

Josh Hyde's Bowling Newsletter



Hello, Welcome to the fifth issue of the Josh Hyde's Bowling Newsletter. In this edition, we will be talking about the new formats for the 2008-09 Denny's PBA tour season. Also there will be a new section called the Kingpin Column. Please read the next page for more information about the new column.

This year the PBA is using different formats for each swing. They still have the four majors which are the PBA World Championship, the US Open, the Tournament of Champions, and the USBC Masters. The Tournament of Champion's format is going back to the original format of 24 games of qualifying and cutting to the top 24 players for 24 more games of round robin. This year, they are having two "Swings". The first Swing is called the Versatility Swing. These tournaments are standard format such as they qualify 14 games then they cut to the top 32 for single elimination or round robin formats. The other Swing is called the Extreme Swing. These formats call for a unique and interesting way to see what player comes out on top. For more information on the Extreme Swing formats, log onto www.pba.com and open the article "New Formats for New Era".

Two examples of the Extreme Swing formats are Marathon and Eliminator. In the Marathon, they are opening the field so anybody can bowl. The first two days, everybody will bowl 18 games (2 days of nine games), and then they cut to the top 53 bowlers for the rest of the tournament. On days three thru six, they will bowl 36 more games with no match play and then cut to the top five for the TV show. The leading qualifier will get to choose the pattern for the championship round.

Another example of the Extreme Swing is the Eliminator Championship. This tournament is like a high roller format, where the players will bowl 14 games for qualifying. After qualifying, the field will be cut to the top 16, where there will be four groups of four, with eventually the top bowler advancing to the championship round. For more information on this format log on to pba.com.



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In this month's edition of the Josh Hyde's bowling newsletter and in months to come, I will be introducing **The King Pin Column**. This column will consist of a moment in history and an interview with someone in the bowling industry. I hope you enjoy this new addition to **Josh Hyde's Bowling Newsletter**.

Moments in history

The PBA world championship has been a history maker in years past. There have been two significant things in the PBA world championship besides Walter Ray tying Earl Anthony's record of 41 titles. The first is Earl Anthony winning the PBA National Championship to go over the one million dollar mark in career earnings, also Pete Weber winning the PBA world championship to become the third player to win the Triple Crown. All three of these, I believe, were very important moments in history. In 2006 PBA history repeated itself for a third time with Walter Ray and Pete Weber bowling for the championship, but even more so, because it was the best of the best. When Pete Weber made the 4-7-9 split, I thought, "GAME ON!" I knew it was going to be close.

The match between Walter Ray and Pete Weber was like watching Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer at Augusta going for their eighth green jacket between the both of them. This is why, of all the tournaments I have been to, this one has been the top of everything. I will never forget this PBA World Championship.

Interview of the month



Mike Wolfe

Q: What do you think of the '08-'09 season with the different type of formats?

A: *I personally am not in favor of some of the formats, but agree with a few of the ideas the PBA has brought forward. I don't feel we need a different pattern on each lane as it has been announced, we need a segment during the show to help educate the viewers, not something that people won't understand and make us look bad at the same time.*

Q: Do you think Pete Weber & Walter Ray are the PBA's main rivalry today? Why or why not?

A: *I think there are many other rivalries on tour that the PBA is unaware of or doesn't want to bring forward. There is a plethora of talent on the PBA tour and some interesting records or personal interest between players that are rivalries but not main stream names that the PBA is looking for...And I think Barnes and Walter is a bigger rivalry because of the amount of shows that both players makes.*

Q: What do you think of the Marathon Championship?

A: *I think this tournament is one of the better ideas from the PBA although I don't think there should be a cut after any rounds. This will be a great tournament of skill and desire, and maybe as big a reward to the winner as a major would be*

Q: How would you feel about a PBA Tour playoff?

A: *I feel a playoff would be a great chance for the PBA. It would add drama and spark interest to the fans of the PBA and end the season the way all professional sports end theirs*

CONCLUSION

As you have read in this edition of the Josh Hyde's Bowling Newsletter, the PBA is doing all kinds of different tournament formats. I think it is great that they are doing this because this might bring a PBA tour play off. Maybe one day we will see the last few tournaments be a PBA tour playoff where they would cut the field to a certain number of bowlers to play in the last tournament of the year. I think it would be great for the Denny's PBA tour because you the fan can see if your top 2 players are going to meet for the championship. They are partially doing this with the PBA match play championship, except they are not making any cuts for the next tournament. My hope is that they would really get some excitement going for the PBA. In 2001, Ian Hamilton said that the PBA needed rivalry. In the first 3 or 4 tournaments of 2007-2008 season, Walter Ray and Pete Weber met in the round of 8. Notice that they did not meet in the championship round or a game. They could have met in the championship game at the Lake County Classic but both Pete and Walter Ray got beat in the round of 8. When I went to the 2007 USBC Masters Sean Rash made the comment that Walter Ray and Pete Weber were meeting earlier in the tournament than they should be. I couldn't agree more with Sean Rash, if you want to create a rivalry, you have to let them meet at the right time instead of in the early part of the bracket. I can't wait to see what happens in the '08-'09 season with all of the new Denny's PBA Tour format.

Thank you for reading this edition of the Josh Hyde Bowling Newsletter!



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