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Messenger

Larsen wins Masters

Tom Larsen of Denmark won his first PBA Tour title at the 2021 USBC Masters. He defeated Jesper Svensson 197 to 176. Jesper Svensson had a chance to strike in the tenth but failed to do so. After winning his title Tom Larsen commented that "This is a dream come true," when you win here in the PBA that "is like a stamp of approval."

At this year's Masters there was a potential youngest bowler to win the masters. It would not count as a PBA title. Even though 18 year old Spencer Robrage was the first inaugural PBA Junior National. He is going to be attending Wichita State. His achievements have been winning Junior Gold. He has made enough scholarship money to put himself through college. In the other matches Spencer would defeat Chris Via in the match with a score of 213 to 194. Jason Sterner would struggle as he could only muster up a 166 game in the second match. It looked like to coast his way to his first major except Larsen would be able to outperform Robrage with a 213 to 200 scores.

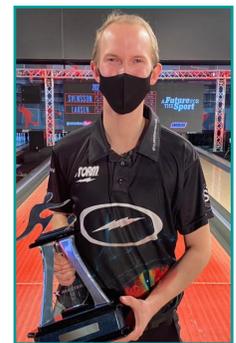
The scores were exceptionally lower than previous years as it took a score of 51 under to make the match play of the tournament. Jason Belmonte was on the verge of missing the match play portion of the tournament. He would bowl a big game to get into the match play portion of the tournament. Norm Duke would qualify high in the standings as he would look for his second Master's title. There were a total of 216 bowlers bowling for the top prize of \$30,000 and an eagle at the USBC championship tournaments. Jakob Buttruff the winner of the 2019 USBC Masters would be seeded as he was the defending champion. Due to CoVid-19 there was not a 2020 Masters held. Chris Barnes was hoping to join Mike Aulby, Norm Duke and Jason Belmonte as becoming the fourth bowler to complete the Grand Slam.

Final Standings

- 1, Thomas Larsen, Denmark, 410 (two games), \$30,000.
- 2, Jesper Svensson, Sweden, 176 (one game), \$25,000.
- 3, Spencer Robrage, Springfield, Mo., 637 (three games), \$15,000.
- 4, Jason Sterner, Rochester, N.Y., 166 (one game), \$10,000.
- 5, Chris Via, Springfield, Ohio, 194 (one game), \$8,000.

Stepladder Results

- Match 1** - Robrage def. Via, 213-194.
- Match 2** - Robrage def. Sterner, 224-166.
- Semifinal** - Larsen def. Robrage, 213-200.
- Championship** - Larsen def. Svensson, 197-176.



2021 USBC Masters Winner –Thomas Larsen

Messenger:1
 Larsen wins the Masters

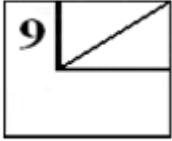
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Spare Column

2021 U.S. Open

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In the 2021 U.S Open Chris Via would defeat Jakob Buttruff 214 to 213 in the Championship game. Buttruff would need all three strikes in the tenth frame to force a 1 ball roll off. He left a 2-10 on his final ball to lose by one pin. It was a close match. Chris Via who had been knocking at the door in the majors finally broke through. This was Via first career PBA Tour Title as well as his first major and his first green jacket win in the PBA.

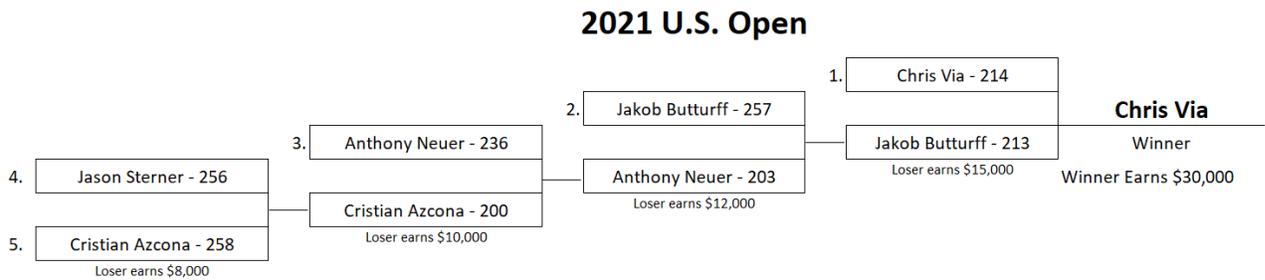
Chris Via was surprised by his victory as he stated after his win "It was more shock at first when he didn't get it, then the realization that I won, and I'm a major champion."

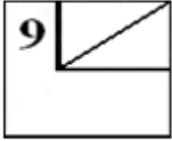
The shot of the tournament would have to go to Anthony Neuer as he would convert the 7-10 split in the semi-final game. However Neuer could not outperform Jakob Buttruff as Jakob would shoot a 257 to 203. In the first match of the 2021 U.S Open. Cristian Azcona would defeat Jason Sterner 258 to 256. It was a strike fest instead of a grind out. Scores were extremely high at this year's U.S. Open. All the finalists were using Urethane instead of resin reactive as equipment. It was like a rollback from the 1980's. Even in the round robin portion of match play. All the finalists were using Urethane.

Chris Barnes and Tommy Jones were in the match play portion of the tournament. The defending champion Jason Belmonte was trying to win back to back U.S. Open titles. There were three 300's in the tournament. One was thrown by the champion of the tournament. Jakob Buttruff would try to lead the tournament wire to wire, however Via caught him in the last two rounds of match play. The first cut would take a score of +251 to advance to the cashers round. In the first round scores were awfully high as Jakob would shoot 1900 for his first eight games of his qualifying after they won the scores were drop. EJ Tackett would score decent on the first day but by the second day he would shoot a 100 under and not be able to rebound from his subpar round. EJ Tackett brother would shoot a 300 game in the PTQ and would make a match play in the actual tournament.



Chris Via-Winner of the 2021 U.S Open





Spare Column

Walter Williams Jr surpasses John Handeguard at PBA50 Lightning Strikes Open

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After retiring from the PBA Tour Walter Ray Williams Jr. would once again dominate at the PBA50 Lightning Strikes Open. He would defeat Michael Hugen Jr in a three game total pin fall match 708 to 655 beating John Handeguard’s PBA50 record of 14 titles.



Walter Ray Williams Jr– Winner of the PBGA50 Lightning Strikes Open

The PBA50 Lightning Strikes Open would feature 14 games of qualifying with a top 32 advancing to match play. The 32 bowlers would come back and bowl single elimination three games total pin fall determining each match advancing to the next round. Brad Angelo finished in the top 10 in his PBA50 debut. He is another legend retiring from the PBA Tour and finished fifth. PBA Hall of Famer Parker Bohn III would be the cut number at a score of +300. Other players that made it a cut were Mike Koivuniemi, Amleto Monacelli, Ryan Shafer, and Bob Learn Jr. Don Blatchford of Santa Monica, California would be the last super senior to earn the \$1,000.00.

Couch wins Johnny Petraliga BVL

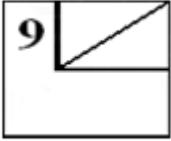
Jason Couch won his first PBA50 Open at the 2021 Johnny Petraliga BVL Open in Clearwater Florida. He defeated Michael Haugen Jr. 278-260 in the Championship match. In the match, Couch started with the front five and then left a 3-9 and then went off the sheet. “I started with the first five strikes but left the 3-9 in the sixth frame,” Couch said. “I was really pumped up which caused me to be a little too firm with that shot. It was obvious I was going to have to continue striking so I just took a deep breath to regroup for the rest of the match.”



In the semi-finals, it was the highest scoring match for a PBA championship round. Chris Barnes started with a stone 8 and then shot a 289 forcing Haugen to double in the 10th to win the game. Instead Haugen shot a perfect game.

PBA50 Johnny Petraglia BVL Open

				1.	Jason Couch	278	Jason Couch CHAMPION
					Michael Haugen Jr.	260	
				Loser Earns \$4,000			Winner Earns \$7,500
		2.	Michael Haugen Jr.	300			
			Chris Barnes	289	Loser Earns \$3,000		
		3.	Chris Barnes	252			
			Dennis Rakauskas	203	Loser earned \$2,500		
4.	Dennis Rakauskas	248					
5	Michael Haggitt	205			Loser earned \$2,200		



Spare Column

Francois Lavoie Wins PBA SuperSlam

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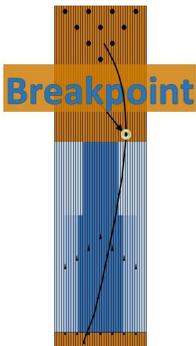
Francois Lavoie became the inaugural PBA SuperSlam winner by defeating Kyle Troup 247 to 202. It would not count as a PBA Tour Title as it was a special event. It was like PGA’s version of the Grand Slam event. All five major winners of the 2021 would be guaranteed a spot by winning a major on the PBA Tour. The pattern for the event was the Mike Aulby 39 foot pattern. Mike Aulby was the first bowler to complete the Super Slam as he won the 1996 Baier-Brunswick Touring Players Championship currently known as the PBA Players Championship. There would be four first time major winners including the first time winner of the US Open Chris Via. The first match would feature all five bowlers bowling to get their seeding in the bracket. The lowest score was eliminated. Tom Daugherty had a hard time as he could only bowl a 179 game. He would take home \$10,000. Chris Via would lead the round match as he bowled a 251. Kyle Troup would be runner-up as he bowled a 240. Tom Larsen would end up in third as he would bowl a 232 to earn the third highest score. Last but certainly not least Francois Lavoie would be the low man on the totem pole with a 224. Francois Lavoie was the only multi manager champion in the inaugural PBA SuperSlam.



2021 PBA SuperSlam Championship

Round-Robin Match			Elimination Matches			Championship Match			
1.	Chris Via	251	1.	Chris Via	209	4.	Francois Lavoie	247	Francois Lavoie
2.	Kyle Troup	242	4.	Francois Lavoie	212	2.	Kyle Troup	242	CHAMPION
3.	Thomas Larsen	232	2.	Kyle Troup	268	Loser Earns \$50,000 Winner Earns \$100,000			
4.	Francois Lavoie	224	3.	Thomas Larsen	214				
5.	Tom Daugherty	179	Lowest score was eliminated- Losers Earns \$20,000						
		Earned \$10,000							

Bowling Industry loses an icon of ball designing and layouts.



On March 5th, 2021-The bowling industry lost a great mind in bowling. Mo Pinel would pass away from complications of CoVID-19 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Mo designed a number of bowling balls and would be revolutionizer in how pro-shop operators and pro-bowlers could drill their balls. He would also design the Armadillo layout device for pro-shop operators to help bowlers find where the Positive Axis Point is. He would also invent another bowling ball innovation with the asymmetrical core. USBC Hall of Famer Steve Kloempken recounted a statement from Pinel that you cannot “out-bowl bad ball reaction.” Pro-shop operators will greatly miss Mo and his multitude of ideas.



Pictured Above– Mo Pinel