



Volume 6 Issue 12

June 2014



Jason Belmonte,
highlight of the Strike Column



Mike Durbin,
First bowler to win three ToC titles

Practice Pair

Messenger

Hello, Bowling Fans!

Oklahoma Summer Swing Highlights

Welcome to another year of *Josh Hyde's Bowling Newsletter*. Highlights for this edition will be the Strike, Spare Columns and Tenth Frame . The **Messenger** . The **Strike Column** takes a look at Jason Belmonte major run. The **Spare Column** looks at the Country Club Lanes Classic. The **Tenth Frame** is a commentary about the importance of Xtra Frame. Thanks for reading *Josh Hyde's Bowling Newsletter*.



Honorary Member since 2001

- Josh Hyde

During the Oklahoma Summer Swing, there were a number of things that took place that took place during the tournament. Marshall Kent was making his pro debut. Kent made his first show as a PBA member at the Badger Open. The Wolf pattern did not play as high as what bowling fans might expect as it only took a score of +143 by Ildemaro Ruiz.

Daugherty would lead the qualifying with a score of +492. The cut would take a score of +331 by Thomas Larsen to make the round-robin match play. There was a three-way tie for the last cash spot who all scored +195: PBA Hall of Famer Walter Ray Williams Jr., Tim Mack and Jesse Busse.

The Bear pattern did not play as tough as it took a score of +92 by Kelly Kulick. It would then take a score of +206 by Dick Allen to make the top five. Tommy Jones would end up leading the stepladder for the televised finals.

In the first round of match play for the Oklahoma Open, Anthony Lavery-Spahr would go undefeated in match play. Mika Koivuniemi would bowl a perfect game. E.J. Tackett would take the lead in the second round of match play and never looked back. Chris Loschetter would shoot a 300 game in the last round of match play.

The Badger played moderately high as it would take a 220 average to make the cut by Dino Castillo who shot +121. Bill O'Neill would end up leading the stepladder finals for the televised portion of the tournament by having a score of + 364. PBA Hall of Famer, Pete Weber, would take second for the stepladder televised finals.

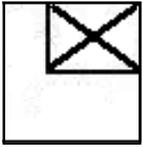
The following tournaments will be aired on the CBS Sports Network:

After 18 games for the Oklahoma Open, Tom

<u>Tourney</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time (EST)</u>
<i>Wolf Open</i>	6/03/2014	7:00 P.M.
<i>Bear Open</i>	6/10/2014	7:00 P.M.
<i>Badger Open</i>	6/17/2014	7:00 P.M.
<i>OK. Open</i>	6/24/2014	12:00 P.M.
<i>King of the Swing</i>	7/01/2014	7:00 P.M.

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Strike Column – Belmonte at the Majors

Jason Belmonte has bowled in eight of the last nine Majors. This has been one of the most dominant stretches that professional bowling has seen.

Norm Duke won three Majors in-a-row five years back. But now bowling fans are witnessing another dominant era with Jason Belmonte at the height of his game. He captured his second and third Majors sooner than any bowler before him. Belmonte has a winning percentage of 70 when he bowls for the Major titles. He has bowled against two Hall of Famers, Parker Bohn, III, and Pete Weber. Against those bowlers, he is 0-2 with an average of 203. Just recently, he had successfully defended his Masters title, a feat that had not been done in 57 years. He is having a Hall of Fame-worthy career in just a short span of time.

PBA Hall of Famers want to win at least one Major. Belmonte has actually had a chance to win eight Majors. He has won nine PBA Tour titles, three of which were Majors.

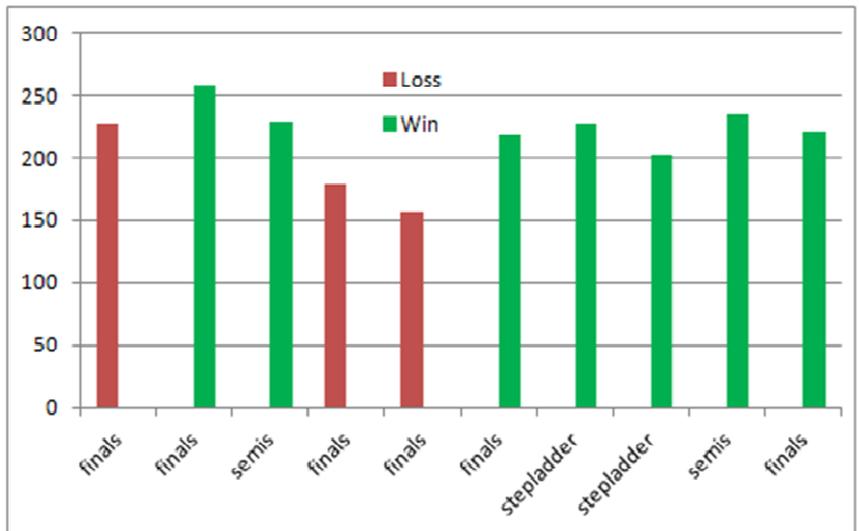
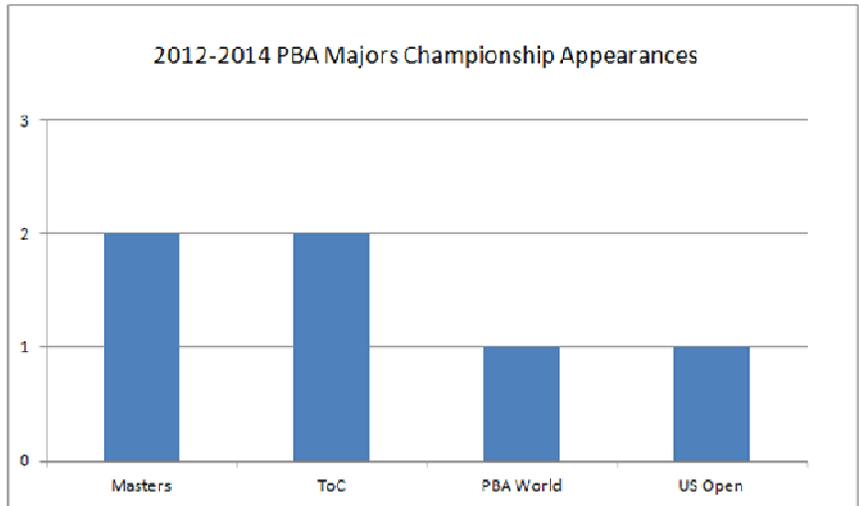
Belmonte dominated the 2013 U.S. Open. Malott, his opponent, had bowled a 279 against 5-time U.S. Open champion, Pete Weber, to advance to the championship. Even though Jason Belmonte had dominated the tournament, he still had to bowl for the title and win one more game. However, he could only muster a 156 in the championship match against Malott.

He has bowled for two Masters titles and won them both. He has also bowled for two TOC tournaments and has won one of them. In his last five matches, Jason is undefeated.

The top graph shows how many times he has bowled for each Major. He is averaging 227.3 when he wins. He is only averaging 187.3 when he loses. The most he has won by is 58 pins. Conversely, he has lost by 58 pins. Belmonte has also won by only one pin.

The bottom graph shows what he bowled against each opponent and whether he won or lost.

In the championship match, Belmonte is batting .500 with three wins and three losses. At this rate, he could have 20 Majors by the end of his career. Are bowling fans looking at the next Earl Anthony?



Moments in History

Durbin's Historic Week

Mike Durbin became the first bowler to win three Tournament of Champions titles in PBA history in 1984, the same week he was inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame! In the tournament, his first opponent was Steve Cook. Cook had built an early 500 pin lead going into the last two rounds of match play. However, after battling an illness, he barely hung on to make the show, qualifying in fifth. Ironically, this was the closest match Durbin would have, as he only beat Cook by 17 pins, 205-188. In the next match, he faced George Pappas, who fell easily to Durbin 255-191.



In the semi-final, Durbin faced Joe Salvenini. Durbin kept on striking, winning 244-198. In match play, Aulby had built a 115-pin lead over second place, looking to claim the title. Durbin had other ideas, as Aulby struggled early, opening four of the first five frames. This gave Durbin all the chance he needed to secure his third Tournament of Champions title, as he won 246-163. This added to his 1972 and 1982 titles. No other bowler had or has since won the Tournament of Champions and been inducted into the Hall of Fame in the same week.

Breakpoint

USBC Masters to be on Winter Television Schedule

The PBA and the United States Bowling Congress have reached an agreement that will include the USBC Masters in the PBA Tour's winter television schedule for the next two years.

The 2015 USBC Masters will be hosted in Green Bay, Wisconsin on Feb. 2, with the broadcast on Feb. 8. In 2016, it will be at North Brunswick, N.J.

Breakpoint

Bohn Set an 8-Game Record

Last month, Parker Bohn III won a regional before the Oklahoma Summer Swing. He set an impressive eight-game record in the process.

Bohn averaged a whopping 278.62, including two 300 games. He only left one open frame in the

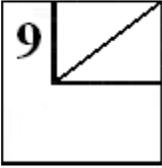
series, and lost one of his eight matches. At one point, Bohn had a score of 1167 over four games. He would end up winning the tournament by 469 pins over Blaine Weninger. He used the Brunswick Strike King in the process.

Bohn's record is a USBC record, although it does not count for the PBA Tour 8-game scoring record--the oldest scoring record remaining, held by Billy Hardwick.

Game	Lane	Game Score	Bonus	Game +/-	Total +/-	Opponent Name	Opponent Score	Init
		2054	0		+456			
1	27	267		+67	523	Weninger, Blaine	268	W
2	23	278	30	+108	+671	Hohlwein, Erik	259	H
3	19	300	30	130	761	Keough, Mike	259	MK
4	21	300	30	130	891	Burnett, Chris	214	CB
5	18	299	30	119	1010	Winklerpleck, Marcus	214	MW
6	22	258	30	88	1098	Jung, Jordan	223	JJ
7	20	279	30	109	1207	Smith, Eddy	219	ES
8	17	258	30	98	1295	Jung	239	JJ
Block total								
Free total		2054	0					
Final total								
Bowler		Parker Bohn III						
Verification Signature		[Signature]						
		Strike King 119 - All 9 pins						
		T-Zone 032 - All 9 pins						



Jason Belmonte has bowled in the last 8 of 9 Majors.



Spare Column

The Spare Column is a column focusing on the PBA Central Region and other miscellaneous information about the PBA.

Country Club Lanes Classic

There were 46 entries at the Country Club Lanes Central Open on the first weekend of May. The top 15 cashed while the top 12 advanced to the Round Robin Match Play on Sunday.

In Game 1, the top 5 finishers were within 4 pins of each other with Jeff Zaffino leading with a 247. Local favorite T.J. Schmidt had the high game of 278 in Game 4. Three players bowled a 700 series in the first 3 games: Zaffino, Ronnie Russell, and John Murphy. Former exempt player Todd Book captured the first 300 of the tournament in Game 3. *Competitive Edge Pro Shop* owner Brian Nicodemus started out strong but finished out of the money. Jeff Zaffino regained the lead in Game 5 with a score of +161. Ronnie Russell was 37 pins behind him with a score of +124. However, Russell took the lead in the tournament with a score of +190.

The final cut score was a score of +66 by John Murphy and Nick Kokenos. The final cash number took a score of +37 by David Traber. A number of local standouts made Match Play: Jeremy Delcamp, Chris Hartung,

T.J. Schmidt, and 17-year old Michael Schlabach (who would finish in 12th place).

In Match Play, Ronnie Russell started with a 226 game and never looked back. After 9 games, only 2 bowlers were within 100 pins of Russell. By Game 2 of Match Play, he was really starting to distance himself from the field. His lead over the next competitor grew to 185 by Game 3. Jeremy Delcamp was trying to chase Russell in Game 4 of Match Play, but Delcamp was still 186 pins back. Russell struggled, only shooting a 163, decreasing his lead to 105 over 2nd place. His difficulties continued into Game 5, as he shot a 194; yet, he was able to win. At this point, his lead dwindled to 59. Nick Kokenos shot a +100 for his first 5 games without having a loss. He challenged Ronnie for the lead.

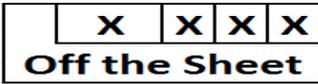
Russell began to boost his lead again in Game 15. By the last game, he would only need only a score of 67 to capture the title. It was a resounding win for Ronnie Russell as his nearest competitor, Patrick Dombrowski, finished 274 pins behind him.

Tournament Stats	
8 Game Cash # +/-	+37 David Traber
8 Game Cut # +/-	+66 N. Kokenos/J. Murphy
8 Game Leader +/-	+ 190 Ronnie Russell
20 Game Champion +/-	+710 Ronnie Russell
300's	(2) Todd Book, Josh Connor



Ronnie Russell on the left, with proprietor Dave Claxton on right.

Bowler	Pinfall	W/L/T	Bonus	Total	+/-	Pins Behind	Prize
1.R. Russell	4410	10-2-0	300	4710	+710	0	\$2500
2.P. Dombrowski	4196	8-4-0	240	4436	+436	-274	\$1250
3.E. McCune	4141	7-5-0	210	4351	+351	-359	\$875
4.N. Kokenos	4111	8-4-0	240	4351	+351	-359	\$875



This column is dedicated to the Bowlers Journal International. They just celebrated their 100-year anniversary this month. I will be summarizing BJI articles periodically in the Josh Hyde Bowling Newsletter.

Last month, Lyle Zikes talked about the shorter formats for the Summer Swing tournaments. There were only 12 games for bowlers to get to the televised final on CBS Sports Network.

Last summer, the PBA had ten games of qualifying and sixteen games of modified round-robin. Bowling fans may not be happy with the new

shorter format, but the cream will always rise to the top. These bowlers are the best bowlers in the world. He also noted that the 2013 Summer Swing took two weeks, rather than just one in 2014.

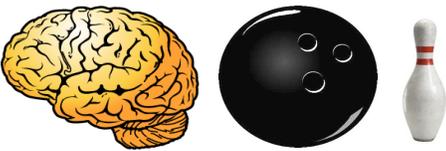
The PBA has definitely changed due to the lack of sponsorship money. However, I did hear Tom Clark say on Xtra Frame that they will

come out with another PBA schedule in the near future, so major bowling fans can be looking forward to this.

Zikes overviewed what was going to be happening at the 2014 Summer Swing. The Oklahoma Open had round robin match play based on the bowler's pinfall of the Bear, Wolf, and Badger Opens. The Swing had four shows

on Memorial Day weekend, in addition to hosting a PBA Southwest regional.

It is somewhat disappointing for the Swing to be shortened; however, bowling fans have to be optimistic that the PBA is doing the best it can. It will be interesting to see what the PBA may change next.



BOWLOLOGY

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

Cleaning a Bowling Ball

It is important to clean a bowling ball because the ball will lose its reaction as it is being used. The recommended time to clean the ball is every 60-80 games. To do this, a bowler will need a ball spinner, ball cleaner, and Abralon pads.

To start, place the ball in the spinner with the pin up. Start sanding the ball with 180 grit for about 30 sec-

onds. Time is important so the ball can be sanded evenly from side to side. Turn the ball 180 degrees and sand for the same amount of time. Turn the ball back to the pin up position. Repeat the same steps, but with 360 grit.

Sanding the ball smoother than 360 grit Abralon will negatively affect the ball's reaction. When the surface of the ball is too smooth, the ball will skid through the oil and will react more strongly to the dry.

Next, apply a small amount of

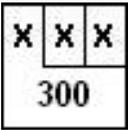


Remove All (by Brunswick) ball cleaner to remove the excess oil from the pores of the coverstock. Repeat these processes until the ball reaches the bowler's desired surface.

For more information on this process, the bowler needs to consult their pro shop operator.



Above: example of a ball spinner



The Importance of Xtra Frame

Many bowling fans are disappointed with how things are going with the PBA.

There is, however, a way to support the PBA *without* spending much money, *and* getting back in the process.

Last decade, the PBA was going to different cities and bowling tournaments. PBA members were not bowling a limited number of games to get to the televised finals on ESPN. Now they are.

There are differences, though, that this decade provides. Technology has given bowling fans even more opportunities to stay connected to these tournaments through Xtra Frame. Xtra Frame provides a live stream of every PBA national tournament, including all qualifying and match play.

So how does this help bowling fans? Instead of waiting to see the stepladder finals on television, fans can see all of the tournament their computer, phone, or tablet. This will give a glimpse on how a bowler is *really* doing on tour--both their struggles *and* successes.

Even more importantly, this helps the PBA. With additional subscribers, the PBA is able to increase sponsorships and use funding to improve its product. If the PBA got 700,000 more subscribers to Xtra Frame, they could do a number of things with this estimate \$40 million--new tournaments, bigger payouts, longer formats, etc.

Today, bowling fans have the chance to help make the PBA better than ever... or passively watch it struggle.

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



BARNES DOMINATES WOLF OPEN

The first day of the Summer Swing, Chris Barnes dominated the Wolf Open. He opened the tournament, with an 801 series for the first three games. He would average 256.5 to take the first round lead. He had a high game of 269 and a low game of 244. He had an amazing amount of strikes.

PBA defending champion Chris Loschetter bowled a big last game in the round of 18 to have a chance to defend his title. He would knock out Tommy Jones in the process.

This is quite the turnaround, considering Barnes struggled last year, finishing 17th in the Wolf Open.

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.