Australia's Jason Belmonte Wins Historic PBA World Championship "Instant classic" includes two sudden-death roll-offs, unprecedented third major title in a single season

RENO, Nev. - Australia's Jason Belmonte re-wrote the Professional Bowlers Association record book again, winning his ninth career major championship with a thrilling 238-225 victory over top qualifier Jesper Svensson of Sweden in the PBA World Championship at the National Bowling Stadium. With the win. Belmonte became the first player in PBA's 60-year history to win three major championships in a single season.

The PBA World Championship, the final tournament of the 2017 Go Bowling! PBA Tour season, aired Sunday on ESPN as part of the GEICO PBA World Series of Bowling

IX, presented by Eldorado Resorts Reno Properties. Belmonte's 16th career PBA Tour title was worth \$60,000, and it moved him into sole possession of third place on PBA's list of alltime major titlists behind PBA legends Earl Anthony and Pete Weber who both won 10 majors.

In addition to his historic victory, Belmonte was part of the first nationally-televised PBA Tour event that included two sudden-death roll-offs, one of which gave the two-handed Australian star his shot at the title.

"That's going to go down as one of the most exciting shows in a long time," said Belmonte, who added the PBA World Champi-



onship to his collection of major titles that includes two PBA Tournament of Champions, two PBA Players Championship and an

unprecedented four United States Bowling Congress Masters titles. At age 34, he is a U.S. Open title away from the PBA Triple Crown (U.S. Open, TOC and PBA World Championship, Grand Slam (Triple Crown plus Masters) and the "Super Slam" (Grand

Slam plus Players Championship).

Since winning his first major in the 2011 PBA continued on page 9



FAIRLAWN - Reigning King of Bowling Wes Malott will defend his title for the third time in another special Xtra Frame pay-forview showdown that will take place at AMF Riviera Lanes in Fairlawn, Ohio, prior to the start of the PBA Tournament of Champions. Fans will again be invited to vote to select his opponent.

Xtra Frame, PBA's online bowling channel, will stream the best-of-threegame exhibition event live at 6:30 p.m. Eastern on Tuesday, Feb. 6.

Voting will take place in two parts. From Jan. 15-19, fans will be invited to vote on pba.com for four players from a list of former Tournament of Champions winners who are entered in

this year's event. The top four vote-getters will then advance to a ballot where fans can vote for one player on either pba.com or Twitter from Jan. 22-26. The player receiving the most votes will challenge Malott for the title.

Fans can purchase a one-time subscription to watch the event for \$2.99

continued on page 4



Xframe at Action Lanes January 6th QUALIFY AT 4:00 PM AND WIN - GET \$500 BONUS \$1,000 Min. 1st and up to \$2,000 1st with BONUSES

EL MONTE – Xframe Bowlers Tour will be hosted by popular Action Lanes in El Monte Saturday January 6th in our first event of

\$1,000 Min. 1st and up to \$2,000 1st with BO-**NUSES**

Two Qualifying Squads at 4:00pm (\$500 Bonus) & 6:00pm with Beat the Board Finals to follow at 8:15 PM. All Semi Finalists will cash.

As always women will

qualify on a separate board. First Place as always will be \$1,000 Min. and up to \$2,000 will be possible.

The \$10 Xframe Bonus pays in the top 3 places. Bonuses include \$500 if you qualify at 4:00pm and win the event.

New members are welcome at up to 220 average. Men and Women. No membership fee at this time!

Senior Men 62+ and Ladies 55+ qualify for the senior board.

Action Lanes is located at 10534 Lower Azusa Rd in El Monte.

The phone there is 626-

THE MATCH GAME CARRIED OVER at CAL with a (273) and is estimated at \$2,500 at Action

January 13th we will return to popular West Covina Lanes in West Covina.

Call Bob 562 868-7164. Cell 562-228-3960. or Jeff 909 - 702 - 3369



Bowling Calendar by Bette Addington

JANUARY

- 6 EBI Harley's Valley Bowl Scratch 6 Gamer, 5:30pm, Harley Valley Bowl, Simi Valley
- 6 Xframe Tournament, Actin Lanes, El Monte, 562/228-3960
- 6-2/4 $\,$ 53rd Livermore Valley Tourn. (LVT), Granada Bowl, granada
bowl.com
 - 7 San Joaquin Bowling Club Trios Tourn., 9am, KC Bowl, Hanford, 559/385-8837
 - 7 Scratch 6-Gamer TOC, 12 noon, Yosemite Lanes, Modesto, 209/524-9161
 - 13 Xframe Tournament, West Covina Lanes, West Covina, 562/228-3960
- 13-14 5th Tony Reyes Memorial Adult-Youth Tourn., 4th Street Bowl, San Jose
- 13-26 Pepsi Youth League Level Qualifying
- 14-18 BPAA Bowling Summit 2018, Buttes Marriott, Phoenix, AZ, bpaa.com
 - 15 CUSBC 2018 Award Applications for Annual State Awards due, calcusbc.com
 - 20 Central Valley Masters Singles Handicap Tournament, 10am & 2pm, West Valley Bowl, Tracy, centralvalleymasters.com
- 20-21 USA Bowling Pacific Southwest Regional Youth Qualifying, Cloverleaf Family Bowl, Fremont
- 21 HammerPins Open/Scratch 8-Gamer, 10am, Travis AFB, hammerpins.net
- 26-28 CBT Las Vegas Doubles, \$3k, Gold Coast, Las Vegas, cbtbowling.com
- 26-28 IGBO Women's Invitational Tourn. of So. Cal., Kearney Mesa Bowl, San Diego
- 27-28 CCUSBC Women's Open Championships, Freeway Lanes, Selma, 559/323-9402

28-2/4 - True Amateur Tour. Nationals, The Orleans, Las Vegas, 1/844-321-8100

Calendar brought to you by California Bowling Writers (www.calbowlingwriters.org

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CALIFORNIAN'S Disappoint at PBA World Championship

by Frank Weiler

RENO - JASON BELMONTE won the PBA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP, his sixteenth national title and his ninth major. Amazing stuff. More amazing though was the disappointing performance of our CALIFORNIA bowlers.

My wife Therese and myself were there in person to watch in amazement when we had no Californian to cheer for in the finals. Worse yet only one Californian (DAR-REN TANG of San Francisco) made the cut into the casher's round of the Top 49!

Darren finished thirty-ninth, winning \$2,600. He averaged 223 for sixty games of qualifying. The qualifying was competed on the four original animal patterns (Chameleon, Cheetah, Scorpion and Shark). During the Shark qualifying rounds Darren rolled a 300 game, one of only nine bowled on that pattern.

Why didn't Californian's do better at the World Championship? I think it comes down to experience and migration. Most of bowlers from California were young and inexperienced. Most of our bowlers had just a year or two of PBA experience. Second, many of our best have emigrated to reside in other states. For example, Josh Blanchard and Mike Haugen live in Arizona and Walter Ray Williams in Florida.

There may be other physical, mental or technical reasons behind our disappointing performance in Reno but I am not privy to any insider information that I can share

Hopefully we will do better next year as our bowlers gain more experience. Maybe we can coax Jason Belmonte to migrate to the Golden State or get Blanchard and Haugen to return to us!

RUSTY BRYANT Lessons by Appointment



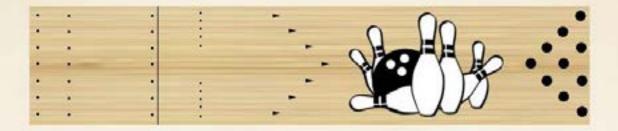
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King of the Hill continued from page 1

beginning by visiting www.xtraframe.tv.

Malott won the original King of Bowling in 2009 in Lake Worth, Fla. and successfully defended his title when the event was revived after an eight-year absence in April in Portland, Maine. Malott, 40 years old and a 10-time, Hall of Fame-eligible PBA competitor when the special event was revived in Maine, rolled games of 238, 256 and 227 for a 721 three-game total pinfall series and a convincing victory over 2016 PBA Player of the Year EJ Tackett of Huntington, Ind., and Jason Belmonte of Australia, who recorded 664 and 640 series, respectively.

In the second edition of the renewal in Shawnee, Okla., in June, Malott faced Tommy Jones of Simpsonville, S.C., who had been selected by PBA fans, in a best-of-three-game match. Jones won first match, 278-200, but Malott rallied to win the next two games, 258-238 and 212-204, to retain his crown.



Merry Christmas to 3 Fine Ladies

During the 6:00 PM Xframe squad we honored our members with gifts for Christmas. Doing well (Left to Right) Leah Borillo who won a Storm 3 Ball Bag, Beth Borci and Marife Catalasan won the STORM High Performance Balls of their choice courtesy of Our Sponsor "Storm", who will ship them the ball of their choice at right is Jeff Taino Xframe director.



Merry Christmas John

Ever a gentleman John Armenia had his name pulled in the Xmas Event for a nice Intense Hi performance Ball made by Storm. John is one of the Good Guys and well deserving. At right is Jeff Taino who offers congratulations.



TAT Bound!! Alan Aguilar and Jessica Garcia Who Won TAT 2018 Entries at the Orleans 2018

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Xframe Bowling Tournament Club

Jamiee Pamintuan is the Christmas Champion at Cal Bowl Vic Paolucci Runner-up \$1,000 • Edmond Del Mundo 3rd \$500

Sol Cericos 4th \$250 • Many Christmas Gifts/Drawings Approx \$2,000 Worth Action Lanes Saturday January 6th \$2,000 1st with Bonuses - Match Game Estimated \$2,600!

LAKEWOOD pretty young lady won the Xframe Christmas Event with a fine display of bowling, taking home \$3,500 for her fine effort downing Vic Paolucci in the title.

It was a Two-Day Event which began Friday evening with a \$1,500,000 BONUS. One qualifying squad with Men +119 and Ladies +113 making the cut to the Semifinals Saturday evening.

Cut scores Saturday were +100 Men and +105 Ladies making the 8 Elimination Finals.

Added Seniors to the board were Leonardo Caldoza +94, Sun Sundara +88, Alan Aguilar +81 and Cezar Marcella +61. For the Women: Ella Chan +65 and Beth Borci +54.

Now the 8:30 PM finals began with 37 Bowlers/Cashers taking to the lanes for 3 games. The top 8 would advance to another game with two women and one senior minimum guaranteed. Others cashing accordingly.

Bowlers will now bowl one game to make the TOP 5 and they were: Jo Jo Barcelona, Ed Del Mundo, Vic Paolucci, Sol Cericos and of course Jaimee, sitting out to bowl in the title match. The others to cash in top 16 and cashed accordingly per their pin fall.

They bowled the one game match and Vic Paolucci was tops 255, to meet Jaimee for the title. 3rd was Edmond Del Mundo, 4th Sol Cericos and 5th Jo Jo Barcelona.

The title game was on and it was close but Vic lost his shot and Jaimee on her game shot 246 to win her second title with Victorio coming in 2ndwith a 210 and \$500. Jaimee was on her game, she got the \$1,500 Friday Bonus also, totaling \$3,500.

This was a nice event and we finished the final Ball at ((12:15AM)).

Jaimee Pamintuan is from Cerritos and single!! She used a Roto Grip Sinister drilled by Ben Mach at Westminster Lanes. This is her second Xframe title! She is a sweet and unassuming young lady and a very good bowler. Her dad is an Xframe member and usually there every week. her pretty mom Virgie was on hand for support.



Jaimee Pamintuan Wins Xframe Christmas Event at Cal Bowl \$3,500

Vic Paolucci Runner-up \$1,000. Edmond Del Mundo 3rd \$500, Sol Cericos 4th \$250 Many Gifts and Prizes awarded \$2,000 worth to our bowlers by drawing. We bowl at Action Lanes in El Monte Saturday. New Members Welcome. (L-R) Bobby Campagnale Xframe Aide, Leonardo Caldoza 7th, Sol Cericos 4th, Virgie Proud Mother of her Daughter Champion Jaimee Pamintuan, Edmond Del Mundo 3rd, Vic Paolucci 2nd and Jeff Taino Xframe founder.

A great family here folks. Congrats to you Jaimee!! I have known her parents for a long time. Great People!!

Vic Paolucci Friend" hails from Orange, and a regular Xframe member! He used a Hammer Gauntlet drilled by Mike Diaz at Deer Creek Lanes.

Edmond Del Mundo, the

king of Glassel Park, used a Storm Fire drilled by Memo at Chaparral Lanes. Edmond is married to a pretty lady Jean!

Our Champ Jaimee drew the Match Game, she drew an unpopular 273. So, we estimated the Match Game at \$2,600 Saturday at Action Lanes.

Thank you to those who participated or helped! Thanks to Cal Bowl for hosting us, we will return there in near future.

Join us Saturday Janu-

El Monte. There are TWO Qualifying Squads 4:00 & 6:00 PM, finals at 8:00PM. NOTE: Qualify at 4:00 PM and win and you'll get a \$500 Bonus.

Action Lanes is located at 10534 Lower Azusa Rd. with easy access from either the 605, or 10, or 210 freeways. Phone there (626) 350-8831.

The following week January 13th we will bowl at Popular West Covina Lanes.

PLEASE CHECK IN ary 6th at Action Lanes in EARLY! See YOU there!!







\$500 Bonus @ 4 PM Squad

Bowler must qualify and win the event.

Xframe Bowling Tour

SATURDAY Jan. 06, 2018

Contact: Bob Smith (H)562-868-7164 (C)562-228-3960

Contact: Jeff Taino (C)909-702-3369

Contact: Vuong Do (C)714-622-0842

ACTION LANES

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SEMI FINALS: Bowl 3 games "BEAT THE BOARD" Bowler with the

highest Series win the event. Oil Pattern: Sport Shot

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- 2. MAXIMUM AVERAGE IS 220. HANDICAP IS BASED ON 90% OF 220. (Sport Ave. convertion)
- 3. MAXIMUM HANDICAP IS 60 FOR MEN OR WOMEN. EXCEPT FOR SOME SENIORS IS 65.
- 4. SEPARATE QUALIFYING FOR MEN, WOMEN, AND SENIOR.
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- 5. SOME LOCAL TOURNAMENT AVERAGES ARE SUBJECT FOR APPROVAL.
- 6. ONLY TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS CAN MAKE DECISIONS AND RERATE BOWLERS ANY TIME.

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1ST Place \$1000+\$500 Xframe Bonus+\$500 SQD Bonus = \$2000 2ND Place \$500+\$250 Xframe Bonus = \$750

Optional: Side Pots: \$7, Brackets: \$5, Match Game 3: \$5

ENTRY FEE: \$55 RE-ENTRIES: \$50 & REDUCED ENTRY:\$40 (50% PRIZE OR BONUS)

Optional Xframe Bonus: \$10

QUALIFYING RATIO: MEN 1:5 WOMEN 1:4 AGE FOR SENIORS: MEN @62 AND WOMEN @55

Cal Bowl - Dec. 15-16, 2017

			,
	Name	Score	Prize I
1	Pamintuan, Jaimee	789	1000
2	Paolucci, Victorio	732	500
3	Del Mundo, Edmond	698	250
4	Cericos, Sol	702	125
5	Barcelona, Jojo	773	225
6	Barraca, Jonathan	703	200
7	Caldoza, Leonardo (1/2 entry)		90
8	Marcella, Cezar	719	160
9	Licauco, John Henry	686	120
10	Palma, Ed	686	120
11	Sundara, Sun	686	120
12	Borillo, Leah	683	95
13	Manuel, Kelly	682	90
14	Magno, Sarah	679	85
15	Catalasan, Marife	676	78
16	Marquez, Beatriz	676	78
17	Borillo, Romeo	669	70
18	Quach, Du	669	65
19	Aguilar, Alan S	661	65
20	Vejar, Carlos	659	65
21	Armenia, John	657	65
22	Licauco, Thomas	655	65
23	Chavez, Benjamin	650	65
24	Borci, Beth	647	65
25	Gabriel, Jeje	646	65
26	Bolanos, Joevin	641	65
27	Eguilos, Danny	638	65
28	Ferguson(RH), Lordan	633	65
29	Saucedo, Jimmy	629	65
30	Villaroman, Ted	627	65
31	Toro, Floyd_	626	65
32	Townsend, Dean	622	65
33	Agoncillo, Annaliza	615	65
34	Catalasan, Tres	596	65
35	Pamintuan, Bert	595	65
36	Chan, Ella (1/2 entry)	584	33
37	Zamora, Freddy	561	65

FINANCIAL REPORT **CUT SCORES:**

Friday

Men: + 119 Women: + 113

Saturday

Men: + 100 Women: + 105

Seniors:

Men: + 61 Women: + 65

HIGH QUALIFER (FREE ENTRY) Men: Edmund Del Mundo +172 Women: Marife Catalasan +177

MATCH GAME: 273 - \$1,875 - NO WINNER Prize Fund\$4,674.00 Sidepots\$1,080.00

X-Frame Bonus......\$1,875.00





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La Habra "300" Bowl

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by Ed Saleh

LA HABRA - Have a Safe and Happy New Year! SUNDAY - Vegas Rollers: Andre Ontiveros 255, Derek Lee 247/724, Scott Schneider 631, Sylvia Robinson 233/598, Alexis Gioia 197, Pam Bathalter 195. Wally's Vegas Cruise: Leo Moreno 257/757, Jason Amaro 235/637, Brian Bendt 229/649, Erin LaBrada 242/629, Marcia Buettner 213.

MONDAY - Lake Parkers: Larry McCurry 268/607, Al Scudellari 216, Brian parker 204, Cathy Richardson 198. Golden Awards: Bob Ward 233, Bob Esler 228, Jerry Rudd 618, Larry Green 618. Whittier Elks: Dave Stiltz 268/634, Mike Dunn 225, Mike Shaw 207. Gamblers Fun: Mark Vasquez 235/634, Todd Pakulski 220, Rich Pollock 207

TUESDAY - Glenbrook Gals: Nancy Foxhall 192, Kathy Tielrooy 181. Friendly Seniors: Irv Cravatt 239, Raul Ortega 201, Margaret Nye 222. Guys & Dolls: Vince Marano 229, Brandon Webb 226, Rick Moffat 223. Ageless Wonders: Tom Denker 215, Ken Hurley 213, Dean Burdett 212, Kathy Burdett 198.

WEDNESDAY - Silver Foxes: Bob Ward 255/667, Bill Edwards 245, Ed Jamison 649, Jenny Campbell 207, Randi Hein 198. American National Can: Off.

THURSDAY - Karen Balicki 205, Donna Juergens 200, Stacie Davis 195. Sunset Rollers: Bill Scherger 215, John Mulay 189. All Schools: Bob Ward 237. Frank's Gold Cup: Kevin Jones 278, Doug Emerson 269/725, Richard Tucker 726, Marlow Dinger 700.

FRIDAY - Vegas Gamblers: Kevin Jones 268/728, Ken Maxey Jr. 267/739, Rick Vanderhaar 265, Mike Fowler 687, Tee Delgado 233, Nikki Pasillas 211.

Until next week, GOOD LUCK and HIGH SCORING!



Linbrook Bowl

201 S Brookhurst St. Anaheim, CA 92804 (714) 774-2253 by Joy McGregor

AHAHEIM - Juan Sandoval gave himself an early birthday present Friday morning in the 590 Classic as he rolled games of 258-257 and 214 for 729 and added 192. He posted a nice 921 set and was the only bowler to reach the magic 900. HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Juan and a very nice ending to 2017 and also a fine beginning to a New Year!!

Only a handful of bowlers mastered challenging lane conditions and accomplished noteworthy series: Dan Milstead was very consistent in his games of 224-221-194 and 221 to score 860. David Yeoman was on his game, shooting 201-246-188 and 223 to post 858. Chris Hefner shot 245/853, Alan Bloom rolled 245/850 and Carl Adinolfi tossed 229/847.

Hot Games: Frank Bellinder 237, Gary Coultas 235, Don Gardner 221, Terry Brent 225, Steve sparks 223, Nick Lam 221, Blake Douglass 221, Dan Baker 220, Orlando Vanegas 212, Al Lara 212, Larry Green 211, Teri Hefner 210, Rose Williams 208, Mark Guillaume 207, Makcha Nelson 206, Sandy Magana 206, Nancy Smith 204, Andrea Fredericks 203, Rob Roberts 203, Cheryl Munson 202, Norm Walker 202 and Hong Kha 201. HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL.

This Week's Puzzle Solution

9	7	6	4	2	5	8	1	3
5	2	4	1	3	8	9	7	6
1	8	3	7	6	9	2	5	4
3	5	1	6	9	4	7	8	2
4	6	7	8	5	2	1	3	9
2	9	8	3	7	1	6	4	5
7	4	5	9	8	6	3	2	1
6	3	2	5	1	7	4	9	8
8	1	9	2	4	3	5	6	7





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DIAMOND BAR — We would like to wish everyone a HAPPY NEW YEAR. Hope 2018 is a good one for you all and that you will come and join us for our new leagues that will be starting for the new year.

We have the first league starting Thursday Jan 11, 2018 meeting at 4:30 pm bowl at 5:00 pm. 3 on a team, cost \$18.00 a week. Then we will be having the Santa Helper league starting in January so that you can start saving for next Christmas give us a call and ask for Shelia for more information 909-860-3558.

> Our Youth leagues all start this week: Tuesday Jan. 2, 2018 6:20 pm: Jr/Adult Turtle Crew Thursday Jan 4, 2018 4:20 pm: Pin Heads - Ages 19 & under, 2 on a team. Saturday Jan. 6, 2018 9:50 am: Rug Rats - Ages 8 & under 2 on a team. Pin Pals - ages 8 to 12, 2 on a team. Jr/Adult Strike Force 12 & Up.

All leagues are certified with USBC, cost is \$10.00 a week except the Rug Rats who only bowl 2 games they pay \$8.00 a week. Want more information call Annette our youth director at 909-860-3558 or 909-623-6980.

Go onto www.leaguesecretary.com and download your league sheets every week you can also set it up to notify you that your league has been uploaded.

Now onto this week's scores:

Club 55: Scr: 568 Dick Kakuta, 563 George Kelly 563, 536 JoAnn Cunningham, 431 Mary Hoagland, 200 Joe Codorniz, 192 Frank Franklin, 184 Darla Lloyd.

Chino Mixed 4: Scr. 534 Joe Codorniz, 497 Al Terpstra, 446 B.J. Schoner, 439 Cindy Lower, 198 Frank Vander Veen, 178 Sid Wind, 165 Barbara Johnson.

XFrame-TAT: 674 Jem DeJesus, 623 Edward Anonas, 584 Kelly Manuel, 565 Bonnie Chan, 267 Ralph Carusone, 238 Mike Jennings, 224 Annie Liao, 203 Tess Dizon.

Crazy 4 Vegas: Scr: 633 Jon Stein, 531 Terry Clifford, 446 Lisa Lowe, 357 Kim Curland, 217 Lance Clifford, 211 Shaun Spivak, 134 Jullie Stricker, 123 Jody Greenwell

Chamber & Friends: Scr. 668 Peter Ruiz, 618 Steve Dolphin, 586 Clara Lotton, 424 Maria Quezada, 223 Jim Harrison, 187 Pat Gilbert, 181 Heidi Boothe.

Young @ Heart: 561 Dave Kaan, 557 Tony Thousand, 538 Mary Hoagland, 473 Penny Martinez, 235 Bob Marcelo, 199 Len Marcyes, 188 Carmen James, 171 Amy Abalos.

Let it Ride: Scr: 655 Scott Cocherell, 529 Vido Samarzich, 474 Stephanie Row, 406 Amy Weinstein, 212 Jason Weinstein, 200 Mike Samarzich, 172 Nasty Split Acevedo, 160 Jessica Rabbit Wood.

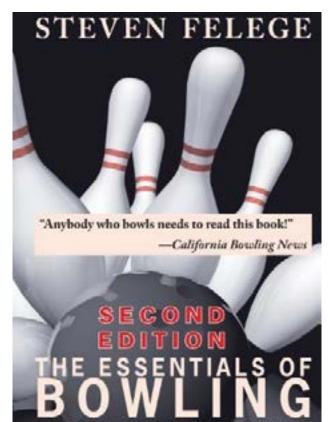
Vegas Gamblers: Scr: 492 Frank Franklin, 483 Larry Leach, 454 Jenny Hendra, 181 Ron Yeomans, 175 Dan Eckenboy, 156 Myrna Eckenboy.

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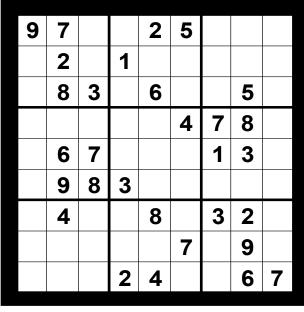


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PBA continued from page 1

Players Championship at age 27, Belmonte has won his nine titles over a span of seven seasons. It took Anthony 11 seasons to win his first nine majors; it took Weber 26 seasons to accomplish the same feat. Both won their 10th majors in the next season.

"It feels bloody amazing," Belmonte said. "I wasn't aware of being the first to win three majors in a year until Kimberly Presser mentioned it after the show. It's been a really, really great year. I don't know what else to say."

"I'm honored to be one win away from arguably the two best bowlers who ever lived on the all-time majors list," he added. "I don't know how I'll feel if I get to 10 majors, but I'll tell you that no. 9 is a pretty good feeling."

The opening match of the World Championship set the stage for the rest of the day when 2017 PBA Rookie of the Year contender Matt Sanders of Evansville, Ind., and two-time PBA Tour winner Kyle Troup of Taylorsville, N.C., finished in a 248-248 tie. After missing a 10 pin spare attempt on his final shot, Troup struck on his first shot in the one-ball sudden-death roll-off and moved on when Sanders left a 7 pin on his roll-off shot.

In the second match, Ryan Ciminelli of Cheektowaga, N.Y., survived a 193-180 battle with Troup, who missed a pair of three-pin spare conversion attempts.

In the semifinal match, Ciminelli appeared to have Belmonte on the ropes after striking on seven of his first eight shots while Belmonte began with four spares. But Belmonte got lined up and threw the final eight strikes, forcing the finals' second sudden-death roll-off when Ciminelli left the 2-4 on his fill ball for a 257-257 tie. In the roll-off, Belmonte went first and left a 7 pin. Needing a strike to win, Ciminelli left the 2-5-6 on his first shot.

"I was fortunate Ryan didn't bowl one pin higher than me," Belmonte admitted. "If you watch Ryan enough, you know he's one of the best players out here in the clutch."

In the championship match, Belmonte started with three strikes, converted a 10 pin spare and then got a fortunate strike in the fifth frame when a finger grip came out of his ball.

"I thought I was in real trouble when the grip came out and I still struck," he said. "But then I was wondering if the glue (on the new grip) would set, or if I'd start thinking about it coming out again."

"I also know that just when you think Jesper's having a bad game, he'll strike out on you"

It appeared that was exactly what was about to happen. After leaving the 4-6-10 in the first frame for an open, Svensson threw the next five strikes to take the lead. Svensson

was nursing a nine-pin lead after six frames when the changing lane conditions impacted both players.

"The traffic of urethane balls Jesper and Kyle were using laid down an oil track that made reading the progression difficult," Belmonte said. "You can usually see early telltale signs, but not this time. It got to the point I didn't know what to do."

Four consecutive single-pin spares, including a 7 pin on Svensson's first shot in the 10th frame, gave Belmonte an opening.

"In the last frame, needing two strikes to win after not striking on that lane the three previous attempts, I made two of the best shots I've ever thrown in my life," Belmonte said. "It was a good guess and even better execution."

"After Jesper left that 7 pin, I knew all I had to do was throw one more great shot," Belmonte said. "I never think I've won until I look up and see, mathematically, I've won."

Working on a strike in the ninth frame, Belmonte struck on his first shot in the 10th and needing only a high count on his second to lock up the title, Belmonte struck again and then he looked up at the scoreboard, confirming he had won.

With his fourth title of the 2017 season – including three majors – Belmonte became the odds-on favorite to win his fourth GEICO Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year title in the past five years. Voting will take place early in January.

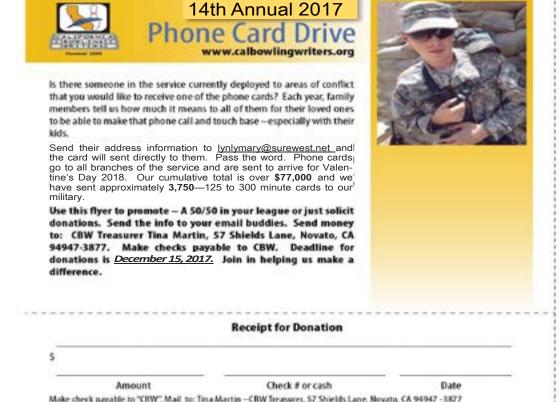
The PBA Tour will return to action Jan. 23-27 when a field of 15 PBA Tour stars, led by Belmonte and defending champion EJ Tackett of Huntington, Ind., head to Tokyo to compete in the 2018 DHC PBA Japan Invitational.

ESPN's coverage of the GEICO PBA World Series of Bowling IX concludes next Sunday with the World Bowling Tour Women's and Men's Finals presented by the PBA at 1 p.m. EST. Competing in the women's finals will be Malaysia's Shalin Zulkifli, Danielle McEwan of Stony Point, N.Y., and top qualifier Diana Zavjalova of Latvia. Men's finalists will be Marshall Kent of Yakima, Wash.; Svensson and Belmonte.

PBA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP National Bowling Stadium, Reno (aired on ESPN on Dec. 31)

Final Standings: 1, Jason Belmonte, Australia, \$60,000. 2, Jesper Svensson, Sweden, \$30,000. 3, Ryan Ciminelli, Cheektowaga, N.Y., \$25,000. 4, Kyle Troup, Taylorsville, N.C., \$20,000. 5, Matt Sanders, Evansville, Ind., \$15,000.

Stepladder Results: Match One – Troup def. Sanders, 248-248, 10-7 in one-ball roll-off. Match Two – Ciminelli def. Troup, 193-180. Semifinal – Belmonte def. Ciminelli, 257-257, 9-7 in one-ball roll-off. Championship – Belmonte def. Svensson, 238-225.



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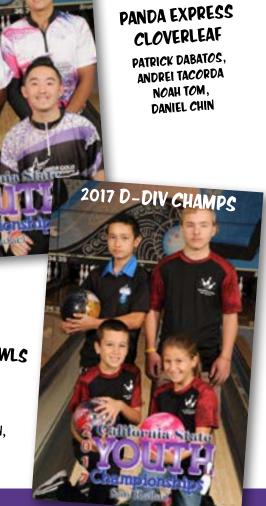
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