

# Josh Hyde's Bowling Newsletter



In this month's edition of the Josh Hyde Bowling Newsletter, we will be talking about the Etonic Marathon Open and a pro-am benefit tournament. We will also be talking with Tony Reyes, so enjoy this month's edition.

For the first time in 50 years, the Lumber Liquidators PBA Tournament had a tournament where it was all qualifying and no match play. This created a very interesting twist to the tournament. The players weren't accustomed to not having match play. Another interesting twist was that the PBA tour used other oil patterns that they had been using all year. As a player, you could not have just one or two plans of attack; you had to have multiple plans. The reason is because they had a different pattern every round that they bowled. This was a tournament where the cream of the crop definitely came out on top.

There were several players that did well in the first round, but they did not make it to the top 18 game cut. After the first day, the cut was at +74, but it only went up 47 pins at the end of round 2; scores tumbled down. Eight out of the top ten in the PBA point rankings made the cut. It was also interesting predicting a number for the TV show. Although when you have round robin match play, you have a number for the TV show but nobody talks about it that way. Ronnie Russell snuck in the top 53 and then made a high jump on the scorpion pattern. He got a 300 game in the last game on that pattern and made a huge jump going from 49<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>. As you can tell, anything could have happened in a tournament like this. Wes Malott led after 27 games and never looked back. He is definitely Mr. Versatility because he can hit every pattern that the PBA has. Although he had a harder time on the Earl Anthony pattern, he built up an 85 pin lead to help him maintain his position. However on the shark pattern, he was back on track to dominate the field by 223 pins over Pete Weber. On the last day, Pete Weber came back from 13<sup>th</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup>. The morning of the last day he had two 270 games that vaulted him to 5<sup>th</sup> place for the tournament. Then in the evening block he kept on striking and ended up qualifying 2<sup>nd</sup> for the TV show. So as you can tell, anything can happen with a long format.



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## Moments in history

The year was 1998, my family purchased a van for me so that it was easier for me to get around even though it put a lot of financial burden on us. This impacted our annual trip to the Indianapolis tournament because we needed to cut it out of the budget. Parker Bohn III called us and asked when we were going down and we had to tell him the news that we were only going to be able to stay a day or two instead of the traditional week. He asked if he could help raise money for the van. He was going to do a free exhibition show at my home bowling center, but I came up with the idea to have a pro-am. I told him I wanted him to ask the pro's that I wanted to bowl in the Pro-Am. By this time my dad was ready to kill me, but as it turned out, I got 6 great guys. They were: Mike Aulby, Parker Bohn III, Jason Couch, Doug Kent, Mike Miller, and Curtis Odom. It turned out to be a great day. I got to throw out the first ball. They rigged up all the pins of all 12 lanes and as a result the pins all fell down creating a 300 game. It was 2 squads of pro-am and 1 exhibition match and some trick shot action. Along with some memorabilia raffled off, the players were giving away their shirts and balls to the kids. The players showed their true spirit because they were in Wichita prior to my pro-am and they had to be back to Kansas City by 4:00 the next day for Tournament of Champions obligations. The players did it for no money. Thanks to the bowlers it was a great day to remember and we raised \$25,000 to help pay for the van.



## Interview of the month : Tony Reyes

**Q:** How was your experience with the 50 year anniversary celebration? Any special moments?

**A:** I had a great time out in Vegas. I met many great players. My favorite moment was watching Norm Del Ballard get inducted in the Hall of Fame.

**Q:** How was the Etonic Marathon Open this week?

**A:** The marathon was a fun tournament, but probably needed an extra cut or two to eliminate some of the bowlers who weren't doing as well.

**Q:** Who do you think will be the 08'-09' PBA player of the year? Why?

**A:** Wes Malott should be the player of the year, unless Norm or Patrick Allen makes a run at the US Open. If they make a show there in New Jersey, they could catch the Beast!

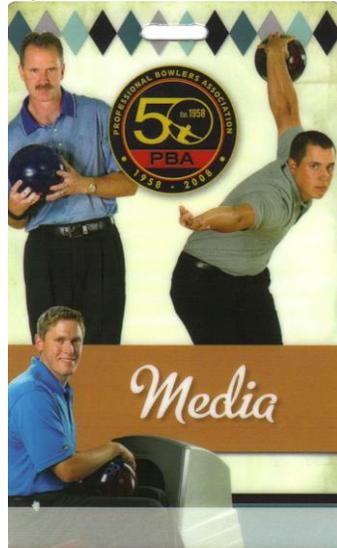
**Q:** What was the greatest moment in PBA history in your opinion? Why?

**A:** It was when Don Johnson shot 299 in the TOC. He was a true ambassador; it was more because of his reaction.

# CONCLUSION

As I watched the Etonic Marathon Open unfold, I couldn't help but notice what Eddie Elias tried to do 50 years ago. The Etonic Marathon open proved that the cream of the crop does rise to the top if you let the pins carry forward and this is exactly what happened. The cream of the crop did rise to the top at this tournament and this is what Eddie Elias wanted to have for a premier bowling league. They had all of the patterns in one week which made the players really have to think about how they needed to attack the lanes. As a bowler, you could not just have one ball lay out or have one attack on the lanes. After every round, you had to come up with a different strategy for each round. This is because you had more than just one patterns, not just one for the tournament. More events need to be like this on the Lumber Liquidators PBA Tour. However, I think there should have been more than one cut. All in all it was a great tournament to watch.

Thanks for reading this edition of the Josh Hyde newsletter!



Josh Hyde's media credentials from the Lumber Liquidators PBA Tour. Just in time for the Tournament in Indianapolis!



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