Josh Hyde's Bowling Newsletter

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Messenger: Tackett wins Player of the Year for Fourth Consecutive Year



On September 9, 2026, the PBA made an announcement that EJ Tackett would make Pro Bowling history by becoming the first player to capture the Chris Schenkel Player of the Year for four consecutive years Tacket would earn $324,075 and would become the first bowler to ever four-peat a PBA Major at the 2026 AMF PBA World Championship. He would dominate the PBA Tour leading every statistical category. In addition, Tackett would set the George Young PBA Tour High Average by averaging nearly 230. EJ would also have five championship round appearances during the 2026 PBA Tour campaign season. He would make three Major Championship rounds where he finish second in the PBA Player's Championship and the USBC Masters.

"I can't even put it into words what this feels like right now, to do something that no one else has ever done in the history of our sport," Tackett said after his World Championship win.

Messenger: PBA Hall of Famer Randy Pedersen Passes Away



On September 16, 2026, the bowling world mourned the loss of Randy Pedersen.

During his playing career, Pedersen won 13 PBA Tour titles with one major in the 1987 PBA National Championship currently known as the PBA World Championship. Pedersen would almost win his second career major at the Bayer/Brunswick Touring Players Championship, except he would leave the "STONE EIGHT". In his first career PBA50 Tour title event, he would win that title. Pedersen was inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame in 2011 and the USBC Hall of Fame in 2025.

"Randy was supremely talented in everything he did. Bowling, golf, comedy, broadcasting, anything. He was a force, a giant in sports and on TV," said PBA Commissioner Tom Clark. "He was our friend, our partner. Randy was our voice. He was my brother. I spoke with so many people today who loved him. There will never be another Randy Pedersen. Please hug the people you love."

In 2001, Pedersen joined the broadcast booth where he began his second Hall of Fame career as the voice of the PBA. Pedersen served as the PBA's lead color analyst for 25 years, making him the longest-tenured broadcaster in PBA history. His ability to quickly develop chemistry with a variety of play-by-play commentators fostered his historic longevity. No matter who joined him in the booth — from Rob Stone and Dave Ryan, Pedersen entertained and educated bowling fans. Pedersen called each of the PBA's most iconic 21st century moments, including Kelly Kulick's historic 2010 Tournament of Champions title, Pete Weber's iconic 2012 U.S. Open title along with the 2013 Tournament of Champions title. With his signature blend of charisma, humor, and analysis, Pedersen elevated professional bowling for more than a quarter century.

Lane Talk

"That ball went out for a burger and fries and came back with a steak and baked potato." Randy Pedersen

Sustaining Member

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Messenger Continued: Bonta earns Harry Golden Rookie of the Year



Brandon Bonta has been voted the 2026 Harry Golden PBA Rookie of the Year award winner. Bonta received nearly 60% of votes from PBA members and media. Alex Horton was a distant second with 33% of the vote. Bonta competed against Austin Grammar, Alex Horton, and Spencer Robarge who also earned nominations for the 2026 Rookie of the Year award.

This rookie class in PBA Tour history has four champions and six combined titles amongst them including two Majors made for a tight race for the Harry Golden Rookie of the Year campaign season with Tackett not looking to win a title. It looked like the Rookie of the Year and Player of the Year would be the same predicament. Two of the candidates for Rookies of the Year would win majors as their first title. This was the most talented field for a Rookie season. The 23-year-old Bonta won the season-opening PBA Players Championship. As the No. 4 seed, Bonta climbed the stepladder by defeating fellow rookie and former collegiate teammate Spencer Robarge, multi-time major champion Jesper Svensson, and two-time Player of the Year nominee Graham Fach to reach the title match. The now-four-time reigning PBA Player of the Year EJ Tackett, Bonta shot the 36th televised perfect game in PBA history to claim the major title.

" Thank you for your support this year family, friends, everyone watching on TV this year. This was an amazing year and hopefully we can keep it going" stated Bonta in social media post.

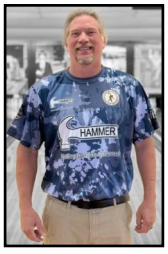
Bonta ranked first among rookies and third among all players with 18,023 points and almost $164,000 in earnings. He broke the single-season rookie earnings record, set one year ago by his college teammate Ryan Barnes, during the fifth title event of the season. Bonta would shatter a new record for a PBA Rookie of the Year. In his four major championship appearances, Bonta finished first, sixth, fifth and seventh.

Bonta would make five TV shows three of which were in the Majors and finished in the top 10 finishes six times, in addition Bonta would finish nine times in the top-25 finishes, and would cash 65% in the tournaments he entered. His season average 223.56 out of 333 total games.

* The PBA Rookie of the Year Award is named after legendary PBA Tour tournament director Harry "Goose" Golden, who was inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame in 1983. He was PBA National Tournament Director from 1961 to 1990.*

Spare Column : 2026 PBA Elite Regionals Presented by USBC

Last month the PBA conducted four PBA Elite Regionals and four PBA50 Elite Regionals. These regionals would indicate if bowlers are able to compete at the next level for the PBA. Robert Smith won PBA50 West. Anthony Simonsen won the PBA West Regional. Connor Breaman won the PBA South. Kip Robers won the PBA50 South. Dallas Leong won the PBA Northwest. Blaine Weninger won the PBA50 Northwest. Brandon Bonta won the PBA Southwest and Dino Castillo won the PBA50 Southwest.



Robert Smith



Anthony Simonsen



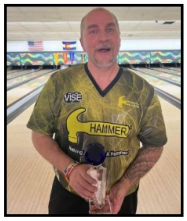
Connor Breaman



Dino Castillo



Dallas Leong



Blaine Weninger

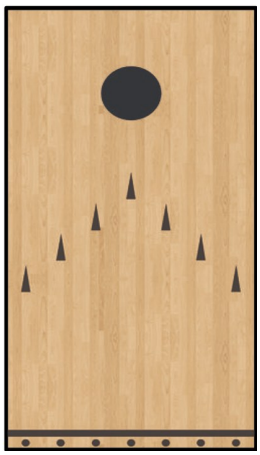


Kip Roberts



Brandon Bonta

Lane Markings: PBA Tour Qualifying & Elite Regional Tour



The revamped PBA ELITE Regional Tour, the next chapter of the PBA Regional Tour, started on Sept. 11th-13th.

The first of 21 events took place on Sept. 12th -13th at Steel City Bowl and Brews in Bethlehem, Pa. Eleven PBA Tour players with priority status for 2027 were scheduled to compete, including Pennsylvania natives Alex Horton, BJ Moore, Anthony Neuer, and Hayden Stippich. Brandon Bohn, the 22-year old son of PBA Hall of Famer Parker Bohn III, was also scheduled to compete. These elevated events featured larger prize funds, broader livestreaming coverage, and offered a path to qualify for the PBA Tour.

FORMAT

All PBA ELITE Regional Tour events featured the same format in both the PBA and PBA50 divisions. Players bowled seven games of qualifying on Saturday (squad size and number of players per pair may vary) with the top third of the field advancing. Sunday's competition began with a four-game advancers round, leading to an eight-player round-robin match play field. The player with the highest pinfall after 19 games won the tournament. There was no stepladder finals.

PATH TO THE PBA TOUR

The top 5 players without PBA Tour priority status (outlined below) in each PBA ELITE Regional Tour event qualified for the PBA Regional Players Invitational presented by USBC (RPI), which will take place in December. The 119 RPI qualifiers will compete for the most prestigious PBA Regional Tour title of the season and three priority status positions on the 2027 PBA Tour.

2027 PBA Tour Priority Status Qualifications

- Finished the 2026 season in the top 75 on the PBA Tour points list (if status is declined, spot does not move down the point list)
- Won any PBA national Tour title within the past 10 years (2017–2026)
- Elected to the PBA Hall of Fame (Performance Category Only)
- Top three from Collegiate Bowling PBA Points List (Brandon Bohn, Bryce Oliver, Carter Street)
- Medical Exception (Matt Taylor)
- Top three who qualify via Regional Players Invitational (RPI)
- Top four who qualify via PBA Combine

Players who meet any of the above criteria can enter up to three (3) PBA ELITE Regional Tour events and are limited to two (2) in their home region and one (1) outside of their home region. Players who meet any of the above criteria are not eligible to compete in the RPI.

OIL PATTERNS

Three new oil patterns — one short, one medium, and one long pattern — were designed to be used specifically for PBA ELITE Regional Tour events. With three tournaments per region, players were able to compete once on each pattern within their home region. The oil patterns were selected based on a variety of factors within the host center: lane panels, oil machine, ball return placement, etc.

Josh Hyde Bowlology Column : 2027 State of Bowling

Hello my name is Josh Hyde. Welcome to the annual State of Bowling Report In this report, bowlers, fans of the sport, coaches, proprietors and pro-shop operators can see what happened in the bowling world over the past year. In this report, I analyze the bowling world from a Bowlologist's perspective. It includes the PBA, USBC, tournaments at all levels and the newest bowling equipment. The State of Bowling Report articles are from the Josh Hyde's Bowling Newsletter.

There are ten areas in which the report is divided. The **RED** section tells the reader what happened in the PBA/PWBA/PBA50/PBA60/PBAJr for each month of year. The **BLACK** section tells the reader about IBMA the International Bowling Media Association. The **BLUE** section tells the reader about the USBC. The **GOLD** section introduces the reader to the International Bowling Hall of Fame and Museum market. The **YELLOW** section is about the Bowling Proprietor's Association of America. The **ORANGE** section is about collegiate level of bowling. The **LIGHT GREEN** section highlights the National Bowling Association. The **LIGHT BLUE** is the International Bowling Pro Shop Instruction Association this group helps pro shops and instructors to impact the growth of the industry in a positive way. The **PURPLE** section is about the Tournament Reports & Summaries from various bowling tournaments, both professional and amateurs. The **GRAY** is about the latest bowling equipment from brands of Brunswick, Storm and Motiv. The **GREEN** section is the State of Bowling and how the sport and industry is doing overall.

