



60th ANNIVERSARY

1958-2018

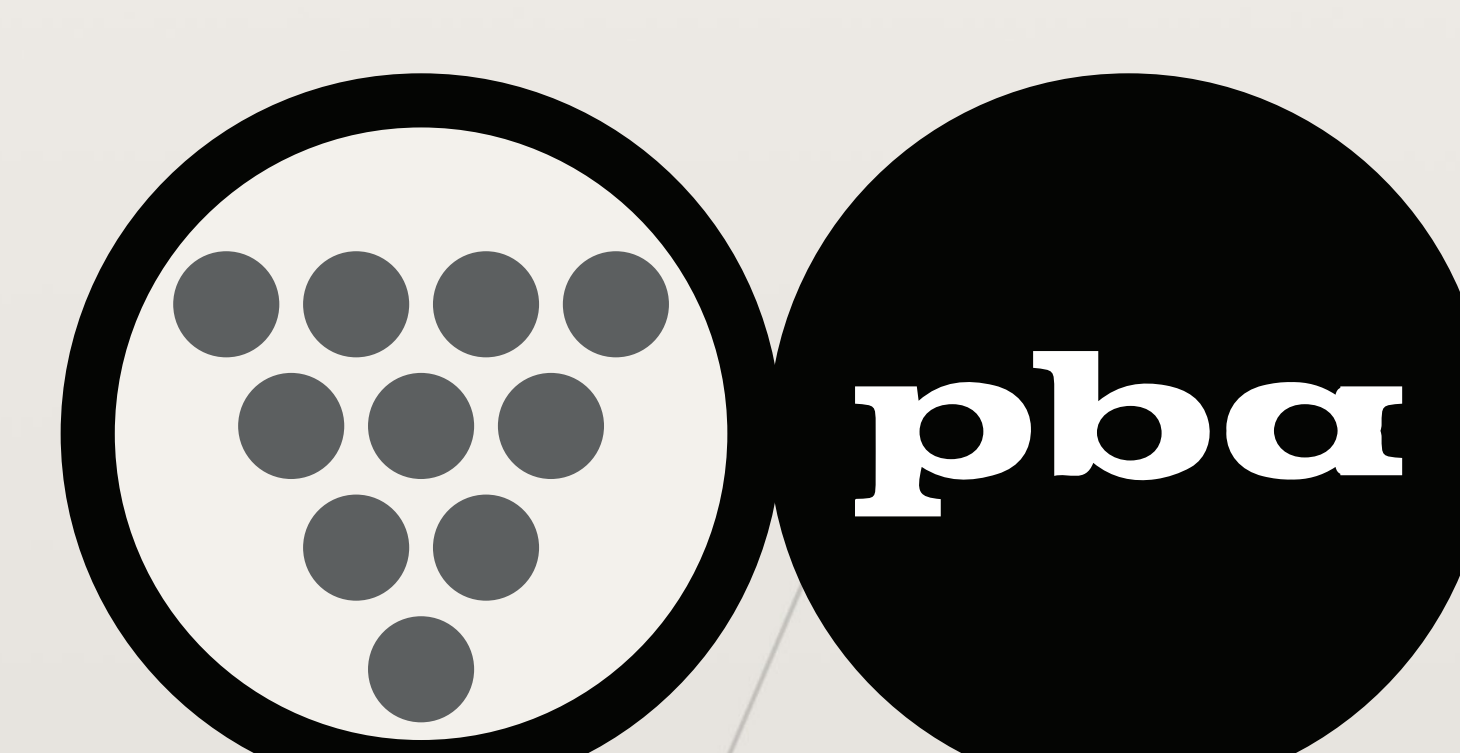


1970

1979

1970

Don Johnson left a solid 10 pin on his final shot for a 299 game in the title match of the Firestone Tournament of Champions. Johnson immediately fell to the approach in disbelief, creating one of the most iconic photographs in PBA history.



1971

The PBA Lane Maintenance program was founded.



1972

Madison Square Garden, one of sport's most prestigious venues, hosted its first of three consecutive BPAA U.S. Opens. Don Johnson topped George Pappas, 233-224, to win the \$10,000 prize.

1973

The year of the "soaker," introduced by Don McCune who used bowling balls chemically-softened to create hooking power no other player could match. McCune's ingenuity – perfectly legal at the time – led to a six-title season, a tour-best \$69,000 in earnings and PBA Player of the Year honors. More importantly, his actions led to a plethora of new rules and regulations related to altering bowling balls, but the impact also ushered in a new era of bowling balls designed to create hooking power.



1974

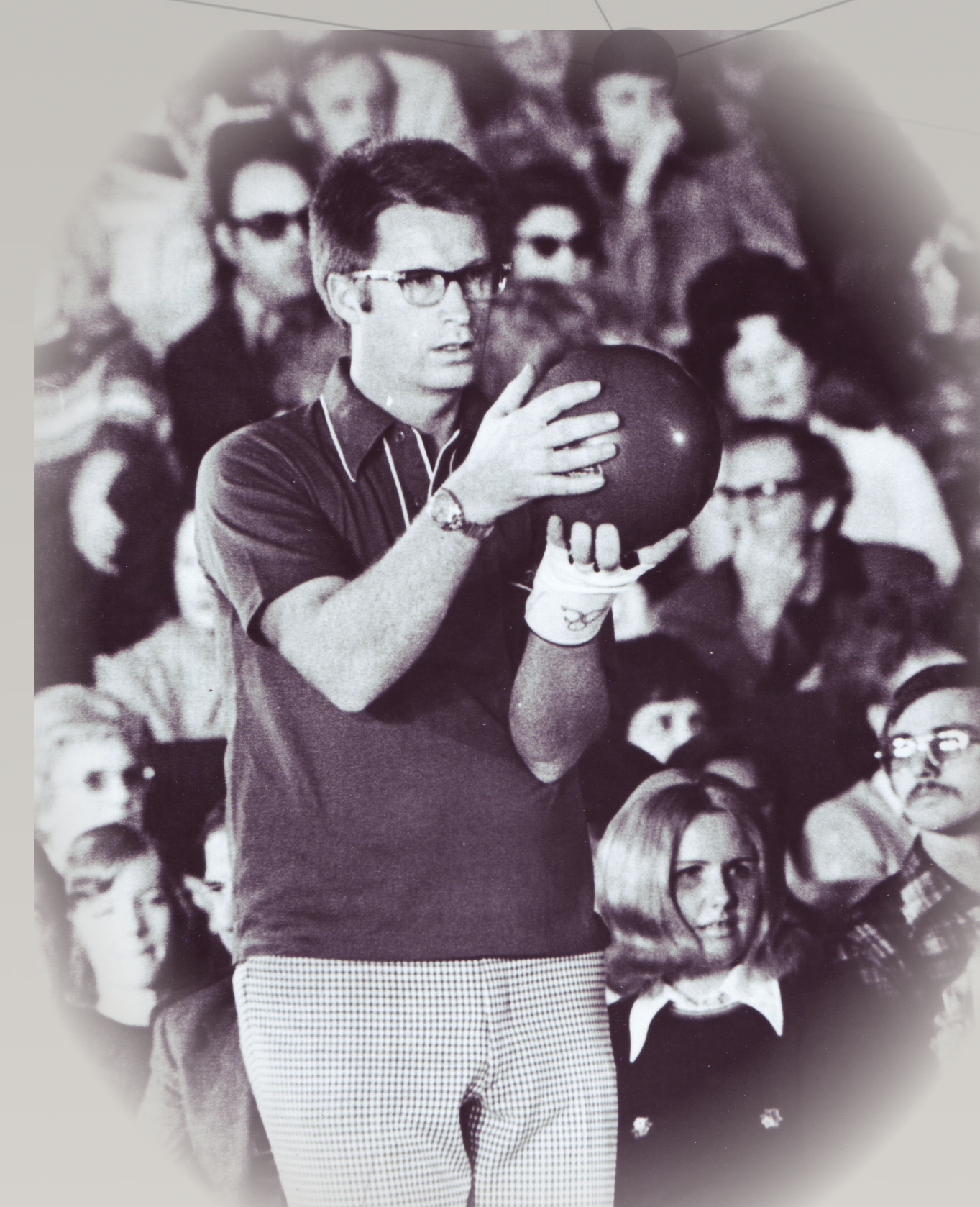
Minutes before the Midas Open finals began on ABC-TV, a lane breakdown forced PBA Tournament Director Harry Golden to declare lanes 29 & 31 as the official TV pair for the finals. In the second game, Jim Stefanich threw the PBA's third official perfect game on TV and became the first to accomplish the feat on a non-adjointing pair of lanes. Dick Ritger won the event, but Stefanich won a \$10,000 bonus for his 300 game plus a new Lincoln-Mercury Cougar car.

1975

The PBA Hall of Fame's inaugural class included one of the most talented groups in bowling history: Carmen Salvino, Don Carter, Harry Smith, Dick Weber, Ray Bluth (and Billy Welu, who died a year earlier) in the Performance category, and Frank Esposito and Chuck Pezzano for Meritorious Service.



Seventeen years after the PBA was launched, Earl Anthony became the first player to earn \$100,000 in a single season with his victory in the Buzz Fazio Open in Battle Creek, Mich. The win, Anthony's seventh of the year, was worth \$5,000 and put his season total at \$100,890.



1978

Mark Roth won a record eight titles which is still the PBA record for most titles won in a season.



1976

At age 21, Marshall Holman became the youngest player to win the Firestone PBA Tournament of Champions when he beat Billy Hardwick, 203-198. The record stood 40 years until Sweden's Jesper Svensson won the 2016 event at age 20.



1979

Thirty-three of 34 PBA Tour events were televised including 18 on ABC-TV's Pro Bowlers Tour, 10 on CBS Sports Spectacular and, for the first time, five on Entertainment and Sports Programming Network (ESPN).