

60 th ANNIVERSARY

1958-2018

1958



1969



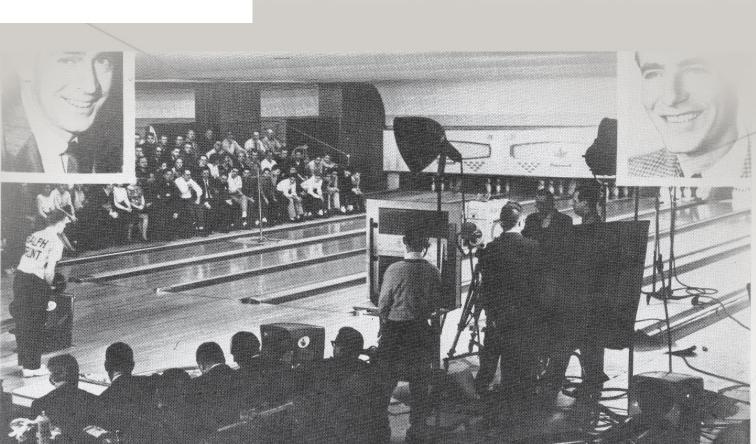
Akron, Ohio attorney, sports agent and television personality Eddie Elias met with 33 founding members at the



American Bowling Congress Tournament in Syracuse, N.Y., where those 33 contributed \$50 each to help create the Professional Bowlers Association.

1961

The PBA made its national TV debut on ABC Television with the National PBA Invitational at Paramus, N.J., with Jim McKay and



PBA AND TELEVISION GO HAND IN HAND

Like Pat and Mike, television and the Professional Bowlers Association have been buddy-buddy since the latter's inception a little over three years ago. Therm Gibson, the veteran from Detroit, tossed th In fact, it would be difficult to pinpoint a more first bomb in the air on Oct. 10, 1960 when he strung deserving media should the PBA decide to award an six straight strikes for a \$78,250 "Jackpot" payoff Frank Clause, the school teacher from Old Forge, Pa. The first tieup between TV and the pro bowlers collected \$76,000 for two "hits" last season. ame in 1959 with the weekly "Championship Bowling" eries. Next came "Jackpot Bowling" and last year and part of another before the St. Louis master, Do return last November. Don came back two weeks vo of the nation's top sportscasters, Jack Buck to make the same spare for another \$8,000. Thris Schenkel, handling the mike, all 16 finals 's Winter tournament tour are being aired

Fred Wolf handling the broadcast. Roy Lown won his first and only title by defeating Rich Robinette, 196-191, and he became the first left-hander to win a PBA Tour title.

1962

Don Carter won four titles, earned \$49,972 in prize money and recorded an incredible 18 top-five finishes.



1965

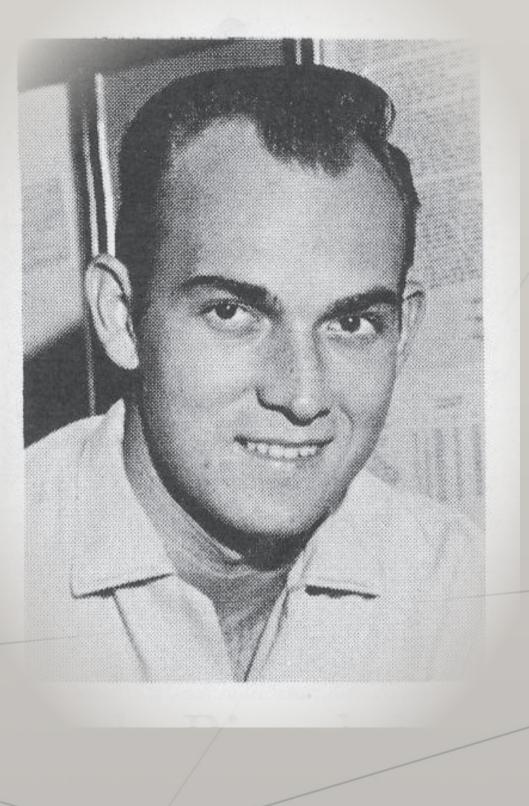
Firestone began its sponsorship of the PBA



Tournament of Champions, a partnership that started at Firestone Bowlarama Lanes in Akron, Ohio before moving to Riviera Lanes in 1966. The partnership lasted 29 consecutive years concluding with the 1993 event in Fairlawn (Akron), Ohio. The Firestone Tournament of Champions was the first commercially-titled sports event ever on national network television.

1967

Jack Biondolillo bowled the first nationally televised perfect game in PBA history during the finals of the Firestone Tournament of Champions, defeating Les Schissler, 300-216, and earning a \$10,000 perfect game bonus.

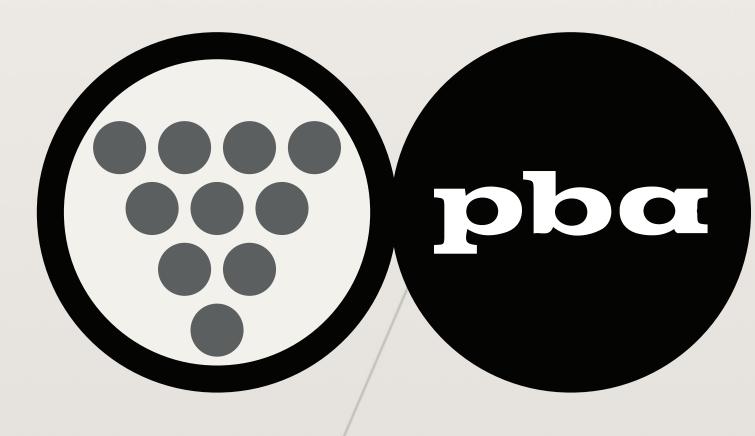


1969

Billy Hardwick became the first player to complete what would later be known as the "PBA Triple Crown," winning the BPAA All-Star (later re-named as the U.S. Open) after winning the 1963 PBA National Ch



after winning the 1963 PBA National Championship and the 1965 Tournament of Champions.



1959

"Wrong Foot" Lou Campi of Dumont, N.J., won the PBA's first event, the Empire State Open in Albany, N.Y., and collected a \$2,500 first prize.

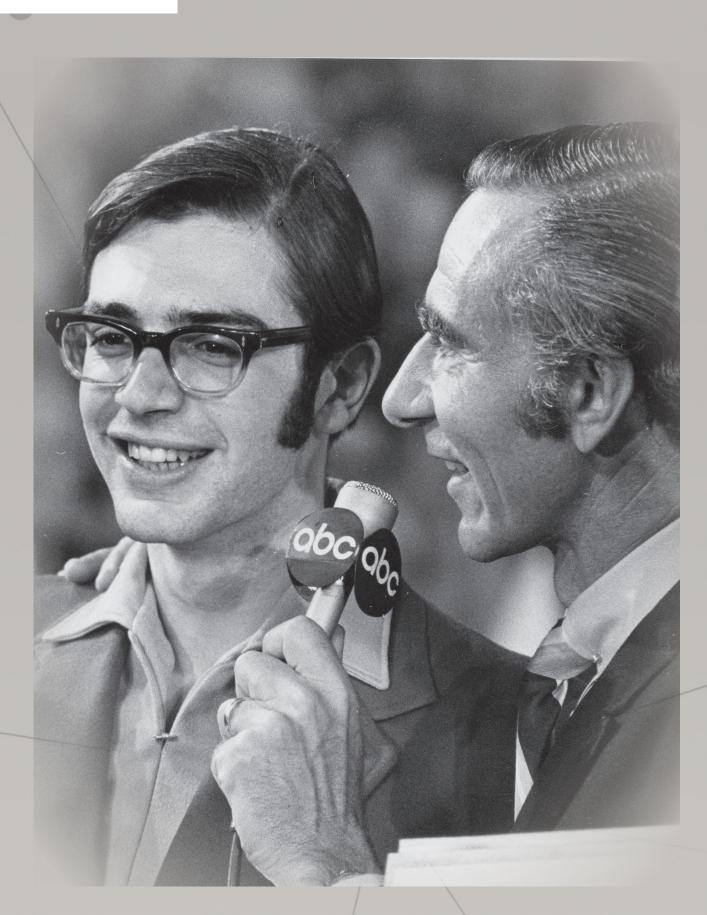


1962

The first PBA Tournament of Champions was contested at Play Bowl in Indianapolis. Joe Joseph won, earning \$15,000. Billy Golembiewski finished second. Future PBA Hall of Famers Carmen Salvino, Don Carter, Dick Weber, Harry Smith, Dave Soutar and Glenn Allison all finished in the Top 15.

1962

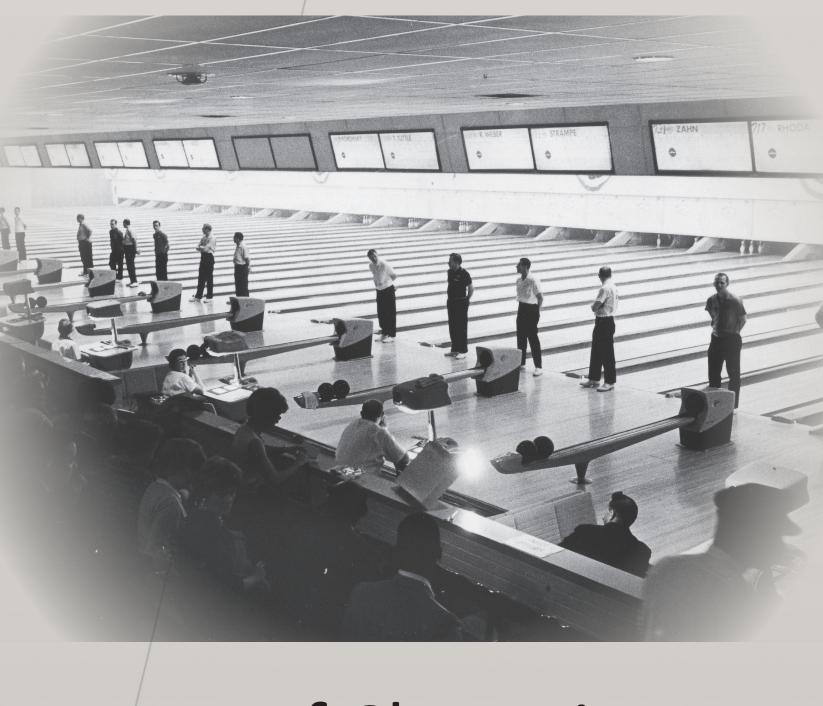
ABC Sports began its
"Pro Bowlers Tour"
series coverage with
the Empire State
Open. Hall of Fame
broadcaster Chris
Schenkel, who was
in the booth for the
first broadcast with
color analyst Billy



Welu, would become the most beloved broadcaster in the history of the sport.

1966

Based in
Fairlawn
(Akron),
Ohio, Riviera
Lanes
hosted
its first



Firestone Tournament of Champions.
The center would host 29 consecutive
Tournament of Champions from
1966-1994.

1969

The PBA Regional Tour was launched with its inaugural event... the Regional Players Invitational. Tom Hennessey won.