



Josh Hyde is a Honorary PBA Member since 2001 and a BWAA Member since 2006.

Volume 4 Issue 10

April 2012



The PBA Playoff Tournament was named after Dick Weber (at Left); Dick Allen, defending champion of the Dick Weber PBA Playoff Tournament (at Right)



## Practice Pair

Hello, Bowling Fans! Welcome to another edition of *Josh Hyde's Bowling Newsletter*. The **Messenger** will highlight the 2012 Dick Weber PBA Playoffs and will also talk about Norm Duke's 35th Career PBA title. The **Strike Column** features players that have multiple Majors in a single season/year. In the **Kingpin Column**, I will discuss becoming a PBA Member. The **Interviews of the Month** will be with Brad Angelo. The **Split Column** talks about the 3rd three million dollar career earnings. The **Spare Column** highlights the March King of the Hill in Warsaw IN. **Bowlology** talks about Making Splits. Lastly, I will discuss Seeing It All by a Major Bowling Fan pt. 2. Next month I will be reporting on the Dick Weber PBA Playoffs and the season ending Tournament of Champions. Enjoy reading of this edition of Josh Hyde's Bowling News-

## Messenger

### Dick Weber PBA Playoffs

On March 30-April 1st, the PBA will have the second Dick Weber PBA Playoff Tournament exclusively on X-tra Frame sponsored by Hammer. This will be the 4th X-tra Frame event of the season. The only people who will get to see this tournament will be X-tra Frame subscribers.

The top 66 PBA Tour players will join the top 97 regional and the top 11 senior tour players. The point leader of each of the seven regions, the top five senior tour players, and PBA Tour players ranked 7-12 will bypass Saturday's early rounds of qualifying. The top six PBA Tour players will bypass elimination and will receive a second bye for Elimination Round 1. The top regional players are Rick Graham, Scott Newell, Mason Brantley, Jason Wojnar, Chris Hibbits, Ben Laughlin, and Bryon Smith. Elimination Rounds 1, 2, and 3 will be five-game total pinfall rounds. The Regional and Conference Championships, Semifinal and Championship matches, will be three-game pinfall contests. There will also be invitations by the PBA sent to all eligible players. The schedule is as follows:

#### Friday March 30

11 a.m.— A squad (East, South, Central Region Groups) practice session.

2 p.m.— B squad (Midwest, Southwest, West/Northwest Groups) practice session

6 and 8:30 p.m.— Pro-am squads

#### Saturday March 31

8 a.m.— A squad (East, South and Central Region groups of 25), 7 qualifying games

11 a.m.— B squad (Midwest, Southwest, West/Northwest groups of 25), 7 qualifying games

Top 9 players from each of six Regional Groups plus one Regional points leader, one Senior Tour points leader and one PBA Tour points leader per group advance to Elimination Round 1.

6 p.m.— Elimination Round 1 (six Regional Groups, 12 players each) 5 games

Top 7 players per Regional Group plus one PBA Tour points leader per group advance

#### Sunday April 1

9 a.m.— Elimination Round 2 (six Regional Groups, 8 players each), 5 games

Top 4 players per Regional Group advance

Noon — Elimination Round 3 (six Regional Groups, 4 players each), 5 games

Top 2 Regional Group advance

3:30 p.m.— Regional Championships (two survivors from each Regional Group), 3 games, total pinfall

5 p.m.— Conference Championships (East Region champion vs South Region champion, Central Region Champion vs Midwest Region Champion, Southwest Region champion vs West/.Northwest Region champion), 3 games, total pinfall

Three winners advance to semifinal match.

6:30 p.m.— Semifinal Match, three players, 3 games, total pinfall

Two players with the highest pinfall totals advance to Championship Match

8 p.m.— Championship, 3 games, total pinfall (if tied, match will be decided in one-ball sudden-death roll-off).

The winner of the Dick Weber PBA Playoffs will receive \$20,000 and berth into the Tournament of Champions in the round of 36. For more info log onto PBA.COM.

### Messenger

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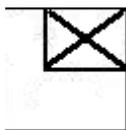
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#### MISSION STATEMENT:

*To provide bowling fans important bowling news, thoughtful analysis, and keen observations about professional and local bowling tournaments.*

#### VISION:

*To be the highest quality bowling publication that the author can create using the best of his knowledge and observation.*



## Strike Column — Bowlers with Multiple Majors Wins

Every pro bowler wants to win at least one major in his/her career. To win two majors in their career is great. Winning majors is a hard thing to do. Winning multiple majors in one season equals greatness!

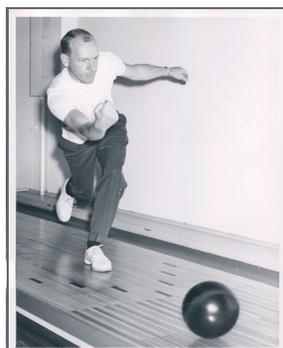
The first to win two majors in one year/season was Bob Strampe. He was probably looked at as one of the greatest bowlers of the early years of the PBA. In 1964, he won the PBA World Championship and the BPAA All-Star. The BPAA All-Star was renamed the US Open in 1971. Becoming the first player to achieve this goal was spectacular. By accomplishing this feat, he was named Bowler of the Year for 1964.

Wayne Zahn was the second bowler to win two majors in a single season/year. He won the 1966 PBA World Championship, and then he won the 1966 Tournament of Champions. After accomplishing this, he was probably a definite threat in the Majors. He,

that year, he won the 1984 Touring Players Championship. With as many titles as he won, he only won two Majors. This tells the bowling fans how difficult it is to win a Major. Roth became the player with the most titles in one season/year with 8 in 1978. He also became the first player to convert the 7/10 split on National television.

Mike Aulby is the only player to win a couple Majors in a single season/year more than once. He won every Major during his career. Aulby was the first player to win the Rookie of the Year and the Player of the Year. Also Aulby was the first player to win the Grand Slam. He is the only player to win the Super Slam. Mike first won two Majors in 1989 when he won the U.S. Open and ABC (USBC) Masters. He did again in 1995 when he won the Tournament of Champions and The ABC (USBC) Masters. This was done

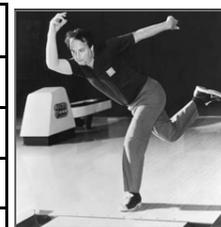
Bowler Name	Years Achieved	Majors Won
Norm Duke	2007-2008	World Championship, US Open
Doug Kent	2006-2007	Masters, World Championship
Walter Ray Williams Jr.	2002-2003	World Championship, US Open
Mike Aulby	1995	TOC, Masters
Mike Aulby	1989	US, Masters
Mark Roth	1984	US Open, TPC
Earl Anthony	1974	World Championship, TOC
Mike Limongello	1971	World Championship, US Open
Wayne Zahn	1966	World Championship, TOC
Bob Strampe	1964	WC, BPAA All-Star



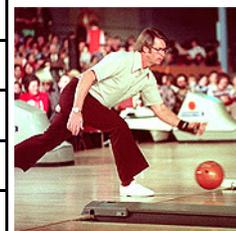
Bob Strampe



Mike Aulby



Mark Roth



Earl Anthony

like Strampe, won two of his three Majors in a single year/season. Zahn also received Player of the Year when he won his two Majors in a single season/year. His career was starting to sky rocket as he had two high average awards in the mid to late 60's. When Zahn accomplished this feat, he did it in consecutive years. This helped pave the way to becoming one of the greatest bowlers of all time.

Bowling writers and fans think that Earl Anthony was the greatest bowler in the PBA. In 1974, Earl became the 4th player to win two Majors in a single season/year. He won 10 Majors in his career. Anthony won the 1974 PBA World Championship, and he would later win the Tournament of Champions. It's hard to fathom that he did not have another season that compared to that one.

The legendary Mark Roth won his only two Majors in the same season/year. He won the 1984 U.S. Open. Then, later

back to back.

The great Walter Ray Williams Jr won the 2002 U.S. Open and the 2003 PBA World Championship. He set an earnings record when he accomplished this. He then would become the Player of the Year. Walter Ray Williams, Jr. is one of the greatest PBA players in PBA History.

Doug Kent won the 2006 USBC Masters and 2007 PBA World Championship. This helped him earn his Player of the Year award. What a way to do this—winning two Majors in a single season/year! This is what all the greats do.

Norm Duke is one of the best. After not having a good season in '07/'08, he ended the season with the two remaining Majors. When he won the 2008 U.S. Open, he became the 4th player to complete the Triple Crown and the second player to complete the Grand Slam. He would later on become the first player to win three Majors in a row.

Major Tournaments are hard to win and all these players sure know how to get it done!

# Moments in History

## Becoming a PBA Member

In 2001, at the PBA National Championship, I asked PBA President Steve Miller if I could be a PBA member. When he said, "Sure" I became ecstatic. This was my dream, because I always wanted to be a PBA member. This is a great honor to me because I am now a member with the greatest bowlers in the world.

The week after the championship, I got the PBA honorary membership card. In the envelope was a note that said "Congratulations to our #1 fan on becoming a PBA member." It was signed by the president of the PBA, Steve Miller. The note made me feel like a professional bowler.

I have studied the PBA for the past 20 years and to be a part of a premier bowling association is a great opportunity. This means that I am a part

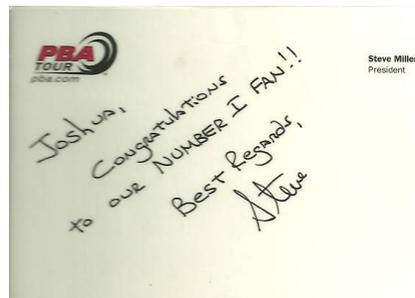
of the same association as bowlers like Earl Anthony, Dick Weber, and Walter Ray Williams, Jr. I can pull my card out of my wallet and know that all the great bowlers have the same card. I was the first honorary member of the PBA. Some other honorary members are Jack Reichert and Ray Firestone. These people have made professional bowling what it is today and to be included with them is a great honor.

If a pro-bowler is struggling one day he will make a move or a ball change in order to get a better reaction on that day. One example of this for me is when I was bowling for a league makeup, and I started out with a 130 game. In the last frame of the first game, I switched balls and changed lines. Then, for the last two games, I had a 240 and 220 for a 600 series. This is what our favorite pro-bowlers do when they are on the PBA Tour. To say



you can turn around your game, definitely can make you feel like you are one of the greatest bowlers in the world. As you can tell, I take great pride in being a PBA member. This

also means that I am part of the best bowlers in the world. Even though I will never be bowling for a title, I still feel that I am a pro-bowler.



Above: copy of the actual letter that I received from Steve Miller, PBA President.

## Interview of the Month - Brad Angelo, Part 1

**Q:** What did you think of the World Series of Bowling?

**A:** My experience at the WSOB was certainly not the greatest. There have been many times throughout my career that I have been reminded about the importance of remaining humble. The WSOB was another one of those times. It was held at a time of the year when my children were off of school and being away from my family was made even more difficult by my performance.

**Q:** How do you think they can make the WSOB better?

**A:** I think that the WSOB can be improved in a number of ways. I think that holding all of the events in one center makes it a "feast or famine" for some competitors. I think that the WSOB is the perfect place to hold the "gimmick" events like the match-play event, the plastic ball championship, the eliminator, or the marathon championship since that would help to lessen some of the challenges that were brought about by the one center location.

**Q:** What do you do in the off season?

**A:** In the off season I spend as much time as I can with my family. I also conduct bowling camps all over the country. How many I hold is determined by the amount of time that I have. Of course I have to fit in some time on the golf course! Did I mention time with my family?

**Q:** What is your favorite oil pattern?

**A:** As far as my favorite pattern... I no longer have a favorite. I have learned that my job is to play the "invisible course". If I do my job, things will work out just fine. Obvi-

ously I didn't do a very good job of this at the WSOB.

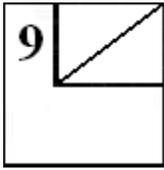


Brad Angelo was the 2002-03 Rookie of the Year. This interview is from 2009.



Norm Duke became the third bowler to surpass the three-million dollar in career earnings by winning the PBA Detroit Open in the beginning of March. He joined Pete Weber and Walter Ray Williams Jr.





# Spare Column:

The Spare Column is a column focusing on the author's perspective on local bowling tournaments and/or PBA tournaments that he has attended or watched.

## Cutler Dominates Warsaw King of the Hill

The Warsaw King of the Hill saw 23 bowlers competing at The Bowling Alley in Warsaw, Indiana, on March 11, 2012. They were bowling on the USBC Open Pattern. Doug Cutler started out the tournament with a 232 game. Brian Nicodemus had the second high game at 222. Glen Ransbottom shot the 3<sup>rd</sup> high game at 227. The cut was at -79 by David Stafford. Doug Cutler led the round with 670. He led second place by 65 pins over Chas Demster. They took twelve bowlers into the next round.

The next round saw those twelve bowlers competing for the top five spots for the stepladder finals. Mike Shockey opened with a 258 game in Round 2. Brian Nicodemus had a 223 game in the second game. Chris Trigg had a 232 game to vault him into third place. Doug Cutler was the qualifying leader at +48 for the second round. Glen Ransbottom and Mike Shockey tied with a score of even. Since Glen had a higher total in the first round, he claimed the #4 seed. Also, Chris Trigg and Brian Nicodemus tied with a +3 score. Brian had the higher total in the first round, so he received the 2nd seed.

Game 1 of the stepladder finals saw Mike Shockey and Glen Ransbottom. Shockey had the front 7 before leaving a 4-7 spare. Ransbottom started out strong but only get a couple of doubles early and late. Shockey defeated Ransbottom 257-214.

The second match saw Shockey taking on Chris Trigg. Trigg had a chance to beat Mike, but he failed to do so. Mike defeated Chris 192-163.

In the semifinals, Nicodemus started out strong with the front five before leaving the 3-6-9-10. Shockey ran into some transition problems and could not get lined up. Nicodemus stayed strong and was able to defeat Shockey 231-171.

In the championship match, Cutler had the hammer as Nicodemus struggled. Cutler doubled in the seventh and eighth frame to seal the deal. Cutler said that he found the shot around the second and third board, and it held up very well. He did not have to make many adjustments. Cutler defeated Nicodemus 214-189.

Next tournament will be April 7<sup>th</sup> (featuring the Blue USBC Pattern) at 10am. Registration begins at 9am.

Date: 03/11/12

1<sup>st</sup> Match: Mike Shockey 257  
Glen Ransbottom 214

Entries: 23

Pattern: USBC Open

2<sup>nd</sup> Match: Mike Shockey 192  
Chris Trigg 163

### Round 1

High Game 1: Doug Cutler      Game: 232  
High Game 2: Brian Nicodemus      Game: 222  
High Game 3: Glen Ransbottom      Game: 227  
Series: Doug Cutler      Series Shot: 670  
Cut Number: -79      Bowler: David Stafford

Semifinals: Brian Nicodemus 231  
Mike Shockey 171

Finals: Doug Cutler 214  
Brian Nicodemus 189

### Round 2

High Game 1: Mike Shockey      Game: 258  
High Game 2: Brian Nicodemus      Game: 223  
High Game 3: Chris Trigg      Game: 232  
Series: Doug Cutler      Series Shot: +48  
Finals Number: Even      Bowlers: Glen Ransbottom

**Duke Wins 35th Career Title**

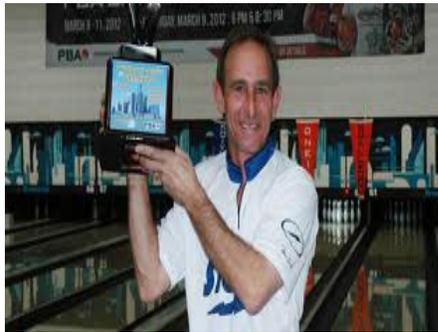
Norm Duke defeated Mika Koivuniemi (266-217) for his 35th career PBA Tour title at the Detroit Open presented by Track. This was the 3rd Xtra Frame event of the season. He also became the 3rd to surpass the 3 million dollar mark. This win tied him with Pete Weber with 35 career titles. "At this point in my career, I feel blessed to be able to compete. It's hard to win out here."

Mika led the tournament by 169 heading into the step ladder final. Norm Duke, Bill O'Neil, and Tom Smallwood were the other finalists. Duke had a good line his first game by bowling a 288 over Smallwood's 178 game. In the opening game Smallwood defeated O'Neil 245-214.

Just missing out of the step ladder finals was Dave Wodka by 11 pins. Josh Blanchard missed by 12 pins. Michael Haugen Jr, Brian Himmler, Sean Rash, and

Jason Couch round out the top 10.

To make the top 24 it took a score of +242 by Wes Malott. The last cash spot took a score of +176 Kurt Pilon. Local favorite Troy Stus qualified in the top 10 after Saturday's qualifying portion of the tournament. He ended up being 20th after the 13 games modified round Robin match play.



Duke's 35th Career Title at the Detroit Open present by Track.

Match One: Tom Smallwood defeated Bill O'Neil 245-214.

Semi-Final Match: Norm Duke defeated Tom Smallwood 288-178

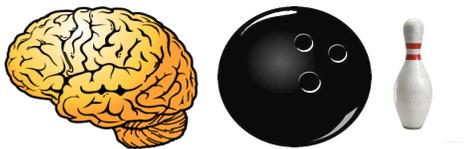
Championship Match: Norm Duke defeated Mika Koivuniemi 266-217

1st: Norm Duke \$10,000

2nd: Mika Koivuniemi \$5,000

3rd: Tom Smallwood \$3,200

4th: Bill O'Neil \$2,500.



**BOWLOLOGY**

In this section, a topic will be picked based on the bowling knowledge of the great Josh Hyde.

**Making Splits**

Making splits is not an easy thing to do. Some splits are easier to make than other splits. In my own personal bowling game I have made the 2/10 split, 6/7/10 split, 3/7/10 split, the 3/6/7/10 split, the 4/7/10 split, the 3/10 split, and the 2/7/8 split.

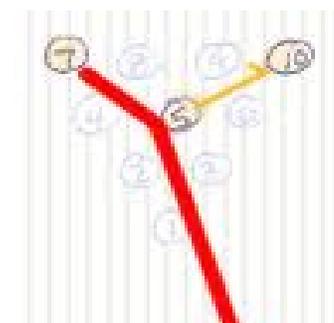
While bowlers think that splits are hard to make they tend to try to make the split by hooking the ball too much and not getting the count. If a bowler needs to make a split in order to make the cut and doesn't, he/she might miss out on a roll off to advance to the next round in the tournament. I have seen numerous splits being made. Both professionally and at an ama-

teur level. While the 7/10 is the hardest split, it is the easier to make than the 4/6 split. This is because of the pin placement. When making the 7/10 split the bowler has the assistance of the curtain to help bounce the pin out. When the bowler has a 4/6 split, he/she has more distance between the pin and the curtain.

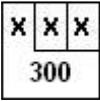
Again, I am not saying that the 7/10 split is an easy split, all I'm referring to is that between the 7/10 split and 4/6 split, the 7/10 is the easier of the two.

When a bowler is dealing with a split situation he/she needs to decide rather to go for the split or get the count. If the bowler leaves the split when needing a mark in the 10th to win the game or to make the cut usually he/she will go for the split. This puts a bowler in the position to calculate the cost/benefit ratio.

The risk is not getting any count at all. However, the reward is having a spare rather than an open frame. The bowler really needs to be the judge of this factor. The next time you bowl in a league or tournament and you leave a split, you need to take these factors in consideration.



Here is a couple examples on how to make splits.



# Seeing it All (by a Major Bowling Fan) — Part 2

Last month, I discussed what I had seen in the PBA—watched on television or tournaments that I attended in person. Being there as a major bowling fan is a thrill! These bowlers are not competing on easy lane conditions. They are making a living by throwing a bowling ball. We as bowling fans maybe throw 3-10 games a week. These bowlers are bowling 40 games (at least) a week. These pros have probably have 40-100 bowling balls to take with them to the PBA tournaments. They probably drill at least 2 balls per week. So, they are drilling 100 balls a year—easy. On top of that, they are not bowling in the same bowling center every week. I marvel when I see one of the greatest bowlers struggle, then he/she makes an adjustment to hit the pocket to get more pins. It is amazing how they can make a move that fast and go from a 150-game to a 200-game. Also, they can change balls or hand positions to affect how the ball rolls on the lane. Even a low game by a pro bowler is a good game because of the effort they exert to make adjustments to their game. It is interesting when you see a Pete Weber at a PBA Regional tournament and follow his games to see what he will do at a PBA regional tournament. It is very interesting to see the actual show and what they do before they go on the air. PBA Regionals are more like a local amateur tournament. However, you do have some of the top pros at these tournaments. Even though the Regional tournaments do not have a pro shop, bowlers still work on their equipment in order to get a better read of the lanes. They are still trying to win a PBA tournament. If a local bowler does well at a Regional event, that bowler feels like he/she can

compete with the best bowlers. Figuring out the number for the cut is another focus point for a major bowling fan. The last couple games of a block, bowlers will know about what the cut will be. They will try to figure something out in order to get to that number. One example, is when I saw Parker Bohn start out the game with a strike and a couple of spares, then striking out to shoot a 250 game. This was exciting to watch because I thought that he was not going to be able to figure out how to get the 7-pin out. He was able to hit the pocket and strike. Seeing a harder lane condition is more exciting to watch because there is not going to be a lot of high scores.. It is also interesting how the bowlers handle when they are not shooting big scores. You see them grind and try not to give the pocket up.

When Pete Weber won his 5th US Open, it was a clinic because of the demanding lane conditions. This is what I am talking about when I am discussing overcoming a difficult lane condition. Pete Weber made his spares. When he got in trouble, he backed it up with a couple good shots. This is what a great bowler does when he bowls in a pro tournament. This is what professional bowling is all about.

This is what seeing it all by a major bowling fan means. Thanks for reading this edition of the Josh Hyde Bowling Newsletter.



**Correction:** Last month in Part 1, I mentioned that I have been to 99 PBA Tournaments. Recently, I have figured out that I have attended 100. Wow!

Now I am working on my second 100.



**PBA TRIVIA WIZARD**

Please submit your answers via e-mail to: [josh@joshhydebowlng.com](mailto:josh@joshhydebowlng.com). The first person that answer this correctly will get a 10% coupon sponsored by [bowlinggift.com](http://bowlinggift.com). Thank you [bowlinggift.com](http://bowlinggift.com) for contributing to the Josh Hyde's Bowling Newsletter.

**Who will be the next PBA Trivia Wizard?**

1. Who became the first bowler to win two majors in a single season / year?
2. Who became the first honorary PBA member?



**Last Month's PBA Wizard Trivia Winner**

Not awarded.

Last Month's Answers:

- 1.) Pete Weber
- 2.) Billy Hardwick

**2011-2012 PBA Tour Television Schedule**

CARMEN SALVINO CLASSIC Sunday, April 01, 2012 at 1:00PM ET
PEPSI PBA ELITE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP Sunday, April 08, 2012 at 1:00PM ET
PBA TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS Sunday, April 15, 2012 at 1:00PM ET