

Messenger: Dombrowski wins first career title at the US Open

Patrick Dombrowski won his first PBA career tour title at the 2026 US Open by defeating Anthony Simonsen 197 to 195. Simonsen left a 7-10 on his fill ball to lose the title. Anthony needed all three strikes in the tenth frame to force a one ball roll off. He would get the first two but left the 7-10 on the final ball giving Dombrowski the win.

"I'm at a loss for words right now," Dombrowski said. "Simonsen's résumé speaks for itself. I was preparing myself for a roll-off. Luckily, it didn't come down to it."

In the semi-final game, Dombrowski would start off slow against 2021 US Open Champion Chris Via with a few single pin spares at the end of the game. Dombrowski was a striking machine. Via would start out strong but then left a seven-ten late in the game. This would end Via's chances of at another US Open title. In the second match, Via would strike while Andrew Anderson struggled. Anderson would leave back to back seven-ten splits. In the opening match of the stepladder finals, it would be between Andrew Anderson and Tim Foy Jr. Anderson would leave a super washout early, but strikeout after the super washout. Foy would hit the pocket, but could not carry and string strikes together.



Above:
2026 US Open Champion Patrick Dombrowski

The 2026 US Open Tournament saw ten perfect games during the qualifying and match play rounds. The scores were quite a bit higher than in previous US Open Tournaments. Chris Via would throw two perfect games during the match play portion of the tournament. Patrick Dombrowski would throw a 300 during the last round of qualifying and would start off with front 11 the very next game before leaving a ten pin. Dombrowski was on the verge of missing the first cut. It would take a score of +209 by Terrence Rock Jr to make the cashiers round. At the end of 24 games of qualifying, Michael Davidson would be the leader with a score of +557. There were a number of past champions who would make the first cut. Former Champions EJ Tackett and Jason Belmonte both fell a little short of the finals. Tackett finished in twelfth place and Belmonte finished in seventh.

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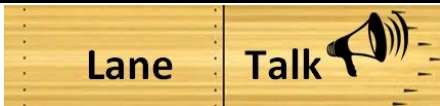
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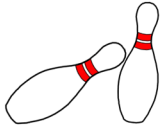


"The Choice of Champions" - Vise Grip



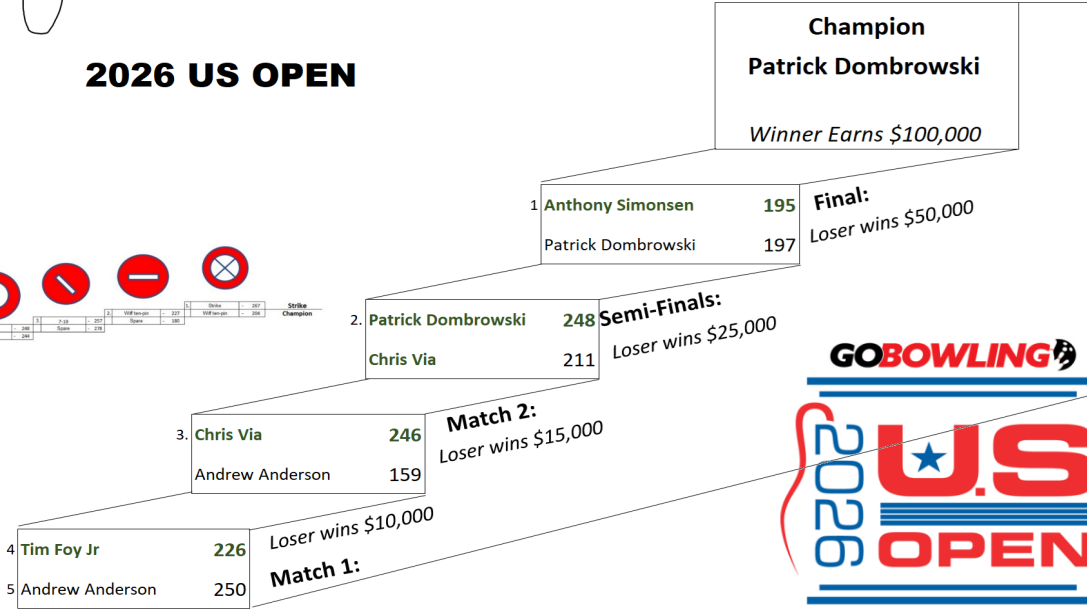
Messenger Continued: 2026 US Open

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2026 US OPEN

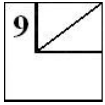
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2026 US OPEN Tournament STATS		
24-Game Cut #	+209	Terrance Rock Jr
24-Game Leader	+557	Michael Davidson
32-Game Cut #	+371	Sam Cooley
32-Game Leader	+745	Tim Foy Jr
56-Game Cut #	+1629	Andrew Anderson
56-Game Leader	+ 1824	Anthony Simonsen
High Game	250	Andrew Anderson
Low Game	159	Andrew Anderson
High Match	250-226	Anderson vs Foy Jr
Low Match	197-195	Dombrowski vs Simonsen
Average Winning Game	235.25	
# 300 Games	10	Tun Hakim, Santtu Tahvanainen, Michael Davidson, Patrick Dombrowski, Chris Via, Tommy Jones, Dominic Barrett, Jason Belmonte, Chris Via-2



Step Ladder Finalist for 2026 US Open picture left to right: Anthony Simonsen, Patrick Dombrowski, Chris Via, Tim Foy Jr, Andrew Anderson



Spare Column: World vs USA

On April 4th the PBA had a competition between international and team USA players. Prior to the 2026 season at the International Bowling Hall of Fame & Museum. Jason Belmonte and EJ Tackett did a match and announced a two more members of their team. While the final spot went to the highest point earner on both teams. EJ Tackett would announce that he picked Ethan Fiore & Andrew Anderson. Belmonte would pick Dom Barrett & Jesper Svensson the other spots for each team would go to the highest 2026 point total which was Graham Fach for the World Team and Anthony Simonsen for Team USA.

The format was 1 game of singles, 1 game of doubles and two games of team with one point per game, two points for total. In the World vs USA Game 1 would feature the two captains EJ Tackett & Jason Belmonte. Tackett would have a chance by doubling in the tenth but he fall a little short. Belmo would beat Tackett 268 to 258. The second game a doubles match would feature Simonsen & Fiore vs Svensson & Fach. Fach would have a chance by striking out in the tenth. However he could not strike out in the tenth. At the end of game 2 the score was tied up one to one. It looked like Team USA was going to come back and win the competition. In game three they struggled and fell behind by 33 pins in the final game. The team USA would start off strong but Anthony Simonsen would leave a 7-9 split on a great shot in the early part of the game. Team USA would need to win the last match by 33 pins to win the Hall of Fame Cup.

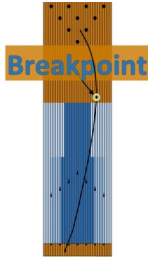
			Event	
High Game	268	Jason Belmonte	Singles	
Low Game	202	Team USA	Team Game 1	
High Match	268-258	Belmonte vs Tackett	Singles	
Low Match	235- 202	Team World vs Team USA	Team Game 1	
Average Winning Game	241.75			

				World	USA
Game 1	Singles	Belmo vs Tackett 🌐	268-258	1	0
Game 2	Doubles	Fiore/Simonsen def. Svensson/Fach 🇺🇸	220-210	0	1
Game 3	Team	World vs USA 🌐	235-202	1	0
Game 4	Team	World vs USA 🌐	244-232	1	0
Total Pins		957-912 🌐		2	0
				World 5	USA 1



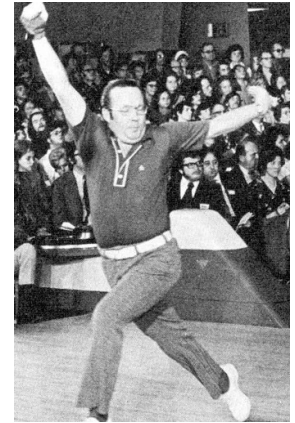
World: Jason Belmonte (captain), Dom Barrett, Jesper Svensson and Graham Fach, \$15,000 each
USA: EJ Tackett (captain), Andrew Anderson, Ethan Fiore and Anthony Simonsen, \$7,500 each

L to R: Jason Belmonte, Jesper Svensson, Graham Fach, Dom Barrett



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Breakpoint: PBA Hall-of-Famer Don McCune Passes Away

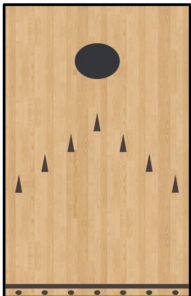


Sadly, the bowling world lost a pioneer in the modern game. Don McCune, a PBA and USBC Hall-of-Famer, passed away on February 28, 2026, at the age of 89. McCune is known for soaking his ball in a chemical solvent. He did it to make the cover softer to cause the ball to hook more. In 1973, McCune won 6 titles becoming the PBA Player of the Year. McCune’s first title would be at the Fort Worth Open in 1968. McCune would also collect three eagles at the USBC Open Championships. He would take home the Classic Team title in 1968 in Cincinnati. Jim Stefanich and McCune would win the Doubles Classic title back-to-back 1969-70.

The McCune family has three generations of PBA titlists—Don, son Eugene, and grandson Kevin. Kevin would be the first McCune to win a Major title at the 2023 PBA Players Championship. Obviously, bowling was a big part of this family. Shockingly, the Weber family did not have three generations of title winners. The bowling world will miss Don McCune and his legacy.



At left: Don McCune, son Eugene McCune, and grandson Kevin McCune



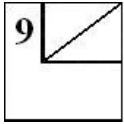
Lane Markings: 2026 Indiana Classic

After being away from the PBA Tour, Bowlologist Josh Hyde was able to attend his 65th PBA tournament which was held at Pro Bowl West in Fort Wayne. When I got there, BOWL TV made a shout out that there was a Josh Hyde in the house. Everyone like my custom jersey,

I was able to talk about the new 10-frame scoring analysis with a couple of bowlers—Wes Malott, Francois Lavoie and Brian Robinson. I was also able to add more people to my Josh Hyde Bowling Newsletter circulation.

Obviously, I got to see the first elimination round. There were a number of high scores during the tournament. Unbelievably, there were no 300 games during the first elimination round. I thoroughly enjoyed being back at the lanes!



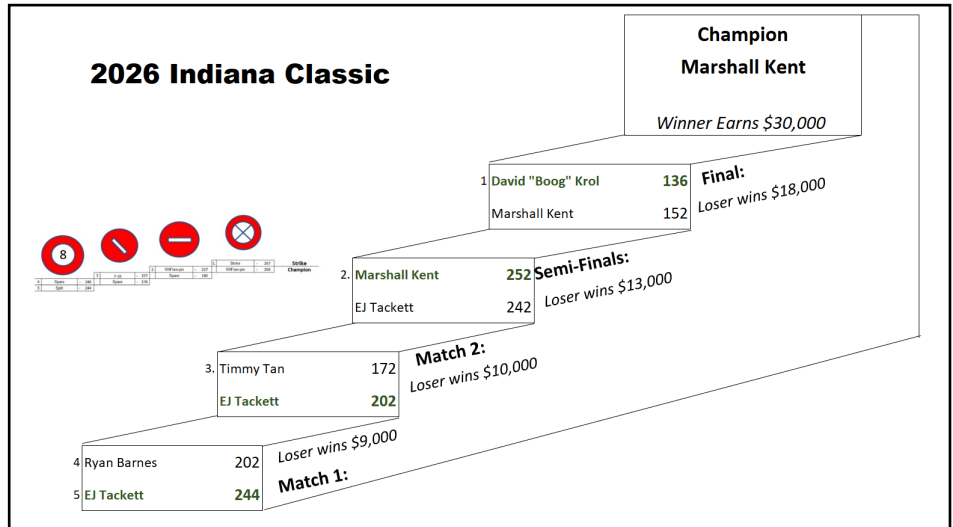


Spare Column: 2026 PBA Indiana Classic

Marshall Kent would win his eighth career PBA Title he would do it by defeating Boog Krol in a low scoring affair 152 to 136. The championship match saw quite a few splits and misses on the head pin. Both players were struggling to hit the pocket and flagging the headpin. It would be the lowest scoring title match in PBA History.

"I've had to dig myself out a lot of holes, so I have some experience doing it," Kent said on Friday night.

In the opening match of the step ladder finals, it was the reigning Player of the Year/Rookie of the Year Ryan Barnes and EJ Tackett. Barnes would convert the 2-8-10 but could not strike. Tackett would start off strong by bowling a 244 over Barnes 202. The second match featured an international bowler name Timmy Tan. Tan would start the match whiffing a ten pin while Tackett would start off slow then was able to string four strikes together. When it looked like Tackett would close the match out, he left the 3-4-6-7-9-10 getting only two out on his spare attempt. At this point, it looked like Tan could give Tackett a run for his money; however, Tan could not string any strikes together, and EJ finally was able to close out the game. Tackett would face Marshall Kent in the semi-final match. This match was a strike fest as both players started off strong with the front four and five. Tackett would miss the headpin and leave the five pin. Bowling fans were raising their hands. It looked like Tackett and Kent would have a 279 tie match except Tackett would miss in the eighth frame. Kent would string three more strikes after his spare. Tackett would leave the 3-4-6-7-10 split on his second ball in the tenth.



Marshall Kent winner of the 2026 PBA Indiana Classic

2026 Indiana Classic Tournament STATS		
24-Game Cut #	+701	Nolan White
24-Game Leader	+1110	Ryan Barnes
30-Game Cut #	+984	Darren Ong & Kyle Troup
30-Game Leader	+1287	Marshall Kent
36-Game Cut #	+1461	EJ Tackett
36-Game Leader	+1565	David "Boog" Krol
High Game	252	Marshall Kent
Low Game	136	David "Boog" Krol
High Match	252-242	Kent vs Tackett
Low Match	152-136	Kent vs Krol
Average Winning Game	212.50	
# 300 Games	14	Marshall Kent-1, EJ Tackett-1, Zach Wilkins-1, Dom Barrett-2, Mitch Hupe-1, Thomas Larsen-2, Kris Prather-1, Anthony Simonsen-1, Wes Malott-1, TJ Rock-1, Michael Davidson-1, Mike Ruben-1