



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

**Volume 7**  
**Special Edition**  
**February 2015**



1999, 2000, 2002  
(no TOC in 2001)



1972, 1982, 1984

## Practice Pair

Hello, Bowling Fans!

Welcome to this special edition of **Josh Hyde's Bowling Newsletter**. This month I will be going to the 50th Anniversary of the Tournament of Champions. This tournament was the greatest professional tournament in the PBA's Golden Age. In this special edition bowling fans can enjoy history and statistical data from the Tournament of Champions. Every pro-bowler wanted to win the TOC, so take a look with me at some great PBA history in the Tournament of Champions.

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

-Josh Hyde

Senior Editor of Josh Hyde's Bowling Newsletter

## History

Joe Joseph won the first Tournament of Champions in 1962. Jack Biondolio bowled the first televised 300 game in 1967. Don Johnson would make five consecutive shows from '67-'71 including his famous 299 game against Dick Ritger's 268-game. This would be the highest scoring match that would be a record for 23 years. Jim Godman would become the first bowler to win the TOC Tournament twice. Just two years later after his '73 win, Dave Davis would become the second pro-bowler to win twice. This was followed by Earl Anthony in '78 who would become the third pro-bowler to win twice, also becoming the first bowler with 30 career titles. It would take five years before another pro-bowler, Mike Durbin, would win the TOC twice. Just two years later, Mike Durbin would write bowling history as he became the first bowler to have three TOC titles on his resume. Marshall Holman would become the third pro-bowler to surpass the \$1 million mark in career winnings when he won the '86 Tournament of Champions, allowing him to become the fifth pro-bowler to have multiple wins at the TOC. The following year, Pete Weber would win his first major and become the fastest bowler to win

10 PBA career titles. In '93 (the last year that Firestone sponsored the tournament), George Branham III would become the first African-American bowler to win the TOC by defeating Parker Bohn III 227-214. Two years later, Mike Aulby would become the fourth bowler to complete the Triple Crown and the first to complete the Grand Slam. In 2000, Jason Couch was the first bowler to successfully defend his TOC title. Two years later, Couch would make bowling history to three-peat the TOC and join Mike Durbin as the only bowlers to have three TOC titles and he earned his tenth career PBA Tour Title. In '08, the greatest comeback in TOC history occurred when Michael Haugen Jr. came back from a 50 pin deficit to win the TOC title against Chris Barnes 215 to 214. In '10, Kelly Kulick made history by becoming the first woman to win a PBA title, defeating Chris Barnes 265-195. In '11, Mika Koivuniemi would win the largest paycheck in PBA history (\$250K). In the semifinals, he bowled a 299 game while Tom Daugherty bowled the lowest game (100) in television history. In 2013, Pete Weber become the first player to complete the Triple Crown twice joining Earl Anthony with the most major titles (10) and the longest span between TOC titles.

History	1
Non-Champions in the CRA	2
Riviera Lanes Roster	2
TOC Facts	3
2015 TOC Storylines	4
TOC Champion Statistics	4
TOC Champion Statistics (Cont.)	5
Final Thoughts	6
- Final TOC Word	
- Quotes from former Champions	

### 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.*

## Non-Champions in CRA

At one time, The Tournament of Champions was at the pinnacle of professional bowling. As one of the four Majors, the TOC was at tournament that pro bowlers yearned to win. Furthermore, if a bowler made the championship round, they knew that they were one of the best. Making the championship round was indeed an honor. Great bowlers like Dick Weber and Parker Bohn III are two frontrunners poised to make the championship round in the TOC. They were legends of the PBA Tour in their era. Dick Weber was the first superstar of the PBA Tour and was one of the charter members of the PBA. In the TOC, he finished second two consecutive years. At that time, bowling fans might have expected him to win the Tournament of Champions. Then, when Pete Weber won in 1987, that solidified the "Weber Dynasty" on the PBA Tour.

The greatest bowler in PBA history, Walter Ray Williams, Jr. has never won the Tournament of Champions.

Even the greatest bowler has had his share of bad luck when it came to the championship round in the TOC. In 1989, he was the Tournament leader in the championship match. He would eventually lose to Del Ballard, Jr. 254-218. The bowling world has been anticipating Walter Ray Williams, Jr. to capture a T.O.C title (if not multiple titles) to go along with his 47 PBA wins.

Parker Bohn III is one of the greatest left-handed bowlers of all time. In 1995, he became the 14th bowler to earn over a million dollars in career earnings. He has a total of 3 TOC championship rounds and he came close to winning in 1993.

Ryan Shafer is perhaps the greatest bowler without a Major he is always threat in the Majors. Ryan had back to back runner-up finishes in 2000 and 2002 - his only loss was to Jason Couch.

All of the great bowlers who have made the TOC championship round are indeed the superstars in PBA history.

Bowler	App.
Dick Weber	4
Parker Bohn III	3
Randy Pedersen	3
Ryan Shafer	3
Walter Ray Williams Jr.	3
Dave Husted	3
Don Genalo	3
Tony Westlake	3
Don Genalo	3
Mark Baker	3
Mark Roth	3
Gary Dickinson	3
Larry Laub	3
Barry Asher	3
Teata Semiz	3



Walter Ray Williams, Jr.



Dick Weber

## Riviera Lanes Roster

"Through these doors pass the world's finest bowlers", read the sign above the entrance to the Riviera Lanes. Bowlers knew that they were about to enter their "Augusta". It was some place special for a pro-bowler to go to. If they went there, they knew that they were one of the best on the PBA Tour. It also meant that they had a PBA title. It was an elite bowling center where a high-caliber bowler could enter a tournament knowing they had a guaranteed check. No matter how bad they bowled, they made money. More importantly, it was for the prestige of bowling in a major tournament. They would automatically be invited back by winning the tournament.

Some of the greatest bowlers have had the honor of bowling a number of times at Riviera Lanes: Carmen Salvino, Dave Soutar, Mike Durbin, Dick Weber, and Gary Dickinson. They are all in the PBA Hall of Fame. Carmen Salvino was one of the Charter members of the PBA. Dick Weber was another PBA Charter member. All of these bowlers are some of the best bowlers in PBA history. If a bowler bowled at Riviera Lanes more than ten times, they were inching closer to their PBA Hall of Fame induction.

The TOC was held at Riviera Lanes for almost 30 years. Carmen Salvino had the most appearances with 26, which is an astonishing accomplishment for a bowler. Mike Durbin had made the most championship rounds at Riviera Lanes with 8. About one third of the times that he bowled in the TOC at Riviera, he made the championship round.

Riviera Lanes to bowlers was the equivalency of Augusta for golfers.



Carmen Salvino



Dave Soutar



George Pappas

Bowler	Total App
Carmen Salvino	26
Dave Soutar	25
Mike Durbin	25
Dick Weber	22
Gary Dickinson	22
George Pappas	22
Jim Stefanich	22
Nelson Burton Jr.	22
Johnny Petraglia	21
Mark Roth	20
Dave Davis	19
Marshall Holman	19
Don Johnson	17
Jim Godman	17

# TOC Facts

Josh Hyde's Bowling Newsletter

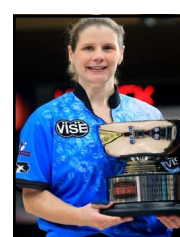
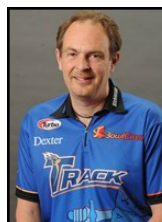
Volume 7 Special Edition

- Don Johnson and Dick Ritger had the highest scoring match in a championship game (299-268); a record that held for 23 years.
- Mike Aulby made five shows (1984, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989) before winning (1995)
- George Branham III became the first African-American bowler to win the TOC (1993)
- Willie Willis became the first African-American to qualify for the 1980 Firestone TOC when he won the National Resident Pro Championship (1979)
- Pete Weber made shows over three decades (1985, 1987, 1994, 2008, 2013, 2014) and won 26 years apart (1987, 2013)
- Eight bowlers have won as a rookie: Joe Joseph (1962), Billy Hardwick (1965), Johnny Petraglia (1971), Marshall Holman (1976), Mike Berlin (1977), Mark Williams (1985), Michael Haugen Jr. (2008), Kelly Kulick (2010)
- Earl Anthony became the first bowler to reach 30 titles when he won his second Firestone TOC in 1978.
- Jason Couch won three in a row 1999, 2000, 2002 becoming the first bowler to successfully defend his TOC title and he won his tenth career PBA Tour title.
- Four bowlers won multiple titles in a single decade: Earl Anthony (70s), Mike Durbin and Mark Williams (80s) and Jason Couch (2000s)
- Jim Godman became the first 2-time winner (1969, 1973)
- Jim Stefanich made 4 consecutive championship round television appearances (1967, 1968, 1969 and 1970)
- Mike Durbin made 8 total championship round appearances in the TOC from '67-'84, winning three ('72 '82 '84)
- Marshall Holman and Mike Durbin each won their titles a decade apart.
- Johnson made 5 consecutive championship round television appearances (1967-1971)
- Only 10 bowlers have made one championship round in winning the TOC title (Mike Berlin, Wayne Webb, Joe Berardi, Marc McDowell, George Braham III, Dave E'n-tremont, John Gant, Michael Haugen Jr., Patrick Allen, Kelly Kulick)
- Only one bowler has won each time that he made the championship round on television (Marshall Holman - 1976, 1986)
- Tournament leader has won 19 of 49 (38.78%)
- Bowlers have climbed the step-ladder 5 of 49 (10.20%)
- Wayne Webb, Earl Anthony, Mika Koivuniemi, Sean Rash, David Ozio, Norm Duke, Mike Aulby, and Wayne Zahn have all won the Tournament and then went on to win Player of the Year.
- The Tournament of Champions has had the highest tournament prize fund purse in PBA history and the

- highest first place prize of \$250,000 in 2011.
- The average winning game to win the tournament is 238.65.
- 
- In 1984 Mike Durbin become the first player to be inducted in the PBA Hall of Fame the same year that he won his third Tournament of Champions.
- In 1995, Parker Bohn III became the 14th bowler to surpass the one million dollar in career earnings when he made the championship round of the 1995 Brunswick World Tournament of Champions.
- Host cities history...Indianapolis:1962, 2013, 2015; Akron/Fairlawn: 1965-1994; Lake Zurich: 1995, 1996, 2000; Reno: 1997; Overland Park :1998, 1999; Uncasville: 2002-2007; Las Vegas: 2008-2012; Detroit: 2014



**Left to Right** -Norm Duke, Don Johnson, Dick Ritger, Wayne Webb, Mike Aulby, George Branham III, Mark Williams, Mika Koivuniemi, David Ozio, Earl Anthony, Pete Weber, Marshall Holman, Kelly Kulick,



## 2015 TOC Storylines

1. *Walter Ray Williams Jr.* is trying to become the first bowler to complete the Super Slam since Mike Aulby did in 1996, at the TPC. This would make Walter Ray the 2nd bowler to win every major. Which would make him the greatest bowler in PBA history.
2. *Jason Belmonte* is trying to become the 2nd bowler to defend his TOC title. He has been in the championship match the last 2 TOC's. He has had the chance to join Mike Durbin and Jason Couch of having 3 TOC titles.
3. *Pete Weber* has been successful in the majors at Woodland Bowl. This would make him the 3rd bowler to win 3 TOC crowns, if he is successful at this TOC. This would surpass Anthony 10 major titles with 11 major titles.
4. *Ryan Shafer* is trying to win his first major. Shafer is the greatest bowler without a major. He has always been close. In 2000 and 2002, he was the runner-up in the TOC. Stopping him was Jason Couch, who made his own history in the PBA.
5. *Norm Duke* is trying to become the second player in PBA history to complete the Triple Crown twice. He is also trying to join Walter Ray Williams, Jr. and Pete Weber—the only other player to complete the Triple Crown twice—as winning multiple majors at Woodland Bowl.
6. *Jason Couch* was the first player to win three Tournament of Champions in-a-row. Now, Couch is trying to become the first player to win four titles in the event, which would make him one of the greatest bowlers of all-time.
7. *Carmen Salvino* will be the oldest player in this year's Tournament of Champions field. Not only that, but this event will make him the oldest player ever in a PBA Tour event at the age of 81. Salvino was one of the founding members of the PBA in 1958.
8. *Kelly Kulick* is trying to become the first woman to win multiple Tournament of Champions titles. Along with this, she is also trying to win her second career PBA Tour title. This would be a great opportunity for her to emulate her 2010 form.

## TOC Champion Stats

The Tournament of Champions statistics chart (**see page 5**) is for the bowlers that won the TOC. It tells the year they won and how many times they made it to the championship round. It also states when they made a championship round consecutively. The chart tells bowling fans and bowling writers how dominate a bowler was in the TOC.

Mike Durbin made history in 1984 by becoming the first bowler to win three TOCs. He also became the first (and only) bowler to get inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame and win the TOC the same year. Durbin won his second TOC (and 10th title overall) in 1982 (10 years after his first TOC title) which was the longest span between titles assuring him a place in the PBA Hall of Fame. He would go on to make two more shows in '83 and '84.

Don Johnson might have been the greatest bowler that bowled in the TOC. He made five consecutive shows. He would shoot a 299 game for his title. He would go on to leave the ten pin on his final ball. That would deny him of a perfect game.

Jim Stefanich would make four shows with winning his first one in 1967. However, he fell short of his 5th consecutive CRA in the TOC, but was still one of the best at the TOC.

In 1973, Jim Godman became the first bowler to win the TOC twice. Bowling fans might have expected him to be the next Dick Weber because of that feat. To win the TOC twice is quite an accomplishment. Jim Godman was indeed one of the greatest pro bowlers in the PBA.

In 2000, Jason Couch became the first bowler to successfully defend his TOC title. In 2001, the tournament took a hiatus. In 2002, Jason once again enhanced his career by becoming the first bowler to win three consecutive TOC titles. He also joined Mike Durbin with having three TOC titles (also Couch's tenth overall title). That also enabled him to get in the PBA Hall of Fame.

The TOC was an elite bowling tournament comprised of the best pro bowlers. If he/she won it, they knew that they were one of the best.

## Tournament of Champions Statistics

Bowlers	# of Titles	# in the CRA	Consecutive Years in CRA	Years Between TOC Titles	Years in the TOC CRA
Mike Durbin	3-'72,82,84'	8	3-82-83-84	10,2	67,70,72,77,80,82,83,84
Pete Weber	2-'87,2013'	6	2-2013-2014	26	85,87,94,2008,13,14
Mike Aulby	1-'95'	7	4-86,87, 88,89	-	84,86,87,88,89,95,97
Marshall Holman	2-'76,86'	2	-	10	76,86
Jim Godman	2-'69,73'	3	-	4	69,73,75
Dave Davis	2-'68,75'	3	-	7	68,71,75
Mark Williams	2-'85,88'	4	2-88,89	3	85,88,89,98
Earl Anthony	2-'74,78'	4	2-74,75	4	74,75,78,80
Jason Couch	3-'99,2000,02	4	3-99,2000,2002	1,2	97,99,2000,02
Don Johnson	1-'70'	5	5-67,68,69,70,71	-	67-68-69-70-71
Wayne Webb	1-'80'	1	-	-	80
Steve Cook	1-'81'	3	2-81,82	-	81,82,84
Joe Berardi	1-'83'	1	-	-	83
Billy Hardwick	1-'65'	2	-	-	65,76
Joe Joseph	1-'62'	2	2-62,65	-	62-'65
Dave Ferraro	1-'90'	2	-	-	90, 93
George Pappas	1-'79'	3	-	-	72,79,84
Johnny Petraglia	1-'71'	2	-	-	71,74
Wayne Zahn	1-'67'	2	-	-	67-'69
David Ozio	1-'91'	2	-	-	91,99
Marc McDowell	1-'92'	1	-	-	92
George Branham III	1-'93'	1	-	-	93
Norm Duke	1-'94'	4	-	-	94,2000,05,07
Dave D'Entremont	1-'96'	1	-	-	96
Del Ballard Jr	1-'89'	2	-	-	89,90
John Gant	1-'97'	1	-	-	97
Bryan Goebel	1-'98'	2	-	-	98,2005
Steve Jaros	1-'2005'	4	2-2005,2006	-	94,2000,05,06
Chris Barnes	1-'2006'	5	-	-	99',2006,07,08,10
Mike Berlin	1-'77'	1	-	-	77
Tommy Jones	1-'2007'	3	2-2006,'2007	-	2006,07,13
Patrick Healey Jr	1-'2003'	2	-	-	95,2003
Jason Belmonte	1-'2014'	3	3-'2012,'2013,'2014	-	2012,13,'14
Mika Koivuniemi	1-'2011'	2	2-2010,'2011	-	2010,11
Patrick Allen	1-'2009'	1	-	-	2009
Michael Haugen Jr	1-'2008'	1	-	-	2008
Kelly Kulick	1-'2010'	1	-	-	2010
Sean Rash	1-'2012'	2	2-2012.'2013	-	2012,13
Jim Stefanich	1-'67'	4	4-67,68,69,70	-	67-68-69-70

## A Final Word on the 2015 TOC

It was an honor to work on a PR kit for the 50th Tournament of Champions. It always has been a dream of mine to make some type of contribution to a PBA Tournament. The kit will be available for bowling writers and fans at the tournament in Indianapolis.

The two people I want to thank are Roger and Bambi Hyde, my dad and my mom. They have been there for me. My dad introduced me to the great sport of bowling, and my mom always took me to PBA Tournaments. She also made bean bag bowling balls for me to play with at home when I was a kid, and sewed patches on my bowling shirts. Thank you, Mom and Dad.

I would also like to thank the PBA and PBA Commissioner Tom Clark for giving me the oppor-

tunity to showcase my Tournament of Champion project.

I went to my first TOC in 2000 when Jason Couch became the first bowler to defend his TOC title. In 2013, I went to my second TOC tournament where I saw Pete Weber tie Earl Anthony with ten Major titles and become the first player in PBA history to complete the triple crown twice.

I will be attending my third TOC in February. I plan to write up a summary of the qualifying and match play rounds of the tournament and send these out to my mailing list. The first report will be on the 2015 PBA Hall of Fame ceremony. If you are going to the tournament, look me up. I would love to visit with you.

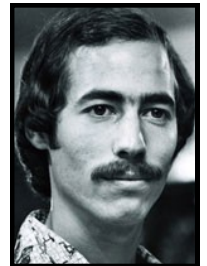
I am really excited about this year's tournament. See you there!

## Quotes from Former TOC Champions



"Greatest day of my life! It makes you feel complete knowing you're an elite bowler."

- Wayne Webb  
- 20 PBA Titles  
- 1980 T.O.C Champion



"It was a big surprise in 1976. It was a thrill beating Billy Hardwick. In 1986, it was a thrill winning because it put me over a million dollars in my career funding."

- Marshall Holman  
- 22 PBA titles  
- 1976 and 1986 T.O.C. Champion

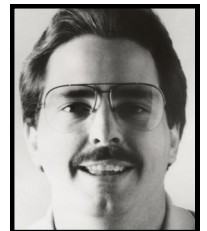
"The highlight of my career, the one I am known for, is the third title in 1984. The 1982 [title] assured me a spot in the PBA Hall of Fame."



- Mike Durbin  
- 15 PBA titles  
- 1972, 1982, and 1984 T.O.C. Champion

"I always enjoyed bowling in the TOC because the field is only champions, the venue is always one of the best, the history of the tournament and the list of past champions is among the best. I could not have dreamed a better outcome than to double in the tenth to win the title and complete the Triple Crown. One of my favorite bowling moments in my career."

- Mike Aulby  
- 29 PBA titles  
- 1995 T.O.C. Champion



"Winning the 1979 Firestone Tournament of Champions was the highlight of my career. Not only was the victory a PBA title, but it is one of the PBA's 4 tournaments that is classified as a MAJOR title. The great players focus on winning the major tournaments more than the regular PBA tournaments as there are only 4 of them annually. Additionally, the prize funds are higher for the major tournaments. I am the only bowler ever to have led the Tournament of Champions" wire to wire. Memories of that tournament are and always will be very special."

- George Pappas  
- 10 PBA titles  
- 1979 T.O.C. Champion



"I was absolutely thrilled to win my first Tournament of Champions, let alone win two more. You do not get many chances to win majors. I feel very lucky to have won my three TOC's and it was a 'MAJOR' part of my career."

- Jason Couch  
- 16 PBA titles  
- 1999, 2000, and 2002 T.O.C. Champion

