



Josh Hyde is an Honorary PBA Member since 2001 and an IBMA Member since 2006.

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**IBMA**  
INTERNATIONAL BOWLING MEDIA ASSOCIATION

Left: Scott Norton  
Winner of the Earl Anthony Players Championship

Right: Doug Kent  
2013 Hall of Fame Inductee



## Practice Pair

Hello, Bowling Fans!

Welcome to another edition of *Josh Hyde's Bowling Newsletter*. The **Messenger** highlights the Earl Anthony Players Championship. The **Strike Column** analyzes the High Average Award for the PBA Tour. In the **Kingpin Column**, PBA Hall of Famer Doug Kent is the "Interview of the Month." **Breakpoint** covers winning a spot in a PBA Regional. The **Split Column** talks about the only player to successfully defend his Tournament of Champions (ToC) title. The **Spare Column** is a 2013 ToC preview. **In the Pocket** is the Top Ten ToC Moments. **Bowlology** explains oil breakdown and how bowlers can deal with it. Finally, the **Tenth Frame** is a potential Hall of Fame Speech. I hope you enjoy this edition of the *Josh Hyde's Bowling Newsletter*.

- Josh Hyde

## Messenger

### Norton Wins His Third Title at the Earl Anthony Players Championship

After 32 games of qualifying, Scott Norton led the field with a score of +1229. It took a score of +904 to make the match play cut, by John Szczerbinski and Wes Malott. There was a total of seven 300 games in the qualifying round. It took a score of +738 by Nathan Bohr and Jessie Buss to cash. There were many high scores shot during the qualifying round. The qualifying games consisted of the Don Carter Classic, Mark Roth Classic, and the Carmen Salvino Classic. Each of these rounds was 8-game blocks.

In the match play portion of the Earl Anthony Players Championship, Sean Rash and Scott Norton took charge of the tourna-

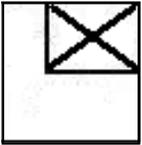
ment. Malott tried to make a run for the show by bowling +360. Belmonte had three games over 260 including 290 in the position round game, except it was a little too late as Norton & Rash were leading the field by quite a bit heading into the position round.

In the championship game, Rash had a hard time as he opened back-to-back frames in the fifth and sixth. Norton, on the other hand, was able to stay clean and make his spares. Rash tried to come back at the end of the game, striking in frames seventh through the ninth, but it was too late as Norton struck out in the tenth. This was Norton's third career PBA Tour title, and his second of this season.

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Earl Anthony Players Championship	
32 Game Cash Bowler +/-	+738 Nathan Bohr, Jessie Buss
32 Game Cut Bowler +/-	+904 John Szczerbinski, Wes Malott
32 Game Leader +/-	+1229 Scott Norton
41 Game Cut Bowler +/-	+1774 Scott Norton
41 Game Leader +/-	+1776 Sean Rash
# of 300 Games	(7): Mike DeVaney, Walter Ray Williams Jr., Tommy Jones, Wes Malott, Kurt Pilon, Brian Kretzer, Tom Baker

Champion	
1. Sean Rash – 191	Scott Norton
2. Scott Norton - 219	



# Strike Column – PBA High Average Analysis

Being the High Average Award leader on the PBA Tour is a hard thing for a professional bowler to achieve. The reason why it is so hard is because they are not going to bowl on the same lane multiple times for more than one to three games. On top of that, bowlers are going to different bowling centers every week. To have the high average on the PBA Tour is an achievement, that means the winner is one of the best bowlers over the duration of that season.

All the greats have had multiple High Average Awards. This is why they are the best at throwing a bowling ball. The highest average ever on the PBA Tour is 228.47 by Norm Duke. Again, the lane conditions are demanding because these bowlers are the best and can strike on anything. When bowlers are bowling week in and week out, it can be hard to maintain high averages on the PBA Tour because of the varying lane conditions.

Mark Roth, Earl Anthony, and Walter Ray Williams, Jr. know what it takes to have the highest average on the PBA Tour. That is why they were all ranked in the top five in the 50 Greatest Bowlers in PBA history. All three know how to strike when they need to.

high average four seasons in-a-row, is an amazing feat.

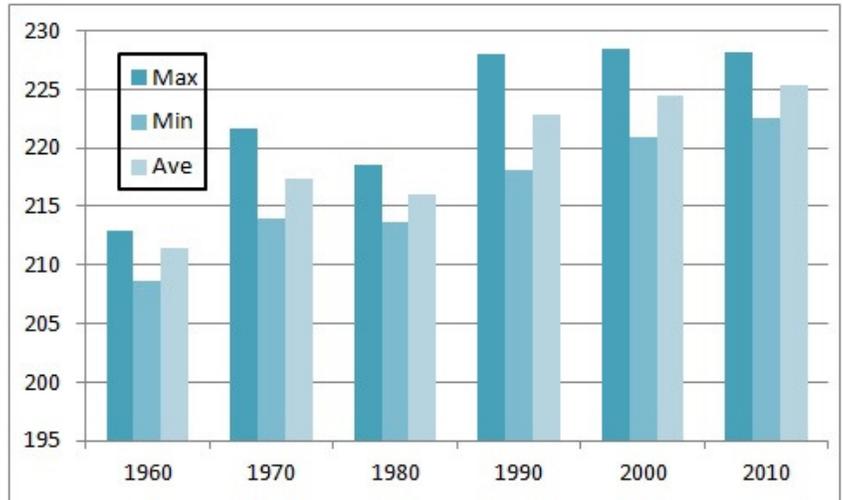
To be one of the best bowlers of the PBA Tour, bowlers are going to have to know how to strike on all kinds of lane conditions.

Bowler	Awards	Highest average
Walter Ray Williams Jr.	8	228.34
Mark Roth	6	221.66
Earl Anthony	5	219.39
Norm Duke	4	228.47
Marshall Holman	3	216.8
Billy Hardwick	2	212.95
Wayne Zahn	2	212.14
Don Johnson	2	215.29
Parker Bohn III	2	228.04
Mika Koivuniemi	2	222.73

Multiple High Average Award winners, including highest season average

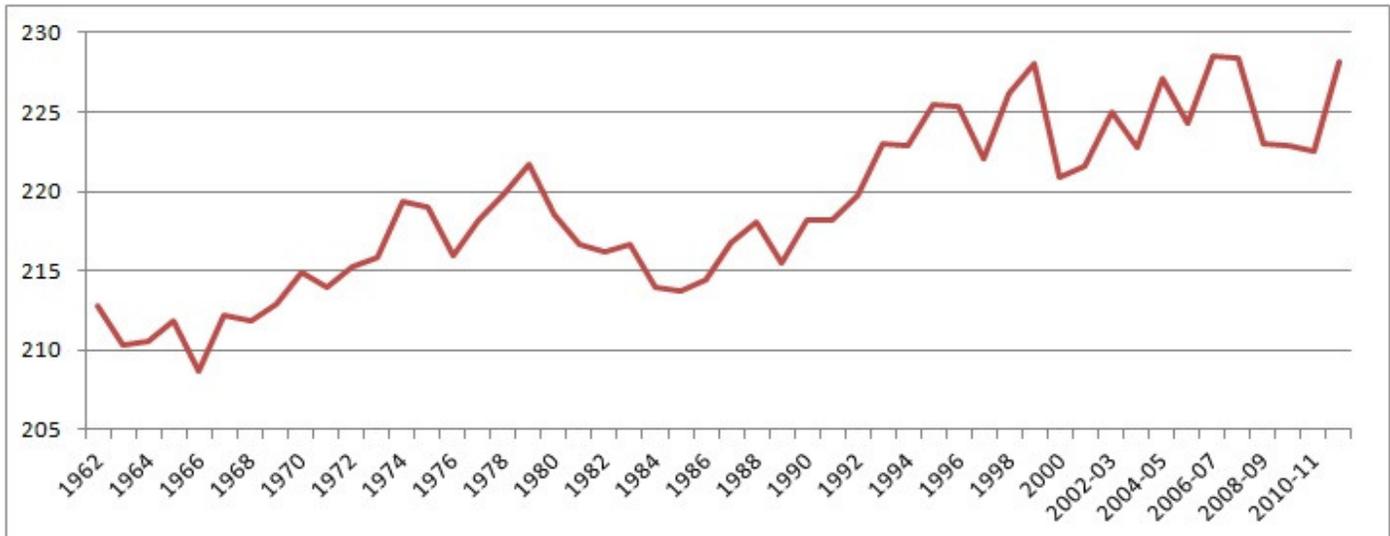
The lowest High Average Award winner in history averaged 208 in 1966 by Wayne Zahn. Back then, the bowling ball technology was not as advanced as it is today. He likely only used one to five balls for the entire year, showing why the 60s had the lowest averages.

The trend over the years for high average is that the scores are increasing every season, especially since the 1990s. The player that has the most awards is Walter Ray Williams, Jr. with eight awards. All of the top ten in the PBA's 50 Greatest Bowlers had at least one High Average Award. This is one of the reasons why they are ranked so high. Roth, in 1979, became the first player to average over 220. He was the highest average on the Tour for four straight seasons. In 1978, he also won a record eight titles. To have the



Below: Line graph of High Averages by season

Above: Maximum, minimum, and average High Average Award totals by decade



# Breakpoint

## Winning a Spot in a PBA Regional

Any PBA Experience league bowler may test their skills at a PBA Tournament to qualify to win a spot at any PBA Regional. These leagues have PBA Tour animal patterns on the lanes. The leagues are for higher average bowlers who want to see how well they fare on PBA Tour patterns. There are three criteria to win a spot.

1. The league must have a minimum of 8 teams and must bowl for a minimum of 12 weeks.
2. The league must follow all Sport Bowling guidelines in the Sport Bowling technical manual.
3. The bowlers must be USBC Sport Bowling members in good standing.



“The PBA has provided a great incentive for bowlers,” says Pete Tredwell.

Based on the playing strength of the league, the winning team will receive vouchers for entry into any PBA Regional event. The league must start after January 1, 2013, with vouchers being good for one year. All of the winning team members of the league will get a voucher.



Chameleon



Cheetah



Scorpion

Left, then counter-clockwise:  
PBA Tour Animal Patterns—  
Chameleon, Cheetah, Scorpion, Shark, Viper



Viper



Shark

## Interview of a PBA Hall of Famer: Doug Kent

Doug Kent may not be the first name on your list of all-time greats, but he sure has the resume: 10 titles, four majors, 40 percent of his titles are majors (not even Earl Anthony or Walter Ray Williams, Jr. have accomplished that feat), plus a Player of the Year Award, and an induction into the PBA Hall of Fame.

Doug made history at the 2002 PBA World Championship, winning \$120K, the largest amount won by a professional bowler in a tournament at that time. This gave him renewed confidence in the Majors.

He shares, “Being inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame is a great feeling. It completes my career.” Never winning the U.S. Open has been a disappoint-

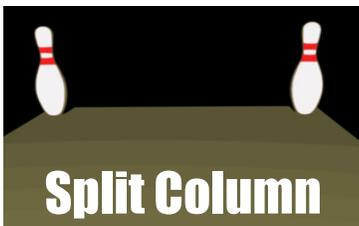
ment; however, he continues to bowl in the U.S. Open, wanting to add it to his list of majors. He describes it as the pinnacle event of bowling and the hardest to win due to the demanding lane conditions.

Two great players influenced his game, Mark Roth and David Ozio. Kent portrays himself as a versatile player, a Roth/Ozio-type combination, able to either hook the ball or play straight. It was while watching Roth on television in the early 80s he decided he wanted to pursue a professional bowling career. In 1987, he did just that, and never looked back.

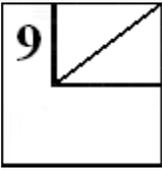
“Winning the Player of the Year Award is the one thing any player wants in their career,” he says. “It

proves that you were one of the best of the best in that year.” It did not change his life drastically, but it motivated him to get even better. Doug explains that the highlight of his career was when he won the 1996 Detroit Open and his four-year old son Jacob ran up the lane to congratulate him—a moment he will never forget.

Currently, Doug is a family man with his wife, Chrissie, son Jacob (age 21) and daughter Natalie (age 8). He owns two bowling centers in Newark, NY, and continues to be involved in the sport, although he no longer tours.



**In 2000, Jason Couch became the first and only bowler to successfully defend his Tournament of Champions title.**



*The Spare Column is a column focusing on the PBA Central Region—top player stats, tournament highlights, interviews, and occasional updates from Bobby Jakel about what is going on in the Central Region.*

## Tournament of Champions Preview—2013

### **Multiple Winners of the ToC**

There have only been seven players that have won the Tournament of Champions (ToC) multiple times. Two of these bowlers are entered in this year's ToC. In the history of this tournament, there has only been one time in which the winner defended his title—Jason Couch from 1999-2000. He would later become the second player to win three times in his career, and the first player to win three consecutive tournaments.

<b>Titles</b>	<b>Multiple Winners</b>	<b>Years</b>
3	Jason Couch*	1999, 2000, 2002
3	Mike Durbin	1972, 1982, 1984
2	Dave Davis	1968, 1975
2	Jim Goodman	1969, 1973
2	Earl Anthony	1974, 1978
2	Marshall Holman	1976, 1986
2	Mark Williams*	1985, 1988

\* 2013 entries

### **Lane Pattern Description**

This 39 foot pattern features a sport compliant, well balanced condition designed to appeal to varied bowling styles, from the straight player to the high rev rate, power player. Although the pattern allows multiple angles to the pocket, it still requires consistency and accuracy to achieve and maintain a good scoring pace.

*Taken from <http://www.pba.com/OilPatterns/Pattern/7>*

### **A Prediction**

My prediction is that the scores will be high at the Tournament of Champions. It will take a 225 average to make the top 24. I think that Parker Bohn III has a good shot at winning in 2013.

### **Past Champions in the 2013 ToC**

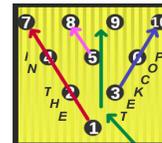
There will be 17 past champions at this year's ToC. Defending champion Sean Rash will be looking forward to becoming the second bowler in ToC history to defend his title. The oldest champion present this year is Johnny Petraglia (66).

Kelly Kulick is the only woman to win a PBA Tour title, winning the 2010 ToC. Notables Pete Weber and Norm Duke are looking to become the only two bowlers to complete the Triple Crown twice in their careers. Jason Couch is attempting to extend his career titles lead to four titles at this event.

Michael Haugen Jr. is back, and what a performance he had in 2008, coming back from a 50-pin deficit to win his first major. With a win, either Chris Barnes or Mika Koivuniemi can become the eighth player to win multiple titles.

<b>Bowler</b>	<b>Year</b>
Sean Rash	2012
Mika Koivuniemi	2011
Kelly Kulick	2010
Patrick Allen	2009
Michael Haugen Jr.	2008
Tommy Jones	2007
Chris Barnes	2006
Steve Jaros	2005
Jason Couch	1999, 2000, 2002
Bryan Goebel	1998
Norm Duke	1994
George Branham III	1993
Mark Williams	1985, 1988
Pete Weber	1987
Wayne Webb	1980
John Petraglia	1971

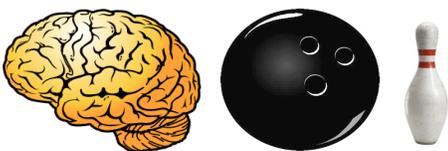
A condensed Top 10 Moments that have happened in bowling history or on the PBA Tour



## Top Ten Moments in Tournament of Champions History

- 10.** 1964—Joe Joseph became the first bowler to win the first Tournament of Champions.
- 9.** 1967—Jack Biondolillo becomes the first bowler to bowl a perfect game on national television in PBA history.
- 8.** 1973—Jim Godman became the first bowler to win the Tournament of Champions twice.
- 7.** 1975—Dave Davis becomes the second bowler to win the Tournament of Champions twice.
- 6.** 1984—Mike Durbin becomes the first bowler to win the Tournament of Champions three times.

- 5.** 2012—Mike Koivuniemi has the highest single-event winnings in PBA history at \$250K
- 4.** 2000—Jason Couch becomes the first bowler to successfully defend his title at the Tournament of Champions.
- 3.** 2010—Kelly Kulick becomes the first woman to win a PBA tour title at the Tournament of Champions.
- 2.** 2002—Couch becomes the first bowler to win the Tournament of Champions three times in-a row and the second bowler to have three TOC titles.
- 1.** 1995—Mike Aulby becomes the fourth bowler to complete the Triple Crown and the first bowler to complete the Grand Slam at the TOC.



## BOWLOLOGY

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

A couple months ago, I wrote a column about bowling surfaces and how a bowler can alter the ball's surface to affect its reaction to the lane. This month, I will be explaining oil breakdown. Lane breakdown is when the oil pattern starts evaporating or being absorbed by the bowling ball, thus causing the oil to disappear.

At the start of the day in a tournament or league, the oil pattern is fresh. As bowlers bowl on the pattern, with each shot that is thrown, the oil changes slightly. This is caused by the bowling ball going down the lane and its friction moving the oil in the direction it is going.

When a bowler is bowling in a league, they typically bowl on the same pair of lanes throughout the en-

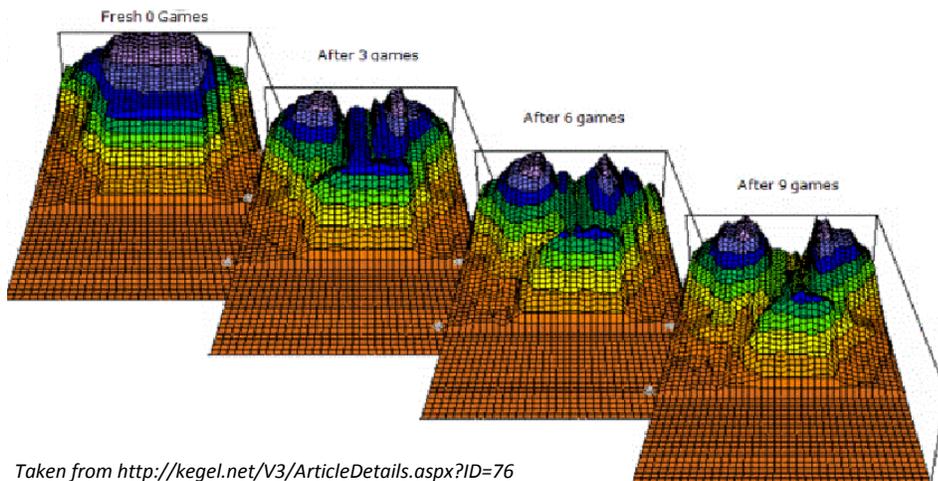
tire three-game session. However, in a tournament, bowlers are going to go from pair to pair, so it varies for how each bowler breaks down the oil pattern. The fresh lane is typically only going to hold up for five frames.

The graph below shows the fresh shot, after three games, after six games, and after nine games. As you can see, after nine games, the oil pattern is very different from the start. This is due to bowling ball traffic on the lane.

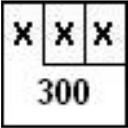
## Oil Breakdown

To be ahead of the game, a bowler should arrive early at the tournament to watch how the lanes are transitioning. During their qualifying block, they can even go down to the next pair of lanes near the end of the current game. This will help the bowler determine what to do and what not to do.

Remember, bowling is a surface sport. Bowlers are going to have to adapt to the pattern and the transition of that pattern in order to be successful.



Taken from <http://kegel.net/V3/ArticleDetails.aspx?ID=76>



## Future Hall of Fame Speech

Just planting a seed.... Picture the year 2033, I have been inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame as the Greatest Bowling Fan ever. Fast forward to that year, and the speech that I would give.

“The greatest bowling fan is going into the Hall of Fame. I had always wanted to be involved with bowling as a career. Watching the great Mike Aulby winning all the Majors was a thrill for me. The PBA Tour is the greatest entity of our great sport. These are the best players in the world. I really think that these bowlers can bowl on anything and can strike. This is the definition of a great bowler.

To be able to report on the PBA was a dream-come-true for me. In 2012, I finally won the BWAA Amateur Writing Contest when I wrote **Bowling Physics: Yesterday vs. Today**. It felt like I had won a PBA title.

Twenty years ago, I received a phone call from Dennis Bergendorf of **Bowlers Journal International** to do a story of my choice. With this came an invitation to the 2013 Tournament of Champions. I didn't know if I could afford the expenses or not. Although a known worrywart, it all worked out.

For my article, I chose to interview Doug Kent. He was one of the pros to bowl in my Josh Hyde and Buddies Pro-Am in 1998. I thought—how fitting for me to interview Doug since he was going into the PBA Hall of Fame. As I recall, I got the article done a week and a half before the Tournament of Champions. It turned out great. It was an awesome week, and the Bowlers Journal even interviewed me as to what I observed at the tournament.

I would like to thank some people. First and foremost, I thank my Dad for

getting me interested in the sport; and my Mom, because she took me to tournaments and sewed patches on my shirt. Dad took me to his pro shop to show me dynamics of the bowling ball, as well as taking me to the many tournaments that he entered. My grandparents—I thank them for being there and going to some bowling tournaments with me.

Harry Wolfe gave me my first start. Thank you, Harry. In 2009, while attending a Regional tournament in Fort Wayne, Harry approached me and asked me to report on that event. He gave me my first job at being a bowling writer. I'll be forever grateful for that opportunity. He also helped me publish my first book.

Lyle Zikes—he served as an inspiration to me in my bowling writing.

To all of my helpers that have assisted me in doing my newsletter—thank you: Jenny, Curtis, Zane, Erin, Andrew, Laureen, Jeannie, J.D., Jessica, Elaine, and Lori.

Mike Aulby—thank you for bowling in my Pro-Am and being a great friend.

I hesitate about this one.... Parker Bohn III. Thank you for opening your mouth after reading my article: **Bucket List for Bowling**. That opened the door my article submission to **Bowlers Journal International**. Also, thanks for being a steadfast friend.

I just want to share a couple of stories. It was the last night of Match Play (1993, Touring Players Championship) and Parker needed a strike to win his game. Woodland Bowl had the big trash cans. Parker struck. I was so excited that I knocked down

the trash can. At the time, you could have heard a pin drop. Parker told me, he was supposed to be nervous, not me. The next day for the TV show, he took the trash can away, saying he didn't want that to happen again when he was bowling on TV.

Another story—Mom and I drove 13 hours to see one bowling game. It was in Canandaigua, NY. Parker was leading the field by 600 pins going into the last round of Match Play. It was the best title I saw him win because he beat the great Walter Ray Williams, Jr. That was the best match that I ever attended. Parker beat Walter Ray 277-244 as I recall. “

Thank you, family and friends, for your support and love!

Thanks for reading this edition of Josh Hyde's Bowling Newsletter.



**PBA TRIVIA WIZARD**

Please submit your answers via e-mail to: [josh@joshhydeb bowling.com](mailto:josh@joshhydeb bowling.com). The first person that answers 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. Name the only player to successfully defend the ToC title.
2. Who has the most high average awards on the PBA Tour?



**Last Month's PBA Wizard Trivia Winner**  
Winner Awarded: Not Awarded

- Last Month's Answers:
- 1.) Doug Kent and Danny Wiseman
  - 2.) Parker Bohn III

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

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

**VISION:**

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