



## PBA- Professional Bowlers Association

Established in 1958

PBA Founder Eddie Elias

At the 1958 ABC Masters Eddie Elias talked with 33 charter members of the PBA. He asked them to put 50 dollars as seed money, the rest is bowling history.

### Top Greatest Moments in PBA History

1. **Petraglia's perfect game**—in 1994 Johnny Petraglia perfect game at the PBA Nationals-World Championship. Johnny Petraglia would shoot a 300 game winning a \$100,000 prize and enabling his children to go to college.
2. **Mike Aulby the first player to complete the Grand Slam** at the 1995 Brunswick World Tournament of Champions. Mike Aulby would be the first bowler to complete the Grand Slam by winning the Tournament of Champions. He would do this by doubling in the tenth to defeat Bob Spaulding.
3. **Bob Learn's Jr 1,129 series in front of Bob Learn's** hometown of Erie, Pennsylvania. Bob Learn would be a 300. He would win the tournament and then set a four game record on national television averaging 282.254 for his four games. It would be the highest scoring finals in PBA History.
4. **Walter Ray Williams Jr winning 42 PBA Tour Titles** at the 2006 PBA Japan Cup. Walter Ray would surpass by having the Front Ten against PBA Hall of Famer Pete Weber.
5. **Pete Weber winning Five U.S Opens Titles.** In 2012, Pete Weber would need to strike in order to win his fifth prestigious U.S. Open title. He would throw a beautiful ball to win 215 to 214. He coined his popular phrase, "Who do you think you are? I am!!"

Earl Anthony becomes the first professional bowler to surpass one million dollar mark in career earnings. In 1983 Earl Anthony become the first bowler to surpass \$1,000,000 mark in career earnings by striking in the tenth in defeating Charlie Tapp to win his unprecedented fifth PBA national championship.

Mike Aulby becomes the first bowler to complete the Super Slam at the 1996 touring players championship. Mike Aulby defeated Parker Bohn III to become the first bowler in PBA History to complete the Super Slam by winning the Triple Crown plus the USBC Masters and finally the Touring Players Championship.

Lavoie becomes first bowler to bowl a perfect game at the U.S. Open in 2016. Francois Lavoie would win his first PBA Tour title by winning the U.S Open in historical fashion. He would bowl the 300 game to win his first title. He would have a total of 17 strikes in a row. He would beat Marshall Kent for his first PBA Tour Title.

Belmonte would three-peat the USBC Masters and second bowler to successfully defend his TOC title. In 2015 Jason Belmonte would complete a few of the historical moments on the PBA Tour at the 2015 USBC Masters. He would join Mike Aulby as the second bowler to have three Masters titles. However he would become the second bowler to win three consecutive titles. A week later he would join Jason Couch at successfully defending his TOC title.

Doug Kent wins \$120,000.00 at the PBA World Championship in 2002 with the forming of the new PBA Doug Kent would win the inaugural. This would be the largest amount of money for winning a PBA Title at that time.

Belmonte becomes the first bowler in PBA History to win three majors in a single season. At the 2017 PBA World Champions. Belmonte was waiting to make PBA History. Early in 2017 Belmonte would win his second PBA Players Championship and his fourth USBC Masters title. In the championship match he would defeat Jesper Svensson 233 to 225 to win ninth career major title and his third major of the year.

Duke becomes the fifth player to complete the triple crown and the second player to complete the grand slam. At the 2008 Norm Duke became the fifth player in PBA history to complete the Triple Crown by converting a bucket to win the 2008 U.S Open.

Dick Weber becomes the first bowler to win titles in five decades. At the 1992 touring players Senior doubles Tournament. Dick Weber and Justin Hromek would win the title this gave Dick five national PBA Tour Titles in five decades.

Smallwood goes from unemployment to PBA World Champion. Tom Smallwood of Saginaw Michigan lost his job at General Motors in the summer of 2009. He decided to turn pro after losing his job at GM. He would end up winning the PBA World Championship in Wichita. He would defeat the reigning player of the year Wes Malott in the championship game.

# Old PBA Membership Requirements

This article is about what the PBA started with the membership requirements to establish an elite PBA member. This bowling organization was for the elite bowlers and was meant to be the pinnacle organization in the sport of bowling. If a bowler wanted to be a PBA member, he had to average two league seasons totaling 66 games of 200 or better and have two letters of recommendation from current PBA members. These letters did not have to be written from a superstar like Earl Anthony or Dick Weber. If an aspiring bowler knew a fellow bowler that was a PBA member, that PBA member could write a letter of recommendation. A multitude of pro bowlers had Dick Weber write a recommendation for PBA membership. Dick was a great bowler back when the PBA was getting started.

If the bowler was approved to obtain a PBA membership, he would have to cash in two PBA Regional Tournaments and go to a 3-day PBA member school. Then, they could compete on the PBA National Tour. The Regional Program was developed by Chuck Pezzano for bowlers who were unsure if they could make it on the PBA Tour. Some big names might be at these tournaments.



Two of the charter members that made history in the PBA Hall of Fame are Dick Weber on the left and Carmen Salvino on the right.

## The PBA Majors

Major US Open USBC Masters Tournament of Champions. PBA World Championship & PBA Players Championship.

### SuperSlam Winner-

Mike Aulby: 1979 PBA National/World Championship, 1989 US Open, 1989 ABC/USBC Masters, 1995 Tournament of Champions, 1996 PBA Bayer/Brunswick Touring Players Championship

### GrandSlam Winners -

Mike Aulby: 1979 PBA National/World Championship, 1989 US Open, 1989 ABC/USBC Masters, 1995 Tournament of Champions

Norm Duke: 1993 ABC/USBC Masters, 1994 Tournament of Champions, 2000 PBA World Championship, 2008 US Open

### Triple Crown Winners -

Billy Hardwick: 1965 Tournament of Champions, 1969 BPAA All-Star/US Open, 1963 PBA National/World Championship

Johnny Petraglia: 1971 Tournament of Champions, 1980 PBA National/World Championship, 1977 US Open

Pete Weber: 1987 Tournament of Champions, 1988 US Open, 1989 PBA National/World Championship, Mike Aulby: 1979 PBA National/World Championship, 1989 US Open, 1995 Tournament of Champions, Norm Duke: 1994 Tournament of Champions, 2000 PBA World Championship, 2008 US Open

Chris Barnes 2005 US Open, 2006 Tournament of Champions, 2011 PBA World Championship

Most US Open Wins –

5: Pete Weber 88-91, 04, 07, 2012

Most PBA National/World Championship Wins –

6: Earl Anthony 73-75, 81-83

Most Tournament of Champions Wins –

3: Mike Durbin 72 ,82, 84

Jason Couch 99-2002\*

Most PBA Touring Players Championship Wins –

2: Jason Belmonte 2012, 2017

Steve Hoskins 97, 99

Dennis Horan 98, 2000

Dave Ferraro 88, 91

Most Career Majors Wins –

Pete Weber (10)

Earl Anthony (10)

Most Majors in a Season –

Jason Belmonte (3) 2017 PBA Players Championship, USBC Masters, PBA World Championship

Consecutive Majors Wins –

Earl Anthony (3) 73, 74, 75, 81, 82, 83 PBA National/World Championship

Jason Couch (3) 99, 2000, 2002 Tournament of Champions\*

Jason Belmonte (3) 2013, 2014, 2015 USBC Masters

Consecutive Top 5 in a Major –

Dick Weber (6) 61 thru 66 BPAA All -Star (formerly known as the US Open)

**\*NOTE: There was no TOC in 2001.**

Majors on the PBA Tour are the hardest tournaments to win because the lane conditions are very demanding. There are generally not a number of big games especially at the prestigious US Open which is considered the most difficult PBA tournament to win. It features one of the most challenging lane conditions of the PBA Tour season.

## **PERFECT GAMES ON NATIONAL TV (26)**

- 1) Jack Biondolillo vs. Les Schissler, 216 (Akron, Ohio, April 1, 1967);
- 2) John Guenther vs. Don Johnson, 189 (San Jose, Calif., Feb. 1, 1969);
- 3) Jim Stefanich vs. Glenn Carlson, 243 (Alameda, Calif., Jan. 5, 1974);
- 4) Pete McCordic vs. Wayne Webb, 249 (Torrance, Calif., Jan. 31, 1987);
- 5) @ Bob Benoit vs. Mark Roth, 255 (Grand Prairie, Texas, Jan. 23, 1988);
- 6) @ Mike Aulby vs. David Ozio, 279 (Wichita, Kan, July 31, 1993);
- 7) Johnny Petraglia vs. Walter Ray Williams Jr., 194 (Toledo, Ohio, March 5, 1994);
- 8) Butch Soper vs. Bob Benoit, 236 (Reno, Nev., July 12, 1994);
- 9) C.K. Moore vs. Parker Bohn III, 192 (Austin, Texas, Feb. 2, 1996);
- 10) Bob Learn Jr. vs. Johnny Petraglia, 279 (Erie, Pa., April 6, 1996);
- 11) Jason Queen vs. Bobby Fleetwood, 225 (Huntsville, Ala., May 3, 1997);
- 12) Steve Hoskins vs. Walter Ray Williams Jr., 234 (Rochester, N.Y., Oct. 15, 1997);
- 13) Parker Bohn III vs. Chris Sand, 246, and Mike Mullin, 191 (Reno, Nev., May 9, 1998);
- 14) Steve Jaros vs. Ricky Ward, 200 (Chattanooga, Tenn., Feb. 13, 1999);
- 15) Mike Miller vs. Danny Wiseman, 266, and Tim Criss, 224 (Reno, Nev., June 20, 1999);
- 16) Norm Duke vs. Walter Ray Williams Jr., 213 (Tacoma, Wash, Jan. 5, 2003);
- 17) Mika Koivuniemi vs. Jason Couch, 248 (Windsor Locks, Conn., Dec. 7, 2003);
- 18) Tony Reyes vs. Parker Bohn III, 215 (Taylor, Mich., Nov. 5, 2006);
- 19) Ryan Shafer vs. Jeff Carter, 228 (Indianapolis, Ind., March 18, 2007);
- 20) Rhino Page vs. Tae Hwe Jeong (Tokyo, Japan, April 25, 2009);
- 21) Jason Belmonte vs. Brian Kretzer, 231, and Mike Fagan, 220 (Las Vegas, Nov. 19, 2011)
- 22) Chris Barnes vs. Jason Belmonte, 215, and Sean Rash, 182 (Las Vegas, Nov. 19, 2011)
- 23) Sean Rash vs. Chris Loschetter, 236 (Shawnee, OK, May 24, 2014)
- 24) Ronnie Russell vs. Sean Rash, 266, and J.R. Raymond, Bay City, Mich., 186, (Las Vegas, Dec. 28, 2014)
- 25) Sean Rash vs. Ryan Ciminelli, 214 (Indianapolis, Ind., Feb. 15, 2015)
- 26) Francois Lavoie vs. Shawn Maldonado, 211, (Las Vegas, Nov. 10, 2016)

## **PBA Facts**

Most Titles - Walter Ray Williams Jr. (47)

Most Career Earnings - Walter Ray Williams Jr. (\$4.7 million)

Most Career Championship Round Appearances - Walter Ray Williams Jr. (174)

4,6,7,10 Split on National Television - Walter Ray Williams Jr.

4,6,7,8,10 Split on National Television - Alan Bishop

4,6,7,9,10 Split on National Television - Doug Kent

7-10 Split on National Television - Mark Roth, John Mazza, Jess Stayrook

2,4,8,10 Split on National Television - EJ Tackett

Most Chris Schenkel Player of the Year Awards - Walter Ray Williams Jr. (7)

Most Earnings by a Rookie - Rhino Page

Most Career Earnings - Walter Ray Williams Jr. (\$4,732,429)

Most Earnings in a Single Season - Walter Ray Williams Jr. 2002-2003,

Most Titles in a Single Season - Mark Roth (8)

Chris Schenkel Player of the Year and Harry Golden Rookie of the Year Honors - Mike Aulby (2 POTY),

Tommy Jones, Chris Barnes, Jason Belmonte (4 POTY), EJ Tackett

First Bowler to Break \$100,000 in a Single Season - Earl Anthony

First Bowler to Break \$200,000 in a Single Season - Mike Aulby

First Bowler to Break \$300,000 in a Single Season - Walter Ray Williams Jr.

First Bowler to Break \$1,000,000 in Career Earnings - Earl Anthony

First Bowler to Break \$2,000,000 in Career Earnings - Walter Ray Williams Jr.

First Bowler to Break \$3,000,000 in Career Earnings - Walter Ray Williams Jr.

First Bowler to Break \$4,000,000 in Career Earnings - Walter Ray Williams Jr.

Youngest to Win a PBA Title - Norm Duke

Oldest to Win a PBA Title - John Handguard

Youngest to Win a Major Title - Anthony Simonsen

First Bowler to Win in 5 Different Decades - Dick Weber

Oldest player to Win a Major Title - Ernie Schlegel

Most Earnings in a Single Season Without a PBA Title - Pete McCordic

### **PBA Celebrates It's 60th Anniversary**

At the 1958 ABC Masters, former attorney Eddie Elias asked 33 bowlers to form the PBA. He asked each of them to put up \$50 seed money. He did not realize it, but he was making bowling history by forming the PBA Tour. The next year, the PBA would have 3 PBA tournaments. The first one was won by Lou "Wrongfoot" Campi. The next two tournaments were won by Dick Weber. That first year, the PBA membership would be competing for a total of \$49,500 on the PBA Tour. The leading money winner was Dick Weber. A few years later, Elias would strike a deal with the America Broadcasting Company, so the PBA tournaments could be shown on national television. It would be a 35-year relationship. The voice of pro bowling was Chris Schenkel. He would have a color commentator, Billy Welu, who won the ABC Masters in the 50s. Welu was also a founding member of the PBA. Sadly, Billy passed in 1975. He came up with the phrase "Hit them thin, then watch them spin." Nelson Burton Jr. would fill Billy's shoes for 22 years. Bowlers like Dick Weber, Earl Anthony, and Walter Ray Williams Jr. would become the stars of the PBA Tour. Mark Roth, Norm Duke, Marshall Holman, Don Johnson, Pete Weber, Mike Aulby, Parker Bohn III have also become legends on the Tour.

Eddie's dream has thrived through ups and downs. With youngsters like Jason Belmonte, E.J. Tackett, Jesper Svensson, the future looks bright for the PBA Tour.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** *To provide bowling fans important bowling news, thoughtful analysis, and keen observations about professional and regional bowling tournaments.*

**VISION:** *To be the highest quality bowling publication that the author can create using the best of his knowledge and observation.*