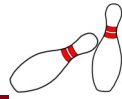




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**Messenger:** .....1  
USA v. World

**Lane Talk:** .....1  
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Cheetah

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Scorpion

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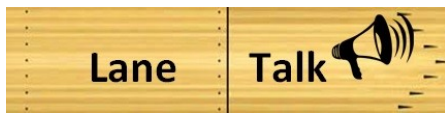
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## Messenger: USA v. World

The World Team looked like the weaker team on paper. However, on April 15th, they completely dominated Team USA and won all 5 points. EJ Tackett and Anthony Simonsen lost the first doubles match against Jason Belmonte and Jesper Svensson 215-205. This looked like the World was going to take the Hall of Fame Cup. Captain Tommy Jones and Kyle Troup gave the USA a glimmer of hope as they won in the Alternate Shot Doubles 220-217. This was the World's change to shut out the USA team and win before the Baker Team match. However, Jones struck on the first ball in the 10th frame to give the USA a way to survive until the finals. At the start of the Baker Team, the USA was down 7-2 and need the win to force a one-ball roll off. Each team had problems with the right lane, but the World was able overcome and take home the Hall of Fame Cup trophy with two quick wins over the USA. The World Series of Bowling started off at the Holler House where the oldest sanctioned lanes are located. The team captains bowed against each other on the lanes where Belmonte defeated Jones 231-185.



“Hard to win when you can’t keep it on the lane, my friend”.  
Randy Pedersen



# WSOB—Cheetah Championship



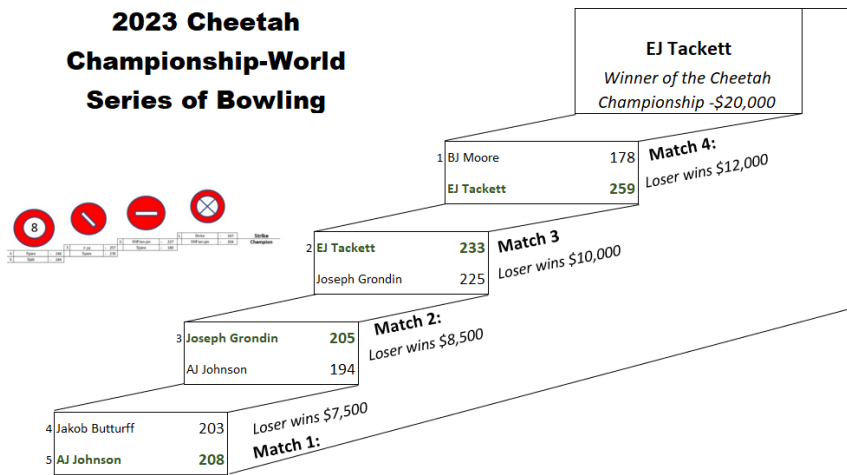
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At the 2023 World Series of Bowling Cheetah Championship, EJ Tackett joined an elite group of bowlers by winning his 20th PBA Tour title. With this win, Tackett surpassed Chris Barnes and tied Amleto Monacelli, Dick Ritger, Wayne Webb and Tommy Jones — all PBA Hall of Famers. Tackett accomplished this feat by beating BJ Moore 258-178. It was Tackett’s 4th title of the year. By winning this title, Tackett would have a leg up for the Chris Schenkel Player of the Year honor.

“I’ve just bowled well,” Tackett said. “I’ve given myself a lot of opportunities and I’ve been able to capitalize on them, where in the past I really haven’t done a great job of doing that. This year, for some reason, has been a little bit different. Everything is coming together and things are full steam ahead.”

In the other matches, Joseph Grondin gave EJ a match in the Semifinals. Tackett would prevail 233-225. In the second match of Stepladder, Grondin beat AJ Johnson 205-194. The first match of the Cheetah Championship was unusually interesting as AJ Johnson had 3 gutter balls, and his opponent , Jakob Butturff, would have 2 fouls. Johnson would bowl on the extreme outside while Butturff almost had his own gutter ball. Bowling fans might have thought that Johnson would not have a chance to win that game. Butturff could not capitalize as he had his own problems.

In the Qualifying round of the tournament, there were a massive amount of 300s with 14 perfect games. EJ Tackett would have the most gutter balls with 8.



Above: EJ Tackett  
Winner of the Cheetah Championship

2023 Cheetah Championship		
High Game	259	EJ Tackett
Low Game	178	BJ Moore
High Match	233-225	EJ Tackett vs. Joseph Grondin
Low Match	205-194	Joseph Grondin vs. AJ Johnson
20 Game Cash	+543	Bill O'Neill
20 Game Cut	+638	AJ Johnson
20 Game Leader	+939	BJ Moore
Average Winning Game	226.25	
300 Games	14-Anthony Lavery-Spahr, AJ Johnson, Shawn Maldonado, Kyle Troup, Michael Davidson, Brandon Runk, Trevor Roberts, Anthony Simonsen, EJ Tackett, JR Raymond, Jacob Butturff, Pete Vergos, Carlos Granados	



# WSOB—Scorpion Championship

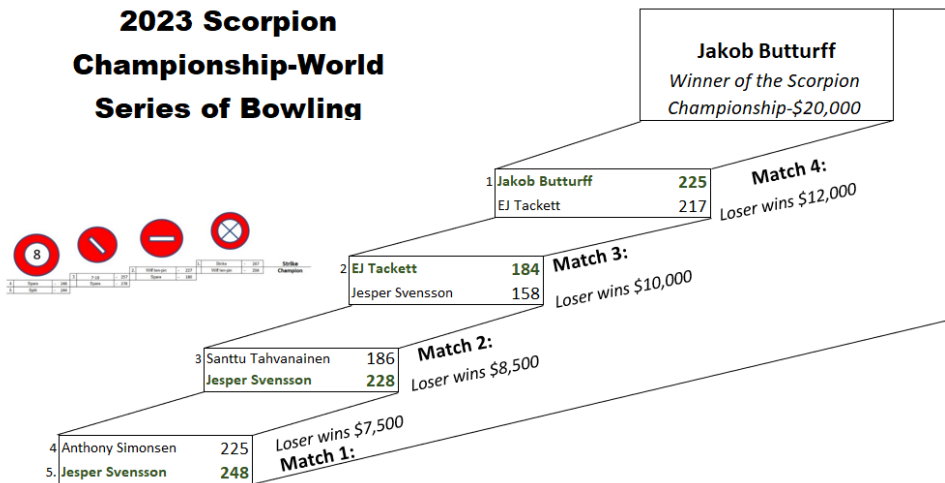
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Jakob Butturff ended a 4-year drought by defeating EJ Tackett 225-217. It was his first title since his Mom passed. Butturff now has 8 PBA titles.

“I know she was looking down on me and made sure I made my 7-pins in that match... She's the reason I am where I'm at in my life right now,” Butturff continued. “She motivated me. She took me to every event in juniors. Without her, I wouldn't be where I'm at in life.”

Tackett was seeking to add another title to promote his run at the Player of the Year honor. Jakob could have shut him out in the 10th by striking on the first ball and getting a 9 on his second ball. Butturff got the strike; however, he failed to get the 9 giving Tackett another opportunity to win by doubling and getting a 9 on his fill ball. Tackett would leave the 10-pin on his first ball in the 10th frame.

In the first match of the Scorpion Championship, Anthony Simonsen and Jesper Svensson would have a dual-out with a score of 248-225. In the Semifinals, bowling fans might have thought that Jesper was on his way to dominance, but he really ran into trouble. Tackett would win the grind-out match with a score of 184-158. In the second match, Jesper would have his way by scoring well against opponent Santtu Tahvanainen 228-186. This was Jesper's best finish in the 2023 PBA season thus far.



Above: Jakob Butturff  
Winner of the Scorpion Championship

2023 Scorpion Championship		
High Game	248	Jesper Svensson
Low Game	158	Jesper Svensson
High Match	248-225	Jesper Svensson vs. Anthony Simonsen
Low Match	184-158	EJ Tackett vs. Jesper Svensson
20 Game Cash	+317	Kyle Troup & James Blomgren
20 Game Cut	+458	Jesper Svensson
20 Game Leader	+663	Jakob Butturff
Average Winning Game	221.25	
300 Games	5-Santtu Tahvanainen-2, Jake Peters, Andrew Anderson, Dom Barrett, Matthew Ogle	

# WSOB—Shark Championship



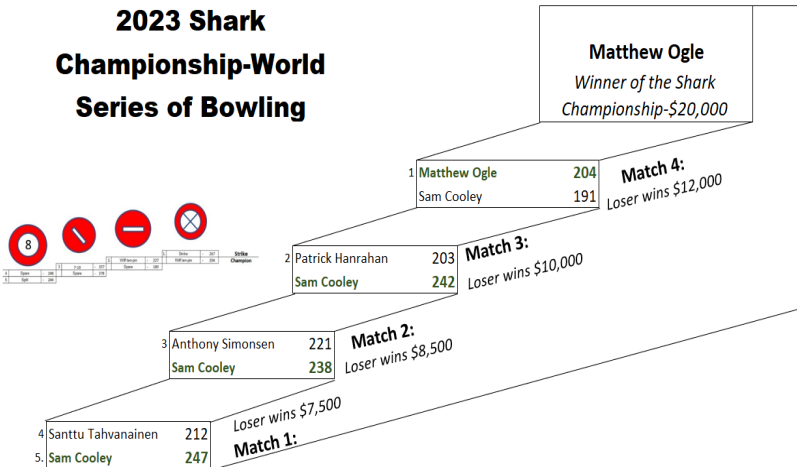
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Matt Ogle won his first single championship at the 2023 World Series of Bowling by defeating Sam Cooley 204 to 190. Ogle had won a doubles title with Sean Rash previously and currently ranks “fifth on Tour in points, behind only EJ Tackett, Anthony Simonsen, Jason Belmonte and Jakob Butturff”. Ogle had bowled 300 in the first game of the Shark Championship during the 20 games of qualifying of the tournament. This was a dream come true for the six year PBA member and lifetime bowler who now feels, “I belong for sure” after winning his title. “ I’m here. I’m not gonna look back.”

When bowling fans thought Sam might have the upper hand because he was journaling during the entire stepladder. This helped him be able to win three games. Cooley had defeated the three-time USBC Masters Champion Anthony Simonsen 238 to 221. In the first match Cooley was faced with 2022 Rookie of the Year Santtu Tahvanainen 247 to 212. In the semi-finals Sam Cooley was matched against Patrick Hanrahan, who could never find the line to strike. This gave Sam a chance to win his second PBA Tour Title. He was the only traditional bowler to make the stepladder finals.

Ogle had bowled 300 in the first game of the Shark Championship during the 20 games of qualifying of the tournament. This was a dream come true for the six year PBA member and lifetime bowler. EJ Tackett was struggling on the first day of the Tournament. However he was able to come back on the last day of the tournament. There were a total of four perfect games bowled during the Shark qualifying rounds.

## 2023 Shark Championship-World Series of Bowling



Above: Winner of the 2023 Shark Championship Matt Ogle

2023 Shark Championship		
High Game	247	Sam Cooley
Low Game	191	Sam Cooley
High Match	238-221, 247-212	Sam Cooley vs. Anthony Simonsen, Sam Cooley vs. Santtu Tahvanainen
Low Match	204-191	Matthew Ogle vs. Sam Cooley
20 Game Cash	+260	Tobias Boerding
20 Game Cut	+416	Sam Cooley
20 Game Leader	+639	Matthew Ogle
Average Winning Game	232.75	
300 Games	4-Matthew Ogle, Anthony Simonsen, Pontus Anderson, Jason Sterner	

# Messenger Continued: WSOB—PBA World Championship

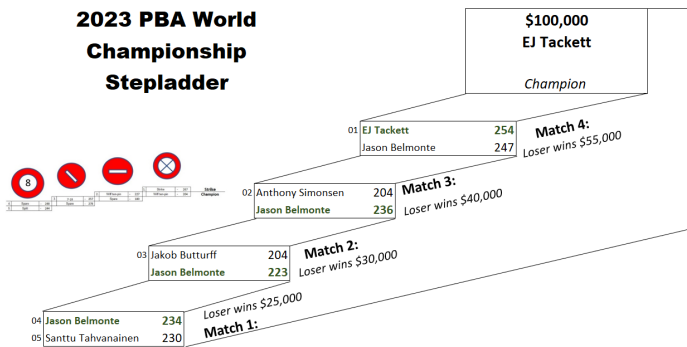
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EJ Tackett became the eleventh player to win multiple PBA World Championships by defeating Jason Belmonte 254 to 247. Tackett had to double to win his fifth title of the 2023 season. This was his fourth career major title and his second PBA World Championship. Tackett joins an elite group such as Earl Anthony, Mike Aulby, Norm Duke, Walter Ray Williams, Jr. and Jason Belmonte.

“I think there were a lot of things that happened today that benefited me,” Tackett said. “The lanes got to where I thought they would and where I wanted them to be. At that point, it was just all about execution.”

Jason Belmonte was looking for his 16th career major and his 32nd Career PBA Tour Title. However he fell a little short to Tackett. Belmonte had defeated Santtu 234 to 230, Jason Belmonte then defeated Jakob Buttruff 223 to 204 and Anthony Simonsen 236 to 204. Belmonte was on the outside looking in going into the last two rounds of math play. Belmonte only lost one game during the match play portion of the tournament. In the first match it was a high scoring match as both players were striking a number of times. In the second match Jacob Buttruff had a chance to put some pressure on Belmonte early in on in the match. Buttruff could get string strikes Jason a match by tenth frame of the second match. Jason only needed a strike to move onto Simonsen. In the semi-finals both players were struggling early as they were trying to figure out the lanes. Simonsen really struggled and could not find a successful line to the pocket. Belmonte prevailed Simonsen 234 to 204.



Winner of the 2023 PBA World Championship

2023 PBA World Championship		
High Game	254	EJ Tackett
Low Game	203	Anthony Simonsen & Jakob Buttruff
High Match	254-247	EJ Tackett vs Jason Belmonte
Low Match	224-203	Jason Belmonte vs Jakob Buttruff
60 Game Cash	+759	Tomas Kayhko
60 Game Cut	+1135	Jason Belmonte
60 Game Leader	+1707	Jakob Buttruff
72 Game Cut	+2056	Santtu Tahvanainen
72 Game Leader	+2332	EJ Tackett
Average Winning Game	236.75	
300 Games		

X	X	X
300		

## Tenth Frame Commentary: 14th WSOB

This year at the 14th edition of WSOB saw a plethora of bowling talent. EJ Tackett made a statement at this year's WSOB. It was his time. There were a number of 300's on the first animal pattern. Fourteen 300 games including one from the eventual Champion EJ Tackett, who would join the elite group of bowlers who have twenty or more PBA Tour titles this would give him the fourth title of the year. In his effort to become the third bowler in PBA history to claim Rookie of the Year honors, Tackett would finally beat his nemesis –Jason Belmonte. Even though Tackett did not win games in the match play portion of the PBA World Championship, he would win the major championship by defeating Belmonte 254 to 247. The top three bowlers at the 2023 PBA World Championship was the top three bowlers Jason Belmonte, Anthony Simonsen, and EJ Tackett. Anthony Simonsen has not been out of the top ten of the 2023 PBA Tour season. Jason Belmonte did not make an animal pattern championship show. Jason Belmonte who usually dominate at the WSOB did not perform as well as expected or what he liked to. The three legends of today's PBA Tour really shined through at the WSOB. A match for the ages with Belmonte vs Tackett with Tackett needing to double in the tenth to win his fourth career major.

During the first match at the Cheetah Championship, it was the craziest match in PBA Tour history as AJ Johnson won with three gutter balls. However, his opponent Jakob Buttruff had two fouls. In the history of the PBA Championship rounds. The Cheetah Championship had bowlers bowling on the extreme outside line. This is a risk / reward type of bowling that fans today are not used to seeing. Bowling fans today are used to seeing bowlers hooking the ball instead of going down and in.

At the 14th series of bowling, the Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year really was set in stone at the 14th World Series of Bowling with EJ Tackett winning two titles along with his fourth career major. This brought Tackett title count up to five titles with two majors for this season. For a PBA player to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, they have to have a total of five PBA Tour titles along with two majors. EJ Tackett has been completed this task in the 2023 PBA Tour campaign season with one more major title up for grabs. Can he join Jason Belmonte and Norm Duke as both players three majors in a single calendar year? Duke's three majors back in 2008 did not count as a three majors in a single calendar year. In that era of PBA history Duke had two majors in one season and then the next first major was of the following season was considered. With a win at the Players Championship, Tackett would join Pete Weber at winning four different majors without a Grand Slam. Some bowling fans might even speculate of winning a total of nine PBA titles in a single season.

The 2023 World Series of Bowling was exhilarating to watch. There was a first time singles winner with Matt Ogle winning the Shark Championship and Jakob Buttruff who has not won a PBA Tour title in four years.

