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On February 15th, the PBA featured a match between EJ Tackett and Jason Belmonte. The match was conducted at the International Bowling Hall of Fame and Museum on their vintage lanes. The pattern that EJ and Belmonte were bowling on was the Pedersen pattern which was forty-three feet in length. The pair of lanes were vintage wood lanes with manual pinsetters at the end. The pin boy was PBA Commissioner's son Rory Clark. Tom Clark was the official scorekeeper as the lanes did not have automatic scoring setup. EJ Tackett would start off with a bang as he would throw the front seven against Belmonte. Tackett would leave a seven ten split in the eighth frame. He failed to convert the split, however, Tackett would strike out to shoot a 266. Jason Belmonte would start off slow, but he ended strong striking from the eighth frame on. The final score was 266-227 with Tackett winning

This match would determine the US versus the World. Both Tackett and Belmonte would receive two captain's picks for the match. The match between the World and USA will be held on April 4th. Tackett selected Andrew Anderson and Ethan Fiore. Jason Belmonte's picks were Don Barrett and Jesper Svensson. The final spots will come from the PBA points standings - one for the World Team and one for Team USA.

Lane

Talk

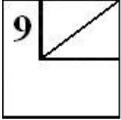


"I have learned a lot about the sport of bowling over the years but I still learn from someone in a wheelchair who enables me to teach something new or better about the sport" —Parker Bohn III



L to R: EJ Tackett & Jason Belmonte





Brandon Bonta made a name for himself by throwing a perfect game against the number one player of the PBA EJ Tackett, 300 to 238. This was Bonta’s first PBA Tour Title, first PBA Major, and first television appearance. Bonta also joined Tommy Jones, Mike Aulby, and Bob Benoit for shooting a perfect game in a championship match. He also joins Bob Benoit, CK Moore, Francois Lavoie, and Tony Reyes by bowling a perfect game in the first televised appearance. Brandon will climb the ladder beating three major champions and a PBA Junior National Champion by averaging 256.75. Bonta would not have an easy route to capture his first major championship.

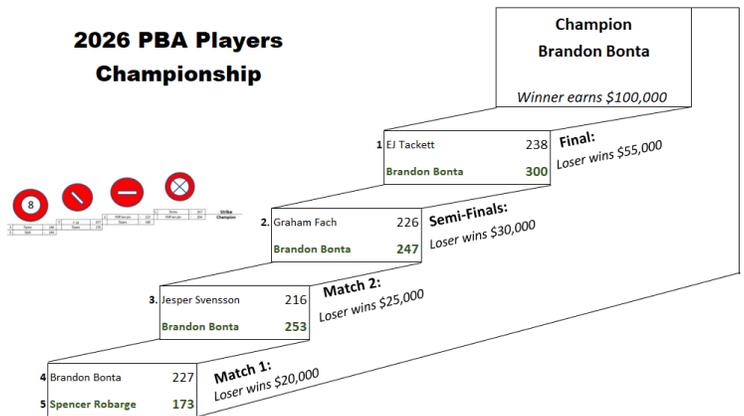
“This was an amazing day for me, one that I’ll always remember,” Bonta said. “One day, when my bowling career is done, I’ll obviously look back on this day and think I accomplished something that many, many people might not be able to.”

In the first match it was a couple of rookies for the 2026 Tour season between Spencer Robarge and Brandon Bonta. Robarge would struggle in the opening match. Bonta would miss a single pin in the first frame but recovered nicely by winning the match 227 to 173. In the second match saw the 2025 Tournament of Champions winner Jesper Svensson could not string strikes as he would fall to Bonta. Graham Fach would have a chance by striking out in the tenth to force a one ball roll off but failed to do so.

In the preliminary rounds EJ Tackett would continue his dominant performance by leading the tournament over 300 pins. Tim Foy Jr would start strong with a 300 game with the very first game of the 2026 PBA Players Championship. Jason Belmonte would struggle as he would not even make the first cut. Bill O’Neill would attempt to being the second player to win three PBA Tournament Player Championships. O’Neill would be a little bit short as he struggled in the last round of match play.



Pictured above: 2026 PBA Players Championship

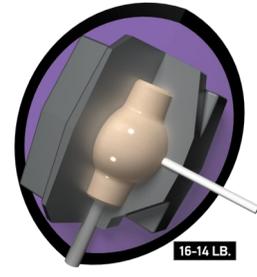


2026 PBA Players Championship Round Stats		
High Game	300	Brandon Bonta
Low Game	173	Spencer Robarge
High Match	227-173	Bonta vs Robarge
Low Match	300-238	Bonta vs Tackett
Average Winning Game	256.75	

2026 PBA Players Championship Tournament Stats		
24-Game Cut	+403	Tom Daugherty
24-Game Leader	+745	EJ Tackett
30-Game Cut	+600	Bill O'Neill
30-Game Leader	+838	EJ Tackett
46-Game Cut	+1359	Spencer Robarge
46-Game Leader	+1682	EJ Tackett
# o 300s	3	Tim Foy Jr., Brad Miller * Brandon Bonta in Championship Game earned \$10,000

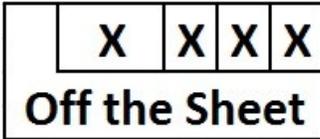
Balls of the Lane: Crown Victory & Combat Hybrid

Volume 18 Issue 4



LEVEL	Advanced
PART NUMBER	60-108551-93X
COLOR	Radiant Red
CORE	Tiered Hexagon
COVERSTOCK	HK22 - Savvy Hook Pearl
COVER TYPE	Pearl Reactive
FINISH	500, 1000, 1500 Siaair / Factory Compound
WEIGHTS	16-12 lbs.
WARRANTY	Two years from purchase date
RELEASE DATE	February 19, 2026

LEVEL	Pro
PART NUMBER	60-108573-93X
COLOR	Black / Purple / Green / Lime
CORE	Rampart
COVERSTOCK	Alpha Premier Hybrid
COVER TYPE	Hybrid Reactive
FINISH	500, 2000 Siaair Micro Pad
WEIGHTS	16-12 lbs.
WARRANTY	Two years from purchase date
RELEASE DATE	February 19, 2026



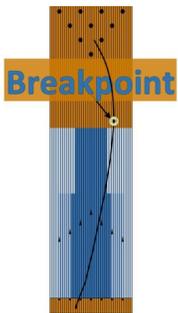
Off the Sheet: PWBA Rule Changes

Last month the Bowler's Journal International reported on the PWBA stance on the urethane rule since there has been some confusion regarding the 78D urethane rule.

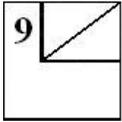
- The PWBA has decided not to allow urethane balls at any PWBA Tour events including the US Women's Open & USBC Queens.
- Another rule change is there are no restrictions on brand logos on player jerseys including ones that were previously banned.
- The entries fees for national and regional events will increase by \$50 except for the Majors (US Women's Open, USBC Queens and PWBA Tour Championship).

For more information bowling fans can log onto PWBA.com

Breakpoint: Collegiate PBA Tournament Exemption



The PBA has established a collegiate PBA Tournament exemption. Four years ago Ryan Barnes, son of PBA Hall of Famer Chris Barnes, bowled in the PBA Players Championship in Wichita, Kansas. This opened the door for collegiate bowlers to get their feet wet on the PBA Tour. College players accepting their exemption will be required to pay entry fee of an amateur player. Players can compete in PBA member only events if their open spots as PBA members receive first priority. Collegiate players are not eligible for titles, championship banners, competition points, seasonal awards and entry to the Tournament of Champions even if they win. Finally a college player is responsible for checking their college or association rules on participating in a pro- tournament. For more information on this rule and other rules please visit the pba.com website.



Spare Column: PBA50 Tour Schedule

On February 20th the PBA announced PBA50 Tour schedule for 2026. There will be a total of 17 PBA Tour stops for 2026. These tournaments included five majors along with the PBA50 WSOB. Additionally the PBA60 Tour will have their version of the PBA60 series of bowling. This tournament will be held at Wayne Webb Columbus Bowl. The PBA50 final stop will conclude with the Johnny Petraglia BVL Tournament of Champions.

2026 PBA50 Tour Schedule

PBA50 majors are bolded

PBA60 events are italicized

PBA50 The Villages Classic
April 13-16
Spanish Springs Lanes
The Villages, FL

PBA50 World Series of Bowling IV
April 30 - May 12
AMF Southtown Lanes
Bloomington, MN

PBA50 Ballard Championship
April 30 - May 9
AMF Southtown Lanes
Bloomington, MN

PBA50 Monacelli Championship
April 30 - May 10
AMF Southtown Lanes
Bloomington, MN

PBA50 Petraglia Championship
April 30 - May 11
AMF Southtown Lanes
Bloomington, MN

USBC Super Senior Classic
May 27-31
Sam's Town Bowling Center
Las Vegas, NV

USBC Senior Masters
May 31 - June 7
Sam's Town Bowling Center
Las Vegas, NV

PBA50 WSOB IV World Championship
April 30 - May 12
AMF Southtown Lanes
Bloomington, MN

PBA Senior U.S. Open

May 19-24
Highland Park Lanes
Greeley, CO

PBA50 FireLake Classic
June 11-14
FireLake Bowling Center
Shawnee, OK

PBA50 David Small's Championship Lanes Classic
June 17-20
David Small's Championship Lanes
Anderson, IN

PBA50 South Shore Classic
June 22-25
Olympia Lanes
Hammond, IN

PBA60 World Series of Bowling II
July 2-8
Columbus Square Bowling Palace
Columbus, OH

PBA50 Akron Classic
July 11-14
AMF Riviera Lanes
Fairlawn, OH

Bud Moore PBA50 Players Championship
July 17-22
Bowl America Woodbridge
Woodbridge, VA

PBA50 Norfolk Classic
July 27-30
AMF Norfolk Lanes
Norfolk, VA

Johnny Petraglia BVL PBA50 Tournament of Champions
August 4-8
Suburban Lanes
Morgantown, WV

