus earn the No. 5 seed for the stepladder finals.

Hakim qualified fourth during the 12-game qualifying round last week, then defeated Boog Krol and Jesper Svensson — the two finalists in last season's PBA Playoffs — in match play to make his first career championship round appearance.

"I would say I have few experience bowling with the pros, even in Asia," Hakim said. "(Bowling against a) few of them who have won majors, even world championships, I just told myself to bowl well and try make my shots."

In the title match, Hakim opted to throw urethane on the 41-foot Chameleon pattern, just as he did throughout qualifying and match play. The unique strategy paid off, as he cruised to a 269-227 win over McCune.

McCune took down Andrew Anderson in the semifinal match, 265-215, as Anderson left three 10-pins and a pocket 7-10 in the second half of the game.

Anderson once again bested EJ Tackett in the second match of the stepladder. Anderson, who beat Tackett in Saturday's PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic presented by Pilgrim's title match, survived a nail biter on Tuesday.

After Anderson missed left in his second shot of the 10th frame, Tackett had a chance to double for the win. Tackett tripped the 4-pin on his first shot, but his second shot left a ringing 10-pin.

Tackett said he moved one board and executed the shot perfectly; the pins just didn't cooperate.

In the opening match, Anderson prevailed over Mitch Hupé, 258-233.

After Hupé fired five strikes in a row, he mustered only one strike in his final three frames. Anderson ended the match with six consecutive strikes to surpass the Canadian.

The WSOB continues with the PBA Shark Championship on Wednesday at the National Bowling Stadium.

Tackett has made all three championship rounds thus far in the WSOB, and also made the championship rounds of the two singles events prior to the WSOB. He enters the Round of 16 as the No. 2 qualifier, putting himself in strong contention for yet another show.

The Round of 16 will begin at 9 a.m. Pacific/local (12 p.m. Eastern) time, followed by the Round of 8 at 11:30 a.m. PT (2:30 p.m. ET) on BowlTV.

The PBA Shark Championship stepladder finals will air live on FS1 and the FOX Sports app at 4 p.m. PT (7 p.m. ET).

The PBA World Championship continues with round-robin match play on Thursday and the championship round on Saturday, March 22.

Tackett's Dominant WSOB Continues, Earns Top Seed in PBA Shark Championship

March 19, 2025 Nolan Hughes

EJ Tackett, Packy Hanrahan, Tim Foy Jr., Tom Smallwood and Jesper Svensson advance to stepladder finals

EJ Tackett moves one step closer towards becoming the first player to make every PBA World Series of Bowling (WSOB) XVI championship round since Sean Rash in 2011.

The two-time reigning PBA Player of the Year made the PBA Scorpion, Viper and Chameleon Championship finals each of the past three nights.

On Wednesday, Tackett earned the top seed for the PBA Shark Championship stepladder finals. He will await one of Packy Hanrahan, Tim Foy Jr., Tom Smallwood and Jesper Svensson in the championship match.

The PBA Shark Championship finals will air live on FS1 and the FOX Sports app at 4 p.m. Pacific/local (7 p.m. Eastern) time at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev. International viewers can watch via BowlTV.

Tackett qualified second behind Malaysia's Ahmad Muaz during the 12-game qualifying round last week. He defeated Jean Perez in the Round of 16 of the elimination bracket, featuring best-of-five-games matches, before overcoming an 0-2 deficit to 18-year-old Landin Jordan in the Round of 8.

Tackett, the defending PBA Shark Championship winner, has yet to win a title so far in the PBA WSOB XVI.

Hanrahan qualified third before dispatching Ryan Barnes and Justin Knowles in match play. The two-time PBA Tour champion has yet to win a title on television, but there is perhaps no greater stage to do so than the National Bowling Stadium.

Foy advanced to the fourth championship round of his breakout season with wins over Nu'Man Syahmi Yusri, Ahad Muaz and Jason Belmonte. Foy, who won four titles last season in the PBA East Region, is still searching for his first career PBA Tour title.

Smallwood, who won the PBA World Championship in the first WSOB, snagged the No. 4 seed with wins over François Lavoie, Matt Ogle and Jesper Svensson.

Smallwood survived his Round of 16 match against Ogle after Ogle left a stone-9-pin in the final shot of Game 5.

The Michigan native will see Svensson in a rematch to start tonight's stepladder finals. Svensson, who qualified fourth, earned the No. 5 seed as the highest-seeded qualifier who lost in the Round of 8.

Svensson defeated his PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship partner, Kyle Troup, in a thrilling five-game match. Four of Svensson's five games were above 255, including his 299 in Game 3.

The PBA Shark Championship stepladder finals will begin at 4 p.m. Pacific/local (7 p.m. Eastern) time, airing live on FS1 and the FOX Sports app. International viewers can watch via BowlTV.

Round of 16 Results

No. 17 Tim Foy Jr. def. No. 1 Ahmad Muaz, 3-1
No. 9 Jason Belmonte def. No. 8 Ben Robinson, 3-2

No. 2 EJ Tackett def. No. 18 Jean Perez, 3-0
No. 23 Landin Jordan def. No. 7 Jakob Butturff, 3-0

No. 3 Packy Hanrahan def. No. 19 Ryan Barnes, 3-2
No. 6 Justin Knowles def. No. 11 Chris Via, 3-1

No. 4 Jesper Svensson def. No. 13 Kyle Troup, 3-2
No. 21 Tom Smallwood def. No. 5 Matt Ogle, 3-2

Round of 8 Results

No. 2 EJ Tackett def. No. 23 Landin Jordan, 3-2
No. 3 Packy Hanrahan def. No. 6 Justin Knowles, 3-1
No. 17 Tim Foy Jr. def. No. No. 9 Jason Belmonte, 3-1
No. 21 Tom Smallwood def. No. 4 Jesper Svensson, 3-1

Championship Round Scores

Match One: No. 4 Tom Smallwood vs. No. 5 Jesper Svensson
Match Two: *winner* vs. No. 3 Tim Foy Jr.
Match Three: *winner* vs. No. 2 Packy Hanrahan
Championship: *winner* vs. No. 1 EJ Tackett

EJ Tackett Defends PBA Shark Championship Title

March 19, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Tackett ties Don Johnson for 10th all-time in career PBA Tour titles

EJ Tackett has made the championship round of every PBA Tour event so far in Reno, including the PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic presented by Pilgrims and the four animal pattern championships as part of the PBA World Series of Bowling (WSOB) XVI.

Tackett went winless in his first four stepladder final attempts at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev.

He would not be denied any longer, defeating Tom Smallwood, 265-206, to win his third title of the season in the PBA Shark Championship and the $20,000 top prize.

“It is really nice to finally get that win after being so close so many times this week,” Tackett said. “It's been some grueling days, but I feel like one of my best attributes is being able to let go of whatever happened the day before and wake up like it never happened. I’ve been able to do that really well this week and it's definitely paid off.”

With the win, Tackett earned his 26th career PBA Tour title. He is now tied with Don Johnson for 10th all-time.

“It’s unbelievable. I never, ever in my life thought, ‘One day I'm going to be tied with Don Johnson.’” Tackett said. “After I won a title, I thought maybe I could win four or five, and then I went on a run and thought maybe I could win 10. As I keep performing and winning, it just doesn't feel real. I wake up every day and it's like ‘I have this many and I'm tied with who?’

“I've reached a point where every single time I’m able to win and reach a milestone it’s an icon of our sport,” Tackett continued. “These are the guys that built this to allow me to be here. If I could thank them, I would. I'm very grateful for what they did, what they did for the game, and what they did as professionals.”

Tackett qualified second behind Malaysia's Ahmad Muaz during the 12-game qualifying round last week. On Wednesday, he defeated Jean Perez in the Round of 16 of the elimination bracket, featuring best-of-five-games matches, before overcoming an 0-2 deficit to 18-year-old Landin Jordan in the Round of 8 to earn the top seed for the stepladder finals.

Smallwood earned the fourth seed, then defeated Jesper Svensson, Tim Foy Jr. and Packy Hanrahan to meet his Motiv teammate in the championship match.

The Michigan native cruised past Svensson in the opening match, firing eight of nine strikes while the two-handed lefty totaled just five in the game.

Smallwood needed just nine pins to shut out Foy in the second match, but left the 3-4-6-7-10 and only got one pin on the spare attempt. The gaffe gifted Foy an opportunity to double for the win; Foy struck on the first attempt, but left a 10-pin on the second.

Hanrahan made two errors of his own in the semifinal match, missing a 7-pin in the third frame and missing the head-pin left in the sixth. That proved to be all the margin Smallwood needed to skirt past another two-handed southpaw as Smallwood took the game, 222-212.

The title match seemed to be the bowling gods' way of repaying Tackett's untimely splits in previous championship rounds.

While Smallwood left three consecutive 10-pins in the third through fifth frames, Tackett benefited from three fortuitous messengers and compiled seven straight strikes to start the match.

Tackett stayed clean down the stretch to secure his long-awaited first win of this year's WSOB. He will follow up defending his PBA Shark Championship title by defending his PBA World Championship title over the next three days.

Tackett leads the major championship event through 64 games, holding a 65-pin advantage over Jason Belmonte entering the final day of match play.

The top 16 players, who prevailed across 48 games of PBA Scorpion, Viper, Chameleon and Shark Championship qualifying and a 16-game advancer round on the 43-foot Earl Anthony oil pattern, begin round-robin match play on Thursday morning.

Tackett and Belmonte have won a combined six of the past eight PBA World Championship titles. Tackett has won the last two, including a 2023 title match victory over Belmonte.

"I think Jason is very hungry to win a title," Tackett said. "Obviously, he's been close all week as well. I think he's going to come in tomorrow and be very locked in. It's going to be very, very difficult for me to hold him off, so I have to mentally prepare for that. I expect it and I'm going to have to come in and go toe-to-toe and match whatever he does."

Players will bowl two eight game rounds, beginning at 10 a.m. Pacific/local (1 p.m. Eastern) time and 5 p.m. PT (8 p.m. ET) on BowlTV.

The top five players after Thursday's match play rounds will advance to Saturday's stepladder finals, airing at 12 p.m. PT (3 p.m. ET) on FOX and the FOX Sports app.

The full upcoming PBA television schedule is available here.

Round of 16 Results

No. 17 Tim Foy Jr. def. No. 1 Ahmad Muaz, 3-1
No. 9 Jason Belmonte def. No. 8 Ben Robinson, 3-2

No. 2 EJ Tackett def. No. 18 Jean Perez, 3-0
No. 23 Landin Jordan def. No. 7 Jakob Butturff, 3-0

No. 3 Packy Hanrahan def. No. 19 Ryan Barnes, 3-2
No. 6 Justin Knowles def. No. 11 Chris Via, 3-1

No. 4 Jesper Svensson def. No. 13 Kyle Troup, 3-2
No. 21 Tom Smallwood def. No. 5 Matt Ogle, 3-2

Round of 8 Results

No. 2 EJ Tackett def. No. 23 Landin Jordan, 3-2
No. 3 Packy Hanrahan def. No. 6 Justin Knowles, 3-1
No. 17 Tim Foy Jr. def. No. No. 9 Jason Belmonte, 3-1
No. 21 Tom Smallwood def. No. 4 Jesper Svensson, 3-1

Championship Round Scores

Match One: No. 4 Tom Smallwood def. No. 5 Jesper Svensson, 247-192
Match Two: No. 4 Tom Smallwood def. No. 3 Tim Foy Jr., 189-182
Match Three: No. 4 Tom Smallwood def. No. 2 Packy Hanrahan, 222-212
Championship: No. 1 EJ Tackett def. No. 4 Tom Smallwood, 265-206

Full standings and match results are available here.

Final Standings

1. EJ Tackett, $20,000
2. Tom Smallwood, $13,500
3. Packy Hanrahan, $10,000
4. Tim Foy Jr., $7,500
5. Jesper Svensson, $6,000

Belmonte Regains Control of PBA World Championship

March 20, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The major championship finale of the PBA World Series of Bowling (WSOB) XVI is winding down at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev.

Jason Belmonte seized the PBA World Championship lead after the first round of round-robin match play on Thursday.

Belmonte tallied a 6-2 record to bring his total pinfall to 17,252 (+2,852) through 72 games, including bonus pins.

Belmonte entered the day trailing then-tournament leader EJ Tackett by 65 pins, and ended the round ahead by 216 pins. The Australian is far from content with that margin.

“EJ is the type of player that whatever I just did, he can equally do that as well,” Belmonte said. “For me, it was really, it was really all speed control. I felt like if I could manipulate my ball speed and consistently create the shape that I wanted to, it really helped me get the ball going through the pocket right.”

Belmonte made match play in all four animal pattern championships — Scorpion, Viper, Chameleon and Shark — in the WSOB, but lost to Tackett in his lone championship round appearance.

“Those animal pattern tournaments, you'd love to win them. They grow your title count,” Belmonte said. “But if you're going to win one, this is the one you want to win.”

Tackett (+2,636), who made all four animal pattern championship rounds, won last night’s PBA Shark Championship and remains in second place in the PBA World Championship.

Tim Foy Jr. (+2,405), Boog Krol (+2,339) and Jesper Svensson rounding out the top five. Chris Via and BJ Moore resided within 50 pins of Svensson.

Via, who won the U.S. Open at the National Bowling Stadium in 2021, climbed from 10th into sixth through the first half of round-robin match play.

“I feel like I have a little bit more patience not having the one-and-done type deal,” said Via, who lost in the Round of 16 in the PBA Chameleon and Shark Championships. “I’m focusing on my game and at the end of the game, we'll see if it gets the extra bonus bins. I feel like if I just keep on bowling good games, I'm gonna give myself a good chance (to make the show).”

Match play concludes Thursday night at 5 p.m. Pacific/local (8 p.m. Eastern) time, livestreaming on BowlTV.

The top five players after Thursday’s final match play round will advance to Saturday’s stepladder finals, airing at 12 p.m. PT (3 p.m. ET) on FOX and the FOX Sports app.

The full upcoming PBA television schedule is available here.

Round-Robin Match Play Round 1 Leaders | PBA World Championship

1. Jason Belmonte, 17,252 (+2,852)

2. EJ Tackett, 17,036 (+2,636)
3. Tim Foy Jr., 16,805 (+2,405)
4. Boog Krol, 16,739 (+2,339)
5. Jesper Svensson, 16,676 (+2,276)
6. Chris Via, 16,661 (+2,261)
7. BJ Moore, 16,633 (+2,233)
8. Mitch Hupé, 16,575 (+2,175)
9. Kyle Troup, 16,571 (+2,171)
10. Andrew Anderson, 16,443 (+2,043)
11. Thomas Larsen, 16,438 (+2,038)
12. Ethan Fiore, 16,437 (+2,037)
13. Matt Ogle, 16,393 (+1,993)
14. Zach Wilkins, 16,379 (+1,979)
15. Darren Ong, 16,361 (+1,961)
16. Lanndyn Carnate, 16,351 (+1,951)

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Round-Robin Match Play Round 1 Leaders | PBA World Championship

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2. EJ Tackett, 17,036 (+2,636)
3. Tim Foy Jr., 16,805 (+2,405)
4. Boog Krol, 16,739 (+2,339)
5. Jesper Svensson, 16,676 (+2,276)
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12. Ethan Fiore, 16,437 (+2,037)
13. Matt Ogle, 16,393 (+1,993)
14. Zach Wilkins, 16,379 (+1,979)

15. Darren Ong, 16,361 (+1,961)
16. Lanndyn Carnate, 16,351 (+1,951)

Belmonte, Tackett Headline PBA World Championship Finals

March 21, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The two greatest players in PBA World Series of Bowling (WSOB) history continued their brilliance in this year's PBA WSOB XVI.

Jason Belmonte, who owns a PBA-record nine career WSOB titles, earned the top seed for the PBA World Championship finals.

EJ Tackett, who won his eighth career WSOB title on Wednesday night, secured the No. 2 seed.

Tackett and Belmonte have won a combined six of the last eight PBA World Championships, including the last two contested at the National Bowling Stadium in 2016 and 2017, respectively.

Tim Foy Jr., Boog Krol and BJ Moore round out the top five for stepladder finals in the season's second major championship.

The five players qualified for the championship round after 48 games across the WSOB's four animal pattern championships, 16 games of advancer rounds and 16 games of round-robin match play. Full standings are available here.

The PBA World Championship finals will air live at 12 p.m. PT (3 p.m. ET) on FOX and the FOX Sports app. International viewers can watch via BowlTV.

Belmonte won the PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship with Bill O'Neill earlier this season, but will look to win his first singles title since the 2023 PBA Tournament of Champions, which was two years and three days prior to Saturday's championship round.

This is the largest gap between singles titles since his first and second career titles in 2009 and 2011, respectively.

The gap coincides with Tackett's rise to prominence over the past two-plus seasons. Belmonte spoke about how he has taken time to accept no longer being "the best player in the world."

"For so long — I don't know how to say this without sounding a bit funny — that was probably my spot," Belmonte said. "In the last couple of years, EJ has definitely taken that spot. That's the part where I think I've gotten my head around it. Before it was like, 'Am I still number one? Can I still be number one? I think I'm still number one?' Then the realization that I'm not — but I can get it back."

Belmonte, however, has greater ambitions than that.

“I don't want to be the best in the world anymore. I want to be the best of all time,” Belmonte continued. “That's my motivation. That's my determination. That's why I leave my family (for the tour season).”

Belmonte’s success with the two-handed style, ranking seventh all time with 32 career PBA Tour titles, revolutionized the sport. A win on Saturday would extend his record of major championship victories to 16, having long surpassed the previous record of 10.

“I'm very capable of winning 20, and then I can stay in Australia and call it a day,” Belmonte said. “If I get to 20, I feel like that's the most ridiculous number that I could have ever imagined getting to. Whilst it seems a long way from now — I still have a PBA World Championship to win — that's my ultimate goal. That’s what I want to achieve in the next few years. The fact that I can lead a PBA World Championship at 41 should confirm what I've known I'm capable of to everyone else out here and at home: that I can still do this and do it at the very, very top of our game.”

Tackett has now made seven consecutive singles championship rounds. He also broke the PBA record for consecutive championship round appearances with six, as the PBA officially chronologizes championship rounds by the air date of the final round.

“It's one of those things where, as players, I don't know if we ever thought it could be broken,” Tackett said. “Six consecutive top-fives is pretty hard to come by. Any top five is hard to come by. To do it that many times in a row is pretty special. I know last year I was on the cusp and came up just short at the Masters. I felt like last year was, to me, more impressive because it was in five, almost six, different bowling centers.”

By making the PBA World Championship finals, Tackett became the first player since Sean Rash in 2011’s WSOB III at the to make the championship round of each WSOB event in a single season.

Coincidentally, the WSOB III, held at the South Point Bowling Center in Las Vegas, was the only other WSOB to include the Scorpion, Viper, Chameleon and Shark oil patterns.

“I bowled really, really well this whole World Series,” Tackett said. “I've always matched up pretty well here at the stadium. I was just able to take advantage of it and take advantage of some breaks and get on all the TV shows.”

As the two-time defending PBA World Champion, Tackett will look to achieve the sixth three-peat of a PBA major championship.

Earl Anthony twice won the PBA National Championship three consecutive years: 1973-75 and 1981-83. The PBA World Championship, as the tournament is now named, bears Anthony’s name on the trophy.

Jason Couch won the PBA Tournament of Champions in 1999, 2000 and 2002. No event was held in 2001.

Belmonte achieved the other two three-peats. He won the USBC Masters in 2013-2015, defeating Tackett in the 2014 title match, and the PBA World Championship in 2017, 2019 and 2020. (No event was held in 2018.)

Tackett defeated Belmonte in 2023's epic PBA World Championship title match, then climbed the stepladder finals in 2024. The 32-year-old will have to slay Belmonte once again to win his third straight PBA World Championship title on Saturday.

Before this season, Foy had bowled on TV twice in his career. His first appearance came as an alternate in the PBA Players Championship East Region finals after Bill O'Neill withdrew with an illness and the second came in last season's PBA Delaware Classic.

This season, Foy has made five of 11 championship rounds. This marks his first career championship round appearance in a major.

"Making the show in Delaware last year was awesome because I did it in front of home," Foy, a Delaware native, said. "This will be my fifth show, and with this being a major, it's got to be the biggest one so far. You always dream of bowling for a major."

Foy, a dominant PBA East Region player, has said in the past he felt like a minor leaguer playing in the majors. Despite his newfound, consistent success on the PBA Tour, he is not yet satisfied with his progress.

"I don't want to accept it, because I haven't won yet," Foy said. "The fire's burning until I win. It's going to light even more every week."

Conversely, Krol, who also began his emergence on the PBA Tour in last season's PBA Delaware Classic, has yet to lose a championship round match. He won both matches in Delaware, then went 4-0 en route to winning the PBA Playoffs last season.

Saturday will also mark his first career major championship round appearance.

"I'm not really sure what to feel," Krol said. "That was the goal this year, just to make a major cut and major telecast. We did it, and it feels amazing, but nothing will beat Delaware. Nothing will beat the Playoffs. Last year was just something special."

Krol made match play in three of four animal pattern championships in the WSOB, but failed to make a show in any event.

- Scorpion: Round of 8 loss to EJ Tackett
- Viper: Round of 8 loss to Jason Belmonte
- Chameleon: Round of 16 loss to Tun Hakim

"I got beat down so much this week at the World Series," Krol said. "It beat me down so much where it's like 'I'm making this TV show.' All of the hate that I saw through the BowlTV chat fueled this fire in me and whenever I start feeling that, it's like I'm against the world. I just knew I had to make this show for myself."

In the opening match of Saturday's stepladder finals, Krol will face his tour roommate BJ Moore.

In the position round, Moore needed to strike twice and get nine pins on his fill ball to stave off Jesper Svensson for the No. 5 seed. He struck all three shots.

“I try not to let those moments consume me,” Moore said. “I still have to throw one shot; I just happen to have to throw three of them. I try not to ever overthink that, because I feel like you can really get lost in what's going on around you. I think that that becomes a little easier the more you get to that point, not that I've made a ton of TV shows, but I've at least experienced that before and I've experienced it both ways. I've missed a few shows, and I’ve bowled my way on to shows.”

Moore won the PBA Wilmington Open, a non-televised event, for his lone PBA Tour title. Climbing the stepladder to win a major in the National Bowling Stadium

“That's what we're out here for,” Moore said. “Titles are cool, but the majors are the ones that you're always after. To me, (a major title) is the pinnacle of it all.”

The PBA World Championship finals will air live at 12 p.m. PT (3 p.m. ET) on FOX and the FOX Sports app. International viewers can watch via BowlTV.

The full upcoming PBA television schedule is available here.

Final Qualifying Leaders | PBA World Championship

1. Jason Belmonte, 19,045 (+3,045)
2. EJ Tackett, 18,924 (+2,924)
3. Tim Foy Jr., 18,803 (+2,803)
4. Boog Krol, 18,633 (+2,633)
5. BJ Moore, 18,621 (+2,621)
6. Jesper Svensson, 18,619 (+2,619)
7. Kyle Troup, 18,597 (+2,597)
8. Chris Via,18,545 (+2,545)
9. Mitch Hupé, 18,429 (+2,429)
10. Matt Ogle, 18,378 (+2,378)
11. Zach Wilkins, 18,335 (+2335)
12. Andrew Anderson, 18,297 (+2,297)
13. Thomas Larsen, 18,295 (+2,295)
14. Ethan Fiore, 18,288 (+2,288)
15. Darren Ong, 18,230 (+2,230)
16. Lanndyn Carnate, 18,222 (+2,222)

EJ Tackett Wins Historic Third Consecutive 2025 PBA World Championship

March 22, 2025 Nolan Hughes

EJ Tackett defeated Jason Belmonte to win third straight PBA World Championship title

In a battle between the top two bowlers on the planet, EJ Tackett prevailed over Jason Belmonte to win a historic third consecutive PBA World Championship title.

Tackett defeated Belmonte, 242-222, to win the PBA World Championship, the major title finale of the PBA World Series of Bowling (XVI), and the $100,000 top prize.

Only Belmonte (twice), Jason Couch and Earl Anthony (twice) had ever won a PBA major championship three consecutive times before Tackett.

“I watched Jason (Belmonte) do it a few years ago, win three in a row,” Tackett said. “I watched the other Jason (Couch) win three TOCs in a row. I never thought it was feasible to do it. I thought those guys were just so much better than everyone else that no one else could do it. I'm just in shock and disbelief. I always believe in myself, but to actually do it, is crazy.”

Tackett made every championship round during the PBA WSOB XVI, becoming the first player to achieve that feat since Sean Rash in 2011.

He also made the PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic presented by Pilgrim’s finals, setting the official PBA record with six consecutive championship round appearances.

Dating back to the PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic, Tackett has made seven consecutive championship rounds in singles events.

His PBA World Championship victory marked his fourth title of the 2025 season. No other player has more than one.

Tackett, who owns almost twice as many points and three times as many earnings as the next highest player, is on pace to earn his fourth career and third consecutive PBA Player of the Year honor.

In Saturday's PBA World Championship stepladder finals, BJ Moore defeated Boog Krol in the opening match, a battle between tour roommates. Moore fired the front-six strikes while Krol struggled to string strikes, leaving four single-pins.

Moore’s strong ball reaction ran out in the second match against Tim Foy Jr., who was making his fifth championship round appearance of his breakout season. Foy stayed clean until the 10th frame to shoot 234 and advance to the semifinal match against Tackett.

Foy possessed control of the match against Tackett until the eighth frame, in which he split and opened on the right lane. He left a 10-pin in the ninth frame as well, setting Tackett up with a chance to strike for the win.

Tackett said he liked the shot he threw, but the ball crossed over the head-pin — and still struck. The fortunate break enabled the Tackett-Belmonte duel that had been building for nearly a month in Reno.

“I got extremely lucky in the 10th frame,” Tackett said before the title match. “Tim threw two unbelievable shots in the 10th frame. He deserves to be standing here right now.”

Tackett refocused and seized control of the title match by throwing four strikes to start the match. After a split in the fifth frame, he struck three more times to set up his final frames.

Belmonte, seeking to extend his PBA record with a 16th career major title, struck twice, made two spares, and struck again to start the game. Then, on the same lane Tackett went high and split, Belmonte left a 2-10 split and created a 30-pin advantage for Tackett.

Belmonte struck in each of his next three frames, forcing Tackett to double in the 10th frame for the win — the exact stakes of their 2023 PBA World Championship title bout.

Tackett, just as he did two years ago, aced two strikes to win the match.

“In my opinion, (those) were two of the best shots of my whole career,” Tackett said.

The 2025 PBA Tour continues next week with the USBC Masters at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park, Mich.

Tackett, who also won the U.S. Open earlier this season, will aim for a third consecutive major title. The Masters would complete the career Grand Slam, a feat achieved by only Mike Aulby, Belmonte and Norm Duke.

Qualifying begins on Monday, leading up to the double-elimination bracket on Thursday and Friday. All rounds of qualifying and match play will be livestreamed on BowlTV, followed by the two-part, televised championship round on March 29-30.

The full upcoming PBA television schedule is available here.

Championship Round Scores

Match One: No. 5 BJ Moore def No. 4 Boog Krol, 258-203
Match Two: No. 3 Tim Foy Jr. def. No. 5 BJ Moore, 234-182
Match Three: No. 2 EJ Tackett def. No. 3 Tim Foy Jr., 237-224
Championship: No. 2 EJ Tackett def. No. 1 Jason Belmonte, 242-222

Final Standings

1. EJ Tackett, $100,000
2. Jason Belmonte, $60,000
3. Tim Foy Jr., $40,000
4. BJ Moore, $30,000
5. Boog Krol, $25,000

Defending Champ DeeRonn Booker, Red-Hot EJ Tackett Pursue USBC Masters Title

March 23, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The 2025 USBC Masters, the third major of the PBA Tour season, begins Monday at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park, Mich. All rounds of qualifying and match play will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

The Masters is renowned for the event's unique format, featuring almost 400 entrants, 15 games of qualifying and a 64-player, double-elimination match play bracket.

While the event has been dominated by elite stars like Jason Belmonte and Anthony Simonsen over the past decade, the format also opens a pathway for lesser heralded players to seize their moment.

DeeRonn Booker rose from relative obscurity to major champion with his undeniable run to the USBC Masters title a year ago.

He took down then-two-time defending champion Anthony Simonsen and eventual PBA Player of the Year EJ Tackett (by shooting 279 and 300) as part of an undefeated romp through the match play bracket.

Booker defeated Patrick Dombrowski in the title match to become the third Black player to win a PBA Tour and major title.

As the defending champion, Booker has automatically qualified for match play. If he qualifies lower than 64th place, he will earn the No. 64 seed for the double-elimination bracket.

No player owns more Masters titles than the major king himself, Jason Belmonte. The Australian three-peated the event in 2013-15, then won his record fourth title in 2017.

The event has been dominated of late by Anthony Simonsen, who broke up Belmonte's potential five-peat with a 2016 Masters title that made Simonsen the youngest-ever PBA major champion.

Simonsen won again in 2022, then went back-to-back with his 2023 win at Thunderbowl Lanes. He set the match play average record during his 2023 Masters title run.

Simonsen, by his own lofty standards, is having a down year in 2025. He ranks 25th in points and has made only one championship round. Nevertheless, "Simonsen" is the name no competitor wants to see in their portion of the bracket.

But the top player to watch in this week's major championship is EJ Tackett, who is in the midst of perhaps the most dominant run in the history of the sport.

Tackett made all five championship rounds in last week's PBA World Series of Bowling XVI, defending his PBA Shark Championship title, completing a historic three-peat of the PBA World Championship and setting a new PBA record with six straight finals appearances.

Tackett went on a similar heater last season, making five consecutive finals before coming up 25 pins shy of a sixth straight in the USBC Masters.

The Masters is one of two majors Tackett has yet to conquer; doing so would make him the fourth Grand Slam winner in PBA history, joining Mike Aulby, Norm Duke and Belmonte.

The shoe-in Hall of Famer moved into 10th all time with his 26th and 27th career titles last week. Here's what a Masters title this week would mean for Tackett:

- Extend record to seven straight championship round appearances
- Clinch status as points leader for 2025 season
- Secure 28th career PBA Tour title
- Tie for 4th all time with eighth career major title (Walter Ray Williams Jr. and Mike Aulby)
- Complete career Grand Slam (World Championship, U.S. Open, TOC, Masters)
- Become second player to win three majors in a single season (Jason Belmonte, 2017)
- Become second player to win three consecutive majors (Norm Duke, 2007-08)
- Move within $90,000 of single-season earnings record (Kyle Troup, $496,900)

Qualifying begins on Monday with squads competing at 8 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Eastern time on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Squad breakdowns and lane pairings are available here.

After the final squad on Wednesday night, the 64-player bracket will be set. Match play begins on Thursday and continues through Friday evening.

All rounds of qualifying and match play will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

The two-part televised championship round will take place next weekend. Noon ET shows on Saturday (FS1) and Sunday (FOX) will feature eight finalists, crown the 2025 USBC Masters champion and award the $100,000 top prize.

The elimination bracket will continue in Saturday's preliminary round and compete the field for Sunday's four-player stepladder finals. The top seed, who will have gone 6-0 in bracket match play, will need to be defeated twice.

More information on the 2025 USBC Masters is available here.

USBC Masters Schedule

Thunderbowl Lanes | Allen Park, MI

All times Eastern

Monday, March 24
8 a.m. — A-squad Qualifying Round 1 (five games)
12:30 p.m. — B-squad Qualifying Round 1 (five games)
6:30pm — C-squad Qualifying Round 1 (five games)

Tuesday, March 25
8 a.m. — B-squad Qualifying Round 2 (five games)

12:30 p.m. — C-squad Qualifying Round 2 (five games)
6:30 p.m — A-squad Qualifying Round 2 (five games)

Wednesday, March 26
8 a.m. — C-squad Qualifying Round 3 (five games)
12:30pm — A-squad Qualifying Round 3 (five games)
6:30pm — B-squad Qualifying Round 3 (five games)

Top 64 players (or top 63 players and defending champion, DeeRonn Booker) advance to double-elimination match play

Thursday, March 27
10 a.m. — First round (left side of bracket)
12:30 p.m. — First round (right side of bracket)
2:30pm — All first round winners
5 p.m. — Match play continues

Friday, March 28
10 a.m. — Match play continues
2 p.m. — Match play continues

Saturday, March 39
12:00 p.m. (FS1) — Preliminary Round

Sunday, March 30
12:00 p.m. (FOX) — USBC Masters stepladder finals

Sean Lavery-Spahr Leads Opening Round of USBC Masters

March 24, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Through the opening round of the 2025 USBC Masters, Sean Lavery-Spahr sits atop the 390-player field.

Lavery-Spahr averaged nearly 240, totalling 1,196 (+196) for his first five games of qualifying in the season's third major championship.

Brad Miller (+183), Mikey Schlabach (+182), Michigan native Tom Smallwood (+173) and Bill O'Neill (+173) round out the top five at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park, Mich.

All players will bowl 15 games of qualifying on the 44-foot oil pattern. Players will bowl two five-game rounds on fresh lane conditions and one round on "burn" conditions, meaning the lanes are not re-oiled after the previous squad.

After qualifying, the field will be trimmed to the top 63 players and the defending champion.

DeeRonn Booker, who dominated the 2024 event in Las Vegas, is guaranteed a berth in the 64-player match play bracket. Booker (-9) sits in 151st place after the first round of qualifying.

EJ Tackett (+96), seeking to extend his new record of six consecutive championship round appearances, placed 27th.

Qualifying continues on Tuesday. Booker and B-squad take the lanes at 8 a.m. Eastern time, followed by C-squad on the burn at 12:30 p.m. and A-squad at 6:30 p.m.

All rounds of qualifying and match play will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

The elimination bracket will continue in Saturday's preliminary round, airing at 12 p.m. ET on FS1, to complete the field for Sunday's four-player stepladder finals.

The top seed, who will have gone 6-0 in bracket match play, will need to be defeated twice in the championship match.

The USBC Masters finals will air live at 12 p.m. ET Sunday on FOX.

Round 1 Leaders | Five Games

1. Sean Lavery-Spahr, 1,196 (+196)
2. Brad Miller, 1,183 (+183)
3. Mikey Schlabach, 1,182 (+182)
4. Tom Smallwood, 1,173 (+173)
5. Bill O'Neill, 1,173 (+173)
6. Jake Peters, 1,165 (+165)
7. Matt Russo, 1,160 (+160)
8. Zach Cook, 1,147 (+147)
9. Anthony Simonsen, 1,145 (+145)
10. Vincent Bellar, 1,138 (+138)

More information on the 2025 USBC Masters is available here.

USBC Masters Schedule

Thunderbowl Lanes | Allen Park, MI

All times Eastern

Tuesday, March 25
8 a.m. — B-squad Qualifying Round 2 (five games)
12:30 p.m. — C-squad Qualifying Round 2 (five games)
6:30 p.m — A-squad Qualifying Round 2 (five games)

Wednesday, March 26
8 a.m. — C-squad Qualifying Round 3 (five games)

12:30pm — A-squad Qualifying Round 3 (five games)
6:30pm — B-squad Qualifying Round 3 (five games)

Top 64 players (or top 63 players and defending champion, DeeRonn Booker) advance to double-elimination match play

Thursday, March 27
10 a.m. — First round (left side of bracket)
12:30 p.m. — First round (right side of bracket)
2:30pm — All first round winners
5 p.m. — Match play continues

Friday, March 28
10 a.m. — Match play continues
2 p.m. — Match play continues

Saturday, March 39
12:00 p.m. (FS1) — Preliminary Round

Sunday, March 30
12:00 p.m. (FOX) — USBC Masters stepladder finals

More information on the 2025 USBC Masters is available here.

Bill O'Neill Paces Field Through Two Rounds of USBC Masters

March 25, 2025 Nolan Hughes

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Email

Bill O'Neill leads the USBC Masters, the season's third major championship, through two rounds of qualifying.

O'Neill ranked fifth after the first round, then surged into the lead with a strong second round. He leads the 390-player field with a total pinfall of 2,307 (+307) at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park, Mich.

"Physically, this is the best I've felt all season," O'Neill said. "The World Series (of Bowling) was bad. My ball reaction was great the whole time, and I couldn't hit it."

O'Neill said he went home after his WSOB exit and worked with a friend named Sam, who O'Neill's dad gave lessons to. He said Sam noticed that O'Neill's first step and push-away were getting too long.

“Sam told me, 'This is what your dad would tell you to do,’ and he was spot on,” O’Neill said. “I had a handful of shots yesterday that I pulled a little bit left, but my hand was in a really good spot, so the ball just laid there and stayed flush. That’s the reason why things have gone better here than they went in Reno.”

Last year’s runner-up Patrick Dombrowski (+265) sits in second place with Sean Lavery-Spahr (+259), Tom Smallwood (+249) and Marshall Kent (+227) rounding out the top five.

Lavery-Spahr led Monday’s opening round of qualifying. He said his natural ability to get the ball over the front part of the lane has been key to his success on the 44-foot oil pattern.

“Getting the ball over the front part of the lane as much as I was allowed the ball to retain a little bit better and I caught a few more hits than a lot of others,” Lavery-Spahr said. “My swing was already loose from yesterday, so I managed the transition and shuffled through quite a few balls today. I made a lot of really good decisions faster than I probably would have if I was chasing some scores.”

All players will bowl 15 games of qualifying, featuring two five-game rounds on fresh lane conditions and one round on “burn” conditions, meaning the lanes are not re-oiled after the previous squad.

After qualifying, the field will be trimmed to the top 63 players and the defending champion.

DeeRonn Booker, who dominated the 2024 event in Las Vegas, is guaranteed a berth in the 64-player match play bracket. Booker (+1) is tied for 133rd place after the second round of qualifying.

EJ Tackett (+219) climbed into eighth place with a strong showing on the burn squad. Tackett, who has made six consecutive championship round appearances this season, looks to complete the Grand Slam with a Masters title.

Three-time Masters champion Anthony Simonsen, who won the event at Thunderbowl Lanes in 2023, sits one place behind Tackett. Jason Belmonte, who owns the record with four Masters titles, sits three spots back in 11th.

John Furey (+72), averaging 207.20, occupies the final berth inside the cut through two rounds.

Qualifying concludes on Wednesday and all three superstars take the lanes with C-squad at 8 a.m. Eastern time, followed by A-squad on the burn at 12:30 p.m. and B-squad at 6:30 p.m.

All rounds of qualifying and match play will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

The elimination bracket will continue in Saturday’s preliminary round, airing at 12 p.m. ET on FS1, to complete the field for Sunday’s four-player stepladder finals.

The top seed, who will have gone 6-0 in bracket match play, will need to be defeated twice in the championship match.

The USBC Masters finals will air live at 12 p.m. ET Sunday on FOX.

Round 2 Leaders | Five Games

1. Bill O’Neill, 2,307 (+307)
2. Patrick Dombrowski, 2,265 (+265)

3. Sean Lavery-Spahr, 2,259 (+259)
4. Tom Smallwood, 2,249 (+249)
5. Marshall Kent, 2,227 (+227)
6. Jake Peters, 2,225 (+225)
7. Jean Perez, 2,220 (+220)
8. EJ Tackett, 2,219 (+219)
9. Anthony Simonsen, 2,217 (+217)
10. Eric Jones, 2,214 (+214)

Simonsen Hope to Rekindle Thunderbowl Magic as USBC Masters Match Play Begins

March 26, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Match play of the USBC Masters, the season's third major championship, is set to begin on Thursday.

The field was trimmed to the top 63 players and the defending champion, DeeRonn Booker, after 15 games of qualifying on the 44-foot oil pattern. All players bowl two five-game rounds on fresh lane conditions and one round on "burn" conditions, meaning the lanes are not re-oiled after the previous squad.

Bill O'Neill, who led after two qualifying rounds, maintained his lead of the 390-player field with a total pinfall of 3,331 (+331). Anthony Simonsen, Jean Perez, Marshall Kent and Tom Smallwood round out the top five at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park, Mich.

The red-hot EJ Tackett, seeking to make his seventh consecutive championship round, qualified 11th and one spot behind four-time Masters champion Jason Belmonte.

The first round of match play, featuring the left side of the bracket, begins at 10 a.m. Eastern on Thursday. The right side of the bracket competes at 12:30 p.m.

All rounds of match play will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

The full match play schedule is available here.

Two years ago, Simonsen lit Thunderbowl Lanes ablaze during his record-setting performance in match play.

Simonsen averaged 250.4, including an 845 series in his final match, en route to going 6-0 and earning the top seed. Simonsen went on to win the title, his second consecutive and third career victory in the event.

The scoring pace in this year's event has been lower than the 2023 event and much of the 2025 PBA Tour, which plays right into Simonsen's preference.

“The scoring pace throughout the year has been a little higher than I would like, so I really appreciate that aspect of this week,” Simonsen said. “The biggest goal of the week is to be one of the 64 guys in the bracket. Obviously, it's nice to put together some good games, but really I’m just trying to gather information to be as prepared as possible moving into the matches. I think there are going to be some matches that are going to be really high scoring and some matches that are really low scoring. I think it'll be important to decipher what you think your match is going to be prior to starting, and that might dictate your gameplan.”

All matches are three games and the player with the highest total pinfall will advance. Without changing pairs between games, the transition of the 44-foot oil pattern is dictated by the competitors in the match and characteristics of the pair alone. Simonsen said he enjoys competing in an environment with fewer variables.

“A lot of guys out here kind of struggle, not even necessarily following themselves, but without the help of others. I thoroughly would rather bowl on my own pair most of the time,” Simonsen said. “Doing that just allows me to get comfortable and really get an understanding of what each lane is doing, then I can dial in and not have to worry about what the next pair is doing and who I'm following. It allows me to put a little more focus on what's in front of me, and it generally leads to some more success in matches.”

The elimination bracket will continue in Saturday’s preliminary round, airing at 12 p.m. ET on FS1, to complete the field for Sunday’s four-player stepladder finals.

The top seed, who will have gone 6-0 in bracket match play, will need to be defeated twice in the championship match.

Tackett, O’Neill, Simonsen Headline USBC Masters Winners Bracket

March 27, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Sixteen players remain in the winner’s bracket of USBC Masters. Among them are three-time Masters champion Anthony Simonsen, three-time and two-time reigning PBA Player of the Year EJ Tackett, and 2025 PBA Hall of Fame-electee Bill O’Neill.

O’Neill, who earned the top seed for double-elimination match play, defeated defending champion DeeRonn Booker and Jake Peters on Thursday afternoon. The three-time major champion is looking to make his first championship round appearance in the Masters.

“I'm feeling great. This is the best I felt all season, physically,” O’Neill said. “I’ve got to keep doing exactly what I'm doing, go through my routine, my visualization process, and let it take care of itself.”

Simonsen set the USBC Masters match play average record during his 2023 Masters title run, which was also held at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park, Mich. He earned the No. 2 seed for match play before defeating Chad Roberts and Matt Ogle.

Tackett arrived in Allen Park after a 30-hour drive following his PBA World Championship victory in Reno, which caused him to miss the practice session. He still qualified 11th before dispatching Nate Purches and Luukas Väänänen in his Thursday afternoon matches.

“The first round (of qualifying) was interesting to say the least since I didn't have any practice,” Tackett said. “I put myself in a great position where on Day 3, I didn't really have to press, just come out and not do anything stupid. That's the name of the game. It doesn't have to be pretty. I just have to win.”

Tackett has made six consecutive championship rounds entering this event, a new PBA record. He can further etch his name in the PBA record books by making the championship round and winning this event, but he is only focused on one mission.

“I want to win another championship,” he said. “(The other accolades) are not something that I sit and think about or dwell on. I'm here to win a championship and all the other stuff that comes with it will take care of itself,” he said. “I'm sure (the intimidation factor) probably plays a little bit, but I don't ever bank on that. I have to go and beat my opponent, whether it's a seasoned veteran or a new face. Anybody can beat anyone at any given time.”

The 390-player Masters field was trimmed to the top 63 players and the defending champion, DeeRonn Booker, after 15 games of qualifying on the 44-foot oil pattern. All players bowled two five-game rounds on fresh lane conditions and one round on “burn” conditions, meaning the lanes are not re-oiled after the previous squad.

Sixteen players remain in title contention through the contender’s bracket, including last year’s finalists Booker and Patrick Dombrowski.

Booker, who automatically qualified for match play as the defending champion, wanted to earn his spot in the 64-player field through qualifying. He came up short, though he did qualify in a cashing spot tied for 96th place, and entered the bracket as the No. 64 seed. He lost his first match to O’Neill.

“I'm feeling a lot better being here, than the process of getting here,” Booker said. “It's really tough when you're not having a good season to try to come back and defend one of the hardest tournaments in the world to win. I had to just tell myself, ‘remember who you are and remember what you've done.’ Because a lot of times, we forget that we can still do great things, even though we're not having the greatest time right now.”

Booker said last year’s motivation was to earn a spot out of the pre-tournament qualifiers. While this season has been a struggle to find a new one, he rediscovered the feeling with wins over Brent Boho and Brad Miller on Thursday evening in the contender’s bracket.

“To see people, sign autographs, and take pictures with fans, I was able to find my reason again,” Booker said. “That gave me a boost and a little bit more confidence to trust in my ability. There's still a lot of bowling, so I'm not going to sit here and say, what-ifs. I'm just going to keep going one match, one frame, one ball at a time.”

Competition continues at 10 a.m. Eastern on Friday. The full match play schedule is available here.

All rounds of match play will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

The elimination bracket will continue in Saturday’s preliminary round, airing at 12 p.m. ET on FS1, to complete the field for Sunday’s four-player stepladder finals.

The top seed, who will have gone 6-0 in bracket match play, will need to be defeated twice in the championship match.

The USBC Masters finals will air live at 12 p.m. ET Sunday on FOX.

Finals Set in 2025 USBC Masters

March 28, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Eight players remain in title contention in the USBC Masters, the third major championship of the 2025 PBA Tour.

Six players — Graham Fach, Justin Knowles, Bill O'Neill, Bailey Mavrick, Nate Stubler and Dom Barrett, will compete at 12 p.m. Eastern time Saturday on FS1 in the preliminary round.

Two advancers will meet Gary Haines and Anthony Simonsen in Sunday's championship round, airing at 12 p.m. Eastern time on FOX.

Haines, a 36-year-old native of Babylon, N.Y., went 6-0 in match play to earn the top seed. He will need to be defeated twice in Sunday's championship match, while only needing one win to claim his first career PBA Tour title.

Haines defeated Simonsen in the final match of the winner's bracket, relegating Simonsen, a three-time Masters champion, to the No. 2 seed.

Simonsen won the 2023 Masters, which was also held at Thunderbowl Lanes.

Graham Fach and Justin Knowles each won their first four matches before falling to Haines and Simonsen, respectively.

Fach will face the winner of Bill O'Neill and Bailey Mavrick, who will compete in the opening match on Saturday. The winner between Fach, O'Neill and Mavrick will advance to Sunday's championship round.

EJ Tackett's streak of six consecutive championship round appearances came to an end. He lost to O'Neill in the final non-televised match of the elimination bracket.

Justin Knowles, a native of nearby Okemos, Mich., said he has competed at Thunderbowl Lanes for more than 20 years. The two-handed lefty will receive another opportunity to do so — this time in the iconic Strobl Arena.

Knowles will face the winner of Dom Barrett and Nate Stubler with a berth in a major championship round on the line.

More information on the 2025 USBC Masters is available here.

Preliminary Round

Match One: Bill O'Neill vs. Bailey Mavrick
Match Two: Nate Stubler vs. Dom Barrett

Match Three: Graham Fach vs. *winner of Match One*
Match Four: Justin Knowles vs. *winner of Match Two*

Championship Round

Match One: *winner of Preliminary Round Match Three* vs. *winner of Preliminary Round Match Four*
Match Two: Anthony Simonsen vs. *winner of Match One*
Championship: Gary Haines vs. *winner of Match Two* (*Haines must be defeated twice)*

USBC Masters Schedule

O'Neill, Knowles Advance to USBC Masters Finals

March 29, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Bill O'Neill and Justin Knowles advanced in the USBC Masters preliminary round to meet Gary Haines and Anthony Simonsen in Sunday's championship round, airing at 12 p.m. Eastern time on FOX.

O'Neill will face Knowles in the opening match of the stepladder finals at Strobl Arena inside Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park, Mich.

The winner will move on to face Simonsen, a three-time Masters champion.

The top-seeded Haines, who went undefeated in the double-elimination match play bracket, will have to be defeated twice in the championship match.

O'Neill led qualifying, but fell to Graham Fach in the third round of the winner's bracket. He tallied three wins in the elimination bracket, including one over EJ Tackett, to advance to Saturday afternoon's preliminary round, where he defeated Bailey Mavrick and earned his revenge against Fach.

O'Neill escaped his first match against Mavrick by two pins. Mavrick fouled on a 10-pin conversion, and got two pins while working on consecutive strikes. Those lost pins proved to be a fatal mistake for the 26-year-old against the soon-to-be PBA Hall of Famer.

In his next match, O'Neill made two gaffes of his own in his 10th frame. His first shot in the 10th went Brooklyn but struck, then he missed a 10-pin that would've shut out Fach.

Fach, who needed three strikes to tie O'Neill, struck on his first shot before leaving a 9-pin.

"It's weird to win a match, and all I can think about is the stupid stuff that I did," O'Neill said. "I just kept telling myself 'don't try to make it strike, just let it go,' and sure enough I tried to make it strike. My mind started to wander a little bit for some reason. When I come back tomorrow, I need to get back into my process."

Dom Barrett defeated Nate Stubler, 215-193, in the first match on the other side of the bracket before running into a Knowles-shaped buzzsaw. Knowles started with a spare, then fired eight consecutive strikes to shut out Barrett before the 10th frame.

Knowles, who grew up in the Detroit suburb of Warren and resides in Okemos, has previously won the Detroit Masters and Michigan Masters at Thunderbowl Lanes. He will look to complete what he called the "Tom Strobl Trifecta" with a USBC Masters title on Sunday.

Strobl, the former proprietor of Thunderbowl Lanes, passed away in 2023 and the arena bay inside Thunderbowl Lanes was renamed in his honor.

"Tom was Detroit bowling in a nutshell," Knowles said. "I grew up living in Detroit until I was 15, and he was everywhere. Even back then, he was a legend. It feels special to come back and reinvent myself in the city. Doing it for him would mean a lot."

Haines, a 36-year-old native of Babylon, N.Y., went 6-0 in match play to earn the top seed. He will need to be defeated twice in Sunday's championship match, while only needing one win to claim his first career PBA Tour title.

Haines defeated Simonsen in the final match of the winner's bracket, relegating Simonsen, a three-time Masters champion, to the No. 2 seed.

More information on the 2025 USBC Masters is available here.

Preliminary Round Results

Match One: Bill O'Neill def. Bailey Mavrick, 211-209
Match Two: Dom Barrett def. Nate Stubler, 215-193
Match Three: Bill O'Neill def. Graham Fach, 217-207
Match Four: Justin Knowles def. Dom Barrett, 255-199

Championship Round

Match One: Bill O'Neill vs. Justin Knowles
Match Two: Anthony Simonsen vs. *winner of Match One*
Championship: Gary Haines vs. *winner of Match Two* (*Haines must be defeated twice)*

USBC Masters Schedule

Thunderbowl Lanes | Allen Park, MI

All times Eastern

Sunday, March 30
12:00 p.m. (FOX) — USBC Masters stepladder finals

Gary Haines Wins USBC Masters for First Career PBA Tour Title

March 30, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Gary Haines, a 36-year-old Long Island native, capped off the best week of his professional bowling career by winning the USBC Masters title, the third major championship of the 2025 PBA Tour.

The top seed defeated three-time Masters champion Anthony Simonsen in the title match to win his first career PBA Tour title at Strobl Arena inside Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park, Mich.

“This was my week,” Haines said. “Something finally just let me relax and throw the ball the way I knew I could throw it, the way I threw it all week to get here. I have finished second so many times. I have five runner-up finishes in PBA Regionals. I’m always there and it feels like this week, finally, somebody was like, ‘This guy needs to win.’

Haines, who went undefeated in double-elimination match play, had to be defeated twice in the championship.

Simonsen won the first game, 207-172, to force a winner-take-all second game, where Haines took advantage of a few fortunate breaks and delivered two clutch shots when he needed them most.

“I feel like I’m going to remember those two shots and forget about the rest of the games,” Haines said. “I couldn’t have thrown it worse for 18 frames, but I gave my wife a kiss and I said to relax and let loose. I earned it. I threw two of the best shots of my life right there.”

Haines works full-time for National Grid as a control room operator in a steam power plant. He compared himself to Homer Simpson after defeating Simonsen on Friday to earn the top seed.

Despite the David vs. Goliath nature of the matchup, Haines said he did not feel intimidated about facing Simonsen.

“I bowled him for the (top seed) already, and you know what? I out-bowled him then,” Haines said. “I knew on TV it was going to be me against myself. Luckily, whatever he had going on there kept me alive, which apparently was the worst thing you could do.”

After earning a PBA Tour title, Haines will be exempt from most pre-tournament qualifiers (PTQs), but said he has no plans on leaving his day job to compete on the tour full-time.

“I don't think you're going to see me out here any more than you already did,” Haines said. “I have a very good job at home. It would not make sense for me to quit (my job), come out here and think all of a sudden I'm going to be the best in the world. I'm not. You saw out there for 18 frames. I still have a long way to go to beat these guys week in and week out.”

Despite Haines’ visible nerves and inconsistent shot-making, Simonsen was unable to put Haines away in the championship match. Simonsen maintained control for much of the deciding game, but a 4-9 split in the fifth frame and a four-count split after a strike in his frame ceded control back to the lefty.

“When it's not your day, it's not your day,” Simonsen said. “Clearly, it was Gary's week. He made a very impressive split to end (qualifying), and then went on a crazy run through match play. That’s how bowling works. Sometimes it's your day, and sometimes it's not. My 4-9 in the fifth frame definitely put a wrench in some things, but I wouldn't bowl that game any differently than I did.”

Simonsen defeated Bill O'Neill in the semifinal match that featured a similar ending.

After Simonsen left two single-pins in the seventh and eighth frames, O'Neill seized control of the match. O'Neill responded with back-to-back open frames, leaving a 2-10 split combination each time.

In the opening match, O'Neill survived a rock fight with Detroit-native Justin Knowles, winning 202-195.

O'Neill battled inconsistent ball reaction, but stayed clean aside from a split in his sixth frame. Meanwhile, Knowles struck just one time on the right lane — a Brooklyn — before O'Neill shut him out.

The PBA Tour continues with PBA All-Star Weekend April 4-6.

Championship Round Results

Match One: No. 3 Bill O'Neill def. No. 4 Justin Knowles, 202-195
Match Two: No. 2 Anthony Simonsen def. No. 2 Bill O'Neill, 189-176
Championship: No. 1 Gary Haines def. No. 2 Anthony Simonsen (Game 1: Simonsen def. Haines 207-172; Game 2: Haines def. Simonsen, 192-186)

Final Standings

1. Gary Haines, $100,000
2. Anthony Simonsen, $50,000
3. Bill O'Neill, $25,000
4. Justin Knowles, $15,000

Tackett, Belmonte Headline All-Star Festivities

April 2, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The second annual PBA All-Star Weekend is set to commence its festivities this weekend at Foxx View Lanes in Waukesha, Wis.

The PBA All-Star Weekend Powered by QubicaAMF's EDGE String pinspotter features a baker battle between one-handed and two-handed teams on Saturday, followed by a high-flying strike derby on Sunday afternoon.

This event marks the first televised PBA event to utilize string pinspotting technology – the USBC-approved and PBA-approved EDGE String pinspotter from QubicaAMF.

PBA All-Star Weekend: One-Handers vs. Two-Handers Powered by QubicaAMF's EDGE String pinspotter

Saturday, April 5 | 11am Central (12pm Eastern) on FS1

For generations, long before Don Carter and Dick Weber built the foundation of the PBA Tour, bowling stars played the game one way. While an internal war between righties and lefties waged for decades, a revolution was bubbling under the surface.

In back alleys around the globe, children too weak to hold a bowling ball began to thrust the ball down the lanes using every ounce of strength they could muster. It didn't matter how the ball was thrown — only how many pins fell over.

The homogeneity of the game came to a screeching halt in November 2011 when two international bowlers, each born in 1983 — the same year Earl Anthony won his last PBA Player of the Year award, changed the game forever.

Australia's Jason Belmonte captured three titles and Finland's Osku Palermaa brought home the PBA World Championship crown during the World Series of Bowling III.

Bowling would never be the same again. But the overnight transformation had little to do with the dominance of international players — and everything to do with *how* Belmonte and Palermaa threw the ball.

Using two hands.

The clash of styles that has defined the modern game and divided bowling fandom takes center stage on Saturday, April 5.

EJ Tackett, perhaps the last vestige of bowling's heritage, leads a team of traditional one-handed players against two-handed trailblazer Belmonte and his squad of revolutionaries.

The five-player teams will compete in a Race-to-Three match. Teams were selected based on competition points earned during the 2025 PBA Tour through the PBA World Series of Bowling XVI.

The Baker format, utilized in the PBA Elite League, places an emphasis on teamwork. Rotating through the lineup, each player will bowl two frames per game. The anchor will bowl the fifth and 10th frames.

If the teams split the first four games, each team will select three players to each throw a single shot. The highest combined total will win; a one-ball roll-off will be used to break any ties.

One-Handed Team

- EJ Tackett
- Andrew Anderson
- Graham Fach
- Jakob Butturff
- Kris Prather

Two-Handed Team

- Jason Belmonte
- Chris Via
- Tim Foy Jr.
- Matt Ogle

- Kyle Troup

PBA All-Star Weekend: Strike Derby Powered by QubicaAMF's EDGE String pinspotter

Sunday, April 6 | 11:30am Central (12:30pm Eastern) on FS1

The Strike Derby represents competitive bowling in its purest form: Players have two minutes to throw as many strikes as possible and the player with the most strikes moves on. It's that simple.

Competitors were selected via a fan vote, which ran from March 24-28. Fans were invited to vote for one player from each team in the PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands. Jesper Svensson qualified as the defending champion.

Play-in Round
Tommy Jones (Ebonite) vs. Jesper Svensson (defending champion)

Quarterfinals
Packy Hanrahan (Brunswick) vs. Boog Krol (Hammer)
Jason Belmonte (Storm) vs. Keven Williams (DV8)

Ryan Barnes (900 Global) vs. Kris Prather (Roto Grip)
EJ Tackett (Motiv) vs. winner of Jones/Svensson

Semifinals
Hanrahan/Krol vs. Belmonte/Williams
Tackett/Jones/Svensson vs. Barnes/Prather

Finals
Hanrahan/Krol/Belmonte/Williams vs. Tackett/Jones/Svensson/Barnes/Prather

Four Youth Stars Vie for PBA Junior National Championship Titles

April 3, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The finals of the PBA Junior National Championship air Friday, April 4 at 6:30 p.m. Eastern time on FS1.

California's Ernesto Reynoso looks to defend his title against Illinois' Griffin Jordan, while California's Katelyn Abigania hopes to fend off two-handed Anna Antony in the championship matches in the Boys and Girls divisions.

The 12 finalists in each division earned their spots through Regional Qualifier tournaments last year. The winner of each event advanced to the PBA Junior National Championship.

The finalists each bowled 12 games of round-robin match play. The top qualifier secured a berth in the championship match, which was televised in the U18 Boys and U18 Girls divisions, while the second through fifth qualifiers competed in a stepladder livestreamed on BowlTV.

The PBA Junior National Championships were contested March 14-15 at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev.

Griffin Jordan, who defeated his twin brother and the 2022 champion Landin Jordan to qualify for the PBA Junior National Championship, earned the top seed in the boys division.

Jordan averaged more than 247 during match play to stave off Florida's Christian Mouton for the automatic spot in the televised championship match.

Ernesto Reynoso, the defending champion, qualified third for the stepladder finals. In his first match against Dawson Peterson, who defeated Mats Tuneberg in the opening match, Reynoso shot 300.

Reynoso then defeated Mouton 268-251 to advance to the title match, where he will look to become the first two-time champion in the boys division.

Meanwhile, Jordan looks to become the first one-hander to win the boys division title. The previous four winners — Reynoso, Jacob Robertson, Landin Jordan and Spencer Robarge — all bowl two-handed.

Though this is Katelyn Abigania's first time in the televised championship match, she is no stranger to the PBA Junior National Championship scene. In fact, the San Diego native is the only player to have reached the finals in all five years of the event.

This year, Abigania cruised to the top seed by averaging more than 241 and compiling an 11-1 record. She never shot lower than 225 throughout match play.

Abigania also won the U.S. Amateur Championship in January at the National Bowling Stadium.

Kaitlyn Stull, the 2023 girls division champion, seized the fifth seed for the stepladder by defeating Abby Starkey in the position round. Stull won her matches against Taylor Kretz and Gianna Brandolino before falling to Anna Antony in the semifinal match.

Antony ended Stull's run with a 257-235 victory to set up a title match with Abigania.

Antony, who bowls two-handed, has a chance to become the first two-handed player to win the girls division title. Bella Love Castillo finished second in 2023.

In the new U15 Mixed division, Arkansas' Jackson Dyess climbed the stepladder to win the title.

He usurped Darrick Ferd Monteverde in the position round, then defeated Derrald Ferd Monteverde in the opening match of the stepladder. Dyess took down Blake Glines and Jos Weems to meet top seed Krisofer Wagner in the championship match.

Dyess won again, this time 237-225, to capture the first PBA Junior U15 Mixed National Championship.

The entirety of U15 Mixed division match play and stepladder finals were livestreamed on BowlTV and is available to rewatch in the BowlTV archives.

U15 Mixed Division - Championship Round Scores

Match One: No. 5 Jackson Dyess def. No. 4 Derrald Ferd Monteverde, 215-199

Match Two: No. 5 Jackson Dyess def. No. 3 Blake Glines, 244-171

Match Three: No. 5 Jackson Dyess def. No. 2 Jos Weems, 259-245

Championship: No. 5 Jackson Dyess def. No. 1 Kristofer Wagner, 237-225

Anna Antony, Griffin Jordan Capture PBA Junior National Championship Titles

April 4, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Anna Antony and Griffin Jordan each made their debuts on national television one to remember, capturing PBA Junior National Championship titles.

In the girls division, Antony took down the top seed in California's Katelyn Abigania. Antony became the first two-handed player to win the girls division title.

Jordan defeated California's Ernesto Reynoso, who was the defending champion, to win the PBA Junior Boys National Championship. Jordan earned the top seed by averaging more than 247 during match play and became the first one-handed to win the boys division title.

Jordan also won the doubles portion of the televised event, teaming up with EJ Tackett to take down the duo of Abigania and Diandra Asbaty.

The 12 finalists in each division earned their spots through Regional Qualifier tournaments last year. The winner of each event advanced to the PBA Junior National Championship.

The finalists each bowled 12 games of round-robin match play. The top qualifier secured a berth in the championship match, which was televised in the U18 Boys and U18 Girls divisions, while the second through fifth qualifiers competed in a stepladder livestreamed on BowlTV.

The PBA Junior National Championships were contested March 14-15 at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev.

Griffin Jordan's road to the PBA Junior National Championships started right at home. He defeated his twin brother Landin Jordan — the 2022 champion of the event — in the title match of last year's Regional Qualifier.

Upon arriving in Reno for the finals, Jordan was on a mission.

"I told myself, 'I'm not leaving here without a win. I'm not letting this happen. I need this one, and I need this now,'" Jordan said. "That was my mentality going into this and I never wavered. My confidence stayed that way the whole time and my mental game is just on top of the world right now."

Jordan excelled during match play, averaging more than 247. He staved off Florida's Christian Mouton with a match-winning strike in the position round to earn the top seed and the automatic spot in the televised championship match.

In the championship match, Jordan faced defending champion Ernesto Reynoso. Reynoso shot 300 against Dawson Peterson, then defeated Mouton 268-251 to advance to the title match.

“He's a great competitor. I feel like most people know that,” Jordan said of Reynoso, “but to me, he's just any other person I have to beat. I probably came in as the underdog and that just made me want to win more.”

Jordan said he broke down the pair well for himself, something he said he learned from watching his brother Landin compete on multiple TV shows, including the U.S. Open prelims earlier this year.

Jordan started with six strikes against Reynoso, but he missed 10-pin in the eighth frame. Just as he did in the position round against Mouton, Jordan responded with two strikes to win the title.

“If I can do it once, I can do it twice — and I did it twice,” Jordan said.

After years of sitting on the sidelines watching his brother celebrate on the lanes, this moment belonged solely to Griffin.

“For me to finally be able to have mine — and to be on the lanes instead of in the stands watching — made me so proud of myself and so proud of all the hard work I put in,” Jordan said.

The emotions came pouring out of Jordan after he defeated Mouton to clinch his spot in the championship match. After shaking hands with Mouton, Jordan ran to hug his father.

“Just to be on the TV show, I don't know, something about it made me collapse. I was just so proud of myself, and I knew my dad was going to be very proud of me as well,” Jordan said. “My dad means everything to me. He's been to almost every tournament I've bowled, and he's coached me for my whole life. He basically built me from the ground up and taught me pretty much everything I know. All the hours that we put in at the bowling alley together really made me happy.”

Championship Round Scores

Match One: No. 4 Dawson Peterson def. No. 5 Mats Tuneberg, 265-254

Match Two: No. 3 Ernesto Reynoso def. No. 4 Dawson Peterson, 300-247

Match Three: No. 3 Ernesto Reynoso def. No. 2 Christian Mouton, 268-251

Championship: No. 1 Griffin Jordan def. No. 3 Ernesto Reynoso, 244-235

Complete standings are available here.

U18 Girls Division

Anna Antony, just 15 years old, said she wanted to challenge herself, so she opted to compete in the U18 Girls division against a plethora of annual Junior Team USA members.

She beat them all, including Katelyn Abigania, who is the only PBA Jr. player to have reached the finals in all five years of the event, to win the PBA Junior Girls National Championship title.

Antony lost twice to Abigania during match play, including the position round, and said she wanted some revenge.

“I’ve got to win the war instead of just the battle,” Antony said of facing Abigania. “She beat me in match play and the position round. I kinda had to get my revenge. I can’t let her beat me all of these times.”

Antony bowled a clean, methodical 217 to beat Abigania’s 210.

Antony’s father was in attendance, while her mother and three siblings, none of whom bowl, were back home in Connecticut.

“But now I can rub it in their face that I'm the national champion,” Antony said.

Antony made history by becoming the first two-handed player to win the girls division. She achieved the feat with Jason Belmonte, the two-handed pioneer who inspired her to bowl, watching from the stands.

“I’m happy that Jason Belmonte got to see it,” Antony said. “It didn’t feel real that he was there. I’ve always envied his game. He’s one of the main reasons that I bowl two-handed. It all started with the 2015 USBC Masters. I thought it looked really cool and I modeled my game after him, because I grew to love bowling.”

Complete standings are available here.

Championship Round Scores

Match One: No. 5 Kaitlyn Stull def. No. 4 Taylor Kretz, 267-247

Match Two: No. 5 Kaitlyn Stull def. No. 3 Gianna Brandolino, 191-185

Match Three: No. 2 Anna Antony def. No. 5 Kaitlyn Stull, 257-235

Championship: No. 2 Anna Antony def. No. 1 Katelyn Abigania, 217-210

Complete standings are available here.

PBA Junior and PBA/PWBA Doubles

Girls Match: Katelyn Abigania/Diandra Asbaty def. Anna Antony/Felicia Wong, 119-106 (five-frame match)

Boys Match: Griffin Jordan/EJ Tackett def. Ernesto Reynoso/Marshall Kent, 116-110 (five-frame match)

Finals: Griffin Jordan/EJ Tackett def. Katelyn Abigania/Diandra Asbaty, 267-180

U15 Mixed Division

In the new U15 Mixed division, Arkansas' Jackson Dyess climbed the stepladder to win the title.

He usurped Darrick Ferd Monteverde in the position round, then defeated Derrald Ferd Monteverde in the opening match of the stepladder. Dyess took down Blake Glines and Jos Weems to meet top seed Krisofer Wagner in the championship match.

Dyess won again, this time 237-225, to capture the first PBA Junior U15 Mixed National Championship.

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Match Two: No. 5 Jackson Dyess def. No. 3 Blake Glines, 244-171

Match Three: No. 5 Jackson Dyess def. No. 2 Jos Weems, 259-245

Championship: No. 5 Jackson Dyess def. No. 1 Kristofer Wagner, 237-225

EJ Tackett and the One-Handers Rule PBA All-Star Weekend

April 6, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The one-handed EJ Tackett captured two trophies during PBA All-Star Weekend Powered by QubicaAMF's EDGE String pinspotter festivities at Foxx View Lanes in Waukesha, Wis.

The event marked the first televised PBA event to utilize string pinspotting technology – the USBC-approved and PBA-approved EDGE String pinspotter from QubicaAMF.

One-Handers vs. Two-Handers

On Saturday, Tackett led his team of one-handers, including Andrew Anderson, Jakob Butturff, Graham Fach and Kris Prather, to victory over Jason Belmonte's two-handed squad.

The teams were determined by the top five players in points through the PBA World Series of Bowling XVI. The two-handed team included Belmonte, Tim Foy Jr., Matt Ogle, Kyle Troup and Chris Via.

In the Race-to-Three baker match, the one-handers stormed to a 2-0 lead before the two-handers staved off defeat in Game 3. The two-handers' comeback bid proved futile as they fell in Game 4.

Results

Game 1: One-Handers def. Two-Handers, 216-182
Game 2: One-Handers def. Two-Handers, 269-181
Game 3: Two-Handers def. One-Handers, 257-193
Game 4: One-Handers def. Two-Handers, 213-127

Strike Derby

Sunday's PBA Strike Derby pushed players to their absolute limits. Players were given two minutes to throw as many strikes as possible across three lanes.

Competitors included 2024 champion Jesper Svensson and one player, determined via a fan vote, from each PBA Elite League team.

Tackett defeated Svensson and Ryan Barnes to set up a rematch of the historic PBA World Championship title match, where Tackett once again prevailed over Belmonte.

Tackett set the record with 16 strikes in a single round during the 2023 event, but this marked Tackett's first career Strike Derby victory.

Results

Play-in Round
Jesper Svensson def. Tommy Jones, 7-6

Quarterfinals
Packy Hanrahan def. Boog Krol 9-8
Jason Belmonte def. Keven Williams, 7-5
Ryan Barnes def. Kris Prather, 6-5
EJ Tackett def. Jesper Svensson, 12-10

Semifinals
Jason Belmonte def. Packy Hanrahan, 8-7
EJ Tackett def. Ryan Barnes, 9-9 (X-9)

Finals
EJ Tackett def. Jason Belmonte, 10-10 (X-9)

2025 PBA Players Championship Preview

April 7, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The first of the final two regular season events of the 2025 PBA Tour, both major championships, is set to begin with the PBA Players Championship at David Small's JAX 60 in Jackson, Mich.

The chase for the major title and $100,000 top prize gets underway with Monday's practice session.

All qualifying rounds and match play rounds Tuesday through Friday will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

The two-part championship round includes a prelims round Saturday at 7 p.m. Eastern time on FS1 and the finals Sunday at noon ET on FOX.

Storylines

Anthony Simonsen's runner-up performance in the USBC Masters catapulted him into the PBA Playoffs cut for the first time since the U.S. Open in early February.

Jesper Svensson holds the 12th and final PBA Playoffs berth entering this week's event, ranking just ahead of Kris Prather, Tomas Käyhkö, Tom Smallwood, Justin Knowles and Ryan Barnes.

Michigan natives Knowles and Smallwood performed well in Allen Park for the USBC Masters, so they'll look to once again ride the home state momentum.

The top eight players in points over the past two seasons qualify for the PBA Tour Finals, which currently includes EJ Tackett, Simonsen, Jason Belmonte, Bill O'Neill, Kyle Troup, Andrew Anderson, Marshall Kent and Chris Via.

Graham Fach, Svensson, Boog Krol and Zach Wilkins are the first four players outside the cut.

With 7,500 at the top up for grabs in each of the next two major championships, the opportunity for a last-second postseason push is available.

In the PBA Elite League, Motiv continues to stave off Storm's push for the top seed. Brunswick occupies the pivotal third spot, followed by 900 Global, Roto Grip and Hammer.

Players to Watch

Defending champion Bill O'Neill, who will be enshrined later this month in the PBA Hall of Fame, looks to add a third PBA Players Championship title to his name. A win would tie O'Neill with Jason Belmonte for the most titles in the major championship's history.

Five first-time champions have been crowned so far this season. Three of them — Santtu Tahvanainen, Rasmus Edvall and USBC Masters champion Gary Haines will be in the field this week.

With five titles won by first-time champions, that means eight titles have been won by past champions — and half of those wins belong to EJ Tackett.

Tackett, who has already clinched the top spot in the points list for the season, could become the second player to win three major championships in a single season. Belmonte achieved the feat in 2017.

Tackett looks to net his second five-title campaign in the last three seasons, all but securing his third consecutive and fourth career PBA Player of the Year award (pending a vote by PBA members).

An eighth career major would also elevate Tackett into a tie with Walter Ray Williams Jr. and Mike Aulby for fourth all-time.

Tackett, with a win, would also move within a USBC Masters title of the Super Slam.

Format

All players will bowl 16 games of qualifying on the 37-foot Don Carter oil pattern, beginning on Tuesday. Squad listings and lane pairings can be found here.

The 171-player field will be trimmed in half following those 16 games of qualifying, then again after an eight-game advancer round on Thursday morning.

The top 16 players after Thursday evening's casher round, also eight games, will qualify for round-robin match play.

Nine players will qualify for the two-part championship round of the PBA Players Championship.

The prelims round, a stepladder featuring the fifth through ninth qualifiers, will air live Saturday, April 12 at 7 p.m. ET on FS1.

The winner will meet the top four qualifiers in Sunday's championship round, airing live on FOX at noon ET.

Tickets to watch the PBA Players Championship are $15 for a daily pass, $40 for a weekly pass (Tuesday through Friday) and $75 for both televised rounds. Contact David Small's JAX 60 for more information.

Tournament Schedule

David Small's JAX 60 | Jackson, Mich.

All times Eastern/local

Monday, April 7 | BowlTV
12 p.m. — A-squad practice session
3 p.m. — B-squad practice session
6 p.m. — Pro-Am

Tuesday, April 8 | BowlTV
10 a.m. — A-squad Qualifying Round 1 (eight games)
5 p.m. — B-squad Qualifying Round 1 (eight games)

Wednesday, April 9 | BowlTV
10 a.m. — B-squad Qualifying Round 2 (eight games)
5 p.m. — A-squad Qualifying Round 2 (eight games)

Top half of field advances

Thursday, April 10 | BowlTV
10 a.m. — Advancers Round (eight games)
Top half of field advances

6 p.m. — Cashers Round (eight games)
Top 16 players advance

Friday, April 11 | BowlTV
11 a.m. — Match Play Round 1 (eight games)
6 p.m. — Match Play Round 2 (eight games)

5th-9th qualifiers players advance to prelims; 1st-4th qualifiers advance to finals

Saturday, April 12 | FS1
7 p.m. — Prelims (stepladder finals)
Winner advances to finals

Sunday, April 13 | FOX
12 p.m. — Finals (stepladder finals)

Dombrowski Paces Field in Opening Round of PBA Players Championship

April 8, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The opening round of the PBA Players Championship is in the books at David Small's JAX 60 in Jackson, Mich.

Ohio's Patrick Dombrowski paced the 172-player field with a total pinfall of 1,929 (+329) for his eight games on the 37-foot Don Carter oil pattern.

Ethan Fiore, Arturo Quintero, Sam DeWitt III and Benjy Martinez round out the top five after the first round of qualifying.

All qualifying rounds and match play rounds through Friday will be livestreamed on BowlTV. Squad listings and lane pairings can be found here.

The two-part championship round includes the prelims Saturday at 7 p.m. Eastern time on FS1 and the finals Sunday at noon ET on FOX.

ROUND 1 LEADERS

Dombrowski averaged more than 241 to lead B-squad on Tuesday evening. He said he didn't have a good look in Monday's practice session, and he committed to a little more surface and staying right as long as possible during qualifying today.

"I tried to stay right as much as I could, and then make shots and stay ahead of the transition," Dombrowski said. "(I need to) keep doing what I'm doing, posting shots and not looking at scores, and we'll see what happens."

Fiore (+309), who burst onto the national scene during the PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic and a historic roll-off against EJ Tackett, led A-squad. Despite averaging more than 238, Fiore rated his performance a six out of 10.

"It's definitely a confidence booster, knowing that I could have had more, and I'm leading (my squad)," Fiore said after A-squad finished early Tuesday afternoon. "It's a realization that even if I don't bowl good, I'm still going to be competitive. I did not throw it the greatest and missed so many spares. I can probably find 100 pins that I threw out, but I got them all back with breaks on bad shots. When the scores are this low, you've got to take advantage of the breaks you get, because eventually it's going to turn tables, and it's going to be you getting all the bad breaks and you throwing bad shots."

EJ Tackett (+6), the front-runner for this season's PBA Player of the Year honor, sits in 105th place and 33 pins outside the cut, currently occupied by Dick Allen (+39) in 86th place.

WHAT'S NEXT

B-squad takes the lanes at 10 a.m. Eastern on Wednesday, followed by A-squad at 5 p.m.

The field will be trimmed in half following Wednesday's second qualifying round, then again after an eight-game advancer round on Thursday morning.

The top 16 players after Thursday evening's casher round, also eight games, will qualify for round-robin match play.

Nine players will qualify for the two-part championship round. The prelims round, a stepladder featuring the fifth through ninth qualifiers, will air live Saturday, April 12 at 7 p.m. ET on FS1.

The winner will meet the top four qualifiers in Sunday's championship round, airing live on FOX at noon ET.

Tickets to watch the PBA Players Championship are $15 for a daily pass, $40 for a weekly pass (all rounds through Friday) and $75 for both televised rounds. Contact David Small's JAX 60 for more information.

Round 1 Leaders | 8 Games

1. Patrick Dombrowski, 1,929 (+329)
2. Ethan Fiore, 1,905 (+309)
3. Arturo Quintero, 1,881 (+281)
4. Sam DeWitt III, 1,870 (+270)
5. Benjy Martinez, 1,842 (+242)
6. Alec Keplinger, 1,828 (+228)
7. Thomas Larsen, 1,823 (+223)
8. Dean Vargo, 1,821 (+221)
9. Anthony Simonsen, 1,802 (+202)
10. Dallas Leong, 1,785 (+185)

Ethan Fiore Leads PBA Players Championship Through Qualifying

April 9, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Through two rounds of qualifying in the PBA Players Championship, the fourth major of the 2025 season, 20-year-old Ethan Fiore sits atop the leaderboard at David Small's JAX 60 in Jackson, Mich.

Dick Allen (+101) earned the final berth in Thursday's advancer round in 86th place. Competition begins at 10 a.m. Eastern.

All qualifying rounds and match play rounds through Friday will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

The two-part championship round includes the prelims Saturday at 7 p.m. Eastern time on FS1 and the finals Sunday at noon ET on FOX.

ROUND 2 LEADERS

Fiore, a Tampa native, led the 172-player field with a total pinfall of 3,733 (+533) for his 16 games on the 37-foot Don Carter oil pattern.

Fiore said he keeps his focus on shot making and does not pay much, if any, attention to the scoring pace. His process-oriented mindset paid dividends in Reno when he made the PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic finals, and continues to pay off in Jackson.

“Like in Nevada when I made the show, there's no pressure on me,” Fiore said. “I’m not really worried about making the show or doing anything; I’m worried about the very small picture. Everyone's worried about making the show or making the next cut. I could care less whether I make the cut or not. I'm going to be here. I'm going to watch these guys, and I'm going to try and learn. If I get the glory of learning while I bowl, then it's only a bonus.”

Dean Vargo, Patrick Dombrowski, Arturo Quintero and Ryan Barnes round out the top five after the first round of qualifying.

The 2023 champion, Kevin McCune, sits in sixth place while the 2019 champion, Anthony Simonsen, ranks 10th.

Defending champion Bill O’Neill sits in 16th place, one spot ahead of three-time PBA Players Championship winner Jason Belmonte.

WHAT’S NEXT

All 86 advancing players will bowl eight games on Thursday morning with the top half of the field competing in another eight-game round Thursday evening.

EJ Tackett, who won two of the season’s first three majors, did not make the cut. He finished in 110th place at +24.

The top 16 players after Thursday evening’s cashers round will qualify for round-robin match play.

Nine players will qualify for the two-part championship round. The prelims round, a stepladder featuring the fifth through ninth qualifiers, will air live Saturday, April 12 at 7 p.m. ET on FS1.

The winner will meet the top four qualifiers in Sunday’s championship round, airing live on FOX at noon ET.

Tickets to watch the PBA Players Championship are $15 for a daily pass, $40 for a weekly pass (all rounds through Friday) and $75 for both televised rounds. Contact David Small's JAX 60 for more information.

Round 2 Leaders | 16 Games

1. Ethan Fiore, 3,733 (+533)
2. Dean Vargo, 3,689 (+489)
3. Patrick Dombrowski, 3,610 (+410)
4. Arutro Quintero, 3,604 (+404)
5. Ryan Barnes, 3,589 (+389)

6. Kevin McCune, 3,586 (+386)
7. Sam Cooley, 3,577 (+377)
8. Matt Ogle, 3,569 (+369)
9. Jason Sterner, 3,565 (+365)
10. Anthony Simonsen, 3,561 (+361)

TJ Rock and Two Former Wichita State Teammates Advance to PBA Players Championship Match Play

April 10, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Twenty-year-old Ethan Fiore continues to lead the PBA Players Championship, the fourth major of the 2025 season, at David Small's JAX 60 in Jackson, Mich.

Through 32 games, Fiore has averaged more than 228 to accumulate a total pinfall of 7,308 (+908) on the 37-foot Don Carter oil pattern.

Fiore leads the field entering Friday's round-robin match play, which features the top 16 players following Thursday evening's cashers round.

Two past champions of the event, Kevin McCune (2023) and Anthony Simonsen (2019) sit in second and third, respectively. Arturo Quintero and Nick Pate round out the top five.

Alec Keplinger, TJ Rock, Ryan Barnes, Tim Foy Jr., Chris Via, Boog Krol, Jason Belmonte, Andrew Anderson, Patrick Dombrowski, Stu Williams and Jason Sterner also advanced to match play.

All qualifying rounds and match play rounds through Friday will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

The two-part championship round includes the prelims Saturday at 7 p.m. Eastern time on FS1 and the finals Sunday at noon ET on FOX.

FORMER SHOCKER TEAMMATES EXCEL

Keplinger, Rock and Barnes, who currently occupy sixth through eighth place, were teammates at Wichita State University from 2020-2023. They won the 2021 and 2023 Intercollegiate Team Championships titles and finished runner-up in 2022 during their time together. (Barnes bowled on the developmental team in 2021.)

Their collegiate success has translated to the professional ranks, which is no shocker (pun intended) to anyone familiar with the program's rich history of producing elite talent.

Barnes and Rock made match play in the PBA Players Championship as amateurs last season, which was held in Wichita; Keplinger finished as the runner-up for PBA Rookie of the Year honors.

Rock said their individual and team successes at Wichita State pushed each other to be better.

“It's like metal on metal,” Rock said. “We're always fighting each other and trying to get better. We always want to be the best one, and that's what gets us ready for (the PBA Tour). There's no other place that can do that because that's the caliber of bowlers we have.”

Rock found himself in the top five late in Thursday’s advancers round, but ended the block with games of 194 and 151 and slipped to 16th place. He then started the cashers round with games of 165, 191, 213 and 176 to drop to 23rd place and almost 100 pins outside the cut.

Rock responded with 257, 222, 269 and 289 to climb all the way into seventh place and secure his second consecutive match play appearance in the major championship.

“I was starting to doubt myself a little bit, but I’ve got to have more confidence in myself,” Rock said. “It’s been a long week and a first year on tour for me. I did not know the scores were that low, so I did not know where I was (near the end of the cashers round) and I thought I needed a big number. After Game 7, I saw it, so I just had to go get it.”

WHAT’S NEXT

The 16 match play finalists go head-to-head in Friday’s two round-robin match play rounds, which begin at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Eastern time.

The top nine players after 48 games, including bonus pins, will qualify for the two-part championship round.

The prelims round, a stepladder featuring the fifth through ninth qualifiers, will air live Saturday, April 12 at 7 p.m. ET on FS1.

The winner will meet the top four qualifiers in Sunday’s championship round, airing live on FOX at noon ET.

Tickets to watch the PBA Players Championship are $15 for a daily pass, $40 for a weekly pass (all rounds through Friday) and $75 for both televised rounds. Contact David Small's JAX 60 for more information.

Match Play Advancers | 32 Games

1. Ethan Fiore, 7,308 (+908)
2. Kevin McCune, 7,153 (+753)
3. Anthony Simonsen, 7,143 (+743)
4. Arturo Quintero, 7,083 (+683)
5. Nick Pate, 7,075 (+675)
6. Alec Keplinger, 7,065 (+665)
7. TJ Rock, 7,064 (+664)
8. Ryan Barnes, 7,061 (+661)
9. Tim Foy Jr., 7,058 (+658)

10. Chris Via, 7,051 (+651)
11. Boog Krol, 7,045 (+645)
12. Jason Belmonte, 7,019 (+619)
13. Andrew Anderson, 6,992 (+592)
14. Patrick Dombrowski, 6,989 (+589)
15. Stu Williams, 6,942 (+542)
16. Jason Sterner, 6,941 (+541)

Ethan Fiore Earns Top Seed, Belmonte and Simonsen Advance to Prelims Stepladder

April 11, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Nine players remain in title competition for the PBA Players Championship, the fourth major of the 2025 season, at David Small's JAX 60 in Jackson, Mich.

Twenty-year-old Ethan Fiore earned the top seed for the two-part stepladder finals, averaging nearly 227 for the event's 48 games of qualifying and round-robin match play.

Ryan Barnes, Alec Keplinger and Tim Foy Jr. secured berths in Sunday's championship round as the second through fourth qualifiers.

All four finalists seek to win their first career PBA Tour title. They will be joined by the advancing player from Saturday's preliminary stepladder, which includes three past champions of this event.

Jason Belmonte, who owns the most PBA Players Championship titles with three, will be the fifth overall seed and the top seed in Saturday's preliminary stepladder. He will face the winner of Jason Sterner, Anthony Simonsen, Nick Pate and Kevin McCune.

All qualifying rounds and match play rounds through Friday were livestreamed on BowlTV.

The two-part championship round includes the prelims Saturday at 7 p.m. Eastern time on FS1 and the finals Sunday at noon ET on FOX.

Fiore, a Tampa native, sits one game away from winning his first career PBA Tour title.

"This feels unreal," Fiore said. "It felt the same way as when I bowled the PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic and I made the finals. I'm not going to be able to absorb what just happened until it's over."

"I'm going to do the same thing because it went pretty well for me the last time," Fiore said of his previous finals appearance, when he lost in a seven-frame roll-off to EJ Tackett.

Fiore ended each of six eight-game rounds of the event in no lower than second place. Keplinger seized the lead to close the first round of match play, but Fiore retook the lead with final games of 265, 276, 209 and 279.

“I got lost this morning when I put more focus on ball reaction,” Fiore said. “Tonight, we were all focused on fundamentals and throwing better shots more often. Execution was top tier tonight and I came out with more score.”

As the No. 2 seed, Ryan Barnes will make his second consecutive championship round appearance in the PBA Players Championship. He finished third in Wichita, Kan. last year as an amateur.

Barnes said he struggled on the fresh 37-foot Don Carter oil pattern all week, but he said he drilled a ball to allow him to stay farther right for longer in match play. He averaged more than 243 in Games 2-8 of each match play round, including just one game below 223.

“I stayed in this zone where there wasn't a lot of traffic,” Barnes said. “I thought I was going to have to chase the left like every other block. I got to just go repeat (shots) for a while, and I was repeating pretty good.

This marks Barnes’ third finals appearance of the season. He lost his first match in each previous appearance, shooting games of 141 and 133, but said he doesn’t plan to make significant changes to his preparation.

“The process is the process,” Barnes said. “Honestly, I haven't really thrown it that bad on TV. I know I've scored really bad, but I just have to match up to the lanes better. We're going to try and find a good gameplan in practice and see if we can't do something good.”

Keplinger, who earned the No. 3 seed, hails from Coldwater, Mich., which is about a 40-minute drive from Jackson. Two of his three career championship round appearances have come in his home state, including last season’s PBA Cheetah Championship in Allen Park.

“To have people here and do this in front of them, proud is about the only way to describe this feeling,” Keplinger said. “I’m on cloud nine. It’s amazing coming back to Michigan and bowling well.”

Barnes and Keplinger were teammates at Wichita State University from 2020-2023. They won the 2021 and 2023 Intercollegiate Team Championships and finished runners-up in 2022. (Barnes was on the developmental team in 2021.)

Another former teammate, TJ Rock, finished in 14th place.

Tim Foy Jr. will make his sixth championship round appearance of the season and second in a major championship. Before this season, Foy had made the finals just once in his career.

“This makes me feel like making the World Championship show wasn’t a fluke, so that’s cool,” Foy said. “I’ve got a decent amount of TV experience this year. I just need to try to put it all together to finally hold a trophy at the end of the day.”

Foy lost in the semifinal match of the PBA World Championship to EJ Tackett, who threw a match-winning Brooklyn strike in the 10th frame. Still searching for his first career title, Foy said he doesn’t feel pressure to win.

“It’s more about the drive: I’m ready to win,” Foy said. “I feel like I’ve learned enough on TV and I’ve been bowling well on TV. I bowled well against EJ (Tackett) and the unfortunate break happened. It’s easy

to put your head down and dwell on things, but if I keep putting myself in position to win, eventually it's going to happen."

Jason Belmonte will look to extend his record with a fourth career PBA Players Championship victory, previously winning in 2011-12, 2017 and 2022.

Jason Sterner, propelled by a 300 in Game 5 of Friday's second round of match play, secured the sixth overall seed and second seed in the preliminary round.

Anthony Simonsen, who defeated Belmonte in the 2019 championship match of this event, will be the seventh overall seed and third seed in the preliminary round.

Nick Pate, who rose from 11th to eighth during the position round, will face the 2023 PBA Players Championship winner Kevin McCune in the opening match on Saturday.

Boog Krol finished seven pins behind McCune. Krol could have struck in the 10th frame of the position round to usurp McCune.

Chris Via, Arturo Quintero, Andrew Anderson, TJ Rock, Stu Williams and Patrick Dombrowski round out the match play finishers.

Match Play Standings | 48 Games

1. Ethan Fiore, 11,225 (+1,625)
2. Ryan Barnes, 11,109 (+1,509)
3. Alec Keplinger, 11,052 (+1,452)
4. Tim Foy Jr., 10,943 (+1,343)
5. Jason Belmonte, 10,848 (+1,248)
6. Jason Sterner, 10,821 (+1,221)
7. Anthony Simonsen, 10,801 (+1,201)
8. Nick Pate, 10,718 (+1,118)
9. Kevin McCune, 10,684 (+1,084)
10. Boog Krol, 10,677 (+1,077)
11. Chris Via, 10,622 (+1,022)
12. Arturo Quintero, 10,618 (+1,018)
13. Andrew Anderson, 10,578 (+978)
14. TJ Rock, 10,567 (+967)
15. Stu Williams, 10,538 (+938)

16. Patrick Dombrowski, 10,508 (+908)

Kevin McCune Advances to Finals of PBA Players Championship

April 12, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Kevin McCune advanced to the finals of the PBA Players Championship, the fourth major of the 2025 season.

McCune climbed the preliminary round of the stepladder finals, defeating Nick Pate, Anthony Simonsen, Jason Sterner and Jason Belmonte at David Small's JAX 60 in Jackson, Mich.

The top four players — Ethan Fiore, Ryan Barnes, Alec Keplinger and Tim Foy Jr. — qualified for Sunday's championship round.

McCune will meet Foy, who is his PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship partner, in the opening match of the championship round.

The championship round will air live Sunday, April 13 at 12 p.m. Eastern time on FOX.

The preliminary round featured the fifth through ninth qualifiers following 48 games of qualifying and round-robin match play.

McCune, the 2023 champion of the event, entered match play in second place but fell to the No. 9 seed during match play.

"It was very frustrating, especially because of the look I had," McCune said. "The way the lanes transitioned in match play, I just did not figure it out quick enough. It was frustrating because of the position that I was in. That also probably helped a little bit today, because I was pissed off and using that anger as motivation."

The 37-foot Don Carter oil pattern made it difficult for players to string high scores. That led to some players, including McCune, using safer gameplans.

"I'm just really trying to get to the pocket as much as I can without overdoing anything," McCune said. "If I can get to the pocket, being able to use my speed and rev rate, I know I'm going to strike. So as long as I can get there, it will be alright."

In his 2023 PBA Players Championship victory, McCune defeated Zac Tackett, EJ Tackett, Simonsen and Jakob Butturff. On Saturday, he took down Simonsen again before dethroning Belmonte in the final match.

"I think I belong out here," said McCune, the youngest of the McCune's three generations of PBA Tour champions. "I know I can beat anybody at any given time, just like anybody else does. If I don't believe that I shouldn't be here; if I don't think I can beat anybody, why am I bowling?"

McCune said he will apply the same mindset to Sunday's finals, which features four players seeking to win their first career title.

"I'm going to treat them as if they're Belmo, EJ or Simo," McCune said. "I don't care who you are, I'm gonna try to beat you. The name is irrelevant."

In the opening match, McCune recovered from a Big Four leave in the opening frame with eight strikes in his next 10 shots to defeat Nick pate.

McCune rode that momentum into another decisive victory over Simonsen, 246-194.

The oil pattern's transition caused McCune to struggle early against Sterner. However, McCune found a way to strike on his final four shots and force Sterner to strike in his 10th frame. Sterner failed to strike, leaving a 2-8.

In the preliminary round's final match, Belmonte struck on his first shot before leaving three consecutive 10-pins and splitting in the fifth frame. Meanwhile, McCune fired four straight strikes to take a commanding lead.

Belmonte tallied fives strikes from the seventh frame on, but it was too late. McCune advanced with a 243-210 win.

McCune will face his close friend and PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship partner, Tim Foy Jr., in the opening match of the championship round.

The finals will begin at noon ET on FOX.

Prelims Round Scores

Match One: No. 9 Kevin McCune def. No. 8 Nick Pate, 240-186
Match Two: No. 9 Kevin McCune def. No. 7 Anthony Simonsen, 246-194
Match Three: No. 9 Kevin McCune def. No. 6 Jason Sterner, 190-189
Match Four: No. 9 Kevin McCune def. No. 5 Jason Belmonte, 243-210

Championship Round Matches

Match One: No. 9 Kevin McCune vs. No. 4 Tim Foy Jr.
Match Two: *winner* vs. No. 3 Alec Keplinger
Match Three: *winner* vs. No. 2 Ryan Barnes
Championship: *winner* vs. No. 1 Ethan Fiore

Ethan Fiore Wins 2025 PBA Players Championship for First Career Title

April 13, 2025 Nolan Hughes

In a battle between a 20-year-old and a 22-year-old, the younger of the two emerged with the major championship title.

Ethan Fiore defeated Ryan Barnes, 232-179, to win the PBA Players Championship, the fourth major of the 2025 season.

Fiore, the top seed, earned his first career PBA Tour title and the $100,000 top prize at David Small's JAX 60 in Jackson, Mich.

“When you put it in words, it just doesn't sound real,” Fiore said. “But we're here and I’m happy I got the win.”

With the win, Fiore becomes eligible for next week’s PBA Tournament of Champions presented by 1800 Tequila and the PBA Elite League. Motiv manager Brett Spangler said Fiore will be added to the team and will likely be started in next week’s regular season finale.

“It feels pretty good to be surrounded by the actual best in the world, knowing that they're all champions,” Fiore said. “Granted, they’ve got stacks of things on their résumé compared to mine, but it's cool to be a champion with them.”

Fiore said he achieved his goals for the season after qualifying for the PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic finals last month in Reno. After winning a major championship this week, he said those goals are evaporated.

“They're not even in existence anymore,” Fiore said after winning his first title. “I'm just going to go out there with one more week left of the swing and hope we bowl good. Otherwise, I am content and happy with what I've done so far.”

Kevin McCune, who qualified ninth after 48 games of qualifying and match play, advanced to the championship round of the two-part stepladder finals by winning Saturday’s preliminary round.

Though McCune shot three games north of 240 on Saturday, he mustered just 185 in his loss to Tim Foy Jr., his PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship partner.

Foy also won the second match of the afternoon over Alec Keplinger, a native of nearby Coldwater, Mich., by a 247-215 margin.

Foy, making his sixth championship round of the season, sought to win his first career title as well. That hope came to an end in the semifinal match, which he lost to Ryan Barnes 264-235.

Barnes fired 11 of 12 strikes in his decisive semifinal PBA Players Championship victory, the same match he lost a year ago as an amateur.

Making his third finals appearance of his rookie season this year, Barnes rose to the No. 2 seed by playing farther right than most competitors on the 37-foot Don Carter oil pattern.

Fiore opted for a different strategy, playing much farther left, that he never wavered on.

“That was the plan, we just had to put our finger on exactly what to focus on,” Fiore said. “About three frames in, we figured it out. We just attacked it head on and hoped that Ryan would get a bad enough break to kind of ease the pressure a little bit, or that I would just throw good enough shots to where I didn't miss. We kind of got a mix of both.

“The kid bowled great all week,” Fiore said of Barnes. “He's getting there. He's close. I thought he was going to win before I was. He's going to be scary.”

“I’m learning what my misses are and what my physical keys are during those moments,” Barnes said. “The same thing has been popping up relatively consistently. So get to work on that, and hopefully we'll overcome that next time. I get a little forward, my shoulder comes around it and I miss left.”

The regular season concludes in next week’s PBA Tournament of Champions presented by 1800 Tequila.

This will be the final event in which players can earn points, which means the PBA Playoffs and PBA Tour Finals fields will be set, and the PBA Elite League standings will be finalized.

Championship Round Matches

Match One: No. 4 Tim Foy Jr. def. No. 9 Kevin McCune, 235-185
Match Two: No. 4 Tim Foy Jr. vs. No. 3 Alec Keplinger, 247-215
Match Three: No. 2 Ryan Barnes def. No. 4 Tim Foy Jr., 264-235
Championship: No. 1 Ethan Fiore def. No. 2 Ryan Barnes, 232-179

Final Standings

1. Ethan Fiore, $100,000
2. Ryan Barnes, $50,000
3. Tim Foy Jr., $30,000
4. Alec Keplinger, $20,000
5. Kevin McCune, $15,000

Postseason Races Come to Forefront in Regular Season Finale

April 14, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The regular season of the 2025 PBA Tour is set to conclude at the game’s most hallowed grounds: AMF Riviera Lanes hosts the PBA Tournament of Champions powered by 1800 Tequila.

In addition to the major title and $100,000 top prize, the coveted final berths in the postseason fields are on the line in this week’s regular season finale.

The top 12 players in this season’s points and the top eight players across the last two seasons will qualify for the PBA Playoffs and PBA Tour Finals, respectively.

All qualifying rounds and match play rounds Tuesday through Thursday will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

On Friday night, Bill O'Neill, Sean Rash, George Branham III and Dave Schroeder will be inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame. The ceremony will be free to watch on BowlTV.

The TOC's two-part stepladder finals includes a prelims round Saturday at 5 p.m. Eastern time on FS1 and the championship round Sunday at 3 p.m. ET on FOX.

Storylines

PLAYOFFS

Both Ethan Fiore and Ryan Barnes, who finished first and second in the PBA Players Championship, elevated themselves into the PBA Playoffs picture. They rank seventh and eighth in points, respectively, entering the TOC.

EJ Tackett, Andrew Anderson, Tim Foy Jr., Jason Belmonte, Chris Via, Graham Fach, Fiore, Barnes, Anthony Simonsen, Kyle Troup, Matt Ogle and Bill O'Neill occupy the current playoff berths.

O'Neill holds the coveted 12th position by a mere 28 points over Boog Krol, who is followed by Jakob Butturff, Tomas Käyhkö, Kevin McCune, Jesper Svensson and Kris Prather.

With 5,000 points awarded to the TOC champion and the top 15 positions each earning more than 1,000 points, the opportunity to rise up the leaderboard is available.

Barnes, however, is not eligible for the TOC as a non-champion. His postseason fate rests in the hands of his competitors.

TOUR FINALS

Marshall Kent hasn't been able to replicate the success of his magnificent 2024 campaign. However, the defending TOC champion finds himself in strong position to qualify for the PBA Tour Finals, an event in which he finished second to Anthony Simonsen a year ago.

Tackett, Simonsen, Belmonte, O'Neill, Troup, Anderson, Kent and Via make up the current field for the PBA Tour Finals.

Graham Fach, Krol, Svensson, Ogle, Zach Wilkins, Tom Smallwood, Foy and Matt Russo are the first eight players outside the number.

ELITE LEAGUE

Motiv, which has led the PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands powered by Beatbox since EJ Tackett's U.S. Open triumph in February, bolstered an already deep roster for a postseason push.

Ethan Fiore's victory on Sunday made him eligible for the PBA Elite League and manager Brett Spangler added Fiore to the team without hesitation. Spangler said Fiore will be in this week's starting lineup as well.

Meanwhile, Storm is one strong performance from stealing the coveted top seed after narrowing the gap between themselves and Motiv to less than 2,000 points.

Brunswick holds a 1,540-point margin over 900 Global for third place, which would secure an automatic berth in the final round of the two-part stepladder finals.

Roto Grip and Hammer each trail Brunswick by less than 8,000 points, a significant-but-not-insurmountable margin.

DV8 and Ebonite will battle for seventh and eighth place and lane choice in the opening match of the playoff stepladder.

Players to Watch

EJ Tackett, who has already clinched the top spot in the points list for the season, has likely done enough to warrant a fourth career and third consecutive PBA Player of the Year honor — but he's aiming to turn a great season into an all-time great season.

Tackett could become the second player to win three major championships in a single season, a feat only achieved by Jason Belmonte in 2017. A major title would be the eighth of Tackett's career, tying himself with Walter Ray Williams Jr. and Mike Aulby for fourth all-time.

The 32-year-old is averaging 229.42 on the season and is on pace to break the single season average record, held by Jason Belmonte with 229.39 in 2017.

Tackett won the TOC that same year in 2017, but he has yet to win since the tournament returned to AMF Riviera Lanes in 2018. He has reached the championship round three times, including each of the past two years.

Anthony Simonsen, Matt Ogle and Jason Sterner have also reached the championship round each of the past two years — but none have won a match. Belmonte and Kent climbed the stepladder on each occasion.

Format

All players will bowl 18 games of qualifying on the 40-foot Don Johnson oil pattern, beginning on Tuesday.

The top 24 players after the third qualifying round on Wednesday will advance to round-robin match play, which will be contested Wednesday evening through Thursday.

Nine players will qualify for the two-part championship round.

The prelims round, a stepladder featuring the fifth through ninth qualifiers, will air live Saturday, April 19 at 5 p.m. ET on FS1.

The winner will meet the top four qualifiers in Sunday's championship round, airing live on FOX at 3 p.m. ET.

Tickets to watch the prelims and championship rounds are available to purchase here.

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Kevin McCune Stays Hot, Leads Opening Rounds of TOC

April 15, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Kevin McCune made a run at his second career major title in last week's PBA Players Championship. This week, the son and grandson of PBA Tour champions is making another run in perhaps the PBA's most historic venue.

McCune leads the PBA Tournament of Champions powered by 1800 Tequila at AMF Riviera Lanes through two six-game qualifying rounds in Fairlawn, Ohio. Complete standings are available here.

In the regular season finale, players are competing for berths in the PBA Playoffs and PBA Tour Finals

All qualifying rounds and match play rounds Tuesday through Thursday will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

On Friday night, Bill O'Neill, Sean Rash, George Branham III and Dave Schroeder will be inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame. The ceremony will be free to watch on BowlTV.

The TOC's two-part stepladder finals includes a prelims round Saturday at 5 p.m. Eastern time on FS1 and the championship round Sunday at 3 p.m. ET on FOX.

McCune averaged 245 to net a total pinfall of 2,940 (+540) for his 12 games on Tuesday. He switched from Hammer to Roto Grip staff in the offseason and said he has gotten used to the new equipment, which is leading to more confidence with his ball selection.

"I've been seeing the lane pretty well and knowing which ball to go to better than I have been," McCune said. "I need to keep throwing the ball well and try not to over-complicate anything. I know that if I get to the pocket, I'm going to strike."

"Riviera is definitely a very historic place, and it's really cool," McCune added. "Hopefully I can keep bowling well here. I mean, my dad and grandpa never won here, so it'd be pretty awesome to win here."

A pair of former TOC champions in Dom Barrett (+503) and Jesper Svensson (+477) are in second and third place, respectively. Matt Zweig (+401) and AJ Johnson (+400) round out the top five after Tuesday's action.

EJ Tackett (+399), seeking to become the second player to win three major championships in a single season, sits in sixth place.

Jason Belmonte, the lone player to have won three majors in a single season, ranks outside the current cutline (held by Shawn Maldonado at +291) after two rounds.

But Belmonte is no stranger to comebacks in the TOC — when he won his record-setting fourth TOC title over Tackett in 2023, Belmonte sat in 51st place through two rounds.

The 2010-11 TOC champion, “Major” Mika Koivuniemi sits in 14th place through two rounds, while last week’s PBA Players Championship winner Ethan Fiore ranks 16th.

The top 24 players after the third qualifying round on Wednesday will advance to round-robin match play, contested across Wednesday evening through Thursday.

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Svensson, Tackett Rise to Top of TOC Standings

April 16, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Both Jesper Svensson and EJ Tackett have won the PBA Tournament of Champions.

Neither has won the prestigious major at historic AMF Riviera Lanes, which has hosted the TOC 36 times dating back to 1966.

Both have finished runner-up as the top seed since the TOC returned to the revered Fairlawn, Ohio venue in 2018.

On Wednesday, Svensson and Tackett surged to the top of the PBA Tournament of Champions powered by 1800 Tequila standings.

Svensson leads the 24 remaining players after one of three rounds of round-robin match play. Tackett sits in second place 253 pins behind the Swede. AJ Johnson, Graham Fach and Matt Sanders round out the top five.

Tackett closed the third and final round of qualifying with a 300 game to take the lead. Then Svensson began the first round of round-robin match play, featuring the top 24 players after 18 games of qualifying on the 40-foot Don Johnson oil pattern, with a perfect game.

Svensson tallied seven more wins on the evening to rack up an 8-0 record and 240 bonus pins.

“It’s kind of wild, honestly. I didn’t see that coming,” Svensson said. “I’ve seen the lanes well this week. At this point, it’s mostly about getting comfortable and firing away because everybody’s going to be pretty much lined up. I did my job really well and hit the jackpot.”

Svensson started the season slowly, but tallied six top-25 finishes in six events in Reno, including a sixth place finish in the PBA World Championship.

“It's been a little up and down this season, and I feel like I've been better and better again as we've been progressing through the season,” Svensson said. “It feels good to put a block like this together and prove to myself that I belong up here. I’ve got what it takes to at least beat these guys every now and then.”

Svensson holds a 253-pin margin over Tackett, who is seeking to become the second player to win three majors in a single season, for the lead

“EJ is scary when he gets it going, but I am pretty confident that he would say the same thing about me right now,” Svensson said.

Tackett is coming off his worst performance in at least three seasons, finishing 110th in the PBA Players Championship. Tackett said he went home and practiced to work out some kinks in his physical game, but he made it clear missing the cut was far from a blessing in disguise.

“I don't think it's ever a benefit to not be bowling,” he said. “Obviously, I struggled a lot last week and I worked through a couple of things practicing at home. I felt like I bowled well in the first round, it just wasn't cohesive yet. After drilling a ball and seeing the lane a little bit differently, everything kind of melted together. As we bowled, I felt like I kept throwing it better and better. The last 12 games (before match play) have been pretty special.”

Tackett has made the championship round three times since the TOC returned to Riviera in 2018, including a runner-up finish in 2023. Much like his U.S. Open triumphs at Indianapolis’ Royal Pin Woodland, Tackett would relish the opportunity to hoist a trophy on Riviera’s sacred lanes 27-28.

“I’ve talked about it a bunch in the past, just how special this building is and how important this building is to bowling, and especially to professional bowling,” Tackett said. “This is where it all started, so it would be very, very special for me to be able to get any sort of win in this building. Obviously, the Tournament of Champions would make it even more cool and more special.”

Belmonte, who beat Tackett in the 2023 TOC title match, is familiar with that very feeling. He closed his final game of qualifying with five consecutive strikes to make the cut.

He made a similar comeback in 2023, rising from 51st place to make the cut and eventually winning the title.

“Don't worry, I tell myself to stop doing this. This isn't something that I'm purposefully doing,” Belmonte joked about needing to make a comeback seemingly every year in the TOC.

“There's a lot of bowling left. We haven't even got to the halfway point of the tournament,” Belmonte added. “I think with 24 games, bonus pins and a top-nine step ladder, I really do believe in myself. I believe that if I can make some shots, get some really good pairs, get some wins, there's no reason why I can't climb all the way to the very top like I have before. That’s exactly how I'm going to approach it.”

Belmonte (+741) currently sits in 14th place, trailing Shawn Maldonado in ninth place by 83 pins.

Match play concludes on Thursday with rounds beginning at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m Eastern time. All match play rounds will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

Nine players will qualify for the two-part championship round. Players are also competing for berths in the PBA Playoffs and PBA Tour Finals in the regular season finale.

The prelims round, a stepladder featuring the fifth through ninth qualifiers, will air live Saturday, April 19 at 5 p.m. ET on FS1.

The winner will meet the top four qualifiers in Sunday’s championship round, airing live on FOX at 3 p.m. ET.

Tickets to watch the prelims and championship rounds are available to purchase here.

Match Play Round 1 Standings | 26 Games

1. Jesper Svensson, +1,248
2. EJ Tackett, +999
3. AJ Johnson, +997
4. Graham Fach, +942
5. Matt Sanders, +876
6. Kevin McCune, +854
7. Jakob Butturff, +852
8. Packy Hanrahan, +849
9. Shawn Maldonado, +825
10. BJ Moore, +811
11. Boog Krol, +799
12. Mika Koivuniemi, +777
13. Keven Williams, +769
14. Jason Belmonte, +741
15. Stu Williams, +722

16. François Lavoie, +711
17. Dom Barrett, +708
18. Tom Smallwood, +699
19. Darren Tang, +693
20. Anthony Simonsen, +631
21. Matt Zweig, +592
22. Tom Daugherty, +586
23. Bailey Mavrick, +551
24. Ethan Fiore, +523

Ray Bluth, a PBA Hall of Famer and Bowling Icon, Dies at 97

April 18, 2025 Johnny Campos

Ray Bluth, the last surviving member of the famed Budweiser bowling team that captivated a nation and set a record that stood for decades, died in his sleep on Friday, April 11, at the age of 97.

With his passing, the iconic five-man Budweiser team that helped define bowing's golden era, is now together once again.

Bluth was a member of five halls of fame, including the United States Bowling Congress in 1973 for Superior Performance and in the inaugural Professional Bowlers Association class of 1975 along with a couple of his Budweiser teammates – Dick Weber and Don Carter.

The other two members on the Budweisers were Tom Hennessey and Pat Patterson. The group bowled a then-record 3,858 team series on March 12, 1958 on lanes 7-8 at Floriss Lanes in St. Louis. The record stood for almost 35 years.

Bluth was the high man on the team with an 834 set that included a 300 game. He struck on 33 of a possible 36 shots, which was the world record at the time.

"The camaraderie that that team had, it was like a brotherhood," said Mike Bluth, one of Ray's four children. "They were traveling on trains and planes together and playing gin. That was probably some of the best times of his life, I would say.

"When we were kids, every summer we always had to have the biggest station wagon because we would go on tour with them. We would be gone for four weeks at a time. He only had one or two bowling balls, so we had them in the back of the station wagon with a cooler full of baloney and bread. Then we'd drive across the country!"

At the time of his death, Bluth was in the house that he built in 1959, where he and Carol, his wife of 71 years, raised their four children.

“All four kids were there, along with about six grandkids and three great-grandkids,” Mike Bluth said. “And he passed away in his sleep, which was good.”

Ray Bluth, a St. Louis native, owned several bowling centers – most notably Crestwood Bowl – in his home area along with his family over the years. The family sold the final one a couple of years ago.

“He loved to play golf, and was playing until he was almost 93,” Mike said. “He was playing probably two or three times a week. Then he had some mini-strokes that he didn’t even know he had, and it affected his vision. He also couldn’t walk the courses anymore.”

Another St. Louis bowling great, Nelson Burton Jr., was just a youngster when he first saw Bluth bowl.

“I knew Ray probably from the time I was 13 or 14,” Burton recalled. “I went with my dad and watched Ray bowl in the St Louis City Match Game, which I believe he won. I bowled a lot with Ray in the Masters League, which is where the Budweisers shot the 3,858 on lanes 7-8 at Floriss Lanes. I bowled my first 300 two weeks after that when I was 16 on that same pair of lanes.”

Burton and Bluth also went to the same high school, St. Louis University High, an all-boys Jesuit school. But not at the same time.

“He was about 15 years ahead of me,” Burton said. “But I think he might have been the least known of the Budweiser team bowlers because he never did well on the PBA Tour.”

Bluth finished his career with around 50 top-five finishes on the PBA Tour, but finished second 16 times and third on 17 other occasions.

Of his top-five finishes, however, many of the tournaments did not have TV finals. Bluth only made nine telecasts, going 9-9 for his career.

He beat Burton, 236-205, in the title match to win the 1969 Buckeye Open in Toledo, Ohio. They met the following year in the title game of the same event, with Burton coming out on top.

“We are the only two people that went to the same high school that bowled for a PBA title against each other two years in a row,” Burton said. “I was the tournament leader both times. He beat me in 1969, and then I beat him the next year.”

Bluth’s other regular PBA title came in the 1964 Spokane PBA Open, when he finished 266 pins ahead of the field. It was his first victory after finishing second nine times and third 12.

In the ABC Masters, Bluth finished second in 1956 before beating Billy Golembiewski for the title in 1959.

Weber, Carter and Bluth all were charter members of the PBA when it was organized in 1958.

Bluth’s top earning years on Tour were 1962 and 1963, when he broke the $25,000 mark. During the PBA’s first six years of existence, he was among the top eight money winners each time.

He also won the 1964 George Young High Average award at 210.512.

But Bluth earned some big money on the lanes outside of PBA competition. In 1964 he earned $22,240 on Make That Spare telecasts. He also earned $37,150 in eight seasons of Championship Bowling, which topped bigger names on the list, such as Weber, Harry “Tiger” Smith and Carmen Salvino.

Bluth also bowled two 300 games and two 800 series on national television, but not in PBA competition.

The Budweiser team added Bill Lillard to their original five bowlers to win the Classic Division team title in the 1962 American Bowling Congress Open Championships.

In 1974, Bluth and Carter bowled with Jim Godman, John Guenther and Bob Strampe on the Ebonite Corp. team to claim that year’s Classic Division title.

Bluth and Weber won the BPAA National Doubles title four times, finished second twice and third three times.

And he had all of his success with a unique approach that started with Bluth holding the bowling ball seemingly over his right eye, cupping it near his right shoulder and then putting the ball in motion with a short backswing and unleashing a powerful strike ball.

Some people called him “Peek-a-Boo” for his style, but Mike Bluth said his dad had a different nickname.

“Mostly it was Blooper or Bloops,” he said. “In fact, Carmen called him that the other day. They all had little nicknames back then for everybody.”

But Bluth’s physical game drew the attention of another PBA Hall of Famer.

“Oh, I could duplicate Ray’s style,” said Barry Asher, a 10-time PBA champion who bowled on Tour with Bluth and was close with the Bluth family over the years. “When I was a kid, I could just do it almost verbatim. Hell, I wanted to copy everybody!

“If I could take Ray Bluth’s precision and Salvino’s hand, I could be the best bowler I could be.”

The first time Asher met Bluth, however, things didn’t go well for him.

“When I was about 15 I got a spot in a tournament at Ocean Bowl on the Long Beach Pike,” Asher recalled. “I crossed with Ray, and then in April I bowled in San Jose, and I crossed with Don. So, yeah, it was my baptism of fire. Ray was intimidating, just by his demeanor. I was scared to death!”

They ended up being great friends. Asher would share texts and photos with both Ray and Mike Bluth, all the way until Ray’s death.

Another long-time St. Louis friend, Rich Orf, remembers that his dad, Ray, was always great friends with the Bluth family.

“When I talked with Ray, he talked to you like he was just a regular bowler,” Orf said. “He was just so down to earth. It really hit me how close he and my dad were when my father passed away.

“I knew Ray and Pops were really good friends, But Ray and Mike were two of the first ones to come in for the visitation. Ray knelt down and he was crying like a baby. It really hit home with me.”

Ray Orf, a PBA champion who became famous for rolling an 890 series in 1972 that was never sanctioned by the ABC, almost had a close encounter with the Budweisers on their historic night in 1958.

“My Pops was only 17 but was a member of one of the local teams, Pulaski Savings & Loan,” Orf said. “When you look in the history books, that’s the team the Budweisers were bowling that night. They had more than five guys and it was his night out. Somebody else needed a sub at a different bowling center, so my Pops ended up bowling there that night.

“Even without cell phones back then, word traveled fast. He and his buddies ended up partying well into the night with the Budweisers! So that was pretty cool!”

Not that Bluth was much of a party guy.

“Ray was just a straight arrow and was the glue that kept that team together,” Asher said. “He was smarter than all of them, too – financially and businesswise.”

But whatever success Bluth had on the lanes or as a proprietor, he wanted to be remembered for something else.

“My dad always said that his legacy was not bowling, it was his family,” Mike Bluth said. “With all of his kids, grandkids and great grandkids he had, he always called it the Bluth Dynasty. He was a great dad and a great family man. And family always came first for him.”

There have been no services planned yet to honor Bluth.

“It’s going to be in a couple of weeks,” Mike said. “His ashes will be in an urn where all of our grandparents are. He was a devout Catholic, so we’re going to do a mass and then maybe something afterwards. We’re thinking we might even do something at a bowling center.”

That would only be fitting for Blooper.

O’Neill, Rash, Branham, Schroeder Enshrined in PBA Hall of Fame

April 19, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The PBA Hall of Fame welcomed its four newest members last night in Fairlawn, Ohio.

In their first year on the ballot, PBA Tour stars Bill O’Neill and Sean Rash were elected for superior performance.

George Branham III, the first Black player to win a PBA Tour title, became the first Black player to enter the PBA Hall of Fame. Branham was elected through the new Pioneer category.

Dave Schroeder, who spent nearly three decades leading the PBA’s television production team, was elected for meritorious services.

The ceremony was livestreamed on BowlTV and is available to rewatch in the BowlTV archives.

BILL O'NEILL

O'Neill began his professional career following one of the most dominant collegiate careers ever. He earned first-team All American honors in each of his four seasons at Saginaw Valley State University, thrice capturing the Bowling Writers Association of America's Collegiate Bowler of the Year award.

"I truly never thought that I would be here," O'Neill said of entering the PBA Hall of Fame. "Some guys that are out here, it's like preordained that they're going to end up here. I never felt like that was me.

"I've gotten the chance to be around the greatest people that this game has ever seen," O'Neill continued. "When you're around those types of people, you can feel less than. You can feel like whatever it is that you're doing it's never going to be enough, because the people that you're around are that great. But ironically, it's those very same people that got me to this point."

O'Neill was named the PBA Rookie of the Year in 2005-06, though it would be almost four more years before he captured his first career title in the 2009-10 PBA Chameleon Championship.

Later that season, O'Neill won the U.S. Open and his first career major title. He said that title changed his life during the 2025 U.S. Open prelims round, shortly before learned of his Hall of Fame election.

"That title put me on the map and solidified what I was doing out here. For me, that title meant everything. The trophy has its own special place at my house."

For years, O'Neill said he didn't care for the nickname bestowed upon him early in his career. He didn't feel that he had earned it.

Fifteen PBA Tour titles, three major championships and a first-ballot PBA Hall of Fame induction later, there's no denying O'Neill is anything but the Real Deal.

SEAN RASH

The Alaskan-born Sean Rash, a man whose career has been defined by intensity and emotion, has won 17 PBA Tour titles in his 20-year career thus far, including two majors in the 2007 USBC Masters and 2011-12 PBA Tournament of Champions.

Rash became the first player to win a PBA Tour title after advancing from the pre-tournament qualifier in the 2006 PBA West Virginia Championship. He went on to win his first seven televised matches — one shy of the record held by Branham — en route to notching his first four career titles.

In 2011-12 during the PBA World Series of Bowling III, Rash advanced to the championship round in every title event, a feat that was not matched until EJ Tackett this season.

Entering the 2011-12 season's final tournament, the PBA Tournament of Champions, the Player of the Year race was tightly contested between a host of PBA stars, including Rash, Ryan Ciminelli, Mike Fagan and Jason Belmonte.

All four made the TOC finals. Rash, the top seed, defeated Ciminelli in the title match to secure the tour lead in points, earnings and average and ultimately the Player of the Year award.

No player has been involved in more televised perfect games than Rash. In 2014, Rash fired his first televised 300 game; a year later, he became the first player to throw multiple 300 games on TV in 2015.

Back injuries, which he defined as a degenerative disc disease, have hampered the past few years of Rash's career. Nonetheless, he always brought his A-game in team events.

Rash and Matt Ogle have become annual contenders in the PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship since winning the 2019 event. Last season, Rash helped the Las Vegas High Rollers capture the PBA League Elias Cup title.

For 20 years, Rash has been among the PBA's most famous and polarizing figures. His unrelenting passion demanded attention, sparked rivalries and defined his first-ballot Hall of Fame career.

"I didn't know a damn thing about the PBA in high school in Alaska. I bowled just to bowl with my family," Rash said. "When I got to Wichita State, I found out that we had some good bowlers that went on tour, guys like Chris Barnes, Justin Hromek, Lonnie Waliczek, Rick Steelsmith, and there's been a few more. Then I started to learn about the sport and where it could take you."

Bowling took Rash from Anchorage, Alaska to Fairlawn, Ohio and the PBA Hall of Fame.

GEORGE BRANHAM III

In 1986, Branham became the first Black player to win a PBA Tour title. He ultimately won five titles, including becoming the first Black player to win a major championship in the 1993 PBA Tournament of Champions at AMF Riviera Lanes in Fairlawn, Ohio.

Last night, Branham became the first Black member of the PBA Hall of Fame.

"This is unbelievable. When they told me that I was going to be in the Hall of Fame, I spent the last two months in this fog. 'Is this really going to happen? Am I alive?'" Branham said. "The one guy I really want to thank is my dad. He's the reason why I'm standing here. He made me who I am today. I just can't thank that man enough."

DAVE SCHROEDER

Though he spent his 27 years with the PBA working behind the scenes, Dave Schroeder's legacy and impact on the sport was nothing short of monumental. He wore many hats during his tenure, notably serving as the vice president of media and head of production.

Schroeder spearheaded the transition of television production from an outsourced entity to an internal production that became one of the PBA's strongest assets. Schroeder also oversaw the PBA's live-streaming service, Xtra Frame, which grew to become another of the PBA's strongest assets, attracting the sale of the digital rights in 2018.

Jakob Butturff Advances to PBA TOC Championship Round

April 19, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Eight-time PBA Tour champion Jakob Butturff put himself on the precipice of PBA history on Saturday afternoon at historic AMF Riviera Lanes.

Butturff advanced out of the prelims round and into the five-player championship round of the PBA Tournament of Champions powered by 1800 Tequila. Butturff would become title-eligible for the PBA Hall of Fame with a win.

Butturff will meet top-seeded Jesper Svensson, Graham Fach, EJ Tackett and Kevin McCune in Sunday's major championship finals, the final major championship and regular season event of the 2025 season.

Sunday's championship round will air live on FOX at 3 p.m. Eastern time.

AMF Riviera Lanes, the revered Fairlawn, Ohio venue, has hosted the TOC 36 times dating back to 1966. So many of the PBA's most iconic moments — from Don Johnson's 299 game to George Branham III's 1993 TOC title — have taken place on the lanes 27-28 on which Butturff prevailed on Saturday.

"Walking through those doors is already a very special moment. To get to the final show, I'm speechless," Butturff said. "At the same time, I've still got work to do. I'll try to give it the same as I did today. I have a lot of momentum going into tomorrow because of the 278 and the front-eight against Keven, so I'm going to use that to my advantage and try to take down a couple of future Hall of Famers."

Saturday's prelims round featured four left-handed players, an unusually high percentage. Butturff, who will be one of three southpaws in Sunday's championship round, said he is able to benefit from the oil pattern's transition.

"One of my favorite things to do when I follow lefties is to play a little bit deeper than them," Butturff said. "I'm able to create a little bit more shape that most lefties can't do. I think that was the advantage I had against Keven."

Butturff owns eight career PBA Tour titles along with his 2019 USBC Masters major championship. A TOC win would elevate Butturff into rarefied air — air that Bill O'Neill, Sean Rash, George Branham III and Dave Schroeder will forever share.

"To top it all off, if I win this major, I'm (title-eligible) for the PBA Hall of Fame," Butturff said, referring to the threshold of 10 titles or five titles with two majors. "Winning this one, especially because it's something I've looked forward to my whole life, I could take that home with the pride and joy of something I really love to do."

Butturff had an opportunity to become title-eligible two years ago in the 2023 PBA Players Championship, but he fell in the title match to his opponent in Sunday's opening match: McCune.

The TOC championship round will air live at 3 p.m. ET on FOX.

Williams was the top seed in Saturday's prelims round, which featured the fifth through ninth qualifiers after 42 games of qualifying and match play.

Williams said he left more than 200 pins on the table by missing spares during qualifying and match play. He finished 28 pins shy of McCune and an automatic berth in the championship round.

While he needed just one win to make up for those prior mistakes, Butturff fired eight straight strikes to start the final match and gave Williams little opportunity. Williams' 247 marked the second-highest game of the afternoon, trailing only Butturff's 278.

"I bowled a good game. He bowled a better one," Williams said. "I missed a move in the 10th frame. Otherwise, I probably shoot 260 and I force him to double. It's frustrating that (278) happened to be the score he shot against me, but this is the PBA Tour and a major championship. It's how it goes."

Butturff defeated Matt Sanders in the semifinal prelims match, ending the Indiana native's climb of the stepladder. Sanders needed a double in the 10th frame to win the match — or a strike and a nine-count spare to tie — but missed right to lose 234-221.

Sanders won each of his first two matches with a score of 223, defeating Packy Hanrahan and AJ Johnson.

More information on the PBA Tournament of Champions powered by 1800 Tequila is available here.

Prelims Round Matches

Match One: No. 8 Matt Sanders def. No. 9 Packy Hanrahan, 223-208
Match Two: No. 8 Matt Sanders def. No. 7 AJ Johnson, 223-146
Match Three: No. 6 Jakob Butturff def. No. 8 Matt Sanders, 234-221
Championship: No. 6 Jakob Butturff def. No. 5 Keven Williams, 278-247

Championship Round Matches

Match One: No. 6 Jakob Butturff vs. No. 4 Kevin McCune
Match Two: winner vs. No. 3 EJ Tackett
Match Three: winner vs. No. 2 Graham Fach
Championship: winner vs. No. 1 Jesper Svensson

Jesper Svensson Captures Second Career TOC Title

April 20, 2025 Nolan Hughes

On Easter Sunday, Jesper Svensson captured his second career major championship, winning the PBA Tournament of Champions powered by 1800 Tequila.

The top-seeded Svensson defeated Jakob Butturff in the title match, 221-197, to claim his 13th career PBA Tour title and the $100,000 top prize at historic AMF Riviera Lanes in Fairlawn, Ohio.

"I am extremely happy and relieved that I could pry this off," Svensson said. "I felt like I've had a chance all week. It's been mine to grab. It's always tough coming down to the very last game, anything can really happen. I feel like those are the moments where I haven't been at my best in the past. I was today, so that was awesome."

Svensson earned the top seed through 42 games of qualifying and match play on the 40-foot Don Johnson oil pattern.

The Swede did the same in 2018 — the year the TOC returned to AMF Riviera Lanes for the first time since 1994 — but fell to Matt O'Grady in the title match.

Svensson said he felt this week would end on a more positive note very early on.

"I had a feeling," Svensson said. "When you're bowling against the best players in the world, there are very, very small things (that make the difference). Tim Mack gave me a little point to think about as far as my physical game. It clicked, and I felt like myself from 10 years ago."

In 2016, Svensson became the youngest player to win the TOC at 20 years and 357 days.

Nine years later, he became the fifth southpaw to win the TOC at AMF Riviera Lanes, joining Earl Anthony, Dave Davis, Steve Cook and Johnny Petraglia.

Butturff almost recreated Jason Belmonte's 2023 TOC triumph, climbing the stepladder after starting as the No. 6 seed in Saturday's prelims.

Butturff defeated Kevin McCune in the opening match, earning a bit of revenge from the 2023 PBA Players Championship title match.

The southpaw continued his climb by defeating EJ Tackett in the second match, 196-190.

Tackett sought to become the second player to win three majors in a single season, the second player to win the Triple Crown twice and the first player to win the Triple Crown in a single season.

Butturff took down Graham Fach in an eventful semifinal match, 234-182, to set up a title match bout with Svensson.

Svensson started the title match with four strikes, while Butturff didn't muster a strike until the fifth frame. The Swede cruised along to a 221-197 victory.

Both Butturff and Svensson clinched berths in the PBA Playoffs by virtue of their strong TOC performances. They will meet Tackett, Andrew Anderson, Jason Belmonte, Fach, Tim Foy Jr., Chris Via, Ethan Fiore, Anthony Simonsen, Ryan Barnes and Kyle Troup in the postseason title event.

Svensson's victory also propelled Storm to the top seed in the PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands presented by Beatbox.

Motiv, who held the top seed since February's U.S. Open, dropped to the No. 2 seed while Brunswick seized the third seed.

900 Global, Roto Grip, Hammer, Ebonite and DV8 will compete in the prelims round on Saturday, April 26.

More information on the PBA Tournament of Champions powered by 1800 Tequila is available here.

Championship Round Matches

Match One: No. 6 Jakob Butturff def. No. 4 Kevin McCune, 231-215
Match Two: No. 6 Jakob Butturff def. vs. No. 3 EJ Tackett, 196-190
Match Three: No. 6 Jakob Butturff def. vs. No. 2 Graham Fach, 234-182
Championship: No. 1 Jesper Svensson def. No. 6 Jakob Butturff, 221-197

Final Standings

1. Jesper Svensson, $100,000
2. Jakob Butturff, $50,000
3. Graham Fach, $30,000
4. EJ Tackett, $20,000
5. Kevin McCune, $15,000

How the PBA TOC Shaped the Postseason

April 23, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The 2025 PBA Tour regular season concluded with last week's PBA Tournament of Champions powered by 1800 Tequila.

The TOC, the final title event of the season that awards competition points to players, provided all the drama worthy of a season finale.

Here's how the PBA's signature major championship shaped three postseason fields:

PBA Elite League

Eight manufacturing brand teams seeded for finals based on cumulative points earned by their starting lineup in each singles title event

Motiv had been leading the PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands presented by Beatbox since EJ Tackett's U.S. Open win on Feb. 2.

Tackett's PBA Shark Championship victory on March 19 put Motiv ahead by 9,409 points. His subsequent PBA World Championship title over Storm's Jason Belmonte seemingly should have put the coveted top seed out of reach.

But, in fact, Storm cut the deficit by almost 3,000 in the PBA World Championship with four players — Belmonte, Jesper Svensson, Kyle Troup and Chris Via — finishing in the top seven of the triple-point major championship.

Belmonte, Troup and Via again placed top-10 in the PBA Players Championship earlier this month, trimming the gap to first place to a mere 1,872 points.

The PBA Elite League's top seed came down to the final three games of the season after Tackett and Svensson each advanced to the TOC championship round.

Svensson needed to win the TOC, a title that came along with 5,000 points, in order for Storm to surpass Motiv. Tackett still controlled Motiv's fate; a win in his first match over Jakob Butturff would have created an insurmountable lead and clinched the top seed for Motiv.

Tackett, hunting an unprecedented single-season Triple Crown himself, came up six pins shy against Butturff.

In the title match, Svensson took care of Butturff to secure top billings for the lightning bolts.

More information on the PBA Elite League is available here.

PBA Playoffs

Top 12 players in 2025 PBA Tour competition points qualify

Entering the stepladder finals of the TOC, 10 of 12 PBA Playoffs berths had been clinched by Tackett, Andrew Anderson, Belmonte, Graham Fach, Tim Foy Jr., Via, Ethan Fiore, Anthony Simonsen, Ryan Barnes and Kyle Troup.

Svensson also cemented himself into the playoff picture by earning the top seed and a minimum of 3,000 points.

That left one spot up for grabs. Butturff held the 12th position entering the finals, but Kevin McCune and AJ Johnson had an opportunity to surpass him.

Johnson, who needed to climb the entire ladder, lost in his first match. After Butturff won his first match, McCune needed to finish in at least second place to jump the southpaw.

Butturff personally put an end to McCune's playoff hopes with a win in the first match of Sunday's championship round, clinching his own berth in the PBA Playoffs.

More information on the PBA Playoffs is available here.

PBA Tour Finals

Top 12 players in 2024-25 PBA Tour competition points qualify

Fach leapfrogging Tackett in the final round of TOC match play proved to be only drama in terms of the PBA Tour Finals.

By earning the No. 2 seed and netting a minimum of third-place points, Fach secured enough points to pass Via… by 129 points.

If Via had won one more match in a championship round or finished a couple places higher in basically any given event, he would have found the requisite points.

Instead, Fach qualified for both postseason fields along with Tackett, defending champion Simonsen, Belmonte, Troup and Anderson.

Bill O'Neill and Marshall Kent were the only PBA Tour Finals qualifiers who did not advance in the PBA Playoffs.

900 Global Advances to PBA Elite League Championship Round

April 26, 2025 Nolan Hughes

900 Global advanced out of the prelims and into the championship round of the PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands presented by Beatbox.

The No. 4 seed will meet the top three teams from the regular season — Brunswick, Motiv and Storm — in Sunday's championship round, airing at 12 p.m. Eastern time on FOX at Strobl Arena in Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park, Mich.

The back-and-forth battle in the final match of the afternoon between Hammer and 900 Global came down to the 10th frame. Last year's regular season and playoff MVP, Andrew Anderson, delivered three strikes to clinch the win.

Anderson, who is from nearby Holly, Mich., struck to win the 2024 PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship and a regular season match of the PBA Elite League last season on the same lanes.

"Every time I bowl on this pair, I have to double to win something," Andrew Anderson said. "I wish they'd make it a little easier on me. I wanted to throw a couple good ones for the guys. They bowled awesome and we made some good adjustments, so we're moving on."

"These guys are awesome. I don't have to do anything. This is the greatest job ever," 900 Global manager Gary Hulsenberg said.

The experience of Ebonite prevailed over the youthful DV8 squad in the opening match. Three splits and open frames cost DV8, who lost 191-177.

Ebonite failed to carry the momentum into the second match against Hammer, striking just once in their first four frames.

Newly-inducted PBA Hall of Famer Bill O'Neill doubled in the 10th frame for Hammer to force Ebonite anchor Jake Peters to double himself. Peters missed left and left an odd 3-6-8-10 split.

In the third match, Roto Grip anchor Anthony Simonsen missed a 10-pin in the 10th frame, allowing O'Neill to strike and get nine pins for the win.

900 Global started the final match of the afternoon with four strikes, including the first two from the father-son duo of Ryan and Chris Barnes. The black-and-gold team made four spares in their next five frames to set up Anderson's match-winning 10th frame.

900 Global will face Brunswick in the opening match on Sunday with the winner facing Motiv.

The top seed Storm awaits in the Race-to-Two championship match.

More information on the PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands is available here.

Prelims Round Scores

Match One: No. 7 Ebonite def. No. 8 DV8, 191-177
Match Two: No. 6 Hammer def. No. 7 Ebonite 214-199
Match Three: No. 6 Hammer def. No. 5 Roto Grip, 206-204
Match Four: No. 4 900 Global def. No. 6 Hammer, 237-219

Championship Round Matches

Match One: No. 3 Brunswick vs. No. 4 900 Global

Match Two: winner vs. No. 2 Motiv

Race-to-Two Championship: winner vs. No. 1 Storm

Storm Wins Manufacturer's Cup

April 27, 2025 Nolan Hughes

In the first season of the PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands presented by Beatbox, Storm brought home the Manufacturer's Cup.

Storm earned the top seed in the regular season, propelling past Motiv in the regular season finale on the backs of Jesper Svensson.

Svensson again powered Storm to an early lead against Motiv in the Race-to-Two championship match, which featured the baker format. The Swede struck three times in the 10th frame to clinch a Game 1 victory.

François Lavoie, Kyle Troup, Chris Via, captain Jason Belmonte and Svensson each struck to start Game 2, opening up an insurmountable lead.

Belmonte put a stamp on Storm's victory with his ninth frame strike. Belmonte dedicated Storm's win to Bill Chrisman, the powerful co-founder of Storm who passed away in Sept. 2023.

"There's an emotional attachment to this," Belmonte said. "The founder and owner of this company passed away, and since his passing, with everything we ever do we try to live up to what he did for this company. Winning today, he would have been in the front row. This would have been one of the happiest days for him, watching his Storm company and the boys that represent the company, get out there and throw as many strikes as we did. For Bill, for Barbara, and for all those at Storm — not just those that throw the balls, but those that make it, those that sell it, those that promote it, those that want it and love it — this is for everyone that loves Storm, and most importantly, for Bill Chrisman."

Chrisman and his wife, Barb, were inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame in 2024.

Motiv defeated Brunswick in the semifinal match, 213-185. Brunswick led for much of the match, but splits in the eighth and ninth frame cost the team.

Brunswick defeated 900 Global, who advanced out of Saturday's prelims round, in the opening match.

More information on the PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands is available here.

Championship Round Scores
Match One: No. 3 Brunswick def. No. 4 900 Global, 233-218
Match Two: No. 2 Motiv def. No. 3 Brunswick, 213-185
Race-to-Two Championship: No. 1 Storm def. No. 2 Motiv, 2-0 (189-186, 275-181)

Final Standings

1. Storm, $100,000
2. Motiv, $75,000
3. Brunswick, $50,000
4. 900 Global, $45,000
5. Hammer, $40,000
6. Roto Grip, $35,000
7. Ebonite, $30,000
8. DV8, $25,000

Two-Time Playoffs Champion Kyle Troup Headlines 2025 Field

April 28, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The first postseason title event of the 2025 PBA Tour is set to get underway at Strobl Arena in Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park, Mich.

The PBA Playoffs feature the top 12 players in competition points this season.

EJ Tackett led the tour with 34,690 points — more than second place Andrew Anderson (18,120) and third place Jason Belmonte (15,365) combined. Graham Fach qualified fourth with 15,181 points, earning the coveted fourth seed.

Tackett, Anderson, Belmonte and Fach each earned a bye to the quarterfinals.

Tim Foy Jr., Chris Via, Jesper Svensson, Ethan Fiore, Anthony Simonsen, Jakob Butturff, Ryan Barnes and Kyle Troup round out the PBA Playoffs field.

Since the first PBA Playoffs in 2019, only four players have competed in all six events: Tackett, Troup, Simonsen and Svensson. (Belmonte qualified for all six, but opted out in 2021.)

Bill O'Neill's five-year streak of advancing — not only the PBA Playoffs but the quarterfinals — ended after he finished 16th in points this season. Matt Ogle, defending champion Boog Krol, Kevin McCune and O'Neill were the first four players to miss the cut.

Troup is the only past PBA Playoffs champion remaining in the field. He won the event in 2021 and 2022.

Simonsen has advanced to the quarterfinals three times, the semifinals twice and the championship in 2020.

Tackett and Svensson have reached the quarterfinals just twice each. In fact, Tackett has never made the semifinals, while Svensson capitalized on his lone semifinal appearance and made the championship match last season.

Barnes is the first rookie to advance to the PBA Playoffs.

Fiore, just 20 years, seven months and 13 days old as of the final day of the regular season, is the youngest player ever to qualify for the PBA Playoffs. He utilized his rookie eligibility last season.

Fiore became the fourth-youngest major champion when he won the PBA Players Championship earlier this month. He will face the youngest to win a major, Simonsen, in the opening match of the PBA Playoffs.

The Round of 12, quarterfinals and semifinals will be taped April 28-30 at Strobl Arena with airdates on FS1 over the next three weekends. All matches will utilize the Race-to-Two format.

The finalists will return for the live championship match, featuring a Race-to-Three format, on May 24.

The full TV schedule is available here.

PBA Playoffs TV Schedule

Round 1 - airing May 3 at 7pm ET | FS1

No. 8 Ethan Fiore vs. No. 9 Anthony Simonsen

No. 5 Tim Foy Jr. vs. No. 12 Kyle Troup

Round 1 - airing May 4 at 7pm ET | FS1

No. 7 Jesper Svensson vs. No. 10 Jakob Butturff

No. 6 Chris Via vs. No. 11 Ryan Barnes

Quarterfinals - airing May 10 at 2pm ET | FS1

No. 1 EJ Tackett vs. Fiore/Simonsen

No. 4 Graham Fach vs. Foy/Troup

Quarterfinals - airing May 11 at 6:30pm ET | FS1

No. 2 Andrew Anderson vs. Svensson/Butturff

No. 3 Jason Belmonte vs. Via/Barnes

Semifinals - airing May 18 at 12pm ET | FS1

Tackett/Fiore/Simonsen vs. Fach/Foy/Troup

Anderson/Svensson/Butturff vs. Belmonte/Via/Barnes

Championship - airing May 24 at 2:30pm ET | FOX (live)

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The finalists will return for the live championship match, featuring a Race-to-Three format, on May 24.

The CW Network and the PBA Strike a Deal for Multi-year Broadcast Agreement Set to Launch in 2026

April 30, 2025 Professional Bowlers Association

The CW Continues to Grow Its Sports Portfolio by Adding Ten Live Professional Bowling Events Per Year

BURBANK, CA – The CW Network today announced it has entered into a multi-year broadcast agreement with the Professional Bowlers Association (PBA). Beginning in 2026, the CW will air ten action-packed live professional bowling events annually in dedicated, two-hour windows on consecutive Sunday afternoons. The CW's national reach and consistent scheduling will amplify bowling's accessibility to both casual and devoted fans.

"We are thrilled to partner with the PBA and add live bowling to our CW Sports lineup," said Mike Perman, Senior Vice President of Sports, The CW Network. "Bowling is one of the leading participatory sports in the country, so we are eager to introduce the top players and exciting competitions its professional circuit brings to new audiences nationwide."

Since its inception in 1958, the PBA's title events have been a mainstay on American television, defining the legends of the game. Today's PBA stars, including 3-time Player of the Year EJ Tackett of Indiana, 7-time Player of the Year Jason Belmonte of Australia, and major champions Kyle Troup and Anthony Simonsen, bring electric and diverse playing styles, with personalities to match. When the best bowlers in the world face off in the most prestigious events in the sport, big strikes, seemingly impossible spare conversions and high drama are guaranteed.

"We are excited to become a part of the CW's growing commitment to sports broadcasting," said Lev Ekster, President of Lucky Strike Entertainment. "The CW's commitment to consistent, high-visibility broadcasts offers a game-changing platform to grow our fanbase, celebrate the immense talent and big personalities of our athletes, and bring a fresh energy to one of America's most beloved sports."

The PBA joins a growing roster of sports on The CW, including the NASCAR Xfinity Series, which has drawn over one million viewers per race for the first ten events of the 2025 season. The CW will also broadcast another season of ACC and Pac-12 college football this fall, as well as three more Grand Slam Track weekend events in 2025 and AVP professional beach volleyball on Saturdays this summer.

Simonsen, Troup Advance to PBA Playoffs Quarterfinals

May 3, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Anthony Simonsen and Kyle Troup captured wins in the opening round of the 2025 PBA Playoffs.

Simonsen defeated Ethan Fiore, while Kyle Troup defeated Tim Foy Jr. in their respective matches at Strobl Arena in Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park, Mich.

Round 1 of the PBA Playoffs continues at 7 p.m. Eastern time Sunday on FS1: Jesper Svensson will face Jakob Butturff, then Chris Via will meet Ryan Barnes, the first rookie to qualify for the PBA Playoffs.

Simonsen made quick work of Fiore in the opening Race-to-Two match of the PBA Playoffs, sweeping the 20-year-old Fiore in two games, 258-200 and 230-158.

Players will compete on the 37-foot Bat oil pattern on the left lane and the 44-foot Hardwick oil pattern on the right lane throughout the PBA Playoffs.

Simonsen — the youngest player to win one, two, three, four and five majors — delivered high praise for Fiore in his post-game interview, who became the fourth-youngest major champion earlier this month.

“Ethan seems to be a few years ahead of the curve compared to me. He's definitely very impressive, and I think we'll be seeing his name around for quite a while,” Simonsen said. “Tommy Jones made a really good point when I came out on tour. He said, ‘When I was 17-18, I knew how to bowl, but I didn't know *how to bowl*,’ and I never really processed what he meant (until now). It’s one of those things where I could physically bowl, but I didn't really understand what to do on the lanes (with) moves and things like that.”

Simonsen advances to face the top seed EJ Tackett in the quarterfinals.

“He's the man to beat. He's been kicking our ass for the last three seasons,” Simonsen said. “We're going to try to see if we can tip the scales a little bit in my favor for this event. Obviously, I’m expecting some high scores from EJ. He has a very good understanding of these lanes as well. If I bowl 250 every game, I think I’ll have a good chance so I’ll just keep trying to do that.”

Troup, the only past champion in the 12-player PBA Playoffs field, proved why he’s also the only player to have won the PBA Playoffs twice.

Troup dispatched Foy in two games, doubling in the 10th frame to win Game 1 before firing the front-six strikes en route to winning Game 2.

“Confidence wakes me up every day,” Troup said. “That’s my word for the tournament because I haven't had a lot of it throughout the year. I got to throw a few strikes and win the Battle of the Brands, so that gave me a little bit of confidence on those two lanes (in Strobl Arena). I've just got to believe in myself. A lot of the hard work that I put in this year hasn't paid off yet. I've had a prime example of that in Jesper Svenson last year and this year. He grinds and grinds and grinds and saves the season at the end, so we're hoping for that kind of magic.”

Troup will face Graham Fach, the top left-hander in points this season, in the quarterfinals.

“I’ve got the No. 12 seed beside my name, but I feel like it’s a one,” Troup said. “It's the playoffs. This is all we’ve got. This is it for the year. 100% isn't going to be enough. I've got to dig deeper and try and give even more through these next few rounds.”

The PBA Playoffs feature the top 12 players in competition points this season.

Tackett led the tour with 34,690 points — more than second place Andrew Anderson (18,120) and third place Jason Belmonte (15,365) combined. Fach qualified fourth with 15,181 points, securing the coveted fourth seed.

Tackett, Anderson, Belmonte and Fach each earned a bye to the quarterfinals.

TD’s Debut Headlines PBA50 Tour Season-Opener in Florida

May 4, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The 2025 PBA50 Tour is set to get underway with the PBA50 Fort Myers Classic in Fort Myers, Fla.

The season includes 13 title events with five majors, culminating with the prestigious PBA50 Tournament of Champions.

Several PBA Hall of Famers are expected to compete in a near-full-time capacity this season, including Chris Barnes, Parker Bohn III, Jason Couch, Tom Hess, Mika Koivuniemi, Amleto Monacelli, Pete Weber and Walter Ray Williams Jr.

John Janawicz, the reigning PBA50 Player of the Year, enters the season as the man to beat, while last season’s top rookie, Randy Weiss, looks to make the same sophomore leap as Janawicz did in 2024.

All PBA50 Tour players will face stiff competition from the latest member of the PBA50 Tour: Tom Daugherty.

Daugherty, a four-time PBA Tour champion who finished 17th in 2025 PBA Tour points, turned 50 in February. He said he plans to compete in the first few PBA50 Tour events of the season, but his full-time status is to be determined.

The Florida native’s PBA50 Tour debut will take place at Lightning Strikes Bowl, located just two hours south of his Tampa-area home.

Qualifying for the PBA50 Fort Myers Classic begins on Monday with A-squad competing at 9 a.m. Eastern time followed by B-squad at 3 p.m. More information is available here.

Top Eight of PBA Playoffs Filled by Svensson and Via

May 4, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Jesper Svensson and Chris Via rounded out the quarterfinals field for the 2025 PBA Playoffs with their respective Round 1 victories.

Svensson defeated Jakob Butturff, while Via eliminated Ryan Barnes in their respective Race-to-Two match at Strobl Arena in Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park, Mich.

Anthony Simonsen and Kyle Troup also advanced through Round 1 in yesterday's competition.

The quarterfinals will air May 10 at 2 p.m. and May 11 at 6:30 p.m. Eastern time on FS1.

Svensson again prevailed over Butturff in a rematch of last month's PBA Tournament of Champions title match.

Butturff won the first game 200-192 before Svensson forced a two-frame roll-off with a 199-197 Game 2 win. Svensson fired four strikes in the roll-off to advance by a 60-39 margin.

"With us both being left-handed, the transition happened a little quicker than usual," Svensson said. "The left lane got pretty dirty after a while. I felt like we couldn't really figure out a way to consistently hit the pocket. Then I felt like, whenever I hit the pocket, it didn't really strike either on that lane. When we got to the roll-off, I felt like I threw good shots to get the dub."

Svennson will face Andrew Anderon, the No. 2 seed who will be competing less than an hour from his hometown of Holly, in the quarterfinals.

"He's a great competitor, and one of the best players probably in the clutch here," Svensson said. "It's going to be hard to feel like I can put enough pressure on him to kind of tap out. That's not going to be the case. He's going to bring the best out of me. Bowling a right-hander, I also get the chance to set up the lanes a little bit more the way I want to. Maybe I have to go in as the underdog, but that's all right."

In the second match of the show, Via came back from a decisive 279-188 Game 1 defeat to beat Barnes.

Via won the second game 234-185 and struck on his first three shots to win the roll-off, 59-40.

"The transition hit me a little bit quicker than I thought on that long pattern, and I was a little behind (the transition) and I think Ryan was a little further left than I was. A couple of not-great shots were magnified by being on the wrong side of it," Via said of his poor start. "I was making great shots on the short pattern pretty much the entire time, so I felt super confident and comfortable over there."

Via said competing on dual oil patterns — the 37-foot Bat pattern on the left lane and the 44-foot Hardwick pattern on the right lane — presents a different, but not necessarily more difficult challenge.

"Even when you're bowling on the same pattern, both the lanes are playing differently, so you're still playing it lane-by-lane, rather than just playing a pattern," Via said. "Now, typically you are doing something a little bit closer on both lanes, so execution wise, it might be a little bit easier. With this seven-foot difference in the length of the pattern, you are doing something fairly different, so it makes it a little bit more difficult, but I guess it's just a different kind of challenge."

Via will face Jason Belmonte in the quarterfinals on May 11.

“If you always want to beat the best,” Via said. “Obviously EJ has had an incredible couple of years here, but Belmo had that 10-year stretch where he was just unreal. It seems like EJ is kind of starting that 10-year stretch right now, but Belmo is still the goat in my eyes. To be able to take him down would just make it that much sweeter.”

The PBA Playoffs feature the top 12 players in competition points this season.

Tackett led the tour with 34,690 points — more than second place Andrew Anderson (18,120) and third place Jason Belmonte (15,365) combined. Fach qualified fourth with 15,181 points, securing the coveted fourth seed.

Tackett, Anderson, Belmonte and Fach each earned a bye to the quarterfinals.

The quarterfinals will air next weekend, May 10-11, followed by the semifinals on May 18.

The finalists will return for the live championship match, featuring a Race-to-Three format, on May 24.

Brad Angelo On Top at PBA50 Fort Myers Classic

May 5, 2025 Jill Winters

Fort Myers, Florida – The PBA50 is back, and Brad Angelo is glad to start the season at Lightning Strikes Bowl. He won his first title at the center in 2022, and his lowest finish is sixth place. Last year, he was a runner-up to Tom Hess.

He shot 269, 249, 234, 278, 247, 224 and 224 for 1,725, averaging 246.43 to make his way to the top of the leaderboard. When asked why he does so well at this particular Florida stop, he had two thoughts.

“I think because it is usually the first stop of the tour. I am not sad and missing home yet, so I am clear-headed,” Angelo said. “As we get deeper into the season, I start missing home and I am just going through the motions and not present. And my physical strength may be a natural match-up here.”

As a lead instructor with BowlU, Angelo practices what he teaches. With his clear mind, he relied on his strategic understanding and observation skills to see what exactly was happening on the lanes and adapted quickly. He made good choices, took advantage of a few breaks that kept several strings of strikes going and he was rewarded.

“I teach it all the time, so when I am on the lanes competing that is the stuff that is on the forefront of my mind. When I look back on my career, I have been able to live my dream for a long time,” he said. “I just want to take my experience and be able to pass it on to people so maybe they have a chance to live the same dream that I have been fortunate enough to live.”

Coming into the tournament, he did something he doesn’t typically do. He bowled the entire practice session to test our new equipment and try to get loose, since he usually only bowls three games a week. So far, his decision making is paying off.

Sammy Ventura's game was also on point on Monday. He led those on A-squad averaging 243.71. He bowled 276, 289, 234, 256, 224, 235 and 192 for 1,706. The key to his success was using a money ball that saw the lanes really well. After posting 799 for his first three games, he surprised himself. This was the best he recalls bowling since 2019 when he led qualifying at the PBA50 Johnny Petraglia BVL Open in Clearwater, Florida.

"It feels good. Father Time is undefeated. He is sitting on my doorstep, but he was not coming to lunch with me today," Ventura said. "It feels good mentally. I was so in tune with the lanes. It was like I was changing channels, and I had all the buttons. To bowl good to start the season in the first block will give me confidence for the rest of the year."

Behind Angelo and Ventura are Danny Wiseman, Parker Bohn III and Tom Daugherty in the top five. Daugherty, who is making his PBA50 debut, rolled one of two perfect games shot during day one of qualifying. Mika Koivuniemi had the other.

Angelo and B-squad will take to the lanes first at 9 a.m. Eastern on Tuesday for the final seven games of qualifying followed by Ventura and the rest of A-squad at 3 p.m. After qualifying is complete, the top third of the field will move into Wednesday's Advancers Round. You can watch the final day of qualifying only on BowlTV.

Top 10 PBA50 Fort Myers Classic standings:

1. Brad Angelo, 1,725
2. Sammy Ventura, 1,706
3. Danny Wiseman, 1,698
4. Parker Bohn III, 1,697
5. Tom Daugherty, 1,690
6. Mark Clark, 1,674
7. Michael Haugen Jr., 1,652
8. Bill Watson, 1,645
9. Mika Koivuniemi, 1,645
10. William Fabian, 1,638

Jon Rakoski Leads After Qualifying at PBA50 Fort Myers Classic

May 6, 2025 Jill Winters

Fort Myers, Florida – Jon Rakoski is a quiet and humble guy. During the final day of qualifying at the 2025 Fort Myers Classic on Tuesday, he did something he has never done before. In the comfort of his home bowling center at Lightning Strikes Bowl, he was perfect in multiple ways. He posted games of 254, 258, 210, 257, 300, 246 and 259. He never had an open frame on the way to averaging 254.86 on the day. His lowest count over seven games was six.

"Wow, I impressed myself. That is 70 clean frames. That's a record for me," he said, smiling. "That's a lot of strikes. Usually going from pair-to-pair, you don't know what you are facing and there is a split that pops up every now or then. I had a pretty good look for the whole day."

He got lined up in practice, only relied on one ball and moved a total of five boards left with his feet throughout the block. Despite never striking on the right lane in Game 3, he stayed clean. He admits knowing the characteristics of this center was an advantage and he capitalized on that. He had a lot of friends and family cheering him on. He stayed focused on what was in front of him and they got to celebrate after.

"I don't look at the scores, so I had no clue I was taking the lead until going into the 10th frame. Danny Wiseman looked over at me and goes, 'Good job, you're the leader,"' Rakoski said. "I was 15th going into today. It was a good block, and I'll take it. Now, we have a four-game sprint to be in the top 24. I don't take anything for granted, so I am going to keep the pedal down and keep going."

Thirteen pins behind Rakoski is Mark Clark who averaged over 240 on the day. He is followed by Tom Daugherty, Brad Angelo and Michael Haugen Jr. in the top five. The top 60 bowlers will move into Wednesday's 8 a.m. Eastern time Advancers Round. After four games, all the pins will drop and the top 24 will advance to bracket match play. Qualifiers 9-24 will bowl best-of-3 match play starting at noon.

The format will continue at 2 p.m. with the winners of those matches along with qualifiers 1-8. After another re-oil, the Round of 8 will feature the previous winners at 4 p.m. The final four undefeated players and the highest-seeded eliminated bowler will be in the stepladder finals scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. You can enjoy all of the action only on BowlTV.

Top 10 PBA50 Fort Myers Classic standings:

1. Jon Rakoski, 3,390
2. Mark Clark, 3,377
3. Tom Daugherty, 3,370
4. Brad Angelo, 3,328
5. Michael Haugen Jr., 3,319
6. Danny Wiseman, 3,318
7. Amleto Monacelli, 3,266

8. Jeff Piroozshad, 3,250
9. William Fabian, 3,240
10. John Janawicz, 3,233

Jon Rakoski Earns "Priceless" Win At 2025 PBA50 Fort Myers Classic

May 7, 2025 Jill Winters

Fort Myers, Florida – Jon Rakoski didn't go to Walt Disney World after his third career title on the PBA50 Tour at the Fort Myers Classic. Instead, he kept his bowling shoes on, and he bowled in his regular Wednesday night league because his teammates wouldn't let him take the night off. Rakoski was ready to keep bowling.

The quiet, unassuming Rakoski put on a show in the stepladder finals in front of a large, supportive crowd inside Lightning Strikes Bowl. As the No. 3 seed, Rakoski shot 278, 258 and 248 to add to his unexpected professional senior bowling career story.

"It is something you can't even fathom. To do this in your own house in front of all the family and friends here I bowl with day after day, it is just a storybook. It's so overwhelming," he said. "Listening to the crowd cheer for every strike and every spare, it made me feel very grateful. I am grateful for all of the people here who follow me on this journey that I didn't think would happen. Doing it at home is priceless."

Rakoski rarely shows any emotion while bowling, but throughout his three games, he was doing single- and double-fist pumps. In his semifinal match against Mark Clark, he fell behind early but closed the game out with nine straight strikes, which included him running a shot out and adding a little hop to his step. "I can't believe I did that," he said, laughing.

It was ball rep and close friend Jeff Johnson that helped to refocus Rakoski early in that match against Clark. After a missed 10-pin and two single-pin spares, Johnson reminded Rakoski to get back into his rhythm, take a deep breath, slow down and make good shots. In the short amount of time the two have gotten to know each other, Johnson and Rakoski have become a solid tandem.

"I put all of my trust into Jeff. He has really paid attention to my game while I have been out here, and we have a bond together," Rakoski said. "At the end of the day, you put us together and it is unstoppable."

In the championship match, Rakoski led from the beginning against No. 1 seed Brad Angelo. Angelo, who won this tournament in 2022, left two flat 10-pins between back-to-back strikes multiple times before an open in the ninth sealed his second-place finish. After Rakoski struck on his first ball in the 10th frame, he turned around smiling back at his adoring fans, thanking them for their support as he won 248-213.

"I've proven to myself I can do this," he said. "I always tell people, you never know what is going to happen if you don't go out there and try. Don't give up, just go out there and do it."

In the semifinal match, Clark posted five straight strikes before leaving consecutive splits for costly open frames losing 258-221. Rakoski opened match two of the night with seven straight strikes over Andres Gomez. Gomez started off with the front five followed by a single pin spare and three straight strikes to set up his 10th frame. Unfortunately, his shot went wide right resulting in the 2-10 split, which he failed to convert for 243. Rakoski struck on two of his final three shots for the 278-243 win.

Gomez and 2024 PBA50 Player of the Year John Janawicz got the evening started with a bang. Gomez rolled six straight strikes, while Janawicz struck five out of his first six shots. After Gomez spared two 9-pins and a 10-pin, Janawicz answered with three strikes of his own. Janawicz finished first with a spare and 9-count for 257. Gomez responded with three clutch strikes for the tie. As the higher seed, Janawicz picked to start the roll-off on the left lane. He went slightly high leaving a 4-pin and Gomez struck to advance.

Looking ahead to Saturday's next tour stop at the 2025 PBA50 The Villages Classic and beyond, Rakoski is excited.

"My goal for the year was to win a tournament, so I got that out of the way," he said. "Now, I want to defend my Senior Masters title. Starting off the year on the right foot."

PBA50 FORT MYERS CLASSIC FINAL STANDINGS:

1. Jon Rakoski
2. Brad Angelo
3. Mark Clark
4. Andres Gomez
5. John Janawicz

MATCH SCORES

Match 1: Gomez and Janawicz 257-257 tie; Gomez wins roll-off 10-9
Match 2: Rakoski def. Gomez 278-243
Match 3: Rakoski def. Clark 258-221
Championship match: Rakoski def. Angelo 248-213

Tackett, Fach Advance to Semifinals

May 10, 2025 Nolan Hughes

EJ Tackett and Graham Fach are moving on to the semifinals of the PBA Playoffs.

The top-seeded Tackett notched a comeback victory over Anthony Simonsen, while Fach took down two-time PBA Playoffs champion Kyle Troup at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park, Mich.

Players competed on the 37-foot Bat oil pattern on the left lane and the 44-foot Hardwick oil pattern on the right lane. The dual-pattern format will be utilized throughout the PBA Playoffs.

The quarterfinals continue on May 11 — featuring matches between No. 2 Andrew Anderson vs. No. 7 Jesper Svensson and No. 3 Jason Belmonte vs. No. 6 Chris Via — at 6:30 p.m. Eastern time on FS1.

The semifinals will air May 18 at 12 p.m. ET.

Tackett was 0-4 against Simonsen in televised matches before their matchup in last season's PBA Shark Championship semifinal match. Tackett won that match and the title, and repeated the first half of that feat after prevailing against Simonsen in a roll-off once again in Allen Park.

Simonsen lept to a massive lead early in Game 1 and rode that momentum to a 236-211 victory. Tackett rallied to win Game 2, 258-201, and force a two-frame roll-off in the Race-to-Two match.

Simonsen left three single-pins, while Tackett doubled in the second frame to advance with a 48-38 win.

"Every opponent that I play, I expect the best from them," Tackett said. "When you're playing against really elite players — like Simo or Kyle (Troup) or Belmo, especially Kyle in this event — you know you're going to have to step up your game and not make any mistakes. They're elite for a reason, and they will take advantage every single time you make a mistake. It's just (having) that mentality of you have to go out there and you have to perform. There's nothing given. There's nothing easy about it."

Tackett will be making his first semifinal appearance in the PBA Playoffs. He made the quarterfinals in two of his six previous PBA Playoffs appearances and lost each time.

"For me, I've had to learn how to be successful in formats like this," Tackett continued. "I think all the match play success that I had this year in Missouri and the World Series of Bowling definitely helped the confidence going into today and being able to win that match.

In the second quarterfinal match, Troup took a 1-0 lead with a 226-210 Game 1 win. An open eighth frame from Troup helped Fach nine-spare his way to a 206-205 Game 2 win.

In the roll-off Troup struck in his first frame of the roll-off. In the second, he missed the head-pin right leaving the 1-2-4-8, then missed the head-pin left on the spare attempt.

The mistake was uncharacteristic of Troup, who was the only former PBA Playoffs champion to make the top-12 field this season.

"It's a little bittersweet. I felt like I bowled great, and in the end, I felt like it was given to me," Fach said. "When you're in that position, all you want is a chance. When Kyle's got ball in hand, more times than not, you're done. That's kind of the way I was expecting, but I was hoping for a chance. I feel for Kyle. He's had a great season. He's a hell of a bowler. He bowled a great match. But again, I feel very fortunate to be in the position I'm in now."

Fach has improved his finishing position in points each of the past five seasons, rising from 68th in 2021 to 54th in 2022, 45th in 2023, 14th in 2024 and fourth this season.

"It's pretty surreal," Fach said. "When you work on your game, it can work, it can not work, or it could do nothing. We all work hard out here. I feel like what I've done in the offseason just happened to work, and it's put me in a position to be on more shows, to get more comfortable, to be in the environment more. That's all I can do, is gain confidence and be comfortable in the moment."

Fach and Tackett will square off in next weekend's semifinals.

“I'm going to battle the lanes, I think the opponents are just going to do what they're going to do,” Fach said with a laugh. “I've been on this pair three times now, and I think my high game was 210. I don't think I've opened in four games, so it's got my number. I'm going to have to come at it a different way. I don't think nine-spares are going to get me through the final, but I’ve got to trust in what I can do and knock them over.”

The PBA Playoffs feature the top 12 players in competition points this season.

Tackett led the tour with 34,690 points — more than second place Anderson (18,120) and third place Belmonte (15,365) combined. Fach qualified fourth with 15,181 points, earning the coveted fourth seed.

Tackett, Anderson, Belmonte and Fach each earned a bye to the quarterfinals.

The quarterfinals continue Sunday at 6:30 p.m. ET followed by the semifinals, airing May 18 at 12 p.m. ET.

The finalists will return for the live championship match, featuring a Race-to-Three format, on May 24.

The full TV schedule is available here.

PBA Playoffs TV Schedule and Results

Quarterfinals
No. 1 EJ Tackett def. No. 9 Anthony Simonsen, 2-1 (211-236, 258-201, 48-38)
No. 4 Graham Fach def. No. 12 Kyle Troup (210-226, 206-205, 40-28)

Quarterfinals - airing May 11 at 6:30pm ET | FS1
No. 2 Andrew Anderson vs. No. 7 Jesper Svensson
No. 3 Jason Belmonte vs. No. 6 Chris Via

Semifinals - airing May 18 at 12pm ET | FS1
No. 1 EJ Tackett vs. No. 4 Graham Fach
Anderson/Svensson vs. Belmonte/Via

Championship - airing May 24 at 2:30pm ET | FOX (live)

Andres Gomez Earns Day One Lead at PBA50 The Villages Classic

May 10, 2025 Jill Winters

The Villages, Florida – After a fourth-place finish just a few days ago, Andres Gomez is leading after the first day of qualifying at the 2025 PBA50 The Villages Classic. Gomez averaged 244.5 over six games shooting 278, 269, 243, 239, 245 and 193.

This is a victory for Gomez, who also led the first day of qualifying at this tournament last year but injured his Achilles on the way to a 15th place finish. After that, he endured physical therapy and ultimately a doctor advised him to take time off to let it heal. He did that for about four months, eventually progressing from bowling a couple of games a week to bowling in league.

“That was all I had been doing because I was afraid to bowl six, eight or 10 games until now. A little soreness but I am taking it day-by-day because I feel very rusty,” he said. “I am still trying to figure things out in my own game.”

The 180-player field gets to bowl on the fresh 37-foot Wayne Webb oil pattern, the burn and the double burn during their 18 games of qualifying inside Spanish Springs Lanes through Monday. From there, the top 60 players will move into the Advancers Round on Tuesday.

“It is my forte I would say to keep going left and when I can do that, I usually score pretty good, which is what I did today,” he said. “If I am good physically (on Sunday) and I find my rhythm, I should be able to have a decent score.”

Rakoski, who led the A squad and won the 2025 PBA50 Fort Myers Classic on Wednesday, was happy with a solid qualifying start averaging 237.17.

“I am throwing the ball the best I have ever thrown it in Fort Myers and starting today. I am going to ride this heater as long as I can,” Rakoski said. “There are a lot of people watching in the stands here. It is always great to have stops in Florida and close to home.”

Tom Adcock, who won this tournament in 2023, shot 235, 235, 256, 259, 268 and 212 for 1,465 to move into second place. Adcock led the C squad. Brian Leclair is third with 1,430 followed by Rakoski then Bill Watson in fifth place.

Gomez and the B squad will take to the lanes first at 9 a.m. Eastern on Sunday followed by the C squad at 1 p.m. and the A squad at 5 p.m. You can watch day two of qualifying on BowlTV.

Top 10 PBA50 The Villages Classic standings:

1. Andres Gomez 1,467
2. Tom Adcock 1,465
3. Brian Leclair 1,430
4. Jon Rakoski 1,423
5. Bill Watson 1,419
6. Charlie Tapp 1,414
7. Tom Hess 1,408
8. Brian Dennis 1,407
9. Mike Preston 1,401
10. Pete Dohan Jr. 1,393

Svensson, Via Win Again to Advance to Semifinals

May 11, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Four competitors remain in the hunt for the 2025 PBA Playoffs title — and a first-time champion of the event is guaranteed to be crowned.

Jesper Svensson and Chris Via joined EJ Tackett and Graham Fach in the semifinal field on Mother's Day night in Strobl Arena at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park, Mich.

Svensson eliminated Michigan native Andrew Anderson in a roll-off, then Via dispatched Jason Belmonte in consecutive games.

In next Sunday's semifinals, which will air May 18 at 12 p.m. Eastern time, Tackett will take on Fach before Svensson faces Via. The winners will advance to the live championship round on May 24 back in Strobl Arena.

Svensson managed to win the first game of the Race-to-Two match despite converting five single-pin spares.

Anderson, with the backing of a hometown crowd, forced a roll-off with a win in Game 2. Svensson made five more single-pin spares, including four of his final five frames, in the second game.

In the roll-off, Svensson left another single-pin on the right lane, which featured the 44-foot Hardwick oil pattern, before throwing two strikes and getting eight pins in the second frame on the left lane's 37-foot Bat pattern.

Anderson stuck his first shot on the left lane, but left the 3-6-10 on the right lane to end the second seed's PBA Playoffs run.

"I did what I had to do and it worked out in my favor this time. I put enough pressure on him and that's probably a shot that he'd want back," Svensson said. "I think both of us would have liked to have a little higher scoring (pace). I felt like we each had one lane that was pretty good for us and then the other lane was not very nice. I was a little surprised when he allowed me to finish on the left lane. But his good lane was the right lane, so I'm pretty sure he thought that he could at least get a spare on the left lane and then punch out."

After Belmonte converted spares in the eighth and ninth frames, Via threw three strikes to clinch the Game 1 victory.

Belmonte started Game 2 with two strikes, then failed to strike on his next seven shots. Meanwhile Via tallied two triples to put the game and match away.

"I felt like I executed really well tonight," Via said. "Once I saw the ball doing the right thing on both lanes, then I fell into a little bit of a rhythm there and was making some really good shots, that was ultimately my goal. Besides the first five frames against Ryan (Barnes in Round 1), I feel like I've got the right ball with the right surface and I'm feeling the ball coming off my hand with the ball speed that I need on both lanes."

Via will face Svensson in the second semifinal match next week.

“Jesper has a knack, when he needs something, he ends up getting it done. It may look like he doesn't have a whole lot, and then if he needs one in the 10th, or whatever it may be, he seems to buckle down and make a good one,” Via said. “I'm just going to keep doing my thing. I'm trying to feel as comfortable as I can out there and just keep stacking good shots. And then at the end of the game, we'll see who has more points, and hopefully it's me."

The PBA Playoffs feature the top 12 players in competition points this season.

Tackett led the tour with 34,690 points — more than second place Anderson (18,120) and third place Belmonte (15,365) combined. Fach qualified fourth with 15,181 points, earning the coveted fourth seed.

Tackett, Anderson, Belmonte and Fach each earned a bye to the quarterfinals.

The semifinals will air May 18 at 12 p.m. ET before the finalists will return for the live championship match, featuring a Race-to-Three format, on May 24.

The full TV schedule is available here.

PBA Playoffs TV Schedule and Results

Quarterfinals - Recap
No. 1 EJ Tackett def. No. 9 Anthony Simonsen, 2-1 (211-236, 258-201, 48-38)
No. 4 Graham Fach def. No. 12 Kyle Troup (210-226, 206-205, 40-28)

Quarterfinals
No. 7 Jesper Svensson def. No. 2 Andrew Anderson (205-196, 192-213, 48-40)
No. 6 Chris Via def. No. 3 Jason Belmonte (217-199, 226-175)

Semifinals - airing May 18 at 12pm ET | FS1
No. 1 EJ Tackett vs. No. 4 Graham Fach
No. 6 Chris Via vs. No. 7 Jesper Svensson

Championship - airing May 24 at 2:30pm ET | FOX (live)

Tom Adcock Leads Qualifying at PBA50 The Villages Classic

May 11, 2025 Jill Winters

The Villages, Florida – Tom Adcock gave his wife, Mary, a nice seventh anniversary gift on Sunday. He climbed into first place after two days of qualifying at the PBA50 The Villages Classic. He averaged 246 with games of 246, 237, 235, 278, 226 and 255.

"Patience was the word of the day for me. I did not feel as sharp when we started. The ball is absolutely matched up to the lanes and there was no reason for me to take it out of my hand," Adcock said. "I got a lot of nice breaks early as I was trying to get my timing back together. Obviously, I am striking a lot."

To get his timing on point, he played further left than he did on Saturday and slowed his ball speed down so he could circle it more. The last few months while at home in Illinois, he worked on his timing trying to keep his hand inside the ball. He wondered how and if his efforts would translate into his overall game and the results are showing.

"Last week was really good and this week is even better. It is really starting to pick up," Adcock said.

Andres Gomez, who led Day 1 of qualifying, fought hard on Sunday to end the day in third place behind Adcock and C. K. Moore. Brad Angelo shot 299 in his final game of the day Sunday to move into fourth place and Jason Couch is in fifth place.

"I didn't have a very good look on the fresh. I decided to go with urethane. Once the lanes started to transition, I felt a little more comfortable, but they were very tricky," Gomez said. "It looked like a round that could have been a bad one and I somehow was able to finish +121, which I think is very good for how the lanes played."

Gomez shot 196, 222, 236, 187, 235 and 245. He is not sure what to expect next on the double burn, but he plans to stay patient and observant.

On Monday, Adcock, Moore and the rest of C-squad will be bowling on the fresh oil pattern starting at 9 a.m. Eastern followed by A-squad at 1 p.m. and B-squad at 5 p.m. The top 60 players at the end of qualifying will move into the Advancers Round on Tuesday morning. You can watch day three of qualifying on BowlTV.

Top 10 PBA50 The Villages Classic standings:

1. Tom Adcock, 2,942
2. C.K. Moore, 2,832
3. Andres Gomez, 2,788
4. Brad Angelo, 2,782
5. Jason Couch, 2,778
6. Ricky Schissler, 2,767
7. Steven Badovinac, 2,731

8. Brian LeClair, 2,714
9. Danny Wiseman, 2,714
10. Russell Hunt and John Marsala, 2,712

Jason Couch Leading PBA50 The Villages Classic

May 12, 2025 Jill Winters

The Villages, Florida – There was plenty of movement on the leaderboard Monday during the final six games of qualifying at the 2025 PBA50 The Villages Classic. After 18 games of qualifying, the two players that bowled in the championship match of last year's tournament are now in first and second place.

Defending champion Parker Bohn III rolled games of 203, 249, 300, 247, 279 and 269 to take over the lead from Tom Adcock by just one pin at +629. Bohn III averaged 257.83 to jump from 19th in the standings to second. His only open frame was in the first frame of his first game of the day. He was then clean over his next 59 frames.

"I bowled 300 fortunately then 247 and the next game I have the front nine. Holy smokes, the last four games I got a lot of score there," he said. "I want to continue to make my next shot better than my last shot. That is regardless of how good the last shot was. If you make solid passes at it hopefully you have got an opportunity to get rewarded if you have the right ball in your hand. Obviously by all means today, I had the right ball in my hand."

Bohn's lead didn't hold for long as fellow left-hander and the player he defeated last year, Jason Couch averaged 244.5 to move from fifth to first at +645. Couch admits he pays attention to the cut line number instead of the leader's total to get a feel for where he is amongst the field, so he was unaware he moved past his good friend.

"He deserves to be right below me," Couch joked. "The majority of my moves this week have been speed adjustments and that has been key. That is what I am really concentrating on."

All week Couch has been able to sleep in his own bed and make the hour-long drive to Spanish Springs Lanes. He also had his wife and dad there watching as he rose to the top inside a bowling center he is comfortable in.

"It means a lot to have them both here because they don't get to see me bowl much," he said. "I try really hard to bowl good here. My ball has always rolled really well here. I won the 2001 event here on the PBA Tour, so I have always really done well here."

He plans to bowl aggressively on Tuesday with the mindset he is on the cut line. When asked if he is aiming to replicate a home center type win this week like Jon Rakoski did last week at the Fort Myers Classic, Couch had a quick response. "Let's make it two-in-a-row," he said.

The biggest jump of the day belonged to PBA50 rookie Tom Daugherty who went +348 on the day to climb from 47th to fourth place. Daugherty had games of 266, 244, 278, 238, 243 and 279 in just his second senior tour event. Day two leader Tom Adcock started out on the fresh 37-foot oil pattern finishing well below his first two blocks with an 18-game total of +628.

“I think a lot of it was more me than the conditions themselves. I wasn’t as aggressive. I almost felt like to a degree I was trying to play overly cautious as opposed to going after the attack,” Adcock said. “The last two or three games I got back to feeling like I was throwing the ball good and getting after it. All of us have to bowl on the fresh next, so maybe I can learn a little something from my playmates that I didn’t see today.”

There has been a lot of urethane going down the lanes, but Adcock doesn’t feel that is part of his game. He admits it is something he has to work on. After 18 games of qualifying, Michael Zarnick, a resident of The Villages, was the final player to make the cut in 60th place at +244.

The Advancers Round begins at 9 a.m. Eastern on Tuesday with all 60 bowlers. From there, all pins will be dropped as the top 24 move into bracket match play. In the Round of 24, qualifiers 9-24 will begin the best-of-three matches at 12:30 p.m. Winners of those matches and qualifiers 1-8 will move to the Round of 16 starting at 2:30 p.m. followed by the Round of 8 with the remaining winners at 5 p.m.

The final four unbeaten players and the highest eliminated qualifier in the Round of 8 will be in the stepladder finals scheduled to start at 7:30 p.m. Watch the final day of action on BowlTV.

Top 10 PBA50 The Villages Classic standings:

1. Jason Couch, 4,245
2. Parker Bohn III, 4,229
3. Tom Adcock, 4,228
4. Tom Daugherty, 4,161
5. Brad Angelo, 4,133
6. Bill Watson, 4,126
7. John Janawicz, 4,125
8. Paul Koehler, 4,124
9. Francisco Peralta, 4,105
10. Russell Hunt, 4,102

Brad Angelo Wins 2025 PBA50 The Villages Classic

May 13, 2025 Jill Winters

The Villages, Florida – Two years ago, Brad Angelo had the chance to step up in the 10th frame to win the 2023 PBA50 The Villages Classic against Tom Adcock and he came up short. Last week, Angelo was the top seed at the PBA50 Fort Myers Classic, and he didn’t get the win. Angelo has put himself in a position to win so many times. On Tuesday, he had another opportunity to earn his second career PBA50 win and this time he delivered.

“It has been wearing on me to be honest. As I was walking up, I am thinking here we go again. I have ball in hand, and I have got to get it done,” he said. “I said, ‘Just throw the ball. How many times can you get all of these voices in your head? Fortunately for me, I was able to get it done.”

Angelo was able to regroup after an errant shot in the eighth frame resulted in the 6-7-10 split for an open. He looked down at the two bracelets on his left wrist his daughters Brielle and Ryleigh made for him years ago as lucky charms and he said to himself ‘I’ve got this.’ Another lucky charm was the jersey he wore designed by his wife, Michelle, with her favorite plumeria flowers on it.

After Adcock posted a final score of 206, Angelo’s first shot in the 10th was perfect in the pocket. He stood solid at the line, turned around and a smile came across his face as he exhaled in relief. For good measure, he struck his final two shots for 233. He and Adcock both smiled at each other and hugged. That was followed by even more hugs with his fellow competitors.

“I think the thing that went through my head was, ‘OK, am I going to wake up?’ I am glad to walk through that door again, and get it done,” Angelo said. “It will certainly free me up for the next time to where I just have to come out here and bowl. This is my 23rd stepladder.”

Angelo felt like this stepladder finals was a perfect example of things going his way. In the championship match, he and Adcock each split for an open frame, yet Angelo followed his up with four straight strikes to close out the match. In his semifinal match against defending champion Parker Bohn III, his opponent started and ended his game with a 7-10 split. After Bohn’s first split he followed it up with a double then he uncharacteristically missed a 7-pin. Angelo admits that the second open frame loosened him up, yet Bohn responded with a double and a ringing 7-pin. After the spare, Bohn struck on his next three shots before the second 7-10 for a 212 game. Bohn sat down shaking his head. Angelo struck his first shot in the 10th then picked up a 10-pin for 216.

The first match of the evening for Angelo came against Team Mexico bowler Francisco Peralta who was making his first stepladder finals appearance in just his second ever PBA50 tournament. The left-hander, who defeated fellow lefty Jason Couch in the opening match, started strong with a double then missed a 7-pin on the left lane. Angelo had a split for an open in the second frame and followed that up with a double. There would be no more doubles thrown again until Angelo was able to roll a four-bagger to end the match earning the 212-197 win.

“He left that stone 8-pin (in the seventh). It was a little high flush, but he threw it great then he left a ring 7,” Angelo said. “I got a light shaker strike and was able to get up and make a couple of good shots to shut him out.”

Difficulties on the left lane affected each bowler. There were 14 single-pin leaves and five reracks taken over the four games. In the Couch against Peralta match, Peralta came out rolling with five strikes in six frames. Couch unfortunately left the big four for an open in the fourth followed by back-to-back 7-pin spares twice. Couch finished by striking out in the 10th for 200 but Peralta was too much with a clean 245 game.

After taking more time to reflect on his first win since 2022, Angelo got emotional. When he used to compete on the PBA Tour, Brielle and his son, Dylan, would give him good luck charms before he left. Brielle made the first bracelet when she was around the age of five or six. He made the stepladder that

week and he told her that he would wear it every day for the rest of his life and he has kept that promise.

Brielle is about to turn 22 and she will graduate from college later this week. Angelo hates that he won't be there as instead, he will be competing at the Bud Moore PBA50 Players Championship for a major title in Virginia starting on Saturday.

"Brielle sent me a really nice text, and it said, 'Dad, I know you sacrifice for us, and I want you to know how much I appreciate that, and it is OK if you can't be there. Of course I want you there, but I know you have to be able to make money for our family," Angelo said with tears in his eyes. "That is the stuff that gets me."

Top 10 PBA50 The Villages Classic standings:

1. Brad Angelo, $8,000
2. Tom Adcock, $4,500
3. Parker Bohn III, $3,500
4. Francisco Peralta, $3,000
5. Jason Couch, $2,500

CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND SCORES

Match 1: Peralta def. Couch, 245-200
Match 2: Angelo def. Peralta, 212-197
Match 3: Angelo def. Bohn III, 216-212
Championship match: Angelo def. Adcock, 233-206

Tackett, Fach, Via, Svensson Pursue PBA Playoffs Title

May 15, 2025 Nolan Hughes

On Sunday, top seed EJ Tackett will meet Graham Fach in the first semifinal match of the PBA Playoffs before Chris Via and Jesper Svensson square off in the second.

The semifinals air Sunday, May 18 at noon Eastern time on FS1.

Tackett and Fach's stellar seasons earned them each a bye to the quarterfinals, where they handled business against two of the game's postseason risers. Though their matches featured vastly different scoring paces, Tackett and Fach demonstrated a clear vision to get the ball to the pocket.

In the PBA Playoffs, Via and Svensson continued to do what they have been doing all season. The veterans fought for every point and put themselves in position to advance by thriving under pressure. Three of Via and Svensson's four combined wins this postseason have come via roll-off, setting the stage for a thrilling semifinal.

With historic seasons and career-defining opportunities on the horizon, it's time to take a step back and revisit what these four players have achieved this season.

EJ Tackett — No. 1 seed

Simply put, Tackett is in the midst of one of the best seasons in PBA Tour history. The PBA Player of the Year front-runner has won four titles, including two majors, and finished top-five in 10 of 15 title events.

Tackett is on pace to break the single-season average record of 229.39 and a win in the PBA Playoffs, securing the $100,000 top prize, would put the single-season earnings record within his reach as well.

Top 2025 Finishes

- 1st place: U.S. Open presented by Go Bowling, PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic, PBA Shark Championship, PBA World Championship
- 2nd place: PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic presented by Pilgrim's, PBA Viper Championship
- 3rd place: PBA Scorpion Championship
- 4th place: PBA Chameleon Championship, PBA Tournament of Champions

Playoffs Experience (since 2019, no event in 2023)

- Six appearances: 2019-2025 (T-1st)
- Six top-16 finishes: 2019-2025 (T-1st)
- Three top-eight finishes: 2021, 2024-2025 (T-5th)
- One top-four finish: 2025

Previous Matches

- Round 1: bye
- Quarterfinals: defeated No. 9 Anthony Simonsen, 2-1 (211-236, 258-201, 48-38)
- Average: 234.50 (two games)

Graham Fach — No. 4 seed

For years, Fach has been a popular choice for the distinction of 'most underrated player' on the PBA Tour. The Canadian southpaw has shed the label for good this season while proving his supporters to have been correct all along.

Fach ended his near-nine-year title drought by winning the season's first tournament, ultimately finishing the season fourth in competition points.

Top 2025 Finishes

- 1st place: PBA Delaware Classic

- 3rd place: PBA Tournament of Champions
- 5th place: USBC Masters

Playoffs Experience

- Two appearances: 2024-2025
- Two top-16 finishes: 2024-2025
- One top-eight finish: 2025
- One top-four finish: 2025

Previous Matches

- Round 1: bye
- Quarterfinals: defeated No. 12 Kyle Troup, 2-1 (210-226, 206-205, 40-28)
- Average: 208.00 (two games)

Chris Via — No. 6 seed

There's a monumental difference between “Remember when Player X won that tournament?” and “How has Player Y only won one title?” — and it is approximately the size of Via’s biceps. The 2021 U.S. Open champion nearly captured his second career title earlier this season, earning consecutive top-three finishes in Indiana and Illinois.

Looking past his first five frames of the PBA Playoffs, perhaps no player has looked more comfortable in Strobl Arena than Via.

Top 2025 Finishes

- 2nd place: PBA Owen’s Illinois Classic
- 3rd place: U.S. Open presented by Go Bowling

Playoffs Experience

- Four appearances: 2020-2021, 2024-2025
- Three top-16 finishes: 2021, 2024-2025
- One top-eight finish: 2025
- One top-four finish: 2025

Previous Matches

- Round 1: defeated No. 11 Ryan Barnes (188-279, 234-185, 59-40)
- Quarterfinals: defeated No. 3 Jason Belmonte (217-199, 226-175)

- Average: 216.25 (four games)

Jesper Svensson — No. 7 seed

Svensson may be known as the Iceman, but there may not be a more feared player as the temperatures rise in April and May.

This season, Svensson parlayed his second PBA Tournament of Champions triumph into his second PBA Playoffs semifinal berth.

Top 2025 Finishes

- 1st place: PBA Tournament of Champions
- 5th place: PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic presented by Pilgrim's, PBA Shark Championship

Playoffs Experience

- Six appearances: 2019-2025 (T-1st)
- Six top-16 finishes: 2019-2025 (T-1st)
- Three top-eight finishes: 2022-2025 (T-5th)
- Two top-four finishes: 2024-2025 (T-3rd)
- One runner-up finish: 2024

Previous Matches

- Round 1: defeated No. 10 Jakob Butturff, 2-1 (192-200, 199-197, 60-39)
- Quarterfinals: defeated No. 2 Andrew Anderson (205-196, 192-213, 48-40)
- Average: 197.00 (four games)

PBA Playoffs TV Schedule

Semifinals — airing May 18 at noon ET | FS1
No. 1 EJ Tackett vs. No. 4 Graham Fach
No. 6 Chris Via vs. No. 7 Jesper Svensson

Championship — airing May 24 at 2:30 p.m. ET | FOX (live)
Tackett/Fach vs. Via/Svensson

John Janawicz Leading Bud Moore PBA50 Players Championship

May 17, 2025 Jill Winters

Woodbridge, Virginia – Defending Bud Moore PBA50 Players Championship winner John Janawicz is off to a high-scoring start. He began his Saturday morning with 248, 300, 248, 258, 259 and 224 for 1,537. He averaged 256.17 while striking 80% of the time, during the first six-games of qualifying. His only open frame on the day came on a split in his final game.

“The last five minutes of practice it started coming off my hand really good. I felt like I needed to go straighter,” said the 2024 PBA50 Player of the Year. “I was making good shots and the next thing you know, it started carrying over the whole block. There were not near as many bad shots compared to some of the other blocks I have had in the last couple of weeks.”

Janawicz, like all bowlers, knows how quickly the game can humble you. He comes into every tournament with the same mindset. He believes if you continue to stay with your game plan, focus on lane play and are smart with your decisions, eventually the scores will come. They definitely did for him on day one inside Bowl America Woodridge. He is already planning how to approach the double burn 44-foot Hardwick oil pattern on Sunday.

“My guess is there is a very good chance we will more than likely be in front of the ball return. Hopefully, I can make some good shots like I did today,” Janawicz said. “I just go out and do what I need to do. A lot of it is trusting what you see and trusting what you need to do physically and with your equipment. Just go out and make shots.”

This tournament’s format includes 18 games of qualifying now through Monday. All pins will carry forward when the field is cut to the top 24 players for round-robin match-play, which begins Tuesday.

Michael Haugen Jr. led the C squad to move into second place with 1,451. Amleto Monacelli led the B squad with 1,433 followed closely by Mika Koivuniemi, who finished second to Janawicz last year. Brian Dennis is in fifth at +218.

The B squad will be on the lanes starting at 9 a.m. Eastern on Sunday followed by the C squad at 12:30 p.m. and finally the A squad at 4 p.m. You can watch day two of qualifying on BowlTV.

Top 10 Bud Moore PBA50 Players Championship standings:

1. John Janawicz 1,537 (+337)
2. Michael Haugen Jr. 1,451 (+251)
3. Amleto Monacelli 1,433 (+233)
4. Mika Koivuniemi 1,427 (+227)
5. Brian Dennis 1,418 (+218)
6. Bill Rowe 1,414 (+214)
7. Tom Adcock 1,391 (+191)
8. Jack Jurek 1,390 (+190)

9. Joe Ciach 1,387 (+187)
10. John Shreve Jr. 1,385 (+185)

Tackett, Svensson to Duel for PBA Playoffs Championship

May 18, 2025 Nolan Hughes

EJ Tackett and Jesper Svensson advanced to the PBA Playoffs Championship.

Tackett defeated Graham Fach, while Svensson eliminated Chris Via in the semifinals at Strobl Arena inside Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park, Mich.

Tackett and Fach will return to Strobl Arena for the live championship match, featuring a Race-to-Three format, on May 24 at 2:30pm Eastern time on FOX.

Svensson will look to avenge his defeat in last year's PBA Playoffs championship match, just as he did in the Storm Lucky Larsen Masters last season.

First, Svensson will have to get through Tackett, the front-runner for this season's PBA Player of the year honor.

Tackett earned the top seed for the PBA Playoffs, which featured the top 12 players in the tour's competition points. In fact, Tackett earned more points (34,690) than second place Andrew Anderson (18,120) and third place Jason Belmonte (15,365) combined.

Fach, who qualified fourth with points, earned a bye to the quarterfinals along with Tackett, Anderson and Belmonte. Svensson, who qualified seventh, competed in Round 1 along with the fifth through 12th qualifiers.

All matches leading up to the championship were Race-to-Two matches.

To set up their semifinal match, Tackett defeated Anthony Simonsen and Fach bested two-time PBA Playoffs champion Kyle Troup in the quarterfinals.

Fach discussed his struggles to carry consistently after his quarterfinal win over Troup, noting that he has yet to bowl a game above 210 in his three televised games in Strobl Arena this season.

That trend continued for the Canadian southpaw as Tackett, the two-time reigning and three-time career PBA Player of the Year, cruised to a Game 1 victory of 250-193.

Tackett struck on nine of 11 shots across the dual oil patterns, which featured the 37-foot Bat on the left lane and the 44-foot Hardwick on the right lane. Despite the significant margin of victory, Tackett did not allow himself a moment of contentment.

“The only thing that a 1-0 lead ever makes you feel is ‘I am guaranteed to not lose,’” Tackett said of the Race-to-Two points format. “All winning the first game does is give you that little bit of security that, no matter what, I'm going to have four shots (in a roll-off) to be able to try to win this thing.”

In Game 2, Tackett and Fach combined for just one strike through four frames and Fach led 66-65.

As Fach desperately sought to find a path to strike, Tackett connected with strikes on six of his next seven shots, leaving only a 7-10 split in between, to rally for a 210-190 victory.

A triumph over a left-handed player in Strobl Arena is nothing new to Tackett. In the 2024 PBA World Championship finals, Tackett defeated four left-handers, including Fach and Svensson, to climb the stepladder and win the major title.

“I don't think it has anything to do with execution or even ball choice,” said Tackett, referring to the left-handed players’ inability to string strikes in Strobl Arena. “They just have not been able to get the corners to fall down. If I was their ball rep, I would have no idea what to tell them to be perfectly honest. Maybe to try something out of the box, which I'm sure they probably have. I don't know what to tell them to try to get the corners out.”

Tackett will look to claim his fifth title of the season over yet another southpaw in Svensson in the championship match. He would also earn the $100,000 top prize and raise his season earnings to $469,540.

With a win, Tackett would position himself within striking distance of Troup’s single-season record of $496,900 with three title events remaining this season.

“There's a long way to go to even remotely talk about that in my opinion,” Tackett said. “It's a long road ahead for that to even be possible. All I can do is show up, do my best and hoist some trophies. That kind of stuff always takes care of itself.”

Svensson prevailed in his semifinal match over Via in two games, winning 202-186 and 248-172.

The Swedish left-hander previously shared Fach’s struggles to string strikes on lanes 10-11 in Strobl Arena. He won his previous two matches over Jakob Butturff and Andrew Anderson while averaging just 197 and shooting a high game of 205.

Svensson said after his quarterfinal win over Anderson that he had some thinking to do in order to fix his scoring issues.

“Sooner or later, I’m going to get run over if I keep bowling scores like this,” Svensson said.

It looked like more of the same in Game 1 as Svensson left five single-pins en route to shooting 202. However, Via’s split in his 10th frame allowed Svensson to escape with the first point.

Perhaps tasting a berth in the championship, Svensson finally broke through in Game 2 and struck on his first six shots. He finished with 248 as Via’s struggles continued to mount.

“It's probably my best performance so far in the playoffs,” Svensson said. “I made a little move in the second game, and that was perfect so I got off to a good start there. It was a must-win for Chris at that

point, so to be able to come out and put some heat on him early probably helped a lot in that second game."

Svensson, who won the PBA Tournament of Champions last month, will look to win his second consecutive title this season.

The only players to have won back-to-back titles since Svensson also did so in 2020 are Tackett (three times) and Simonsen.

"I'm looking forward to it, first off," Svensson said of facing Tackett. "To be the best, you've got to beat the best and EJ is clearly the best bowler in the world right now. It's definitely a brutal challenge, but he's human, just like I am, and I've got pretty good mojo right now. I feel comfortable."

PBA Playoffs TV Schedule and Results

Semifinals
No. 1 EJ Tackett def. No. 4 Graham Fach, 2-0 (250-193, 210-190)
No. 7 Jesper Svensson def. No. 6 Chris Via, 2-0 (202-186, 248-172)

Championship - airing May 24 at 2:30pm ET | FOX (live)
No. 1 EJ Tackett vs. No. 7 Jesper Svensson

John Janawicz Increases Lead at Bud Moore PBA50 Players Championship

May 18, 2025 Jill Winters

Woodbridge, Virginia – After 12 games of qualifying at the 2025 Bud Moore PBA50 Players Championship, the only two players with no games under 200 are at the top of the leaderboard, defending champion John Janawicz and Michael Haugen Jr.

Janawicz padded his lead on Sunday rolling games of 255, 225, 257, 269, 206 and 254, averaging 244.33 on the day. He holds a 128-pin lead over second place after going +603 for two days. He didn't like his look during practice until his final two shots when he finally got lined up.

"I think I was a lot deeper than most everybody else, so I wasn't in as much of the traffic. I didn't see as much change and that helped," Janawicz said. "Overall, it was a very good day of bowling. I made a lot of good decisions and executed."

Game 5 was a bit of a struggle, yet he was able to throw five straight strikes in the end to bail it out, which set him up for a strong finish.

"That was a big deal to me. I took a guess using a ball I had used on previous fill balls. Fortunately, I went off the sheet," he said. "I really thought with the look I had I could have shot 300 the last game then I had a blower 7-10. I parlayed that into 254, so that worked out pretty well."

Michael Haugen Jr. shot 242, 233, 255, 234, 257 and 203 to get to +475 overall.

“By the time we got on the lanes, they were almost broken down as much as last night. Yesterday, I had a little more miss right to still carry, yet today I did not have that,” Haugen Jr. said. “I used the same two balls and played them almost the same way both days.”

Haugen Jr. hasn’t won a PBA50 Tour title since 2018. He came into this year with a different mindset. He is putting no expectations on himself, which has already led to positive results. He finished 11th in the Fort Myers Classic and 15th in The Villages Classic.

“By bowling and not putting any pressure on the results, I think it has made it easier to bowl well. I am having a great time,” he said. “For the last 27 years, I have been competing against these same guys. It is fun to be competitive again for sure.”

Haugen Jr. knows he will need a new game plan bowling on the fresh 44-foot Hardwick oil pattern Monday morning. He will see what the lanes give him, trust his reads and hope the pins keep falling down.

Amleto Monacelli is in third place. While at the last tournament in The Villages, Florida, Monacelli was dealing with lower back/hip area pain. He went home for a few days and figured out the pain was a result of a movement he was making during the last step in his approach. He made the right adjustment in his delivery feeling more comfortable on the lanes. He made a run at 300 on Sunday with a 277 game.

“I am feeling the ball in my hand unbelievable now throwing the ball so good. I am working so hard not to feel the pain, so it makes me see and feel what I need to do,” Monacelli said. “It is giving me confidence in what I am doing with my physical game.”

Tom Hess averaged 243.33 Sunday to move into fourth place and Tom Adcock is in fifth at +360. The final six-games of qualifying will begin with C-squad starting at 9 a.m. Eastern on Monday followed by A-squad at 12:30 p.m. and finally B-squad at 4 p.m. Once qualifying is complete, the top 24 bowlers will move into 24-games of round-robin match-play on Tuesday and Wednesday with all pins carrying over. You can watch the final day of qualifying on BowlTV.

Also on Sunday, the 2024 PBA50 Tour award winners were recognized during a special ceremony. Donald Hogue received the Dick Weber Sportsmanship Award. Walter Ray Williams Jr. received the PBA60 Player of the Year Award. Randy Weiss got his PBA50 Rookie of the Year Award, and John Janawicz collected his 2024 PBA50 Player of the Year Award.

“It means the world to me, especially as someone who never bowled the regular tour. To be able to win Player of the Year on the senior tour to me is a dream come true. Very humbling to be able to win this award,” Janawicz said.

Top 10 Bud Moore PBA50 Players Championship standings:

1. John Janawicz, 3,003 (+603)
2. Michael Haugen Jr., 2,875 (+475)
3. Amleto Monacelli, 2,832 (+432)
4. Tom Hess, 2,812 (+412)
5. Tom Adcock, 2,760 (+360)

6. Dino Castillo, 2,744 (+344)
7. Brian LeClair, 2,717 (+317)
8. Mario Quintero, 2,716 (+316)
9. Mika Koivuniemi, 2,712 (+312)
10. Tom Daugherty, 2,706 (+306)

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10. Tom Daugherty, 2,706 (+306)

Full standings - Bud Moore PBA50 Players Championship

John Janawicz Extends Lead at Bud Moore PBA50 Players Championship

May 19, 2025 Jill Winters

Woodbridge, Virginia – John Janawicz has been on another level during the 18 games of qualifying in the 2025 Bud Moore PBA50 Players Championship. The defending champion averaged 238.67 on Monday to finish at +835. His high game on the day was 289 and he has yet to bowl a game under 200.

His mind is always at work on and off the lanes preparing himself for competition and trying to fill gaps in his arsenal based on what he thinks he may need depending on the conditions in front of him. The last time he checked his vehicle, he estimates there are 63 bowling balls inside ready to be used at any moment.

“I had to do a lot of mold changes right before I left and I didn’t get a chance to throw a lot of these balls. I felt like I needed to take everything to know what feels good, what still has life in it and what is dead. A couple of the balls were left over from a while back,” he said. “I have already eliminated about 12 balls. It gets a little overloaded at times, but I deal with it.”

As Janawicz prepares for plan A, B and C when it comes to round-robin match play beginning on Tuesday, he expects the lanes to break down faster and a little more parallel. He knows it will be important to get off to a strong start in the head-to-head format as there is a lot of bowling yet to come. He has a 173-pin lead over second place.

“When you are dealing with 30 bonus pins and some of the best bowlers in the world out here, those leads can evaporate very quickly, if you are going in the wrong direction. I have to stay on top of it at all times,” he said. “Hopefully I will be on top of it after 24 more games. Hopefully make more good decisions, good shot making and see how the pins fall from there. The job is still at hand. There are still three more long blocks ahead.”

Amleto Monacelli finished Monday strong as he moved into second place. He shot 300, 224, 196, 237, 278 and 195 going +230 on the day. He is followed by Michael Haugen Jr., Tom Hess and Tom Adcock to round out the top five. At the end of qualifying, there was a three-way tie for 24th place at +262 between Brad Angelo, Joe Ciach and Carleton Chambers. They bowled a one-game roll-off for the final spot, which was won by Chambers. He finished the game with eight straight strikes for 248 to defeat Ciach’s 247 and Angelo’s 205.

They will bowl two eight-game blocks of round-robin match play starting at 9 a.m. on Tuesday then again at 3 p.m. The final eight games will start at 9 a.m. on Wednesday to determine the top five for the stepladder finals scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. on Wednesday. The finals for this event will be held inside the home of tournament sponsor Bill Moore. Watch the final two days of this major tournament only on BowlTV.

Top 10 Bud Moore PBA50 Players Championship standings:

1. John Janawicz, 4,435 (+835)
2. Amleto Monacelli, 4,262 (+662)
3. Michael Haugen Jr., 4,215 (+615)

4. Tom Hess, 4,149 (+549)
5. Tom Adcock, 4,146 (+546)
6. Dino Castillo, 4,078 (+478)
7. Mario Quintero, 4,058 (+458)
8. Brian Dennis, 4,046 (+446)
9. Jack Jurek, 4,033 (+433)
10. Michael Haggitt, 4,018 (+418)

Full standings - Bud Moore PBA50 Players Championship

John Janawicz Holds Significant Lead at Bud Moore PBA50 Players Championship

May 20, 2025 Jill Winters

Woodbridge, Virginia – After 16 games of round-robin match play on Tuesday, John Janawicz more than tripled his previous 173-pin lead after posting a 12-4 record. With his 360 bonus points added to his score, his lead is now 564 pins over Michael Haugen Jr. in second place in the 2025 Bud Moore PBA50 Players Championship.

“The biggest difference was a lot of different people trying some different things and the scoring pace lowered more than anything else. Some were playing outside, some were playing a little further in,” Janawicz said. “It made the (adjustments) pair-to-pair a little tougher and more challenging today.”

Janawicz has always been a firm believer in never looking back just keep pressing forward. With eight more round-robin matches to go, he is focused on what he needs to do to put himself in the best position to defend his title at the first major championship on the schedule.

“I played further right today, which actually worked out pretty good,” he said. “I am going to continue to explore that with a few different balls, maybe we can find something a little bit better.”

Behind Haugen Jr. is Amleto Monacelli, Dino Castillo and Bill Rowe in the top five. Rowe climbed from 10th place to fifth. After a 1-7 match play start in the morning, Tom Daugherty won seven matches in the afternoon to go from 18th to 10th.

The final eight games of round-robin match play begin at 9 a.m. on Wednesday to determine the top five for the stepladder finals schedule to begin at 7 p.m. on Wednesday. The finals will be held inside the home of tournament sponsor Bill Moore. Watch the last day of this major tournament only on BowlTV.

Top 10 Bud Moore PBA50 Players Championship standings (with bonus pins):

1. John Janawicz, 8,407 (+1,607)
2. Michael Haugen Jr., 7,843 (+1,043)
3. Amleto Monacelli, 7,782 (+982)

4. Dino Castillo, 7,778 (+978)
5. Bill Rowe, 7,763 (+963)
6. Tom Adcock, 7,759 (+959)
7. Tom Hess, 7,751 (+951)
8. Darryl Bower, 7,748 (+948)
9. Michael Haggitt, 7,680 (+880)
10. Tom Daugherty, 7,679 (+879)

Tom Hess wins 11th title in Bud Moore PBA50 Players Championship

May 21, 2025 Jill Winters

Woodbridge, Virginia – In the title match of the first major championship of the 2025 PBA50 season, Tom Hess posted a nearly perfect game Wednesday evening in the Bud Moore PBA50 Players Championship. After winning three straight matches as the No. 5 seed, Hess saved his best performance for No. 1 seed John Janawicz, who had dominated the tournament since Saturday.

Hess's comfort level on the lanes inside tournament sponsor Bill Moore's home finally paid dividends after coming up short in two previous attempts. He was not about to let that happen again. Hess capitalized on a few high shots rolling 11 straight strikes before getting eight on his final ball for 298. Janawicz opened the match with four straight spares before making a ball change and playing further right on the lanes. From that point on, he threw seven out of eight strikes to finish with 235.

"I bowled a pretty good game against JJ. I did get a couple of good breaks but other than that, I threw a bunch of really good shots," Hess said. "All of the pressure was on him when he got up there to bowl that game. There was no pressure on me; just go make good shots. I was able to come through."

Hess, who won $20,000, was quick to praise Janawicz's incredible performance throughout the tournament saying he truly felt "JJ won this tournament, but I get to go home with the trophy." These two each won five titles last season making for a tight PBA50 Player of the Year race, which went to Janawicz. There is no doubt these two powerhouse bowlers will be meeting up many more times this season.

"JJ is an incredible bowler. I beat him last week in The Villages (Classic). That three-game match was the best I had bowled all year on tour because I knew I had to have my 'A' game for JJ," Hess said. "There is so much talent on this tour. It is unreal that I am one of the guys that the guys are aiming for. Eleven titles, don't pinch me anytime soon."

After competing since Saturday at Bowl America Woodbridge then having to bowl for the title in Moore's home, Hess was prepared for what he was walking into. He finished second there in 2022 and fourth in 2023.

“There are some differences from lane 13 to 14 and I know those. I trusted my moves and I was able to clear my mind, relax and go out and bowl,” Hess said. “I did have some approach issues on the left lane, which actually helped me because I had to keep my feet slow. If I got a little quick, I stuck on the left lane.”

In the opening match, Dino Castillo started with a double followed by two single-pin spares, as Hess put together two strikes and two spares. Controlling his speed was going to be key for Castillo, yet he got too quick in the fifth and sixth frames resulting in back-to-back splits for open frames. Hess was able to stay clean with four straight strikes in the end for the 226-202 victory.

After climbing from 13th place at the start of his day to third place, Pete Weber would face Hess in the second match. Hess kept striking with five strikes in his first six frames, while Weber started with strike, open, strike and a spare before reeling off four straight strikes. Hess put together a three-bagger starting in the eighth frame on the way to close out the match 246-193.

In the semifinal match against Michael Haugen Jr., Hess almost opened with a four-bagger, except for a pesky 8-pin in the third frame. Haugen Jr. struggled to look comfortable on the right lane throwing a Brooklyn strike and going through the nose. He then had back-to-back splits for opens in the fourth and fifth frames as Hess filled frames. Haugen Jr. closed out the match with five straight strikes for 208. Needing just a mark in the 10th, Hess struck on his first shot and tested another ball for 214.

Hess credits his win to fellow PBA50 bowler and ball rep Mitch Beasley for keeping him calm and focused all week, but especially in the final position round game against Pete Weber. Hess was lost on the pair, and it came down to the 10th frame with Hess needing to mark and get at least eight on his fill ball to make the stepladder.

“I went back in the ninth frame, and I talked to Mitch Beasley. He said I need to move 3-and-2. It is great that he is back out here, and I am working with him,” Hess said. “My mind was racing 100-miles-an-hour that game because of all the guys chasing me Pete Weber, Tom Daugherty and Dino. They are all great bowlers. I got fortunate to get through there to make the show.”

With his 11th PBA50 title, Hess is now tied with his great friend Parker Bohn III, Ron Mohr and Gene Stus. “Anytime you are mentioned with the greats of this game like Parker Bohn III, Ron Mohr and Gene Stus, it’s special. I was tied with Amleto (Monacelli) at 10. My goal is to catch Walter (Ray Williams Jr.) at 16,” Hess said. "It is nice to be able to see success. Wow, tied with Parker Bohn.”

Another goal remaining on Hess’s list is to win the PBA50 World Championship. If he can accomplish that in his career, he will achieve the Triple Crown and the Grand Slam on the PBA50 Tour. “Look out Jackson, Michigan. I am coming for you,” Hess said.

Next up on the PBA50 schedule is the USBC Super Senior Classic for those aged-60 and over. This event will begin on May 29 at Sam’s Town Bowling Center in Las Vegas. You can see it all on BowlTV.

Final standings — PBA50 Bud Moore Players Championship:

1. Tom Hess
2. John Janawicz
3. Michael Haugen Jr.

4. Pete Weber
5. Dino Castillo

Championship Round Scores

Match 1: Hess def. Castillo 226-202
Match 2: Hess def. Weber 246-193
Match 3: Hess def. Haugen Jr. 214-208
Championship match: Hess def. Janawicz 298-235

Jesper Svensson Earns Redemption with PBA Playoffs Title

May 24, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Jesper Svensson, one year after finishing runner-up in the PBA Playoffs, dethroned EJ Tackett to win the PBA Playoffs at Strobl Arena inside Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park, Mich.

Svnesson defeated the tournament's top seed, 3-1, in the Race-to-Three championship match, marking the final FOX broadcast of the season.

The win marks back-to-back titles for Svensson, who also won the PBA Tournament of Champions last month. After earning his second career TOC victory, the Swede joins Tackett as the only multi-time winners this season.

"These last couple of months are probably some of the biggest achievements in my career," Svensson said. "I felt pretty rough after the first month, and just got my s--- together. I never lost my heart and my fight. That's what I really think was a big key to the finish of the season and to hit the jackpot."

Svensson said he felt additional motivation to win the PBA Playoffs after finishing second to Boog Krol last year. He hoped to replicate his performance in the 2024 Storm Lucky Larsen Masters, in which he won the title in his home country a year after finishing second in the event.

While Svensson lept out to a 2-0 lead in the Race-to-Three championship match — which featured the 37-foot Bat oil pattern on the left lane and the 44-foot Hardwick pattern on the right lane — he only won the first two games by a total margin of 14 pins. Svensson prevailed 217-208 in Game 1, then closed Game 2 with four consecutive strikes to win 225-220.

"Timmy and I put a solid gameplan together throughout the practices we had here," said Svensson, referring to Storm tour rep Tim Mack. "I trust Timmy with everything. He could tell me to do any crazy thing he wants, and I would trust it with my heart and my gut."

Tackett extended the match with eight strikes in his last nine shots of Game 3, prevailing 246-216.

In Game 4, with Tackett hoping to force a ninth- and 10th-frame roll-off, Tackett and Svensson combined for 11 strikes through seven frames with Svensson holding a narrow advantage.

Tackett ceded control of the match with spares in his eighth and ninth frames. Those spares allowed Svensson to convert a pair of single-pins to clinch the match and punctuate the title with a strike.

The moment Svensson captured the PBA Playoffs title.

Tackett earned the top seed for the PBA Playoffs, which featured the top 12 players in the tour's competition points. In fact, Tackett earned more points (34,690) than second place Andrew Anderson (18,120) and third place Jason Belmonte (15,365) combined.

Tackett earned a bye to the quarterfinals, then defeated Anthony Simonsen and Graham Fach to reach the championship match. All matches leading up to the championship were Race-to-Two matches.

Seeking to win his fifth title of his almost-assured third consecutive Player of the Year season, the 0-2 deficit proved to be too deep of a hole for Tackett to dig himself out.

"That's bowling: One bad shot in a bad spot and one bad break in a time of need," Tackett said. "Those two shots, if they go the other way, you know, I'm more than likely up 2-0. It sucks, but that's the way it goes. I can't really hang my head. I felt like I bowled pretty good, and could have thrown a couple of shots better. At the end of the day, I felt like I bowled a good match, and Jesper just bowled better."

Svensson, who qualified for the PBA Playoffs after ranking seventh in competition points this season, defeated Jakob Butturff, Andrew Anderson and Chris Via to advance to the championship match.

The Swede only averaged 206 during his previous six games in the PBA Playoffs. He shot just one game above 205, which was 248 in his semifinal-clinching game.

"I felt like I was close throughout the first couple of rounds and got a bit fortunate to make it through," Svensson said. "I feel like as a professional bowler, when we get to bowl in the same environment, on the same lanes and patterns a few times, we're supposed to get better and better. And I feel like I definitely did that."

Tackett — along with Anthony Simonsen, Jason Belmonte, Bill O'Neill, Kyle Troup, Anderson and Fach — will return to PBA action June 7-8 for the PBA Tour Finals. More information is available here.

Championship Match Scores

No. 7 Jesper Svensson def. No. 1 EJ Tackett, 3-1

Game 1: Svensson def. Tackett, 217-208
Game 2: Svensson def. Tackett, 225-220
Game 3: Tackett def. Svensson, 246-216
Game 4: Svensson def. Tackett, 246-226

Final Standings

1. Jesper Svensson, $100,000
2. EJ Tackett, $50,000
3. Graham Fach, $30,000
4. Chris Via, $30,000

5. Andrew Anderson, $15,000
6. Jason Belmonte, $15,000
7. Anthony Simonsen, $15,000
8. Kyle Troup, $15,000
9. Tim Foy Jr., $7,500
10. Ethan Fiore, $7,500
11. Jakob Butturff, $7,500
12. Ryan Barnes, $7,500

CBS Sports Secures Media Rights to PBA World Series of Bowling in New Two-Year Agreement

May 29, 2025 Professional Bowlers Association

The PBA and CBS Sports have agreed to a new, expanded media rights deal. The two-year agreement includes 31 hours of coverage on the CBS Television Network, with simultaneous streaming on Paramount+, and CBS Sports Network during the 2026 season, up from nine hours in the 2025 season.

CBS Sports will spotlight two of the PBA's marquee events in the PBA World Series of Bowling (WSOB), including the PBA World Championship finals on CBS and Paramount+, and the new PBA Commissioner's Cup.

PBA Tour coverage has been a yearly fixture on CBS Sports since the 2013 Summer Swing, including the prestigious US Open from 2015-2019, and live coverage of the PBA Tour Finals since 2017.

CBS Sports securing media rights to the WSOB represents an opportunity to showcase the PBA's most lucrative, global showcase event.

"CBS Sports has championed the PBA and our athletes for more than a decade," said Lev Ekster, President of Lucky Strike Entertainment. "The WSOB is the greatest global platform in the sport of bowling. We are certain CBS Sports will not only deliver an incredible event to bowling fans around the world, but continue to elevate the WSOB."

PBA World Series of Bowling

In the 16 years of the WSOB, athletes from more than 30 countries have competed and 14 international-born champions have been crowned.

In 2026, CBS Sports Network will air the prelims and championship round of each of the four animal pattern championships.

The standard title events build towards the PBA World Championship finals, a major title event, which will air live on CBS and Paramount+.

The WSOB has crowned PBA Tour champions from 10 different countries following wins by Singapore's Darren Ong and Malaysia's Tun Hakim in this season's WSOB XVI.

Australia's Jason Belmonte and the United States' EJ Tackett share the record with nine career WSOB titles apiece.

Tackett has won each of the past three PBA World Championship titles and will seek an unprecedented fourth consecutive title in the major championship next season.

PBA Commissioner's Cup

The PBA Commissioner's Cup, formerly the PBA Tour Finals, will feature a revamped format in 2026.

Previously, the top eight players in competition points during the previous two PBA Tour seasons qualified for the PBA Tour Finals. Next year, the field will be opened to all PBA members and a qualifying round will be held in advance of the televised finals.

Eight finalists will compete in the televised rounds, which maintains nine hours of live coverage on CBS Sports Network.

Since the event began in 2017, Tackett, Belmonte, Kyle Troup and Anthony Simonsen have each won the event twice.

The 2025 PBA Tour Finals will air live June 7-8 on CBS Sports Network.

Carlos Denot Leads Super Senior Classic

May 29, 2025 Jill Winters

Las Vegas, Nevada – Carlos Denot, who has bowled on senior Team Mexico, began the first day of qualifying at the 2025 Super Senior Classic with 247, 217, 236, 253, 237 and 236 for 1,426. He averaged 237.67 to get to +226 inside Sam's Town Bowling Center ending Thursday on top of the leaderboard.

Ron Mohr has been one of the most successful senior bowlers in history. He has earned 11 PBA50 titles and he has the most PBA60 titles with five. He shot 214, 248, 182, 269, 279 and 226 for 1,418. He was clean in 59 out of his 60 frames on the day, only missing one 10-pin to climb into second place. He led the B-squad. Behind Mohr is Tom Adcock at +208 in third, Chris Warren at +207 in fourth and senior Team Finland bowler Timo Raatikainen is at +199 to round out the top five.

The 207-player field will return for the final six games of qualifying on Friday. B-squad will be on the lanes starting at noon Eastern followed by A-squad at 5 p.m. You can watch the action on BowlTV.

Top 10 2025 Super Senior Classic standings:

1. Carlos Denot 1,426 (+226)
2. Ron Mohr 1,418 (+218)
3. Tom Adcock 1,408 (+208)
4. Chris Warren 1,407 (+207)

5. Timo Raatikainen 1,399 (+199)
6. James Hansen 1,389 (+189)
7. Dave Shoji 1,382 (+182)
8. Paul McCordic and Andrew Frawley 1,381 (+181)
9. Glenn Smith 1,376 (+176)
10. Parker Bohn III 1,374 (+174)

Third Annual PBA LBC National Championships Set to Begin in Chicago Area

May 30, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Open to bowlers of all skill levels from all centers, the 2025 PBA LBC National Championships are set to begin later this month in the Chicago area.

Norm Duke will attend the opening ceremony on May 31, kicking off seven straight weekends of action at Bowlero Mount Prospect.

Squads are available every weekend from May 31 through July 13. While some squads have reached max capacity, open spots are currently still available each weekend.

In the first two years of the PBA LBC National Championships, more than $675,000 have been awarded.

The tournament features eight divisions, offering bowlers of all skill levels an opportunity to thrive.

The Open Classic division will compete for a $25,000 guaranteed first-place prize, while the Men's Handicap, Women's Handicap, Women's Classic, Senior Classic and PBA Exempt divisions offer $5,000 for first place. The Boy's Jr. Handicap and Girl's Jr. Handicap winners will receive $2,500 in SMART scholarships.

All eight division winners will also advance to the PBA LBC National Championship Clash to compete for additional prizes and The Duke.

Players will bowl six games across 12 lanes on the 2025 PBA LBC National Championships oil pattern, which is 42 feet long.

In the optional doubles and team events, players can sign up with anyone — including PBA Tour players — on their squad or future squads. The first three games of the tournament will count towards doubles scores, while the last three games will count for the team event.

Players can register for doubles and team events for $25 per bowler.

More than a dozen PBA Tour players are scheduled to compete in this year's PBA LBC National Championships, including Kyle Troup, EJ Tackett and Bill O'Neill.

Follow the PBA LBC Facebook page for more information, including competition dates for additional PBA Tour players.

All squads of the PBA LBC National Championships will be livestreamed on the PBA's YouTube channel.

PBA Tour Player Schedule

May 31
Kyle Troup (9am)

June 1
Graham Fach (11am)

June 14
Justin Knowles (2pm)
Matt Sanders (2pm)

June 21
EJ Tackett (2pm)
AJ Chapman (2pm)
Zach Wilkins (2pm)

June 22
Tim Foy Jr. (11am)

June 27
Nate Purches (1pm)

June 28
Sean Lavery-Spahr (9am)
Brandon Runk (2pm)
Bailey Mavrick (7pm)
Patrick Dombrowski (7pm)

June 29
Andrew Anderson (11am)
Kris Prather (11am)

July 5
Cristian Azcona (2pm)
Boog Krol (2pm)

July 6
Tom Smallwood (11am)

July 13
Bill O'Neill (11am)
Kyle Sherman (11am)

Timo Raatikainen Leading Super Senior Classic

May 30, 2025 Jill Winters

Las Vegas, Nevada – For the second straight day at the 2025 USBC Super Senior Classic an international bowler is leading the way. On the final day of qualifying, Finland's Timo Raatikainen posted the highest six-game block of the tournament to go from fifth to first place.

He shot 253, 193, 300, 226, 279 and 277 for 1,528, an average of 254.67 on Friday. He rolled the only perfect game so far, which helped him earn a 105-pin lead over Day 1 qualifying leader Carlos Denot. Denot, from Mexico, dropped one spot to second place after shooting 1,396. Overall, he is at +422.

Two-time Super Senior Classic winner and Las Vegas resident Ron Mohr is in third place at +337 followed closely by Pete Weber at +334. Weber jumped from 30th place to fourth and Parker Bohn III is fifth at +329 inside Sam's Town Bowling Center. Walter Ray Williams Jr. was the final player in at +117, averaging 209.75 for qualifying. Last year's tournament winner Jack Jurek finished in 55th place.

The top 52 players will bowl six-games in the casher's round on Saturday starting at noon Eastern with total pinfall for 18 games to determine the top 12. They will then be split into two match-play groups. Group 1 will include the odd seeded bowlers (1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11) as Group 2 will be the even seeds. They will bowl six head-to-head matches within their group starting at 6 p.m. ET, ending with a final position round. Thirty bonus points go to the winners of each match.

The highest score with bonus pins in each group will earn automatic spots in Sunday's stepladder finals. The player with the most overall total pins will be the No. 1 seed. Those players in third and fourth within each group will bowl one game head-to-head. The winner will then bowl the player in second. Those final two winners will take on each other in the first match of the stepladder finals, scheduled to start at 2 p.m. ET on Sunday. Enjoy all of the action on BowlTV.

Top 10 2025 Super Senior Classic standings:

1. Timo Raatikainen, 2,927 (+527)
2. Carlos Denot, 2,822 (+422)
3. Ron Mohr, 2,737 (+337)
4. Pete Weber 2,734 (+334)
5. Parker Bohn III 2,729 (329)
6. Rudy Kasimakis, 2,724 (+324)

Tom Adcock, 2,724 (+324)

8. Chris Warren, 2,713 (+313)
9. Scott Santos, 2,703 (+303)
10. Paul McCordic, 2,680 (+280)

Pete Weber earns No. 1 seed at Super Senior Classic

May 31, 2025 Jill Winters

Las Vegas, Nevada — Pete Weber continued his climb to the top of the standings Saturday in the 2025 Super Senior Classic. He posted a 5-1 record in match play to lead Group B and claim the No. 1 overall seed for Sunday's stepladder finals.

John Burkett was perfect in match play going 6-0 to lead Group A en route to earning the overall No. 2 seed.

Starting at noon Eastern on Sunday, Parker Bohn III will face Timo Raatikainen in a one-game match in the Group A stepladder. Ron Mohr will take on the winner. The winner of that match will be in the stepladder finals.

In Group B's stepladder, Amleto Monacelli will face James Campbell. The winner will then bowl Carlos Denot for the chance to earn a spot in the finals. Monacelli was the final bowler to make the top 12 after the casher's round. He posted a 4-2 match play record including a 258 game in position round to pass Tom Adcock by two pins.

The winner's of each group stepladder will bowl in the opening match of the stepladder finals scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. ET on Sunday. The winner will receive $8,000. See all of the action on BowlTV.

2025 Super Senior Classic standings:

Group A

1. John Burkett, 5,627 (+827)
2. Ron Mohr, 5,610 (+810)
3. Parker Bohn III, 5,559 (+759)
4. Timo Raatikainen, 5,537 (+737)

Group B:

1. Pete Weber, 5,712 (+912)
2. Carlos Denot, 5,479 (+679)
3. James Campbell, 5,475 (+675)
4. Amleto Monacelli, 5,465 (+665)

James Campbell Wins First Title in 2025 USBC Super Senior Classic

June 1, 2025 Jill Winters

Las Vegas, Nevada – Never give up, trust the process and fill your frames. Those are the main lessons James Campbell taught the men's bowling team at Tennessee Wesleyan University and everyone else on Sunday during the stepladder finals of the 2025 USBC Super Senior Classic.

Campbell started the tournament in a tie for 118th place after the first day of qualifying on Thursday. "I just bowled bad. I was upright and trying to throw it too hard and not executing. I then started hooking the ball a little bit, which is more my 'A' game," Campbell said. "After the first day, I looked at my notes from last year's tournament and I didn't bowl well on the fresh either. I took the same ball I used last year and used it in all six games on the burn and had an unbelievable look. It was unbelievable what I did. I was 200-over the next day. I was 50-pins out of 12th, but when the field is averaging 230, you've got to be 10 pins over that and luckily, I was able to do that."

He averaged 236 over six games on Friday to move into 20th place after the qualifying rounds were complete. He stepped it up even more, averaging 240.67 in the casher's round to climb into 10th place. "I used the same ball again for 12 games that day," he said. "I think because of my slower ball speed I could make urethane work."

As the format moved into group play, he posted a 3-3 match play record to get to third place in the Group B stepladder. His Sunday morning started as he defeated Amleto Monacelli 214-197 then Carlos Denot 222-180 to earn the No. 4 seed in the stepladder finals inside Sam's Town Bowling Center. From there, he defeated 11-time PBA50 Tour champion Parker Bohn III, one-time PBA50 winner John Burkett then 14-time PBA50 Tour champ Pete Weber to earn his first national title.

"It feels amazing. I told Pete every time I make a show I have to bowl him, Parker or Amleto and now I had to beat all three of them in the same day," he said, laughing. "When I got a good reaction, I was able to repeat shots. I had a really good look the first game. The front nine, the second game was amazing. I had such a good look that I wanted to just keep going."

In the championship match, Campbell started with a strike followed by three straight spares, as No. 1 seed Pete Weber began with strike, spare, strike, spare before throwing a double in the fifth and sixth frames. Campbell struck in the fifth and converted his third 10-pin of the game in the sixth frame. In the seventh, Campbell's shot appeared to be a bit slow resulting in the 3-6-7-10 split. The tall right-hander released the ball and started to run it out as he converted the split in style. "It kept me in the match, and it told Pete Weber; I'm not going away," Campbell said.

Weber gave him a high-five then missed a flat 10-pin of his own in the seventh followed by a strike. "The crowd told me what he did. I wasn't watching at all," Campbell said. "I looked up and thought he just gave me a chance."

Campbell doubled in the eighth and ninth frames as Weber stepped up to finish the match first. Needing a double and seven to shut out Campbell, Weber struck in the ninth then left the 4-10 split for an open in the 10th with 193. Campbell continued to stick to his process, taking a little extra time knowing he only needed a mark for his first title. He left another 10-pin.

“Just told myself to do what I have done for the entire tournament. I have been working on my spare game and approach because out here you have to make spares,” he said. As soon as he released the ball, he raised his hands above his head in celebration. He then got nine on his final shot for 201.

In the opening match, No. 3 seed Parker Bohn III started off with five straight strikes. Campbell went spare, double then another spare before throwing four straight strikes. He earned his first lead of the match in the seventh frame. Bohn III followed up his string of strikes with a spare and strike but then had back-to-back open frames in the eighth and ninth frames. Campbell struck out earning the 248-224 win.

In the second match, Campbell came out firing as No. 2 seed John Burkett had just two strikes and five spares in his first seven frames. Campbell had nothing but strikes in his first nine shots before leaving a 3-pin on his first shot in the 10th. He picked up the spare and struck again for the 279-214 win.

Next up for the PBA50 Tour is the 2025 USBC Senior Masters, which begins at Sam’s Town Bowling Center on Tuesday.

Championship Round Scores
Match 1: Campbell def. Bohn III, 248-224
Match 2: Campbell def. Burkett, 279-214
Championship match: Campbell def. Weber, 201-193

Final Standings

1. James Campbell, $8,000
2. Pete Weber, $6,550
3. John Burkett, $5,250
4. Parker Bohn III, $4,000

The Iceman Cometh

June 3, 2025 Nolan Hughes

I lounged in the paddock during April’s PBA Tournament of Champions (TOC) pro-am, mesmerized by the card game Tim Cagle II and Ryan Barnes were playing.

Neither Ethan Fiore, fewer than 24 hours removed from winning his first title, nor myself could even begin to decipher a rhythm to the madness.

Watching these two-handers play a game better than myself, a one-handed schlub, ever could, I finally empathized with the deep-rooted resentment expressed by those in the PBA comment sections.

Early in the game — although who am I to assess the length of a game I do not understand — another player retreated into the safe haven of the paddock.

“It’s probably not a good sign if you have to make a ball change one frame into a pro-am, huh?” the lanky figure said.

We turned to see Jesper Svensson grab a ball from his bag — a red one, of course — before departing back to the hallowed grounds of AMF Riviera Lanes.

A short while later — just long enough to learn Cagle calls this chaotic card game *cribbage*; "nonsense" would be a more accurate name, I say — Svensson returned.

The typically-stoic Swede burst into the paddock and unleashed a fervent yelp, which I can only compare to a Ric Flair impression by pre-intervention John Mulaney.

"I'm winning this thing," Svensson proclaimed, loosely in our direction.

Svensson struck out that game to shoot 270-something, so the ball change must've worked. He shot another 270-something the following game and probably more than 800 for his series.

I have no idea if he won the pro-am or not. The specifics don't matter. Does anyone actually win those things, anyway?

Here's what I do know: sometime during that unholy card game, Svensson became *The Iceman* once again.

Svensson's left arm is decorated in tattoos

The moment Svensson joined the PBA Tour — even before then, technically — everyone in the game knew they were witnessing something extraordinary.

Two months shy of his 18th birthday, Svensson won the WBT Brunswick Ballmaster Open as an amateur in Jan. 2013.

During his official rookie season in 2015, he won two titles and Rookie of the Year honors.

A year later, Svensson became the youngest ever to win the TOC and, two more titles later, became the first player to win five titles by the age of 21.

Two weeks after celebrating his 25th birthday, he won back-to-back titles in Indianapolis to become title-eligible for the PBA Hall of Fame.

Before the first of those two wins in 2020, Svensson said he felt "destined to win the title."

He was right. Unbridled confidence like that is how you earn a nickname like *The Iceman*.

More importantly, it's how such a nickname sticks — even if that version of Svensson has been on holiday with the wooly mammoth and sabre-toothed tiger for much of the past half-decade.

Svensson celebrates after winning the 2020 Go Bowling! PBA Indianapolis Open

It takes one gaze at Svensson to know he does not subscribe to the gospel of Nick Young, the notorious basketball caricature better known as Swaggy P.

The 30-year-old Swede boasts the highest rev rate on the PBA Tour and has won 14 titles, including the TOC and PBA Playoffs this season, in his 11-year professional career.

While Svensson wields substantially more talent than Mr. P, his past few seasons have been reminiscent of the hooper's infamous GIF.

Prior to the TOC, Svensson had not won a televised PBA Tour title on American soil since his 2020 exploits in Indy.

The Iceman emerged from hibernation during the past two Storm Lucky Larsen Masters in his homeland, winning the 2024 title, but he still hadn't shown the sustained brilliance it takes to win a televised PBA major championship in almost a decade.

"It takes a toll on you when you don't achieve that for a long time," Svensson said. "Throughout the years, it hasn't been that bad, but I guess I have really high expectations for myself. You have people back home to support through it all, and you kind of feel like you let them down. Now I have a daughter. There are so many more aspects of (life). It's not just bowling anymore."

Though the trophy ceremonies became less frequent, Svensson maintained his predominance of the lane's first 60 feet. The final few inches, home to the four horse-pins of the apocalypse, was where his troubles arose.

How often has he had to scrape and claw just to sneak into match play? How many times has Svensson left the 7-pin on TV over the past two years?

(The answer: In 22 games, Svensson left 28 7-pins and 50 total single-pins from the back row.)

The pinnacle of Svensson's exasperations came during the 2024 PBA World Series of Bowling (WSOB).

In the PBA Scorpion Championship finals, he left five 7-pins in seven frames; in the PBA World Championship finals, Svensson left three 7-pins, three 10-pins and a 6-8-10 split in the first nine frames.

It goes without saying, he lost both matches.

In 2025, Svensson didn't sniff a championship round through the first five tournaments. He earned the No. 5 seed in the PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic, a moral victory for a player more accustomed to lapping the field than sneaking onto the show.

"It definitely takes a lot of mental grind to find bright things every week, to try to get better and learn," Svensson said. "I feel like I needed this to show to myself that I'm still a competitor and I can still be a factor. The beginning of the season has been tough mentally."

He said that before he stoned a 9-pin in the ninth frame of his championship-round match, all-but ending his tournament.

The torment continued into the subsequent WSOB. Svensson made match play in all five title events, but only advanced to one championship round — and promptly got run over 247-192 by Tom Smallwood — and missed the World Championship finals by two pins.

Progress, sure, but to what end?

Svensson's frustrations boil over after leaving a stone-9 to lose to Alec Keplinger

April's PBA Players Championship could have been the moment Svensson allowed a half-decade of major shortcomings to consume him.

He finished 81st out of 172 players. With one tournament left, Svensson sat outside the cut to the PBA Playoffs.

It would've been easy for Svensson to ho-hum through the TOC and hop on the first flight home. But where many would have succumbed to inevitable despair, Svensson saw an opportunity.

If he could just find a way into the Playoffs — the event where he almost salvaged his 2024 season, losing the title match in a roll-off — maybe he could make amends and finish this season the right way.

He just needed to remember who he was.

"Through these doors walk the world's finest bowlers"

The words that greet players and spectators who enter AMF Riviera Lanes, long-time host center of the PBA TOC, are the same words that helped reinvigorate Svensson one day after watching 20-year-old Ethan Fiore defeat 22-year-old Ryan Barnes for a major title.

The kids, who in many ways represent the future of the PBA, had their fun. But this is the TOC. This is Riviera. This is where legends add to their legacy.

Svensson sustained his pro-am prowess into the major championship, never finishing a round in lower than fifth place.

He was briefly usurped by Tackett, who closed qualifying with a perfect game to take the lead into match play.

Svensson, with an amplified level of resolve teeming through his veins, answered with a 300 of his own to start the next round.

"EJ is scary when he gets it going, but I am pretty confident that he would say the same thing about me right now," Svensson said after retaking the lead.

Who would dare say that about a guy looking to win the Triple Crown in a single season?

The man who decided during the pro-am he was going to win — and then won the TOC.

The man who sought revenge in the PBA Playoffs — and then reaped it.

The man who vanquished the best player on the planet — and stifled the all-time great's all-time great season in the process.

The Iceman, that's who.

Parker Bohn III averages 257 on Day 1 at the Senior Masters

June 3, 2025 Jill Winters

Las Vegas, Nevada – A-squad set the early scoring tone during the first day of qualifying in the 2025 USBC Senior Masters on Tuesday, then a couple of C-squad bowlers soared their way to the top of the standings. After the first two squads, Patrick Shipley of Indianapolis led the way with 275, 253, 222, 197 and 280 for 1,227, averaging 245.40.

But then Parker Bohn III stepped on the lanes with C-squad at Sam's Town Bowling Center. Bohn III filled 50 clean frames with games of 259, 236, 267, 244 and 279 for 1,285, averaging a scorching 257. Only one of his shots resulted in less than a 9-count and that was a split he converted.

Just behind him is fellow C-squad bowler Brian Dennis with +257. Dennis, from Demorest, Ga., shot the first of three perfect games in his squad. He had 227, 300, 205, 278 and 247 for 1,257. Tom Adcock and Ross Krumland also rolled a 300. In fourth behind Shipley are two A-squad bowlers: Steve Kloempken at +226 and John Janawicz at +220 in fifth place.

Nine players averaged 240 or higher, including Christopher Keane, of Cape Coral, Fla. He led B-squad finishing strong with 19 straight strikes at one point shooting 279 and 269 for 1,207. Defending champion Jon Rakoski, who is guaranteed a spot in the top 64 after qualifying, is currently in 140th place at +59.

B-squad will be on the lanes first starting at 11 a.m. ET on Wednesday followed by C-squad at 3 p.m. and A-squad at 7 p.m. The 309-player field will bowl 15 total games of qualifying. You can watch them all compete only on BowlTV.

Top 10 2025 Senior Masters standings:

1. Parker Bohn III, 1,285 (+285)
2. Brian Dennis, 1,257 (+257)
3. Patrick Shipley, 1,227 (+227)
4. Steve Kloempken, 1,226 (+226)
5. John Janawicz, 1,220 (+220)
6. Charles Moore, 1,219 (+219)
7. Trent Marner, 1,213 (+213)
8. Ross Krumland, 1,212 (+212)
9. Christopher Keane, 1,207 (+207)
10. Mika Koivuniemi, 1,197 (+197)

Parker Bohn III extends lead at USBC Senior Masters

June 4, 2025 Jill Winters

Las Vegas, Nevada – Parker Bohn III continued to stay hot on Wednesday in the 2025 USBC Senior Masters. The smooth lefty averaged 250.8 for his second five-game qualifying block with games of 246, 208, 279, 246 and 275 for 1,254. He increased his lead and now sits on top at +539.

John Janawicz, who won this tournament in 2023, started each of his first two games with eight straight strikes for 250 and 267. He added 223, 258 and 216 for a 10-game total of 2,434. He is in second place sitting 105 pins behind Bohn III.

Tom Adcock posted the second highest block of the day with 1,272 to jump from 30th to third place. Andrew Rettig of New York worked his way up to +408 in fourth place. He is followed by Tom Daugherty, who also had himself a strong day at Sam's Town Bowling Center shooting 1,260 to move from 32nd place to fifth.

The highest block of the day came from B-squad leader Amleto Monacelli with 1,286. That took Monacelli from a five-way tie in 72nd to seventh place.

The final five games of qualifying in this major championship will get underway with C-squad starting at 11 a.m. ET on Thursday followed by A-squad at 3 p.m. and B-squad at 7 p.m.

After qualifying is complete, the top 63 bowlers and defending champion Jon Rakoski, who is currently in a tie for 105th place at +144, will advance to double-elimination match-play set to begin on Friday.

Currently, the cut line is at +199. You can watch them all compete only on BowlTV.

Top 10 2025 Senior Masters standings:

1. Parker Bohn III, 2,539 (+539)
2. John Janawicz, 2,434 (+434)
3. Tom Adcock, 2,413 (+413)
4. Andrew Rettig, 2,408 (+408)
5. Tom Daugherty, 2,396 (+396)
6. Andy Neuer, 2,390 (+390)
7. Amleto Monacelli, 2,386 (+386)
8. Mika Koivuniemi, 2,384 (+384)
9. Patrick Shipley, 2,371 (+371)
10. Brian Dennis and Chris Martinez, 2,335 (+335)

Stars Collide in Ultimate PBA Tour Finals

June 5, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The final televised title event of the 2025 PBA Tour will take place this weekend at Steel City Bowl and Brews in Bethlehem, Pa.

The A-list field features the top eight players in competition points over the past two seasons.

EJ Tackett led the way in each season, compiling close to twice as many points as the next player. Tackett will be joined by defending champion Anthony Simonsen, Jason Belmonte, Bill O'Neill, Kyle Troup, Andrew Anderson, Marshall Kent and Graham Fach.

In the previous eight editions of the PBA Tour Finals, only four different champions have been crowned. Tackett, Simonsen, Belmonte and Troup have each won the event twice.

This year's event will be the final edition featuring the current qualifying procedure, which means either the tie will be broken for good or a fifth champion will emerge.

Tackett and Simonsen are the only players who have competed in all nine events.

Simonsen leads all players with 53 lifetime games in the PBA Tour Finals, averaging more than 231, while Tackett has averaged more than 226 in his 50 games.

Belmonte qualified for all nine PBA Tour Finals, but withdrew in 2020 and 2021. Bolstered by his two perfect games, he has averaged a whopping 239.35 in his 43 games.

Career Stats in PBA Tour Finals

Player	App.	Games	Average	Titles
EJ Tackett	**9**	**50**	**226.48**	**2**
Anthony Simonsen	**9**	**53**	**231.34**	**2**
Jason Belmonte	**7**	**43**	**239.35**	**2**
Bill O'Neill	**5**	**24**	**231.21**	**0**
Kyle Troup	**6**	**37**	**235.57**	**2**
Andrew Anderson	**2**	**5**	**200.40**	**0**

Marshall Kent	**4**	**19**	**219.42**	**0**
Graham Fach	**1**	**-**	**-**	**0**

The two-day title event includes nine hours of exclusive, live coverage on CBS Sports Network.

Saturday's positioning round shows, airing at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Eastern, will feature two groups competing in a three-game eliminator.

Tackett, O'Neill, Troup and Fach make up Group 1 with Simonsen, Belmonte, Anderson and Kent comprising Group 2.

All four players will bowl two games on dual oil patterns, 40-foot Monacelli and 46-foot Petraglia oil patterns.

The players with the lowest scores will be eliminated for the day, but will return Sunday as the No. 3 and No. 4 seed in their respective group stepladder.

The top two players in each group will bowl another game (with pinfall not carrying over) to determine who will be their group's top seed — a pivotal position as the final match of each group stepladder is a Race-to-Two. Preceding matches are only one game.

Sunday's group stepladders also air live at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. ET, respectively, on CBS Sports Network.

The winners of each group will immediately reconvene for the championship, a Race-to-Two match airing live at 9 p.m. ET Sunday night.

More information on the PBA Tour Finals is available here.

No. 1 EJ Tackett

64,610 points, $685,332 earnings, 6 titles, 19 top-five finishes, 24 top-10 finishes

If you only took the points Tackett earned this season, he would have not only still qualified for the event, but been just 355 points shy of the top seed.

Tackett, the 2017 and 2019 champion, won two titles with one major in 2024 and has doubled each of those so far this season.

Only two players have won five titles with two majors in a single season: Earl Anthony in 1974 and Tackett himself in 2023.

No. 2 Anthony Simonsen

35,045 points, $341,200 earnings, 3 titles, 9 top-five finishes, 14 top-10 finishes

Though Simonsen has yet to win a title this season, he has been at his best under the brightest lights. His average finish in majors was 10th, which marked the best on tour.

Simonsen has only gone winless once (2020) since his rookie season in 2015. The defending champion will aim to keep that number intact this weekend.

No. 3 Jason Belmonte

34,180 points, $326,634 earnings, 1 title, 8 top-five finishes, 17 top-10 finishes

It's hard to fathom that Belmonte hasn't won a singles title since March 2023. The two-plus-year gap is the longest gap between singles titles since Belmonte's first and second wins.

He's been the third-best player on Earth over the past two seasons by points, which only feels like a disappointment because of the lofty standard he set for himself. Belmonte won a doubles title earlier this season with the next player on this list and led the PBA World Championship.

Considering his field-high 241 average last year at Steel City Bowl & Brews, Belmonte flew halfway around the world soaring with confidence, too.

No. 4 Bill O'Neill

30,803 points, $282,620 earnings, 2 titles, 9 top-five finishes, 1 top-10 finishes

A stellar 2024 campaign did the heavy lifting as O'Neill finished 16th in points this season.

The veteran sports a 231.21 average across 24 games in the PBA Tour Finals. He looked well on his way to a championship appearance last year before Kent's comeback in the Group 1 final match.

Competing an hour and change from his hometown of Langhorne, expect to see a motivated O'Neill this weekend.

No. 5 Kyle Troup

29,768 points, $286,965 earnings, 2 titles, 5 top-five finishes, 9 top-10 finishes

For Troup, the PBA Tour Finals is perhaps the best evidence in his case for who has been the top player outside of the big three of Tackett, Simonsen and Belmonte.

Only those three players have qualified for the PBA Tour Finals more than Troup, who owns two titles, a 300 game and an average of 235.57 in 37 lifetime games in this event.

(The other prime example is Troup's 2024 U.S. Open triumph when he beat Tackett, Belmonte and Simonsen in succession and said "to hell with the big three." Yeah, that was pretty cool.)

No. 6 Andrew Anderson

28,410 points, $230,175 earnings, 2 titles, 6 top-five finishes, 9 top-10 finishes

Back-to-back PBA Playoffs appearances will often net you a berth in the PBA Tour Finals, but a second-place, single-season finish in points is a strong way to guarantee it.

Anderson pushed Tackett as much as any player this season, beating the fellow one-handed star in U.S. Open qualifying and in the PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic title match.

No. 7 Marshall Kent

26,208 points, $227,108 earnings, 2 titles, 5 top-five finishes, 8 top-10 finishes

Kent's qualification for this event further illuminates the brilliance of his 2024 season, in which he captured two titles including a climb of the PBA Tournament of Champions stepladder.

Kent finished runner-up to Simonsen in last year's event, coming up two pins shy in the Race-to-Two championship match roll-off.

No. 8 Graham Fach

25,626 points, $235,300 earnings, 1 title, 5 top-five finishes, 9 top-10 finishes

By the skin of his teeth, Fach overtook Chris Via for the final berth in the field. Had he finished one place lower in the TOC — and Fach only surpassed Tackett in the final few games of match play — he would instead be watching the Stanley Cup Finals from his couch.

Based on points, Fach has been the best left-hander in the world over the past two seasons.

Past PBA Tour Finals Champions

2024 - Anthony Simonsen
2023 - Kyle Troup
2022 - Jason Belmonte
2021 - Anthony Simonsen
2020 - Kyle Troup
2019 - EJ Tackett
2018 - Jason Belmonte
2017 - EJ Tackett

Parker Bohn III Earns No. 1 seed Entering USBC Senior Masters Match Play

June 5, 2025 Jill Winters

Las Vegas, Nevada – Parker Bohn III's record-breaking week in the 2025 USBC Senior Masters continues. On Wednesday, he broke the 10-game USBC Senior Masters scoring record then on Thursday, he broke the 15-game scoring record he actually set in 2017 by eight pins. The USBC and PBA Hall of Famer has yet to roll a game under 200 while averaging 248.33 at Sam Town's Bowling Center to claim the No. 1 overall seed. During Thursday's final day of qualifying, Bohn III posted scores of 256, 237, 214, 279 and 200 for 3,725 to get to +725.

PBA50 Tour rookie Tom Daugherty has gotten better each round. After starting off with 1,136 he added 1,260 then 1,263 for 3,659, just 66-pins behind Bohn III. The third consecutive C-squad bowler sitting in third place is Tom Adcock at +626. Two pins behind Adcock is John Janawicz in fourth place. Mika

Koivuniemi has been consistent all week averaging 237.67 to get to fifth place. He is 59-pins behind Janawicz.

There were two perfect games rolled on the final day of qualifying by Arizona's Brian Waugh and Missouri's John Marsala. That game helped Waugh jump into 10th place. At the completion of qualifying, there was a tie for the final spot at +277 between Darryl Bower, of Middleton, Pennsylvania and Jodey Rees, of Renton, Washington. They bowled a complete game and Rees won to earn the No. 63 seed. Defending champion Jon Rakoski will be the No. 64 seed, so he will face Bohn III as the No. 1 seed.

Double-elimination match-play begins at noon Eastern on Friday with players on the left side of the bracket followed by the right side of the bracket at 2:30 p.m. All matches are three-game total-pinfall. Winners from each side of the bracket will bowl again at 4:30 p.m. followed by the contenders at 7 p.m.

The 16 winners and contenders remaining in the brackets will return to the lanes at noon ET on Saturday. Match-play will continue throughout the day until the top five bowlers are determined for the stepladder finals, scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. ET on Sunday. The only place you can watch the action is on BowlTV.

Top 10 2025 USBC Senior Masters standings:

1. Parker Bohn III, 3,725 (+725)
2. Tom Daugherty, 3,659 (+659)
3. Tom Adcock, 3,626 (+626)
4. John Janawicz, 3,624 (+624)
5. Mika Koivuniemi, 3,565 (+565)
6. George Aboud, 3,532 (+532)
7. Andrew Rettig, 3,510 (+510)
8. Robert Lawrence, 3,508 (+508)
9. Amleto Monacelli, 3,503 (+503)
10. Brian Waugh, 3,481 (+481)

No. 1 seed Parker Bohn III undefeated in USBC Senior Masters

June 6, 2025 Jill Winters

Las Vegas, Nevada – Parker Bohn III seems to be on a mission. Last week, he watched his son, Brandon, win the U22 Masters for the second straight year. This week, he is creating his own magical run.

During the first day of double-elimination match-play in the 2025 USBC Senior Masters on Friday, he defeated defending champion Jon Rakoski 751-600 then Pete Weber 696-600 inside Sam's Town Bowling Center to advance in the winner's bracket. As the top seed, Bohn III is on the left side of the winner's bracket, and he will face #16 Anthony Crews starting at noon on Saturday.

Fresh off of his first national senior title on Sunday at the 2025 USBC Super Senior Masters, #24 James Campbell won his first two matches, including a close one against Amleto Monacelli 736-718. Campbell will bowl against #40 Michael Haggitt. The winner of that match will bowl the winner of Bohn III vs. Crews.

Fifth seed Mika Koivuniemi rolled through both of his matches with 693 and 709. He will face #44 Anthony "Tony" Franklin. The winner of that match will face the winner of #13 Ricky Schissler against #61 Butch Cormier. Cormier had one of the biggest upsets of the day when he knocked #4 John Janawicz into the contender's bracket with a 643-641 win.

On the right side of the winner's bracket, #62 Dave Paffumi defeated #3 Tom Adcock 770-750 and remained on fire as he defeated #30 Tom Hess 713-697. He will now face #51 Michael Hartter. Number 11 Andy Neuer shot 762 and 776 to win his first two matches to now face #6 George Aboud. The winner of that match will face the winner of Paffumi vs. Hartter.

The final two winner's bracket matches will include #39 Patrick Shipley against #55 Brian Link and #15 Don Smith against #2 Tom Daugherty. Smith shot 751 and 737 to win his matches, while Daugherty had 729 and 660 in his USBC Senior Masters debut.

In the first round of the contender's elimination bracket, #64 Rakoski shot 792 for a win then he was eliminated from the tournament. Janawicz posted 742 and 753 for back-to-back wins to remain in the bracket. There were perfect games by Dan Knowlton, Amleto Monacelli and Chris Martinez all in the contender's bracket. Monacelli and Martinez are still competing.

Contender's bracket matches are #46 Frank Guccione vs. #25 Chris Martinez, #30 Tom Hess vs. #38 Chad Nelson, #28 Craig Auerbach vs. #4 John Janawicz, #12 Steve Kloempken vs. #31 Andres Gomez, #3 Tom Adcock vs. #9 Amleto Monacelli, #19 Trent Marner vs. #54 Josh Hale, #53 Mitch Beasley vs. #45 Clay Rees, #37 Brian Dennis vs. #47 Curtis Woods.

There are 16 players left in the winner's bracket and 16 players in the contender's bracket. They will all take to the lanes starting at noon Eastern on Saturday followed by more bowling throughout the day. All bracket matches are three-game total-pinfall with the winners advancing until the top five are determined for the stepladder finals that will take place at 1 p.m. Eastern on Sunday. You can watch it all on BowlTV.

Tackett, Anderson Earn Top Seeds for 2025 PBA Tour Finals Group Stepladders

June 7, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Eight of the PBA Tour's top stars convened at Steel City Bowl & Brews in Bethlehem, Pa. for the season's final televised PBA Tour title.

Players qualified for the Tour Finals as the top-eight point earners during the 2024 and 2025 PBA Tour seasons.

During Saturday's positioning rounds, EJ Tackett, Bill O'Neill, Kyle Troup and Graham Fach comprised Group 1, while defending champion Anthony Simonsen, Jason Belmonte, Andrew Anderson and Marshall Kent competed in Group 2. The groups were based on their point totals.

In each group, all four players bowled two games simultaneously. The left lane featured the 46-foot Petraglia oil pattern, while the right lane had the 40-foot Monacelli pattern.

After two games, the third and fourth qualifiers earned the No. 3 and No. 4 seed for Sunday's group stepladder. The top two qualifiers bowled a one-game match to determine the No. 1 and No. 2 seeds.

Tackett and Fach paced Group 1 qualifying before the righty bested the lefty in the seeding match to earn the top seed for Sunday's stepladder.

In Group 2, Anderson set the tone with 279 in his first game, later prevailing over Kent to earn the top seed.

The group stepladders will begin at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Eastern, respectively, on Sunday, followed by a Race-to-Two championship match between the winners of each group at 9 p.m. ET. All matches will air live on CBS Sports Network

Group 1

Tackett sprinted to a 31-pin advantage in the first game, firing 266. O'Neill started strong with six consecutive strikes, but opened two of his final four frames to drop behind a surging Fach. Troup struck three times to start and end his game, but also had two open frames in between.

Tackett overcame a slow start to secure one of the advancing positions. Meanwhile Fach started Game 2 with five strikes in a row as O'Neill and Troup continued to apply pressure. Fach managed to stave off the right-handers, advancing with 460 to O'Neill's 452 and Troup's 450.

In Game 3, Tackett seized full control and cruised to a 258-211 victory over Fach.

Troup will face O'Neill in the opening match of Sunday's Group 1 stepladder with the winner meeting Fach. The winner will then face Tackett in a Race-to-Two match.

Group 1 Positioning Round Scores

1. EJ Tackett — 488 (266, 222)
2. Graham Fach — 460 (235, 225)
3. Bill O'Neill — 452 (219, 233)
4. Kyle Troup — 450 (204, 246)

Tackett def. Fach, 258-211

Group 1 Stepladder: Sunday at 5 p.m. ET on CBS Sports Network

Group 2

Anderson dominated Group 2 from start to finish, firing a 10-strike 279 in their first game to take a 56-pin advantage. He added 206 to easily advance.

Kent, Belmonte and Simonsen were all within 10 pins of each other after the first game, but Kent distanced himself with 235 in Game 2.

Belmonte and Simonsen, the two past champions of the group, struggled throughout the evening. The future PBA Hall of Famers will meet in the opening match on Sunday night.

The winner of the two-handed match will meet Kent, followed by a Race-to-Two showdown with Anderson.

Group 2 Positioning Round Scores

1. Andrew Anderson — 485 (279, 206)
2. Marshall Kent — 452 (217, 235)
3. Jason Belmonte — 411 (223, 188)
4. Anthony Simonsen — 404 (213, 191)

Anderson def. Kent, 193-191

Tom Daugherty earns No. 1 seed for USBC Senior Masters stepladder

June 7, 2025 Jill Winters

Las Vegas, Nevada – PBA50 Tour rookie Tom Daugherty had himself an impressive day on Saturday at Sam's Town Bowling Center. The Florida native came in as the second seed and he averaged 243.83 over 12 games of double-elimination match-play to go undefeated in the 2025 USBC Senior Masters.

In his Senior Masters debut, the right-hander shot 743, 721 and 745 before defeating #1 Parker Bohn III 717-628 to earn the top overall seed for the stepladder finals. As the top seed, Daugherty would have to be defeated twice. The 50-year-old is looking to make his first senior title a major and collect the $20,000 first-place prize.

Bohn III was cruising early on in his matches shooting 738, 696 and 771 before his loss to Daugherty dropped him to the No. 2 seed. Anthony "Tony" Franklin of Texas will be seeking his first senior tour title, as well. He started his Saturday by defeating Mika Koivuniemi 743-732 and Butch Cormier 673-592 before a loss to Bohn III knocked him into the contender's bracket.

Koivuniemi was clearly fired up after his loss to Franklin. The Finland native responded by averaging 248 for 15 games with 771, 723, 720 and 774 before shooting 720 in the four players for three spots three-game total-pinfall final match. Franklin rolled the highest series at 739 to earn the No. 3 seed followed by Koivuniemi in fourth.

James Campbell, who won the 2025 USBC Super Senior Classic on June 1, is looking to make more history. No bowler has ever won the Super Senior Classic and the Senior Masters in the same year, let alone within a week of each other. He shot 679 to earn the fifth spot in the stepladder finals, scheduled to start at 1 p.m. Eastern on Sunday on BowlTV.

Tom Daugherty Wins Senior Masters title

June 8, 2025 Jill Winters

Las Vegas, Nevada – Everyone on the PBA50 Tour knew he was coming, and it was just a matter of time. After finishing 12th, ninth and sixth in his first three tournaments, Tom Daugherty got his win. It wasn't just any victory; he won a major title at the 2025 Senior Masters against a field of more than 300 bowlers.

After earning the number one overall seed when he defeated qualifying leader Parker Bohn III on Saturday night, Daugherty was able to beat the left-hander again in the championship match at Sam's Town Bowling Center, 233-185.

Daugherty, who has won four titles, including a major on the PBA Tour, started the match with a strike followed by a 7-10 split. He bounced back quickly rolling five straight strikes as Bohn III struggled to carry.

"It is hard to believe he (Bohn III) hasn't won one of these (Senior Masters). He told me he used all of his luck to win the regular Masters, so he said he wouldn't trade it for the world. But he is going to get one," Daugherty said. "He leads it every year, it is just a matter of getting the right draw and maybe he can get on a pair where he can strike. He bowled amazing all week; I just got lucky to catch him on the right pairs."

In the opening match, No. 5 seed James Campbell was looking to make history by becoming the first bowler to win the USBC Super Senior Classic and the Senior Masters in the same year. Campbell had an early split for an open in the second frame and rebounded with three straight strikes. Yet, his opponent Mika Koivuniemi struck in frames four through nine for the 249-204 win.

There were even more strikes in match two. After picking up a 10-pin in the first frame, Koivuniemi rolled the next six strikes. Anthony "Tony" Franklin started with a three-bagger in his first-ever PBA50 stepladder finals appearance. Unfortunately, in the fourth frame, his delivery went through the nose resulting in the 3-5-6-7-10 split for an open. After a single-pin spare, Franklin ended the match with seven straight strikes for 249. Koivuniemi struck on three of his final five shots for 268.

Next up was a hall of fame battle between Bohn III and Koivuniemi. Bohn III started the match with five consecutive strikes as Koivuniemi rolled a double followed by two spares. In the fifth frame, Koivuniemi switched from throwing urethane to a reactive ball and he left the 4-6-7 split for an open. He responded with five straight strikes yet his climb up the stepladder came to an end as Bohn III got the win 247-232.

Next up for the PBA50 Tour is another major championship. The 2025 Senior U.S. Open begins on Thursday in Colorado. John Janawicz is the defending champion.

MATCH SCORES:

Match 1: Koivuniemi def. Campbell 249-204

Match 2: Koivuniemi def. Franklin 268-249

Match 3: Bohn III vs. Koivuniemi 247-232

Championship match: Daugherty def. Bohn III 233-185

1. Tom Daugherty $20,000
2. Parker Bohn III $12,000
3. Mika Koivuniemi $9,000
4. Anthony “Tony” Franklin $7,500
5. James Campbell $6,000

Andrew Anderson Wins 2025 PBA Tour Finals

June 8, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Anderson defeats Tackett in rubber match of 2025 season

For the third time this season, Andrew Anderson and EJ Tackett met in a PBA Tour title match.

Tackett defeated Anderson in the U.S. Open title match, then Anderson defeated Tackett in the PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic championship.

This time, in the final televised PBA Tour title event of 2025, Anderson prevailed in the PBA Tour Finals to claim his second title of the season — both against Tackett.

Anderson swept Tackett in the Race-to-Two championship on Sunday night at Steel City Bowl & Brews in Bethlehem, Pa.

"To win two titles this year, that solidified that I was back," Anderson said. "I lost the U.S. Open to EJ and that was a little sour. You lose to the best in the world and you don't know when you're going to get another opportunity. Then, of course, I bowl EJ again in the title match (in Nevada) and snuck that one out. EJ and I have this little thing going, but he bowls for every title and I just bowl for a few. It feels like you sneak them away when you get one from him."

The 30-year-old earned his sixth career PBA Tour title and the first-place prize of $35,000.

In the first eight editions of the PBA Tour Finals — which features the top eight players in competition points over the previous two seasons — Tackett, Jason Belmonte, Kyle Troup and Anthony Simonsen each won twice.

Anderson became the fifth champion of the event, which is fitting as he was the only Player of the Year of that stretch who had not won.

Group 1 Stepladder

Tackett secured the top seed in Group 1 during Saturday’s positioning round, in which the eight finalists competed in two groups based on their point totals during the 2024 and 2025 PBA Tour seasons.

Kyle Troup, a two-time PBA Tour Finals champion, dispatched Pennsylvania native Bill O'Neill in the opening match of the Group 1 stepladder, 227-214. O'Neill struggled to strike on the right lane, knocking down all 10 pins just once in his five frames.

Troup started the stepladder throwing urethane on both lanes, which featured the 46-foot Petraglia oil pattern on the left lane and the 40-foot Monacelli pattern on the right lane.

After falling behind No. 2 seed Graham Fach in the second match, Troup switched to reactive equipment in the ninth and 10th frames. He struck in the ninth, but made an incorrect laneplay guess in the 10th.

Fach, needing only a mark, struck to advance to face Tackett in a Race-to-Two match.

Fach rode the momentum of the win over Troup to take a 1-0 lead. Tackett responded in Game 2 to force a two-frame roll-off.

In the roll-off, Tackett and Fach each hit the pocket three times. The difference was Tackett struck twice and left one 10-pin, while Fach did the inverse. Tackett advanced to the championship match by a 40-39 margin.

Group 2 Stepladder

In Group 2, Anderson also earned the top seed and prevailed in the group stepladder.

However, a third PBA Tour Finals championship match between Tackett and Belmonte seemed imminent after Belmonte defeated Anthony Simonsen and Marshall Kent, shooting games of 269 and 278.

Belmonte then took a 1-0 lead over top-seeded Anderson. But Anderson, who ranked second in competition points this season, fought back to force a roll-off.

On a left lane that gave him all sorts of problems, particularly with the 10-pin, Anderson struck on the first frame of the roll-off. Belmonte struck on the right lane, then left a 10-pin himself on the left lane.

Anderson doubled in the 10th frame of the roll-off to advance to the championship match.

Championship Match

On fresh lane conditions, Tackett started with four straight strikes before converting two spares. Splits and open frames in the seventh and ninth frames, however, cost Tackett the opening game as Anderson struck on seven of the first nine frames.

In the second game, Tackett missed the head-pin in the first and third frames. He also missed the spare attempt in the third frame, putting himself in a 21-pin deficit.

Anderson struck in three of his first four frames, but an open frame in the sixth surrendered control back to Tackett.

In the ninth frame, Tackett missed left and barely hit the head-pin. In the 10th, he left the Big Four and ceded the tournament to Anderson.

The PBA Tour season continues with the Storm PBA/PWBA Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles in July and the Storm Lucky Larsen Masters in August.

Group 1 Stepladder Scores

Match 1: No. 4 Kyle Troup def. No. 3 Bill O'Neill, 227-214
Match 2: No. 2 Graham Fach def. No. 4 Kyle Troup, 226-197
Match 3: No. 1 EJ Tackett def. No. 2 Graham Fach, 2-1 (211-246, 258-202, 40-39)

Group 2 Stepladder Scores

Match 1: No. 3 Jason Belmonte def. No. 4 Anthony Simonsen, 269-259
Match 2: No. 3 Jason Belmonte def. No. 2 Marshall Kent, 278-221
Match 3: No. 1 Andrew Anderson def. No. 3 Jason Belmonte, 2-1 (203-225, 203-181, 59-40)

Championship Match Scores

Andrew Anderson def. EJ Tackett, 2-0
Game 1: Anderson def. Tackett, 212-200
Game 2: Anderson def. Tackett, 212-189

PBA Tour Finals Final Standings

1. Andrew Anderson, $35,000
2. EJ Tackett, $18,000
3. Jason Belmonte, $10,000
4. Graham Fach, $10,000
5. Marshall Kent, $7,500
6. Kyle Troup, $7,500
7. Bill O'Neill, $6,000
8. Anthony Simonsen, $6,000

PBA Launches The QubicaAMF PBA Regional EDGE String Series

June 12, 2025 Professional Bowlers Association

Eight PBA Regional Tour events added for 2025 season at centers featuring QubicaAMF's EDGE String pinspotter technology

Following successful test events at four bowling centers featuring EDGE String Pinspotter technology, the PBA compared scoring and pinfall data from events utilizing traditional free-fall and EDGE String machines.

In November 2024, the PBA concluded that USBC-approved QubicaAMF EDGE String pinspotters are acceptable for professional-level competition, opening the door to broaden integration of pinspotting technology in sanctioned PBA play.

Earlier this season, the PBA Tour's top stars competed in the PBA All-Star Weekend Powered by QubicaAMF's EDGE String pinspotter at Foxx View Lanes.

EJ Tackett, the two-time reigning PBA Player of the Year, won the PBA Strike Derby and led the one-handed team to victory against the two-handers.

Tackett also won one of the test events on QubicaAMF EDGE String pinspotters during the 2024 season.

As a result of the PBA's findings, each of those champions have been retroactively awarded official PBA Regional Tour titles:

- Walter Ray Williams Jr. — PBA50 Lehigh Lanes Open
- Gabe Alvarez — PBA Jack Jones Memorial Open
- Kyle Troup — PBA Family Ford of Bluffton/Yergy's BBQ/EZ Bowl Central Open
- EJ Tackett — PBA Foxx View Lanes Open

This season, nine more PBA Regional Tour events will be contested at centers with QubicaAMF EDGE String pinspotters, including events at EZ Bowl and Foxx View Lanes.

QubicaAMF EDGE String Series Schedule

March 21-25
Royal Family Bowling Center
Front Royal, VA

July 25-27
Spare Time Lanes
Kennewick, WA

July 25-27
Lucky Strike Feasterville
Feasterville, PA

August 15-17
Sussex Bowl
Sussex, WI

September 10-12
Foxx View Lanes
Waukesha, WI

September 26-28
Cedar Bowling Center
Cedar City, UT

October 3-5
EZ Bowl
Bluffton, IN

October 10-12
BowlDogs
North Liberty, IA

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Pete Weber Leads Day One in 2025 PBA50 Senior U.S. Open

June 12, 2025 Jill Winters

Greeley, Colorado – When Pete Weber is comfortable and confident, look out. During the first day of qualifying on Thursday in the 2025 PBA50 Senior U.S. Open, his arm swing was loose, and he only relied on one ball for his first six games averaging 240.83. He had games of 207, 227, 247, 269, 268 and 227 for +245. After Game 2, he never got less than nine pins with 60 clean frames.

“Things are going good for me, and it is showing in my bowling. I am just going through the motions, letting it off my hand and it is doing what I want it to do,” Weber said. “When you are not pressing and you are relaxed, it is a lot easier to bowl. It gives you that much more confidence.”

During last year’s tournament, Weber led at the end of qualifying and the first day of match play. On Thursday, he felt like he bowled really good all day, but he knows there is a long way to go at this event.

“I am very relaxed with what I am doing. I made the show last year finishing in third,” he said. “There is plenty of bowling to be done. I would like to keep doing what I am doing and not have to change too much.”

Craig Auerbach had Weber in his sights. He bowled on the final squad of the day posting 256, 237, 269, 216, 234 and 223 coming up just 10 pins behind him, sitting in second place.

Chris Barnes finished fifth in last year’s Senior U.S. Open and he is always in contention at Highland Park Lanes. He got his tournament started on A-squad with the fresh 41-foot oil pattern. He shot 279, 245, 235, 235, 238 and 200 to get to +232, averaging 238.67. Barnes is feeling a sense of relief, getting off to a solid start in third place.

“I haven’t bowled very good this year, so I’m trying to put the pieces back together. Luckily, I have a world-renowned coach as my roommate (Mika Koivuniemi),” Barnes said. “Today was really the first good block I have bowled this season, so it was nice to feel that."

Barnes admits he carried over some bad habits from the PBA Tour, so he has gone back to the basics to get his swing in line. He hopes rooming with Koivuniemi, defending champion John Janawicz and Tom Adcock — three players with straight swings — will positively rub off on him.

“At some point, no matter how many things you have done or how things have gone in the past, that confidence has to be earned, at least for me. I have to go prove that to myself,” Barnes said. “It is very refreshing that the ball feels normal in my hand again and some of the tools and things I have done in the past are starting to come back. It is a good reminder of how fleeting this whole thing is and sometimes, how thin that line is between good, great and average or below average. I always love challenges. It brings in the challenge of the U.S. Open, regardless of the tour, this is one of the big pieces of the whole thing. You have to embrace it, otherwise, it will drive you crazy.”

Behind Barnes is Greg Thomas at +219 and local bowler Ricky Schissler is in fifth place at +195. The 136-player field will be back on the lanes Friday for six more games of qualifying. B-squad will get things started at 11 a.m. Eastern followed by C-squad at 2:30 p.m. ET and finally A-squad beginning at 6 p.m. ET. Watch the action only on BowlTV.

Top 10 PBA50 Senior U.S. Open standings:

1. Pete Weber, 1,445 (+245)
2. Craig Auerbach, 1,435 (+235)
3. Chris Barnes, 1,432 (+232)
4. Greg Thomas, 1,419 (+219)
5. Ricky Schissler, 1,395 (+195)
6. Jeff Beasley, 1,373 (+173)
7. Josh Hale, 1,352 (+152)
8. Steve Kloempken,1,350 (+150)
9. Tom Hess, 1,341 (+141)
10. Albert “Buddy” Mountcastle, 1,336 (+136)

Pete Weber Increases Day Two Lead in 2025 Senior U.S. Open

June 13, 2025 Jill Winters

Greeley, Colorado – Pete Weber has continued to stay calm, cool and collected through two days of qualifying in the 2025 PBA50 Senior U.S. Open. The USBC and PBA Hall of Famer walked into Highland Park Lanes on Friday expecting a challenge but luckily, he got some valuable advice that paid off.

“I asked Don (Simonian) on the (PBA) truck if he had any ideas for this morning and he came up with two (balls) and I used both of them. This is the second time this year I have asked him for help, and he has come through,” Weber said. “I came in thinking today was supposed to be my tough squad, and I actually bowled really well. Tomorrow, I get the double burn, and I bowled good on the burn, so I feel like I am going to bowl really good.”

While bowling on the fresh 41-foot oil pattern, Weber started out using a different ball on each lane and played straighter than he did on Thursday. He rolled games of 269, 219, 258, 224, 238 and 210 for 1,418. Combine that with his Day 1 results and he is at 2,863, sitting at +463. He carried over his 60 clean frames from Thursday all the way until the 10th frame of Game 5. That's 109 clean frames before a Big Four split.

"Two opens in 12 games, I will take it. I have been very happy with the way I am throwing the bowling ball," he said. "My confidence level is getting higher and higher right now. I have got that win-mode in me again. I am going to win shortly."

Sixty-eight pins behind Weber is Steve Kloempken, one of three players to shoot a perfect game on Friday. The right-hander bowled 201, 276, 195, 205, 300 and 268 for 1,445, the highest block of the tournament so far. Following him in third place is Greg Thomas at +367, Craig Auerbach at +343 and Stephen Krywy in fifth at +334. The other two perfect games were shot by left-handers Josh Hale and Dan Long.

The final six games of qualifying will get underway on Saturday with C-squad starting at 11 a.m. Eastern followed by A-squad at 2:30 p.m. ET and finally B-squad beginning at 6 p.m. ET. After the final squad is done, the top 24 players will advance to Sunday and Monday's 24 games of round-robin match play. Currently, the cut line is at +195.

All pins will carry over and the top five bowlers will be in the stepladder finals scheduled to begin at 8:30 p.m. ET on Monday. The winner will earn a major title and $15,000. So don't miss a minute of the action all on BowlTV.

Top 10 PBA50 Senior U.S. Open standings:

1. Pete Weber, 2,863 (+463)
2. Steve Kloempken, 2,795 (+395)
3. Greg Thomas, 2,767 (+367)
4. Craig Auerbach, 2,743 (+343)
5. Stephen Krywy, 2,734 (+334)
6. Tom Hess, 2,731 (+331)
7. Chris Barnes, 2,729 (+329)
8. Tom Daugherty, 2,691 (+291)
9. Ricky Schissler, 2,687 (+287)
10. Jon Rakoski, 2,681 (+281)

Pete Weber Expands Lead at 2025 PBA50 Senior U.S. Open

June 14, 2025 Jill Winters

Greeley, Colorado – Pete Weber's hot streak of bowling this week continued Saturday during the final day of qualifying at the 2025 PBA50 Senior U.S. Open.

He started off with 11 straight strikes in his first game for 298 at Highland Park Lanes and closed out game two with eight consecutive strikes for 247. He added 224, 245, 213 and 192. He averaged 237.89 in qualifying to increase his lead to 161-pins.

"I bowled pretty good again today and I still feel confident," Weber said. "I am going to be tough to beat."

Weber, who has won the U.S. Open on the PBA Tour five times and twice on the PBA50, and Norm Duke are the only two bowlers to win this event on both tours. Weber has only missed one spare over his 18 qualifying games to go along with lots of strikes.

"It is a major and I like the major tournaments. It's not just get up there and throw the ball anywhere you want. You have got to keep the ball in the play area, and you have got to make your spares," he said. "Take advantage of the pairs you can strike on and the pairs you can't, make sure you bowl a clean game. That has been my strategy the whole time."

Chris Barnes held the lead after the A-squad was on the lanes. He posted games of 215, 268, 267, 218, 222 and 202 for 1,392. That improved his three-day qualifying total to 4,121, putting him in second place.

"They are tricky pair to pair, and it keeps you on your toes; 220 ends up being a good game," Barnes said. "It is nice to be in the hunt and not chasing the number, which is all that I have been doing this year."

Georgia's Brian Dennis took over the lead after the C-squad was the first group on the lanes on Saturday. He averaged 241.5 on the fresh with games of 248, 268, 238, 258, 223 and 214 for 1,449. He finished qualifying at +513 in third place. He has improved each block going from 1,261 on the double burn to 1,403 on the burn. He's had a solid start to the season with recent finishes of 8th and 12th place at the last two major championships.

"Making the right ball choice and seeing the lanes the right way has been huge the last two weeks," Dennis said. "I think the scoring pace is higher than we thought it would be here at the beginning of the week, especially in practice. It is not easy, but if you can match everything up right and repeat shots, you can score."

Bowling on the fresh oil during the practice session earlier in the week, Dennis said he and others didn't think they were very playable, yet after multiple re-oils he felt the fresh was more favorable.

"They allowed us to get a little farther left to start and we were able to create a little hook to the right. They opened up and several guys had a pretty good block," Dennis said. "I was fortunate my first four games that I threw the ball pretty well. If I needed a break, I got it, and it worked out."

Behind Dennis is Greg Thomas at +424 and defending champion John Janawicz at +423. At the end of qualifying, the final player to make the top 24 was Clay Rees at +269.

All pins now carry over into 24 games of round-robin match play Sunday and Monday. The first six-game block each day will begin at noon Eastern on the fresh then at 4:30 p.m. ET on the burn. The top five bowlers will be in the stepladder finals scheduled to begin at 8:30 p.m. ET on Monday. The winner will earn a major title and $15,000. So don't miss a minute of the action all on BowlTV.

Top 10 PBA50 Senior U.S. Open standings:

1. Pete Weber, 4,282 (+682)
2. Chris Barnes, 4,121 (+521)
3. Brian Dennis, 4,113 (+513)
4. Greg Thomas, 4,024 (+424)
5. John Janawicz, 4,023 (+423)
6. Steve Kloempken, 4,014 (+414)
7. Stephen Krywy, 3,998 (+398)
8. Dan Knowlton, 3,991 (+391)
9. Ricky Schissler, 3,988 (+388)
10. Jon Rakoski, 3,975 (+375)

Brian Dennis Leading the 2025 PBA50 Senior U.S. Open

June 15, 2025 Jill Winters

Greeley, Colorado – Brian Dennis is your new leader at the 2025 PBA50 Senior U.S. Open, and his traveling roommate Mark Clark will be posting a video about it. The Georgia native bowled the highest game out of 12 round-robin match play games on Sunday with a 299 on his way to taking over the lead.

During the first six-game block, the 51-year-old shot 1,243 on the fresh oil pattern winning two matches. He had games of 193, 205, 223, 210, 208 and 204 for 1,243.

"It felt like more people started to the left on the fresh than in qualifying for the most part, so they transitioned and broke down pretty quick for everyone," Dennis said. "I didn't execute great this morning, but I didn't feel like I had the area on the lane that I had previously had the last couple of days. It just tightens everything up and gives you a little less target to shoot at, but I was able to pull out some 200's."

When he returned for six more games, he decided to try a ball he had drilled before the tournament began yet he hadn't really used this week at Highland Park Lanes. That helped him bounce back in a big

way with five wins, starting off with 299 followed by 211, 247, 234, 179 and 258 for 1,428. Combining that block with his 7-5 record and 210 bonus pins put him at the top of the leaderboard.

“I stuck with that ball the whole block. Game 5, I hit a bad pair bowling against Andres Gomez. It was just one of those pairs where neither one of us could figure out the right lane as it hooked so much,” he said. “The last game, I bowled against Pete, and it was back to where I felt like I had plenty of room on the lane. Even my marginal shots went through the pins the correct way. A big thing that block was the off hits went my way this afternoon.”

“Today felt more like the U.S. Open with the way the lanes played. When you get down to match play, everybody’s mindset is a little different,” he said. “The guys at the bottom are really grinding, trying to figure out a way to climb the ladder. The guys at the top are trying to figure out a way to stay there. It is just a little different when you get to the match play portion.”

Looking ahead to Monday’s final 12 games of round-robin match play, Dennis is hoping for better execution in the morning with either a new ball he will be drilling or better yet, one he has already had success with.

“Later in the day, I am sure there will be some nerves, but I’ve got to just go out there and bowl, have some fun with it and whatever happens, happens,” he said. "(Mark Clark) has been sitting behind me and confirming my guesses. Whatever I run by him he agrees; that way if it is not right, he can blame me. It’s been great and I am sure there will be a video posted.”

Last week’s USBC Senior Masters champion Tom Daugherty has put himself in a solid position to possibly win back-to-back major titles during his rookie season. He came into the day in 18th place, then posted the best record at 9-2-1 to add 285 bonus pins to his score. He shot 1,392 in the first six-game block with a 5-1 record then 1,359 to get four wins and a tie. He is 41 pins behind Dennis at +953 overall. He is followed by Chris Barnes at +938 in third, qualifying leader Pete Weber in fourth at +925 and defending champion John Janawicz in fifth at +911.

On Monday, the first six games will start at noon Eastern followed by the final six games at 4:30 p.m. ET to determine the top five. The stepladder finals will start at 8:30 p.m. ET. The winner will collect $15,000 and a major title. You can watch it all only on BowlTV.

Top 10 PBA50 Senior U.S. Open standings (with bonus pins):

1. Brian Dennis, 6,994 (+994)
2. Tom Daugherty, 6,953 (+953)
3. Chris Barnes, 6,938 (+938)
4. Pete Weber, 6, 925 (+925)
5. John Janawicz, 6,911 (+911)
6. Brad Angelo, 6,869 (+869)
7. Jon Rakoski, 6,811 (+811)
8. Andres Gomez, 6,786 (+786)

9. Dan Knowlton, 6,768 (+768)
10. Chris Martinez, 6,726 (+726)

Andres Gomez wins first title in the 2025 PBA50 Senior U.S. Open

June 17, 2025

Jill Winters

Greeley, Colorado – Andres Gomez fulfilled a dream on Monday night. He had the opportunity to step up in the 10th frame in the championship match to win the 2025 PBA50 Senior U.S. Open and he delivered. After top seed Brian Dennis converted three straight single-pin spares followed by a strike to end with 214, Gomez was prepared for his moment.

“That is what the U.S. Open is all about. It is about throwing that shot when you need to double in the 10th when the lanes were almost impossible to win your first and only major,” he said.

When Gomez aced his fourth straight strike in a row, he ran it out to the right, jumped and embraced this emotional victory. He got nine on his last shot for 221 to earn his first PBA50 Tour title and $15,000.

“I am pretty calm when I bowl but when I need a strike to win, I celebrate it because those moments don’t come every other week to win a PBA title. So, I have got to celebrate them and show the people the emotion that I am going through,” he said. “I had cloudy eyes. I rank this as my biggest ever accomplishment in my bowling career.”

After the win, he called his wife, and he couldn’t wait to call his parents and sister who were all watching back home in Colombia. He said his phone was going crazy.

“It is incredible. When I won my first PBA title in 2012, it was insane being from Colombia and coming to the U.S. in 1995 to pursue a career on the PBA,” he said. “But to win a major, against Brad Angelo and Pete Weber, who has won so many U.S. Opens. I have to rank this as the best moment after all of the injuries.”

He has dealt with an Achilles heel injury since last year that forced him to withdraw from a few tournaments. He admits there were points he wasn’t even sure if he wanted to compete anymore because of the injury setbacks. What kept him going was being able to cash, make stepladder finals, and even lead tournaments, despite not being completely healthy. This week was a grueling test, and he feels great.

“Hopefully I can continue to stay healthy. I respect how good these guys are, and I have to be on top of my game to compete,” he added. “I hope I can be in the mix more often.”

In the championship match, Gomez and Dennis each missed a 10-pin within the first three frames. Dennis rebounded from his opening miss with four straight strikes followed by a spare. Gomez started with a double before his miss. He then picked up four straight spares before his clutch finish.

In the semifinal match, Gomez and Pete Weber each had early splits. Gomez was able to bunch strikes together prior to the open frame and three strikes after it. Yet, he had back-to-back open frames in the seventh and eighth frames. Weber wasn't able to capitalize, and Gomez got the win, 186-176.

Angelo and Gomez were filling frames in the second match. A five-bagger for Gomez in frames four through eight were key for him. Angelo had just one double and ended the match with three straight spares. Gomez got the win 226-203. And in the opening match, John Janawicz started with two splits for open frames on the right lane, while Angelo stayed clean until the eighth frame. Janawicz put two doubles together, but Angelo responded with four strikes in the end for the 213-191 victory.

Next up for the PBA50 Tour is the South Shore Classic. That tournament will begin on June 24 in Hammond, Indiana.

Championship Round Scores

Match 1: Angelo def. Janawicz 213-191
Match 2: Gomez def. Angelo 226-203
Match 3: Gomez def. Weber 186-176
Championship match: Gomez def. Dennis 221-214

Final Standings

1. Andres Gomez, $15,000
2. Brian Dennis, $8,000
3. Pete Weber, $6,000
4. Brad Angelo, $5,000
5. John Janawicz, $4,000

BowlTV PBA Regional Players Returns to Reno in 2025

June 23, 2025 Nolan Hughes

For the second consecutive year, BowlTV PBA Regional Players Invitational will take place at the iconic National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev. The end-of-season tournament for the PBA and PBA50 Regional Tours will be held Dec. 11-14, 2025 and rounds of the RPI will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

Caesars will be the official host hotel, offering top RPI qualifiers free rooms and all players discounted rates.

The RPI celebrates the achievements of the top regional players in the country and offers an opportunity to make the leap to the national tour. The champion of each division will earn an entry to their respective national tour's Tournament of Champions next season.

The PBA RPI trophies are named in honor of Chris Warren, who is tied with Pete Weber for the record with 47 career PBA Regional Tour titles. Add in his 12 PBA50 Regional Tour titles and Warren trails only Walter Ray Williams Jr. in total regional titles.

In addition to the RPI, Reno's National Bowling Stadium hosted the PBA World Series of Bowling from 2015-17 and again in 2025. The venue also hosted the U.S. Open and USBC Masters in 2021.

"Reno Tahoe is proud to welcome the 2025 PBA Regional Players Invitational, especially so in a year that also brought the PBA World Series of Bowling to the National Bowling Stadium," said Visit Reno Tahoe President and CEO Mike Larragueta. "We truly believe that Reno Tahoe is the home of bowling. The Northern Nevada tourism community is dedicated to the continued support of the PBA and its members, as well as professional and amateur bowlers throughout the world and right here in our own backyard."

"Caesars Entertainment and the Silver Legacy, Eldorado and Circus Circus Reno are honored to welcome the PBA back to The Biggest Little City!" said Mark Huse, the Senior Vice President and General Manager of the Silver Legacy, Eldorado, and Circus Circus Reno. "Our Reno properties have been long-time supporters and proponents of a flourishing bowling community here in our city, especially due to our proximity to the National Bowling Stadium. More importantly, the bowling community is part of our family, and we are excited to welcome them back home!"

Fourteen players from each of the seven PBA Regional Tours (East, Central, Midwest, South, Southwest, West and Northwest) will qualify for the event, including 10 from each region's points list and four from each region's RPI qualifier event.

The top player in points from each of the PBA Sweden and PBA Japan Regional Tours will also qualify for the RPI.

In the PBA50 division, four players from each region's points list and three from each region's RPI qualifier event will qualify for the RPI.

The points list in each region includes points earned from Nov. 14, 2024 through Nov. 13, 2025.

To qualify for the RPI, players must be a full PBA member with all dues paid up in full and bowl at least three regional events within the region in which they qualify.

The following players are ineligible to compete in the RPI:

1. PBA Hall of Famers (based on Superior Performance)
2. PBA Tour players who own four or more PBA Tour titles
3. PBA Tour players who earned more than $40,000 during this current PBA Tour season (through the PBA Playoffs)
4. PBA50 Tour players who rank top 10 in points at the end of this season (PBA50 division only)

Additional RPI eligibility and rules can be found here.

"The PBA Regional program is the lifeblood of the PBA," PBA Commissioner Tom Clark said. "Thanks to all of our wonderful partners in Reno, the RPI will continue to grow as the signature destination event for our regional stars."

In the PBA division, all players will bowl 18 games of qualifying with the top 24 players advancing to bracket match play. The top eight qualifiers will earn a one-round bye.

Match play will consist of best-of-five-games Rounds of 24, 16 and 8, followed by a best-of-three-games semifinal and single-game championship match.

PBA division players will compete for a $15,000 first-place prize, while the top 33 players will cash for a minimum of $1,000.

The PBA50 division offers a $10,000 top prize and a $1,000 minimum cash for 16th place.

After 18 games of qualifying, the top 12 players will advance to match play with the top four qualifiers earning a one-round bye. Two best-of-five-games rounds will be followed by a best-of-three-games semifinal and single-game championship match.

The defending champions, pictured above, are Manny Ferrell and Randy Weis in the PBA and PBA50 divisions, respectively.

All rounds of the RPI will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

More information on upcoming PBA Regional Tour events is available here.

PBA RPI Qualifier Schedule

PBA East
PBA BowlTV RPI East Qualifier
September 12-14
Middletown, Delaware

PBA50 East
PBA50 BowlTV RPI East Qualifier
October 10-12
Binghamton, New York

PBA Central
PBA Family Ford of Bluffton/EZ Bowl/Yergy's BBQ Central Open powered by QubicaAMF EDGE String (RPI Qualifier)
October 3-5
Bluffton, Indiana

PBA50 Central
PBA50 RPI Central Classic presented by Fayette Drywall
September 26-28
Kettering, Ohio

PBA Midwest
PBA Strike N Spare 2 Midwest BowlTV RPI Qualifier
October 24-26
Lockport, Illinois

PBA50 Midwest
PBA50 Strike N Spare 2 Midwest BowlTV RPI Qualifier

October 24-26
Lockport, Illinois

PBA South
PBA Saint Lucie Lanes BowlTV RPI South Open
October 3-5
Port St. Lucie, Florida

PBA50 South
PBA50 Jeff Schrum Memorial BowlTV RPI South Open
October 31-November 2
Gastonia, North Carolina

PBA50 Southwest
PBA50 Waxahachie BowlTV RPI Qualifier
Sept. 19-21
Waxahachie, Texas

PBA Southwest
PBA OKC Open & BowlTV RPI Qualifier
Sept. 26-28
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

PBA West
BowlTV PBA RPI South Point Hotel Casino Open
November 8-9
Las Vegas, Nevada

PBA50 West
BowlTV PBA50 RPI South Point Hotel Casino Classic
November 8-9
Las Vegas, Nevada

PBA Northwest
BowlTV PBA RPI Jim Kent Memorial Qualifier
October 10-12
Lakewood, Washington

PBA50 Northwest
BowlTV PBA50 RPI Gary Mage Memorial Qualifier
October 10-12
Lakewood, Washington

Brad Angelo Leads 2025 PBA50 South Shore Classic

June 24, 2025 Jill Winters

Hammond, Indiana – Some timely ball changes helped Brad Angelo average 246.43 over seven games during the first day of qualifying at the 2025 PBA50 South Shore Classic.

The New York native rolled 250, 247, 222, 233, 236, 300 and 237 for 1,725 inside Olympia Lanes. Despite having a split in all but his perfect game, he felt like everything went pretty well.

“In Game 5, I was still controlling the pocket, but I knew I had to make a change. I struck the last five or six shots in Game 5 then I shot 300,” he said. “The last game it was hooking more, so halfway through the game, I switched to a fresher version of the same ball and threw the last seven for 237.”

Last year at this tournament, he missed the cut, so making his way to the top of the leaderboard on Tuesday made him happy. He feels like he usually gets out of the gates quickly in tournaments, yet when he reaches the middle games, he sometimes struggles to keep up with the scoring pace. He is thrilled to have a few new balls that so far this season have filled up a gap in his arsenal.

“When you put a ball in your hand and you feel like if you just throw it good it is going to hook correctly and it is going to strike, that’s how I feel. I think it has freed me up,” he said. “I don't feel like I am bowling in a phone booth anymore trying to make something strike versus just being able to let it go. That has really helped out a lot.”

He uses the same types of balls every week and his biggest adjustments are how fast or slow he needs to throw it and how he releases the ball. He then watches those on his pair and around him to gather information on how to adapt to the lanes. Angelo has a 41-pin lead over Stephen Krywy at +284. He is followed by Dan Knowlton at +274 and Chris Barnes at +265. Defending champion John Janawicz led B-squad at +258 and he is sitting in fifth place.

Janawicz and B-squad will get the final seven games of qualifying starting at 9:30 a.m. Eastern on Wednesday followed by A-squad at 3 p.m. ET. At the end of the night, the field will be cut to the top 36 bowlers.

They will move into the Advancers Round on Thursday, where all pins will carry over. After four games, the top 24 will advance to bracket match play. All pins at that time will be dropped. Watch all the action only on BowlTV.

Top 10 PBA50 South Shore Classic standings:

1. Brad Angelo, 1,725 (+325)
2. Stephen Krywy 1,684 (+284)
3. Dan Knowlton 1,674 (+274)
4. Chris Barnes, 1,665 (+265)
5. John Janawicz, 1,658 (+258)
6. Clint Dacy, 1,657 (+257)

7. Gary Alstott, 1,642 (+242)
8. Mitch Beasley, 1,626 (+226)
9. Rudy Kasimakis, 1,608 (+208)
10. Tom Adcock, 1,607 (+207)

John Janawicz Leading 2025 PBA50 South Shore Classic

June 25, 2025 Jill Winters

Hammond, Indiana – Defending PBA50 South Shore Classic champion, John Janawicz is in the lead after qualifying. On Thursday, the Florida native averaged 245 to get to +573. He had games of 257, 216, 217, 255, 247, 255 and 268 for 1,715 to go along with his 1,658 on Wednesday.

His lowest game of qualifying was a 207. He started with urethane before making a change in game four then he said the picture became a lot clearer. In addition to his win last year, Janawicz finished second in 2023. He enjoys bowling at Olympia Lanes.

“I took some pretty good notes the last couple of years. I am definitely a firm believer that certain lane surfaces from a front-to-back standpoint with their age tend to match up pretty well to certain people’s ball roll and rev rate,” he said. “Three different patterns but I am still bowling well all three times. There is obviously something about this place that I really like.”

In last week's Senior U.S. Open, he felt like there were a couple of windows where his set up and push away got away from him a little bit, despite finishing in fifth place. He feels it’s getting a lot better, so now he just needs to continue to be smart, make good decisions and keep up his good shot making. Looking at Thursday’s final day of the tournament, he knows the importance of getting lined up fast.

“You have to focus more on the fresh because if you don’t see the picture right in two games, you are done. It is a different mindset for sure,” he said.

Day 1 qualifying leader Brad Angelo started his day with a 279 but a 156 in game three forced him to play catch-up. He was able to do just that, rebounding with 235, 238, 279 and 239 to get to +549, which puts him in second. He is followed closely by Chris Barnes at +540. He consistently shot 1,665 and 1,675.

Iowa’s Tom Hess also had a strong final block. He bowled 168 pins higher on Wednesday over Tuesday. He started with back-to-back-to-back 258 games then added 246, 236, 237 and 226 to get to +470 overall. Clint Dacy moved into fifth place at +435.

A feel-good story at this tournament is the return of 2023 PBA50 Player of the Year Troy Lint. This was his first national senior tournament since rehabbing from knee replacement and hernia surgery. He has yet to bowl a game under 200 through qualifying posting back-to-back blocks of 1,591. He is currently in 10th place at +382.

“It’s cloud-nine. I am amped up, but I will settle down here soon,” he said. “I have been working hard and it’s a phenomenal feeling. I had a pretty good two days and there are a lot of great bowlers behind me.”

At the end of Wednesday, the field was cut to the top 36 bowlers. Last year's third place finisher Brian Link was the final player inside the number at +218. The pins will carry over going into four games in the Advancers Round, which will start at 10 a.m. Eastern on Thursday. The top 24 will then advance to best-of-three bracket match play with all pins dropping. The Round of 24 will begin at 1:30 p.m. ET with qualifiers 9 through 24, as the top 8 receive an opening round bye.

The winners of those matches and the top 8 will bowl in the Round of 16 scheduled to start at 3:30 p.m. followed by the Round of 8 at 6 p.m. The four remaining undefeated players and the highest-seeded Round of 8 losing player will make it to the stepladder finals set to begin at 8:30 p.m. ET on Thursday. You can watch all the action only on BowlTV.

Top 10 PBA50 South Shore Classic standings:

1. John Janawicz, 3,373 (+573)
2. Brad Angelo, 3,349 (+549)
3. Chris Barnes, 3,340 (+540)
4. Tom Hess, 3,270 (+470)
5. Clint Dacy, 3,235 (+435)
6. Ron Hurt, 3,233 (+433)
7. John Verbich, 3,229 (+429)
8. Tom Adcock, 3,215 (+415)
9. Dan Knowlton, 3,186 (+386)
10. Troy Lint, 3,182 (+382)

Chris Barnes Wins 2025 PBA50 South Shore Classic

June 26, 2025 Jill Winters

Hammond, Indiana – After one of the roughest starts to Chris Barnes' PBA50 career, he has returned to the winner circle. On Thursday night, he was the top seed in the stepladder finals at the 2025 PBA50 South Shore Classic and he earned his seventh PBA50 title. That ties him with the legendary Earl Anthony and his good friend, John Janawicz, who finished in third place.

"I am pretty lucky. I have had a good run for a long time, and I never really struggled. Of my five worst tournaments on the PBA50, the first four weeks (of this season) were four of them," Barnes said. "Trying to keep up with the kids (on the PBA Tour), I went down a path that was kind of dark and desolate. I got a chance to reset and go back to some old habits. The (Senior) U.S. Open was closer. I got home and got to practice with Lynda, Troy and Ryan (his wife and twin sons) a little bit. She has a great eye, and she really helped me. I felt way better coming into this week. Things kind of fell together."

In the championship match, Barnes faced Clint Dacy, who was making his first-ever PBA50 stepladder finals appearance. The two have known each other for years and that showed as they both were smiling and having fun throughout the game. Barnes started with three straight strikes before an errant shot took off to the left leaving the 1-3-6-8-10. Barnes stared at the remaining pins for awhile and admitted he told Dacy he didn't know how to shoot at the spare. He picked up his spare ball and covered only the 3-6-10.

"I had not thrown a shot as bad as that in a minute. Let's be honest, I have been on a lot of TV shows, and I have had some bad, bad moments. That might have been the worst one of all of them," Barnes joked. "I don't practice this spare. I haven't since I was like 6 years old, I don't think. I am still zero percent at that spare."

Barnes then picked up a 7-pin on the tricky left lane. Dacy stayed cleaned with strike, spare, strike, spare, spare halfway through. In the sixth, Dacy rolled his first strike on the left lane and clenched his fist. Barnes responded with a messenger on the 10-pin and struck for the third time on the left lane. He walked that shot out to the right, raised up his right leg and slapped his hands together emphatically.

Dacy picked up two more single pins then Barnes struck for the third straight time followed by a spare. Dacy finished first and he calmly delivered a strike on the right lane. He took back-to-back re-racks on the left lane, crossed his fingers for a rack he liked and stepped up big. He ran out the first shot, adding a hop to his step and slapped his hands together. He again stepped up and struck out for 218 to put some pressure on Barnes.

Barnes released his shot and crouched down at the foul line as his ball hit high-flush for a strike. His next shot was a bit wide right, yet it came back enough just leaving the 3-pin, which he converted for 220.

"He bowled like he has been on 25 of these things (stepladder finals). He bowled like a true pro and took out the hottest guy on the PBA50 Tour in John Janawicz pushing him to the limits," Barnes said of Dacy. "I was pretty fortunate to get by today."

After the win, Barnes also took time to thank the large, supportive crowd inside Olympia Lanes that was truly into every shot being thrown. He said that made it so much fun.

In the opening match, Janawicz relied on urethane. He picked up a 10-pin in the first frame followed by six straight strikes against fellow Florida resident Jon Rakoski. Rakoski doubled in the first and second then again in the sixth and seventh. He finished strong with four straight strikes to lose 268-225. Rakoski was the No. 21 seed after the morning's Advancers Round. He bowled his way to a fifth-place finish.

Janawicz was committed to urethane against 2024 PBA50 Rookie of the Year Randy Weiss. Janawicz again started with a single-pin spare and six straight strikes then a split for an open frame in the eighth. After three spares and two strikes through the first five frames, Weiss rolled three straight strikes to get back in the match yet a pocket 7-10 in the ninth ended his run. Janawicz got the win 238-215.

Janawicz and Dacy met in the semifinal match. Dacy got started with five straight strikes as Janawicz delivered five out of six strikes. Janawicz picked up the difficult 3-6-9-10 in the seventh and Dacy missed a 10-pin. Dacy stepped up first with a strike in the ninth and two more in the 10th along with a 3-pin for 246. Working on a double in the eighth and ninth frame, Janawicz left the dreaded pocket 7-10 split to end his run up the stepladder with 221.

Next up for the senior tour is Wayne Webb's PBA60 World Series of Bowling, which begins on Tuesday in Ohio. The PBA50 World Series of Bowling III will begin July 10 in Michigan.

Championship Round Scores
Match 1: Janawicz def. Rakoski 268-225
Match 2: Janawicz def. Weiss 238-215
Match 3: Dacy def. Janawicz 246-221
Championship match: Barnes def. Dacy 220-218

PBA60 World Series of Bowling Debuts at Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl

July 1, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The first-ever PBA60 World Series of Bowling is set to begin this week at Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl.

Several PBA Hall of Famers are expected to compete, including Parker Bohn III, Bryan Goebel, Ron Mohr, Amleto Monacelli, Pete Weber and, of course, Wayne Webb.

James Campbell, who won this season's USBC Super Senior Classic, will be among the 130-plus player field as well.

The PBA60 WSOB is named after Webb, a PBA and USBC Hall of Famer who ranks T-14th all-time with 20 career PBA Tour titles.

The first of three titles is also named after Webb and will take place July 2-3, followed by the PBA60 Roth Championship July 4-5.

The two standard title championships each feature an eight-game qualifying round with the top 16 players advancing to elimination match play. Two best-of-five-games matches will determine the five stepladder finalists in each event.

The top 18 players in cumulative Webb and Roth Championship qualifying will advance to round-robin match play in the World Championship, which will take place July 6-7.

The top five players after match play will advance to the stepladder finals, scheduled for 6 p.m. Eastern on July 7.

Pete Weber Leads Qualifying At PBA60 Webb Championship

July 2, 2025 Jill Winters

Columbus, Ohio – The inaugural Wayne Webb's PBA60 World Series of Bowling kicked off on Wednesday with the PBA60 Webb Championship. The first event of the week is named after Webb, the tournament host, and held appropriately at Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl.

Leading the way is 14-time PBA50 Tour champion Pete Weber, who is seeking his first PBA60 title. Weber averaged 230.25 with games of 252, 277, 198, 226, 198, 236, 224 and 231 to get to 1,842 (+242). He didn't have to move his feet much and he was quick to make a change as soon as his ball didn't go through the pins the correct way, which he said was key. He relied on three balls all day.

Weber, who has made three stepladder finals already this PBA50 Tour season, continues to feel comfortable on the lanes but we just might see him sporting something familiar on Thursday.

"I cut my finger open today but I have my glove with me, so I am probably going to put my glove on tomorrow when I bowl to protect my finger from cutting anymore," he said. "When I threw it good, it didn't hurt. When I threw it bad, it hurt. Hopefully tomorrow, the glove will help me out. It has been a year since I stopped using the glove. There are people who didn't even notice but they will notice when I put it back on."

The last PBA60 tournament held at this bowling center was the Tristan's T.A.P.S. Memorial Open last July. At that event, Weber finished in third place, and he loves being at Webb's bowling center.

"Wayne is an excellent host. He feeds us every day, and he makes sure to have volunteers to help us with the scores and everything else," Weber said. "I have bowled good all three years I have bowled here, so I like this house."

Bowling on the 37-foot Webb oil pattern, Wayne Webb consistently shot 236, 223, 201, 243, 233, 236, 223 and 244 to get to +239, just three pins behind Weber. Webb had a lot of support behind him while he was competing, and he drew large cheers when he converted the 7-10 split in Game 6.

Brian LeClair rolled a 299 in his final game, which was the highest of the day for any bowler, to move into third place at +217. He is followed by Don Breeden at +199 and Amleto Monacelli is in fifth at +189. The final player to make the cut was Robert Lawrence at +92.

Next up, the top 16 players will advance to bracket match play best-of-five matches scheduled to start at 11 a.m. Eastern on Thursday with the Round of 8 best-of-five matches starting at 3 p.m. ET. The four undefeated winners and the highest seeded losing bowler in the Round of 8 will be in the stepladder finals set to start at 6 p.m. on Thursday.

Looking ahead, the PBA60 Roth Championship will include eight games of qualifying on a 43-foot oil pattern. B-squad will begin at 9 a.m. ET on Friday and A-squad at 4 p.m. Bracket match play and the finals will all be on Saturday.

The top 18 overall bowlers after 16 games of qualifying across the Webb and Roth Championship will advance to the PBA60 World Championship. All qualifying pins carry over into match play rounds scheduled to start at 11 a.m. ET on Sunday. Overall, three PBA60 titles are available this week. You can watch the entire PBA60 WSOB on BowlTV.

PBA60 Webb Championship Match Play Advancers:

1. Pete Weber, 1,842 (+242)
2. Wayne Webb, 1,839 (+239)
3. Brian LeClair, 1,817 (+217)
4. Don Breeden, 1,799 (+199)
5. Amleto Monacelli, 1,789 (+189)
6. Sammy Ventura, 1,788 (+188)
7. C K Moore, 1,785 (+185)
8. David Rosenburg, 1,776 (+176)
9. Joe Losurdo, 1,760 (+160)
10. Bryan Goebel, 1,759 (+159)
11. Rick Woloszyn, 1,733 (+133)
12. Glenn Morgan Smith, 1,732 (+132)
13. Chris Warren, 1,705 (+105)
14. Parker Bohn III, 1,702 (+102)
15. Skip Pavone, 1,695 (+95)
16. Robert Lawrence, 1,692 (+92)

Parker Bohn III wins 2025 PBA60 Webb Championship

July 3, 2025 Jill Winters

Columbus, Ohio – Parker Bohn III added a new title to his historic bowling resume on Thursday. He threw 17 strikes out of 22 attempts with games of 255 and 257 to win his first PBA60 title in the inaugural PBA60 Webb Championship, as part of Wayne Webb's PBA60 World Series of Bowling. The smooth left-hander came into bracket match play in 14th place and relied on urethane to get the win, during the stepladder finals inside Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl.

"I don't know what to think about that one yet. I think on my driver's license somebody is lying to me, but it says I am legal to bowl," Bohn said. "The fact that it is my first PBA60 win; you never forget your first. I remember the first regional I won, the first PBA national title, my first PBA50 Tour title, and by all means, I will remember my first PBA60 Tour event, as well."

In the championship match against No. 1 seed Chris Warren, Bohn III was able to capitalize on how he set up the lanes for himself rolling eight straight strikes for a commanding lead. He was clenching his left fist and walking out several of those shots. His deliveries on the left lane were flush and on the right lane he benefitted from a few lighter hits.

“I was fortunate that I got a couple of good breaks there on the right lane when the ball literally took out the 5-6-10 two times in a row and it almost did it again. That is why I had to have a little fun looking at Chris and I said, ‘I am making a living on that shot,’” he joked.

The 10-pin was left standing on the right lane in the ninth frame and Bohn III failed to convert it. He stepped up in the 10th needing a mark to shut out Warren, who at that point had five straight strikes.

“Business as usual. Try to get up in the 10th and make another good pass, although it was a little bit firm. Took a piece of tape out of the thumb, made the spare (3-5-6), filled the frame and threw a good shot on the fill ball,” Bohn III said. “It was making the spare that made all of the difference. No, I don’t want to shoot the 3-5-6, when I need a mark to win, especially after I missed the spare on the right lane.”

Bohn III and Warren hugged and then Warren struck out for 248. He is looking forward to celebrating the win with his family in a few weeks, but he needed to eat some mint chocolate chip ice cream first, and bowl a few more events over the next couple of days, too. Bohn will also be spending time on the Fourth of July with his buddy, Matthew, and his family, who are supporting him this week.

“Certainly, looking forward to the next two events. I have got somewhat of a reasonable start. I would like to have more but there is still a lot of bowling left,” Bohn III said. “Every step of the way you want to garnish as many pins as possible. Today is over at least in my eyes, so that now I can focus on what I need to do tomorrow.”

In his semifinal match against fellow left-hander Skip Pavone, Bohn struck on his first shot, picked up a 3-pin then struck seven straight times before testing out a few shots in the 10th for 255. Pavone had three opens in the first five frames, ending up with 180.

Pavone was able to earn his way into that match when it seemed like he was going to finish in fourth place. His opponent, No. 5 seed Amleto Monacelli started the match with a spare followed by six consecutive strikes before leaving the 6-7-10 split in the eighth frame for an open followed by a strike in the ninth. Pavone missed a 7-pin in the third frame followed by three strikes and a spare in the seventh. Pavone was able to close out the match with five straight strikes for 237. Monacelli stepped up needing a strike for the win in the 10th yet left the 4-8 for the 221 loss.

In the opening match, Monacelli got the fireworks started early. He was unstoppable using urethane as he slammed the pocket almost every shot on the way to a perfect 300 against Robert Lawrence, who shot 216. Warren, Bohn III, Pavone and Lawrence were seeds 13-16 starting the day and made it into the stepladder.

Next up in Wayne Webb's PBA60 World Series of Bowling is the Roth Championship. The field will bowl eight games of qualifying on the 43-foot Roth oil pattern. B-squad will get started at 9 a.m. Eastern on Friday and A-squad takes the lanes at 4 p.m.

The top 16 players after qualifying will advance to bracket match play best-of-five matches are scheduled to start at 11 a.m. ET on Saturday followed by the Round of 8 best-of-five matches starting at 3 p.m. ET.

The four undefeated winners and the highest seeded losing bowler in the Round of 8 will be in the stepladder finals set to start at 6 p.m. on Saturday.

The top 18 overall bowlers after 16 games of qualifying across the Webb and Roth Championship will advance to the PBA60 World Championship. All qualifying pins carry over into match play rounds scheduled to start at 11 a.m. ET on Sunday. There are two more PBA60 titles available this week. You can watch the entire PBA60 WSOB on BowlTV.

PBA60 Webb Championship Final Standings

1. Parker Bohn III, $5,000
2. Chris Warren, $2,500
3. Skip Pavone, $1,800
4. Amleto Monacelli, $1,400
5. Robert Lawrence, $1,200

Championship Round Scores
Match 1: Monacelli def. Lawrence 300-216
Match 2: Pavone def. Monacelli 237-221
Match 3: Bohn III def. Pavone 255-180
Championship match: Bohn III def. Warren 257-248

Burkett Leads PBA60 Roth Championship, Monacelli Leads PBA60 World Championship

July 4, 2025 Jill Winters

Columbus, Ohio – John Burkett knows how to prepare and gameplan based on his successful Major League Baseball career as a starting pitcher. On Friday, he watched what made Tom Carter successful on to lead B-squad in the 2025 PBA60 Roth Championship. When it was Burkett's turn to hit the lanes at Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl on A-squad, he followed Carter's example.

"I watched Tom Carter bowl this morning and he basically gave me the roadmap on how to do it by throwing it slow and slow hooking it. I told him I was thinking about how he throws it the whole time and trying to duplicate that," Burkett said. "It is satisfying to be able to watch somebody do it, copy them, and be able to do it at a decent rate. I was really happy about that."

Burkett shot 220, 208, 216 221, 266, 191 and 235. It came down to his final shot and Burkett got 7 to tie Carter at 1,767. He immediately turned around and pointed right back at Carter. Burkett earned the No. 1 seed because his highest game of the block was one pin above Carter's 266 to 265.

"I knew what was going on the last three frames and I almost screwed it up. I love Tom Carter, so I truthfully wanted to tie him," Burkett said. "The thing I am the happiest about is I have been working on

throwing it slow all winter. Not over hitting it and really controlling the ball speed and that was at the forefront today."

Looking ahead to Saturday's match play, Burkett hopes to continue to be able to control his ball speed believing that is super important on the 43-foot Roth oil pattern. On Friday, he was able to play pretty deep and didn't experience a lot of difference pair-to-pair. After the Roth Championship, he will turn his focus to the first-ever PBA60 World Championship.

Ironically, Carter followed the lead of his good friend and fellow tournament host Wayne Webb on making it into match play this week.

"It's like an out of body experience. I had to go and make sure it was really my name on top. It felt awesome," Carter said, after leading B-squad. "I was bowling next to Amleto, Parker and Wayne. I was waiting for those guys to go around me after Game 3, especially Wayne."

Carter owns the pro shop and training center inside Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl. He started his Fourth of July with back-to-back 235 games when a fellow bowler told him he was in first place. There were no games over 240 through the first three games for B-squad until PBA60 Webb Championship winner, Parker Bohn III shot the only 300 of the day in Game 4.

"The motion was right and for me it was my speed. I don't throw it hard, and I think that was key today," Carter said, who also qualified for the World Championship.

Carter has endured three knee replacements with the most recent one sidelining him for about 24 weeks. He returned to bowling in January, and he is thrilled to make it to match play on Saturday, while also being able to host this event.

"When I came out this year, I had no expectations. It has been so long since I have bowled without pain and every tournament I have bowled better. My mind is finally realizing it is not going to hurt; nothing hurts, and I am elated," Carter said. "Having the first PBA60 World Series is awesome. Wayne and I talked about all of the greats that you watched on TV are 60 now. We have the PBA50 World Series but as a 60-year-old, it's really tough to compete against those young 50-year-olds. Having the first PBA60 and all of those guys here is pretty special."

Behind Burkett and Carter is Lennie Boresch Jr. at +146 in third, Bohn III at +137 in fourth and Chris Warren at +101 in fifth place. Sam Maccarone doubled in the 10th frame in his final game of qualifying to tie Don Breeden at +30 for the final spot in the Roth Championship. They had a one-game roll-off and Breeden got the win. He will face Burkett.

The top 16 players will advance to bracket match play best-three-out-of-five matches scheduled to start at 11 a.m. Eastern on Saturday with the Round of 8 best-three-out-of-five matches starting at 3 p.m. ET. The four undefeated winners and the highest seeded losing bowler in the Round of 8 will be in the stepladder finals set to start at 6 p.m. on Saturday.

The top 18 overall bowlers after 16 games of qualifying in the Webb and Roth Championship qualified for the PBA60 World Championship. The top 5 are Amleto Monacelli, John Burkett, Parker Bohn III, Don Breeden and Brian LeClair.

All qualifying pins carry over into three match play rounds scheduled to start at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. ET on Sunday then at 2 p.m. ET on Monday. After the 18 games, the top 5 will compete in the stepladder finals at 6 p.m. ET Monday for the chance to win a major title.

You can watch the entire PBA60 WSOB on BowlTV.

PBA60 Roth Championship Match Play Advancers:

1. John Burkett, 1,767 (+167)
2. Tom Carter, 1,767 (+167)
3. Lennie Boresch Jr., 1,746 (+146)
4. Parker Bohn III, 1,737 (+137)
5. Chris Warren, 1,701 (+101)
6. Dennis Rakauskas, 1,695 (+95)
7. Jack Jurek, 1,695 (+95)
8. Larry Verble, 1,689 (+89)
9. Bo Goergen, 1,678 (+78)
10. Amleto Monacelli, 1,676 (+76)
11. James Campbell, 1,674 (+74)
12. Dana Wright, 1,657 (+57)
13. Tom Adcock, 1,649 (+49)
14. Mike Dias, 1,648 (+48)
15. Bret Cromwell, 1,645 (+45)
16. Don Breeden 1,630 (+30)

Full standings - PBA60 Roth Championship

PBA60 World Championship Match Play Advancers:

1. Amleto Monacelli, 3,465 (+265)
2. John Burkett, 3,440 (+240)
3. Parker Bohn III, 3,439 (+239)
4. Don Breeden, 3,429 (+229)
5. Brian LeClair, 3,420 (+220)
6. Lennie Boresch Jr., 3,408 (+208)

7. Chris Warren, 3,406 (+206)
8. Pete Weber, 3,397 (+197)
9. Jack Jurek, 3,376 (+176)
10. Larry Verble, 3,373 (+173)
11. Wayne Webb, 3,364 (+164)
12. Bryan Goebel, 3,352 (+152)
13. C K Moore, 3,330 (+130)
14. Tom Carter, 3,324 (+124)
15. Robert Reed Sr., 3,288 (+88)
16. Skip Pavone, 3,288 (+88)
17. Sam Maccarone 3,282 (+82)
18. Bo Goergen, 3,276 (+76)

Burkett Wins PBA60 Roth Championship

July 5, 2025 Jill Winters

Columbus, Ohio – John Burkett proved that when you combine passion, dedication and hard work, good things happen. The tall right-hander was consistent at the PBA60 Roth Championship on a 43-foot oil pattern that presented a lot of challenges for other bowlers. After earning the overall top seed, he found himself in the No. 5 position after match play, heading into the stepladder finals on Saturday.

He knew controlling his ball speed would again be the key to his success. It was something he spent a lot of time working on during the winter with good friend and fellow PBA50 bowler Paul Fleming. Burkett maintained his speed while relying on just one ball for all four games as he successfully climbed the ladder to win his first PBA60 title, and second career senior title. He averaged 234 and defeated Parker Bohn III in the championship match, 246-168.

“It is absolutely satisfying. My dream was to bowl with these guys when I was young. Baseball took me away from that, but it was a good thing. Now to be able to come out here and compete with all of these guys is such a gift,” he said. “It’s amazing to bowl against these guys and to beat someone like Parker for a title is crazy. To think 30 years ago I was watching him on TV and admiring him. Now to bowl against him and actually bowl well enough to beat him is satisfying.”

He credits his wife for always supporting his baseball and now bowling career. He doesn’t bowl full-time because he enjoys being home with her in Texas, too. And when he is home, he also uses his two home bowling lanes to make sure he is prepared when it is time to compete. That definitely has worked out for him, and he loves the adrenaline rush of the competition.

“Every game is pressure packed out here. It’s a long road with a lot of great bowlers to go through. That is why I said (after my first PBA50 title in 2022) it was the number one accomplishment in my athletic career because it is just so difficult to win. To do it once was great. You don’t know if it was an accident or not and I was able to prove that it wasn’t,” he said. “I always feel I belong, and I am competitive, but winning is a different deal. I never thought they were that hard all week, but the scores were low. Whenever you have a look that nobody else has, that is when you have got to win. You have to execute no matter how good of a look you have, but you want to get it done on those weeks when you have a really good chance.”

He was thrilled to see his hard work pay dividends in front of his longtime friend, Tommy Sposaro, who was helping him out this week.

“He was basically my mentor growing up on the bowling side of things. It is fantastic to have him here and to be able to win with him here was awesome,” Burkett said. “He is leaving tomorrow, so I got it done just in time.”

Burkett planned to celebrate the win with a couple of glasses of Cabernet. He knew he would sleep well because he was exhausted after a long day of bowling.

In his opening match against Amleto Monacelli, Burkett had six strikes in the first seven frames, while Monacelli had two open frames. Despite back-to-back open frames of his own in the eighth and ninth frames, Burkett got the win, 219-181.

Next up for Burkett was a re-match against Bo Goergen, who defeated him in match play. Both players looked comfortable on the lanes in Wayne Webb’s Columbus Bowl. Burkett started with a spare followed by four strikes as Goergen went strike, spare then five in a row to take the lead. It came down to the final frames. Burkett picked up a 10-pin in the ninth, struck then watched as his delivery went wide right leaving the 2-7-8-10 split. He got three for 237. Needing 19 pins in the 10th for the win, Goergen’s first shot went high leaving the 4-7, which he picked up. On his next shot, his ball stayed to the right leaving a 6-count for 235.

“Bo was playing more direct, and when you are throwing it straight up the lane like that the ball breaks lose a bit, like it did and went high. I knew 8 was not a gimme,” Burkett said. “I knew he would think about giving it more room and speed, as the lanes were not easy. It did not take much this week to lose the front of the lane and skid by and that is what happened to him.”

In the semifinal match against No. 3 seed Dennis Rakauskas, Burkett stayed clean and consistent. He started with an opening double followed by two spares. Rakauskas unfortunately struggled to find a decent look with just one strike through five frames. Burkett responded with four straight strikes holding a commanding lead. Rakauskas finished strong with four strikes in the final five frames for 198 to Burkett’s 234.

Bohn III, who won the PBA60 Webb Championship on July 3, started the championship match with strike, spare, strike, spare before a split in the fifth and two spares. Burkett began the match with three straight strikes then three straight spares. He then rolled the next four strikes on the way to the 246-168 finish.

Next up, the top 18 overall bowlers after qualifying in the Webb and Roth Championship will compete in the PBA60 World Championship. The top 5 are Amleto Monacelli, John Burkett, Parker Bohn III, Don Breeden and Brian LeClair. They will bowl two six-game blocks of match play, starting at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. ET on Sunday. The final six-games of match play will start at 11 a.m. ET on Monday. The top 5 will advance to the stepladder finals at 6 p.m. ET Monday for the chance to win a major title.

You can watch the entire PBA60 WSOB on BowlTV.

PBA60 Roth Championship Final Standings:

1. John Burkett $5,000
2. Parker Bohn III $2,500
3. Dennis Rakauskas $1,800
4. Bo Goergen $1,400
5. Amleto Monacelli $1,200

MATCH SCORES:

Match 1: Burkett def. Monacelli 219-181

Match 2: Burkett def. Goergen 237-235

Match 3: Burkett def. Rakauskas 234-198

Championship match: Burkett def. Bohn III 246-168

Final standings - PBA60 Roth Championship

PBA60 World Championship Match Play Advancers:

1. Amleto Monacelli, 3,465 (+265)
2. John Burkett, 3,440 (+240)
3. Parker Bohn III, 3,439 (+239)
4. Don Breeden, 3,429 (+229)
5. Brian LeClair, 3,420 (+220)
6. Lennie Boresch Jr., 3,408 (+208)
7. Chris Warren, 3,406 (+206)
8. Pete Weber, 3,397 (+197)
9. Jack Jurek, 3,376 (+176)
10. Larry Verble, 3,373 (+173)
11. Wayne Webb, 3,364 (+164)

12. Bryan Goebel, 3,352 (+152)
13. C K Moore, 3,330 (+130)
14. Tom Carter, 3,324 (+124)
15. Robert Reed Sr., 3,288 (+88)
16. Skip Pavone, 3,288 (+88)
17. Sam Maccarone 3,282 (+82)
18. Bo Goergen, 3,276 (+76)

Brian LeClair Leading PBA60 World Championship

July 6, 2025 Jill Winters

Columbus, Ohio – Just over a month ago, Brian LeClair withdrew in the midst of competition at the USBC Super Senior Classic after straining his quad. He didn't bowl for nearly three weeks and now he is leading qualifying at the PBA60 World Championship, the final event in Wayne Webb's PBA60 World Series of Bowling.

He came into Sunday's two rounds of match play in fifth place. The tall right-hander won all six of his matches to start off his day and added three more wins during round two to add 270 bonus pins to his overall score. He was able to climb into first place at +813 holding a 173 pin advantage over Amleto Monacelli, who is second at +640. LeClair, Monacelli and Jack Jurek all posted the best match play records at 9-3 and they are sitting in the top three spots on the leaderboard.

"I was watching guys around me, and I was noticing when a ball got to a certain spot on the lane that it would react properly. On the fill ball in the first game, I moved to that spot, and it was a green light for the rest of the morning. I think I played the lanes totally different than anybody else this morning," the 60-year-old said. "The first game tonight it was basically the same thing, but I think everybody saw the way I was playing them, and they tried it. I got a feeling on a couple of the pairs the people who tried it probably used too much surface and didn't play them properly."

On those pairs, LeClair saw his reaction go away but he kept battling. He was happy to see that look return at the end of the night.

"Luckily the last game, I noticed Amleto had bowled on that pair, and he was playing them like I was, so I moved back to that spot, and it worked," said LeClair, who shot 259. "Any type of success I have had was playing to the right for the last three years. When I saw that this morning, I thought I would try it, and it worked, luckily for me. It feels great. It has been a long time since I have been up there."

LeClair has won five senior titles, and the last one came at the 2019 PBA50 South Shore Open. "I am pretty much even keeled. I don't get too optimistic or too far down. I have a feeling my shot might hold up even better tomorrow," he said. "I am going to go pray and hope."

Jurek, who is 10 pins behind Monacelli, made the biggest move of the day going from ninth to third. Behind Jurek is Chris Warren at +625 after he won five matches on the day. Just behind him in fifth is Parker Bohn III at +610. Bohn III won the PBA60 Webb Championship on Thursday and finished second at the PBA60 Roth Championship on Saturday.

The final six games of match play will begin at 11 a.m. Eastern on Monday. The top 5 will then bowl in the stepladder finals at 6 p.m. ET for the chance to win a major title.

You can watch the final day of the PBA60 WSOB on BowlTV.

PBA60 World Championship Match Play Standings (with bonus pins):

1. **Brian LeClair, 6,413 (+813)**
2. **Amleto Monacelli, 6,240 (+640)**
3. **Jack Jurek, 6,230 (+630)**
4. **Chris Warren, 6,225 (+625)**
5. **Parker Bohn III, 6,210 (+610)**
6. **Pete Weber, 6,164 (+564)**
7. **Lennie Boresch Jr., 6,092 (+492)**
8. **John Burkett, 6,025 (+425)**
9. **Don Breeden, 6,024 (+424)**
10. **Larry Verble, 5,997 (+397)**
11. **Bryan Goebel, 5,965 (+365)**
12. **C K Moore, 5,933 (+333)**
13. **Wayne Webb, 5,909 (+309)**
14. **Bo Goergen, 5,871 (+271)**
15. **Tom Carter, 5,761 (+161)**
16. **Sam Maccarone, 5,755 (+155)**
17. **Skip Pavone, 5,737 (+137)**
18. **Robert Reed Sr., 5,580 (-20)**

Jack Jurek Wins First-Ever PBA60 World Championship

July 7, 2025 Jill Winters

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Columbus, Ohio – The game of bowling challenges a player physically and mentally. Add in three different patterns in six days for good measure. That is the challenge nearly 140 bowlers aged-60-and-older accepted in the first-ever Wayne Webb's PBA60 World Series of Bowling. Ultimately, Jack Jurek came out on top in the PBA60 World Championship on Monday.

Despite some early anxiety followed by a quick ball change in the semifinal match, Jurek went on to roll 17 out of 23 strikes for games of 255 and 245 in the stepladder finals at Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl, winning $15,000 and his second major title on the PBA60 Tour.

"When I think about it being a brand-new event, with a new major championship with the crew that we had in the show, and the guys that just missed the show, to come out and have someone hand me a trophy after all of that, still hard to believe it was actually me. Someone was watching over me because I was very blessed on some shots and I did throw some good ones in there to mix it up," Jurek said, humbly. "These are things you dreamed about as a kid, even now almost 40 years as a PBA member. Every stepladder is very special, and I think there is always a little bit of anxiety for me. This season, for whatever reason, I just have not be in the best mind space."

That someone watching over him, just may have been his mom. He missed a couple of seasons taking care of her, and when she passed away, he entered "the darkest six months of my life where it was an adjustment. I eventually got to a place to get back on the lanes doing something I have always loved doing since I was a kid. I found new appreciation for having the good fortune to be able to do that," he said.

For a couple of years, life was enjoyable again then out in Las Vegas this year, he was frustrated with his game and "old demons have crept back in a little bit. The brain is very powerful. It can work good for you, and it can work bad for you. I am going to exercise those demons when I get home. It is just a little bump in the road," he said. "The guys on the 50 and 60 Tour are some of the greatest guys in the world and it is a pleasure to share the lanes with them. Every once in a while, you have a little hiccup, but I think overall, if nothing else, the staff on this tour is such a great support system for me. It will be all good."

Jurek credited good friend and No. 1 seed Brian LeClair, who he beat 245-215 in the title match, with helping guide him on where to play toward the end of match play on Sunday, which paid off again on Monday.

"I was struggling, and he was crushing them. I got to see up close how he was playing the lanes. I ended up doing that last night and this morning playing a similar part of the lane and obviously that was the right place to be," Jurek said. "If we were keeping score, he has definitely had my number over the years. It is a bittersweet feeling, as Brian bowled so good. To see him not win is tough. He was very gracious."

In the championship match, Jurek started with four straight strikes followed by a spare and three more strikes, while LeClair got his first double in the fourth and fifth frames then again in the seventh and eighth paired around spares.

The most strikes of the night were thrown in the semifinal match between Warren and Jurek. Both started with doubles. Jurek left the 4-6-7 in the third for an open frame then missed the head pin leaving the 1-2-4. He converted the spare then made a key ball change in the fifth. Warren picked up a 4-pin followed by a double.

After the ball change, Jurek rolled eight straight strikes to end the match with 255. Warren ended his game with back-to-back spares in the sixth and seventh then five straight strikes for 245. They combined for 19 strikes.

In the opening match, Amleto Monacelli, who made his third straight stepladder this week, came out firing. Using urethane, Monacelli threw six straight strikes to take a commanding lead. His opponent, Pete Weber, had an open in the first frame followed by a double. He then picked up the 1-2-4-6-10, but another open in the sixth frame, put Weber behind by 69 pins. Monacelli went on to win 259-162.

Monacelli continued to strike in his second match against Chris Warren, who finished in second place at the PBA60 Webb Championship. Monacelli went strike, spare and three in a row through five frames. After making two single-pin spares, Warren made a ball change and used a little loft starting in the third frame for a strike. He followed that by another spare before wheeling off five straight strikes. Monacelli got a spare in the sixth then a double. He finished with spare, strike then spare for 228. Needing a mark for the win, Warren left a wiggling 9-pin on his first shot. He got the spare before striking on his last shot for 238.

Up next, is the PBA50 World Series of Bowling III with five titles up for grabs. That event will begin on Thursday with the Ballard Championship at JAX 60 in Jackson, Mich. You can watch the entire PBA50 WSOB III on BowlTV.

Championship Round Scores
Match 1: Monacelli def. Weber 259-162
Match 2: Warren def. Monacelli 238-228
Match 3: Jurek def. Warren 255-245
Championship match: Jurek def. LeClair 245-215

PBA60 World Championship Final Standings:

1. Jack Jurek, $15,000
2. Brian LeClair, $8,000
3. Chris Warren, $6,000
4. Amleto Monacelli, $5,000
5. Pete Weber, $4,000

Andrew Anderson Always Has Something to Prove

July 8, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Andrew Anderson reached “the pinnacle of bowling” in 2018, his second season on tour. His odyssey back to the top took seven years. This time, he’s determined to stay there.

The year was 2018.

Andrew Anderson arrived in Hong Kong, where in just a matter of days he would be representing Team USA in the 2018 World Bowling Men's Championships.

Although Anderson described the tournament as the “biggest of his tournament life” to that point in his young career, he had higher priorities as he walked off the plane: He needed Wi-Fi.

Anderson procured an internet connection and pulled up the PBA’s livestream just in time to hear PBA Commissioner Tom Clark announce Kamron Doyle as the 2018 Rookie of the Year. Moments later, Clark spoke again.

“The winner of the 2018 PBA Player of the Year award is,” Clark said, “Andrew Anderson of Michigan.”

Unable to celebrate with family and friends, Anderson sat in stunned silence. In just his second season on tour, the 23-year-old became the second-youngest POY in PBA history.

After 10 or so minutes, Anderson rose to gather his belongings and meet the rest of Team USA, a decorated roster that included three additional PBA Players of the Year at the time in EJ Tackett, Chris Barnes and Tommy Jones.

“Now, they're looking at me as not just another kid, but as the kid who just won Player of the Year,” Anderson said. “The expectations rose overnight.”

The seasons that followed Anderson’s 2018 campaign could be described in many ways.

Anderson battled injuries in 2019 and 2021 and his father passed away in 2020, but he didn’t miss time on tour. He won multiple doubles titles with Kris Prather, but no singles titles. He was often in the hunt, but never the one being hunted.

“Throughout that entire time, there was good,” Anderson said. “It was not good when you win Player of the Year at 23 years old.”

After being voted POY, consistent dominance became the standard. Anderson doesn’t hide from the fact that he likes to know what people think of him and said he struggled to handle the internal and external expectations that came with an accolade of that magnitude.

“I wasn't exactly prepared for the amount of things (media, travel, etc.) that came with Player of the Year at my age,” Anderson said. “What it felt like for a long time, truthfully, was overwhelming. Between being injured and the expectations on me, bowling didn't feel very fun for a little while.”

His competitors no longer saw him as a scrappy youngster; he was now one of the men to beat.

His sponsors no longer viewed him as a fresh face with potential; he became a prized asset.

His family and friends no longer hoped to see him make match play a few times; they wanted to see him bowl on TV every week.

Overnight, Anderson's contemporaries shifted from players like AJ Johnson and Marshall Kent — competitors of similar age and previous pedigree — to prime Jason Belmonte and ascending EJ Tackett.

"That's where doubt from myself started," Anderson said. "I was no longer comparing myself to other 24-year-olds. 'How am I doing compared to Belmo? How am I doing compared to Tackett?' Those are going to be some really hard feats year after year for a 24-year-old."

Early on, there were reasons for his underwhelming performances. But by 2022, those reasons were evolving into excuses.

"He wasn't learning enough from the defeats. He wasn't building on them," said Storm tour rep Rob Gotchall, who also worked with Anderson in 2018 under Ebonite. "He was letting the defeats and the bad results break him down."

As weeks without winning a singles title turned into months and years, Anderson's signature bravado faded. The kid who feared no one was nowhere to be found.

His name no longer appeared next to Belmonte and Tackett, but for the worst reason: No one believed Anderson belonged in that class any longer. By 2024, nobody referred to Anderson's 2018 season as a breakout anymore. Instead, people called it an anomaly.

Or even worse: a fluke.

At Detroit's Thunderbowl Lanes, about an hour from his hometown of Holly, Anderson and his Las Vegas High Rollers faced the rival Portland Lumberjacks in a PBA Elite League regular season match. Later that evening, he and Kris Prather bowled for the Roth/Holman Doubles Championship title as the top seed.

His own backyard served as the perfect stage for a 28-year-old teeming with self-doubt, who needed to escape the imposter's syndrome that had been manifesting for more than five years.

With dozens upon dozens of family and friends in attendance, including his brothers Mike and Matt and Turbo sponsors Chris Sandt and Mike Magolan, Anderson delivered the hometown crowd a performance for the ages.

He struck in a roll-off to clinch the match against Portland. Hours later, he doubled in the 10th frame to win the doubles title, just his second title (both doubles) since 2018. For the first time in a long time, praise permeated throughout the comment sections.

"The confidence you had on your first ball in the tenth is the Andrew I bowled with at 300 bowl," one comment read, "and all of us in Michigan are glad to see you succeed."

"I told Kris something special was going to happen," Anderson said after the doubles title. "It's been a long time for me to win. My win is coming back home in Detroit. I couldn't have dreamed of a better scenario."

His dominance in the PBA Elite League Playoffs later that year — an vengeance-fueled MVP effort highlighted by a game-winning 10th frame in Portland's home house — marked another step in the direction toward stardom.

The kid from Holly who always believed he was the best player in the building was starting to believe he could be the best player in the world. But Anderson still needed to prove that he could win on his own again.

Anderson came into the 2025 season with an emphasis on process over results, a cliché that is repeated by athletes ad nauseam because it works. The attitude adjustment paid immediate dividends as Anderson led February's U.S. Open, the second event of the season.

Despite leading the tour's most challenging tournament nearly wire-to-wire, chatter from the peanut gallery still crept into his mind. Anderson was the only finalist who had yet to win the U.S. Open. He emphatically dismissed that characterization, citing his USBC Masters major title as evidence of his prowess in major championships.

Nonetheless, the top-seeded Anderson was going to have to face a former U.S. Open champion to win the U.S. Open. His opponent, ultimately, was EJ Tackett.

Tackett finished runner-up to Anderson in the 2018 Player of the Year voting. Those who dismissed Anderson's election often believed Tackett was the rightful winner. That's why Anderson, sometimes consciously and sometimes subconsciously, feels more motivated for each match against Tackett specifically.

"It almost felt like (he felt) he had to validate himself," Gotchall said of Anderson post-2018. "To me, you validated yourself by winning two titles, leading the tour in points and winning Player of the Year. You have nothing left to prove. You are going to get the respect and everything from your peers by letting your bowling ball do the talking."

Before the Michigander threw a practice shot, Indianapolis' Royal Pin Woodland crowd let him know this show wouldn't be like the ones in Detroit. Indiana was Tackett country.

"I've been the best all week," Anderson said moments before the championship match. "I've just got to prove it one more game. The last time I was on TV, I heard 'Portland Lumberjacks' chants as I had to throw strikes to win for Las Vegas. This is no different. I'm just going to do my thing and see what happens."

For four frames he looked like the indomitable dragon-slayer who eviscerated the Lumberjacks on their home turf.

"How 'bout it? C'mon!" belted Anderson, beating his chest, after taking the lead with strikes in the third and fourth frame.

His next shot, in the 5th frame, blew past the head-pin. He missed the spare. He failed to strike on his next four shots, too. Anderson later admitted he bowled like "a scared little kid."

Tackett, conversely, never blinked. He shut out the noise and shut out Anderson with five consecutive strikes. The game, the U.S. Open and the moment belonged to Tackett.

“This is my house, baby! My house!” Tackett declared after his ninth-frame dagger, a reference to capturing his second green jacket title in his home state, but also a message to any player (and perhaps specifically Anderson) threatening his throne:

Later that month, Tackett led Anderson by 68 pins entering the final qualifying round of PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic. Jesper Svensson and Jason Belmonte also lingered within 100 pins of the lead, but they were irrelevant. Like crunch time of an NBA playoff game, this was a one-on-one affair.

In the first game, Anderson shot 300 while Tackett mustered 161. Two games later, Anderson fired 289 to Tackett’s 204. Anderson ultimately secured the top seed for the stepladder finals by 97 pins.

“Beating EJ is hard, but if you want to be one of the best in the world, you’ve got to be able to beat the best in the world on a normal basis,” Anderson said. “I think people tend to forget what I'm capable of when I'm healthy, in the right state of mind and bowling well. I've led tournaments before, led majors before. It's no surprise to me. It just kind of feels like a surprise to everybody else. I'm trying to send a reminder that I'm capable of some really cool things.”

Anderson’s tone was assertive and his message was clear; his audience was not. Who was this reminder for: the world or himself?

Two weeks later, Tackett won his semifinal match to meet Anderson in the championship. Not long before their match, Anderson convened with his detractors and Tackett’s supporters in the comment section.

Rather than let the pervasive pessimism he encountered consume him, Anderson let it fuel him. Just like he did in 2018.

“I noticed some nasty (comments) there, and I kind of liked it,” he said. “Keep being a non-believer — I believe in myself. That's what matters. I think that the biggest change in my life over the last couple years is that I'm starting to believe in myself again.”

Anderson won the rematch in dominant fashion, marking his first singles title in 2,478 days.

“It really took shape in the U.S. Open, the fact that he was able to lead the event and lead a major,” Gotchall said. “Ultimately, he lost to the best player in the world in the final, but I think that moment was the big step to eventually winning later in the season. This was the time where he learned from the loss, rather than let it beat him down. He came back hungrier.

"When they bowled each other for the title in Reno, Andrew wasn’t going to lose.”

Since the PBA Tour Finals began in 2017, Tackett leads all players with 22 titles, followed by Belmonte (20), Simonsen (14) and Troup (11).

Those four players, the defining players of the last decade of professional bowling, fittingly each won the event twice in its first eight iterations.

So if a fifth were to join their club in 2025, the last year of the event utilizing the two-year-rolling-points qualifying format, who would be worthy? If you were to chronicle the last nine years of professional bowling, who is the fifth name you would bring up?

How about the only Player of the Year of the Tour Finals-era not to have won the Tour Finals?

Anderson qualified sixth for the 2025 Tour Finals. After leading his group's positioning round, Anderson only needed to win two matches to claim the title. His opponents would be the same titans who had tormented his mind for the past seven years: Jason Belmonte and EJ Tackett.

Despite fighting the demons inside his head as much as his opponents on the lanes, Anderson prevailed. He fired three strikes in a row to defeat Belmonte in a roll-off, then swept Tackett in the championship.

"YES! Who thought I was done?!" Anderson yelled after clinching his second win of the season over Tackett.

His first words after his greatest triumph in seven years, the defining moment of a career resurgence, were directed at internet trolls and the little voice whispering in his head for the past seven years.

In 2025, Anderson finished second on tour in points and ranked third in average following the Tour Finals. Anderson would be in prime position for a second career POY award if it weren't for Tackett's historic campaign.

"To take down Jason Belmonte and EJ Tackett for a title, the little kid in me just accomplished a dream," Anderson said on the broadcast. "Two of the best in the world, I had to go through 'em both. I'm proud of myself.

"It's a comeback season, and hopefully we stay here this time."

Anderson said there's a process, a cycle of expectations and goals, that most bowlers go through when they start bowling tournaments:

1. I just want to bowl
2. I want to make the cut
3. I want to give myself a chance to win
4. I want to win the tournament
5. I want to be the best bowler for an extended period of time

"When Belmo, EJ, Simo and that class of bowler got over the last step on the PBA Tour, they never really regressed," Anderson said. "For me, I've now gone through those steps five or six times. I've had enough time to get over the hump and get back to what I call the pinnacle of bowling. Now, the goal is to work hard enough to stay here."

Anderson doesn't have any otherworldly physical traits; his success is reliant on consistent shot-making and a conviction that borders on a healthy arrogance when his mind is right.

"What really makes him tick is his self-confidence," Gotchall said.

Riding the emotional waves as Anderson does makes his standing in the elite tier all the more precarious. During his singles-title drought, he learned to accept that his greatest strength is also his greatest weakness.

"I really do wear my heart on my sleeve, which is sometimes good, sometimes bad," he said. "I think that I'm more susceptible to doubt. If I have a few bad months of bowling, I think that it takes me a little

longer to get out of it because I care what others think, I care what my family thinks of me, and I want to do good for not just myself."

Anderson, for better or worse, is going to embrace the emotional roller coaster. He accepts the highs and lows that come with the ride because it wouldn't be truly his without them.

Along the way, he wants to celebrate his successes more. He said he envies the unbridled joy expressed by Tackett after wins. He wants to give less credence to the opinions of strangers. He's still going to read their comments, of course, but he will let the negativity fuel him instead of consume him.

"Ten to 15 years from now, those people's comments won't be on that trophy," he said. "It'll be my name."

This is all easy for Anderson to say at this moment because there are no legitimate doubters. What he achieved in 2025 is undeniable.

The difference between Anderson in 2019 and today is that he knows where he wants to go and he knows what he needs to do to get there. His journey back to stardom has prepared him for the next journey, one he hopes ultimately ends in immortality.

"When you look at somebody's career, there are three things people talk about the most," Anderson said. "Major titles, Player of the Year awards, and Hall of Fame. Thankfully, I have two of the three so far."

Now 30 years old with six titles, one major and a POY under his belt, Anderson has nothing left to prove — not to himself, nor anyone else.

Well, at least until the next tournament.

Troy Lint's Comeback

July 9, 2025 Jill Winters

The 2023 PBA50 Tour season was one Troy Lint will always remember. He won the Senior U.S. Open and the Morgantown Classic on his way to being named the PBA50 Player of the Year. It was an honor he never dreamed he would receive. The powerful lefty made six top-five finishes and was a regular threat at every tournament despite battling a painful right knee.

Lint tried everything to avoid surgery but eventually agreed because he wanted to get back to doing what he loves – competing and bowling with his buddies. During the fifth tournament on the 2024 PBA50 Tour schedule, Lint defeated Tom Hess in the opening match of the Johnny Petraglia BVL Open in Clearwater, Fla. before losing in the next match to John Janawicz, who went on to win that event and Player of the Year. That event was May 22, 2024, and then Lint basically disappeared from the tour.

He endured a few more surgeries, setbacks and moments of defeat. In January of this year, he started telling friends like Chris Barnes, Andy Neuer, Ryan Shafer and others he feared his bowling career was over. He could barely walk, and he vividly remembers a conversation with his doctor.

“I was sitting in the chair, and he was standing there talking. I had my head down looking at the floor and I looked up at him and said, ‘Do you know how hard it is to contain myself right now from just flipping out?’ He got nervous and said, ‘There is nothing wrong with your leg.’ I said, ‘Well, I can’t bowl, and I could bowl before I walked in here seven months ago,’” Lint recalled. “He goes, ‘It’s just going to take time’ and I was like, ‘I don’t have time. I’ve given you seven months, and I am not even close.’”

That happened on a Wednesday. At 8:30 p.m. that Sunday, Lint’s doctor suggested he go to his physical therapist and Lint met him at 8 a.m. the next day.

“I had no hope and no belief that he could fix me. I was a wreck. I said, ‘Can I tell you what I can do and can’t do?' He said that would be great. He wasn’t expecting what I told him. He looks at me and said, ‘I think I can fix you,’” Lint said. “I was like what? I asked if he could get me fixed by May. He looked up and said, ‘Let’s get to work.’ I went, ‘You’ve got it.’”

Since Dec. 17, 2024, the 57-year-old was in the gym six days a week, only taking Sundays off. He was rehabbing three times a week up until about May. He lost 50 pounds and put on 30 pounds of muscle. He knows the amount of work that he has put in to get back on the lanes is off the charts.

“Oh, it has been trying, very trying. I have other stuff going on, too. My mother passed away in February,” he said.

Even though there were times he felt like he was “on the verge of collapsing,” he never gave up. It’s not in his nature. To help him through this challenging time have been a lot of local Pennsylvania friends, along with his PBA50 family. So many of them have reached out via text and constant phone calls. That includes tour roommate Ryan Shafer, fellow lefty Jason Couch who has endured his own knee surgery recoveries, along with Parker Bohn III, Dan Knowlton, Michael Haggitt and Chris Barnes.

“It’s a lot of support and a lot of great people. I love the bowling community. It is like total acceptance. For guys of Hall of Fame stature to do that just means the world to me,” he said. “My career path took me in a different direction. I am a latecomer to this. I think they see I just want to be one of them. I want to be out here week-in and week-out bowling with them and being around them.”

Lint got his chance again when he appeared at his first PBA50 tournament in nearly 14 months. He finished 13th in the South Shore Classic on June 26. He averaged 219 for 24 games. During qualifying, he never bowled under 200, shooting back-to-back seven-game qualifying blocks of 1,591. He made it through four games in advancers round and two match play rounds. You couldn’t take the smile off his face.

“It is a phenomenal feeling. Pretty good two days,” he said after his two qualifying rounds. “Right now, I feel like I am using too much energy. I am amped up, but I will settle down here soon. I’m on cloud nine.”

Lint and his high backswing are back and his infectious joy for the game is higher than ever. He is ready to compete in the PBA50 World Series of Bowling III, once again being held at JAX 60 in Jackson, Mich. In the inaugural PBA50 WSOB in 2023, Lint managed to finish second to Dan Knowlton in the Ballard Championship and second in the World Championship to Chris Barnes, while fighting through his knee pain.

This year’s event will include the Ballard, Monacelli, Petraglia and Holman Championships, all leading up to the World Championship. For each individual championship, beginning on Thurs., Jul 10 with the

Ballard Championship, players will bowl eight games of qualifying to make it to the top 16 for best-of-five-games match play. Those matches will take place the day after qualifying with the Round of 16 at 10 a.m. Eastern and the Round of 8 at 2 p.m. ET. The four undefeated players and the highest seeded losing bowler in the Round of 8 will be in the stepladder finals, each scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. ET.

After 32 overall games of qualifying across the four championships, those pins will carry over to determine the 18 bowlers who will compete in the PBA50 World Championship, set to begin on Fri., July 18. There will be three rounds of round-robin match play totalling 18 games — with 30 bonus pins per game for match winners — until the top five overall players advance to the stepladder finals at 3 p.m. on Sat., July 19.

Last year's winners at the WSOB II included Chris Barnes winning the Ballard Championship, Tom Hess winning the Monacelli Championship, John Janawicz taking home the title in the Petraglia Championship and Mario Quintero winning his first title in the World Championship. The Holman Championship is a new addition this season.

With five titles up for grabs, it's going to be an entertaining World Series of Bowling. Watch every minute of the action on BowlTV. You can also follow the scores and get more information here.

Chris Barnes Leads PBA50 Ballard Championship

July 10, 2025 Jill Winters

Jackson, Michigan – The first tournament at the 2025 PBA50 World Series of Bowling III features Chris Barnes in the lead. He is the defending champion in the PBA50 Ballard Championship, and he is coming off a win at the previous PBA50 Tour stop in the South Shore Classic.

Barnes rolled games of 221, 187, 254, 264, 238, 266, 268 and 226 for 1,924. He has already won three times at JAX 60, so clearly this is a center he loves to bowl in. He hopes to carry his positive momentum forward and feels like he is headed in the right direction.

"Feeling better than I was a month ago that is for sure. For whatever reason, my ball reads this place pretty good," Barnes said.

Barnes keeps detailed notes on his phone about each center he bowls in. This includes what year it was, the oil pattern, lane characteristics, and what equipment worked and didn't work. Those valuable notes have helped him repeat some winning history. As soon as he finished his block, he was already thinking about a new gameplan heading into bracket match play on Friday. As the No. 1 seed he will face left-hander and No. 16 Michael Hartter.

"I ended up getting a lot of score, but I didn't get any of it the first two games, which is going to be super important in those matches. I need a different strategy for the fresh," he said. "Once I got enough carry down with urethane my ball reaction got better. I will have to create some of that myself."

Behind Barnes in second is lefty Jason Couch, who finished in fourth place in last year's Ballard Championship. He is at +282. Brian LeClair is continuing his great bowling. After finishing second in Wayne Webb's PBA60 World Championship just a few days ago, LeClair is in third place at +279.

Local bowler Larry Verble led A-squad. He is enjoying the comforts of being able to sleep in his own bed and compete in his home bowling center at JAX 60. He shot 245, 206, 233, 223, 289, 259, 227 and 186 for 1,868. He is in fourth place at +268. Just three pins behind him is Todd Kjell in fifth place.

“It feels fantastic. We were able to practice on all of the patterns here with the staff helping me out. Having a little bit of hometown knowledge really helped me out going across the house,” Verble said. “I love this format. It is tough on the guys from out of town but for myself, it makes life so much easier being able to bowl five tournaments, possibly, within driving distance of my house within 10 days.”

He lives just 25 minutes away. He was able to use just one ball on Thursday and only had to move about 10 boards while going from one end of the center to the other on the 36-foot Ballard oil pattern. Verble is coming off a successful PBA60 World Series of Bowling, where he finished 10th in the first-ever World Championship. That was his first tour event of the season as he still works full-time. He also finished second in last year’s Monacelli Championship.

“Being in tournament mode and ready helps out tremendously on repeating shots and making the right decisions with bowling balls,” he said. “I enjoy all of the patterns. I like the constant competition and trying to qualify for the World Championship. The other tournaments are important, but we are all vying for the World Championship.”

The final player to make the cut was Michael Hartter at +190. Tom Adcock shot the only 300 game of the day in Game 7 on B-squad.

The top 16 players will advance to bracket match play with best-of-five matches in the Round of 16 scheduled to start at 10 a.m. Eastern on Friday, then the Round of 8 will start at 2 p.m. ET. The four undefeated winners and the highest-seeded losing bowler in the Round of 8 will be in the stepladder finals set to begin at 6 p.m.

Looking ahead, qualifying for the PBA50 Monacelli Championship will begin with B-squad then A-squad on Saturday. Bracket match play and the finals will all be on Sunday.

Qualifying pins from the Ballard, Monacelli, Petraglia and Holman Championships will carry over to determine which bowlers will compete in the PBA50 World Championship match play, scheduled to begin next Fri., July 18.

Overall, five PBA50 titles are available. You can watch the entire PBA50 WSOB III only on BowlTV.

PBA50 Ballard Championship Match Play Advancers:

1. Chris Barnes, 1,924 (+324)
2. Jason Couch, 1,882 (+282)
3. Brian LeClair, 1,879 (+279)
4. Larry Verble, 1,868 (+268)
5. Todd Kjell, 1,865 (+265)
6. Anthony Crews, 1,862 (+262)

7. Tom Adcock, 1,853 (+262)
8. Tom Daugherty, 1,853 (+253)
9. Parker Bohn III, 1,846 (+246)
10. John Verbich, 1,844 (+244)
11. Randy Weiss, 1,829 (+229)
12. Troy Lint, 1,823 (+223)
13. Mario Quintero, 1,814 (+214)
14. Brian Hoffman, 1,810 (+210)
15. Daniel Long, 1,791 (+191)
16. Michael Hartter, 1,790 (+190)

First PBA Jr. Strikeforce All-Star Team Announced

July 11, 2025 Nolan Hughes

In partnership with KR Strikeforce, the PBA Jr. program has announced the first editions of the PBA Jr. Strikeforce All-Star Teams.

Five boys and five girls were selected based on bowling achievements and academic merit.

Each will receive $1,000 in SMART scholarship funds and merchandise from KR Strikeforce, including one pair of bowling shoes from The Perfection Collection.

Congratulations to each of the recipients!

Boys Team

1. Ridgely Potter, Jr. • Clearwater, FL
2. Mac Reese • Spokane, WA
3. Spiros Schenk • Newnan, GA
4. Luke Switalski • Oak Forest, IL
5. Quinn Tillman • Clermont, FL

Girls Team

1. Caylin Campbell • Savannah, GA
2. Sarah Doughty • Sterling, IL
3. Lindsay Greim • San Diego, CA
4. Arden Han-Wei • Sacramento, CA

5. Holly Orgeman • Birnamwood, WI

Jason Couch Wins 2025 PBA50 Ballard Championship

July 11, 2025 Jill Winters

Jackson, Michigan – Jason Couch looks like a man on a mission. After three top 10 finishes at last year's PBA50 World Series of Bowling II, the left-hander came into this year's tournament determined and focused. He is off to a strong start winning the PBA50 Ballard Championship on Friday. Yet, he almost had to withdraw before qualifying ever began.

After arriving in Michigan, he could barely walk. He woke up on Wednesday's practice day struggling to move. He has battled through numerous knee injuries and surgeries for years. He purchased a knee brace and put one on again for the first time in five years.

"I called Tony Lanning, the tournament director, and said I was going to try practicing but if it is a no-go, you can pull me right out," Couch said. "I practiced for maybe 45 minutes, and it felt OK. Still a little pain but icing it and alternating pain medication has really helped."

What also helped was sweeping his two matches earlier in the day to earn the No. 1 seed. In the championship match, the Florida native chose to start on the left lane and finish on the right lane. Throughout the tournament, he had the right lanes inside JAX 60 playing tighter than the left lanes yet on the TV pair, which had not been bowled on, he quickly noticed they played the exact opposite.

"The left lane was tighter but had an early hook spot. And there was a ton of traffic on my side with four left handers before me," Couch said. "I decided while talking to my ball rep Jeff Johnson, that I was going to play farther left than the other left handers. I stayed out of their traffic and farther outside."

With his decision, that meant Quintero would have to finish on the left lane, where he only struck three times in the previous match compared to seven strikes on the right lane.

Couch started the match by picking up the 2-7 split followed by three straight strikes. Through the first six frames, Quintero had four single-pin spares, and two strikes tossed in. After a re-rack on the left lane in the fifth, Couch left the 4-7-10 split for an open frame. He bounced back, crushing the pocket in the sixth and eighth on the right lane with a mixer in between on the left lane in the seventh.

Quintero struck just three times on the left lane and never struck on the right ending up with 184. Couch picked up the 2-4-7 on the left lane in the ninth frame and walked back with a sigh of relief. He stepped up and delivered three perfect strikes in the tenth frame, clenching both fists in the air and smiled after shooting 232. This was his third PBA50 Tour title, and first since last year.

"Qualifying second on Ballard was a great start to the World Series of Bowling for the World Championship. Come in tomorrow, try to refocus and start at zero again," Couch said. "That is a tough battle when you are out here. Being on top of the mountain for less than a day, then you start back at zero again. But that is part of the job."

The opening match featured two left-handers. In Anthony Crews's first PBA50 Tour stepladder finals appearance, he started with a double before missing a 6-pin and failing to convert the 3-5-6-9. Hartter,

who qualified as the No. 16 seed, began with a spare followed by a double along with another spare to take the lead. Starting in the fifth frame, Crews rolled five straight strikes to set up his tenth frame. Hartter responded with three straight strikes followed by back-to-back single-pin spares in the eighth and ninth frames. Hartter ended the match with 225, while Crews rolled his sixth straight strike and a spare for 235.

In came another left-hander, Brian Hoffman, rolling urethane in the second match. Crews started double, spare then a strike. Hoffman, the No. 15 qualifier, was also making his first PBA50 Tour stepladder appearance. He opened up with two spares and a strike before back-to-back open frames. After three straight spares, Crews opened in the eighth frame for 152. Hoffman slowed himself down resulting in three straight strikes then a spare. Finishing the match first, Crews got two spares before a ball change, and a strike for 190. Hoffman took a rerack. He then flushed a strike and got nine to finish with 194.

The semifinal match featured the only right-hander in the show, Quintero, who won the 2024 PBA50 World Championship. The Mexico native, who was the No. 13 qualifier, had a fresh look in front of him. That quickly resulted in six straight strikes using urethane. Hoffman battled transition throwing just five strikes in the match for 192. Quintero's streak ended in the seventh frame leaving a 2-4-5, which he picked up. He then struck four more times for 257.

Next, bowlers will compete in Monacelli Championship qualifying. B-squad will begin at 9 a.m. Eastern followed by A-squad at 4 p.m. The top 16 will advance to bracket match play on Sunday.

Qualifying pins from the Ballard, Monacelli, Petraglia and Holman Championship will carry over to determine the top bowlers set to compete in the PBA50 World Championship. Couch has earned the first title at the WSOB III, and he is looking to play add-on.

"I am trying to take it as one tournament at a time. Try to put this one behind me tonight, celebrate it a little but get back at it tomorrow," he said. "Come in like it is a brand-new tournament and day. Try to get refocused and try to get as much score as you can every day."

PBA50 Ballard Championship Final Standings:

1. Jason Couch $5,000
2. Mario Quintero $2,500
3. Brian Hoffman $2,000
4. Anthony Crews $1,750
5. Michael Hartter $1,500

MATCH SCORES:

Match 1: Crews def. Hartter 235-225
Match 2: Hoffman def. Crews 194-190
Match 3: Quintero def. Hoffman 257-192
Championship match: Couch def. Quintero 232-184

John Janawicz Leads PBA50 Monacelli Championship, and World Championship

July 12, 2025 Jill Winters

Jackson, Michigan – John Janawicz fired his way to the top of the standings at the 2025 PBA50 Monacelli Championship. During qualifying on Saturday, the reigning PBA50 Player of the Year rolled games of 254, 171, 246, 300, 289, 278, 216 and 202 for 1,956. He ended his block with 60 clean frames to reach +356.

"I was lined up the first game. The second game, I had a no-strike game for 171. I am still upset about that because I chopped the 3-6-10 (in the 10th), otherwise it would have been a clean 180 game," Janawicz said. "After that, I realized I was not deep enough. I made a ball change and moved then I started to get lined up. I kept chasing it left from there the next three games."

During Wednesday's Monacelli practice time, he didn't feel like he had a great look. This has not been one of his favorite patterns over the past couple of years. He finished 22nd at last year's tournament. He continues to collect more information and find better ways to attack the 40-foot Monacelli oil pattern.

"I always feel like I am stuck in the middle because it is a little too tight down lane to throw urethane balls yet to throw bigger stuff, it forced my angles to be too open at least for my A-game," he said. "I got stuck in game two, in that dead zone and it was just operator error. Once I got far enough left, the picture became very clear."

After his block, Janawicz moved into the lead for the World Championship, as well, at the 2025 PBA50 World Series of Bowling III. The top five after 16 games of qualifying are Janawicz, Chris Barnes, Brian LeClair, Mark Clark and Tom Daugherty.

"When you have the opportunity like today to get a bunch of pins you have to do it. Barnes got a lot of pins yesterday, so it was kind of my turn today," he said. "You try to hit it as hard as you can when those windows are open because you are going to need those pins. There are a lot of games left. I'd love to make David's Smalls 100th show."

The Monacelli Championship is the 100th professional tournament hosted by JAX 60 proprietor and WSOB III tournament host David Small. Janawicz said this is his favorite event because of the multiple patterns, but also because Small's "does a great job hosting us."

Mark Clark is bowling with a heavy heart while competing for more than just himself at the WSOB III. He, and the rest of the close-knit PBA50 bowling family and many others, are still thinking about the loss of one of their own. Brian Dennis, who finished second at the 2025 PBA Senior U.S. Open on June 16, unexpectedly died on July 7, at the age of 52.

Clark and Dennis were great friends and tour roommates. Prior to the start of practice for the WSOB III on Wednesday, Clark was asked to throw the ceremonial first shot in honor of Dennis. The moment was not captured on BowlTV, instead, it was respected as a private tribute and opportunity for everyone on tour to take a moment to remember their friend and fellow competitor.

"I tried to do it in Brian Dennis fashion with some small steps and some twinkle toes to try and honor him. I threw the Black Hammer Urethane because he wanted to drill a Black Hammer," Clark said. "I got so many hugs and had great, meaningful conversations. It has shaped the way I have been thinking about things. It has helped immensely."

Clark debated on whether to withdraw from this event, but those close to him talked him out of it. That included his wife, Kristie, Dennis's wife, Reneé, and several close friends.

"I know in my heart Brian would want me here. The whole reason we were doing what we were doing was because that was our dream. Our dream was to win some titles, have a good year and just see what it was all about," he said. "I am doing it for Curt Guinn, his wife, Peggy, and Brian's wife, Reneé. I am doing it for the few people that I know who are really hurting."

While on the B-squad Saturday, Clark shot 237, 258, 222, 201, 258, 257, 204 and 268 for 1,905. He had only two opens – a split and a washout – and finished with 42 clean frames, along with nine straight strikes. He is in second behind Janawicz and will bowl against Chris Barnes in his first match.

"Nice bowling is all he (Dennis) would have said but the job is not done. It would be great to be able to cap it off, but I have to come in tomorrow and take care of business," Clark said. "Bowling has helped heal and take my mind off of it for a few hours. Knowing I am doing something he would want me to do. Also, knowing I have everyone in the bowling center pulling for me; every day gets a little bit better."

Behind Clark in third is Rolando Sebelen at +238, Dino Castillo at +216 and Steve Gagnon is fifth at +201. The final player to make the cut was Stephen Krywy at +150. He will face Janawicz.

The top 16 players will advance to bracket match play best-of-five matches in the Round of 16 scheduled to start at 10 a.m. Eastern on Sunday then the Round of 8 will start at 2 p.m. ET. The four undefeated winners and the highest seeded losing bowler in the Round of 8 will be in the stepladder finals set to begin at 6 p.m.

Looking ahead, qualifying for the PBA50 Petraglia Championship will begin with the B-squad then the A-squad on Monday. Bracket match play and the finals will all be on Tuesday. Qualifying pins from the Ballard, Monacelli, Petraglia and Holman Championships carry over to determine the top 18 bowlers who will compete in the PBA50 World Championship match play, scheduled to begin next Fri., July 18.

There are four PBA50 titles still available in the WSOB III. You can continue to watch the action only on BowlTV.

PBA50 Monacelli Championship Match Play Advancers:

1. John Janawicz, 1,956 (+356)
2. Mark Clark, 1,905 (+305)
3. Rolando Sebelen, 1,838 (+238)
4. Dino Castillo, 1,816 (+216)
5. Steve Gagnon, 1,801 (+201)
6. Ron Hurt, 1,800 (+200)
7. Pete Weber, 1,797 (+197)
8. Brian LeClair, 1,794 (+194)
9. Mika Koivuniemi, 1,774 (+174)

10. Paul Fleming, 1,770 (+170)
11. Tom Hess, 1,761 (+161)
12. Tom Daugherty, 1,761 (+161)
13. Carleton Chambers, 1,759 (+159)
14. Tony Oliva, 1,757 (+157)
15. Chris Barnes, 1,752 (+152)
16. Stephen Krywy, 1,750 (+150)

John Janawicz Wins PBA50 Monacelli Championship

July 13, 2025 Jill Winters

Jackson, Michigan – There is never anything easy about winning a professional title in sports. John Janawicz just proved that as he battled his way to his eighth title on the PBA50 Tour.

Last year, Janawicz won five titles, which included two majors. The 2025 PBA50 Monacelli Championship on Sunday was his fifth stepladder finals appearance of the season.

“It is hard to win out here. What happened with me and Tom Hess last year, both winning five titles, is kind of an anomaly. This just shows the competition is really good out here,” Janawicz said. “If you make enough stepladders, you are not always going to continue to win, and you are not always going to continue to lose. The key is continuing to get there and putting yourself in that position to succeed. Learn from those mistakes and don’t let the past poison your future.”

While competing on a 40-foot oil pattern that has not been his favorite, Janawicz trusted what he was seeing with his ball reaction, which led to multiple ball changes in the title match against Rolando Sebelén, who was seeking his first PBA50 title.

Janawicz failed to pick up the 3-10 split in the first frame and came back with two spares. Sebelén, who was the 2018 PBA50 Rookie of the Year, began with a strike then four straight spares. Janawicz struck in the fourth followed by three spares in a row. Sebelén struck in the fifth frame and remained clean, even converting the 4-9 split in the eighth frame.

Janawicz stepped up on the right lane in the eighth delivering a strike before picking up another spare in the ninth frame. Sebelén finished the match first with two spares and a six count on his final shot for 186. Ending on the lane he wanted, Janawicz needed a double and six for the win. He was clutch with back-to-back strikes then chose to throw his final shot straight at the head-pin getting a strike and winning with 191.

“That was a mentally exhausting match more than anything. I did what I could and fortunately it was enough. Rolando bowled great,” Janawicz said. “You are going to get blown out sometimes and other times you blow the other guy out. And then you are going to get some that are just like this. They are all

difficult, so you have to make your 10 best shots and whatever decisions you make you have to commit to them."

The opening match featured good friends Dino Castillo and Tom Daugherty. Castillo started with two spares followed by a double. Daugherty, who had defeated Castillo in match play, began with six straight spares before throwing a double. After a split in the fifth frame, Castillo got a spare and four straight strikes going on to win 219-195.

Castillo began the next match with five consecutive strikes against No. 3 seed Pete Weber. Weber, who was making his fifth stepladder finals appearance of the season, went strike, spare then three straight strikes. Castillo left the 4-7-10 split in the sixth and Weber did the same thing on the right lane in the seventh frame. Castillo rebounded with a double in the eighth and ninth frames, ending up with the 231-205 win.

In the semifinal match, Castillo faced No. 2 seed Sebelén of the Dominican Republic. After two opening single-pin spares, Sebelén threw four straight strikes. Castillo left the dreaded 2-8-10 in his first frame for an open followed by a double and a spare. Castillo failed to convert the 3-6 in the fifth frame and ended up with 159 to Sebelén's 225.

Prior to the stepladder finals, PBA and PBA50 Tour tournament director Tony Lanning acknowledged JAX 60 proprietor David Small for hosting his 100th PBA tournament.

Next up is qualifying for the PBA50 Petraglia Championship, in which Janawicz is the defending champion. B-squad will start at 9 a.m. Eastern on Monday followed by A-squad at 4 p.m. The top 16 players will then advance to bracket match play best-of-five matches and another stepladder finals all on Tuesday.

"I expect pretty high scores. The mindset is you are going to have to strike a fair amount," Janawicz said. "With the longer patterns most of them tend to be on the higher scoring side out here. I will see if what I learned in practice will confirm or deny the strategy that I have or not."

All qualifying pins from the Ballard, Monacelli, Petraglia and Holman Championships carry over to determine the top 18 bowlers who will compete in the PBA50 World Championship match play, scheduled to begin on Friday. The top five through the Monacelli Championship are John Janawicz, Chris Barnes, Brian LeClair, Mark Clark and Tom Daugherty.

There are three more PBA50 titles still available at the WSOB III. You can continue to watch the action only on BowlTV.

PBA50 Monacelli Final Standings:

1. John Janawicz, $5,000
2. Rolando Sebelén, $2,500
3. Dino Castillo, $2,000
4. Pete Weber, $1,750
5. Tom Daugherty, $1,500

MATCH SCORES:

Match 1: Castillo def. Daugherty 219-195
Match 2: Castillo def. Weber 231-205
Match 3: Sebelén def. Castillo 225-159
Championship match: Janawicz def. Sebelén 191-186

Liz Johnson Leads PBA50 Petraglia Championship

July 14, 2025 Jill Winters

Jackson, Michigan – Qualifying at the 2025 PBA50 Petraglia Championship on Monday provided a needed confidence boost for Liz Johnson. The newly minted PWBA Hall of Famer is the tournament leader.

“For my confidence, having a block like today really helped me. Hopefully it gave me a little boost as far as the World Championship standings go,” she said. “It helped all around.”

She relied on just one ball to record games of 217, 236, 215, 215, 254, 184, 299 and 237 to get to +257.

“I told myself to keep making good shots and hopefully the lane will come to me. I grinded out the first five games, stayed with it and kept consistent,” she said. “I was so proud of the 299 game. Up until that game, my high was 254, which I had two games prior. I was really happy to be able to do that.”

This is Johnson’s first appearance in the PBA50 World Series of Bowling. She admits her 87th place finish in the Ballard Championship felt like the longest eight-game block ever for her. Her mindset was to keep improving from there, which led to a 49th place finish in the Monacelli Championship, and now leading the 46-foot Petraglia oil pattern.

“In the past, I have had a little more success on the longer patterns. Maybe because it gives me a little bit more hold and I used that to my advantage,” she said. “I was very consistent in how I threw the ball and the moves I had to make. I kept it in a little tunnel, and I played a little farther inside then what the other patterns played.”

Behind Johnson by just two pins is Brad Angelo at +255. Bo Goergen is third at +251 followed by Randy Weiss at +250 and Clint Dacy at +245. The final player to make the cut was Jeffrey Ripic at +185. He will face No. 1 seed Liz Johnson. If Johnson wins the match, she is guaranteed to make her second career PBA50 Tour stepladder finals appearance.

The top 16 players now advance to bracket match play best-of-five matches in the Round of 16 scheduled to start at 10 a.m. Eastern on Tuesday then the Round of 8 will start at 2 p.m. ET. The four undefeated winners and the highest-seeded losing bowler in the Round of 8 will be in the stepladder finals set to begin at 6 p.m.

“From qualifying to match play, no matter the format, you have to expect the unexpected. I have to be on my toes as far as making moves,” Johnson said. “I have to make sure I am quicker at making decisions. Hopefully I can throw the ball tomorrow like I did today.”

Qualifying pins from the Ballard, Monacelli, Petraglia and Holman Championships carry over to determine the top 18 bowlers who will compete in the PBA50 World Championship match play, scheduled to begin on Friday. The top five through Petraglia Championship qualifying are John Janawicz, Mark Clark, Brian LeClair, Tom Daugherty and Chris Barnes.

There are three PBA50 titles still available in the WSOB III. You can continue to watch the action only on **BowlTV.**

PBA50 Petraglia Championship Match Play Advancers:

1. Liz Johnson, 1,857 (+257)
2. Brad Angelo, 1,855 (+255)
3. Bo Goergen, 1,851 (+251)
4. Randy Weiss, 1,850 (+250)
5. Clint Dacy, 1,845 (+245)
6. Larry Verble, 1,843 (+243)
7. Mika Koivuniemi, 1,841 (+241)
8. Ron Hurt, 1,836 (+236)
9. Tom Daugherty, 1,830 (+230)
10. John Dillard, 1,818 (+218)
11. Mark Clark, 1,809 (+209)
12. Donald Hogue, 1,794 (+194)
13. Brian LeClair, 1,793 (+193)
14. Rolando Sebelén, 1,788 (+188)
15. James Krafft, 1,787 (+187)
16. Jeffrey Ripic, 1,785 (+185)

Full standings - PBA50 Petraglia Championship

PBA50 World Championship standings (through 24 games of qualifying):

1. John Janawicz, 5,513 (+713)
2. Mark Clark, 5,480 (+680)
3. Brian LeClair, 5,466 (+666)
4. Tom Daugherty, 5,444 (+644)
5. Chris Barnes, 5,414 (+614)

6. Larry Verble, 5,387 (+587)
7. Ron Hurt, 5,386 (+586)
8. Clint Dacy, 5,319 (+519)
9. Tom Adcock, 5,311 (+511)
10. Rolando Sebelén, 5,300 (+500)
11. Frank Guccione, 5,258 (+458)
12. Randy Weiss, 5,253 (+453)
13. Dino Castillo, 5,253 (+453)
14. Brad Angelo, 5,246 (+446)
15. James Krafft, 5,241 (+441)
16. Tony Oliva, 5,235 (+435)
17. Mario Quintero, 5,224 (+424)
18. Pete Weber, 5,207 (+407)

Former PBA Executive Steve Miller Dies at 81

July 15, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Steve Miller, who served as President and CEO of the PBA from 2000-2005, died this past Father's Day at the age of 81.

"Steve Miller was a force of nature," PBA Commissioner Tom Clark said. "His energy and expertise reinvigorated the PBA."

Miller's efforts for the PBA were spotlighted in the documentary, *A League of Ordinary Gentlemen*, which highlighted his work to make bowling more relevant and appealing to a broader audience.

Miller played football and track and field at Bradley University in the 1960s. He spent one season with the Detroit Lions before suffering an injury that ended his athletic career.

He transitioned to the coaching world, starting with 10 years at the high school level. He moved on to the collegiate ranks in 1976 at California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly-SLO) where he won five NCAA Division 2 championships.

In 1981, Kansas State hired him as their track and field coach and later elevated him to athletic director in 1988. During his time as the AD, Miller most notably hired Bill Snyder to coach the football team.

After Kansas State, Miller joined Nike and spent nine years in various executive roles. His responsibilities included managing high-profile athlete endorsements, brand campaigns and sponsorships. He managed Nike's $100 million investment in the 2000 Olympic Games as well.

Miller left Nike in 2000 and became president of the PBA, a role he held for five years.

Miller spent his final years as CEO of Agassi Graf Holdings, the financial portfolios of tennis legend Andre Agassi. Miller spearheaded the financial portfolios of three for-profit entities and as well as the Andre Agassi Foundation for Education, a non-profit foundation.

Mika Koivuniemi Wins PBA50 Petraglia Championship

July 15, 2025 Jill Winters

Jackson, Michigan – Mika Koivuniemi came into the 2025 PBA50 Tour season determined to win. After finishing last season with eight consecutive stepladder finals appearances, each ending without a win, the legend from Finland was wondering what he needed to do to come out on top.

Koivuniemi has put in countless hours of extra time on the lanes working on his game. On Tuesday, he was able to deliver winning his first title since 2018 in the 2025 PBA50 Petraglia Championship.

"It has been too long. It finally happened. I made it happen," Koivuniemi said. "It was relief for sure. You always want to put the match away when it is your turn. It makes it feel even better. It was my day for sure."

In the championship match, Koivuniemi faced No. 1 seed Bo Goergen. As the higher seed, Goergen chose to make his opponent finish on the tougher left lane, where he had only struck twice in his semifinal match.

Goergen got the match started by picking up a 10-pin as Koivuniemi began with a strike and a single-pin spare. Goergen responded with a strike and spare before he rolled a double. Koivuniemi again went strike then spare before putting together a string of four strikes in a row through the eighth frame. Goergen picked up a 7-pin in the sixth followed by three straight strikes.

Koivuniemi added his fifth straight strike in the ninth followed by a sixth strike and sealed the deal with his seventh straight strike. He walked out the shot and delivered a loud 'yes' with a fist pump in the air. He got eight on his last shot for 258. Goergen ended his game with 224 as the players shared a hug.

"Bo is a really good bowler. You don't want to give him a chance," Koivuniemi said. "I tried to make the best shots as possible, and I threw two really good ones there. It seems like every show this year that is the lane nobody wants to finish on, and I know why. Bo did what he should do, make me finish on the tougher lane."

He felt like the left lane had earlier hook, yet it was also tighter down lane, which is what made that lane such a challenge to bowl on. Yet, he was able to deliver in the end. Koivuniemi knows with so many great bowlers on this tour, he had to put in the work to fix parts of his physical game he was unhappy with. Nothing is given to you, as you need to earn it. He did just that spending a lot of time at Turbo 2-N-1 Grip's headquarters near his home in Michigan. Founder and longtime sponsor Dave Bernhardt Sr. helped him out with his game.

"Dave gave me the keys for that place 29 years ago, so I could go anytime I wanted to practice. He has watched me bowl for 30 years, so he knows when I throw it good," he said. "He saw things and that helped me for sure. I was hitting up on the ball too much this year and I need to focus on rolling the ball more."

Koivuniemi said it was a great feeling to celebrate with his wife and daughters while talking on the phone after his win.

In the opening match, No. 5 seed Liz Johnson started the match with three straight spares, while No. 4 seed Brian LeClair went double, open and spare. Johnson made a ball change on the right lane and struck then failed to convert the 4-7-10 split. LeClair responded with three strikes, and he picked up the 3-6-10 as Johnson came back with two single-pin spares. LeClair chose to finish the match first. He struck in the ninth then split in the 10th for 199. Johnson rolled the last five strikes for 215 and the win.

The second game was a rematch from the Round of 8 in match play when Tom Daugherty defeated Johnson. Johnson opened up with a solid 9-pin followed by a double. Daugherty, who was making his second straight stepladder finals appearance, began with two spares followed by a double. Johnson responded with spare, strike and another single-pin spare before three straight strikes through the ninth frame. After a spare in the fifth for Daugherty, he had a Greek church on the left lane, which he chose to finish on. He rebounded with a spare, double and then nine spare, along with nine in the final frame for 197. Johnson picked up a 9-pin and got eight on her final shot for 225 to advance.

Johnson then faced Koivuniemi in the semifinal match. They were on the same pair in qualifying on Monday. Both started with a strike and two spares. Johnson left the 4-6-7-10 on the left lane in the fourth frame as Koivuniemi put together three straight strikes holding the lead. Johnson came back with a spare and strike followed by another spare and strike. She finished first with a strike in the ninth and first shot in the 10th followed by a spare for 202. Koivuniemi remained clean with a spare and strike then another spare before striking out in the 10th for 227.

"She is so good at what she can do. She is one of the best shot makers ever and that did pay off," Koivuniemi said of Johnson.

Next up is qualifying for the Holman Championship. A-squad will begin with the final eight games of qualifying at 9 a.m. Eastern on Wednesday followed by B-squad at 4 p.m. The top 16 will then advance to bracket match play best-of-five matches on Thursday.

"I know if I bowl at the level I have been bowling the last four days, I should make both cuts and that is all I can do," said Koivuniemi, who is currently in 19th for the World Championship.

All qualifying pins from the Ballard, Monacelli, Petraglia and Holman Championships carry over to determine the top 18 bowlers who will compete in the PBA50 World Championship match play,

scheduled to begin on Friday. The top five through Petraglia Championship qualifying are John Janawicz, Mark Clark, Brian LeClair, Tom Daugherty and Chris Barnes.

There are two PBA50 titles still available in the WSOB III. You can continue to watch the action only on **BowlTV.**

PBA50 Petraglia Championship Final Standings:

1. Mika Koivuniemi, $5,000
2. Bo Goergen, $2,500
3. Liz Johnson, $2,000
4. Tom Daugherty, $1,750
5. Brian LeClair, $1,500

MATCH SCORES:

Match 1: Johnson def. LeClair 215-199
Match 2: Johnson def. Daugherty 226-197
Match 3: Koivuniemi def. Johnson 227-203
Championship match: Koivuniemi def. Goergen 258-224

Final standings - PBA50 Petraglia Championship

PBA50 World Championship standings (through 24 games of qualifying):

1. John Janawicz, 5,513 (+713)
2. Mark Clark, 5,480 (+680)
3. Brian LeClair, 5,466 (+666)
4. Tom Daugherty, 5,444 (+644)
5. Chris Barnes, 5,414 (+614)
6. Larry Verble, 5,387 (+587)
7. Ron Hurt, 5,386 (+586)
8. Clint Dacy, 5,319 (+519)
9. Tom Adcock, 5,311 (+511)
10. Rolando Sebelén, 5,300 (+500)
11. Frank Guccione, 5,258 (+458)
12. Randy Weiss, 5,253 (+453)
13. Dino Castillo, 5,253 (+453)

14. Brad Angelo, 5,246 (+446)
15. James Krafft, 5,241 (+441)
16. Tony Oliva, 5,235 (+435)
17. Mario Quintero, 5,224 (+424)
18. Pete Weber, 5,207 (+407)

Chris Barnes Leads 2025 PBA50 Holman Championship and World Championship

July 16, 2025 Jill Winters

Jackson, Michigan – Less than a month ago, Chris Barnes enjoyed a victory more than he has in a long time at the 2025 PBA50 South Shore Classic. This week, he has earned three No. 1 seeds in the 2025 PBA50 World Series of Bowling III.

During qualifying on Wednesday in the Holman Championship, Barnes bowled 298, 212, 222, 232, 233, 269, 258 and 231 for +355. With his big block, he was able to pass A-squad leader Bryan Goebel by 91 pins for the top seed. He was also able to climb from fifth place in the World Championship standings to first place. He is ahead of John Janawicz by 12 pins. Barnes' other top seed came in the first event of the WSOB III in the Ballard Championship.

"I didn't think catching J.J. (Janawicz) today was on the agenda but I am happy to be a lot closer. He has bowled fantastic since Day 1," Barnes said. "I watched the morning squad and was going to use a game plan as close to J.J.'s as I could come up with. Having competed and roomed with (J.J.) and everything else, we have some of the same ways of trying to get to the same places. The last four games played to my advantage down the stretch."

Barnes felt he was very fortunate to start his block with 298, leaving a 2-8 on his final shot. He admits he missed in the right places at the right times toward the end of the game as the lanes were getting tighter.

"The 12th shot was really good, and I thought I was running that one out, but it backed up at the end. The next two games I was scrambling the whole time and threw some late strikes to get 212 and 222," he said. "Today, I got to the right balls faster and survived the bad games early, so when it started going right, it got good pretty quick."

Goebel led after A-squad took to the lanes first. He had games of 227, 257, 279, 215, 252, 216, 226 and 192 for +264. He felt like he had enough oil to help him out on the lanes on Wednesday, which allowed him to throw the ball just how he likes. He also capitalized on some good carry.

He has spent a lot of time over the past couple of weeks competing inside JAX 60. He earned an 8th place finish in the PBA60 Webb Championship and 9th place in the PBA60 World Championship. The PBA50 World Series of Bowling III has not been as successful for Goebel, which made this block a relief.

“Today felt good. I am still stunned that I am sitting here as the leader of this squad. I am really happy I bowled as well as I did and I’m surprised,” Goebel said. “Last week and this week were the first two tournaments I have gotten to bowl this season. I was sure glad everybody was 60-and-over last week.”

Goebel is battling some pain in his right hip, which flared up in his final game of the day. Yet, he loves competing on tour when he can.

“I just hope tomorrow I have something similar to what I had today. I am excited to be bowling another day,” he said. “I know I have limitations, so I try as hard as I can. Bowling out here is a big challenge.”

Behind Goebel is Jon Rakoski in third at +257. Tom Hess is in fourth at +251 and Dan Knowlton is fifth at +249. The final player to make the Holman Championship cut was James Krafft at +165.

The top 16 players will advance to bracket match play best-of-five matches in the Round of 16 scheduled to start at 10 a.m. Eastern on Thursday then the Round of 8 will start at 2 p.m. ET. The four undefeated winners and the highest-seeded losing bowler in the Round of 8 will be in the stepladder finals set to begin at 6 p.m.

Qualifying for the World Championship is also now complete. After 32 games in the Ballard, Monacelli, Petraglia and Holman Championships, the top 18 bowlers have been determined. The top five are Chris Barnes, John Janawicz, Mark Clark, Tom Daugherty and Brian LeClair. The final player in was Tom Adcock at +537.

“Mika got in and Brad got in today. It is the who’s-who out there in the top 18. But I want to make a show here first,” Barnes said. “Let’s see if we can win that first match, get that part out of the way and then see if I can win the second one and be the top seed for the Holman.”

For the World Championship, they will bowl two six game blocks of round-robin match play, with bonus pins, starting at 9 a.m. ET then at 2 p.m. on Friday. The final six games will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday to determine the top five bowlers who will make the stepladder finals at 3 p.m. on Saturday. The winner will earn a major championship title and the $25,000 first-place check. You can continue to watch the WSOB III action on **BowlTV.**

PBA50 Petraglia Championship Match Play Advancers:

1. Chris Barnes, 1,955 (+355)
2. Bryan Goebel, 1864 (+264)
3. Jon Rakoski, 1,857 (+257)
4. Tom Hess, 1,851 (+251)
5. Dan Knowlton, 1,849 (+249)
6. John Janawicz, 1,844 (+244)
7. Mark Clark, 1,826 (+226)
8. Tom Daugherty, 1,822 (+222)
9. Michael Kramer, 1,818 (+218)

10. Amleto Monacelli, 1,802 (+202)
11. Dave Wodka, 1,800 (+200)
12. Pete Weber, 1,787 (+187)
13. Larry Verble, 1,781 (+181)
14. Randy Weiss, 1,777 (+177)
15. Mika Koivuniemi, 1,774 (+174)
16. James Krafft 1,765 (+165)

Full standings - PBA50 Holman Championship

PBA50 World Championship Advancers:

1. Chris Barnes, 7,369 (+969)
2. John Janawicz, 7,357 (+957)
3. Mark Clark, 7,306 (+906)
4. Tom Daugherty, 7,266 (+866)
5. Brian LeClair, 7,180 (+780)
6. Larry Verble, 7,168 (+768)
7. Ron Hurt, 7,101 (+701)
8. Jon Rakoski, 7,044 (+644)
9. Randy Weiss, 7,030 (+630)
10. Tom Hess, 7,011 (+611)
11. James Krafft, 7,006 (+606)
12. Dan Knowlton, 7,006 (+606)
13. Clint Dacy, 7,004 (+604)
14. Pete Weber, 6,994 (+594)
15. Brad Angelo, 6,987 (+587)
16. Mika Koivuniemi, 6,980 (+580)
17. Mario Quintero, 6,951 (+551)
18. Tom Adcock, 6,937 (+537)

Chris Barnes Wins 2025 PBA50 Holman Championship

July 17, 2025 Jill Winters

Jackson, Michigan – Chris Barnes is officially back, and his confidence level is high. After not quite bowling like himself through the majority of the 2025 PBA50 Tour season, he relied on some valuable advice from multiple people to get back on track. He just made his second stepladder finals appearance and earned his second win of the season in the 2025 PBA50 Holman Championship.

Barnes was two shots away from perfection in the championship match on Thursday against fellow PBA and USBC Hall of Famer Amleto Monacelli. Barnes picked up a 2-pin in the second frame, and a 10-pin in the ninth frame, while striking the other 10 times for the 259-223 win.

“I needed to put some of the pieces together mentally to believe that I could do it again,” Barnes said. “I am in a really good place and there is nothing like a little adrenaline to get you going.”

Monacelli started with a strike followed by four consecutive spares, before closing out his game with six strikes over his final seven shots. Barnes pointed to a stone-8 by Monacelli in the third frame as a bad break. Barnes also was happy to benefit from some hold he was able to create for himself in the seventh frame.

“Getting to bowl Walter, Pete, Norm, Parker, Amleto and Couch, that is still such a rush. I started later than some of them and I got to watch them on TV for a while before I ever went out,” Barnes said. “I have memories of watching Amleto bowl. Amleto was the EJ (Tackett) of that time as far as what he did, what he could create, the feel and the touch. He is still fantastic.”

Ball rep and fellow PBA50 player Mitch Beasley asked Barnes about the Roto Grip ROCKSTAR ball in his bag prior to his championship round practice shots and Barnes decided to give it a try. It turned out to be a great suggestion.

“It was sitting there, and it wasn’t something I was really going to do until Mitch said something. It created a little more angle in front, and it picked up sooner, which gave me some hold,” Barnes said. “It just takes a village. A lot of really great advice coming from a lot of different places.”

That village includes longtime friends Mark Baker, Mika Koivuniemi, John Janawicz, sons Ryan and Troy, and his wife, Lynda. Today was their 26th wedding anniversary.

“She is in more halls of fame than I am. We knew what we were getting into, which is probably the key to our success. This is not for everyone for sure,” he said. “To be able to lean on each other, for her to be independent enough to run a household and twins on her own is not for the faint of heart. To be able to share her successes, share wins and help out each other occasionally along the way, while having a couple of kids we are proud of, is pretty incredible.”

In the opening match, No. 5 seed Dan Knowlton faced No. 4 seed Larry Verble. Verble, who was competing in his home center at JAX 60, started off with three straight strikes and two spares. Knowlton had three strikes and two spares through five frames. Knowlton added spare, strike and another spare through eight frames.

Verble responded with strike, spare, strike and he covered the 3-6-10 in the ninth frame. Knowlton finished first with another spare. He slowed himself down and rolled three straight strikes on a tough left

lane he had only struck on twice before that. Knowlton finished with 218. Needing a double for the win, Verble left the 2-8, picked it up and struck for 215.

All the urethane that went down the lanes in the opening match caused some difficult conditions in the second match. Higher-seed Amleto Monacelli elected to finish on the more favorable right lane. He began with a double followed by a 4-9 split for an open in the third frame. Knowlton, who won his first title in 2023 at JAX 60, rolled a strike, spare and then had an open frame with a 4-6-7 split. He responded with a strike then three straight single-pin spares through seven frames.

Monacelli struck three more times on the right lane yet had two more splits for opens on the left lane trailing in the match. Knowlton left the 4-9 split on the left for an open in the eighth frame. Finishing first, Knowlton had back-to-back spares and got eight for 168. After a mark on the left lane, Monacelli struck two more times on the right lane and got eight for 178 and the win.

In the semifinal match, the strikes returned. Again, the higher seed, this time Jon Rakoski, chose to finish on the right lane. He started out with double, spare, strike and a spare through five frames. Monacelli rolled a strike followed by two spares and a double halfway through the match. He converted the 2-8 combination then Rakoski responded with three straight strikes and a spare through nine. Monacelli rolled six straight strikes for 246 and Rakoski finished with 225.

With the win, Barnes is tied with John Janawicz at eight career PBA50 Tour titles. The friends will now be battling it out in the PBA50 World Championship on Friday and Saturday. Barnes is the No. 1 seed, sitting just 12 pins ahead of Janawicz. Barnes won the inaugural World Championship in 2023.

“This is the event we all came here really to try and win. Mika and I will talk strategies, reset and refocus and have to come out firing on Friday,” Barnes said. “J.J. (John Janawicz) is not going to slow down anytime soon, so I better keep going.”

The top 18 players will bowl two six game blocks of round-robin match play, with bonus pins, starting at 9 a.m. ET then at 2 p.m. on Friday. The final six games will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday to determine the top five bowlers for the stepladder finals at 3 p.m. on Saturday. The winner will earn a major championship title and the $25,000 first-place check. You can watch the conclusion of the World Series of Bowling III on **BowlTV.**

PBA50 Holman Championship Final Standings:

1. Chris Barnes, $5,000
2. Amleto Monacelli, $2,500
3. Jon Rakoski, $2,000
4. Dan Knowlton, $1,750
5. Larry Verble, $1,500

MATCH SCORES:

Match 1: Knowlton def. Verble 218-215
Match 2: Monacelli def. Knowlton 178-168

Match 3: Monacelli def. Rakoski 246-225
Championship match: Barnes def. Monacelli 259-223

Final standings - PBA50 Holman Championship

PBA50 World Championship Advancers:

1. Chris Barnes, 7,369 (+969)
2. John Janawicz, 7,357 (+957)
3. Mark Clark, 7,306 (+906)
4. Tom Daugherty, 7,266 (+866)
5. Brian LeClair, 7,180 (+780)
6. Larry Verble, 7,168 (+768)
7. Ron Hurt, 7,101 (+701)
8. Jon Rakoski, 7,044 (+644)
9. Randy Weiss, 7,030 (+630)
10. Tom Hess, 7,011 (+611)
11. James Krafft, 7,006 (+606)
12. Dan Knowlton, 7,006 (+606)
13. Clint Dacy, 7,004 (+604)
14. Pete Weber, 6,994 (+594)
15. Brad Angelo, 6,987 (+587)
16. Mika Koivuniemi, 6,980 (+580)
17. Mario Quintero, 6,951 (+551)
18. Tom Adcock, 6,937 (+537)

Chris Barnes Extends Lead at PBA50 World Championship

July 18, 2025 Jill Winters

Jackson, Michigan – For the third straight year in the PBA50 World Series of Bowling, Chris Barnes is leading the way going into the grand finale, the World Championship.

Mark Clark jumped into first place by 18 pins thanks to his 5-1 round-robin match play record in the morning block on Friday. Coming off his 2025 PBA50 Holman Championship win on Thursday, Barnes returned in the afternoon with his second 4-2 record on the day to retake the lead.

Barnes is currently 55 pins ahead of John Janawicz, who is seeking to achieve the Senior Super Slam by winning the World Championship. Clark is 40 pins behind Janawicz in third place at +1,348. Tom Daugherty is fourth at +1,136 and Brad Angelo is fifth at +1,084.

Clark recorded the best overall match play record at 10-2, while Angelo made the biggest jump. His 8-4 record moved him from 15th place to fifth. Angelo finished in second in last year's World Championship. Another big mover up the leaderboard was James Krafft. He went from 11th to sixth sitting only 4-pins behind Angelo.

Tom Hess, who is also trying to win the World Championship and achieve the Senior Super Slam, is 61 pins behind Angelo sitting in ninth place. Hess posted the highest block of the day with 1,382. Defending champion Mario Quintero is sitting in 16th place.

If either Janawicz or Hess win the World Championship, they will become the first bowler to ever win the Senior Super Slam. This includes winning the Masters, U.S. Open, Tournament of Champions, Players Championship and World Championship.

Janawicz is currently leading the PBA50 in points, which is how the Player of the Year race is decided. Daugherty, who is the only bowler so far to make two stepladder finals during this World Series of Bowling III, is second in points and first in total earnings. This is Daugherty's rookie season.

There is no doubt Barnes will be doing everything he can to win back-to-back tournaments. If he wins again, that would be the fifth time Barnes has won a PBA50 tournament at JAX 60. Last year, he finished in third place in the World Championship.

The final six games of round-robin match play will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday to determine the top five bowlers for the stepladder finals, which is scheduled to start at 3 p.m. on Saturday. The winner will earn a major championship title and the $25,000 first-place check. Catch the final day at the World Championship only on **BowlTV.**

PBA50 World Championship Standings (with bonus pins):

1. Chris Barnes, 10,243 (+1,443)
2. John Janawicz, 10,188 (+1,388)
3. Mark Clark, 10,148 (+1,348)
4. Tom Daugherty, 9,936 (+1,136)

5. Brad Angelo, 9,884 (+1,084)
6. James Krafft, 9,880 (+1,080)
7. Clint Dacy, 9,880 (+1,080)
8. Dan Knowlton, 9,865 (+1,065)
9. Tom Hess, 9,823 (+1,023)
10. Pete Weber, 9,769 (+969)
11. Randy Weiss, 9,769 (+969)
12. Larry Verble, 9,726 (+926)
13. Mika Koivuniemi, 9,717 (+917)
14. Jon Rakoski, 9,698 (+898)
15. Brian LeClair, 9,633 (+833)
16. Mario Quintero, 9,628 (+828)
17. Tom Adcock, 9,513 (+713)
18. Ron Hurt, 9,444 (+644)

Mark Clark Earns Emotional Win in PBA50 World Championship

July 19, 2025 Jill Winters

Jackson, Michigan – Just 12 days ago, Mark Clark received the call nobody every wants to get. His best friend and PBA50 Tour roommate Brian Dennis passed away unexpectedly. He was in disbelief knowing he would never have a conversation with him again. Yet, during the 2025 PBA50 World Series of Bowling III, Clark had regular talks with Dennis. He knew his buddy would be there for him because this was the moment they had both dreamed about.

After posting a 16-2 match play record on Friday and Saturday, Clark earned the No. 1 seed over Chris Barnes for the stepladder finals of the World Championship. They had bowled together during qualifying for the Ballard and Monacelli Championships. Barnes admits he is not much of a conversationalist while bowling but he knew Clark was, so he wanted to make Clark feel comfortable. They fed off one another and that mutual respect and connection continued leading up to the title match in the World Championship.

They each started with doubles. Barnes was walking out his third shot, which resulted in a solid 8-pin that he picked up. He followed that up with two strikes. Clark picked up back-to-back single pins then rolled a clutch double, which he walked out to the right.

Barnes went through the nose in the sixth frame leaving the 3-10 split. He picked that up and then made a 10-pin. With the game tied at 136 in the sixth, Clark went through the nose in the seventh frame leaving the 3-6. He picked that up and on his next shot, he let the ball go and swung his right arm toward the ground in confidence as he struck. Barnes came back with a spare and strike through nine frames.

“I knew the ball was in my court. I got up on the right lane and said, 'Just throw it like Brian.' That was my whole thought. Don’t try to be perfect and fit it in there, just do what he would do, and I did,” Clark said of his ninth frame strike. “I took a re-rack and calmed myself down again, got up and same thing; make a good shot. I re-racked again because nine-spare is a possibility of a tie. It was really good off my hand. That was really big and amazing.”

Clark, who chose to finish the match first because he thought he had a better look on the left lane, had just delivered the biggest and most emotional shots of his life. He clenched both fists and yelled emphatically. He immediately hugged ball rep, Jeff Johnson, who had kept him calm throughout the game.

Barnes stood up clapping for Clark and asked him to throw the last shot. Clark had also thrown the ceremonial first shot at the start of the World Series of Bowling in honor of Dennis. Barnes finished with a strike and nine for 223. After hugging a few friends and wiping away tears, Clark got nine on the final shot for 245. This was Clark's first PBA50 Tour title and he earned $25,000.

“We did it. I had everybody in the building, including probably Chris Barnes, pulling for me. That was awesome and it seems very surreal,” Clark said. “This is the storybook ending. This is made-for-TV stuff. This is what the movie is supposed to be. I wanted to do something so bad for him (Dennis), for Reneé (Dennis's wife), for my wife and everyone who is hurting.”

“Early in the week, I was worried I was going to let them down, if I didn’t win. I didn’t want to disappoint them,” he added. “After that, not winning was not going to be an option for me. I had a conversation with him like, 'I know you have some stuff going on, but I am going to need you around.' There were moments when I was like that is my boy back there playing with the pins.”

When asked what Dennis would have told him after the win, Clark knew Dennis would tell him that was pretty good. They had accomplished one goal but after a nice steak dinner, it would be time to focus on getting Dennis a title.

Clark admits he had originally written off the possibility that he could win Rookie of the Year, which is based on points, but now he and Tom Daugherty have each won a major title. After the tournament, Daugherty posted on Facebook: "What I saw Mark Clark do in the 10th frame today is something I don't think I will ever see again. To perform like that in that situation with everything you were bowling for was awesome to see. You can't even write a story like that. Congratulations to you, sir."

“Maybe if I win another tournament or the Tournament of Champions, which I am now eligible to bowl, it could happen,” Clark said. “The dream is not over. I thought it was over, but it’s not. Maybe now that is what we go do. It’s nuts that I just bowled Chris Barnes for a major title, and I won.”

Clark already knows what color combination he is going to want when asked about his national championship banner. “Tar Heels blue with white lettering because Brian was a through-and-through Tar Heels fan and that way I can look up at it and he will always be here. It is a no-brainer.”

The opening match featured No. 5 seed Tom Hess against No. 4 John Janawicz. Both were seeking to become the first player in PBA50 history to win the Senior Super Slam, having won each of the other four major senior titles. Janawicz picked up the 3-6-10 in the first frame and never let up from there. Hess, who powered his way into the stepladder after starting his Saturday in ninth place, was still in the match going spare, double, spare then double, yet he had a costly 6-7-10 split for an open in the seventh. Janawicz rolled the next 11 strikes in a row for the 290-190 victory.

The strikes continued in Game 2. Tom Daugherty, making his third show of the PBA50 WSOB III, started out with five straight strikes. Janawicz threw the front four and picked up a 10-pin, falling behind by 10 pins. Daugherty had three spares in a row with a strike. He finished the match first with a strike followed by a solid 9-pin and a strike for 236. Janawicz, making a ball change, rolled a strike, a solid 9-pin and spare followed by four more strikes for 258.

In the semifinal match, Janawicz faced Barnes. Barnes started the game by picking up the 10-pin. Janawicz left the 2-10 split in his opening frame. He hit the 2-pin on the left side looking like he got it, yet the pin went around the 10-pin. He followed that up with a 7-10 split for an open. Barnes responded with three strikes and picked up a 7-pin. Janawicz came back with a double followed by a spare and another double. Yet, he chopped the 3-6-10 in the eighth frame.

Barnes left the 6-7-10 split for an open in the sixth followed by spare and strike. In the ninth frame, Barnes's shot went through the nose as he waved both hands sideways. He left just the 6-10 and got the spare. Janawicz finished the match first with four straight strikes for 202. Barnes closed it out with a double and nine for 214.

Overall, five titles were earned at the WSOB III. Jason Couch won the Ballard Championship. Janawicz won the Monacelli Championship. Mika Koivuniemi won the Petraglia Championship and Barnes won the Holman Championship. The successful event ended with Clark's emotional win that answered a lot of questions he had about being able to bowl professionally.

"Brian and I had won everything on the amateur side. We just made different life decisions. I really wanted to do it (bowl professionally) and now that I am in a place where I am with my career, I have two beautiful children, a beautiful wife, and a nice house. I would not change it for the world," he said. "We wondered if we could compete against the best in the world and those were the answers we were seeking. I hope for my kids, they find something that gets their competitive juices going and satisfies it in some form or fashion. If you don't get to do that, why do you live? It doesn't have to be at the elite level, but if you think you are in that level and you can actually compete, it really answers a lot of questions in your head."

The next stop on the PBA50 Tour is the Hamtramck Singles in Westland, Mich. Qualifying begins on Tuesday, and you can watch that tournament on **BowlTV.**

PBA50 World Championship Final Standings:

1. Mark Clark, $25,000
2. Chris Barnes, $13,000

3. John Janawicz, $7,000
4. Tom Daugherty, $6,000
5. Tom Hess, $5,000

MATCH SCORES:
Match 1: Janawicz def. Hess 290-190
Match 2: Janawicz def. Daugherty 258-236
Match 3: Barnes def. Janawicz 214-202
Championship match: Clark def. Barnes 245-223

Troy Lint Leads PBA50 Hamtramck Singles Classic

July 22, 2025 Jill Winters

Westland, Michigan – While talking in the paddock to Parker Bohn III after bowling Tuesday in the 2025 PBA50 Hamtramck Singles Classic, Troy Lint mentioned his final game of the seven-game block was 278. Bohn III responded, 'Oh, you passed me," and Lint humbly replied, "I guess."

"I was following Parker. He had such a tremendous lead that I was trying to catch him the whole time. The last game I happened to pop 278 to go around him," Lint said. "He is the guy you chase. He is the best and that is why you chase Parker."

In addition to his 278, Lint shot 205, 214, 263, 278, 249 and 244 for +331. He averaged 247.29 using the same black urethane ball. He only had to make slight adjustments while moving across the center inside Vision Lanes.

"The first two games I bowled just as good as the last five, I just couldn't get the ball to go through the pocket," the lefty said. "I made little hand adjustments and eyesight adjustments to read the lane a little sooner. My strike percentage went up and everything was on par."

This is Lint's sixth tournament back on tour, since recovering from multiple surgeries. He feels great and he plans to keep working hard to put himself in a great position on the leaderboard. Bohn III posted 223, 244, 278, 266, 278, 228 and 206 for 1,723. He is eight pins behind Lint in second place. One pin behind Bohn III in third is Tony Oliva at +322, followed by John Janawicz at +306 in fourth and Tom Daugherty is fifth at +300. The top six bowlers were all on B-squad.

Dan Knowlton led A-squad at +298. He is currently tied with Randy Weiss. Knowlton rolled games of 277, 258, 221, 257, 256, 235 and 194 for +298. Even though this was the 36-foot Ballard oil pattern, he felt the pattern played quite a bit different than in the Ballard Championship at the World Series of Bowling.

Knowlton was also able to use urethane for all seven games. When asked how he would grade his season, he gave it a B+ thinking this might be the most consistent year he has had yet.

"I feels like I have been pretty close to winning all year long. I was holding on tight early in qualifying before putting it together toward the end of tournaments. It's nice to get score Day 1 instead of bowling from behind," he said. "I stumbled on something at the World Series of Bowling. My axis rotation has been inconsistent but I'm focusing on my rotation and it's going in the direction I want."

Qualifying will continue on Wednesday with seven more games to determine the top 32 players who will move into the advancers round. B-squad will be on the lanes at 9 a.m. Eastern followed by A-squad at 3 p.m. on BowlTV.

Top 10 PBA50 Hamtramck Singles Classic:

1. Troy Lint, 1,731 (+331)
2. Parker Bohn III, 1,723 (+323)
3. Tony Oliva, 1,722 (+322)
4. John Janawicz, 1,706 (+306)
5. Tom Daugherty, 1,700 (+300)
6. Randy Weiss, 1,698 (+298)
7. Dan Knowlton, 1,698 (+298)
8. Brad Angelo, 1,696 (+296)
9. Mario Quintero, 1,660 (+260)
10. Mika Koivuniemi, 1,659 (+259)

Simonsen, McEwan Eye Three-peat; Tackett Pursues PBA History in Houston

July 23, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The best of the PBA and PWBA Tours are set to convene in Houston for the 2025 Storm PBA/PWBA Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles tournament.

The tournament is more commonly called “The Luci” in honor of Luci Bonneau, a long-time PWBA Tour player and close friend of SABC founder Donna Conners.

This year marks the event’s 25th anniversary. Since the first event in 2000, the X Out Breast Cancer Foundation has raised more than one million dollars in the fight against breast cancer.

Anthony Simonsen and Danielle McEwan enter as two-time defending champions. Moreover, McEwan has won three of the past four Lucis; she captured the 2021 title with EJ Tackett.

The teammates are two-for-two bowling together in the Luci, but have an extensive history competing together for Team USA and internationally.

Tackett won three of four Luci events from 2018-2022, each with a different partner. He will be competing for the fourth consecutive year with Diandra Asbaty. They won the 2022 event together.

With the Luci being the final PBA Tour event of the season in which pinfall counts for a player’s season average, Tackett has PBA history on the line this weekend.

Tackett, averaging 229.43 across his 370 games this season, is on the precipice of breaking Jason Belmonte's 2017 record of 229.39 (in 380 games).

The below table outlines the pinfall Tackett must reach in each round of the event to surpass Belmonte's record. The last column refers to Tackett's minimum final season average if he reaches the pinfall in the third column.

Round	Games	Pinfall Needed	Luci Avg	Final Avg
Qualifying	**7**	**1,593**	**227.57**	**229.395**
Semifinals	**11**	**2,511**	**228.27**	**229.396**
Finals	**23**	**5,264**	**228.87**	**229.397**

FORMAT

All players will bowl seven games of qualifying on the 41-foot oil pattern in this official PBA Tour title event. After all four squads compete, the top 1:4 of the field will advance to Sunday's semifinals.

Teams will bowl four more games Sunday morning with the top 12 teams advancing to round-robin match play. The team with the highest pinfall after match play wins. There is no stepladder finals.

Across all rounds, players will bowl singles games with combined scores comprising the team total. There are no baker doubles games.

All rounds will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

More information on the event is available on the Striking Against Breast Cancer website and Facebook page.

2025 Event Schedule

Copperfield Bowl | Houston, TX

All times Central

Thursday, July 24
9 a.m. — A/B-squad practice session
1 p.m. — C/D-squad practice session
4 p.m. — Beauties vs. Beasts match

Friday, July 25
8 a.m. — A-squad qualifying (seven games)
2 p.m. — B-squad qualifying (seven games)
8 p.m. — Pro-Am

Saturday, July 26
8 a.m. — C-squad qualifying (seven games)
2 p.m. — D-squad qualifying (seven games)
8 p.m. — Pro-Am

Sunday, July 27
8 a.m. — Semifinals (four games)
11:30 a.m. — Finals (first six games of round-robin match play)
3:30 p.m. — Finals (last six games of round-robin match play)

Past Champions

2024 — Anthony Simonsen and Danielle McEwan
2023 — Anthony Simonsen and Danielle McEwan
2022 — EJ Tackett and Diandra Asbaty
2021 — EJ Tackett and Danielle McEwan
2019 — Kyle Sherman and Amanda Greene
2018 — EJ Tackett and Liz Johnson
2017 — Jason Sterner and Birgit Poppler
2016 — Bill O'Neill and Shannon O'Keefe
2015 — Bill O'Neill and Shannon O'Keefe
2014 — Scott Norton and Missy Parkin
2013 — Bill O'Neill and Shannon O'Keefe
2012 — Bryan O'Keefe and Shannon O'Keefe
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2008 — Tommy Jones and Shannon Pluhowsky
2007 — Tommy Jones and Shannon Pluhowsky
2006 — Marc Laracuente and Carolyn Dorin-Ballard
2005 — Paul Fleming and Rachel Perez
2004 — Russell Wilson and Kristal Scott
2003 — Wes Malott and Genie Franklin
2002 — Dino Castillo and Diandra Hyman
2001 — Chris Barnes and Amy Dillon
2000 — Mark Scroggins and Donna Conners

Brad Angelo Averages 250 to Lead PBA50 Hamtramck Singles Classic

July 23, 2025 Jill Winters

Westland, Michigan — On the heels of the “gut-wrenching disappointment" Brad Angelo felt last week, after finishing sixth in the Petraglia Championship and seventh in the World Championship during the PBA50 World Series of Bowling III, Angelo sits atop the PBA50 Hamtramck Singles Classic standings after qualifying.

Coming into this week, Angelo let that tension go and came out firing on the final day of qualifying at Vision Lanes. On Wednesday, he shot 248, 248, 269, 236, 259, 248 and 248 for 1,756. That is an impressive 250.86 average for seven games.

“I think this might be my highest block ever as a professional. I don’t think I have ever averaged 250 in a block. It certainly felt good,” he said. “I carried everything, and I really did execute well. I had a handful of trip 4s, a handful of light pocket hits that struck, and I rolled a couple of 2-pins. When I threw it really good, I struck most of the time. It was one of those days.”

Angelo, who won his second PBA50 Tour title in May, doesn’t use urethane. Instead, he used two oil-soaked reactive resin balls and a few other tricks to get the results that pushed him into the lead.

“I had my hand really soft, and I was really controlling my rotational axis off my hand well. I had a lot of good things going,” he said. “I’ll watch and adapt to what I see tomorrow. Hopefully, my carry stays there and I hold on for the number one spot and I am fortunate enough to get through the first match.”

Behind Angelo, by 74 pins, is Mika Koivuniemi. The Finland native caught fire on the final day of qualifying in this tournament last year, and he did it again. He averaged 245.57 to get to +578.

After Day 1 of qualifying on Tuesday, Troy Lint mentioned Parker Bohn III was the guy to chase. As B-squad finished its block first on Wednesday, Lint was right. Bohn III jumped into the lead with 210, 258, 214, 236, 247, 225 and 226 for 1,616. He is in third after both squads at +539.

“The one thing I keyed in one yesterday and today was I gave the ball a little bit of loft. It really allowed my ball to pick up (and have) a positive reaction that went through the pins to mix them around and produce some score,” he said. “Your urethane transition is mainly the lanes are going to get tighter because your target is in front of you. You manipulate that with either your ball speed or a hand position. You are pretty much narrowed down to one part of the lane and when you start eliminating variables, just repeat shots and try to accumulate score.”

Bohn III won the 2022 PBA50 Cup for a major win at Vision Lanes, in addition to other wins in Michigan on the PBA and PBA50 Tours in his career. He is hoping that magic continues.

“I would say my big win in Michigan is that is where my wife is from. I have had some success winning tour titles here along the way and our kids have had success,” he said. “The state of Michigan has been extremely kind to the Bohn family.”

After his morning block, he drove three hours to Warsaw, Ind., to visit his close friend, 45-year-old Josh Hyde. Hyde, who is wheelchair-bound, had spent the past couple of nights in a hospital ICU.

“I want to surprise him and hopefully put a light in his eye and a smile on his face. This young man means a lot to me. I’ve known him since he was 5 or 6 years old,” he said. “He is an honorary PBA member. He will never throw a ball down the lane like any of us on the PBA Tour, but he has more heart and soul for the tour than probably more than half the guys.”

Behind Bohn III is John Janawicz at +531 in fourth place and Tony Oliva is +526 in fifth place. The field was cut to the top 32. The final bowler in was 74-year-old Charlie Tapp at +274. Tapp rolled a 300 in Game 5.

The pins will carry over as they bowl four games in the advancers round starting at 9 a.m. Eastern on Thursday. The top 24 will then move into bracket match play. All pins will drop in the best two-of-three-games matches.

The top eight players will receive a bye. Qualifiers 9-24 will start the Round of 24 at 12:45 p.m. ET. The winners of those matches and the top eight will move into the Round of 16 starting at 2:45 p.m. The Round of 8 will begin at 5 p.m. The four undefeated bowlers and the highest-seeded eliminated player in the Round of 8 will be in the stepladder finals, scheduled to start at 7 p.m.

Watch the final day of action live on BowlTV.

Top 10 PBA50 Hamtramck Singles Classic:

1. Brad Angelo, 3,452 (+652)
2. Mika Koivuniemi, 3,378 (+578)
3. Parker Bohn III, 3,339 (+539)
4. John Janawicz, 3,331 (+531)
5. Tony Oliva, 3,326 (+526)
6. Peter Dohan, 3,293 (+493)
7. Troy Lint, 3,276 (+476)
8. Ron Hurt, 3,276 (+476)
9. Amleto Monacelli 3,227 (+427)
10. Tom Adcock, 3,227 (+427)

Brad Angelo Wins PBA50 Hamtramck Singles Classic

July 24, 2025 Jill Winters

Westland, Michigan – After experiencing tears of frustration at the conclusion of the PBA50 World Series of Bowling III last week, Brad Angelo was crying tears of joy on Thursday. He was clearly determined to move forward, and he was unstoppable in the 2025 PBA50 Hamtramck Singles Classic.

“I teach people through BowlU that you have to learn to keep fighting. How many peaks and valleys are there in a tournament? You have to keep fighting and that is a life lesson, as well,” Angelo said. “Last week, I haven’t been that disappointed in a long time, so this is gratifying.”

After keeping a hold of the top seed through the advancers round, he won his first match against lefty Andy Rettig then he defeated lefty Troy Lint with games of 279 and 244 in the Round of 8. He maintained the No. 1 seed in his fourth stepladder finals appearance on the season.

“We both threw quality shots. I had to get up and perform in the 10th against Troy and I told myself, ‘Just let it go.’ I had been striking as much as I ever have, so just get it off your hand,” Angelo said. “I threw a great shot to be able to solidify the one seed. Troy is a great friend, and I was happy he made the show.”

Lint was the highest seeded non-winner in the Round of 8, which earned him the No. 5 seed. Lint powered his way into that title match against Angelo. Angelo elected to have Lint start the match first. Lint began with a double and spare, as Angelo doubled and converted the 3-10 split. Angelo put together four straight strikes that included a couple of fist pumps, especially when the 10-pin fell late in the seventh frame.

“In that moment, that was huge. I told myself to make another good shot and that kept the pressure on Troy,” Angelo said. “I think it had a lot to do with how I was playing the lanes. My ball speed was higher than normal, so I had more impact speed. I got more pin carry.”

Lint struck in his fourth frame yet followed that up with three spares before getting another strike in the eighth and a spare in the ninth. Angelo stepped up in the ninth rolling another strike, picked up a 3-pin and hugged Lint. Angelo ended up with 237 and Lint struck out for 216.

This was Angelo’s third career PBA50 Tour title and second of the year after winning The Villages Classic in May. Only he and Chris Barnes have won twice this year.

“I feel phenomenal. The day after I won at The Villages, I honestly did not know how to feel. It had been so long and there was so much disappointment,” he said. “I think that was wearing on me a little last week. All of those tears that were shed were cleansing and things went my way. Troy bowled phenomenal and I am so proud of him. He is definitely back.”

Angelo always wears two bracelets on his wrist as good luck charms that are from his daughters, Brielle and Ryleigh. This time he also wore a special custom jersey that made him cry while talking about it.

“I had been saving this jersey. I wanted to wear it the next time I made a show. This is my son, Dylan, he is pursuing a golf career right now. My daughter, Ryleigh, is heavily into equestrian, and this is my beautiful daughter, Brielle. They are everything,” he said through tears. “They are the reason I do all of this. It is so hard to be out here away from them. But boy, it was extra special having my children here with me to wear them proudly on my jersey.”

In the opening match, Lint faced No. 4 seed Chris Barnes. This was Lint’s first stepladder finals since last season. Barnes began with four straight spares before rolling his first strike on a ball change in the fifth frame. Lint started with a strike followed by three single-pin spares before getting a double. Barnes came back with two spares, as Lint split for an open in the seventh then a spare. Barnes finished strike, spare, spare and strike for 191, as Lint closed it out with four strikes in a row for 214.

Lint kept the strikes coming against Bill Rowe. The left-hander started with three strikes before a split in the fourth followed by a double. Rowe, from Canada, began strike, spare, strike then he chopped the 3-6 for an open frame. Rowe picked up a 7-pin before doubling. The right-hander then chopped the 2-pin off the 2-8. Lint picked up three straight spares before closing out the match with three strikes for 222. Rowe struck out for 194.

The semifinal match saw two-left handers on fire. Lint and Parker Bohn III threw strikes back and forth through five frames. Bohn III was the first not to strike, leaving a solid 8-pin in the sixth. Lint's run made it to seven straight before picking up the 2-4-7 and striking for the fifth time on the left lane. Bohn III went strike, spare and strike through the ninth frame.

With Bohn III finishing first, he stepped out his first delivery to the right for a flush strike. After a rerack, he released his ball and went down to his left knee as he struck again. He finished it out with a nine-count for 258. After delivering a strike on his first shot, Lint jumped up and clenched his fist. He struck again and hugged Bohn III. Lint finished with his 11th strike for 277.

The final tournament of the season is the Johnny Petraglia BVL PBA50 Tournament of Champions presented by Pleasant Day Schools. That event will begin on Aug. 6 at Suburban Lanes in Morgantown, W.Va. You can watch that tournament only on BowlTV.

2025 PBA50 Hamtramck Singles Classic Final Standings:

1. Brad Angelo, $7,500
2. Troy Lint , $4,000
3. Parker Bohn III, $3,200
4. Bill Rowe, $2,500
5. Chris Barnes, $2,000

MATCH SCORES:

Match 1: Lint def. Barnes 214-191
Match 2: Lint def. Rowe 222-194
Match 3: Lint def. Bohn III 277-258
Championship match: Angelo def. Lint 237-216

Andrew Anderson, Erin McCarthy Lead Day 1 of Luci

July 25, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Half of qualifying is in the books in the 2025 Storm PBA/PWBA Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles tournament.

Andrew Anderson and Erin McCarthy paced A- and B-squads on Friday at Copperfield Bowl, totaling 3,148 (+348) for their 14 combined games.

Anderson notched 1,550 for his seven games on the 41-foot oil pattern, while McCarthy shot a women's-best 1,598. This is the duo's second time bowling the Luci together; they finished fourth last year.

"Last year, we qualified second and we had high hopes for that Sunday," Anderson said. "We just fell off a little bit. We didn't bowl bad by any means, but with the best in the world on both the women's and men's side here, you're going to have to bowl really well the entire time. We're just looking forward to another chance on Sunday and hopefully ride the wave a little farther."

Anderson said he and McCarthy's friendship goes back about 11 years. He said they had the same sponsor, Harvey Johnson, early in their careers and they became fast friends.

"We just have fun," McCarthy added. "We have a lot of good team chemistry. When we need to be serious, we can be serious. But when we need to have a good time, we have a good time."

This year marks the event's 25th anniversary. Since the first event in 2000, the X Out Breast Cancer Foundation has raised more than one million dollars in the fight against breast cancer.

"This is an event like no other in the world if you haven't experienced it," McCarthy said.

The teams of Sean Riccardi and Karsyn Lukosious, Justin Knowles and Maryssa Carey, Richie Teece and Liz Kuhlkin, and Cam Crowe and Sydney Bohn round out the top five after Friday's competition.

Two-time defending champions Anthony Simonsen and Danielle McEwan (+116) are in ninth place overall.

The top 40 teams after Saturday's two squads will advance to the semifinals on Sunday.

C-squad bowls at 8 a.m. Central/local time (9 a.m. Eastern) on Saturday, followed by D-squad at 2 p.m. (3 p.m. ET).

Across all rounds, players will bowl singles games with combined scores comprising the team total. There are no baker doubles games.

All rounds will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

More information on the event is available on the Striking Against Breast Cancer website and Facebook page.

2025 Event Schedule

Copperfield Bowl | Houston, TX

All times Central

Saturday, July 26
8 a.m. — C-squad qualifying (seven games)

2 p.m. — D-squad qualifying (seven games)
8 p.m. — Pro-Am

Sunday, July 27
8 a.m. — Semifinals (four games)
11:30 a.m. — Finals (first six games of round-robin match play)
3:30 p.m. — Finals (last six games of round-robin match play)

Past Champions

2024 — Anthony Simonsen and Danielle McEwan
2023 — Anthony Simonsen and Danielle McEwan
2022 — EJ Tackett and Diandra Asbaty
2021 — EJ Tackett and Danielle McEwan
2019 — Kyle Sherman and Amanda Greene
2018 — EJ Tackett and Liz Johnson
2017 — Jason Sterner and Birgit Poppler
2016 — Bill O'Neill and Shannon O'Keefe
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2005 — Paul Fleming and Rachel Perez
2004 — Russell Wilson and Kristal Scott
2003 — Wes Malott and Genie Franklin
2002 — Dino Castillo and Diandra Hyman
2001 — Chris Barnes and Amy Dillon
2000 — Mark Scroggins and Donna Conners

Frank and Jordan Snodgrass Lead Luci Qualifying

July 26, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Frank and Jordan Snodgrass tallied a 3,150 (+350) total pinfall for their 14 combined games to lead qualifying in the 2025 Storm PBA/PWBA Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles tournament.

The tournament is more commonly called “The Luci” in honor of Luci Bonneau, a long-time PWBA Tour player and close friend of SABC founder Donna Conners.

Frank shot 1,598 for his seven games on the 41-foot oil pattern. Jordan, a six-time PWBA Tour champion and former Player of the Year, added 1,552.

This is the couple’s second year competing together, but their first with the same name on their jerseys after getting married last September.

“I feel like everybody has this stigma on bowling with husband and wife (teams), but I feel like we prove that you can do it,” Jordan said. “We can separate the relationship from the bowling aspect and that's really hard to do sometimes, but I feel like we manage it pretty well.”

“She travels with me whenever I bowl, and I travel with her when she bowls,” Frank added, “We get an understanding of how each other are on the lanes while we're bowling. Being able to pair that together makes it a lot easier.”

This year marks the tournament’s 25th anniversary. Since the first event in 2000, the X Out Breast Cancer Foundation has raised more than one million dollars in the fight against breast cancer.

The cause is extra special to Frank Snodgrass.

“This tournament means a lot to me. My mom passed away from breast cancer. This event holds a special place in my heart,” he said.

The teams of Andrew Anderson and Erin McCarthy — who led the first day of qualifying — siblings Nick Pate and Lauren Russo, Ethan Fiore and Clara Guerrero, and Darren Tang and Li Jane Sin round out the top five after qualifying.

Four-time Luci champions Tommy Jones and Shannon Pluhowsky qualified 20th at +155.

EJ Tackett, who is in pursuit of the PBA’s single-season average record, and Diandra Asbaty are in 25th place at +121. The duo won the 2022 event. After a qualifying total of 1,462, Tackett will need to shoot at least 1,049 in the semifinals and 3,802 through the finals to regain control of the record.

Two-time defending champions Anthony Simonsen and Danielle McEwan sit in 28th place at +116.

The top 40 teams after Saturday’s two squads will advance to the semifinals on Sunday.

Another married couple, Brandon and Alexis Runk, were the final team to make the cut with a total pinfall of 2,862 (+62).

Full standings are available here.

The four-game semifinal round begins at 8 a.m. Central/local (9 a.m. Eastern) time on Sunday.

The top 12 teams will advance to round-robin match play with rounds beginning at 11:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. CT. The team with the highest pinfall after match play wins. There is no stepladder finals.

Across all rounds, players will bowl singles games with combined scores comprising the team total. There are no baker doubles games.

All rounds will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

More information on the event is available on the Striking Against Breast Cancer website and Facebook page.

2025 Event Schedule

Copperfield Bowl | Houston, TX

All times Central

Sunday, July 27
8 a.m. — Semifinals (four games)
11:30 a.m. — Finals (first six games of round-robin match play)
3:30 p.m. — Finals (last six games of round-robin match play)

Past Champions

2024 — Anthony Simonsen and Danielle McEwan
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2004 — Russell Wilson and Kristal Scott
2003 — Wes Malott and Genie Franklin
2002 — Dino Castillo and Diandra Hyman

2001 — Chris Barnes and Amy Dillon
2000 — Mark Scroggins and Donna Conners

Chris Via and Bryanna Coté Win 2025 Storm PBA/PWBA SABC Mixed Doubles

July 27, 2025 Nolan Hughes

On Sunday evening, Chris Via and Bryanna Coté executed a triumph worthy of the Storm PBA/PWBA Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles' 25th anniversary.

The tournament is more commonly called "The Luci" in honor of Luci Bonneau, a long-time PWBA Tour player and close friend of SABC founder Donna Conners.

The longtime teammates brought home the title at Copperfield Bowl in Houston, marking the long-awaited second career PBA Tour title for Via and the sixth of Coté's PWBA Tour career.

"We feel like we've had a pretty good showing every year," Via said. "The first year we bowled together, we had a pretty close call with a chance to win going into the last game. I feel like that has only fueled the fire a bit more for us in this tournament. Last year wasn't our greatest, but to come back and have a year like this, it's awesome, especially for the 25th anniversary.

"We'll have this one in our hearts for a long time."

Through 46 combined games, including 24 total of round-robin match play, Via and Coté tallied a total pinfall of 10,416 (+1,216). They entered the position round with a 260-pin margin over second place.

Kyle Troup and Liz Johnson (+1,042) finished in second place, followed by Darren Tang and Li Jane Sin (+839).

Andrew Anderson and Erin McCarthy (+752) and Tommy Jones and Shannon Pluhowsky (+718) rounded out the top five finishing teams.

"I think the lanes were a little harder this year, and we are two players that tend to thrive when they become harder. We've both won the U.S. Open," Coté said. "It was our time to shine. We focused on making shots and if the pins fell, great. If not, we made our spares and kept chugging along. We knew big scores would come for certain pairs. On other pairs, it was about managing the pocket, making your spares and moving on."

Coté, the 2021 PWBA Player of the Year, notched her first title since her U.S. Women's Open victory in 2023.

"It's exciting that now I have number six," Coté said. "I didn't win last year and I was on a few shows, which was kind of a bummer. Winning this one and doing it with Chris is really high up there, especially being in the 25th anniversary. It takes teamwork to really make the dream work."

Via, a seven-time member of Team USA, has been searching for his second career title ever since his 2021 U.S. Open title. There were many close calls, including a second-place finish in the PBA Owen's Illinois Classic earlier this season.

"Relief would come to mind first," Via said. "You never want to be the one-hit wonder. I feel like I've gotten close a lot. To be able to finally put it together — especially a doubles tournament, I feel like they're even harder to win because you have to have both people going at the same time — is really special. Being able to say I'm a multi-time PBA titleist is pretty sweet.

Via, the first and only player to throw two multiple televised 300 games, also threw the only two 300 games of this year's tournament. For each perfect game, he received a $300 bonus and each time he donated the proceeds back to the Striking Against Breast Cancer foundation.

Two-time defending champions Anthony Simonsen and Danielle McEwan finished in 22nd place.

EJ Tackett came up short in his attempt to set the PBA's single-season average record. His final season average of 228.92 average for 381 games left him just shy of breaking Jason Belmonte's 2017 record of 229.39.

The final PBA Tour title event of the season, the Storm Lucky Larsen Masters, will take place August 22-31 in Helsingborg, Sweden.

Final Standings

1. Chris Via and Bryanna Coté, $25,000
2. Kyle Troup and Liz Johnson, $12,500
3. Darren Tang and Li Jane Sin, $10,500
4. Andrew Anderson and Eric McCarthy, $8,000
5. Tommy Jones and Shannon Pluhowsky, $6,250
6. Mitch Hupé and Julia Bond, $5,750
7. Deo Benard and Nicollette Gaudette, $5,250
8. Frank Snodgrass and Jordan Richard, $5,000
9. François Lavoie and Crystal Elliott, $4,750
10. Nick Pate and Lauren Russo, $4,500
11. Julian Salinas and Lara Kurt, $4,250
12. Kris Prather and Hope Gramly, $4,000

More information on the event is available on the Striking Against Breast Cancer website and Facebook page.

Third Annual PBA LBC National Championships Clash Slated for September

August 1, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Division champions to compete for The Duke at Strobl Arena

The Duke is perhaps the most coveted trophy in bowling. This September, eight players will compete for the bronze-ified Hall of Famer in the 2025 PBA LBC National Championships Clash.

The third annual event will take place Sept. 26-27 at Strobl Arena inside Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park, Mich. The event will air live on the PBA's YouTube channel.

The Clash and a meet and greet with Norm Duke on Sept. 27 are free for all to attend.

"It's on in Detroit for the 2025 PBA LBC National Championships Clash!" Norm Duke said. "I hope to see you at Strobl Arena at Thunderbowl, where the finalists fight it out for a place in PBA history and The Duke."

Champions of each division of the 2025 PBA LBC National Championships, contested May 31-July 13 at Bowlero Mount Prospect in Illinois, will compete in the Clash.

The Clash, featuring a $53,000 prize fund, will be a one-ball eliminator format. The finalists will compete in a four-game seeding round to determine the order of the Clash.

Tom Daugherty won the first Clash in 2023, and 17-year-old Gianna Brandolino brought home the Duke last year.

2025 PBA LBC National Championships Clash Competitors

Open Classic
Westyn Griffin, Murfreesboro, TN
1,523 total pinfall

Griffin will look to replicate Brandolino's performance in 2024 and bring home The Duke before he can legally vote. The 17-year-old shot back-to-back 300 games en route to posting the highest six-game total in the entire event.

Women's Classic
Stephanie Zavala, Lakewood, CA
1,420 total pinfall

Zavala is a six-time PWBA Tour champion and the 2021 PWBA Rookie of the Year. She bowled the PBA World Series of Bowling XVI earlier this year in Reno as well.

Senior Classic
Chris Barnes, Denton, TX
1,438 total pinfall

Barnes won 19 PBA Tour titles in his Hall of Fame career. This season on the PBA50 Tour, the Texan has added his seventh and eighth career senior tour titles.

PBA Exempt
Andrew Anderson, Holly, MI
1,518 total pinfall

Anderson has won two titles and finished second in points on the PBA Tour this season. He said this season was the best of his career, even superior to his 2018 Player of the Year campaign.

Men's Handicap
Robert Morris, Stone Mountain, GA
1,250 scratch; 1,502 total pinfall

Morris tallied his division-leading pinfall on the first day of this year's event. Seven long weekends of anxiety-plagued waiting later, he brought home the division crown.

Women's Handicap
Karla Alsgood, Rio Linda, CA
1,014 scratch; 1,512 total pinfall

With handicap included, the 76-year-old Alsgood tallied the third-highest total pinfall of the eight finalists.

Boys Jr. Handicap
Connor Chen, Chicago, IL
1,223 scratch; 1,439 total pinfall

The 16-year-old Chicago native averaged more than 203 to punch his ticket to the Clash.

Girls Jr. Handicap
Olivia Rogers, Leeds, United Kingdom
1,209 scratch; 1,479 total pinfall

The 16-year-old Rogers will become the second international player to compete in the Clash, following fellow UK native Verity Crawley last year. She is also the first female two-handed player.

Complete standings are available here.

Optional Event Winners

Scratch Doubles
Andrew Anderson, Dan Higgins Jr.
1,566 total pinfall

Handicap Doubles
Karla Alsgood, Liz Johnson
1,523 total pinfall

Scratch Team
Andrew Anderson, Chris Barnes, Ryan Barnes, Stu Williams
2,573 total pinfall

Handicap Team
Darian Alexander, Erik Glenn, Scott Hodge, Robert Morris
2,826 total pinfall

Clash Schedule

Friday, Sept. 26
5 p.m. — Practice

Saturday, Sept. 27
2 p.m. — Seeding Round (four games)
3:30 p.m. — Meet and Greet with Norm Duke
5 p.m. — Clash Finals (one-ball eliminator format)

Clash Prize Fund

1st place — $25,000
2nd place — $10,000
3rd-8th place — $3,000
Total — $53,000

Chris Barnes Leads Day One of PBA50 TOC

August 6, 2025 Jill Winters

Morgantown, W.V. – Two of the greatest minds on the PBA50 Tour continue to learn from each other. Chris Barnes took advantage of being on B-squad Wednesday by watching how his good friend John Janawicz attacked the lanes, during Day 1 of qualifying in the PBA50 Johnny Petraglia BVL Tournament of Champions presented by Pleasant Day Schools.

“I tried to do everything J.J. did and I got to game plan a little bit based off of him,” Barnes said. “He and I see the lanes very similarly. There are a lot of times we try to do the same things, yet we go about our own way of getting to that spot.”

Based on what Barnes saw Janawicz do and what he personally experienced inside Suburban Lanes in practice, everything matched up well in his head. The results for Barnes were 226, 243, 236, 214, 247, 257, 177 and 227 to lead the way at +227. In Game 7, Barnes ran into a challenge on lanes 9 & 10.

“It is a tricky pair to go into blind. Tomorrow, we will be a little closer knowing the two lanes are quite a bit different,” Barnes said. “They are different from the other pairs, so you lose a lot of frames early.”

Barnes achieved his first objective of the week by getting out of the gates strong with the leaders. He knows there is a long way to go, but he learned some valuable information to add to his thorough notes. Now it is about improving as the week goes on.

Just eight pins behind Barnes is Janawicz, who led A-squad at +219. He rolled games of 194, 240, 264, 280, 204, 215, 232 and 190. Janawicz won the two previous tournaments with Petraglia and BVL in the title, both held in Florida. And last year in the Morgantown Classic, Janawicz finished third.

“I still don’t have a great picture on the fresh (46-foot oil pattern). Once I figured it out, I got deep enough and the right ball. That is where I hit them in Games 2, 3 and 4. Overall, it was a pretty well bowled block,” Janawicz said. “They are not easy by any stretch of the imagination. I’m off to a good start and want to use some of that momentum to have a good block tomorrow afternoon.”

After finishing his block, Janawicz watched Barnes and a few others trying to get a feel for what worked technique wise and angle wise. Janawicz, who currently leads the Player of the Year race, hopes to end this week on a good note. He is just four pins ahead of Timothy Elsass in third at +215. Mika Koivuniemi, who finished in second place at last year’s TOC, is in fourth place at +211. Right on his heels is Dan Knowlton, who won the last PBA50 Tour tournament held in Morgantown last year. Knowlton is fifth at +210.

Qualifying will continue on Thursday with eight more games to determine the top 32 players who will move into the advancer’s round. Barnes and the rest of B-squad will be on the lanes at 9 a.m. Eastern followed by Janawicz and A-squad at 3:30 p.m. only on BowlTV.

Top 10 PBA50 Tournament of Champions:

1. Chris Barnes, 1,827 (+227)
2. John Janawicz, 1,819 (+219)
3. Timothy Elsass, 1,815 (+215)
4. Mika Koivuniemi, 1,811 (+211)
5. Dan Knowlton, 1,810 (+210)
6. Bill Rowe, 1,806 (+206)
7. Amleto Monacelli, 1,798 (+198)
8. Brad Angelo, 1,794 (+194)
9. Andres Gomez, 1,792 (+192)
10. Tom Hess, 1,787 (+187)

John Janawicz Leads Day Two of PBA50 TOC

August 7, 2025 Jill Winters

Morgantown, WV – The defending PBA50 Player of the Year and this year’s current points leader John Janawicz is leading the charge in the Johnny Petraglia PBA50 Tournament of Champions presented by Pleasant Day Schools.

During Thursday’s final qualifying block, Janawicz had games of 236, 227, 256, 203, 256, 193, 248 and 238 to improve to +476. His 232.13 average on the day put him 56 pins ahead of Amleto Monacelli, who led B-squad.

Janawicz has made six stepladder finals appearances already this season. He has put himself into a good position looking ahead to Friday's advancers round and the start of round-robin match play. With this being the final tournament of the year, he reflected on his season.

"The winning has not been near as plentiful this season, but one thing I did this year that I didn't last year, was I got a check every week in every event. I have gotten smarter in those regards," Janawicz said. "It has been a good season. I would like to end it strong and get another major."

Monacelli posted another solid qualifying block. He shot 268, 203, 253, 225, 201, 212, 218 and 242 to improve to +420 overall.

"I thought they were hooking a lot earlier and when you tried to throw it hard, it didn't make it back. I was lucky that I could get around it a little bit," Monacelli said. "But every shot that was slow was a split, so the key was to keep the speed up to get it through the fronts."

Monacelli is ahead of last year's TOC champion Tom Hess by one pin. Dan Knowlton is in fourth place at +382 followed by Brad Angelo in fifth at +381. Pete McCordic was the final bowler to make the cut at +117. The top 32 bowlers will move into the advancers round starting at 10:30 a.m. Eastern on Friday.

They will bowl eight games with all pins carrying over and the top 16 will advance to the first round-robin match play round starting at 4:30 p.m. on Friday. Round 2 will begin at 11 a.m. ET on Saturday with the final eight games to determine the top five. The finals will start at 6 p.m. only on BowlTV.

Top 10 PBA50 Tournament of Champions:

1. John Janawicz, 3,676 (+476)
2. Amleto Monacelli, 3,620 (+420)
3. Tom Hess, 3,619 (+419)
4. Dan Knowlton, 3,582 (+382)
5. Brad Angelo, 3,581 (+381)
6. John Burkett, 3,567 (+367)
7. Bill Rowe, 3,567 (+367)
8. Mika Koivuniemi, 3,537 (+337)
9. Randy Weiss, 3,526 (+326)
10. Pete Weber, 3,513 (+313)

John Janawicz Maintains Lead in PBA50 TOC

August 8, 2025 Jill Winters

Morgantown, WV – With eight final round-robin match play games to go in the 2025 PBA50 Tour season, the Player of the Year race is heating up.

John Janawicz capitalized on a 7-1 match play record to earn a 69-pin lead in the Johnny Petraglia PBA50 Tournament of Champions presented by Pleasant Day Schools. He averaged 217 with games of 237, 184, 235, 218, 222, 247, 213 and 185.

"The one thing I learned is to be open for anything. The (lanes) were OK the first game and then you are trying to follow other people with a lot of different science experiments going on. Some of them apparently are not as successful as others, so trying to follow some of those can be challenging," Janawicz said. "You just have to be ready because everything happens so much faster because everyone is playing basically on top of each other to some degree."

At his disposal are at least 45 bowling balls in his vehicle. While noticing the success Chris Warren was having early in match play, Janawicz went out to his car and brought in the same ball, which he hadn't used yet. That led to games of 235 and 218. He also drilled another ball after match play to add to his arsenal.

"Trying to prepare for tomorrow and get a couple of balls in the on-deck circle. You don't want to get to a point where you have paralysis by analysis, and I am always toeing that line at all times," he said. "You have to keep an open mind. Sometimes too many options can create a headache. At the same time, I like to think I have a fairly decent hold on it to be able to sort through all of it."

Janawicz is 500 points ahead Brad Angelo in the Player of the Year race with 7,500 points up for grabs. Mika Koivuniemi, who is currently in second place after shooting 1,793, is 6,290 points behind Janawicz.

"I haven't won anything yet. I have to focus on the task in front of me. Try to get eight good solid games tomorrow and hopefully put myself in a good position on the show," Janawaicz said. "Don't take anything for granted and keep pressing forward. Hopefully, I can execute well for eight games and see where the cards lie."

Behind Janawicz is Mika Koivuniemi followed by Mitch Beasley, Parker Bohn III and Brad Angelo. Bohn III won his first seven games then tied Randy Weiss in Game 8 to post the best record on the day. He went from 13th place after the advancer's round to fourth place after the highest block of the day at 1,823.

The final eight games of match play will begin at 11 a.m. ET on Saturday. The top five will advance to the stepladder finals scheduled to start at 6 p.m. only on BowlTV.

Top 10 PBA50 Tournament of Champions (with bonus pins):

1. John Janawicz, 7,361 (+961)
2. Mika Koivuniemi, 7,292 (+892)
3. Mitch Beasley, 7,276 (+876)
4. Parker Bohn III, 7,252 (+852)

5. Brad Angelo, 7,224 (+824)
6. Tom Hess, 7,166 (+766)
7. Chris Warren, 7,102 (+702)
8. Randy Weiss, 7,080 (+680)
9. Amleto Monacelli, 7,076 (+676)
10. Dan Knowlton, 7,073 (+673)

John Janawicz Wins PBA50 TOC

August 9, 2025 Jill Winters

Morgantown, WV – John Janawicz continues to amaze bowling fans around the world. In just his third season on the PBA50 Tour, he earned his fifth major victory on Saturday at the Johnny Petraglia BVL PBA50 Tournament of Champions presented by Pleasant Day Schools. This was his ninth overall title, and second straight Player of the Year victory.

“This is what you dream about. You win the last tournament of the year, and you lock up Player of the Year. It is just one of those storybook endings,” the 52-year-old said. “To be able to win a title with BVL and Johnny Petraglia as the title sponsor is more special. He is an absolute legend and one of the great ambassadors for the game. This is my third BVL event win, so I told Johnny if the BVL sponsored the PBA50 Tour it would probably be pretty good for me.”

This was his second TOC win in three years. He defeated Parker Bohn III 230-202 in the championship match. Janawicz started the match with five strikes in the first six frames. Bohn III split in the sixth frame for his only open of the match, while Janawicz split in the seventh frame.

“You have to always maintain your confidence. You have to know that you are going to be able to figure it out,” Janawicz said. “You can’t panic because panic doesn’t fix anything.”

Bohn III came back with a double and then he walked out a flush shot leaving a solid 9-pin in the ninth, which stalled his efforts. Janawicz celebrated his win by clenching both fists together and shared a hug with Bohn III and several other players.

“You just try to work as hard as you can to be the best and maximize your ability. That is all I have ever tried to do. When you have these opportunities, you leave it all out there. You work really hard, keep your body in good shape, try to educate yourself, so you can make the smartest decisions possible,” Janawicz said about his mindset. “You put it all together, learn more about the mental game, and see what I can do if I apply myself to maximize my ability. That is really all I have ever tried to do.”

Janawicz made seven stepladder finals this season and he was one of three bowlers to win two titles, joining Chris Barnes and Brad Angelo. He cashed in every tournament, and he joins longtime doubles partner Pete Couture on the PBA50 all-time title list with nine a piece.

“It means a lot to be able to tie him because we were very close. He was great to me and gave me a lot of advice over the years that helped me,” Janawicz said.

In the opening match, Tom Hess was consistent with four strikes on each lane. He went on to defeat Brad Angelo 246-177. Hess would then face Mika Koivuniemi. Hess started out with six straight strikes, while Koivuniemi rebounded from an opening 7-10 split with four strikes in a row. Hess would also leave an untimely 7-10 split in the eighth frame. Koivuniemi finished strong with four straight strikes for 235. Hess left a pocket 4-7-9 for an open frame and 222.

In the semifinal match, Koivuniemi had three spares and a strike through four frames, while Parker Bohn III started out with three strikes and a nice conversion on the 2-4-6-7 split in the fourth. Bohn III then doubled as Koivuniemi responded with three strikes in the fifth through seventh frame. The Finland native made back-to-back spares. Bohn III ended the match first with a spare in the ninth followed by a strike and spare for 225. Koivuniemi finished with a spare and strike for 213.

With the 2025 PBA50 Tour season now complete, Tom Daugherty clinched Rookie of the Year and Parker Bohn III is the PBA60 Player of the Year.

2025 PBA50 Tournament of Champions Final Standings:

1. John Janawicz, $15,000
2. Parker Bohn III, $8,000
3. Mika Koivuniemi, $6,000
4. Tom Hess, $5,000
5. Brad Angelo, $4,000

MATCH SCORES:

Match 1: Hess def. Angelo 246-177

Match 2: Koivuniemi def. Hess 235-222

Match 3: Bohn III def. Koivuniemi 225-213

Championship match: Janawicz def. Bohn III 230-202

PBA Relaunches China Regional Program in 10-Year Partnership with Longmarch Bowling

August 15, 2025

Six years after the PBA China Tiger Cup, the PBA and Longmarch Bowling have announced a landmark 10-year agreement to relaunch the PBA China Regional Program.

Three tournaments are scheduled to be hosted at the Longmarch Bowling Center in Shanghai, starting with the PBA China Tribute to Pioneers Championship in October 2025, to kick off the program's official relaunch.

"I'm thrilled to announce this 10-year partnership with the PBA," Frank Zhao, President of Longmarch Bowling, said. "China holds immense potential for bowling, and with the PBA's iconic brand and global resources, we are poised to grow both the sport and the broader bowling industry across the country."

"This long-term collaboration with Longmarch Bowling is a pivotal step in PBA's global expansion, especially in China — a market we have identified as critical to growing bowling internationally," PBA Commissioner Tom Clark said. "Building on the success of the 2019 China Tiger Cup, we are excited to deliver consistent, world-class PBA events to Chinese bowlers and fans, nurturing new talent and strengthening the sport's foundation in the region."

The PBA's partnership with China dates back to 2014 when the PBA enlisted Longmarch to recruit players in China to become PBA members. More than 100 Chinese bowlers have joined the PBA as a result of this initiative, known as the "Pioneers Program," and several competed in the PBA World Series of Bowling.

The 2019 PBA China Tiger Cup, the first PBA event in China, marked a breakthrough as that season's top seven PBA-ranked players competed alongside hundreds of competitors from across China and Asia. However, the COVID-19 pandemic brought the program to a halt just a few months later.

"To drive bowling's growth here, aligning with the PBA — the highest level of the sport — is key," Zhao said. "As a Chinese saying 'Ti Gang Jie Ling' goes, grasp the key link and everything else falls into place. Through this partnership, we are building bridges between China and the global bowling community. In doing so, we are seizing the critical opportunity to revitalize both the sport and industry in China."

More information on the PBA China Regional Tour is available here.

Scheduled PBA China Events

PBA China Tribute to Pioneers Championship — Sept. 18-21, 2025
PBA China Scorpion Championship — Jan. 2-3, 2026
2026 PBA China Cup — Oct. 2-4, 2026

Sweden's Svensson to Defend Home Title in Season Finale

August 21, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The final title event of the 2025 PBA Tour is set to begin in Helsingborg, Sweden. The Storm Lucky Larsen Masters, held at Olympia Bowling, is the lone international title event of the season.

All rounds will be livestreamed on the Storm Lucky Larsen Masters YouTube channel.

Sweden's own Jesper Svensson is the defending champion. The Swede finished runner-up two years ago to AJ Johnson before earning an emotional, redemptive victory over Teodor Samuelsson last year.

"Even though I've played a lot of big tournaments in the (United States), this is the one I really wanted to win," Svensson said. "I don't know how to put it into words right now. I'm unbelievably proud of myself. It's truly special.

"To all my American friends: You are tough to beat over there in the states — but this is my house."

PLAYER OF THE YEAR IMPLICATIONS

Svensson ended this year's PBA Tour regular season by winning the PBA Tournament of Champions and PBA Playoffs, catapulting himself into the Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year discussion.

EJ Tackett, who won four titles with two major championships, has the statistical lead in that award race. Andrew Anderson's two titles and second-place finish in points places him among the front runners as well.

Jason Belmonte, Graham Fach, Ethan Fiore and Chris Via should also find themselves on the Player of the Year ballot.

There are a handful of players who enter the Storm Lucky Larsen Masters with a chance to become eligible for the ballot, which requires either two titles or one title and a top-10 earnings finish that season.

Ryan Barnes and Kyle Troup sit just outside the top 10 in earnings and have not won a title this season. However, a win in Sweden should propel either player into the top 10 in earnings and secure POY eligibility.

A win would represent quite the honeymoon for Troup, who is getting married on Aug. 23. Troup also won the event in 2018.

Barnes is also eligible for Harry Golden PBA Rookie of the Year honors.

Gary Haines won the USBC Masters in March, but currently sits outside the top 10 in earnings. A second title would automatically qualify himself for the ballot, and a top-two finish (with Barnes and Troup not winning) would likely get the job done as well.

Tim Foy Jr., Jakob Butturff and Anthony Simonsen rank currently among the top-10 earners, but lack a title and are not scheduled to compete in Sweden as of Aug. 21.

FORMAT

The Storm Lucky Larsen Masters features a unique qualifying format. There are 27 six-game qualifying squads to be held from Aug. 22-30. Players can bowl multiple squads.

There will be 55 advancing players once qualifying is completed. The No. 26-40 qualifiers as well as 15 special qualifiers (outlined here) will compete in Final Step 1, a six-game round with all previous pinfall dropped.

The top 15 players from Final Step 1 will meet the top 25 overall qualifiers in Final Step 2, another six-game round with all previous pinfall dropped.

The top 16 players will advance to the elimination match play bracket, which features three-game total pinfall matches in the Round of 16 and Round of 8 followed by single-game matches in the semifinals and finals.

The winner will receive 165.000 SEK (about $17,150 USD).

Janawicz, Daugherty, Bohn Earn 2025 PBA50 Tour Awards

August 22, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The 2025 PBA50 Tour season included 13 title events, plus four PBA60 title events including the inaugural Wayne Webb's PBA60 World Series of Bowling.

Three players who led their respective category in competition points received awards for their achievements on the lanes.

The race for the tour's most prestigious award came down to the final event. Eight players entered the Johnny Petraglia BVL PBA50 Tournament of Champions pres. by Pleasant Day Schools with a chance to become the Player of the Year.

John Janawicz, who led the tour in points entering the season finale, didn't give the other contenders a chance to pass him. He finished each round of the TOC in no lower than second place en route to earning the top seed, winning the title and claiming his second consecutive PBA50 Player of the Year honor.

Tom Daugherty, who celebrated his 50th birthday in February, won the USBC Senior Masters en route to winning Rookie of the Year honors.

The PBA60 Player of the Year award went to 62-year-old **Parker Bohn III**, marking his first time winning that award in his Hall of Fame career.

The winner of the Dick Weber Sportsmanship award, given to the player who best represented Dick Weber's class and sportsmanship, is determined by a vote among touring players and will be announced at a later date.

John Janawicz — PBA50 Player of the Year

Janawicz led all players with 29,395 points, $54,900 in earnings, five top-three finishes and seven top-five finishes. He cashed in all 13 title events and only missed consecutive championship rounds once.

Capping the season off with a second career TOC title was the cherry on top of a stellar 2025 campaign.

“That's definitely how you dream of ending a season, that's for sure,” Janawicz said. “It was pretty special to win. I’ve had kind of a weird relationship with the TOC the last few years, where I’ve won two of them but I didn't even cash last year.”

Janawicz became the ninth player to win multiple PBA50 Player of the Year awards, joining Tom Baker (four), Walter Ray Williams Jr., Bob Glass, Gary Dickinson, John Handegard (three), Pete Weber and Ron Mohr (two).

This season, Janawicz won two titles — the PBA50 Monacelli Championship and PBA50 TOC — compared to five in 2024. But he said that his 2024 POY campaign was an anomaly.

“With the talent that's out there, this year was a lot more realistic in terms of how things are probably going to be from a year-to-year standpoint,” he said. “I cashed in every event and I think I qualified higher all the way around compared to the last two years. Overall, in the big picture, I thought (this season) was still very good. But like anything, there is always room to improve.”

Through his three PBA50 Tour seasons, in which he won Rookie of the Year then back-to-back Player of the Year awards, the 52-year-old has compiled nine titles with five major championships.

“Honestly, if you would have told me I was going to win nine titles in three years, I probably would have laughed at you,” Janawicz said. “I understand how hard it is to win at this level. You have to bowl well obviously, but you still have to have a lot of things go in your favor for you to win. I'm very, very thrilled with how things have gone.”

Janawicz said he doesn’t tend to have specific goals, believing that you can plan for the future but you still have to live in the moment. Walter Ray Williams Jr.’s record of 16 PBA50 Tour titles is nonetheless on his mind.

“That would be a great goal,” he said, “but I’m just trying to do my best to prepare and, God willing, get the opportunity in the coming years to continue to keep doing this.”

Brad Angelo finished second in the Player of the Year race with 23,945 points and five top-five finishes. Angelo and Chris Barnes were the only other players to win multiple titles this season.

Tom Daugherty — PBA50 Rookie of the Year

Daugherty led all first-year players with 21,805 points. He ranked third overall in PBA50 Tour points and second with $41,650 in earnings, competing in 12 title events.

It took Daugherty just four events to enter the winner’s circle as he captured the USBC Senior Masters crown in June. He tallied four top-five finishes, including three in the PBA50 WSOB, in his maiden PBA50 season.

The four-time PBA Tour champion ranked 17th on the PBA Tour in points this season, which helped him begin the PBA50 Tour in midseason form.

Mark Clark, who won the PBA50 World Championship in dramatic fashion, finished second among first-year players with 16,630 points.

Parker Bohn III — PBA60 Player of the Year

Bohn led all players aged-60-and-over with 24,966 points and $46,100 in earnings between PBA50 and PBA60 title events. Pete Weber ranked second with 20,033 points.

Bohn came close to winning this award last year, but Williams passed Bohn when Bohn missed the season's final tournament to help his daughter move into college.

This year, Bohn got the job done and joined Williams as the two players have been named Player of the Year at the PBA, PBA50 and PBA60 levels.

"That's like hitting the trifecta," Bohn said. "Players only dream of accomplishing some of those things. You don't plan for it, it happens on its own at the culmination of an entire season."

In the four PBA60 title events, Bohn finished fourth, first, second and sixth. Bohn brought home his first PBA60 title during the inaugural Wayne Webb's PBA60 World Series of Bowling, hoisting the PBA60 Webb Championship trophy.

But his success was not limited to PBA60 events. He tied Barnes and Daugherty with four top-five finishes in PBA50 title events, trailing only Janawicz and Angelo.

He credited his success this season to good health and the support of his wife, Leslie.

"I felt like it was a pretty solid year," Bohn said. "If you can pencil me in that many top fives, I'll take my opportunities again next year and hope I can turn a few more coin flips and walk away with a couple more victories."

TO BE DETERMINED — Dick Weber Sportsmanship Award

The winner of the Dick Weber Sportsmanship award, given to the player who best represented Dick Weber's class and sportsmanship, is determined by a vote among touring players and will be announced at a later date.

Fifth Annual PBA Jr. and Gazmine Mason Foundation Scholarship Recipients Announced

August 22, 2025

Richmond, VA — The Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) in partnership with Gazmine "GG" Mason are excited to announce the fifth class of PBA Jr. and Gazmine Mason Foundation Scholarship recipients.

The PBA Jr. and Gazmine Mason Foundation Scholarship launched in 2021 to help increase representation in the sport of bowling.

"Being able to provide someone with an opportunity they may not have had access to before is exactly why the Gazmine Mason Foundation exists," Mason said. "Through our partnership with the PBA, we continue to support those for whom this will become an important part of their bowling journey. I am very grateful for another year of partnership with the PBA. Together, we are changing lives one scholarship at a time. I wish you all the best of luck this year."

The following 20 BIPOC youth bowlers were selected based on their achievements in academics, creativity, and commitment to the sport of bowling. Each will receive a free entry into the PBA Jr. National Championship Regional Qualifier event of their choosing.

The winner of each regional qualifier will advance to the PBA Jr. National Championship Finals to be held in 2026 and announced at a later date.

2025 Scholarship Award Winners

- Kayelle Belvin | Frederica, Del.
- Amari Browder | Cedar Hill, Texas
- William Cunningham III | Newark, N.J.
- Mila Davis | Oklahoma City, Okla.
- Pedro Gonzalez | Guaynabo, Puerto Rico
- Cameron Green | Stockbridge, Ga.
- Aaliyah Hall | York, Pa.
- Emmanuel Joseph | North Providence, R.I.
- Alisah Kennedy | Cincinnati, Ohio
- Avery Ling | Hempstead, N.Y.
- Kianna Macapinlac | Schenectady, N.Y.
- Medhi Mhira | West Islip, N.Y.
- Laniya Mitchell | Lumberton, N.C.
- Shaun Pender-Bey Jr. | Chicago, Ill.
- Caleb Perry | Memphis, Tenn.

- Melvin Perry III | Austell, Ga.
- Pryce Robinson | Chicago, Ill.
- Daylen Smith | Oak Park, Mich.
- Lorenzo Sukhram | Jamaica, N.Y.
- Noah Sye | Attleboro, Mass.

PBA Junior Regional Qualifier Schedule

Southwest Region
Aug. 15-17
AMF Garland Lanes | Garland, Texas
More info

South Region
Sept. 5-7
Myrtle Beach Bowl | Myrtle Beach, S.C.
More info

Midwest/Central Region
Sept. 26-28
Sun Valley Lanes | Lincoln, Neb.
More info

South Region
Oct. 3-5
Bowlero Austell | Marietta, Ga.
More info

Midwest/Central Region
Oct. 17-19
Thunderbowl Lanes | Allen Park, Mich.
More info

West Region
Nov. 7-9
Bowlero Clovis | Clovis, Calif.
More info

East Region
Dec. 3-7
East Providence Lanes | East Providence, R.I.
More info

Past PBA Junior National Champions

2025 — Anna Antony and Griffin Jordan (U15 Mixed: Jackson Dyess)
2024 — Kayla Starr and Ernesto Reynoso

2023 — Kaitlyn Stull and Jacob Robertson
2022 — Jillian Martin and Landin Jordan
2021 — Jillian Martin and Spencer Robarge

More information on the PBA Jr. program is available here.

Qualifying Underway in 2025 Storm Lucky Larsen Masters

August 24, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Squad Results and Rosters | Livestream | Live Scoring
Rules | Oil Pattern | Homepage

The final title event of the 2025 PBA Tour is set to begin in Helsingborg, Sweden. The Storm Lucky Larsen Masters, held at Olympia Bowling, is the lone international title event of the season.

All rounds will be livestreamed on the Storm Lucky Larsen Masters YouTube channel.

The Storm Lucky Larsen Masters, the final title event of the 2025 PBA Tour, is underway in Helsingborg, Sweden. This is the lone international title event of the year.

Native Swede Jesper Svensson will look to defend his title as multiple squads compete each day from Aug. 22-30.

The advancer, match play and championship rounds will take place Sunday, Aug. 31.

All rounds will be livestreamed on the Storm Lucky Larsen Masters YouTube channel.

This story will be updated periodically throughout the event.

Overall Leaders Through Squad 9

1. Tun Hakim, 1,375 (+175)
2. William Svensson, 1,352 (+152)
3. Noel Haglund Torgersen, 1,327 (+127)
4. James Blomgren, 1,317 (+117)
5. Anton Ahlgren, 1,312 (+112)

Squad 9

Malaysia's Tun Hakim closed out the tournament's opening weekend with a 1,375 series to take the overall lead on Sunday, Aug. 24. Hakim won the PBA Chameleon Championship earlier this year to become the first player from Malaysia to win a PBA Tour title.

Squad 8

Anton Ahlgren moved into fourth overall with his 1,312 series. He out-paced his squad by more than 10 pins per game.

Squad 7

William Svensson tallied 1,327, competing in his second squad, as Emma Halttunen shot 1,227 to become the first woman to average north of 200.

Squad 6

A 1,297 series allowed England's Dan Harding to top Squad 6. He ranked sixth overall after his squad.

Squad 5

The powerful lefty James Blomgren fired 1,317 to pace the 40-player field, while tournament namesake Martin Larsen finished third on the squad with 1,285.

Squad 4

Noel Haglund Torgersen moved into second place with a 1,327 series. Four Swedes led this tournament's fourth squad with the United States' Tommie McNeal (1,263) rounding out the top five.

Squad 3

In the U-21 squad, Ondrej Prekop of the Czech Republic paced the field. He started with 270 en route to posting a 1,286 series.

Squad 2

Sweden's Williams Svensson dominated the second squad. His 1,352 total pinfall was 111 pins better than the next-best player.

Squad 1

Just three players averaged more than 200 in the tournament's opening squad. Norway's Anders Johansen led the way, posting a 1,297 six-game series.

Youth Prevails in Ohio PBA Regionals

August 25, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Three PBA Central Regional Tour events were held over the past 10 days in Ohio. The tournaments drew many PBA Tour champions, including Kris Prather, AJ Johnson, Alec Keplinger, Jason Sterner, Graham Fach and more.

But the under-25 crowd stole the show and revealed a glimpse at the next generation of bowling prowess.

Twenty-year-old Ethan Fiore, who became the fourth-youngest player to win a PBA Tour major championship earlier this year, won the PBA Kremer Roofing Central Classic in Minster.

Aidan Furukawa, a college bowler at the Savannah College of Art and Design, won the PBA Dave & Diane Kill Central Open in Delphos.

Finally, Brett Lloyd won the PBA Bowlerstore.com Classic presented by Moxy's Xtra Pair in Coldwater, in his first event as a PBA member.

All three players are two-handed righties.

More Glory for Fiore

Fiore qualified sixth after eight games, averaging just shy of 220. He moved up to fourth after the four-game first advancer round, took the lead after the three-game second advancer round and maintained it through the two-game final advancer round.

Alec Keplinger flirted with perfection, shooting 299 to defeat Kyle Sherman in the opening match of the stepladder finals. The Michigan native then prevailed over Kris Prather in a 188-166 grindfest.

Three hours exactly due south of Jackson, Mich. — where Fiore won and Keplinger finished fourth in the PBA Players Championship — Fiore again emerged with the trophy after a 214-186 victory over Keplinger, marking his third career regional title.

Six weeks ago, Fiore said his goal this offseason was to “win 2-3 more regional titles.” He’s already won two.

More information and complete standings from the PBA Kremer Roofing Central Classic are available here.

Busy Bee Claims Second Regional Title of the Year

Kris Prather led the eight-game qualifying round in the second regional, this time at Delphos Recreation. Brandon Flora, Aidan Furukawa, Michael Davidson and Hayden Stippich rounded out the top five.

In the eight-game cashers round, 19-year-old Furukawa moved into pole position while averaging more than 234.

Matt Kuba, Stippich and Jean Perez joined the 2024 Junior Team USA member in the stepladder finals. Stippich won the all-lefty opening match of the stepladder finals over Perez before falling to Kuba in the semifinal match.

Furukawa fired 258 in the title match to claim his second regional title as a non-member. He also won the PBA Brighton Construction Myrtle Beach Open in May.

Furukawa is about to embark on his sophomore season at the Savannah College of Art and Design, a budding powerhouse in the college bowling ranks.

More information and complete standings from the PBA Dave & Diane Kill Central Open are available here.

Lloyd Shows No Mercy in Coldwater

Pla Mor Lanes in Coldwater has a reputation for demanding lane conditions and (sometimes comically) unfriendly pin carry. Players revere the challenge and laud those who conquer it.

The $10,000 top prize helped draw at least eight PBA Tour champions and a dozen more touring players — and likely several more if not for the concurrent Storm Lucky Larsen Masters and wedding of Kyle Troup.

Fiore Fetty Wap'd the eight-game qualifying round, shooting 1,738 to lead the 92-player field.

Zac Tackett seized the lead during the cashers round, a position he would not relinquish until the title match.

Lloyd hovered between third and fourth throughout the 17 games to reach the stepladder finals. There, Lloyd defeated Ric McCormick 216-183 and Trae Henrichsmeyer, the 2023 PBA LBC Open Classic division champion, 172-170 to meet the younger Tackett brother in the championship.

A key ball change in the fifth frame helped Lloyd hambone in the sixth through ninth frames. Tackett left the Big Four in the ninth frame, sinking the top seed's chances for victory against Lloyd.

Lloyd, a 23-year-old Knightdale, N.C. native competing in his first event as a PBA member, won the match 199-184.

In 2024, Lloyd won the PBA Bayport Mortgage Chesapeake Super Regional as a non-member last August and the Intercollegiate Team Championships title at Webber International University.

Lloyd is now a graduate assistant coach at Mount Mercy University, where he also spent time as a player.

More information and complete standings from the PBA Bowlerstore.com Classic presented by Moxy's Xtra Pair are available here.

PBA Hall of Famer Wayne Zahn Dies at 84

August 28, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Wayne Zahn, a PBA and USBC Hall of Famer, died on Aug. 20 at the age of 84.

Zahn won 13 PBA Tour titles with three major championships in his career. He earned PBA Player of the Year honors in 1966.

The Milwaukee native's last win came in the 1976 Showboat Invitational, where he defeated Earl Anthony in the title match.

At just 40 years old, Zahn was inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame in 1981.

His USBC Hall of Fame in the previous year made the youngest competitor to earn that honor at the time of his induction.

As part of the PBA's 50th anniversary celebration, Zahn was voted the 31st greatest bowler of all time in 2009.

Zahn spent his final years with his family in Tempe, Ariz.

Ryan Barnes Leads Storm Lucky Larsen Masters into Match Play

August 31, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The 16-player match play field is set in the Storm Lucky Larsen Masters, the final title event of the 2025 PBA Tour. The lone international title event of the year is being held at Olympia Bowling in Helsingborg, Sweden.

Qualifying rounds held between Aug. 22-30 determined the 55 players who competed in Sunday's advancer rounds.

The top 16 players in Final Step 2 will advance to elimination match play, which consists of three-game total pinfall matches in the Round of 16 and Round of 8 followed by single-game matches in the semifinals and finals.

Match play rounds will begin at 8:40 a.m. ET. The championship match will be held at 2:30 p.m. ET.

Ryan Barnes led the six-game second advancer round, called Final Step 2, with a 1,351 pinfall. He will face his former Wichita State teammate Alec Keplinger in the first round of match play.

Ethan Fiore, who defeated Barnes in the PBA Players Championship title match earlier this season, earned the No. 2 seed. Fiore will face Sweden's Nora Johansson, who made PWBA Tour history by becoming the first female two-handed to make a championship round earlier this season.

Additional PBA Tour players who made the match play field are Sean Rash, Andrew Anderson, Thomas Larsen, Nate Purches, Justin Knowles and François Lavoie.

Sweden's Joachim Karlsson, Markus Jansson, Peter Hellström; Finland's Juho Rissanen and Kaaron Salomaa; and England's Raymond Teece, brother of Richie round out the match play field.

All rounds will be livestreamed on the Storm Lucky Larsen Masters YouTube channel.

Round of 16 Matches

No. 1 Ryan Barnes vs. No. 16 Alec Keplinger
No. 8 Thomas Larsen vs. No. 9 Nate Purches

No. 4 Sean Rash vs. No. 13 Kaaron Salomaa
No. 5 Markus Jansson vs. No. 12 Raymond Teece

No. 2 Ethan Fiore vs. No. 15 Nora Johansson
No. 7 Juho Rissanen vs. No. 10 Peter Hellström

No. 3 Joachim Karlsson vs. No. 14 François Lavoie
No. 6 Andrew Anderson vs. No. 11 Justin Knowles

Sean Rash Wins 2025 Storm Lucky Larsen Masters

August 31, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Sean Rash capped off the 2025 PBA Tour season showing off the brilliance and perseverance that earned him a place in the PBA Hall of Fame earlier this year.

While battling a hand injury, Rash defeated Finland's Juho Rissanen to win the Storm Lucky Larsen Masters at Olympia Bowling in Helsingborg, Sweden.

The win marked the 18th PBA Tour title of his career and first since his 2021 PBA Chesapeake Open win. Rash earned 165.000 SEK (about $17,500 USD) for the win.

A replay of the semifinals and championship is available here. All rounds were livestreamed on the Storm Lucky Larsen Masters YouTube channel.

Rash earned a bye through the first advancer round, Final Step 1, by virtue of his qualifying performance. He then advanced through Final Step 2, a six-game sprint against the top 40 players, to earn his berth in the elimination match play bracket.

In the Round of 16, Rash defeated Finland's Kaarom Salomaa 606-567 in the three-game total pinfall match. He then eliminated England's Raymond Teece 586-584 in the Round of 8 to advance to semifinals.

Both semifinal matches and the championship were a single game.

In the opening semifinal match against Nate Purches, the 2024 PBA Rookie of the Year, Rash started with a strike then left a pocket 7-10 in the second frame. That result appeared to have lingered in his head as he struggled for a few frames on the lane.

The veteran Rash showed his resilience as he struck in the ninth and 10th frames, forcing Purches to mark. Purches left the 3-6-9-10 but failed to convert, leaving the 10-pin standing. Rash advanced to the championship with a 174-166 victory.

The second semifinal saw Andrew Anderson, the 2018 PBA Player of the Year, look to make a late-season push for the 2025 award.

Anderson was introduced to the Swedish crowd as "the home team player" because of his extensive experience competing in the Swedish League — but the player who actually lives closest to Helsingborg pulled off the upset.

Rissanen, who analyst Matt McNiel said lives about 400 kilometers north of Helsinki, bowled a steady 213 to defeat Anderson's 189.

Rash returned to the lanes after the second semifinal and missed left in his first shot of the championship, hitting the left side of the head-pin. The ball looked like it slipped off his hand.

However, Rash continued to aim directly at the 3-pin with minimal rev rate on subsequent shots. The spare-shot-like release appeared to be his way of managing a right hand or wrist injury.

Motiv tour rep Brett Spangler confirmed Rash was dealing with an injury. Spangler wrote to PBA media: “something seized up between matches and (Rash) can’t feel his hand.”

Injuries, particularly to his back, have defined the post-prime portion of Rash’s career. But sitting mere frames away from a title, Rash was determined to not let this opportunity slip away.

Rash managed to strike on his next four shots as Rissanen — a nine-year member of the Finnish national team but an amateur on the PBA level — battled nerves and the tricky lane conditions.

After missing the 1-2-4 in the seventh frame, Rash converted a pair of spares to set himself up for a manageable 10th frame.

Needing just a mark to shut out Rissanen, Rash threw three straight strikes to clinch the title.

“This one’s for the old guys,” Rash said. “My anxiety started to take over my mind. I called my wife, and she said, ‘Mind over matter. You got this, do what you can.’”

Rash heeded his wife's advice and did what he had previously done 17 times in his career: Win.

PBA Statement on USBC’s New Equipment Specifications

September 4, 2025 Professional Bowlers Association

Regarding today’s USBC announcement on new equipment specifications:

The PBA addressed issues surrounding so-called “urethane” bowling balls, several years ago.

As a result, for the past two years all PBA tournaments (PBA Jr., PBA Regional, PBA50 and PBA National Tour) have been contested under a uniform 78D hardness rule for that category of ball.

The PBA’s 78D rule addressed the most pressing concerns and has served our players, events and partners well. As the parameters of the sport continue to evolve, the PBA will continue its research, testing and evaluation to determine if any additional changes are needed for our level of competition.

While we respect USBC’s decision, for now and the upcoming 2026 season, all PBA events will continue as is by allowing “urethane” bowling balls manufactured at 78D hardness and not dropping under 73D after time and/or in use.

Sean Rash's Persistence Pays Off in Sweden

September 9, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Sean Rash felt like a man 10 years younger.

He had been competing in Olympia Bowling, the prominent Swedish bowling center, for more than 20 years. In those two decades, he compiled 17 PBA Tour titles, a Player of the Year award and earned an eternal home in the PBA Hall of Fame.

Injuries, particularly to his back, have taken their toll on the 43-year-old. He can still strike, but not quite as often and not without waking up to an aching body. His last win came on his 39th birthday, just over four years ago.

Rash had never won in the Scandinavian nation. He had a feeling that could change in the 2025 Storm Lucky Larsen Masters, especially after especially after he shot a jet-lagged 270 in his first game off the plane.

"I was very confident," Rash said. "I had the fresh figured out. I had good ball reaction on the fresh with two or three different bowling balls. I knew that if I got off to a good start, things would be good."

He wielded total control of the fresh oil pattern and, ultimately, advanced through the tournament to earn a berth in the semifinals.

Though Rash hasn't made as many championship rounds in recent years as he did in his prime, he does have a knack for rising to the moment.

He made both finals in his home state of Illinois this year — the same week he learned of his election to the PBA Hall of Fame.

His motivations in Sweden, while left unsaid, weren't hard to decipher.

Rash struck on his first shot of the semifinals against Nate Purches, who sports a notable-but-not-quite-Belichickian age gap to Rash.

In the second frame, Rash started walking out the shot before the ball reached its breakpoint, a mark of self-confidence he had sparsely shown during the past few years. The pins, however, humbled him in a hurry.

Rash left a pocket 7-10 in that second frame, escaped a 4-9 split with just the 9-pin in the fourth, chopped the 3-6 in the sixth and split again in the seventh.

Bowling is a fickle beast. The same guy who could split the 8-9 at will on the fresh suddenly fell behind Purches' max score by 27 pins.

But the veteran, who has been on tour almost as long as his opponent has been alive, maintained his poise. He knew the scoring pace would be low and he knew Purches hadn't been in this position before.

Rash struck in his ninth and 10th frames, which forced Purches to mark. The reigning Rookie of the Year left the 3-6-9-10 and missed it.

All of a sudden, Rash sat one game away from his first title in almost half a decade.

As Andrew Anderson took on Juho Rissanen in the other semifinal, Rash headed over to the warm-up pair. The 43-year-old threw two shots — and then his hand "locked up."

A day's worth of start-and-stop competition along with using a ball with a slightly longer span than his others aggravated a hand injury he suffered bowling a regional in Florida earlier this summer.

Combine the injury with Rash's elevated anxiety during competition and the "*holy s***, I'm a game away from the title*" realization, and it was easy to see a disaster scenario unfolding.

Rash told Martin Larsen, the Swedish star whom the tournament is named after, that he did not think he could bowl the championship match.

Larsen, likely doubting the severity of Rash's message, responded, "I need you to do something. I don't care how you bowl."

When internal panic starts to build, Rash relies on his trusted inner circle. He called his wife, Sara, who was watching the livestream from back in the U.S.

"Mind over matter," she told him. "You got this. Do what you can."

"She kept me in the right frame of mind," Rash said. "She didn't say anything negative. She said everything positive."

More positive reinforcement came from the other semifinal match as the Finnish amateur Rissanen threw four clutch strikes to eliminate Anderson.

Neither player would be a pushover by any means, but only one of them twice beat EJ Tackett for a title this season and it wasn't Rissanen.

There was still one, big problem: *Rash can't throw a bowling ball*.

Facing a dearth of alternatives, Rash decided to deploy a gameplan he hadn't used in almost 20 years.

"I decided to throw it like the U.S. Open in the early 2000s when I came out on tour," Rash said. "Hit the 1-3 and keep it in play."

In other words, his plan was to throw the ball straight at the head pin. He aimed his ball across the fifth arrow directly at the 3-pin, utilizing the modicum of a rev rate he could generate to get the ball to tip into the pocket.

It did not take the announcing crew of Dave Ryan and Matt McNiel long to realize this strategy was no act of lane-play brilliance, but desperation born out of an injury.

And yet, it was working.

After converting the 3-5-6 in the first frame, an odd leave for a righty, Rash buried four consecutive strikes. The hambone gave Rash a massive advantage over Rissanen, who opened in the third and fourth frames.

Rash's strong start meant the title was his to lose as the lower scoring pace continued in the championship match.

After Rash spared the 1-2 in the ninth frame, he needed just a mark in the 10th to secure the title. He struck, then struck two more times for good measure.

"I aced it," Rash said of his first shot in the 10th frame. "I can't say anything else. It was one of the best shots I've thrown in a long time."

The win marked Rash's 18th career PBA Tour title, moving himself into a tie for 19th all time with Nelson Burton Jr., Dave Davis, Billy Hardwick and Dave Soutar.

"Before the injuries, No. 18 didn't matter. It was just another number," Rash said. "But after starting to think about it, it's like *Man, I really did that.* I really pulled out my C-, D- or E-game and found a way to win."

Rash could not recall using this strategy in any event since those U.S. Open tournaments. Although, he said he wished he had used the strategy in the 2019 U.S. Open title match, when François Lavoie beat him 221-172.

This realization, of course, comes with the benefit of hindsight.

"Man, I was shocked that it worked," he said with a chuckle.

For Rash to reach his goal of 20 titles, he will have to take advantage of each opportunity like he did in Sweden.

He understands he can no longer contend for titles simply by putting on his shoes, and he will do everything in his power to prepare his mind and his body

But for now, all he can do is commemorate 2025 — a year Rash will not soon forget.

It wasn't a perfect year by any stretch of the imagination, particularly as drama regarding his ball-manufacturing sponsor engulfed the latter half of his season.

Nonetheless, 2025 was the year Rash was elected and inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame. The year he made two shows in his home state with his entire family watching. The year he won the first title of his 40s.

For Rash, personally, he saved the best for last.

"With the atmosphere and all the other circumstances, I can never forget about this win," he said.

Harry Golden PBA Rookie of the Year Nominees Announced for 2025 Season

September 15, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Four players have qualified for 2025 Harry Golden PBA Rookie of the Year award consideration, which recognizes the best first-year player during the 2025 PBA Tour season.

The award honors legendary PBA Tour tournament director Harry "Goose" Golden, who was inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame in 1983.

To qualify for the ballot, which can be viewed here, a player must have bowled at least three events and finished in the top five among rookies in points and earnings. The PBA World Series of Bowling counts as one event.

All PBA members are invited to vote for the 2025 PBA Player of the Year and Rookie of Year awards here.

A breakdown of the nominees for the 2025 Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year can be found here.

Winners for all 2025 PBA player awards, including the Tony Reyes Community Service and Steve Nagy Sportsmanship awards, will be announced later this month.

Ryan Barnes

2025 Stats: 12,188 points, $113,502 earnings, 220.12 average, three top-five finishes, nine top-25 finishes, 12 cashes

After finishing third as an amateur in the 2024 PBA Players Championship, Barnes became an immediate contender for this award once he earned his exemption in last year's PBA Tour Trials.

The two-handed righty cashed in 12 of 16 title events, showing strong consistency for a first-year player. His best performance came in the fourth major of the season, where he earned a runner-up finish to Ethan Fiore in the PBA Players Championship.

Barnes set a new rookie earnings record, becoming the first freshman to bring home six figures. He also became the first rookie to qualify for the PBA Playoffs since the event's return in 2019.

Cam Crowe

2025 Stats: 4,455 points, $19,825 earnings, 213.39 average, one top-10 finish, six top-25 finishes, six cashes

It did not take long to see the potential of the two-handed southpaw's immense talent.

Crowe averaged more than 240 and qualified second in the season-opening PBA Delaware Classic, ultimately finishing a season-high in ninth place, and tallied four top-20 finishes in the season's first seven title events.

The Chicago native and St. Ambrose University product finished 49th overall in points this season.

Darren Ong

2025 Stats: 4,570 points, $28,800 earnings, 222.25 average, one title, one top-five finish, two top-25 finishes, three cashes

Ong only bowled in one PBA Tour event last season, making 2025 his official rookie year. Despite only competing in the World Series of Bowling and the USBC Masters, Ong ranked 47th on tour in points.

Ong fired three perfect games in the first seven games of PBA Viper Championship qualifying. He went on to defeat EJ Tackett in the championship match, claiming his first career title and becoming the first Singapore player to win a PBA Tour title.

He added a 15th place finish in the PBA World Championship.

Hayden Stippich

2025 Stats: 3,750 points, $22,288 earnings, 212.10 average, one top-10 finish, three top-25 finishes, five cashes

Stippich, who bowled for Bob Learn Jr. in college at Tennessee Southern University, prefers to let his game do the talking. The Pennsylvania native yapped all week in last year's PBA Tour Trials as he won the event to earn his 2025 exemption.

A strong showing in Illinois — finishing 16th in the Roth/Holman Doubles Championship and a season-high eighth in the PBA Owen's Illinois Classic — were the highlight of his freshman campaign.

Stippich's season was derailed by an injury and sickness in Reno. He withdrew from the PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic while he was in the top 20 and missed the entire World Series of Bowling. Stippich bounced back with his best major showing of the year, finishing 25th in the USBC Masters.

Voting is now open to PBA members here. The 2024 Harry Golden PBA Rookie of the Year award winner will be announced during the week of Dec. 9.

Recent Harry Golden PBA Rookie of the Year Winners

Nate Purches, 2024
Cortez Schenck, 2023
Santtu Tahvanainen, 2022
Matt Russo, 2021
not awarded in 2020 due to the pandemic-interrupted season (2020 rookies retained eligibility through 2021)
Mykel Holliman, 2019
Kamron Doyle, 2018
Matt Sanders, 2017
François Lavoie, 2016
Jesper Svensson, 2015

Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year Nominees Announced for 2025 Season

September 15, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Based on their performance this PBA Tour season, seven players have been nominated for 2025 Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year award consideration.

The award honors the legacy of Schenkel, whose Hall of Fame sports broadcasting career included more than three decades as the voice of the PBA.

Listed in alphabetical order, the nominees for the 2025 Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year award are: Andrew Anderson, Jason Belmonte, Graham Fach, Ethan Fiore, Jesper Svensson, EJ Tackett and Chris Via.

To qualify for the ballot, which can be viewed here, a player must have won at least one PBA Tour title and ranked among the top 10 in earnings during the calendar year. Any player who won multiple titles during the year is automatically added to the ballot.

All PBA members are invited to vote for the 2025 PBA Player of the Year and Rookie of Year awards here.

A breakdown of the nominees for the 2025 Harry Golden PBA Rookie of the Year can be found here.

Winners of all 2025 PBA player awards, including the Tony Reyes Community Service and Steve Nagy Sportsmanship awards, will be announced later this month.

Andrew Anderson

Titles (2): PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic presented by Pilgrim's, PBA Tour Finals
Other notes: Earned No. 1 seed in U.S. Open, Qualified for one-handed PBA All-Star Team

Anderson turned in, in his own words, a career year in 2025. He beat Tackett for each of his titles, which were his first singles titles since 2018 — the year Anderson won Player of the Year.

The Michigan native ranked second on tour in points (18,120), third in earnings ($203,781) and third in average (224.24). He bowled all 18 title events, earning seven top-five finishes, nine top-10 finishes and 14 cashes.

Jason Belmonte

Title (1): PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship (with Bill O'Neill)
Other notes: Earned No. 1 seed in PBA World Championship, Qualified for two-handed PBA All-Star Team, Won PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands with Team Storm

Belmonte brought home one title this season, led the 82-game PBA World Championship and ranked highly in other statistics.

He finished third in points (15,365), fourth in earnings ($190,835) and second in average (225.87). In 16 title events, the Australian earned four top-five finishes, nine top-10 finishes and 14 cashes.

No player has won the Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year award more than Belmonte, sharing the record of seven with Walter Ray Williams Jr.

Graham Fach

Title (1): PBA Delaware Classic
Other notes: Qualified for one-handed PBA All-Star Team

Fach, who had not won a title since 2016, proved right away that this season would not be like the previous eight. He won the season-opener in Delaware then netted a ninth-place finish in the U.S. Open.

The Canadian ranked fourth in points (15,181) and sixth in earnings ($147,925). In his 16 title events, he averaged 221.87 and tallied five top-five finishes, eight top-10 finishes and nine cashes.

Fach's three top-10 major finishes trailed only Tackett's four.

Ethan Fiore

Title (1): **PBA Players Championship**
Other notes: Earned No. 1 seed in PBA Players Championship, Started season competing in PTQs as non-exempt player

Fiore made his first career championship round in Nevada and made quite the national introduction with his historic seven-round roll-off against Tackett in the semifinals. Fiore later led the PBA Players Championship and defeated Ryan Barnes to win his first title and first major.

Fiore finished the season eighth in points (13,195) and fifth in earnings ($150,095). In 13 title events, he averaged 220.95 and earned three top-five finishes, four top-10 finishes and nine cashes.

Fiore, who turned 21 earlier this month, is the youngest player to qualify for the Player of the Year ballot since 19-year-old Anthony Simonsen did so in 2016.

Jesper Svensson

Titles (2): **PBA Tournament of Champions**, PBA Playoffs
Other notes: Earned No. 1 seed in PBA Tournament of Champions, Won PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands with Team Storm

The Iceman started the season ice cold, failing to net a top-10 finish in the season's first five title events. He righted the ship in Reno, finishing top-25 in all six title events with two top-five finishes.

But Svensson decided merely contending wasn't good enough. The two-handed Swede won the PBA Tournament of Champions to qualify for the PBA Playoffs, then ran through the all-televised bracket to claim back-to-back titles.

Svensson finished the season seventh in points (13,440) and second in earnings ($271,100). In 16 title events, the southpaw averaged 222.05 and earned four top-five finishes, six top-10 finishes and 12 cashes.

Svensson and Tackett are the only two players to qualify for the Player of the Year ballot in each of the past two seasons.

EJ Tackett

Titles (4): **U.S. Open presented by Go Bowling**, PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic, PBA Shark Championship, **PBA World Championship**

Other notes: Achieved fourth-highest single-season average in PBA history, Set PBA record for most consecutive championship round appearances with six (6), Made seven (7) consecutive championship round appearances in singles title events, Won PBA Strike Derby, Qualified for one-handed PBA All-Star Team

Tackett, who has won this award three times in his career, including the past two seasons, might have reached a new peak in 2025.

He led the tour in virtually every statistical category with 34,690 points, $438,540 earnings, a 228.60 average, 11 top-five finishes, 12 top-10 finishes and 15 cashes in 17 title events. He had legitimate aspirations of breaking the single-season average and earnings records this season until the final few tournaments.

In the midst of making seven straight singles finals, a PBA record, Tackett became the second player in PBA history to advance to the championship round in every World Series of Bowling event. Inside Reno's National Bowling Stadium, Tackett defended his PBA Shark Championship title and defeated Belmonte to secure his third consecutive PBA World Championship title.

Chris Via

Title (1): Storm PBA/PWBA Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles (with Bryanna Coté)
Other notes: Won PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands with Team Storm, Qualified for two-handed PBA All-Star Team

Three top-11 major finishes and a long-awaited second career title propelled the chiseled two-handed Ohio native to his third career Player of the Year nomination.

Via ranked sixth with 14,660 points and seventh with $147,684 earnings. He averaged 222.15 and earned four top-five finishes, seven top-10 finishes and 12 cashes in 16 title events.

Voting is now open to PBA members here. The 2025 Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year award winner will be announced later this month.

Recent Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year Winners

EJ Tackett, 2024
EJ Tackett, 2023
Jason Belmonte, 2022
Kyle Troup, 2021
Jason Belmonte, 2020
Jason Belmonte, 2019
Andrew Anderson, 2018
Jason Belmonte, 2017
EJ Tackett, 2016
Jason Belmonte, 2015

Harry Golden PBA Rookie of the Year Nominees Announced for 2025 Season

September 15, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Four players have qualified for 2025 Harry Golden PBA Rookie of the Year award consideration, which recognizes the best first-year player during the 2025 PBA Tour season.

The award honors legendary PBA Tour tournament director Harry "Goose" Golden, who was inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame in 1983.

To qualify for the ballot, which can be viewed here, a player must have bowled at least three events and finished in the top five among rookies in points and earnings. The PBA World Series of Bowling counts as one event.

All PBA members are invited to vote for the 2025 PBA Player of the Year and Rookie of Year awards here.

A breakdown of the nominees for the 2025 Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year can be found here.

Winners for all 2025 PBA player awards, including the Tony Reyes Community Service and Steve Nagy Sportsmanship awards, will be announced later this month.

Ryan Barnes

2025 Stats: 12,188 points, $113,502 earnings, 220.12 average, three top-five finishes, nine top-25 finishes, 12 cashes

After finishing third as an amateur in the 2024 PBA Players Championship, Barnes became an immediate contender for this award once he earned his exemption in last year's PBA Tour Trials.

The two-handed righty cashed in 12 of 16 title events, showing strong consistency for a first-year player. His best performance came in the fourth major of the season, where he earned a runner-up finish to Ethan Fiore in the PBA Players Championship.

Barnes set a new rookie earnings record, becoming the first freshman to bring home six figures. He also became the first rookie to qualify for the PBA Playoffs since the event's return in 2019.

Cam Crowe

2025 Stats: 4,455 points, $19,825 earnings, 213.39 average, one top-10 finish, six top-25 finishes, six cashes

It did not take long to see the potential of the two-handed southpaw's immense talent.

Crowe averaged more than 240 and qualified second in the season-opening PBA Delaware Classic, ultimately finishing a season-high in ninth place, and tallied four top-20 finishes in the season's first seven title events.

The Chicago native and St. Ambrose University product finished 49th overall in points this season.

Darren Ong

2025 Stats: 4,570 points, $28,800 earnings, 222.25 average, one title, one top-five finish, two top-25 finishes, three cashes

Ong only bowled in one PBA Tour event last season, making 2025 his official rookie year. Despite only competing in the World Series of Bowling and the USBC Masters, Ong ranked 47th on tour in points.

Ong fired three perfect games in the first seven games of PBA Viper Championship qualifying. He went on to defeat EJ Tackett in the championship match, claiming his first career title and becoming the first Singapore player to win a PBA Tour title.

He added a 15th place finish in the PBA World Championship.

Hayden Stippich

2025 Stats: 3,750 points, $22,288 earnings, 212.10 average, one top-10 finish, three top-25 finishes, five cashes

Stippich, who bowled for Bob Learn Jr. in college at Tennessee Southern University, prefers to let his game do the talking. The Pennsylvania native yapped all week in last year's PBA Tour Trials as he won the event to earn his 2025 exemption.

A strong showing in Illinois — finishing 16th in the Roth/Holman Doubles Championship and a season-high eighth in the PBA Owen's Illinois Classic — were the highlight of his freshman campaign.

Stippich's season was derailed by an injury and sickness in Reno. He withdrew from the PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic while he was in the top 20 and missed the entire World Series of Bowling. Stippich bounced back with his best major showing of the year, finishing 25th in the USBC Masters.

Voting is now open to PBA members here. The 2024 Harry Golden PBA Rookie of the Year award winner will be announced during the week of Dec. 9.

Recent Harry Golden PBA Rookie of the Year Winners

Nate Purches, 2024
Cortez Schenck, 2023
Santtu Tahvanainen, 2022
Matt Russo, 2021
not awarded in 2020 due to the pandemic-interrupted season (2020 rookies retained eligibility through 2021)
Mykel Holliman, 2019
Kamron Doyle, 2018
Matt Sanders, 2017
François Lavoie, 2016
Jesper Svensson, 2015

Four PBA East Region Players Clinch RPI Berths

September 18, 2025 Nolan Hughes

PBA East RPI qualifiers (from left to right): Andrew Suscreba, Andrew Hall, Joe Paluszek and Alex Horton

The first of 14 qualifier events for the 2025 BowlTV PBA Regional Players Invitational (RPI) was held this past weekend at Mid County Lanes and Entertainment in Middletown, Del.

The RPI will take place Dec. 11-14 at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev. The end-of-season tournament for the PBA and PBA50 Regional Tours will ultimately include 100 PBA and 49 PBA50 division players.

The first four players to secure their spot in the RPI were Alex Horton, Joe Paluszek, Andrew Hall and Andrew Suscreba, who were the top finishers in the PBA East Region BowlTV RPI Qualifier presented by Bally's Dover Casino Resort.

Paluszek led the eight-game qualifying round and maintained his lead for 15 of 16 games of round-robin match play.

But Horton, a two-handed righty, kept chipping away. He trimmed Paluszek's lead to just eight pins entering the position round.

Horton seized the lead and the title with a 257-206 win in the tournament's final game.

Next on the docket is the PBA50 Southwest Region RPI qualifier this weekend in Waxahachie, Texas.

More information on the RPI, including eligibility and rules, is available here.

PBA RPI Qualifier Schedule

PBA East
Alex Horton, Joe Paluszek, Andrew Hall and Andrew Suscreba

PBA50 East
PBA50 Ripic's Carousel Lanes East Region BowlTV RPI Open
October 10-12
Binghamton, New York

PBA Central
PBA Family Ford of Bluffton/Yergis BBQ/EZ Bowl Central Open powered by QubicaAMF EDGE String
October 3-5
Bluffton, Indiana

PBA50 Central
PBA50 RPI Central Classic presented by Fayette Drywall & MWPD Painting
September 26-28
Kettering, Ohio

PBA Midwest
PBA Strike N Spare 2 Midwest BowlTV RPI Qualifier
October 24-26
Lockport, Illinois

PBA50 Midwest
PBA50 Strike N Spare 2 Midwest BowlTV RPI Qualifier
October 24-26
Lockport, Illinois

PBA South
PBA Saint Lucie Lanes BowlTV RPI South Open
October 3-5
Port St. Lucie, Florida

PBA50 South
PBA50 Jeff Schrum Memorial BowlTV RPI South Open
October 31-November 2
Gastonia, North Carolina

PBA50 Southwest
PBA50 Waxahachie BowlTV RPI Qualifier
Sept. 19-21
Waxahachie, Texas

PBA Southwest
PBA Oklahoma City Open & BowlTV RPI Qualifier
Sept. 26-28
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

PBA West
BowlTV PBA RPI South Point Hotel Casino Open
November 8-9
Las Vegas, Nevada

PBA50 West
BowlTV PBA50 RPI South Point Hotel Casino Classic
November 8-9
Las Vegas, Nevada

PBA Northwest
BowlTV PBA RPI Jim Kent Memorial Qualifier
October 10-12
Lakewood, Washington

PBA50 Northwest
BowlTV PBA50 RPI Gary Mage Memorial Qualifier

October 10-12
Lakewood, Washington

Chris Via to Receive 2025 PBA Tony Reyes Community Service Award

September 23, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Chris Via has been selected as the 2025 recipient of the PBA Tony Reyes Community Service Award, which recognizes a current PBA member who exemplifies extraordinary community service, charitable or educational contributions over the course of a PBA season.

"To be attached to something with Tony's name on it is an honor," Via said. “I'm very thankful that I was chosen to win this award. I just want to leave the game in a better place than where it was when I started. It's been nice to give back to the community and try to pass along as much knowledge as I can to the next generation.”

Via’s natural generosity caught the eye of PBA Commissioner Tom Clark during the Storm PBA/PWBA Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles Tournament in July.

After each of Via’s 300 games — the only two perfect games thrown during the tournament — he donated his bonus winnings back to the SABC foundation without hesitation. Those exchanges are one of the many ways Via supports the efforts of Donna Conners, the founder of SABC, throughout the year.

“We’ve been fortunate enough to be given a platform to be able to raise awareness for a fantastic cause," Via said. "The whole reason we go to Houston is to raise money for breast cancer awareness; the bowling tournament is an added bonus. Donna and her entire team down there in Houston just do a fabulous job putting on that event every single year. I want to do anything I can to put a spotlight on what Donna and her team do. I’m just trying to be an avenue for them to be seen by more people."

Via went on to win this year’s SABC Mixed Doubles tournament, which celebrated its 25th anniversary, with Bryanna Coté.

“The Tony Reyes award is one of the PBA’s most meaningful honors, representing the heart of our sport," Clark said. "Chris Via’s name added to our esteemed list of recipients comes because he demonstrates true professionalism as more than just competing on the lanes. I know Tony would be proud of Chris’ support and representation of our charities and how he helps grow the game locally.”

Another bowling foundation that Via wanted to shed a spotlight on is Bowlers to Veterans Link (BVL), the official charity of the PBA Tour. In May of this year, Via was announced as an official advocate for BVL.

BVL provides funding and support to veterans and active-duty military to ensure their physical and emotional therapeutic needs are met after federal funding ends. Since its founding in 1942, which makes BVL the longest-running charitable organization in bowling, BVL has raised more than $57 million.

Via won gold in the singles event of the 2024 PANAM Bowling Champion of Champions with Team USA. Photo credit: USBC

Via has been one of the prominent members of Team USA for almost a decade. When Via joined Team USA, he said there were many great role models like Chris Barnes, Tommy Jones and Sean Rash to learn from.

Since those players' retirements from the national team, Via and AJ Johnson have stepped into the shoes of the role models they once followed. They are leaders for Team USA, Junior Team USA and youth bowlers across the nation.

During his tenure on Team USA, which dates back to 2016, Via said they have tried to build a world class team and family-like culture.

"There was a time where if Team USA showed up to an event, there was a strong chance they were winning a gold medal. For a long time, it was kind of taken for granted and the rest of the world has caught up," Via said. "We want to build a culture dedicated to being the best team in the world. We also want the feeling of a family. There are going to be people that make the team once and there are going to be people that make the team 10 times. We want everyone to feel the same when they are on the team."

Via has been an esteemed member of his Ohio communities for years. In recognition of his 2021 U.S. Open title, his hometown of Springfield dedicated May 25 to be an annual celebration of "Chris Via Day."

Via and Mikey Tang own three pro shops in central Ohio, two in Columbus and one in Springfield. Via said being able to help people from his communities — the same people who he went to school with and who helped teach him bowl to bowl as a kid — through his passion for the scientific side of the sport is very rewarding.

"I would much rather be remembered as a great person rather than a great bowler," Via said. "Knowing that prioritizing being a better person is being noticed and recognized by those around me is pretty awesome and pretty powerful. This award makes me want to focus on that even more and pass on more to the next generations. Hopefully more people will want to strive to do the same things."

Tony Reyes, who died in 2012, was an eight-time PBA Regional Tour champion, collegiate All-American and the 18th player in PBA history to bowl a 300 game on national television.

Few remember the accolades when they think of Reyes. Instead, they remember his everlasting smile, buoyant personality and limitless generosity.

PBA Tony Reyes Community Service Award Recipients

Chris Via, 2025
Kyle Troup, 2024
Johnny Petraglia, 2023
Ryan Shafer, 2022
Warren Eales, 2021
Danny Wiseman, 2020

Chuck Gardner, 2019
Chris Barnes, 2018
Del Ballard Jr., 2017
Rhino Page, 2016
Ed Godbout, 2015
Missy Parkin, 2014
Parker Bohn III, 2013

Deo Benard Voted 2025 PBA Steve Nagy Sportsmanship Award Winner

September 24, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Deo Benard has been voted the 2025 PBA Steve Nagy Sportsmanship award winner.

Seventeen players were nominated for the award by players who competed in at least half of 2025 PBA Tour events. Benard received 76.67% of the final vote. Brad Miller, the 2020 recipient of this award, garnered the remaining 23.33%

“Getting the call from (Tom Clark) was unreal. I’m so thankful. Being nominated last year, honestly, I thought that was the coolest thing,” Benard said. “I try to make people smile. When I make other people smile, it makes me smile. I just like spreading love and giving out compliments. Anytime I can help people out, it helps me, too.

“I always try to make every interaction special,” Benard said. “Whether we're bowling a pro-am or competing with each other, I respect everyone and I want everyone to have a good time.”

The 21-year-old native of Roanoke, Texas is starting to build an impressive résumé at the age of 21. Benard has one PBA Tour title, 13 PBA Regional Tour titles and now a Steve Nagy Sportsmanship award.

“I've always felt like I was the youngest (on tour),” Benard said. “This is weird to me, that people way older than me actually accept me as a good person. Knowing that my peers accept me as a person will give me confidence.”

On tour, Benard often travels with Jake Peters and Richie Teece, who have combined to win three of the past four Nagy awards. Benard thanked Peters and Teece for taking him under their wing.

“They are such good people, so it's cool to win it with them,” Benard said. “Jake is always giving tips and helping me out. He’s always felt like a brother to me. Richie makes me laugh. We have a secret handshake.”

Deo Benard poses with past Nagy award winners and PBA Hall of Famers, Parker Bohn III and Mike Aulby, during 2024 PBA All-Star Weekend. Photo credit: PBA Commissioner Tom Clark

The PBA's sportsmanship award honors Steve Nagy, a PBA Hall of Famer and founding member, and has been awarded since 1966, the year of Nagy's death. He was instrumental to the early success of the PBA.

Recent PBA Steve Nagy Sportsmanship Award Recipients

Deo Benard, 2025
Richie Teece, 2024
BJ Moore, 2023
Jake Peters, 2022
Jake Peters, 2021
Brad Miller, 2020
Martin Larsen, 2019
Tom Smallwood, 2018
Chris Loschetter, 2017
Tom Smallwood, 2016

Ryan Barnes Wins 2025 Harry Golden PBA Rookie of the Year

September 25, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Ryan Barnes of Denton, Texas has been named the 2025 Harry Golden PBA Rookie of the Year.

Barnes set the rookie earnings record with $113,502 en route to leading all first-year PBA Tour players in points (12,188). He ranked 11th overall in points to become the first rookie of the modern era to qualify for the PBA Playoffs.

Barnes received 82% of votes from PBA members and the media. Cam Crowe (9%), Darren Ong (6.5%) and Hayden Stippich (2.5%) were also nominated for the award.

"This feels pretty sweet," Barnes said. "It was a big goal of mine going into the year. This is something nobody can take away from me, so it's pretty cool."

Barnes led all rookies in top-five finishes (three), top-10 finishes (four), top-25 finishes (nine) and cashes (12). He averaged 220.12 across 292 games.

His best finish came in the PBA Players Championship, in which he finished second to Ethan Fiore in the major championship.

"I can't be upset with that season," Barnes said. "I wanted to cash in every event. I'm not sure how realistic that was, but I'm pretty happy with cashing in 12 of 16."

Barnes earned his 2025 exemption in last year's PBA Tour Trials. He finished fifth in the 90-player field, averaging more than 222 for those 48 games.

After finishing sixth in the season-opening tournament, Barnes racked up five top-12 finishes in the season's first seven events. He credited his consistent success to the preparation he did in the offseason, sharpening his skillset to compete against the world's top talents.

“Before the season, I worked on my versatility, learning oil patterns and getting my ball speed slower,” Barnes said.

In 2024, during his senior season at Wichita State, Barnes finished third in the PBA Players Championship as an amateur. His coach at Wichita State, Rick Steelsmith, won PBA Rookie of the Year honors in 1988.

Barnes has another mentor who previously won Rookie of the Year: his father, Chris, who won the award in 1998.

Chris and Ryan Barnes are the first father-son duo to each win PBA Rookie of the Year honors.

“A lot of people say I’m following in his footsteps," Ryan said, "but to actually win something that he has won is pretty cool."

Ryan said he doesn’t feel any pressure to live up to the Barnes name; his mother, Lynda, is also a USBC Hall of Famer. Instead, Ryan sees their expertise as an unfair advantage for himself.

“It’s an unfair advantage, the way he sees the game and can simplify it so easily for me,” Ryan said. “He can watch a shot and say the adjustment with such confidence because he has experienced it. It makes it much easier for me to make the next shot. I can go back to being an athlete.”

In 2026, Barnes would like to transition from being the tour’s top rookie to one of the tour’s top players.

“I would love to get title No. 1. That is a huge goal,” he said. “Similar to this year, I would like to finish top 10 in points, maybe even top five. I have some smaller statistical goals that I would like to improve upon.”

The PBA Rookie of the Year Award is named after legendary PBA Tour tournament director Harry “Goose” Golden, who was inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame in 1983.

Recent Harry Golden PBA Rookie of the Year Winners

Ryan Barnes, 2025
Nate Purches, 2024
Cortez Schenck, 2023
Santtu Tahvanainen, 2022
Matt Russo, 2021
Not awarded, 2020
Mykel Holliman, 2019
Kamron Doyle, 2018
Matt Sanders, 2017
François Lavoie, 2016

Eight Finalists Head to Thunderbowl for 2025 PBA LBC National Championships Clash

September 25, 2025 Nolan Hughes

This Saturday, the eight division champions of this summer's PBA LBC National Championships will compete for The Duke, the most unique trophy in bowling.

Among the competitors are former PBA Player of the Year Andrew Anderson, six-time PWBA Tour champion Stephanie Zavala and PBA Hall of Famer Chris Barnes.

Attendance is free for the PBA LBC National Championships Clash at Strobl Arena inside Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park, Mich. The event will air live on the PBA's YouTube channel as well.

This year's finalists will compete in a four-game seeding round (1 p.m. Eastern on Sept. 27) to determine the order for the one-ball eliminator finals (5 p.m. ET).

In the seeding round, each player will bowl four full games. The player with the highest four-game total pinfall, including handicap, will choose where they want to be slotted for the Clash. The player with the second-highest score chooses next, and so on until the lowest-scoring player receives the remaining position in the lineup. Ties in the seeding round will be broken by the high handicap game (with a max score of 300).

In the one-ball eliminator finals, each player will throw a single shot, in the order determined by the seeding round. The player with the lowest pinfall will be eliminated. No handicap will be included. Ties will be broken through a one-shot roll-off. The process repeats each round until a champion is crowned.

Two years ago, Tom Daugherty survived the one-ball eliminator format to win the inaugural Clash. Seventeen-year-old Gianna Brandolino outlasted the field to bring home The Duke in 2024.

Clash Competitors

- Westyn Griffin - Open Classic
- Stephanie Zavala - Women's Classic
- Chris Barnes - Senior Classic
- Andrew Anderson - PBA Exempt
- Robert Morris - Men's Handicap
- Karla Alsgood - Women's Handicap
- Connor Chen - Boys Jr. Handicap
- Olivia Rogers - Girls Jr. Handicap

EJ Tackett Wins Third Consecutive Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year Award

September 26, 2025 Nolan Hughes

EJ Tackett claimed his fourth career and third consecutive Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year honor in dominant fashion, receiving 86.5% of the vote among PBA members and media.

Andrew Anderson and Ethan Fiore each received 6% of the vote. Jason Belmonte, Graham Fach, Jesper Svensson and Chris Via were also nominated.

Tackett joins Earl Anthony (1974-76, 1981-83), Mark Roth (1977-79), Walter Ray Williams Jr. (1996-98) and Belmonte (2013-15) as the fifth player to win three consecutive Player of the Year honors.

“I never thought in my life I could do something like that, winning three in a row,” Tackett said. “I’ve gotten to a point in my life and my career that every time I am able to do something, I join a list of people that are considered the greatest ever to play the game. To have my name associated with theirs is something very, very special.”

Tackett’s 2025 season, by many statistical measures, was one of the greatest campaigns in PBA history. He led the tour in points (34,690 — more than the second and third players combined), earnings ($438,540), average (228.60), top-five finishes (11), top-10 finishes (12), top-25 finishes (13) and cashes (15) in his 17 title events.

Tackett set new PBA records by advancing to the championship round in six consecutive title events and seven consecutive singles title events.

His 228.60 average ranked fourth all time and he entered the season’s final event with a chance to break the record of 229.39 set by Jason Belmonte in 2017.

Tackett said a pivotal moment of his season came in one of his few underwhelming performances.

In the PBA Owen’s Illinois Classic, Tackett said he missed more 10-pins than he had in any other single event of his career. He said he went home after missing the cut and practiced shooting the pesky corner-pin for more than an hour.

Tackett led the PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic, the first tournament after Illinois, and held a narrow lead over Dom Barrett in the title match. With a chance to clinch the title, Tackett left a 10-pin in the ninth frame and another 10-pin on his first shot in the 10th frame.

Tackett said it felt like the bowling gods were testing him. He accepted their challenge, converted both 10-pins, then struck on the fill ball to clinch the title.

“That was one of those moments that sticks out to me. I took something bad that happened, did something about it and created something good,” Tackett said. “Our mind is the most powerful thing that we have. One of the things that I've always said and I will continue to say is those that believe they can and those that believe they cannot are both usually right.”

His win in Missouri marked the 25th title of his career. Later in the season, Tackett surpassed Don Johnson for 10th all time with his 27th career title.

The two defining moments of his 2025 campaign were his major championship victories, each of which, for different reasons, immensely bolstered his growing legacy.

“Majors are how we measure ourselves,” Tackett said. “Even though we’re bowling against the same guys, sometimes even on the same patterns, it feels different in a major championship. The air is just different.”

After two rounds of qualifying in the U.S. Open pres. by Go Bowling, Tackett sat in 78th place and almost 200 pins outside the cut. He started the final round with a 186 game to fall even further behind.

The Indiana native responded with a herculean effort, averaging more than 240 under U.S. Open-quality lane conditions, to make the cut to match play by 21 pins. Tackett rose to second place during match play to advance to the stepladder finals, where he defeated Chris Via and top seed Andrew Anderson.

The win marked his second career U.S. Open title, each coming at Indianapolis’ Royal Pin Woodland just over an hour south of his hometown of Bluffton, Ind.

Tackett’s second major victory of the year came in the PBA World Championship, culminating perhaps the greatest week in PBA history.

Tackett made the championship round in all five PBA World Series of Bowling XVI title events, finishing third on Scorpion, second on Viper and fourth on Chameleon before defending his Shark Championship title.

The World Championship title match, which was Tackett’s 123rd game in 18 days during the WSOB, pitted Tackett against Jason Belmonte.

For the second time in three years, Tackett doubled in the 10th frame to defeat his rival. Tackett, in his words, threw the two best shots of his career to complete the sixth major championship threepeat in PBA history.

“I was completely exhausted, mentally, physically and emotionally,” Tackett said. “To go through all of those games, all of those shows, all of those emotions, and still find a way to perform in a major championship, and then also win it, was pretty special.”

In each year Tackett has won the World Championship (2016, 2023-25), he has also been named Player of the Year.

No player has ever won four consecutive majors or four consecutive Player of the Year awards. Next season, Tackett will look to achieve both.

The PBA Player of the Year award bears the name of Chris Schenkel, whose Hall of Fame sports broadcasting career included more than three decades as the voice of the PBA.

Schenkel and Tackett were each born in the small Indiana county of Huntington.

Recent Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year Winners

EJ Tackett, 2025
EJ Tackett, 2024
EJ Tackett, 2023
Jason Belmonte, 2022
Kyle Troup, 2021
Jason Belmonte, 2020
Jason Belmonte, 2019
Andrew Anderson, 2018
Jason Belmonte, 2017
EJ Tackett, 2016

Andrew Anderson Wins 2025 PBA LBC National Championships Clash

September 27, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Detroit native Anderson Anderson grew up watching the legend Norm Duke compete on the PBA Tour. On Saturday evening, Anderson won a trophy in the PBA Hall of Famer's image at Strobl Arena inside Thunderbowl Lanes.

The 30-year-old prevailed in the third annual PBA LBC National Championships Clash, outlasting his seven competitors in the one-ball eliminator format.

Anderson, a six-time PBA Tour champion and 2025 PBA Player of the Year finalist, earned The Duke trophy and the $25,000 top prize for his efforts. Runner-up Westyn Griffin brought home $10,000 while all other finalists collected $3,000.

Anderson, who grew up and lives less than an hour away in Holly, Mich., also won the 2024 PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship at Strobl Arena.

"Outside of the doubles tournament with (Kris) Prather, I haven't bowled very well in singles events there," Anderson said. "For this to be the one I pulled off — I won a trophy with Mike Aulby and Norm Duke's name on it, so I would say that's a pretty special year."

The Clash featured each of the eight division champions from the PBA LBC National Championships held earlier this summer. The players competed in a four-game seeding round to determine the order of the Clash.

The order of the Clash went as follows: Anderson (PBA Exempt division champion), Stephanie Zavala (Women's Classic), Chris Barnes (Senior Classic), Olivia Rogers (PBA Jr. Girls), Robert Morris (Men's Handicap), Karla Alsgood (Women's Handicap), Connor Chen (PBA Jr. Boys) and Westyn Griffin (Open Classic).

Chen knocked over eight pins in the opening round of the Clash, a score that would have advanced in Rounds 2-6. However, eight wasn't enough in Round 1 and the 16-year-old was sent packing.

Barnes, the father of 2025 Harry Golden PBA Rookie of the Year Ryan Barnes, was eliminated in the second round with a six count.

Anderson and Morris went into a roll-off in Round 3, where Anderson escaped by a 7-6 margin.

Zavala's high rev rate has helped her win six PWBA Tour titles, but her unique ball motion combined with a heavy dose of poor luck resulted in a 4-9-10 split and a Round 4 exit.

Rogers, a 16-year-old two-hander from the United Kingdom, was eliminated in Round 5 with a six count.

Anderson and Griffin each struck in Round 6, advancing to the final round as Alsgood tallied a score of 7.

After Anderson left a 10-pin and Griffin went Brooklyn to leave a 6-pin, the Clash went into a final round roll-off. Anderson struck, putting all the pressure on Griffin, who knocked over just six pins. Griffin's runner-up performance left a lasting impression on Anderson.

"When we bowled together in the seeding round, he was nervous the whole time and couldn't get the ball off his hand," Anderson said of Griffin. "Then we go throw the shots that really matter and he laced his first five shots. It was very impressive to watch."

Given the player with the lowest score each round would be eliminated, Anderson said his gameplan was to get nine and hope that would be enough to advance.

"I hadn't gotten less than nine with that ball the entire day. I had to throw it really bad for that to happen. Sometimes, you take it for granted when you have good ball motion and kind of forget that you still have to throw good shots," said Anderson, referring to his six-count in Round 3. "If I actually followed my gameplan correctly, it wouldn't have been as dramatic as it was. I was very fortunate to pull it off the way I did."

"Any tournament you win, there's some luck or karma involved," Anderson added on the livestream. "Robert Morris and Westyn Griffin are going to be getting some Christmas gifts from me."

Anderson won two titles and finished runner-up in the U.S. Open this year on the PBA Tour. He finished tied-second in Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year voting to EJ Tackett.

To close his championship interview, Anderson imparted some wisdom for aspiring PBA players.

"I would tell anybody that 80% of the PBA Tour is mental," Anderson said. "You've got to learn how to persevere, get through some tough moments and learn how to bowl on TV. Once you get on the other side, ride the wave."

Seeding Round Scores (including handicap)

1. Olivia Rogers, 929
2. Robert Morris, 926
3. Chris Barnes, 912
4. Stephanie Zavala, 889
5. Karla Alsgood, 871

6. Andrew Anderson, 841
7. Connor Chen, 805
8. Westyn Griffin, 684

Clash Results

Round 1: Anderson X, Zavala X, Barnes X, Rogers X, Morris 9, Alsgood X, *Chen 8,* Griffin X

Round 2: Anderson X, Zavala X, *Barnes 6*, Rogers 7, Morris 9, Alsgood 7, Griffin X

Round 3: Anderson 6, Zavala X, Rogers X, Morris 6, Alsgood 8, Griffin X
Roll-off: Anderson 7, *Morris 6*

Round 4: Anderson X, *Zavala 7,* Rogers X, Alsgood X, Griffin X

Round 5: Anderson 9, *Rogers 6*, Alsgood 9, Griffin X

Round 6: Anderson X, *Alsgood 7*, Griffin X

Round 7: Anderson 9, Griffin 9
Roll-off: Anderson X, *Griffin 6*

Final Standings

1. Andrew Anderson, $25,000
2. Westyn Griffin, $10,000
3. Karla Alsgood, $3,000
4. Olivia Rogers, $3,000
5. Stephanie Zavala, $3,000
6. Robert Morris, $3,000
7. Chris Barnes, $3,000
8. Connor Chen, $3,000

2025 PBA Tour Season in Review

September 29, 2025

Even in a season in which there were six first-time champions, including two first-time major champions, two class-of-2025 Hall of Famers who won titles later in the season, three players with multiple victories and champions representing *eight* different countries, there was an outlier: EJ Tackett. In earning his third consecutive and fourth overall Player of the Year Award, Tackett won four titles (two majors) in eight championship-match opportunities among his 11 TV appearances. The other two multi-time champions—Andrew Anderson and Jesper Svensson—both won twice and both had to go through

Tackett to do so, with Anderson defeating Tackett in both their title-match meetings and Svensson getting by Tackett in the PBA Playoffs.

The most impressive stats put up by a rookie in years belonged to Ryan Barnes, who posted five top-10 finishes, including a runner-up performance in the PBA Players Championship, and became the first rookie in PBA history to earn six figures. Barnes and his father, 1998 Rookie of the Year Chris, are the first father-son pair to earn PBA Rookie of the Year honors.

Here's a quick recap of the 2025 PBA Tour season:

PBA Delaware Classic

Mid County Lanes & Entertainment
Middletown, Delaware
Winner: Graham Fach (second career title)

Eight years and 11 months after Graham Fach became the first Canadian to win a PBA Tour title, doing so in the 2016 PBA Players Championship, he finally claimed his second to put an end to the impostor syndrome he said he'd been battling during his extended title drought. As the No. 3 seed, Fach rolled through Michael Davidson, Nick Pate and finally Jakob Butturff to claim the title. Fach's 277 in the title match would hold up as the highest title-winning score of the entire 2025 season.

U.S. Open presented by Go Bowling

Woodland Bowl
Indianapolis, Indiana
Winner: EJ Tackett (24)

With two of three qualifying rounds complete, Tackett was in 78th place. After a huge third round got him into match play, Tackett had 24 more games to pile up pins, which he did to the point of leading everyone except Andrew Anderson, whose near-tournament-long lead held into the stepladder finals.

Tackett beat former U.S. Open champion Chris Via by 93 pins in the semifinal match, then ran over Anderson with a 238-184 victory in the championship match. It was Tackett's second U.S. Open title and sixth overall major.

PBA Owen's Illinois Classic

Bowlero Vernon Hills
Vernon Hills, Illinois
Winner: Santtu Tahvanainen (1)

Three events into the season, three PBA Tour champions from three different countries. 2022 PBA Rookie of the Year Santtu Tahvanainen became the third player from Finland ever to win (Mika Koivuniemi and Osku Palermaa are the others), earning the top seed and then finding his way past Via in the title match.

PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic

Enterprise Park Lanes
Springfield, Missouri
Winner: EJ Tackett (25)

Winning his 25th title tied Tackett with Hall of Famer Brian Voss for 11th all-time in PBA Tour titles. Only 10 players had ever won more times and one of them was one of Tackett's idols, the eponymous Pete Weber, who autographed Tackett's trophy for him. Tackett earned the top seed and faced his fellow Triple Crown winner, Dom Barrett, who won three matches from the No. 4 spot to get to the championship match.

Tackett's 238-202 victory gave him his second title of 2025, his fourth consecutive season with multiple titles.

PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship

Bowlero Vernon Hills
Vernon Hills, Illinois
Winners: Jason Belmonte (32) and Bill O'Neill (15)

Another one of the mere 10 players with more career titles than Tackett, Jason Belmonte, added one more to his cache as he and Bill O'Neill, who at the time had been elected but not yet inducted into the Hall of Fame, claimed the Roth/Holman Doubles Championship for the second time in their careers.

The top seeds waited in the title match for No. 2 seeds Shawn Maldonado and DJ Archer to get by No. 5 seeds and 2019 champions Matt Ogle and Sean Rash (himself also a Hall of Fame-elect). Belmonte and O'Neill rolled 210 to Maldonado and Archer's 169, giving Belmonte his 32nd title and O'Neill his 15th. Belmonte's Australia became the fourth country represented by a PBA Tour champion just five events into the 2025 season.

PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic presented by Pilgrim's

Coconut Bowl (qualifying and match play), National Bowling Stadium (stepladder finals)
Sparks, Nevada and Reno, Nevada
Winner: Andrew Anderson (5)

Andrew Anderson earned his second No. 1 seed of the season, leading the field out of Coconut Bowl and into the stepladder finals held at the National Bowling Stadium. And, just like the last time Anderson was the top seed, the second seed was EJ Tackett.

In the semifinal match, Tackett and Ethan Fiore tied at 238, requiring what turned out to be the longest roll-off in PBA history, with Tackett striking seven times and Fiore striking six times before a 9-count on his final shot.

Anderson, determined not to repeat the history of the U.S. Open, dominated the championship match, beating Tackett 237-181 and securing Anderson's fifth career title.

PBA Scorpion Championship

National Bowling Stadium
Reno, Nevada
Winner: Rasmus Edvall (1)

The fifth country to welcome home a PBA Tour champion in 2025 would be Sweden as Rasmus Edvall became the third Swede ever to win a PBA Tour title (Mats Karlsson and Jesper Svensson were the first two). Entering the stepladder finals as the fifth seed, Edvall got by Ryan Barnes, Tobias Börding and EJ Tackett to reach the title match against Rafiq Ismail.

Edvall posted his highest score of the day, 224, against Ismail's 172, making Edvall the second first-time champion of 2025.

PBA Viper Championship

National Bowling Stadium
Reno, Nevada
Winner: Darren Ong (1)

Three 2025 trends became quite evident, if they weren't already, with Darren Ong's win in the PBA Viper Championship: (1) first-time winners are going to be abundant, (2) winners from all over the world are the norm, (3) EJ Tackett might bowl for every title for the rest of time.

Ong became the first player from Singapore to win a PBA Tour title, defeating No. 5 seed Tackett in the championship match, 215-205. Tackett, fresh off his second-place finish in the Nevada Classic and third-place finish in the Scorpion Championship, climbed through Jason Belmonte, Zach Wilkins and Kris Prather to reach the title match, but could not get by Ong, who made Singapore the sixth country represented by a PBA Tour champion in 2025.

PBA Chameleon Championship

National Bowling Stadium
Reno, Nevada
Winner: Tun Hakim (1)

Another first-time champion. Another country (Malaysia) represented. Another first-time winner for his nation. Tun Hakim was the top seed in the stepladder finals and rolled 269 against Kevin McCune, who had just shot 265 to defeat Andrew Anderson in the semifinal match. EJ Tackett, again on the telecast, finished fourth after falling to Anderson.

PBA Shark Championship

National Bowling Stadium
Reno, Nevada
Winner: EJ Tackett (26)

It was an interesting time in Reno for Tackett. He was clearly the best player throughout the World Series of Bowling, making every cut, competing every day with very little chance to rest, and yet he'd just spent the previous four days competing in the televised finals but not winning titles.

Sitting in the top spot in the Shark Championship, Tackett had to beat Tom Smallwood—the man Tackett beat for his first major in 2016—who had just rolled through Jesper Svensson, Tim Foy Jr. and Packy Hanrahan. Tackett didn't give Smallwood much of a chance, rolling 265 on the way to Tackett's second consecutive Shark Championship, third title of 2025 and 26th of his career, tying him with Don Johnson for 10th all-time.

PBA World Championship

National Bowling Stadium
Reno, Nevada
Winner: EJ Tackett (27)

The tie with Don Johnson didn't last long. Tackett, making his sixth TV appearance in as many opportunities in Reno (the first person to qualify for every WSOB telecast since Sean Rash in 2011), was the No. 2 seed for the stepladder finals and got by the surging Tim Foy Jr. in the semifinal match to set up a championship opportunity against the all-time majors king, Jason Belmonte, who was looking for his 16th career major and first since 2023, when he beat Tackett in the Tournament of Champions.

This time, Tackett would prevail, shooting 242 on the way to his third consecutive PBA World Championship title, seventh career major title (tied with Norm Duke for sixth all-time) and fourth title of 2025.

USBC Masters

Thunderbowl Lanes
Allen Park, Michigan
Winner: Gary Haines (1)

When Gary Haines admitted he was not comfortable during the deciding game of his two-game match with Anthony Simonsen (Haines, the top seed, had to be beaten twice in order to lose the match, and Simonsen won the first game), ball rep Dino Castillo suggested Haines take a moment, give his wife a kiss, then bowl.

Haines didn't take the advice right away, but he took it, and it seemed to settle him down enough to throw his two best shots in the two most crucial spots of the match, claiming his first PBA Tour title and a major at that.

PBA All-Star Weekend powered by QubicaAMF: One-Handers vs. Two Handers

Foxx View Lanes
Waukesha, Wisconsin
Winners: One-handers (EJ Tackett, Andrew Anderson, Graham Fach, Kris Prather, Jakob Buttuff)

PBA All-Star Weekend marked the first time stringpins were used on a PBA telecast and pitted the top five one-handers versus the top five two-handers based on competition points through the World Series of Bowling in a Race to Three baker match. The one-handers—EJ Tackett, Andrew Anderson, Jakob Butturff, Graham Fach and Kris Prather—took the match relatively pun-intended handily, three games to one.

PBA All-Star Weekend powered by QubicaAMF: Strike Derby

Foxx View Lanes
Waukesha, Wisconsin
Winner: EJ Tackett

Though the Strike Derby is not a PBA Tour title event, the joy on champion EJ Tackett's face was genuine after winning a roll-off against Jason Belmonte. Tackett had been close many times in previous Strike Derby competitions, but until this season, hadn't been able to get the win. After he and Belmonte each rolled 10 strikes during their two-minute striking sessions, a strike-to-win roll-off ended quickly when Tackett struck and Belmonte got nine.

PBA Players Championship

JAX 60
Jackson, Michigan
Winner: Ethan Fiore (1)

Thinking about Tackett and roll-offs is a convenient transition to Ethan Fiore, whose seven-round roll-off with Tackett earlier in the season gave Fiore nearly a full bonus game of television experience. Fiore was guaranteed only one game in the PBA Players Championship by virtue of qualifying first overall and his opponent would be Rookie of the Year frontrunner Ryan Barnes, who beat Tim Foy Jr., 264-235, in the semifinal match.

Despite bowling for a major title at the age of 20, Fiore didn't appear fazed by anything, putting up a score of 232 to become the second player this season to make his first title a major championship.

PBA Tournament of Champions powered by 1800 Tequila

AMF Riviera Lanes
Fairlawn, Ohio
Winner: Jesper Svensson (13)

Two weeks before Graham Fach won the 2016 PBA Players Championship, Jesper Svensson won the 2016 PBA Tournament of Champions at 20 years of age, breaking Marshall Holman's record as the youngest player ever to win that event. Nine years and nearly three months later, Svensson claimed the 2025 PBA Tournament of Champions for his second career major title.

Svensson won many titles in those nine years, but had been unable to snag that second major until he, as the top seed, defeated Jakob Butturff (who advanced from the prior evening's prelims telecast, then defeated Kevin McCune, EJ Tackett and Graham Fach to get to the title match) to claim the Tournament of Champions title for the second time.

PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands powered by Beatbox

Thunderbowl Lanes
Allen Park, Michigan
Winners: Storm (Kyle Troup, Chris Via, Jason Belmonte, Jesper Svensson, François Lavoie)

In the revamped brand-centric PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands, each brand formed fantasy-sports-style lineups during every singles even on the 2025 PBA Tour to determine seeding into the televised eight-team stepladder baker finals. The top-seeded team, Storm, swept the No. 2 team, Motiv, in a Race to 2 championship match, with Storm winning the inaugural Manufacturer's Cup.

PBA Playoffs

Thunderbowl Lanes
Allen Park, Michigan
Winner: Jesper Svensson (14)

Jesper Svensson, seeded seventh in the PBA Playoffs, only had lane choice once—in the opening round—as he worked his way to the Race to 3 championship match. In the earlier Race to 2 rounds, Svensson defeated No. 10 Jakob Butturff in a roll-off, then No. 2 Andrew Anderson in another roll-off, then No. 6 Chris Via in a sweep to get to the finals.

His opponent, far-and-away-top-seed EJ Tackett, received a bye through the opening round, then eliminated No. 9 Anthony Simonsen and No. 4 Graham Fach en route to the championship.

Although the scores weren't huge, Svensson seemed unstoppable, taking the first two games before Tackett forced a deciding game four, in which Svensson bowled his highest game of the set to win his 14th title.

PBA Tour Finals

Steel City Bowl & Brews
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Winner: Andrew Anderson (6)

The final televised singles event of the season appropriately featured Andrew Anderson versus EJ Tackett for the title. They'd bowled on TV three times earlier in the season, twice in title matches, with each player claiming one title from the other and Anderson holding an overall 2-1 edge on the season.

Make it 3-1. In the Race to 2 title match, Anderson rolled 212 twice while Tackett put up 200 and 189, making Anderson the third two-time champion in 2025 and giving him the sixth title of his career.

PBA/PWBA Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles

Copperfield Bowl
Houston, Texas
Winners: Chris Via (2) and Bryanna Coté (6th PWBA Tour title)

After a strong start to the season in which Chris Via was on two of the first three televised stepladders and finished in the top 10 in three of the first five events (finishing no lower than 17th), he didn't make another TV appearance in a title event until the PBA Playoffs, in which he finished fourth. He'd been bowling well toward the end of the season and thus it was no surprise he and partner Bryanna Coté were the class of the field in the total-pinfall extravaganza that is the PBA/PWBA Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles. Via bowled two perfect games during the event (donating both perfect-game bonuses to the X Out Breast Cancer charity the event supports) and earned his second career PBA Tour title while Coté won her sixth PWBA Tour title.

Storm Lucky Larsen Masters

Olympia Bowling
Helsingborg, Sweden
Winner: Sean Rash (18)

Sean Rash became the second Hall of Famer of the season to win a title after his induction earlier in the year, triumphing over the Storm Lucky Larsen Masters field to win his 18th PBA Tour title and first since 2021. Despite a right-hand injury that worsened just prior to the title match, Rash devised a go-at-the-head-pin strategy that, combined with his hard-to-conceive-under-the-circumstances accuracy, piled up enough pins to defeat Juho Rissanen in the championship match.

Final 2025 PBA Tour Earnings

1. EJ Tackett, $438,540.00
2. Jesper Svensson, $271,100.00
3. Andrew Anderson, $203,781.00
4. Jason Belmonte, $190,834.62
5. Ethan Fiore, $150,095.00
6. Graham Fach, $147,925.00
7. Chris Via, $147,684.00
8. Tim Foy Jr., $140,625.00
9. Jakob Butturff, $115,455.00
10. Ryan Barnes, $113,502.00

Final 2025 PBA Tour Points Standings

1. EJ Tackett, 34,690
2. Andrew Anderson, 18,120
3. Jason Belmonte, 15,365
4. Graham Fach, 15,181
5. Tim Foy Jr., 15,020
6. Chris Via, 14,660
7. Jesper Svensson, 13,440
8. Ethan Fiore, 13,195
9. Anthony Simonsen, 13,015
10. Jakob Butturff, 12,245

2025 PBA Tour Champions

Majors in bold
Non-title events in italics

PBA Delaware Classic: Graham Fach (second career title)
U.S. Open presented by Go Bowling: EJ Tackett (24, sixth major)
PBA Owen's Illinois Classic: Santtu Tahvanainen (1)
PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic: EJ Tackett (25)
PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship: Jason Belmonte (32) and Bill O'Neill (15)
PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic presented by Pilgrim's: Andrew Anderson (5)
PBA Scorpion Championship: Rasmus Edvall (1)
PBA Viper Championship: Darren Ong (1)
PBA Chameleon Championship: Tun Hakim (1)
PBA Shark Championship: EJ Tackett (26)
PBA World Championship: EJ Tackett (27, 7)
USBC Masters: Gary Haines (1, 1)
PBA All-Star Weekend powered by QubicaAMF One-Handers vs. Two-Handers: One-handers
PBA All-Star Weekend powered by QubicaAMF Strike Derby: EJ Tackett
PBA Players Championship: Ethan Fiore (1, 1)
PBA Tournament of Champions powered by 1800 Tequila: Jesper Svensson (13, 2)
PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands powered by Beatbox: Storm
PBA Playoffs: Jesper Svensson (14)
PBA Tour Finals: Andrew Anderson (6)
PBA/PWBA Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles: Chris Via (2) and Bryanna Coté (6th PWBA title)
Storm Lucky Larsen Masters: Sean Rash (18)

Brian Dennis Posthumously Voted to Receive the 2025 PBA50 Dick Weber Sportsmanship Award

September 29, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The Dick Weber Sportsmanship Award is given to the player who best represented Dick Weber's class and character. The recipient is determined by a vote among touring players who competed in at least half of the season's events.

This year, PBA50 Tour players determined the man who best exemplified the class of Dick Weber to be Brian Dennis.

Dennis, who died unexpectedly on July 7, will receive the award posthumously. He was 52.

"I burst into tears," said Reneé Dennis, his wife, upon hearing the news from PBA50 tournament director Tony Lanning. "Brian was such a humble, quiet person. He was so soft spoken. For him to receive something like this was very, very emotional and heartwarming to me. It means a lot to see him be recognized after all of these years."

The news of Dennis' death sent shockwaves across the bowling world, particularly to his fellow PBA50 Tour friends and competitors.

Three weeks prior to his passing, Dennis led the PBA50 Senior U.S. Open. He earned the top seed for the major championship round, but fell in the title match of what would be his final PBA50 Tour event to Andres Gomez.

When the PBA50 Tour resumed its season with the World Series of Bowling, Mark Clark, Dennis' best friend, threw out a ceremonial first ball to honor Dennis. Competing together on the PBA50 Tour was their dream.

In a story almost too spectacular for Disney, Clark made their ultimate dream — to win a title — come to fruition.

Clark bowled the best he had all season in the WSOB, advancing to match play in four of five title events and earning the top seed in the PBA50 World Championship. Clark faced Chris Barnes in the title match of the major.

Needing three strikes in the final frames to clinch the title, Clark said he told himself to "throw it like Brian." Clark aced all three shots to claim the title, this first of his career.

Barnes hurried through his own 10th frame to ensure the last shot of the tournament, just like the first shot, would belong to Clark and Dennis.

"This is the storybook ending," Clark said after his win. "This is made-for-TV stuff. This is what the movie is supposed to be. I wanted to do something so bad for (Dennis), for Reneé, for my wife, and everyone who is hurting."

"I had never met Mark, but because Brian had been traveling with him for so long, I felt like I knew Mark better than somebody I had met," Reneé said. "I wish I was there. To watch that was one of the most emotional things I've ever experienced in my life."

Clark's banner will hang in Dennis' favorite colors: Carolina blue and white. His achievement will forever symbolize their friendship.

Dennis' spirit, strong enough to propel his friend to his crowning achievement, will not soon leave the hearts and minds of the PBA community.

Receiving the Dick Weber Sportsmanship award ensures Dennis will have an eternal home in PBA history.

Parker Bohn III, Sammy Ventura, Tom Adcock, Jeff Johnson and Donald Hogue were also nominated for Dick Weber Sportsmanship Award consideration.

The three additional PBA50 Tour season awards are determined on the lanes by competition points.

John Janawicz won his second consecutive PBA50 Player of the Year award, Tom Daugherty brought home Rookie of the Year honors, and Parker Bohn III added a PBA60 Player of the Year trophy to his Hall of Fame résumé.

PBA and The CW Network Announce 2026 Tour Schedule

October 1, 2025 Professional Bowlers Association

Championship Sundays on The CW bring the PBA to a New Audience with Four Majors and 10 Broadcasts

Richmond, VA — The Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) and The CW Network today announced the 2026 PBA Tour schedule. Starting in February 2026, "PBA Championship Sundays on The CW" will bring 20 hours of professional bowling coverage to the network over 10 consecutive Sunday afternoons. Live coverage will begin at 4 p.m. ET every Sunday starting on February 22, 2026, with the PBA Players Championship in Arlington, Texas, and continuing through the PBA Tournament of Champions in Fairlawn, Ohio, on April 26, 2026.

The move to The CW marks the next evolution of the PBA's vision to capture younger and more diverse audiences by simplifying schedules, spotlighting inspirational athletes, and expanding storytelling across all platforms.

"Our partnership with The CW reflects the future of bowling as both a competitive sport and an evolving entertainment experience," said Lev Ekster, President of Lucky Strike Entertainment. "By uniting with The CW's growing sports lineup, we're bringing the energy of the PBA Tour into homes across the country every week. Championship Sundays will be a destination event for fans to follow the game's biggest moments."

Fans will see four major championships on The CW Network, including the PBA Players Championship, U.S. Open, USBC Masters, and PBA Tournament of Champions. The six title events rounding out The CW's coverage of the 2026 PBA Tour include honoring PBA legend Pete Weber in Missouri and bringing the renowned Roth/Holman Doubles Championship to the extraordinary atmosphere of Maine's Bayside Bowl.

"We are proud to be the network for one of America's most beloved pastimes and to foster connections with the next generation of bowling fans," said Mike Perman, Senior Vice President of Sports at The CW Network.

Prior to PBA Championship Sunday on The CW, fans can watch qualifying and match play rounds live on BowlTV. Fans can also follow the PBA's official social channels for additional highlights, behind-the-scenes access, and storytelling.

2026 PBA Championship Sundays on The CW Schedule

All broadcasts will air live at 4 p.m. ET on The CW Network

- February 22: PBA Players Championship – Arlington, Texas – International Training and Research Center
- March 1: PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic – St. Peters. Mo. – Bowlero St. Peters
- March 8: U.S. Open – Indianapolis, Ind. – Royal Pin Woodland
- March 15: PBA Illinois Classic – Decatur, Ill. – David Small's Victory Lanes
- March 22: PBA Indiana Classic – Fort Wayne, Ind. – David Small's Pro Bowl West

- March 29: USBC Masters – Allen Park, Mich. – Thunderbowl Lanes
- April 5: PBA Ohio Classic – Columbus, Ohio – Columbus Square Bowling Palace
- April 12: PBA New York Classic – Rochester, N.Y. – ABC Gates Bowl
- April 19: PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship – Portland, Maine – Bayside Bowl
- April 26: PBA Tournament of Champions – Fairlawn, Ohio – AMF Rivera Lanes

Additional PBA tentpole events will air later in 2026 on other platforms. The PBA World Series of Bowling and PBA Commissioner's Cup will air on CBS and CBS Sports Network, while the Storm Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles and the Storm Lucky Larsen Masters will air live on streaming platforms, including BowlTV.

Opportunities remain for partners to join the 2026 PBA on The CW Tour, with integrations available across broadcast, digital, and live fan experiences.

For more information and updates about the 2026 PBA Tour, visit PBA.com and follow the PBA Tour on Instagram, Facebook, X, TikTok and YouTube.

Additional 10 Players Punch Tickets to Reno for RPI

October 3, 2025 Nolan Hughes

With three more qualifier events for the 2025 BowlTV PBA Regional Players Invitational (RPI) in the books, 10 more players have secured their berths in the regional tours' season finale.

The RPI will take place Dec. 11-14 at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev. The end-of-season tournament for the PBA and PBA50 Regional Tours will ultimately include 100 PBA and 49 PBA50 division players.

PBA50 Southwest Region

In the Lone Star State, Paul Fleming captured the PBA50 Waxahachie BowlTV RPI Qualifier title.

Fleming snuck into the stepladder finals as the fourth qualifier. He then defeated Michael Hudson, Michael McHugh and Tony Lanning (the only player to average more than 200 in qualifying) to claim the title.

Fleming will be joined in Reno by Lanning and McHugh.

PBA Southwest Region

Days removed from being named this year's PBA Steve Nagy Sportsmanship award recipient, 21-year-old Deo Benard brought home his 14th career regional tour title in the PBA Oklahoma City Open & BowlTV RPI Qualifier.

Benard led qualifying by 315 pins, a margin of 21 pins per game. He polished off his dominant performance with a 278-212 title match victory over fellow two-handed southpaw Packy Hanrahan.

With Hanrahan ineligible to compete in the RPI, Chasten Pojas, Dallas Leong and Corey Umbrello earned the Southwest Region's remaining three RPI berths.

PBA50 Central Region

Kyle Bigelow won the PBA50 RPI Central Classic presented by Fayette Drywall & MWPD Painting. He averaged more than 210 outlast the field through the 20-game event.

Bigelow, Darryl Bower and Michael Clark Jr. will represent the region in the RPI.

The PBA Central and PBA South RPI qualifiers are scheduled for this weekend. EJ Tackett's EZ Bowl will host the PBA Central Region RPI qualifier, while the PBA South Region heads to Port St. Luci in Florida.

Both events will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

The first four players to secure their spot in the RPI were Alex Horton, Joe Paluszek, Andrew Hall and Andrew Suscreba out of the PBA East Region.

More information on the RPI, including eligibility and rules, is available here.

PBA RPI Qualifier Schedule

PBA East
BowlTV RPI Qualifier presented by Bally's Dover Casino Resort
Alex Horton, Joe Paluszek, Andrew Hall and Andrew Suscreba

PBA50 East
PBA50 Ripic's Carousel Lanes East Region BowlTV RPI Open
October 10-12
Binghamton, New York

PBA Central
PBA Family Ford of Bluffton/Yergis BBQ/EZ Bowl Central Open powered by QubicaAMF EDGE String
October 3-5
Bluffton, Indiana

PBA50 Central
PBA50 RPI Central Classic presented by Fayette Drywall & MWPD Painting
Kyle Bigelow, Darryl Bower and Michael Clark Jr.

PBA Midwest
PBA Strike N Spare 2 Midwest BowlTV RPI Qualifier
October 24-26
Lockport, Illinois

PBA50 Midwest
PBA50 Strike N Spare 2 Midwest BowlTV RPI Qualifier

October 24-26
Lockport, Illinois

PBA South
PBA Saint Lucie Lanes BowlTV RPI South Open
October 3-5
Port St. Lucie, Florida

PBA50 South
PBA50 Jeff Schrum Memorial BowlTV RPI South Open
October 31-November 2
Gastonia, North Carolina

PBA Southwest
PBA Oklahoma City Open & BowlTV RPI Qualifier
Deo Benard, Chasten Pojas, Dallas Leong and Corey Umbrello

PBA50 Southwest
PBA50 Waxahachie BowlTV RPI Qualifier
Paul Fleming, Tony Lanning and Mike McHugh

PBA West
BowlTV PBA RPI South Point Hotel Casino Open
November 8-9
Las Vegas, Nevada

PBA50 West
BowlTV PBA50 RPI South Point Hotel Casino Classic
November 8-9
Las Vegas, Nevada

PBA Northwest
BowlTV PBA RPI Jim Kent Memorial Qualifier
October 10-12
Lakewood, Washington

PBA50 Northwest
BowlTV PBA50 RPI Gary Mage Memorial Qualifier
October 10-12
Lakewood, Washington

The Lessons that Built the Best Bowler in the World

October 6, 2025 Nolan Hughes

EJ Tackett stood alone on lanes 25-26 of Reno's National Bowling Stadium. The crowd chanted his name, but Tackett remained speechless.

His third straight PBA World Championship title, the latest in a series of extraordinary exploits on the PBA Tour, capped off perhaps the greatest week any bowler has ever had.

Tackett's sixth consecutive finals and seventh consecutive singles finals appearance, each a PBA record, had pushed him to his physical and emotional limits.

In the aftermath of an exhausting month, the 32-year-old managed to muster seven words as the tears dripped down his cheeks.

"Man, that's a cool feeling isn't it," Tackett said.

Tackett's World Championship victory completed the sixth major threepeat in tour history and ushered him into sole possession of 10th all time in career PBA Tour titles.

His fourth title of the season and second of the PBA World Series of Bowling XVI all but cemented his third consecutive Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year honor, a feat matched by just four other players.

"I've gotten to a point in my career that every time I am able to do something, I join a list of people that are considered the greatest ever to play the game," Tackett said after the season. "You have to step back and say, 'This is actually happening. This is real. This isn't made up. You're not going to wake up and it all goes away.'"

The escapades of Tackett no longer surprise anyone. In fact, historic greatness has become the expectation. But it wasn't always like this.

Tackett's supremacy of the PBA Tour is the culmination of a self-reflection journey that began on those exact lanes at the National Bowling Stadium 10 years ago.

In 2015, Tackett left Reno with a feeling he would not describe as "cool." Perhaps "furious" or "deflated" or "embarrassed" would be more appropriate.

Gary Faulkner Jr. obliterated Tackett, then 23, in the 2015 PBA World Championship title match. The 216-178 drubbing mirrored the 221-177 final score of the USBC Masters championship match that Tackett lost to Jason Belmonte the season prior.

The loss to Faulkner dropped Tackett's career television record to 1-5 with an average of 186.67. He had yet to win a title on TV.

As the top seed and lone right-hander in a stepladder finals featuring four southpaws, the third-year pro took the opportunity for granted.

“EJ showed up to the set in 2015 and just threw shots,” said Brett Spangler, Motiv’s tour rep and a longtime friend of Tackett’s. “He didn't break the lanes down. He just threw shots and didn't give any consideration to (breaking the lanes down).”

Tackett said the 2015 World Championship marked the beginning of his introspection.

“I had to figure out how to bowl in those (pressure) situations,” Tackett said. “I knew I was really good. I knew I could get myself into that situation. But it took me a long time to figure it out to perform in those situations.”

No matter how many times he failed, or simply lost, in those moments, Tackett vowed to keep swinging. He would not allow his shortcomings in a single game to tarnish his brilliance in the 40-plus previous games.

Tackett’s letdowns on TV, while humbling, were a testament to his uber talent.

“When you're that damn good that early, sometimes you have some learning to do that happens on TV,” Spangler said. “If he wasn't leading tournaments when he was 22, he wouldn't have been in those spots. If he was performing like other people that age and sneaking on to shows, maybe (his struggles) don’t get noticed.”

Despite the title match loss, leading a major championship for the second straight year bolstered the rising star’s confidence.

“If a player doesn't perform that well on a show, people downgrade it. They forget about all the hard work it took to even get to that point,” Tackett said. “I take a lot of pride in myself for being consistent, being there week in and week out and giving myself a bunch of chances to win championships. I know, if I can get there enough times, eventually stuff is going to go right.”

In the first major of the following season, Tackett qualified for the 2016 Tournament of Champions finals. Though he lost the first match of the stepladder to Tom Daugherty, Tackett said he performed the best he ever had on television to that point in his career.

“I came home from that event and I told my dad, ‘The next time I'm on TV, I'm going to win’ and I believed it,” Tackett said. “That was the first time I'd ever believed it.”

Tackett celebrates his 2016 PBA World Championship title with his father.

Seven months later, Tackett made his next TV appearance in the PBA Fall Swing Bear Open. He fulfilled his pledge to his dad and won the title, the third of his career and first on TV.

Tackett returned to the National Bowling Stadium in December of 2016 and once again earned the No. 1 seed in the World Championship.

This time, Tackett dominated Tom Smallwood in the title match, at long last capturing his first career major crown. The win marked his fourth title of the season and the signature victory of his first PBA Player of the Year award.

Tackett won four titles again the next season, solidifying his status as one of the game's top players. His mission to become *the best player*, however, had barely begun.

Belmonte not only won four times in 2017, but set records with three major wins and a 229.39 average en route to securing Player of the Year honors. Over the next five seasons, Belmonte collected three more Player of the Year awards, amassed 14 titles, made 14 major finals and won five majors as he shattered the PBA's all-time major record.

"No matter what I do, I personally will always compare myself to (Belmonte)," Tackett said. "That's my gauge of my success because I was witness to it for all but about four years of his career. I'm trying to do the things that Jason did."

With Belmonte as his barometer, Tackett fell painfully short during that same period from 2018-2022. Of the six titles Tackett added to his résumé, half of them came in a non-televised, mixed doubles event; only two took place on television; only two were singles events; and none were majors.

Despite entering his 30s as a 15-time champion and guaranteed future Hall of Famer, Tackett wasn't satisfied.

Belmonte has long described Tackett as his fiercest rival, as the primary motivator driving Belmonte to push for more accolades even as his own name already decorates the record books. His commentary of Tackett is intended as a genuine compliment.

But who wants to be remembered as a stepping stone in someone else's ascension? As a mere pacesetter to a world champion runner?

Each Belmonte victory added more kerosene to the fire burning inside Tackett, who believed himself capable of being the best — not one of the best.

"I was tired of losing," he said.

Tackett sits dejected after losing the 2022 U.S. Open title match.

The U.S. Open means more to Tackett than any other tournament.

The allure of the green jacket, of course, carries inherent appeal. The chance to win the prestigious event on his home turf, which has been the case since 2022, ascended the tournament to top billing on the Bluffton native's bucket list.

As of Jan. 2023, Tackett had yet to win in his home state, let alone on the sacred ground of Royal Pin Woodland, where so many legends like Pete Weber, Walter Ray Williams Jr., Norm Duke and Belmonte had won.

While Belmonte hunted for a second career Super Slam, Tackett pursued what was at the time perhaps an equally ambitious goal: to prove he could deliver under the bright lights.

Tackett's 2022 U.S. Open performance embodied why many were skeptical Tackett could reach the heights his talent foreshadowed. He led the tournament by more than 500 pins, but lost the championship match in demoralizing fashion to Anthony Simonsen by 67 pins.

Tackett made the 90-minute commute for the 2023 season opener anticipating an onslaught of internal and external pressures. He prepared for the psychological assault with an offseason of intense training.

“Going into the season, I practiced a lot, probably more than I ever have in my entire career,” Tackett said. “I felt more ready for that season than any season I've ever bowled.”

His preparation paid off. Tackett seized the U.S. Open lead in the third round and maintained it through match play to earn the top seed for the stepladder finals.

Tackett faced Kyle Troup, another former Player of the Year with lofty career aspirations, in the title match. The battle went back and forth until a gaffe from Troup in his 10th frame opened the door for Tackett.

With the elusive green jacket just one strike and eight pins away, the weight of the world descended on Tackett’s shoulders. The fate of his career seemingly hid within his 15-pound ball.

For the first time in an opportunity this consequential, Tackett came through. The 10-pin stood for a brief moment, a millisecond that felt like an eternity, but eventually obeyed the superstar’s direct order.

“I willed down that 10-pin,” Tackett said. “I think me being positive up to that point is what made that 10-pin fall. If I was negative, there is a 100% chance that the pin would not have fallen over.

“That shot changed the whole trajectory of my career.”

Tackett wears the green jacket for the first time after winning the 2023 U.S. Open.

Never before had so much confidence coursed through the Hoosier’s veins. The strength he gained from overcoming such tremendous adversity powered Tackett to two more titles in the next four events.

Tackett then earned the top seed in the PBA Tournament of Champions, positioning himself within one game from another major title and a stranglehold on the Player of the Year race.

And then, out of nowhere, came Belmonte.

“It is unbelievable how many times I’ve seen him be out of a tournament and then all of a sudden, here he comes,” Tackett said. “He would qualify in like 23rd place for match play and to me it was a no-brainer he would make the show.”

That’s exactly what the Australian did at the famed AMF Riviera Lanes.

Belmonte rallied from 58th place, to 20th place for match play, to the sixth seed for the elongated championship round. He then won five matches to climb the stepladder and meet Tackett in the title match.

This TOC bout marked the third major title match between the two stars. Belmonte won the first two by margins of 221-177 and 225-196.

Belmonte won the third, again in decisive fashion, 246-179.

After the win, Belmonte spoke to media members, each drooling over the titan's latest conquest. Belmonte removed his signature arm sleeve to reveal the tattoos adorning his right arm.

His latest artwork featured a series of Xs celebrating each of his major championships. He pointed to where the 15th demarcation, five more than anyone in PBA history, would go.

There was also ink illustrating a crown because, as Belmonte said, his wife calls him "king."

So does, even in the midst of one of the most brilliant seasons in PBA history, EJ Tackett.

Belmonte hoists his record-setting fourth TOC trophy after defeating Tackett in the 2023 title match.

A few weeks later, Tackett once again earned the top seed in the PBA World Championship and Belmonte, once again, completed a heroic comeback to meet Tackett for the title.

The two heavyweights matched each other strike for strike; neither relented until Belmonte spared the 3-6-10 in the ninth frame. Belmonte responded with three strikes in the 10th frame, unleashing a slew of maniacal roars after forcing Tackett to double.

Belmonte's uncharacteristic, vehement body language demonstrated he knew the stakes of this match were far greater than one major championship.

Likewise, Tackett understood Belmonte's 10-year rule of the PBA Tour, a decade of utter domination matched by few athletes who've ever lived, had to end some day. He also recognized that one more major title-match loss to Belmonte might cripple his grander ambition once and for all.

Tackett could still win Player of the Year with another title-match loss, but one more defeat at the hands of Belmonte might relegate Tackett to a lifetime designation of the best in the world... *after Belmonte*.

Empowered by his U.S. Open triumph, Tackett now knew how to handle pressure of this magnitude. Two strikes away from seizing the throne, he took a deep breath.

"It comes back to patience, not trying to rush everything and taking your time," Tackett said. "I needed time to get my heart rate back down. In those moments, that kind of stuff comes from experience, knowing I need to take 10-15 extra seconds to get my heart rate back down so that I can focus on making a good shot."

A deep breath, as simple as it sounds, made all the difference. All Tackett needed to become the undeniable best bowler on the planet was to allow himself to be himself.

Tackett always had the talent to compete with Belmonte. What he lacked, specifically in these moments, was the audacity to believe it.

There has been no more prophetic and emblematic celebratory quote — post Pete Weber's you-know-what — than the one Tackett unleashed that afternoon outside of Milwaukee.

Since April 23, 2023, it has indeed been EJ Tackett's time.

Not long ago, people could justify their belief that Tackett was a player who crumbles under pressure. Those critics have been banished to the same shadow realm Tackett's 500-plus rev rate escorts the pins.

During the past three seasons, Tackett leads the tour with 11 titles, more than $1.1 million in earnings and 31 top-five finishes. He finished top five in 10 of 15 major championships, won five of them and doubled in the 10th frame to clinch three of them.

When reflecting on the past three seasons, Tackett pointed to the near-10-pin in the 2023 U.S. Open title match, the literal tipping point of his career.

“If that pin stands, I don’t know what would’ve happened after that,” Tackett said. “I don’t think I would have won as much as I have. I would not have that extra confidence that I needed to throw the double against Jason in the 2023 World Championship. I don’t think I would have all that confidence in the next year to win the World Championship again, and then do it again (in 2025). I think it would have been a huge domino in a negative way.”

The chasm separating Tackett and Belmonte has been inverted. In 2025, the standard for bowling excellence is the 150-pound man from Huntington County.

In the decade since his loss to Faulkner, Tackett has developed a better understanding of the science behind bowling balls and layouts. He’s embraced the prevalence of urethane used by his competitors and learned how to utilize it to his advantage.

The strikes Tackett threw in Reno to beat Belmonte, which he called “the best shots of my whole career,” are emblematic of his maturation as a player.

He could not become the best player in the world without vanquishing the player who tormented him during the first chapter of his career.

As Tackett pursued Belmonte, he distanced himself from just about every other player on tour. Since his rookie season in 2012-13, Tackett has won 27 times to Belmonte’s 28. The next-highest players are Anthony Simonsen (16), Jesper Svensson (14) and Sean Rash (13).

“I once asked (EJ) about the gap between him and the next one-hander,” Spangler said. “He said the gap wouldn’t be that big if there weren’t other people pushing him.

"I genuinely think it took Belmo for EJ to become somebody who can beat Belmo.”

For years, Tackett studied how Belmonte focused on the task at hand, how he rarely allowed external influences into his mind.

“Jason’s only worry is getting down the most pins as quickly as he possibly can,” Tackett said. “There is no outside noise in Jason’s world. That’s one of the things that I’ve noticed over the years and made me have to change how I do things.”

Of all the lessons Tackett has learned, from how to handle a stepladder with four left-handers to how to manage his emotions under pressure, one stands above the rest.

“I've always believed in myself, but now I've proven to myself that I can achieve these things,” he said. “All I can do now is try to ride the wave as long as possible and hopefully have a decade run like Jason did.”

During the past three years, Tackett has proven — to the world and to himself — that he is capable of anything. He has evolved from a player known for succumbing to pressure to one expected to succeed.

"The game moves slower for him now," Spangler said. "He doesn't do anything by accident anymore. Every shot he throws before the lights come on now has a purpose, and it informs what he's going to do on the show.”

What bowling fans are witnessing right now is a man who knows with every fiber of his being that he is the best at what he does on the entire planet.

Tackett drives to the grocery store knowing he is the best bowler on the planet. He plays fetch with his dog knowing he is the best bowler on the planet. He plays a round of golf, which he does better than almost anyone on the planet, knowing he is the best bowler on the planet.

With such deep, ingrained confidence and the talent to justify it came a three-year stretch of mastery on par with anyone who has ever played the game — which just might be the scariest part of all for the rest of the tour.

Because when has EJ Tackett ever been content with settling for par?

PBA, USBC Hall of Famer Glenn Allison Dies at Age 95

October 7, 2025 Professional Bowlers Association

By Aaron Smith, USBC Communications

ARLINGTON, Texas – United States Bowling Congress Hall of Famer Glenn Allison of Corona, California, died Oct. 7 at the age of 95.

A legend at the USBC Open Championships for his on-lane success and record-setting longevity and heralded by many as “Mr. 900” for rolling three consecutive 300 games in 1982, Allison was inducted in the Superior Performance category in 1979.

He began his celebrated journey at the Open Championships during the 1947 event in Los Angeles. The talented right-hander returned for a second appearance in 1950 and made his annual trek to compete at each edition of the event from 1954 to 2024 to set the tournament’s participation mark with 72 appearances.

Across 121 editions of the Open Championships, only four other competitors have reached 70 years on the tournament lanes (Bill Doehrman, Joe Norris and Sylvester Thiel at 71 appearances and Clinton Zavakos at 70 appearances).

Allison’s wins at the Open Championships took place in 1962, 1964, 1966 and 1970.

He paired with fellow USBC Hall of Famer Dick Hoover to win Classic Doubles in 1962. Allison fired a 780 series (his highest set at the Open Championships) to lead the way as the duo claimed victory with a 1,431 total.

A pair of team wins followed for Allison as he helped Falstaff Beer (1964) and Ace Mitchell Shur-Hooks (1966) to the top spot in the Classic Division.

In 1970, he collected his fourth Eagle with games of 258, 258 and 214 for a 730 series in Classic Singles.

As Allison continued to accrue accolades at the Open Championships, he also made his way toward the top of the tournament's pinfall list. He joined the 100,000-Pin Club during his 55th appearance in 2006 and finished his career in third place on the all-time list with 123,341 pins across 72 years for a lifetime average of 190 at the tournament.

He was 430 pins away from passing USBC Hall of Famer Joe Norris (123,770) for second and 747 pins shy of going around USBC Hall of Famer Bill Lillard Sr. for the pinfall record (124,087).

At the 2024 USBC Convention and Annual Meeting, Allison was recognized for his 72nd appearance at the Open Championships during an on-stage tribute and was presented with a commemorative gold, diamond and black onyx ring with the number "72" inscribed on it.

Allison's perfect performance and 900 series during a league session at La Habra 300 Bowl on July 1, 1982, serves as one of the sport's most recognizable achievements even though the series was not approved by the American Bowling Congress (now USBC).

The USBC reevaluated the award application in 2014 but upheld the decision approved by its predecessor.

Allison – a charter member of the Professional Bowlers Association – was inducted to the PBA Hall of Fame in 1984 after claiming five national titles. He also recorded one victory on the PBA50 Tour.

Information concerning funeral services for Allison is not yet available.

PBA East and Northwest Regions Finalize RPI Automatic Qualifiers

October 17, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The PBA East and Northwest Regions have solidified their automatic qualifiers for the 2025 BowlTV PBA Regional Players Invitational (RPI).

An additional four PBA and six PBA50 division players punched their ticket to the regional tour's end-of-season tournament.

The RPI will take place Dec. 11-14 at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev.

PBA50 East

Rick Graham came up big in Binghamton, N.Y., tallying a 10-2 match play record to claim the PBA50 Ripic's Carousel Lanes East Region BowlTV RPI Open title. Graham averaged 212 across his 20 games.

Graham will make the trek to Reno alongside fellow right-handers Robert Mockenhaput and David Handlowich Jr.

PBA Northwest

The BowlTV PBA RPI Jim Kent Memorial Qualifier, which honors the late father of PBA Tour star Marshall Kent, brings out a star-studded tournament field each year.

With talents like Kent, EJ Tackett, AJ Johnson and Sean Rash in the field, Darren Tang emerged with the title — his second regional title as a two-handed player and 16th of his career. Tang, who made the switch full-time earlier this year, Tang took down Cameron Weier, AJ Johnson and EJ Tackett in match play.

With several national tour players in the field, the RPI berths trickled down the standings. Lanndyn Carnate (who finished 16th in the PBA World Championship this year), Weier, Riley Woodard and Evan Nash will represent the Northwest Region in Reno.

PBA50 Northwest

The BowlTV PBA50 RPI Gary Mage Memorial Qualifier is named in honor of the region's founder, longtime tournament director and PBA Hall of Famer, who passed away earlier this year.

A dominant performance from Michael Kennedy in match play powered him to the title. He went 6-0 across his three match victories while averaging more than 220.

Kennedy, Craig Tuholski and Rich Corwin earned the region's three automatic RPI berths.

The first four players to secure their spot in the RPI were Alex Horton, Joe Paluszek, Andrew Hall and Andrew Suscreba out of the PBA East Region.

Ten additional players secured their RPI berths earlier this month out of the PBA Central and Southwest regions.

Qualifiers from the PBA Sweden, Japan and China regions will be announced soon.

There are no RPI qualifier events on tap this weekend, but the PBA Midwest Region's event will take place Oct. 24-26.

Foy, Fiore Headline 2025 PBA Tour Superlatives

October 22, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Bestowing the most prestigious awards in the history of awards after the 2025 PBA Tour season

With the complete 2025 PBA Tour season in the rearview mirror, it's time to dish out some hardware.

No, not the official awards we announced last month. That's old news. These awards are much, much more important.

If you think Belmo would rather win an eighth Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year award instead of one of these, you're as mad as a cut snake.

Most Outstanding Player: EJ Tackett

The handsome starting quarterback who drives a Mustang and carries a 4.0 GPA has been named homecoming king. In other news, the sky is blue and the Buffalo Bills have never won the Super Bowl.

Full story: EJ Tackett won PBA Player of the Year for the third consecutive season in 2025.

Second-Most Outstanding Player: Andrew Anderson

Anderson won two titles, led a major, won the PBA LBC Clash, and won the all-events Eagle in the USBC Open Championships. He beat Tackett three times on television, including twice in title matches. His beloved Detroit Pistons even made the playoffs.

Second-Half King: Jesper Svensson

The initial stint of Svensson's season was, by the Swede's lofty standards, mediocre. He tallied just two top-20 finishes with a high of 14th in the five tournaments before heading west.

He then finished top seven in four of six title events Reno with a low of 23rd. Then he won the PBA Tournament of Champions to qualify for the PBA Playoffs. Then he won the Playoffs. In between, he anchored Storm to the PBA Elite League championship. Good stuff by the Iceman.

Full story: how a pro-am helped Svensson become the Iceman once again

Boldest Decision: Darren Tang

Bold is a selective term. Some bowlers would consider making a slight adjustment to a finger pitch or trying a new layout to be a daring change during the season. So to describe switching from a one-handed delivery to two-handed mid-season as bold would be like saying a pineapple tastes sweet.

pauses for applause, instead ducks to avoid flying tomatoes

Tang largely abandoned his one-handed game, a form that led him to a PBA Tour title and six years on Team USA, in favor of the two-handed approach he had been experimenting with in the offseason.

Since the change, Tang earned PBA Tour finishes of seventh in Illinois, 16th in Nevada and 12th in Ohio (TOC), and won two regional titles, including one over EJ Tackett. It hasn't been all smooth sailing, but notching early results like that is a testament to Tang's talent and potential.

Most Surprising Player: Tim Foy Jr.

Foy has been a solid, formidable regional player for many years. He proved he could compete with the national tour's best when he made the 2024 PBA Delaware Classic finals, a feat many in his circle long believed him to be capable of.

But his performance this season surpassed anyone's wildest expectations. He ranked fifth in points for the season and only EJ Tackett made more televised championship round appearances than Foy's six.

While a title continues to elude Foy, respect from his peers does not.

Most Anticipated College Career: Landin and Griffin Jordan

When 17-year-old Landin Jordan qualified for the U.S. Open preliminary stepladder, Bill O'Neill raved about the teenager's game on the broadcast. Then O'Neill was informed Landin has a twin brother, Griffin.

"There's another one of these? Oh boy," the Hall of Famer remarked.

Two months later, Griffin won the PBA Junior Boys National Championship — the same event Landin won in 2022 — and Landin added another top-10 finish in the PBA Shark Championship.

This fall, the Chicago-born Jordan brothers began their college careers at the Savannah College of Art and Design, which means their plans to join the tour full-time are on hold.

That sound you hear is the collective sigh of relief exhaled by touring players, who won't have to see the Jordan boys every week next season.

Griffin Jordan watches his twin brother Landin compete in the 2025 U.S. Open.

Most Impressive TV Debut: Ethan Fiore

In his first career televised frame, Fiore missed a spare. He then fired eight of 10 strikes to dispatch Alec Keplinger and set up a semifinal bout with Tackett, the best player in the world in the midst of an all-time heater.

The 20-year-old did not blink. Seven times, Fiore needed a strike to extend the match and seven times he delivered. While he left a 7-pin to end the longest roll-off in PBA history, he also left a lasting impression on the PBA Tour.

Less than a month later, Fiore won the PBA Players Championship and became the fourth-youngest major champion of all time. Get used to seeing this kid, PBA fans.

Most Unbelievable Moment: Gary Haines Wins the Masters

Fresh off defeating Anthony Simonsen to clinch the No. 1 seed in a PBA major championship, Gary Haines compared himself to an all-time great.

No, not Jason Belmonte or Walter Ray Williams Jr. He did not mention fellow New Jersey southpaws Parker Bohn III or Johnny Petraglia either.

Haines, who works full-time for National Grid as a control room operator in a steam power plant, compared himself to Homer Simpson.

The steady competitor in the PBA East Region advanced to match play in the USBC Masters, a feat made more impressive by the extended delay after his pair's lanes broke down during their final game of qualifying. He then went on the run of a lifetime, defeating Charles Easton, Packy Hanrahan, Tom Smallwood, Nate Stubler, Graham Fach and Simonsen to secure the top seed.

Haines' first 18 frames of the two-game title match were littered with nerves, poor execution and fortunate breaks. Then he kissed his wife and changed his life with the two best shots of his career.

Full story: Gary Haines wins USBC Masters for first career PBA Tour title.

Best Story: Team Malaysia's Breakout

Malaysia won the gold medal in the IBF World Cup, which was only a surprise to those who don't follow international bowling.

Malaysia's Li Jane Sin won PWBA Player of the Year honors in 2024, and the inevitable Malaysian men's breakout on the PBA Tour came this year.

Timmy Tan made the PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic finals, then Rafiq Ismail led the PBA Scorpion Championship before finishing second.

In the PBA Chameleon Championship, Tun Hakim prevailed to become the first Malaysian player to win a PBA Tour title.

Later in the World Series of Bowling, Ahmad Muaz led PBA Shark Championship qualifying and finished one match shy of making the stepladder.

It was a banner year for Malaysia. And odds are it won't be the last.

PBA Hall of Famer John Handegard Dies at 87

October 28, 2025 Nolan Hughes

John Handegard, who was inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame in 2009, died this past weekend at the age of 87.

Upon his retirement, Handegard held multiple PBA records and remains the oldest player to win a PBA Tour title.

The Oregon native spent decades chasing his dream on the PBA Tour. Handegard's perseverance paid off when he won the 1995 PBA Northwest Classic at the age of 57.

Handegard defeated three PBA Hall of Famers — Mike Aulby, Norm Duke and Mark Williams — in the stepladder finals.

While he waited years for success on the PBA Tour, his triumphs came early and often on the PBA50 Tour. Handegard won three PBA50 Player of the Year awards (1991, 1995 and 1996) and stepped away as the all-time titles leader with 14.

Handegard's record stood for more than two decades until Walter Ray Williams Jr. surpassed him in 2021. Handegard's 14 wins, which includes one major title, remains tied for second all time with Pete Weber.

In 2009, Handegard was inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame as part of the first class honoring players for their PBA50 achievements. The next year, he was inducted into the USBC Hall of Fame via the Veterans category.

PBA RPI Field Adds 10 Automatic Qualifiers From Midwest and South Regions

November 3, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The 2025 BowlTV PBA Regional Players Invitational (RPI) field has grown by 10 following automatic-qualifier events in the PBA Midwest and South Regions.

Four PBA and six PBA50 division players earned the right to compete in the regional tour's end-of-season tournament with their placement in their region's RPI qualifier tournament.

The RPI will take place Dec. 11-14 at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev.

PBA Midwest

A trio of two-handed southpaws will represent the Midwest Region in Reno, including 2025 Harry Golden PBA Rookie of the Year runner-up Cam Crowe.

Crowe advanced to the stepladder finals of the PBA Strike N Spare 2 Midwest BowlTV RPI Qualifier along with top seed and eventual champion Kris Prather, Justin Knowles and Kevin McCune. Each of the three other finalists are ineligible for the RPI.

Finishing just outside the stepladder were Spencer Robarge and Ryan Burton, the region's Player and Rookie of the Year in 2024. Robarge, the 2021 PBA Junior Boys National Champion and USBC Masters finalist, joined the PBA earlier this year after finishing his collegiate career at Wichita State.

Darin Bloomquist, a one-handed righty, earned the region's fourth and final automatic RPI berth.

PBA50 Midwest

Tom Hess continued his dominant regional season by winning the PBA50 Strike N Spare 2 Midwest BowlTV RPI Qualifier, but his exploits on the PBA50 Tour rendered him ineligible for the RPI.

Instead, Ron Hurt, Scott Merritt and Jeff Johnson will take a hiatus from Big Ten country for Reno this December. (Although the Big Ten conference now includes teams from New Jersey and the Pacific Northwest, so basically the whole country is Big Ten country… anyways, you get the point.)

PBA50 South

The top three finishers in the South Region, Dennis Killough, Richard Blackmon and Kip Roberts, each secured their berth in the season finale.

Killough earned the title with a dominant 216-166 victory over Blackmon in the title match. Roberts led the field with a 222 average, but bowed out in the semifinals to Blackmon, losing 231-222.

The first four players to secure their spot in the RPI were Alex Horton, Joe Paluszek, Andrew Hall and Andrew Suscreba out of the PBA East Region.

Ten additional players clinched their RPI berths earlier this month out of the PBA Central and Southwest regions.

Then last month, another 10 players from the East and Northwest regions solidified their automatic invites.

Qualifiers from the PBA Sweden, Japan and China regions will be announced soon.

The final RPI qualifier events — each in the West Region — are scheduled for this weekend in Las Vegas.

The Best 25 PBA Players of the Last 25 Seasons

November 5, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Twenty-five seasons have passed since the phenomenon of Y2K. In that time, more than 500 champions have been crowned on the PBA Tour and almost every notable record has changed hands (pun intended). Two players who had not yet been born have already bowled each other for a major title.

While the goal of bowling remains to knock down 10 pins as efficiently as possible, the method of doing so has changed dramatically. In 2000, there were no one-handers or two-handers — just bowlers.

The two-handed uprising ascended to international prominence when Finland's Osku Palermaa made the 2004 U.S. Open finals and escalated into a full-blown revolution with Australian Jason Belmonte's emergence in 2008. The style's viability could no longer be denied after the 2011-12 World Series of Bowling III, in which Belmonte won two titles and Palermaa claimed the World Championship crown.

Since the turn of the century, a generation of PBA stars have come and gone. The players who predominated the tour in 2000 are not the same ones who compete for titles today. This passing of the torch didn't happen overnight, of course, except that it basically did.

In 2015, Chris Barnes, Parker Bohn III, Norm Duke and Wes Malott each claimed a title within the season's first month. Then six days after the airing of Duke and Malott's doubles title, Jesper Svensson won his first career title. Kyle Troup, EJ Tackett and Anthony Simonsen each hoisted the first trophy of their careers later the same year.

In the subsequent 11 seasons, the four Hall of Famers have combined to win four titles — as many as Tackett won the following season alone — while Svensson, Troup, Tackett and Simonsen have combined for 69 wins and five Player of the Year honors. (Not to mention the exploits of the aforementioned Australian.)

Bowlers, who have never claimed to be leaders in the societal fashion movement, wore khakis and a casual collared shirt almost exclusively in the early aughts. Today, with the famed exception of Troup, black pants and a dye-sublimated jersey make up the conventional uniform. In between, Chris Barnes and Tommy Jones wore neon pants for some reason.

To celebrate the conclusion of the PBA Tour's 25th season since 2000, the PBA ranked the top 25 players of the era.

These rankings were calculated solely by on-lane performance during the 2000-2025 seasons. Players whose careers began prior to 2000 are eligible, but achievements earned in previous seasons were not considered. Players were awarded points for various accolades, outlined here:

- 1 point per top-five finish in a standard title event
- 2 points per top-five finish in a major title event
- 5 points per standard title
- 7.5 points per major title
- 15 points per Player of the Year award

The rankings will be revealed in descending order over the next several weeks.

Honorable Mentions

Andrew Anderson — 73.5 points

5 standard titles, 1 major title, 20 standard top-five finishes, 3 major top-five finishes, 1 Player of the Year award

Anderson has two hyper-elite seasons on his résumé: winning Player of the Year in 2018 and finishing POY runner-up in 2025. A few more seasons like those and the 30-year-old could skyrocket up the next edition of these rankings.

Doug Kent — 72.5 points

3 standard titles, 3 major titles, 12 standard top-five finishes, 4 major top-five finishes, 1 Player of the Year award

At his best, few could compete with the powerful Kent: Just seven other players of this era can match his three major titles and Player of the Year award. Kent stepped away from full-time competition following the 2008-09 season.

Mike Fagan — 69 points

3 standard titles, 2 major titles, 25 standard top-five finishes, 7 major top-five finishes

By the eye test, the King of Swing flirts with the top 10 of these rankings. Fagan opted to pursue business ventures after the 2015 season, giving up a full-time touring career and making it difficult for him to compile enough achievements to rank any higher.

Robert Smith — 62.5 points

6 standard titles, 1 major title, 17 standard top-five finishes, 4 major top-five finishes

A litany of injuries, particularly to his back and right hip, sapped Smith of a lengthy tour career. But few players, of his era and today, could spin the rock quite like Maximum Bob.

François Lavoie — 62.5 points

3 standard titles, 3 major titles, 13 standard top-five finishes, 6 major top-five finishes

As a rookie in 2016, Lavoie shot 300 and won the U.S. Open. He has since added five wins, including two more in majors, and another televised perfect game. The 32-year-old has plenty left in the tank, too.

No. 25: Kris Prather — 76 points

4 standard titles, 2 major titles, 29 standard top-five finishes, 6 major top-five finishes

Prather burst into stardom in 2019, winning his first two titles. The following season, he beat four players who (spoiler alert!) rank above him on this list to win the Tournament of Champions. He led back-to-back majors in 2022 and captured the World Championship title in a roll-off.

Prather narrowly eclipsed his doubles teammate, Andrew Anderson, for the final berth in the top 25, a hilarious coincidence that will either spur a 2026 Roth/Holman Doubles Championship title or expedite the pairing's demise.

No. 24: Rhino Page — 76.5 points

5 standard titles, 1 major title, 26 standard top-five finishes, 9 major top-five finishes

Page won a title in each of his first three seasons after joining the tour in 2007. He made five championship rounds while competing out of pre-tournament qualifiers in his stellar freshman campaign and his rookie earnings record stood until Ryan Barnes broke it this season.

Winning the U.S. Open title in 2017 solidified Page's status in these rankings.

No. 23: Ryan Shafer — 80 points

5 standard titles, 29 standard top-five finishes, 13 major top-five finishes

Shafer bowled on tour for 13 years before winning his first career title in, conveniently for the purposes of this exercise, January 2000.

A top-25 ranking without a major title and just five standard titles is a testament to Shafer's consistency in major championships. Only nine players earned more than Shafer's 13 top-five finishes in majors.

No. 22: Marshall Kent — 81.5 points

6 standard titles, 1 major title, 32 standard top-five finishes, 6 major top-five finishes

If you factor in Kent's amateur achievements — which include a standard title, two standard top-five finishes and a major top-five finish (hence his presumed stardom) — Kent would rise to 19th in these rankings. The Washington native has lived up to the massive expectations he faced beginning his tour career in 2014.

No. 21: Ryan Ciminelli — 83.5 points

7 standard titles, 1 major title, 25 standard top-five finishes, 8 major top-five finishes

Among the more impressive individual accomplishments of this era was Ciminelli's 2015 U.S. Open title, when the next-best southpaw after Ciminelli finished in a distant tie for 59th place.

Ciminelli's three-title 2015 campaign was the best of his career. The Ryan Express made three major finals and finished a narrow runner-up to Belmonte in Player of the Year voting.

No. 20: Mike Scroggins — 84 points

5 standard titles, 2 major titles, 30 standard top-five finishes, 7 major top-five finishes

Wins in the USBC Masters and U.S. Open proved the West Texas southpaw could succeed under any circumstance. In total, Scroggins racked up seven wins in the 2000s and finished as the runner-up in 2009-10 Player of the Year race.

No. 19: Jason Couch — 87 points

7 standard titles, 2 major titles, 27 standard top-five finishes, 5 major top-five finishes

The somewhat-arbitrary timeline interrupts the prime of Couch's illustrious career and his iconic threepeat of the TOC. His 21st century résumé, Hall of Fame worthy on its own, still earned him top 20 among all players.

No. 18: Jakob Butturff — 93.5 points

7 standard titles, 1 major title, 31 standard top-five finishes, 10 major top-five finishes

Only 13 players have earned more top-five finishes in majors than Butturff's 10 and only five players have tallied more top-two finishes than Butturff's eight, which includes *seven* runner-up finishes — as many as any player.

A couple of those runner-up finishes going in Butturff's favor would be negligible in terms of these rankings, but those could-have-been titles would have made Butturff title-eligible for the PBA Hall of Fame well before his 30th birthday.

No. 17: Dom Barrett — 120.5 points

7 standard titles, 3 major titles, 47 standard top-five finishes, 8 major top-five finishes

Barrett is one of four players to have won the Triple Crown during this time period, along with Belmonte, Tackett and Barnes. The Englishman's 47 standard and 55 overall top-five finishes each rank 12th among all players.

No. 16: Kyle Troup — 127 points

10 standard titles, 2 major titles, 35 standard top-five finishes, 6 major top-five finishes, 1 Player of the Year award

Troup is the only multi-time champion of the PBA Playoffs since the event's return in 2019, illustrating his prowess in televised, head-to-head matches. His artistry in championship rounds is best epitomized by his 2024 U.S. Open triumph, in which he beat Belmonte, Tackett and Simonsen in the stepladder.

Troup is the era's first Player of the Year to appear on these rankings.

No. 15: Jesper Svensson — 129 points

12 standard titles, 2 major titles, 38 standard top-five finishes, 8 major top-five finishes

Svensson's incredible finish to the 2025 season, back-to-back titles including a second TOC victory, propelled him past his Roth/Holman Doubles Championship partner.

Only six players boast more than the Iceman's five multi-title seasons during this time period.

No. 14: Patrick Allen — 137 points

11 standard titles, 2 major titles, 36 standard top-five finishes, 8 major top-five finishes, 1 Player of the Year award

Allen captured 11 of his 13 career titles during a dominant half-decade in the late aughts that alone would've placed him on this list.

Allen is one of two southpaws (and the most recent) to have been named PBA Player of the Year of this era. The other?

No. 13: Parker Bohn III — 141.5 points

10 standard titles, 3 major titles, 40 standard top-five finishes, 7 major top-five finishes, 1 Player of the Year award

Bohn's 2015 PBA World Championship title, which Bohn won at the spry age of 51, elevated his status to the best left-hander of the quarter-century by a narrow margin.

All three of Bohn's career major titles came post-2000, arguably the second-best 25 years of his career; he won 22 of his 35 career titles before 2000.

No. 12: Wes Malott — 145.5 points

9 standard titles, 1 major title, 50 standard top-five finishes, 14 major top-five finishes, 1 Player of the Year award

There may be 11 players ranked ahead of the Big Nasty, but not one of them has an entire section of their Wikipedia page titled "King of Bowling."

Malott wore that crown for almost a decade, defeating Chris Barnes, Patrick Allen, Walter Ray Williams Jr., Rhino Page, Parker Bohn III, EJ Tackett, Jason Belmonte and Tommy Jones in matches that ascended his name to legendary status (but, unfortunately for Malott, did not count one iota for the purposes of this statistical exercise).

No. 11: Pete Weber — 147 points

9 standard titles, 4 major titles, 36 standard top-five finishes, 18 major top-five finishes

Weber notched just 54 top-five finishes post-2000, ranking 13th among all players, yet only five players won more than Weber's four majors.

That sums up the latter half of Weber's transcendent career. Even when his body didn't allow him to be the consistent force he once was, he rose to the occasion in the game's biggest moments. All the while he remained one of, if not the, face of the sport.

No. 10: Bill O'Neill — 174.5 points

12 standard titles, 3 major titles, 66 standard top-five finishes, 13 major top-five finishes

O'Neill made 12 career televised championship rounds before winning his first title. Fifteen years and 15 titles later, The Real Deal is a PBA Hall of Famer and the 10th-best player of his era.

The significant gap between O'Neill and Weber illustrates a definitive top 10 players of the last 25 seasons.

No. 9: Mika Koivuniemi — 182.5 points

11 standard titles, 3 major titles, 49 standard top-five finishes, 13 major top-five finishes, 2 Player of the Year awards

Koivuniemi's 2011 PBA Tournament of Champions title is emblematic of his career in that, at his best, even his competitors could only marvel at the greatness of Major Mika. He shot 224, 299 and 269 to win the major and record $250,000 top prize.

Only four players won multiple Player of the Year honors during this era — Belmonte (7), Tackett (4), Williams (2) and Koivuniemi (2) — and just six players won more than the Finn's three majors.

No. 8: Anthony Simonsen — 187.5 points

11 standard titles, 5 major titles, 51 standard top-five finishes, 22 major top-five finishes

Six days after the Y2K crisis turned out to be marginally less catastrophic than an off-spot pin, Simonsen turned three years old — a fitting celebration as only three players have won more majors this century than Simonsen.

Simonsen already boasts a résumé that leaves Hall of Famers dripping with envy and awe despite the fact that he, still a full season shy of his 30th birthday, is the highest-ranked player to have not won a Player of the Year award.

No. 7: Sean Rash — 206 points

16 standard titles, 2 major titles, 64 standard top-five finishes, 16 major top-five finishes, 1 Player of the Year award

A defining figure of the 21st century, Rash became the first player to win a title out of a pre-tournament qualifier (then called the tour-qualifying round). He won the title in each of his first four televised appearances and won his first seven televised matches.

Rash is tied with the next player on this list with 80 top-five finishes, trailing only Belmonte, Barnes and Tackett.

No. 6: Tommy Jones — 213 points

18 standard titles, 2 major titles, 67 standard top-five finishes, 13 major top-five finishes, 1 Player of the Year award

Jones is one of four players to have won at least 20 titles during this time period and owns the unofficial record for coolest Hall of Fame induction weekend, shooting 300 and winning the PBA Hall of Fame Classic.

And without factoring in his extensive PBA League and Team USA accomplishments, this ranking perhaps undersells Jones' mastery.

No. 5: Walter Ray Williams Jr. — 221 points

11 standard titles, 6 major titles, 59 standard top-five finishes, 16 major top-five finishes, 2 Player of the Year awards

Some may be wondering how Williams, the winningest player in PBA history, is ranked as low as fifth. Others may be wondering how a guy who turned 40 years old before the turn of the century could rank as high as fifth.

That sums up Walter Ray, a man whose brilliance defies conventional wisdom.

No. 4: Chris Barnes — 226.5 points

14 standard titles, 3 major titles, 81 standard top-five finishes, 19 major top-five finishes, 1 Player of the Year award

Barnes' versatility made him a consistent title threat for two full decades. He ranked first in standard top-five finishes (81) and runner-up finishes (30), second in top-five finishes (100) and third in top-two finishes (47).

Had Barnes converted a few more top-five finishes into titles, the Triple Crown winner could have been the *definitive* third-best player of the past 25 seasons.

No. 3: Norm Duke — 236.5 points

18 standard titles, 5 major titles, 50 standard top-five finishes, 22 major top-five finishes, 1 Player of the Year award

The third- through seventh-ranked players were separated by just 30.5 points. Any one of them could have ranked third if the pins, just once or twice more, fell in their favor. But at this level, results are the only way to separate the greats.

That's why Duke, by virtue of his 23 total titles, ranked third. Duke won five majors, including a record three in a row, and only Tackett had more standard titles than Duke's 18.

No. 2: EJ Tackett — 327.5 points

20 standard titles, 7 major titles, 69 standard top-five finishes, 23 major top-five finishes, 4 Player of the Year awards

Tackett occupies a world unto himself in these rankings. The gap between himself and the No. 3 ranked player is 91 points — greater than No. 19 Jason Couch's total.

The Indiana native didn't join the tour until the 2012-13 season, halfway through the sample size of these rankings, and still led all players with 20 standard titles. He ranked second in major titles, major top-five finishes and Player of the Year awards.

Tackett's last three seasons alone, in which he earned six standard titles, five major titles, 21 standard top-five finishes, 10 major top-five finishes and three Player of the Year awards, would have placed him 11th in these rankings.

No. 1: Jason Belmonte — 450.5 points

17 standard titles, 15 major titles, 72 standard top-five finishes, 38 major top-five finishes, 7 Player of the Year awards

With all due respect to the greats who competed on the PBA Tour over the last 25 seasons, it does not take a rocket scientist to figure out the best player of the 21st century thus far.

Belmonte's 15 major victories are more than double any other player of this era, and five more than any player won in their entire career. In majors, only seven players finished top five as many times as Belmonte won the title.

If you removed all of those major titles from his point total, Belmonte would still rank No. 1.

Belmonte's seven Player of the Year honors are three more than any other player of this era and tied for the most in a career. He won the award five times in a seven-season stretch during the 2010s, more than all but two players' entire career.

If you removed all those awards from his point total, Belmonte would still rank No. 1.

PBA West Region Finalizes Automatic Qualifying Field for RPI

November 12, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The West Region became the seventh and final region to hold their 2025 BowlTV PBA Regional Players Invitational (RPI) qualifier tournaments this past weekend. The two events at South Point Bowling Plaza in Las Vegas rounded out the automatic qualifier field for the RPI.

Each region awarded four PBA division and three PBA50 division berths in their respective RPI qualifier events, which were held throughout the fall.

The RPI, the regional tour's end-of-season tournament, will take place Dec. 11-14 at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev.

PBA West

The title of the BowlTV PBA RPI South Point Hotel Casino Open went to Ryan Barnes, the first of his young career. But the 2025 PBA Rookie of the Year is ineligible to compete in the RPI because of his achievements on the PBA Tour.

The RPI berths went to runner-up Darren Tang, Hunter Mayes, Michael Fitzgerald and Chad Lusche.

Tang won two titles, becoming the first player to win PBA titles one-handed and two-handed, and led the West Region in points this season.

PBA50 West

Tony Oliva emerged with the 2025 BowlTV PBA50 RPI South Point Hotel Casino Classic title. While the Wisconsin native cannot qualify out of the West Region, he will represent the Midwest in the RPI as a points-list qualifier.

Runner-up David Leverage, Michael Hartter and Tony Rodriguez Jr. earned the West Region's automatic qualifier berths.

Leverage led the field through both advancer rounds, snatching the qualifying lead from Oliva, and averaged nearly 210 for his 17 games. He fell in the title match to Oliva by a 249-191 margin.

With all of the automatic qualifiers solidified, each region's points list will help round out the RPI field.

Ten PBA division and four PBA50 division players from each region will be invited based on their position in the season-long points.

Those players, as well as the qualifiers from the PBA Sweden, Japan and China regions, will be announced soon.

More information on the RPI, including eligibility and rules, is available here.

PBA RPI Automatic Qualifiers by Region

PBA East
Alex Horton, Joe Paluszek, Andrew Hall and Andrew Suscreba

PBA50 East
Rick Graham, David Handlowich Jr. and Robert Mockenhaput

PBA Central
Zac Tackett, Ric McCormick, Zach Weidman and Jeff Mann

PBA50 Central
Kyle Bigelow, Darryl Bower and Michael Clark Jr.

PBA Midwest
Cam Crowe, Spencer Robarge, Ryan Burton and Darin Bloomquist

PBA50 Midwest
Ron Hurt, Scott Merritt and Jeff Johnson

PBA South
Mathew Woodall, CJ Petrin, Johnny Quach and Thomas McLaughlin

PBA50 South
Dennis Killough, Richard Blackmon and Kip Roberts

PBA Southwest
Deo Benard, Chasten Pojas, Dallas Leong and Corey Umbrello

PBA50 Southwest
Paul Fleming, Tony Lanning and Mike McHugh

PBA West
Darren Tang, Hunter Mayes, Michael Fitzgerald and Chad Lusche

PBA50 West
David Leverage, Michael Hartter and Tony Rodriguez Jr.

PBA Northwest
Lanndyn Carnate, Riley Woodard, Cameron Weier and Evan Nash

PBA50 Northwest
Michael Kennedy, Craig Tuholski and Rich Corwin

PBA World Series of Bowling XVII Headlines 2026 PBA Tour on CBS

December 11, 2025 Professional Bowlers Association

The PBA World Series of Bowling (WSOB) XVII, a destination event for professional bowlers across the globe, will be broadcast live on CBS and Paramount+ for the first time next season as part of CBS Sports' 35 hours of 2026 PBA Tour coverage.

The PBA WSOB XVII will take place April 29 through May 12 in the greater Minneapolis area. The landmark event includes five PBA Tour title events and — for the first time in history — a concurrent PBA50 World Series of Bowling.

Additional events that will air on CBS and CBS Sports Network next season include USA vs. The World, the PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands and PBA Norm Duke Open.

"The PBA and CBS Sports have enjoyed a storied history, and we're excited to take the partnership to unprecedented levels in 2026," said Tom Clark, PBA Tour Commissioner. "Eight different PBA events, all live with extended coverage, including two CBS broadcasts, is incredible news for our fans."

The first of two CBS broadcast windows kicks off the network's coverage on April 4 with USA vs. The World.

Captains EJ Tackett and Jason Belmonte, who were ranked as the top two players of the past 25 PBA Tour seasons, will build their respective teams from a selection of top American and international talents.

Belmonte's international squad dominated the Americans in the most recent USA vs. The World match, which was held in 2023. The Australian and 15-time major champion will look to replicate his winning formula at Columbus Square Bowling Palace in Columbus, Ohio.

Tackett has taken control of his rivalry with Belmonte, winning all three PBA Player of the Year honors since USA's defeat in 2023. With his elevation to USA captain, Tackett hopes to leave a stronger thumbprint on the team and propel the Americans to victory.

This year's PBA WSOB XVII and PBA50 WSOB IV, which will be hosted by three bowling centers in surrounding Minneapolis, promises to be a milestone collaboration.

Not only will this be the first instance of both WSOBs being held together, but it will mark the return of the PBA50 Tour to national television for the first time since 2009.

On May 9-12, CBS Sports Network will cover four PBA animal pattern championships and all four PBA50 WSOB championships, including the PBA50 World Championship.

Five hours of live coverage each night will include PBA Tour semifinal and championship rounds as well as a PBA50 Tour championship round.

The PBA World Championship, the fifth and final major title event of the season, will be broadcast live on CBS and Paramount+ on June 13 from Strobl Arena inside Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park, Mich. The finals will be preceded by a semifinal round on CBS Sports Network.

The prevailing storyline entering this year's PBA WSOB XVII is EJ Tackett's pursuit of an unprecedented fourth consecutive PBA World Championship title.

An action-packed June continues with coverage of the PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands and PBA Norm Duke Open from Steel City Bowl and Brews in Bethlehem, Pa.

The PBA Elite League featured a revamped format last season, dividing players into teams based on their respective bowling ball manufacturing brands. Rivalries are renewed this season in pursuit of the second annual Manufacturer's Cup, which will be awarded in an extended stepladder finals on June 20.

The PBA Norm Duke Open will take the place of the PBA Tour Finals, a CBS Sports staple since 2017. Following qualifying rounds June 15-19, eight finalists will compete for the title June 21 in a five-hour thriller on CBS Sports Network.

The 2026 season will mark CBS Sports' 14th consecutive season with coverage of the PBA Tour.

Partners interested in working with the PBA can contact sponsorship@pba.com for inquiries.

For the latest information and updates about the 2026 PBA Tour, visit www.PBA.com and follow the PBA on Instagram, Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), TikTok, and YouTube.

PBA on CBS Schedule

Bolded shows air live on CBS and Paramount+
Non-bolded shows air live on CBS Sports Network

April 4 — USA vs. The World — Columbus, Ohio

PBA World Series of Bowling XVII — Minneapolis
May 9 — PBA Animal Pattern 1 Championship
May 10 — PBA Animal Pattern 2 Championship
May 11 — PBA Animal Pattern 3 Championship
May 12 — PBA Animal Pattern 4 Championship
June 13 — PBA World Championship — Allen Park, Mich.

June 20 — PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands — Bethlehem, Pa.

June 21 — PBA Norm Duke Open — Bethlehem, Pa.

Award Winners Announced for 2025 PBA Regional Tours

December 11, 2025 Professional Bowlers Association

The 2025 BowlTV PBA and PBA50 Regional Players Invitational tournaments are set to begin on Friday at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev.

Before the regional players in the country begin competition, the top players of the season will be recognized during a banquet on Thursday night.

The top PBA and PBA50 player, as well as the top first-year player, in each region were recognized based on their performance. Award winners were determined by points earned during the 2025 PBA Regional Tour season.

Recipients of the Pat Patterson awards were selected for their outstanding contributions to the regional program and efforts to promote bowling.

More information on the PBA Regional Tour is available here.

East Region

Player of the Year: Aaron Major, Taunton, Mass.
Rookie of the Year: Ethan Crouse, Lowville, N.Y.
Senior Player of the Year: Rick Graham, Elizabethtown, Pa.
Pat Patterson: Bruce Hall, Southborough, Mass.

Central Region

Player of the Year: Graham Fach, Urbana, Ohio
Rookie of the Year: Gage Blackford, Elwood, Ind.

Senior Player of the Year: Michael Haggitt, Springfield, Ohio
Pat Patterson: Rick Zakrajsek, Lorain, Ohio

Midwest Region

Player of the Year: Ben Sobel, Collinsville, Ill.
Rookie of the Year: River Van Veghel, Waterloo, Ill.
Senior Player of the Year: Tom Hess, Granger, Iowa
Pat Patterson: Dan Beaman, St. Louis, Mo.

South Region

Player of the Year: Matt Taylor, Zebulon, N.C.
Rookie of the Year: CJ Petrin, Chattanooga, Tenn.
Senior Player of the Year: Jon Rakoski, Estero, Fla.
Pat Patterson: Crystal Hall, Hope Mills, N.C.

Southwest Region

Player of the Year: Deo Benard, Roanoke, Texas
Rookie of the Year: Brandon Bonta, Wichita, Kan.
Senior Player of the Year: Tony Lanning, Yukon, Okla.
Pat Patterson: Beau Peterson, McPherson, Kan.

West Region

Player of the Year: Darren Tang, Las Vegas
Rookie of the Year: Kyle Morrison, Draper, Utah
Senior Player of the Year: David Leverage, Goodyear, Ariz.
Pat Patterson: Eric Adolphson, San Ramon, Calif.

Northwest Region

Player of the Year: Christopher Tuholski, Vancouver, Wash.
Rookie of the Year: Jerry Jennings, Yakima, Wash.
Senior Player of the Year: Blaine Weninger, Clackamas, Ore.
Pat Patterson: Joshua Groves, Meridian, Idaho

Grand Finale of PBA Regional Tours Underway in Reno

December 12, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev. welcomes the best PBA Regional Tour players in the nation, and across the globe, this weekend.

The 2025 BowlTV PBA Regional Players Invitational will crown a grand champion in the PBA and PBA50 divisions.

The tournaments offer a combined $125,000 prize fund across both the PBA and PBA50 divisions, including a $15,000 top prize in the PBA division and $10,000 for the PBA50 division winner.

The PBA RPI trophies are named in honor of Chris Warren, who is tied with Pete Weber for the record with 47 career PBA Regional Tour titles. Add in his 13 PBA50 Regional Tour titles and Warren trails only Walter Ray Williams Jr. in total regional titles.

Additionally, the winner will receive an automatic entry into their respective 2026 PBA Tournament of Champions field.

The PBA and PBA50 divisions will compete concurrently with qualifying beginning Friday at 10 a.m. local time (1 p.m. ET) and continues at 3:30 p.m. (6:30 p.m. ET) in both divisions.

The top 24 PBA players and top 12 PBA50 players will advance to match play following Saturday morning's third round of qualifying, which begins at 10 a.m. (1 p.m. ET).

Match play will begin at 3:30 p.m. (6:30 p.m. ET) in both divisions, and continue at 6 p.m (9 p.m. ET) in the PBA division on Saturday.

Sunday's final day of competition includes the Round of 8 at 9 a.m. (noon ET), Round of 4 at 11:30 a.m. (2:30 p.m. ET) and the championship match at 1 p.m. (4 p.m. ET).

All qualifying and match play rounds will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

Players were invited to the RPI based on their performances throughout the 2025 PBA Regional Tour season.

Fourteen players from each of the seven PBA Regional Tours (East, Central, Midwest, South, Southwest, West and Northwest) qualified for the event, including 10 from each region's points list and four from each region's RPI qualifier event.

In the PBA50 division, four players qualified from each region's points list and three from each region's RPI qualifier event.

One player qualified in the PBA and PBA50 division from each of the PBA Sweden, Japan and China regions, respectively.

- Sweden: Joachim Karlsson and Oskar Broström
- Japan: Yuta Saito and Toshihiro Sakuraba
- China: Otto Leung of Hong Kong and Shu-Kuo Yang of Taiwan

Additionally, three players will earn priority entry status for the 2026 PBA Tour based on their final qualifying position. Only players who finished top five in their region's points list were eligible to compete for this distinction. Players who are competing for 2026 PBA Tour priority entry status are bolded below.

PBA East Region

RPI Qualifier: Alex Horton, **Joe Paluszek**, Andrew Hall, **Andrew Suscreba**

Points List: Aaron Major, John Furey, **Ethan Crouse**, Andrew Lazarchick, Tom Sorce, Dylan Bowers, Mike Ruben, Sam DeWitt III, Jake Rollins, Kevin Bienko

PBA Central Region

RPI Qualifier: **Zac Tackett**, Zach Weidman, **Jeff Mann**

Points List: **Dean Vargo**, **Ryan Speer**, Evan Genz, Scott McIntire Jr., Ryan Liederbach, Patrick Dombrowski, Michael Davidson, Gage Blackford, Treg Smart

PBA Midwest Region

RPI Qualifier: Cam Crowe, Spencer Robarge, **Ryan Burton**, **Darin Bloomquist**

Points List: **Ben Sobel**, **Brent Boho**, **Phillip Watson**, Ryan Lopano, River Van Veghel, Blake Reiger, Seth Tegtmeier, Jace Meyer, Drew Sacks, Brett Lloyd

PBA South Region

RPI Qualifier: Mathew Woodall, CJ Petrin, Johnny Quach, Thomas McLaughlin

Points List: **Matt Taylor**, Trevor Roberts, **Josh Lewis**, Colin Champion, **Zachary Dwyer**, Nicholas Fisher, John Watkinson, Zack McSwain, William Little, Corey Knight

PBA Southwest Region

RPI Qualifier: Deo Benard, Chasten Pojas, Dallas Leong, Corey Umbrello

Points List: **Zach Rhoades**, Gabe Alvarez, DeeRonn Booker, **Rick Benard**, Roger Petrin, Riley Patton, Kris Koeltzow, Stu Williams, **Alex George**

PBA West Region

RPI Qualifier: Hunter Mayes, Michael Fitzgerald, Chad Lusche, Tim Cagle II

Points List: Jake Peters, Chase Nadeau, Tim Ursillo, Kyle Morrison, Nickolas Freiberg, Michael Romero, PJ Haggerty, Michael Marmolejo, **Cerell Cardines**

PBA Northwest Region

RPI Qualifier: **Lanndyn Carnate**, Riley Woodard, Cameron Weier, Evan Nash

Points List: **Harry Weigle**, Jerry Jennings, Thomas McNeal, **Manny Ferrell**, Tanner Acosta, Jordan Jung, Shawn Horenberger, Clay Rees

PBA50 East Region

RPI Qualifier: Rick Graham, David Handlowich Jr., Stephen Haas

Points List: Jeff Ripic, Charles Harris, Scott Kinkaid, John Neral

PBA50 Central Region

RPI Qualifier: Kyle Bigelow, Michael Clark Jr., Darryl Bower

Points List: Michael Haggitt, Larry Verble, Chuck Lupica III, John Shreve Jr.

PBA50 Midwest Region

RPI Qualifier: Ron Hurt, Scott Merritt, Jeff Johnson

Points List: Tony Oliva, Anthony Jovanovich, Bill Fabian, Rick Woloszyn

PBA50 South Region

RPI Qualifier: Dennis Killough, Mark Dillard, Rudy Kasimakis

Points List: Randy Weiss, Dan Knowlton, Allan Pomatto, Victor Florie Jr.

PBA50 Southwest Region

RPI Qualifier: Paul Fleming, Tony Lanning, Michael McHugh

Points List: John Burkett, Chris Warren, Mike Bailey, Robert Lawrence

PBA50 West Region

RPI Qualifier: Michael Hartter, Tony Rodriguez Jr., Joe Petrovich

Points List: Curtis Woods Jr., Robby Porter, Eric Adolphson, Gerald Vertigan

PBA50 Northwest Region

RPI Qualifier: Michael Kennedy, Craig Tuholski, Rich Corwin

Points List: Blaine Weninger, Shawn Copeland, Randy Macomber, Robert Reed Sr.

Mike Ruben, Robert Lawrence Lead Opening Rounds of BowlTV PBA Regional Players Invitational

December 12, 2025 Nolan Hughes

The opening rounds of the 2025 BowlTV PBA Regional Players Invitational were a high-scoring affair at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev.

Mike Ruben led the PBA division through two rounds of qualifying. He averaged more than 251 for his dozen games on the day, tallying a total pinfall of 3,013 (+613).

Tim Ursillo (+581), Jeff Mann (+568), Riley Woodard (+533) and Aaron Major (+494) round out the top five.

The current cut in 24th place is Andrew Hall with a total pinfall of 2,810 and an average north of 234.

The three players leading the race for 2026 PBA Tour priority entry status are Mann, Matt Taylor and Ryan Burton.

Only players who finished top five in their region's points list were eligible to compete for this distinction, which will be determined after Saturday's third round of qualifying.

Full standings for the PBA division are available here.

Robert Lawrence led the PBA50 division with a total pinfall of 2,770 (+370), averaging more than 230 for his 12 games.

Kyle Bigelow (+369), Michael Clark Jr. (+351), Blaine Weninger (+337) and Michael Hartter (+331) round out the top five.

Eric Adolphson occupies the current cut in 12th place with a total pinfall of 2,651 (+251), an average just shy of 221.

Full standings for the PBA50 division are available here.

The BowlTV PBA Regional Players Invitational offer a combined $125,000 prize fund across both the PBA and PBA50 divisions, including a $15,000 top prize in the PBA division and $10,000 for the PBA50 division winner.

The PBA RPI trophies are named in honor of Chris Warren, who is tied with Pete Weber for the record with 47 career PBA Regional Tour titles. Add in his 13 PBA50 Regional Tour titles and Warren trails only Walter Ray Williams Jr. in total regional titles.

Additionally, the winners will receive an automatic entry into their respective 2026 PBA Tournament of Champions field.

All players are competing on a 40-foot oil pattern.

Competition resumes with the final round of qualifying at 10 a.m. local time (1 p.m. ET) on Saturday.

All qualifying and match play rounds will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

Guppy Troup Elected to PBA Hall of Fame

December 13, 2025 Nolan Hughes

Troup will be the sole Class of 2026 inductee into the PBA Hall of Fame

In 1975, Guppy Troup became a PBA member. Fifty years and 50 titles later — eight on the PBA Tour and 42 on the PBA Regional Tours — Troup will become a member of the PBA Hall of Fame.

Troup was elected to the Hall of Fame via the Veterans Committee, which recognizes accredited players who did not meet traditional standards for enshrinement (10 PBA Tour titles or five titles with two major championships). Troup received the most votes from living Hall of Famers among the players on this year's ballot.

PBA Commissioner Tom Clark shared the news with Guppy and his son, 12-time PBA Tour champion Kyle Troup, in a Zoom call.

“Wow,” Troup said upon hearing the news. “I figured I'd missed out on that. When the commissioner added the veteran’s category, I thought I had a chance. This feels great. It really does.”

Born John Douglas Troup in Edinburgh, Scotland, Troup moved to South Carolina with his family at the age of 3. He bowled on an elite junior bowling team named “The Guppies.”

Suffice to say, the nickname stuck.

Troup began his PBA Tour career in 1976, but things did not go according to plan. He ran out of sponsors and had to use his personal savings to compete in 1978.

He won his first title, the Kessler Open, that season and set a then-record with six perfect games in 1979.

Troup found his stride in the 1980s and captured seven titles between 1980 and 1985, including a three-title 1982 season. His penultimate PBA Tour title came in the 1984 Budweiser Open, which was held at Columbus Square Bowling Palace in Columbus, Ohio.

The same venue will host a PBA Tour title event next spring, marking its return to the PBA Tour for the first time in 36 years. Troup said he plans to attend the tournament to support Kyle and relive his glory days.

Troup shifted to part-time competition on the PBA Tour after Kyle’s birth in 1991. He was named PBA50 Rookie of the Year in 2000 and ranks among the most prolific PBA Regional Tour players in history, ranking tied for eighth all time with 42 career regional titles.

As impressive as his achievements were on the lanes, Troup’s persona was — and remains — Hall of Fame worthy.

Between his audacious fashion and incredible showmanship, Troup became one of the faces of professional bowling during his PBA Tour career.

Kyle Troup’s colorful pants and theatrical flair have made him one of the most beloved players on the tour today. Continuing the family trade is perhaps as important to Kyle as any title.

“It's special for me that Guppy finalizes his legacy in the sport,” Kyle said. “Everybody knows him. Everywhere I go, they ask more about him than me. It just felt wrong that somebody of that nature wasn't in the PBA Hall of Fame. I’m super thankful for everyone that voted for him and to put him in his rightful place.”

The 2026 PBA Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be held Saturday, Feb. 21 in Arlington, Texas.

Eight Finalists Emerge in BowlTV PBA and PBA50 Regional Players Invitational Tournaments

December 13, 2025 Nolan Hughes

PBA50 division defending champion Randy Weiss among the 16 players left standing

After 18 games of qualifying and a few rounds of match play, just eight players remain in title contention for the 2025 BowlTV PBA and PBA50 Regional Players Invitational tournaments, respectively.

Among them is Deo Benard, who is looking to win his 15th career PBA Regional Tour title mere days ahead of his 22nd birthday on Christmas Eve.

Despite his young age, Benard boasts more than six years of experience on the PBA Regional Tour. He has twice been named the Southwest Region Player of the Year, including this year, and also has a PBA Tour title under his belt, winning the 2024 PBA Cheetah Championship.

Benard qualified 21st in the PBA division, advancing to the 24-player elimination match play field. He won his best-of-five-games matches on Saturday evening over Ryan Speer and Kris Koeltzow to advance to Sunday's final day of competition.

"Scores are a little higher than I expected, so it's cool to keep up," Benard said. "I didn't feel like I had that good of a look. Every block I've figured something out and gotten a little closer."

Benard will face DeeRonn Booker, the 2024 USBC Masters champion, in Sunday's Round of 8, which begins at 9 a.m. local time (12 p.m. ET) at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev. and on BowlTV.

Jeff Mann, Cam Crowe, Matt Taylor, Kevin Bienko, Andrew Hall and Christopher Tuholski each also advanced to the Round of 8 in the PBA division.

During qualifying, players who finished top five in their region's points list were eligible to compete for 2026 PBA Tour priority entry status. Indiana's Jeff Mann and Ryan Speer, along with North Carolina's Matt Taylor earned that distinction as the top three qualifiers among the eligible field.

PBA Division Match Play

Round of 24
No. 24 Christopher Tuholski def. No. 9 Gabe Alvarez, 3-0
No. 10 CJ Petrin def. No. 23 Eric Jones, 3-0
No. 11 Mike Ruben def. No. 22 Mathew Woodall, 3-2
No. 21 Deo Benard def. No. 12 Ryan Speer, 3-2
No. 13 DeeRonn Booker def. No. 20 Colin Champion, 3-2
No. 14 Cam Crowe def. No. 19 Aaron Major, 3-0
No. 15 Kevin Bienko def. No. 18 Ryan Lopano, 3-2
No. 16 Andrew Hall def. No. 17 Yuta Saito, 3-1

Round of 16
No. 16 Andrew Hall def. No. 1 Tim Ursillo, 3-1
No. 24 Christopher Tuholski def. No. 8 Michael Davidson, 3-2
No. 13 DeeRonn Booker def. No. 4 Dallas Leong, 3-1
No. 21 Deo Benard def. No. 5 Kris Koeltzow, 3-1
No. 15 Kevin Bienko def. No. 2 Riley Woodard, 3-1
No. 7 Matt Taylor vs. No. 10 CJ Petrin, 3-1

No. 14 Cam Crowe def. No. 3 Michael Fitzgerald, 3-1
No. 6 Jeff Mann def. No. 11 Mike Ruben, 3-2

Round of 8
No. 6 Jeff Mann vs. No. 14 Cam Crowe
No. 7 Matt Taylor vs. No. 15 Kevin Bienko
No. 13 DeeRonn Booker vs. No. 21 Deo Benard
No. 16 Andrew Hall vs. No. 24 Christopher Tuholski

Full standings for the PBA division are available here.

Michael Haggitt averaged more than 227 to lead the PBA50 division through 18 games of qualifying, totaling 4,101 (+501). Haggitt, Kyle Bigelow, Michael Clark Jr., and Eric Adolphson each earned Saturday evening off with a one-round bye in match play.

Those four will meet Dan Knowlton, Blaine Weninger, Michael McHugh and Randy Weiss in Sunday's Round of 8.

Weiss, the defending champion, has taken a different route to the Round of 8 in 2025. Last year, he led multiple qualifying rounds and earned a bye. This year, he snuck into match play as the No. 11 seed and survived a five-game thriller against Robert Lawrence in the first round of match play.

"It's a difficult way to bowl, because you put this high expectation on yourself," Weiss said. "You have to remember that none of that matters; that was last year with a whole different field. You can't come in here thinking it's going to be easy because you won last year. You've got to really clear your mind and remember everybody is equal starting fresh. There's no telling what's going to happen."

"It definitely takes more of a mental toll," Weiss added, comparing this year's route to the Round of 8 to last year. "But I'm still here, so now I get time to break and reset for another tough match tomorrow."

PBA50 Division Match Play

Round of 12
No. 12 Michael McHugh def. No. 5 Paul Fleming, 3-0
No. 11 Randy Weiss (defending champion) def. No. 6 Robert Lawrence, 3-2
No. 7 Dan Knowlton def. No. 10 Dennis Killough, 3-2
No. 8 Blaine Weninger def. No. 9 Michael Hartter, 3-0

Round of 8
No. 1 Michael Haggitt vs. No. 8 Blaine Weninger
No. 4 Eric Adolphson vs. No. 12 Michael McHugh
No. 2 Kyle Bigelow vs. No. 7 Dan Knowlton
No. 3 Michael Clark Jr vs. No. 11 Randy Weiss

Full standings for the PBA50 division are available here.

The PBA RPI trophies are named in honor of Chris Warren, who is tied with Pete Weber for the record with 47 career PBA Regional Tour titles. Add in his 13 PBA50 Regional Tour titles and Warren trails only Walter Ray Williams Jr. in total regional titles.

All players are competing on a 40-foot oil pattern.

The Round of 8 will begin at 9 a.m. local time (12 p.m. ET), followed by the semifinals at 11:30 a.m. (2:30 p.m. ET) and the championship matches at 1 p.m. (4 p.m. ET)

Southpaws Deo Benard and Michael Haggitt Capture RPI Titles in Reno

December 14, 2025 Nolan Hughes

In the grand finale of the PBA Regional Tours, left-handers Deo Benard and Michael Haggitt put on a show in Reno.

Benard captured the BowlTV PBA Regional Players Invitational title over Jeff Mann, while Haggitt prevailed over defending champion Randy Weiss in the PBA50 division final.

Benard is steadily mounting a résumé that could place him among the all-time greats.

Ten days shy of his 22nd birthday, Benard already owns 15 PBA Regional Tour titles, one PBA Tour title, two Southwest Region Player of the Year honors, a West Region Rookie of the Year award and a PBA Steve Nagy Sportsmanship award.

His latest achievement earned him a $15,000 top prize.

Benard qualified 21st among the 99-player field for match play. He defeated Ryan Speer, Kris Koeltzow, DeeRonn Booker, Christopher Tuholski and Jeff Mann to bring home the title.

He won the Southwest Region's RPI qualifier tournament in September with a 278 in the title match. Sunday in Reno, Benard once again shot 278 in the title match.

After struggling this season on the PBA Tour, finishing 79th in points, Benard said he studied what went wrong. He said he felt like he wasn't bowling like himself, comparing himself to others instead of doing what he does best.

Benard, who has made a career out of his slower ball speed, also knew he needed to be able to throw the ball faster, more consistently, to elevate his game. He utilized the new tool in his bag to bring home the RPI title, firing rockets to eliminate his opponents.

PBA Division — Match Play Results

Round of 8
No. 6 Jeff Mann vs. No. 14 Cam Crowe, 3-0
No. 15 Kevin Bienko def. No. 7 Matt Taylor, 3-1
No. 21 Deo Benard def. No. 13 DeeRonn Booker, 3-1
No. 24 Christopher Tuholski def. No. 16 Andrew Hall, 3-0

Semifinals
No. 6 Jeff Mann def. No. 15 Kevin Bienko, 2-0
No. 21 Deo Benard def. No. 24 Christopher Tuholski, 2-1

Championship
No. 21 Deo Benard def. No. 6 Jeff Mann, 278-228

In the PBA50 division, Michael Haggitt qualified as the top seed among 52 players for match play. The top seed earned a one-round bye, then defeated Blaine Weninger, Eric Adolphson and Randy Weiss to capture the title and $10,000 top prize.

Haggitt turned his dream into reality with a win in the National Bowling Stadium.

“This is you bowl all your life to get to this place,” he said. “It's the greatest. When you come here for nationals or any tournament, you just want to do your best. When you don't bowl, it really hurts. But when you win, it's unbelievable.”

Haggitt did not lose a single game in match play. In every crucial moment, he came up clutch.

Haggitt converted the 4-7-10 in the 10th frame to shut out Adolphson in the semifinal, then struck four times in the ninth and 10th frames to shut out Weiss in the championship.

PBA50 Division — Match Play Results

Round of 8
No. 1 Michael Haggitt def. No. 8 Blaine Weninger, 3-0
No. 4 Eric Adolphson def. No. 12 Michael McHugh, 3-1
No. 7 Dan Knowlton def. No. 2 Kyle Bigelow, 3-2
No. 11 Randy Weiss def. No. 3 Michael Clark Jr, 3-1

Semifinals
No. 1 Michael Haggitt def. No. 4 Eric Adolphson, 2-0
No. 11 Randy Weiss def. No. 7 Dan Knowlton, 2-1

Championship
No. 1 Michael Haggitt def. No. 11 Randy Weiss, 231-217

Dude Wipes Returns as Official PBA Partner for 2026 Season

December 16, 2025

The fan-favorite “Clears instead of Smears” pinsweep will once again be featured on PBA Tour telecasts in 2026, as DUDE Wipes will return as an official partner for the 2026 PBA Tour season.

DUDE Wipes, the nation’s leading flushable wipes brand, and their signature branding were an instant hit with PBA fans last season.

“We're so excited to return next season as a PBA partner,” said DUDE Wipes co-founder and CMO, Ryan Meegan. “This has been one of the most fun partnerships we've had and credit to the PBA for leaning into our bathroom humor and fun antics. From the branded pinsweep to fun content with Kyle Troup and the enthusiasm of the announcers for DUDE Wipes, we couldn't be happier! We can't wait to keep wiping together in 2026.”

The Clean Wipe presented by DUDE Wipes blended seamlessly with PBA telecasts. The sponsored on-air feature will return for all PBA broadcasts on The CW, CBS, and CBS Sports Network in 2026.

Last season, DUDE Wipes supplied product samples at each PBA Tour stop and served as the presenting partner of the PBA’s Friday Five content series, specifically highlighting the No. 2 moment of each week's video.

Each of those brand partnerships will return next season, along with Kyle Troup’s role as an ambassador. The 12-time PBA Tour champion will wear DUDE Wipes branding on his uniform for select 2026 events and participate in co-branded social media campaigns.

Packy Hanrahan, a two-time titleist with a devout social media following, will join Troup as a second ambassador for DUDE Wipes. Hanrahan has developed a striking relationship with bowling fans throughout his career.

“I’m really excited to help grow the continued partnership between the PBA and DUDE Wipes,” Hanrahan said. “I have worked with Kyle in the past. It was a blast getting to collaborate with one of the nicest guys out there, and I’m looking forward to doing it again.”

The first broadcast of the 2026 PBA Tour season will be the PBA Players Championship finals, airing live Sunday, Feb. 22 on The CW.

Partners interested in working with the PBA can contact sponsorship@pba.com for inquiries.

For the latest information and updates about the 2025 PBA Tour, visit www.PBA.com and follow the PBA on Instagram, Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), TikTok, and YouTube.

Legendz to Become Official Social Casino and Sportsbook of the PBA

December 17, 2025

Legendz will become the official social casino and sportsbook of the PBA Tour as part of a sponsorship agreement for the 2026 season.

Legendz offers a free-to-play social casino experience featuring a wide selection of casino games, live tables, original titles, and a full sportsbook. Available in 37 states, Legendz is focused on creating a welcoming community for everyday players to enjoy casual, social entertainment through a secure sweepstakes model built on fairness and fun.

"The PBA embodies energy, skill, and community — everything we believe in at Legendz," said Josh Margolis, the Chief Marketing Officer at Legendz. "We're proud to join forces to celebrate competition and create fun, social experiences for fans everywhere."

Before each televised championship round, Legendz will provide live odds prior to the telecast airing.

Legendz will be the title sponsor of the PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic, which will be held at Bowlero St. Peters in St. Peters, Mo.

The Legendz PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic will begin on Feb. 27 and conclude with the championship round on March 1, airing live at 4 p.m. ET on The CW.

"Our partnership with Legendz allows our fans to engage with one of the leaders in the sports betting industry," said PBA Commissioner Tom Clark. "We're excited to work with Legendz on creating exciting ways for PBA fans to combine their love of professional bowling with a fun and responsible live sports betting experience."

Legendz will receive additional on-air, digital and social marketing integrations co-branded with the PBA and Lucky Strike.

The first broadcast of the 2026 PBA Tour season will be the PBA Players Championship finals, airing live Sunday, Feb. 22 on The CW.

Partners interested in working with the PBA can contact sponsorship@pba.com for inquiries.

For the latest information and updates about the 2025 PBA Tour, visit www.PBA.com and follow the PBA on Instagram, Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), TikTok and YouTube.