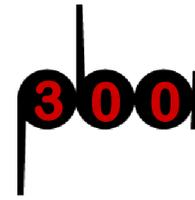




Josh Hyde is a Honorary PBA Member since 2001 and a BWAA Member since 2006.

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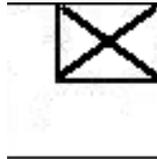
Practice Pair

Hello, Bowling Fans!

Welcome to this special edition of **Josh Hyde's Bowling Newsletter**. This edition has been a year and a half in the making. It will be about bowlers shooting 300 games in PBA Tour competition since 1967. There have been a lot of 300 games (3,841 to be exact). PBA tournaments are the best in the world, and the players have to overcome demanding lane conditions. This special edition will be composed of *Strike Columns*.

Enjoy this *special edition* of **Josh Hyde's Bowling Newsletter!**

-Josh Hyde
Senior Editor of Josh Hyde's Bowling Newsletter



Strike Column

Bowling a 300 on the PBA Tour

Fifty-four years ago, Eddie Elias founded the PBA. He wanted the best bowlers to compete in one place. His vision established the PBA. The best bowlers were going to throw a lot of strikes; they might even throw a perfect game.

The most successful way to strike on the PBA Tour is by hitting the pocket. The best bowlers in the world also can strike on any lane condition. Bowling ball technology has improved.

When the PBA started 54 years ago, there was mainly one style of bowling. Now today, there are several styles of bowling designed to knock over ten pins in one shot.

In 2009, the PBA and the bowling writers decided the top three bowlers of all time were Earl Anthony, Dick Weber and Walter Ray Williams, Jr. These guys are the legends of the PBA. They know how to strike when they need to.

In bowling a 300, a bowler must take the breaks that he or she gets. However on the PBA Tour the lane conditions are going to be demanding. To bowl a 300 on the PBA Tour is a PBA member's dream. It doesn't matter if it is in qualifying, match play or the Championship round. For a player to be able to write +100 on their score sheet—now that makes the arm swing looser! If a bowler is struggling and shoots a 300, it might help them to get re-focused for the next

pair of lanes.

When a PBA member is bowling in a tournament, they already know that the lane conditions will be very demanding. On top of that, they are not going to bowl on the same pair of lanes after each game they have bowled. They are going to be switching lanes after every game.

Bowling fans cannot expect each PBA member to bowl a 300 game. Now I am not saying that they can't throw a 300. The likelihood is improbable. The top bowlers of the PBA should be able to master any lane patterns. PBA Regional members are going to have a harder time, because they're not used to different centers across the country. They are more used to the centers around their geographical area. When they decide to try the PBA tour, they are going to need to learn how to hit the patterns on certain surfaces.

The great bowlers know that they have to take the breaks as well as the flush hits in the pocket. If they have the front 7 or 8 and they roll the 2-pin for a right-hander (or the 3-pin for a left-hander), they know they got a break. Then, they can make an adjustment to hit the pocket flush on the next shot. Bowling a 300 on the PBA Tour is no easy task... except for maybe a select few.

Bowling fans want to see a lot of strikes thrown during a PBA competition. They especially want to witness their favorite PBA pro bowl a perfect game.

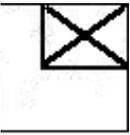
Strike Column - Bowling a 300 on the PBA Tour	1
Strike Column - Top Bowlers with the Most 300-Games on the PBA Tour	2
Chart Index	3
Strike Column - 300s in Major Tournaments - Top Bowlers with 300s in Majors	4
Strike Column - 300s on National Television - Top 10 of the Top 50 Greatest PBA Players	5
Strike Column - 300s by Decade - 300s by Decade by Majors - Top 25 Seasons with the Most 300s	6

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.



Strike Column

Top 20 Bowlers with the Most 300-Games on the PBA Tour

This column describes the top bowlers that have bowled the most 300s on the PBA Tour. Parker Bohn III has the most 300s with 65. Behind him is Walter Ray Williams Jr. with 57. The great Walter Ray is obviously at the top of the all-time title list with 47. Bowling fans can expect that the leading title holder would be high on this list. Coming in third is Amleto Monacelli with 46. There is a tie between the fourth and fifth place players with 42, and those bowlers are Norm Duke and Pete Weber. Four of the top five in this list were also in the 2009 Top Ten Bowlers of All-time PBA listing. These bowlers are definitely the best bowlers on the PBA Tour.

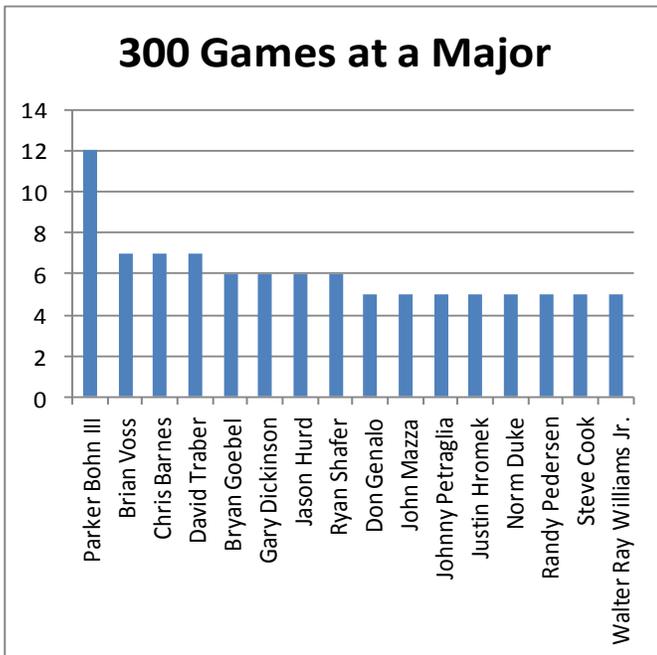
Following those bowlers is Brian Voss with 40. Its hard to imagine Eugene McCune only has three titles; nonetheless, he is one of the top bowlers with the most 300 games at 37. Another great bowler that has a large number of 300s is

Mike Aulby, 36. He holds all of the major titles and is a definite factor in the 300s category. Like McCune, Ryan Shafer only has four titles, yet he has 35 perfect games on the PBA Tour. Chris Barnes rounds out the top ten with 34- 300 games, and already he's one of the six guys that have completed the Triple Crown. On top of that, he has had a 300 game on national television. His third year on the PBA Tour, he was the point leader and had the high average. He is due for greatness.

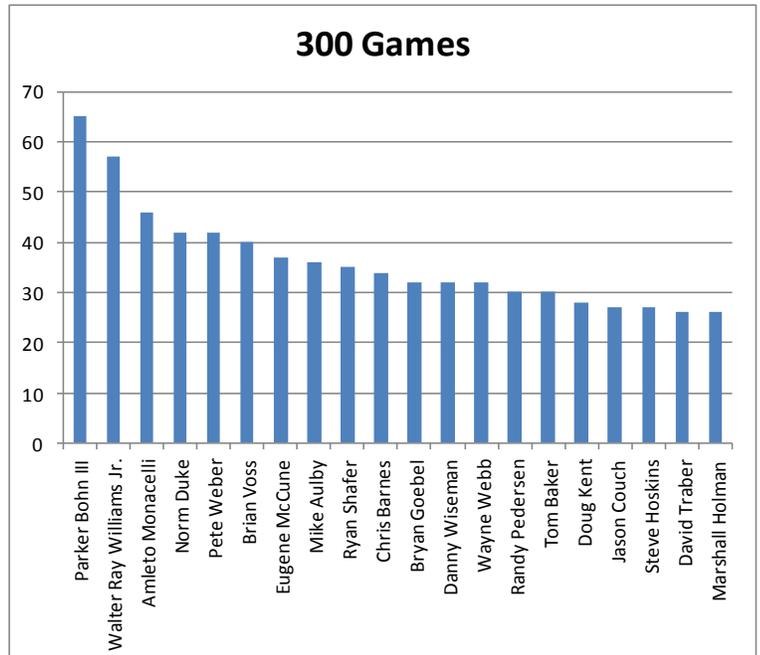
The bottom ten has a number of ties, and there are numerous great bowlers. Coming in at 11th place is Bryan Goebel with 32 perfect games along with Danny Wiseman and Wayne Webb. Tom Baker and Doug Kent are tied with 30 each. Jason Couch is all by himself with 28. He won 2 PBA World Championships and 2 Masters and was the '06-'07 PBA Player of the Year. The next two are Steve Hoskins and Jason Couch

at 27 a piece. Steve Hoskins won 2 Touring Players Championships and had a 300 game on TV against the great Walter Ray Williams, Jr. Couch is the only player to win 3 consecutive Tournament of Champions. Finally, the last 2 are the great Marshall Holman and David Traber who round out the top 20 with 26- 300 games. Holman, who won 2 Firestone Tournament of Champions and 2 US Opens, definitely belongs in the perfect game category. David Traber only has 4 PBA Tour titles, but he has a number of regional titles as well as a number of 300 games.

These bowlers are the greatest bowlers in the world. They have proven that with the number of 300-games that they have bowled on the PBA Tour. Bowling fans can expect these top players to be on the top of the leader board at every PBA event.



Top: Most 300 Games at a Major (Figure 1)



Top: Most 300 Games in a Career (Figure 2)

Chart Index

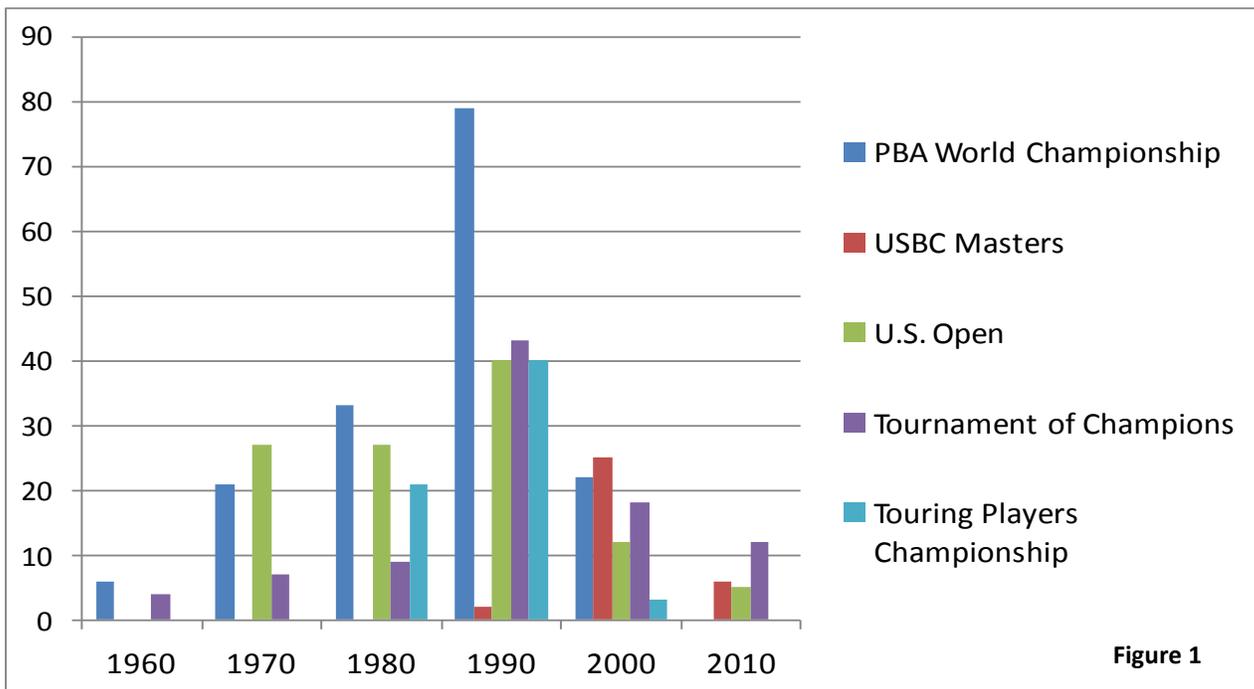


Figure 1

Top: 300s by Majors and Decade (Figure 1)
 Below: Top 25- 300 Games by Year (Figure 2)

Below (upper): 300 by Major (Figure 3).
 Below (lower): 300 by decade. (Figure 4)

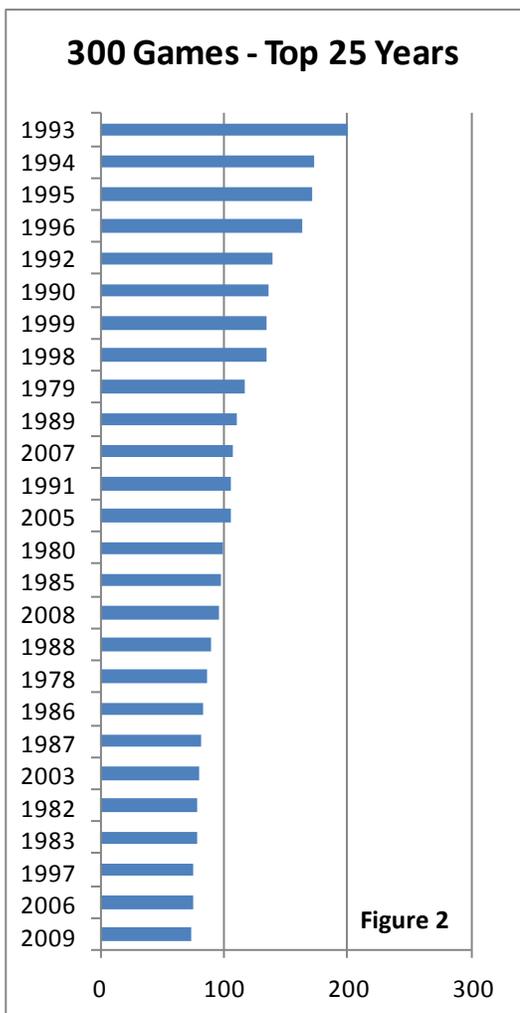


Figure 2

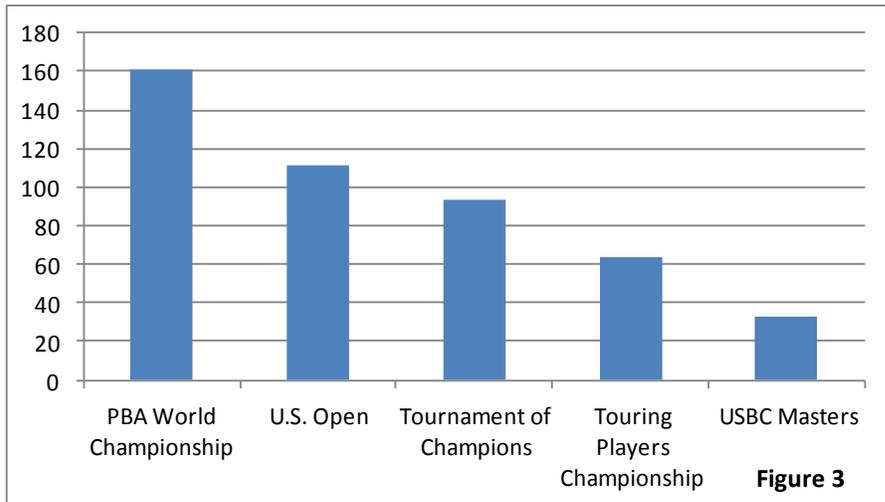


Figure 3

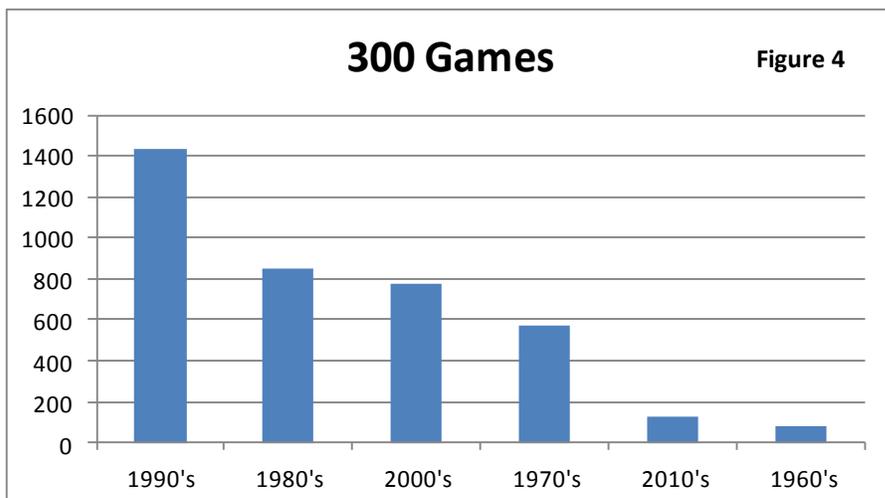
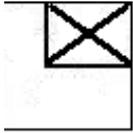


Figure 4



300s in Major Tournaments

Major tournaments clearly have demanding lane conditions.

At a major tournament, bowlers are going to have to make their spares hit the pocket as best they can. Bowling a 300 in a major tournament is an especially hard task to do. If a professional bowler bowls a 300 in a major tournament, more than likely he/she will be at the top of the leader board.

Further evidence as to why majors have the most demanding lane conditions is that only 462 300-games have been shot at major tournaments. Keep in mind that prior to 1998, the USBC Masters was not included in the PBA Tour schedule. After its addition to the PBA Tour schedule, there have only been 33 300-games shot at the Masters.

The major with the most 300-games bowled is the PBA World Championship—161 in all. Surprisingly enough, the US Open is second with 111. Third place goes to the Tournament of Champions with 93, and fourth is the Touring Players Championship at 64. Last, but not least, is the USBC Masters.

In all of these tournaments, it will be difficult to do well, let alone get a 300. One of the goals of a PBA bowler is to win at least one Major in their career. They know that they are probably not going to have a 300 game, but they realize that it is bonus. Although the World Championship (comprised of only PBA members) has the most 300-games, that does not necessarily mean that it is the easiest to win.

The breakdown of 300 games is as follows. The PBA World Championship has 35 percent of all the 300-games that have been scored. The US Open has only 24 percent. The Tournament of Champions has 20 percent, the Touring Players Championship has 14 percent, and the USBC Masters has 7 percent. With not a single Major having more than just over a third of the 300-games, this shows how hard it is to bowl a perfect game in Major tournament.

Bowling fans can expect to see outstanding performances when they watch a major, but don't expect to see many 300-games due to the demanding lane conditions.

Top Bowlers with 300s in Majors

Due to the demanding lane conditions that a Major tournament has, for a pro bowler, the likelihood of he or she bowling a 300 in these tournaments is improbable. However, they are the best at throwing a bowling ball. It's hard to imagine that Parker Bohn III has only one Major, yet he still has the most 300s in the Majors.

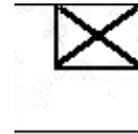
Bowling fans might suspect the bowlers that have the most perfect games in the Majors would be Walter Ray Williams, Jr., Pete Weber, and Earl Anthony since those bowlers have the most Majors in the history of the PBA.

Parker Bohn is the leader in the category with twelve 300s. There is a three-way tie for second—Chris Barnes, Brian Voss, and David Traber. With the lack of Majors that three of the four have, it's hard to fathom that they have as many 300s as they do. The top four bowlers have between one and three Majors each.

The next group of players are Bryan Goebel, Gary Dickinson, Jason Hurd, and Ryan Shafer. Half of these bowlers do not have a Major Title. To be one of the top bowlers with the most 300s at a Major without having a Major is an amazing statistic. This speaks volumes on how hard it is to win a Major title.

The rest of the bowlers have multiple Major titles. Bowling fans might be surprised that these players are at the bottom of the 300-in-Majors list rather than at the top of the list. These players include the great Walter Ray Williams, Jr., Norm Duke, Johnny Petraglia, and Steve Cook. All of these bowlers are the greatest bowlers in the history of the PBA. Some of the other names are John Mazza, Don Genalo, Randy Pedersen, and Justin Hromek. For instance, neither Mazza nor Genalo have a Major title.

There are lots of ties in this great group of bowlers—some with Majors and some without Majors. This speaks volumes on how hard it is to throw a perfect game in a Major. However, the lack of perfect games on national TV at a Major is higher than what bowling fans might suspect. Major tournaments are the hardest tournament to win on the PBA Tour. An even more difficult feat is bowling a perfect game in a Major tournament!



Strike Column – 300s on National Television

There have been 22* perfect games on national television. All 300s that have been shot were bowled in the Championship round. The bowlers with a 300 game on national television are the best bowlers of the PBA.

Ironically, Jack Biondolillo is known for getting the very first 300 on national television, but he did this at the Firestone Tournament of Champions. In order to be in this tournament, the bowler must have won a PBA Tour title. Jack already had a PBA title—the best moment in his career to that point—but his 300 game is what he is most remembered for. Biondolillo was not the first bowler to throw a 300 game on television, but was the first one to do it on the PBA Tour.

Some of the well-known bowlers to shoot a 300 on television are Parker Bohn III, Norm Duke, Chris Barnes, Mike Aulby, Johnny Petraglia, and Jim Stefanich. All of these bowlers are in the Hall of Fame and were included in the 50 Greatest Players in PBA History. One of the historical 300s on national television was when Bob Learn, Jr. shot his 300 in front of his hometown. He would then set a four-game record of 1129, averaging better than 282 pins per game. His opponents averaged 271 pins per game, making it the highest scoring show in PBA history.

There have been four players that have shot 300s on na-

***NOTE:** Jason Queen's 300-game was not an official PBA title. The Masters was not a part of the PBA Tour schedule at that point; also, he was an amateur bowler at the time.

Bowler	Tournament	Year
Jack Biondolillo	Tournament of Champions	1967
Johnny Guenther	San Jose Open	1969
Jim Stefanich	Midas Open	1974
Pete McCordic	Los Angeles Open	1987
Bob Benoit	Quaker State Open	1988
Mike Aulby	Wichita Open	1993
Butch Soper	Hilton Hotels Classic	1994
Johnny Petraglia	PBA World Championship	1994
C.K. Moore	Columbia 300 Open	1996
Bob Learn Jr.	Flagship City Open	1996
Jason Queen	USBC Masters	1997
Steve Hoskins	Ebonite Challenge	1997
Parker Bohn III	USBC Masters	1998
Steve Jaros	Chattanooga Open	1999
Mike Miller	National Bowling Stadium Open	1999
Norm Duke	Earl Anthony Classic	2003
Mika Koivuniemi	Cambridge Credit Classic	2003
Tony Reyes	Motor City Classic	2006
Ryan Shafer	Pepsi Championship	2007
Rhino Page	Japan Cup	2009
Jason Belmonte	World Series of Bowling	2011
Chris Barnes	World Series of Bowling	2011

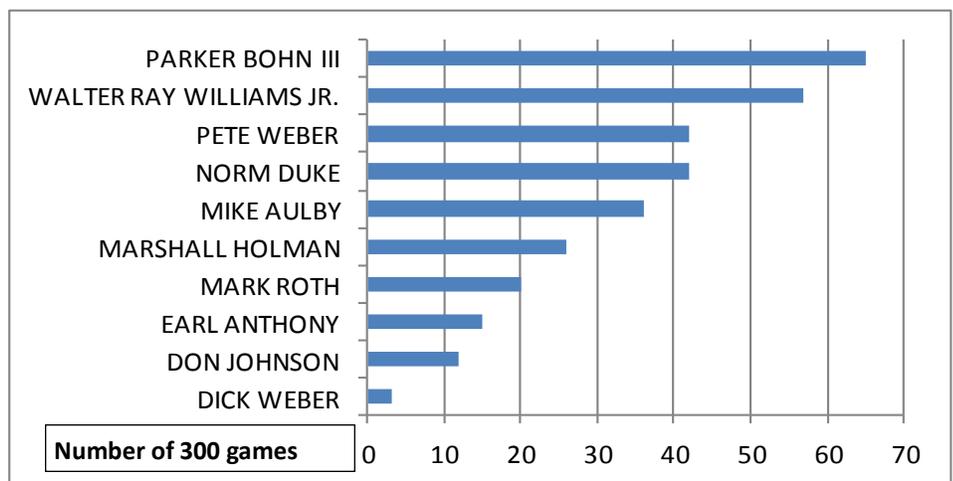
tional television and went on to win their first PBA titles: Bob Benoit, C.K. Moore, Jason Queen, and Tony Reyes. By doing so, they announced their presence on the PBA Tour.

With such a limited amount of 300s shot on national television, a PBA member can, in all likelihood, put their name in the Hall of Fame if they own multiple titles. These are the best play-

TOP 10 OF THE TOP 50 GREATEST PBA PLAYERS

When PBA and bowling writers sat down to come up with the Top 10 PBA Players of all time they had a hard time coming up with the order. Here is what they came up with: Earl Anthony, Walter Ray Williams, Jr. Dick Weber, Pete Weber, Mark Roth, Mike Aulby, Norm Duke, Don Johnson, Mark Holman, and Parker Bohn III.

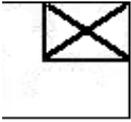
All of these players have had high average awards and many titles. The leader in throwing perfect games out of the group is Bohn with 65. Coming in second is Williams, Jr at 57. There is a tie for third place right now between P.



Weber and Duke at 42. After Aulby at 36, there is a significant drop off.

All of these bowlers know how to strike. D. Weber—the first super-star of the tour—bowled in a different era and

learned how to first. Regardless, it is proved that the top bowlers of all time are the bowlers who can consistently bowl a perfect game when they need to.



300s by Decade

The most 300s recorded in a single decade was in the 1990s. As I remember being a bowling fan, there were a number of 300s shot on national television. I remember thinking that every year there could be at least one 300 on national television. Bowling ball technology was getting more high tech. This was enabling the bowlers to figure out the lane conditions and strike more. In the 1990's, the PBA recorded 1,400 perfect games on the PBA Tour. Bowlers were getting wiser about the dynamics of a bowling ball.

In the 1980's there were a little more than 800 perfect games shot. Bowling ball technology was a factor with the urethane ball coming out. This ball hooked a lot more. Bowlers could strike more with it. There were a lot of 300s in the U.S. Open. That Major is a hard Major to win. Of all the Majors, bowling fans would think that the likelihood of throwing a perfect game in that tournament would be low. That is not necessarily true. It would sometimes even take a couple hundred over to make the first cut. Perfect games in the 80's on the PBA Tour were becoming more and more frequent.

It's hard to imagine that the 2000's were ranked third in having the most 300s. However, the PBA came up with a five pattern series. Today the bowling community knows them as the Cheetah, Scorpion, Shark, Chameleon, and Viper. These patterns are what the PBA players bowl on today. Every year, the PBA makes each pattern a little tougher so that the players have to keep adapting their games in order to hit the pocket and strike.

The number of 300s in the 2000's was surprisingly low. The PBA is going to try to make the PBA patterns a little bit harder. However, bowling fans can expect the pros to hit any lane conditions. Therefore, the likelihood of a perfect game goes up because of this factor.

300s by Decade in Majors

For over 54 years, the PBA has had Major tournaments. Majors are going to be the toughest tournaments to bowl in. Through the past six decades, the PBA has only had 462 300-games in major tournaments. This amounts to about nine per year. That statistic tells bowling fans that a bowling a 300 is hard to come by in the major tournaments.

Since the data has only been provided since 1967, this research does not have any records before that. In the 1960s, there were only two majors—the PBA World Championship and the Tournament of Champions. The BPAA All-Star was not included in the PBA Tour schedule. Prior to the 1998 season, the USBC Masters was also not on the schedule.

Through the decades, the PBA World Championship has had the most 300-games. During the 70s, the PBA Tour had three Majors. In the 70s, the US Open had the most 300 games.

The 1980s was the decade that the last major was added—the Touring Player's Championship. This brought the best players of the PBA Tour together for one week to see who was the best bowler each year. The PBA World Championship was the leader for the most perfect games in the 80s.

The 90s saw improvement in bowling ball technology. Once again, the World Championship was the leader in 300-games. By a long margin, the 1990s had more 300 games than any decade.

In the 2000s, the PBA eliminated the Touring Player's Championship, leaving just four Majors left. During this decade, the leader was the Master's in 300-games. Sadly, the 2010s decade had the fewest number of 300-games since the 1960s. These majors have become harder and harder to shoot perfect games at over the years.

Top 25 Seasons with the Most 300s

In 1993, the PBA had the most 300s on the PBA Tour with 201 perfect games. Now the lanes were not necessarily easy on the PBA Tour. However, bowling ball technology was getting more high tech with resin reactive bowling ball coverstock.

This new bowling ball technology created more hook for the pro bowlers. The PBA lane maintenance was trying to adapt and make the lanes harder, but obviously the bowlers were that good at manipulating the ball in order to strike more.

Coming in second was the 1994 season with 173 perfect games. Still bowling balls were getting more and more high tech. Players were becoming smarter about the bowling ball so that they could strike more.

The next season was 1995. During the 1990s, bowling balls were getting more high tech, and the PBA lane maintenance staff was still trying to adapt to make the lanes tougher and harder so that the players could not strike as much. However, being the best bowlers that they were, they figured out the lanes regardless of how hard the lanes were.

The following years that had the most perfect games on the PBA Tour were, as follows: 1996, 1992, 1990, and 1998. Rounding out the top ten years for perfect games on the PBA Tour were 1999 and 1979.

During the first two decades (60s and 70s) of the PBA Tour, bowling ball technology was not advancing like it is today. The players back then had a harder time scoring, but they were still able to score, just not as high as today.

Bowling fans can expect scores to get higher and higher, and the likelihood of a 300 might go up in future years. With that being said, time will tell what other bowling technology the bowling industry has to offer.