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**Messenger: PBA Playoffs** 

2020 Player of the Year Analysis

Special Notice to Subscribers of the

Josh Hyde Bowling Newsletter you will be receiving of the Spare Strike Pillars PowerPoint along with this month's

Strike Column:

**Spare Strike Pillars** 

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PBA Player of the Year

**Bowlology:** 

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## Messenger **Bill O'Neill wins lucky 13**

In the 2020 PBA Playoff, Bill O'Neill won his thirtieth PBA title by defeating Anthony Simonsen 2 games to 0 and earned his second 2020 title of the year. O'Neill said "I didn't want to come in second again in this event" because he finished second during the 2019 event. "I was confident in my ball reaction and I knew if I made good shots, I was going to come away with the win." He made a six inch adjustment backwards during the guarterfinals and the results showed up in the championship match. He had an 8-bagger in the second game and a final score of 249. In the early part of the tournament, Francis Lavoie would become the second bowler in PBA history to shoot two perfect games on broadcast television. All of the PBA Hall-of-Famers were eliminated early during the competition. This year the format changed from two games to a single game from the Round of 24 to the Semi-finals. In the Championship match the bowlers would have two games to decide the Champion.



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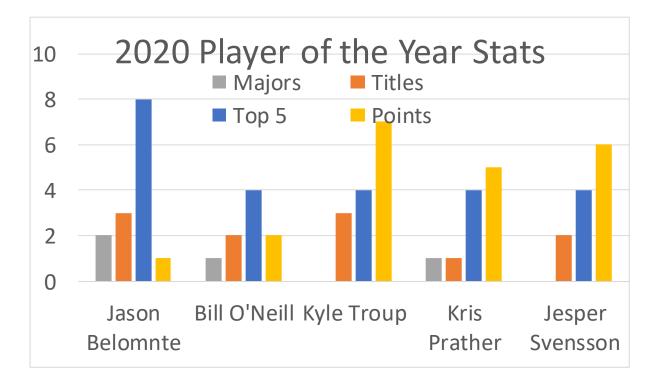


## Strike Column 2020 Player of the Year analysis

The 2020 Player of the Year race was an interesting year. When Jason Belmonte won his final major to join Mike Aulby as being the only two players for winning every major on the PBA Tour that secured his Player of the Year honor. However a couple other bowlers gave Belmonte a run for the honor. Kyle Troup and Bill O'Neill won multiple titles on the PBA Tour. Kris Prather won his first major at the Tournament of Champions. Kyle Troup won the Mark Roth and Marshall Holman PBA Doubles with Jesper Sevenson and then won the PBA Tour Finals. It was an interesting year for the all the bowlers. Due to CoVID it was one of the best seasons that the PBA Tour ever had. Bill O'Neill had not won a major in ten years. He won the PBA Players Championship and then he would go on to win the PBA Playoffs. Kris Prather and Kyle Troup were the only two players that were on the winning team for the Elias Cup. The Elias Cup does not count towards the PBA stats.

O' Neill and Belmonte were fighting for the Player of the Year honor. O'Neill was looking to become the sixth player of the year honors. O' Neil has started to win titles on the PBA Tour. He did well in all the majors. Bill O'Neill and Jason Belmonte raced for Player of the Year. After coming in second numerous times. O'Neill has got his monkey off his back. Prather finally broke through winning his first major at the Tournament of Champions. Jason Belmonte is still the greatest bowler however there is some competition on the horizon for Jason Belmonte with O' Neill, Prather and Troup. These players were a dominant force on the 2020 PBA Tour. Anthony Simonsen could have stopped Jason Belmonte by winning the 2020 US Open. If he would have done that he would have been the youngest player in his career. All of these bowlers have PBA Hall of Fame credentials. More young talent is coming out on the PBA Tour.

Bowling fans can see how Jason Belmonte and Bill O'Neill were the top two contenders of this year's PBA Tour season. Belmonte and O'Neill were becoming like Anthony and Roth back in the 70's. The start of the decade has O'Neill and Belmonte being the top two bowlers of the PBA Tour. Finally O'Neill has figured out a way to win on the PBA Tour. O'Neill has a total of 13 PBA Titles just think bowling fans if the PBA had a full tour this year of the number of wins that would have been. There were at least 8 players that made a \$100,000 in a single season. If Belmonte would not have won the 2020 PBA World Championship. The PBA Membership would have to consider Bill O'Neil as a contender for the Chris Schenkel Player of the Year Award. With Belmonte winning the two majors it was a slam dunk in winning his fifth honor. Belmonte is climbing on the two greatest Players in PBA history Walter Ray Williams Jr and Earl Anthony. Both these legends of the PBA were phenomenal in their heyday.





## Bowlology Spare Strike Pillars

When Bowlology was founded in November of 2011, the Josh Hyde's Bowling Newsletter wanted to give bowlers some knowledge of the sport. These spare- strike pillars are essential to Bowlology in that they are the four pillars that a Bowlologist will need in order to help bowlers, coaches and pro-shop operators.

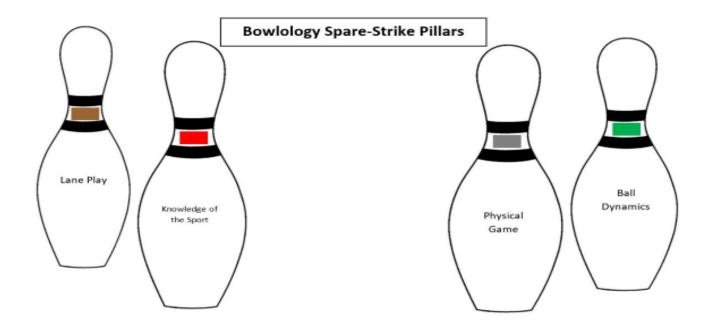
--The First Pillar is Knowledge of the Sport which involves split making, makeable splits, lane courtesy, the perfect strike, score-keeping, playing field, pin knowledge, pin carry, and general bowling knowledge.

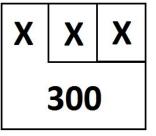
--The Second Pillar is the Physical Game. If a bowler does not have a solid foundation, he or she is not going to be able to execute in every frame. Timing puts away the trail leg, the finish position and the arm swing. These are the main attributes of a bowler's physical game.

--The Third Pillar is Lane Play which is how the bowler plays the lanes making hand position and speed adjustments. In most sports, the athletes are not going to have to worry about the surface of the field. However, in bowling, bowlers do have to know what the lanes are doing in order to be a contender in a league match. The same holds true when Jason Belmonte needs a strike to win the U.S Open. Lane play is a big portion of a bowler's game.

--The Final Pillar is Ball Dynamics. This is where the bowler and the pro-shop operator need to be on the same page. Each bowler is different. If a pro bowler wins a Major and Joe Bowler wants to use the same ball with the same layout and surface, more than likely Joe Bowler will not have the same results as the pro bowler due to differences in their game. They may use the same ball except with a different layout and surface. This is why it is so important for the proshop operator to know Joe Bowler's game. Pro-shop operators generally know the dynamics of the bowling ball. Ideally, the bowler needs to find a pro-shop operator that has some coaching experience. If he/she has a pro-shop operator and a coach, all three need to come up with a game plan so that the bowler can be successful on the lanes.

These four Bowlology Spare-Strike Pillars will enable bowlers, coaches and pro-shop operators to identify bowling knowledge.





## **Tenth Frame: Editorial: Player of the Year**

Jason Belmonte and Bill O'Neill could have had a Player of the Year fight with Belmonte becoming the second player in PBA history to win all five majors at the 2020 US Open and winning his third PBA World Championship. It was hard to dispute who was going to be player of the year. Kyle Troup and Jesper Svenson won the Mark Roth/Marshall Holman PBA Doubles. Jesper would win the Go Bowling.com championship. Winning back to back weeks. O'Neil did well in all the majors that the PBA had despite not having USBC Masters.

This year there were three 300's shot on national television. Tommy Jones would become the second player in PBA History to bowl a perfect game and win the same week, that he would be inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame. Francis LaVoie would become the second bowler in PBA History to bowl a perfect game on national television. Bill O'Neill finally learned how to win on the PBA Tour by having multiple titles in the same year. O'Neill could be the next super star on the PBA Tour. He already has the credentials that he needs to be inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame. Sean Rash would finally break through at the PBA World Series of Bowling by winning the Cheetah Championship. With Rash winning the Cheetah Championship he would earn a two round bye for the PBA Playoffs. Belmonte would claim his third title of the year at the Chameleon championship. With Belmonte winning his third title that pretty much secured his fifth Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year honor.

If Kyle Troup and Jason Belmonte met in the PBA Playoffs in the title match. Kyle would have won it might give the PBA membership to think on for the Player of the Year race. The same goes for Bill O'Neil. If they had met in the championship match of the PBA Playoffs with O' Neil having one major. O'Neil would have to won his thirteen career PBA title. If either of these championship matches would have played out the way they did. It would have been an interesting player of the year race for Troup, Belmonte and O'Neill. With O'Neill not winning a major in ten years he made a statement saying "do not count me out yet". "I can contend the highest level on the PBA Tour". Jason Belmonte was for sure the Player of the Decade in the last ten years. After Walter Ray William's Jr had won his seventh player of the year honor. Belmonte took the baton and went on a winning streak. There have been PBA Hall of Famers that have won four majors in their PBA career. Jason Belmonte won eleven majors within just six years. Bowling fans might have witnessed the greatest player of the decade in just a few short years. Mark Roth did the same thing in the late seventies however he did not win as many major titles as Belmonte. It will be quite interesting to see the next decade goes over time.



Jason Belmonte 2020 U.S Open Championship Win





Bill O'Neill 2020 PBA Players Championship Win



Bill O'Neill 2020 PBA Tour Playoffs Jason Belmonte PBA World Championship Winner



Jason Belmonte PBA Chameleon Championship Win



Jesper Svenson & Kyle Troup at the Mark Roth/ Marshall Holman PBA Doubles Championship