

JANUARY 16, 2025

CALIFORNIA BOWLING NEWS

7502 Florence Ave, Downey, CA 90240 • Website: CaliforniaBowlingNews.com • Email: news@californiabowlingnews.com • Phone: (626) 252-2985

TEAMS RELEASE ROSTERS FOR PBA ELITE LEAGUE: BATTLE OF THE BRANDS

by Nolan Hughes

Staff changes by Matt Russo and Andrew Anderson were the highlights of Friday's PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands roster reveal show on BowTV, in which the eight teams each representing a major bowling ball manufacturer announced their initial rosters for the 2025 season.

The PBA Tour stars, who happen to be close friends off the lanes, opted to switch brands this offseason after enjoying successful 2024 seasons.

Russo finished a career-high seventh in points and won the PBA Scorpion Championship on DV8 staff last season. The two-handed lefty now joins two-time reigning Player of the Year EJ Tackett on MOTIV.

"Matt is a phenomenal addition to the team," MOTIV manager Brett Spangler said. "We needed a lefty, so to get the highest left-hander in (2024) points is absolutely incredible. Matt is a proven winner at the highest level and he's continued on page 4



RYAN BARNES SEIZES THE TORCH

by Nolan Hughes



Chris Barnes' overflowing trophy case suggests his glory days came in the mid-aughts. The look on his face watching his son Ryan embark on his own PBA career tells a different story.

Amidst the negative-20-degree temperatures that engulfed the Kansas tundra last January, Chris Barnes found solace in nostalgia.

As Barnes strolled around his old stomping grounds, he reminisced on his days at Wichita State University, the longtime collegiate bowling juggernaut.

It was on those very lanes at Bowlero Northrock — and you bet he still has a notepad filled with chicken-scratched observations about the minute pair-to-pair differences — where the former Shocker blossomed into an eventual

Hall of Famer and one of the bowling's all-time greats.

One of just five PBA Rookies of the Year turned Players of the Year and one of just nine Triple Crown winners, Barnes has hoisted a championship trophy 19 times in his illustrious PBA career. After almost two decades on Team USA, his triumphs touch almost every corner of the globe.

Barnes' days as a weekly title favorite and one of the faces of the tour, however, are long gone. Now in his mid-50s, Barnes is often sat-

continued on page 5



Weekly Scratch 5-Gamer Every Tuesday

\$55 Entry Fee with Optional Pots and Brackets

Check-in at 6pm • Bowl at 7pm • 1 in 5 Payout

1/14: Military Championships

Saturday HDCP No-Tap Tournament

\$30 Entry Fee with Optional Pots and Brackets

Check-in at 11am • Bowl at Noon • 1 in 5 Payout

4 Games on Same Pair of Lanes on House Shot

22771 Centre Dr. Lake Forest, CA 92630 (949) 770-0055



2025 CALIFORNIA OPEN & WOMEN'S STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Open to all 2024-25 USBC certified adult members of the California USBC Association

TEAM, DOUBLES, SINGLES & ALL-EVENTS:

4 Person Teams

4th STREET BOWL

Brackets & Side Pots available

1441 N. 4th Street, San Jose, CA 95112 • (408) 453-5555

HANDICAP:

90% of 220

Optional Scratch Division available in each event!

Enter on-site prior to competition

Separate OPEN & WOMEN'S Divisions

ENTRY FEES:

\$40 Per Event

Per Person

SQUAD TIMES:

Saturday:

12:00pm & 4:00pm

Sunday:

9:00am & 1:00pm

*Sign up early...
Some squads are full!*

ENTRY FORMS & RULES AT CALUSBC.COM

\$10,000

Added Prize Money from



Raffle held each weekend!

\$7,000

Added Prize Money from



★ **Prize Money awarded in Team and Singles event**

★ **USBC Certified**

★ **BOWL EVERYTHING IN ONE DAY!**

The Handicap Team Champions will earn a FREE team entry into the 2026 State Championships!

Each event is three games total bowled on the same pair of lanes. DOUBLES will be virtual using team/singles scores per squad (Round Robin Sweeps) and will be accumulated into one overall doubles results.

**Questions? Contact (562) 449-4527
or E-mail: info@calusbc.com**

SQUAD DATES:

Check CALUSBC.com for availability

April 26-27

May 3-4

May 10-11

May 17-18

May 24-25

Memorial Weekend

Jersey Offer for Tournament Bowlers!

**Order early!
Allow 5-6 weeks*

\$10 OFF* COUPON: STATE2026

Order online at Strike12Creations.com



The Open & Women's Singles Champion will earn a FREE jersey!

Never Assume... Part IV

by Dave Williams

I'm not sure why this always seems to happen at the start of a new year, but once again I have created what the French call a "faux pas." However, a note from Aaron Smith of bowl.com and the USBC has set the numbers straight regarding the top ten USBC associations by members during the 2023-2024 season.

In my haste to get out an article about the incredible numbers connected with the Southern Nevada USBC association ("In the World of Bowling, Las Vegas Could Be Number Two"), I assumed that the number of participants, or 24,344 bowlers, was analogous to the number presented by Metro Detroit, and could rank Las Vegas in second place.

In conversation with Vern Vernazzaro, the president of the Southern Nevada USBC, I was informed that the above number of bowlers for Las Vegas included members bowling in more than one league, and that the actual number of adult memberships was much lower. But because of the similarity between the Detroit and Las Vegas numbers, I assumed that Detroit must also be including those bowling in multiple leagues.

I decided to contact Aaron Smith of bowl.com and the USBC in Arlington, Tex., to see if he could provide some clarity, and he came through with a list that is simply amazing for a league bowling "junkie" like me! The Detroit number was indeed the number of members in the Metro Detroit USBC — almost double that of the second place Twin Cities USBC (Minneapolis/St. Paul).

For the record, the official number of league members in the Metro Detroit USBC is 33,836 in 59 sanctioned bowling centers containing 1,932 lane beds. The Twin Cities USBC membership is made up of bowlers from 38 bowling centers with 978 lane beds. Here's a list of the top ten USBC associations by membership:

- Metro Detroit USBC - 33,836 members (59 centers with 1,932 lane beds)
- Twin Cities USBC - 18,130 members (38 centers with 978 lane beds)
- Chicagoland USBC - 15,148 members (35 centers with 970 lane beds)
- North Texas USBC - 14,285 members (29 centers with 878 lane beds)
- Greater Denver USBC - 12,154 members (27 centers with 803 lane beds)
- D.C. Capital Area USBC - 12,001 members (24 centers with 788 lane beds)
- Southern Nevada USBC - 11,700 members (15 centers with 664 lane beds)
- Greater LA County USBC - 9,918 members (19 centers with 601 lane beds)
- Citrus Belt (Calif.) USBC - 9,861 members (27 centers with 756 lane beds)
- Greater Houston USBC - 9,662 members (22 centers with 638 lane beds)

Now, for someone that has always been fascinated by numbers, this information is most captivating. It's also interesting that the Greater LA County USBC and Citrus Belt USBC (comprising Riverside and San Bernardino Counties), when added together, are catapulted to the number two position among all USBC associations.

Similarly, the Metro Phoenix USBC (with 7,589 members and 14 centers containing 468 lane beds), when combined with Mesa Metropolitan USBC (4,934 members and 11 centers with 348 lane beds), are vaulted to the number five position among the top ten (Phoenix and Mesa are directly adjacent to one another in Maricopa County, and considered the same standard metropolitan statistical area, or SMSA).

Glory Days, They Will Pass You By

While looking back at my good ol' days with AMF, I don't ever recall spending any time in Minneapolis/St. Paul. I remember folks at AMF mentioning that many of the locations there were of the "mom and pop" variety, containing less than 24 lanes, with no interest in selling their livelihood.

AMF's interest, from an acquisition standpoint, was always looking for centers with 32 or more lanes. The ideal size was 40 lanes to obtain optimum utilization of employees. After that, if became necessary to begin doubling up on staff in key areas such as maintenance, snack bar, wait staff, porters, etc.

To validate AMF's philosophy, I took a look at the list of existing centers in the Twin Cities today. Most of the locations are in the 8 to 24 lane size, with the larger centers having been gobbled up by Lucky Strike Entertainment: AMF Saxon



Palmeras Entertainment in East Brunswick, N.J.

Lanes (32), AMF Southtown Lanes (48), Bowlero Blaine (38), Bowlero Brooklyn Park (48), Bowlero Eden Prairie (32) and Bowlero Lakeville (38).

Phoenix, Denver, Houston and the Nation's Capital (including parts of Maryland and Northern Virginia) were all regions dominated by Fairlanes in the 70's and 80's. Consequently, my time in those regions was limited, while areas such as Chicago and Dallas/Ft. Worth were areas containing many prime targets for acquisition.

A peek at Chicagoland USBC shows five very profitable Lucky Strike locations still thriving today: AMF Forest Lanes, Bowlero Mount Prospect, Bowlero Niles, Bowlero River Grove and Bowlero Woodridge. The same can be said about the North Texas USBC (Dallas/Ft. Worth) association, where five centers are still in operation: AMF Spare Times Lanes, Bowlero Desoto, Bowlero Eules, Bowlero Garland and Bowlero Watauga. Unfortunately, at least as many Lucky Strike centers in each of those markets have closed, the result of consolidation or real estate value.

In Metro Phoenix the predominance of AMF and Bowlero locations is even more pronounced, although they came about primarily as a result of the acquisition of Fairlanes after I had left AMF, and accepted an offer with American Recreation Centers in California. Of the 14 locations in Phoenix, seven are either AMF or Bowlero: AMF Desert Hills, AMF Peoria Lanes, Bowlero Union Hills, Bowlero Christown, Bowlero Avondale, Bowlero Via Linda and Bowlero Glendale.

Mesa Metropolitan USBC is a similar story, with seven of twelve bowling centers operated by the new Lucky Strike Entertainment: AMF Chandler, AMF McRay Plaza, AMF Mesa Lanes, AMF Tempe Village, Bowlero Gilbert, Bowlero Kyrene and Bowlero Mesa.

It's nice to see that bowling is not dead (!) in Southern California, Phoenix and Dallas/Ft. Worth...

What's happening in New Jersey?

After reporting a couple of weeks ago about the reopening of Circle Bowl-Piscataway in New Jersey, word of another new facility in the garden state has surfaced. It's called the Palmeras Entertainment Center in East Brunswick. The location features a giant replica outdoor bowling pin, like the one displayed at USBC Headquarters in Arlington, Texas. The two story facility is listed as a restaurant and bar featuring sports related fun for the entire family. I hope to have more information, and possibly an interview with the new owners very soon.

- Statistics provided by bowl.com, USBC, and various local USBC associations
- Photo provided by palmerasentertainment.com

W.P.

WESTERN PACIFIC BOWLING SUPPLY, INC.

1216 W. Grove Avenue, Orange, CA 92865

Distributors For:

- Qubica / A.M.F.
 - Brunswick
 - Century Lane Machines
 - NEO Technologies
 - Pinsetter Parts Plus
 - Quality Bowling
 - W.P. Rental Shoes
- All Brands of Lane Conditioners



Online Ordering System at www.wpbowling.com

800 - 595 - 2695 • Fax: 714 - 974 - 2681

We Specialize in:

- Resurfacing
- Lanes in Private Homes
- Pinsetter Parts & Supplies
- New Lane Installations

Elite League continued from page 1

only now realizing his potential. I expect great things for MOTIV and Matt in the coming years.”

Anderson, who won the PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship with Kris Prather and swept both PBA Elite League MVP awards, spent the last three seasons with MOTIV. He switched to 900 Global this winter, joining Sean Rash atop the Storm subsidiary’s hierarchy.

“A former Player of the Year, Andrew is super pumped to be on the squad, and we are excited to have him,” 900 Global manager Gary Hulsenberg said. “We had to go out and get him. We needed to add that talent.”

Roto Grip’s additions of Justin Knowles and Kevin McCune were the other two major changes between brands. Roto Grip manager Chris Schlemer found his lefty in Knowles, and added a 25-year-old major champion in McCune.

“Even though Kevin’s rev rate is a little bit higher (than his dad’s), he has versatility,” Roto Grip manager Chris Schlemer said. “He can throw it hard and straight when he has to, but he’s also not scared to get in and wheel it.”

Several players switched teams within the same parent company, such as reigning Rookie of the Year Nate Purches moving from Brunswick to DV8 and Richie Teece sliding from Storm to 900 Global.

Players formerly staffed by Columbia 300, Track and Radical moved to different branches of the Brunswick tree as well.

Each team’s complete roster can be found at the bottom of this story.

Each team was able to roster between six and 15 of their staff players who have PBA Tour priority status. Teams will be able to add, drop and trade players between Feb. 17-23.

Any player who gains priority status during the season — which would happen if a player won their first career title — will be automatically added to that team’s roster.

In addition to building upon the inherent team chemistry within each brand’s staff, the revamped format heightens the longstanding rivalries between the brands.

The PBA Elite League now features a point system comparable to Formula 1’s Driver and Constructor standings. It is the same point system used to determine PBA Playoffs standings.

Teams will earn points in each singles title event through April’s PBA Tournament of Champions. Points are weighted based on the duration and prestige of the title event. An additional strategic element further elevates the PBA Elite League: Before each event, managers will be responsible for selecting five players to start for their team. Only the points earned by those five players will count in the PBA Elite League.

All teams will compete in the PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands Championship on April 26-27. Teams will be seeded for the extended stepladder by their season-long point totals.

The No. 4-8 seeds will compete April 26 (3 p.m. ET on FS1) with the winning team advancing to meet the top three seeds in the final round on April 27.

All matches will utilize the baker format as seen in previous iterations of the PBA Elite League. The stepladder will feature single-game matches culminating with a Race-to-Two championship match. The champions will earn \$100,000 to be allocated to its players by the manufacturer.

During the regular season, players will be able to use any product-registered bowling ball available to them. For example, Roto Grip players can use Storm and 900 Global equipment; Hammer players can use Brunswick, Ebonite, Track, DV8, Radical and Columbia 300 equipment.

In the PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands Championship, however, players will be limited to their single brand’s equipment. To continue the previous example, Roto Grip players will only be able to throw Roto Grip equipment in the finals — not Storm or 900 Global.

Furthermore, since not all brands produce a urethane bowling ball, no player may use urethane equipment during finals matches. The tournament director may grant an exception for equipment used exclusively for spares.

TEAM ROSTERS

900 Global

Andrew Anderson, Richie Teece, Mitch Hupé, Sean Rash, Ryan Barnes, Chase Nadeau, Chris Sloan, Chris Barnes

Managed by Gary Hulsenberg, Storm Vice President of Marketing

Brunswick

Packy Hanrahan, Graham Fach, Jason Sterner, Dom Barrett, Nate Stubler, Tim Foy Jr., Andrew Hall, Gary Faulkner Jr., Parker Bohn III

Managed by Corey Dykstra, CEO of Brunswick Bowling Products

DV8

Matt Ogle, Keven Williams, Deo Benard, Hayden Stippich, Nate Purches, Cam Crowe, Bailey Mavrack, Ryan Ciminelli

Managed by Billy Orlikowski, Brunswick Director of Consumer Product Management

Ebonite

Jake Peters, Matt Sanders, Tommy Jones, Jakob Butturff, Cristian Azcona, AJ Chapman, Brandon Runk, Kim Bolleby

Managed by Bugsy Kelly, Brunswick Director of Marketing

Hammer

Marshall Kent, Bill O’Neill, Zach Wilkins, Boog Krol, Tom Daugherty, Eric Jones, Tomas Käyhkö, Shawn Maldonado

Managed by Brian Graham, Brunswick VP of Consumer Products

MOTIV

EJ Tackett, Matt Russo, Tom Smallwood, AJ Johnson, Sam Cooley, Sean Lavery-Spahr, Nathan Bohr, Dick Allen, Ronnie Russell, Santtu Tahvanainen (granted injury exemption)

Managed by Brett Spangler, MOTIV Tour Rep

Roto Grip

Anthony Simonsen, Justin Knowles, Kris Prather, BJ Moore, Stu Williams, DJ Archer, Kevin McCune, Wes Malott

Managed by Chris Schlemer, Roto Grip Brand Manager

Storm

Jason Belmonte, Kyle Troup, Jesper Svensson, Chris Via, DeeRonn Booker, Patrick Dombrowski, Kyle Sherman, François Lavoie, Darren Tang, Thomas Larsen

Managed by Tyler Jensen, President of Storm Products, Inc.

GREATER LA COUNTY USBC

WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS

TEAM EVENT with VIRTUAL SINGLES

GLAC USBC will be donating an additional \$500 Prize Money!

CORBIN BOWL

19616 Ventura Blvd
Tarzana, CA 91356
(818) 996-2695

KEYSTONE LANES

11459 Imperial Hwy.
Norwalk, CA 90650
(562) 868-3261

Sun, January 19, 2025 – 9am

Sat, January 25, 2024 – 1pm

Sign up for SWEEPERS ROUND ROBIN DOUBLES. Overall payout (ratio 1:8) per location.

- ▲ Open to Greater LA County (GLAC) USBC female members
- ▲ Trio Team format / 3 games per event
- ▲ USBC Certified
- ▲ Brackets and Side Pots Available
- ▲ Handicap: 90% of 220
- ▲ Entry Fees: \$105 Team / \$25 Virtual Singles
- ▲ Questions? Call (562) 426-2030 or email: info@glacusbc.com

*Storm/900 Global/Roto Grip
Ball of Choice Raffle!*

Sign Up Early!!

VISIT GLACUSBC.COM TO ENTER ONLINE AND FOR MORE INFO!

Barnes continued from page 1

ified with making the first cut.

That was the case one particular week during the 2024 PBA Players Championship.

Barnes, the lone senior player remaining in the field, crossed paths with EJ Tackett, a man 20 years younger with a résumé already superior to Barnes'. Tackett knows what it feels like to walk into every single event as the man to beat.

A feeling once familiar, now foreign to Barnes.

A decade ago, Barnes could have beaten most of his upcoming opponents for round-robin match play in his sleep. But since his back surgery in 2015 — the same one undergone by former Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo — successes have been few and far between for Barnes.

"My bones are creaking. I don't know why I continue to do this," Barnes told Tackett.

"I do," Tackett said. "Because of that kid right over there."

This wasn't supposed to happen.

Chris Barnes and Ryan Barnes, father and son, competing together on the PBA Tour was never part of anyone's plan.

The sons and daughters of many 21st century PBA stars — Justin, Brandon and Sydney Bohn; Kevin McCune; Alyssa Ballard; Jordan Malott; Natalie Kent and so on — have been household names in the bowling community for the better part of the past decade.

Not Ryan. He spent his teenage years on the court, not the lanes.

Once or twice a year, juvenile Ryan would huck a ball down the lane for fun. He said he did have an inclination to compete on tour someday, but only after a 10-plus-year professional basketball career.

During Ryan's senior year of high school, the sub-six-footer realized the fatal flaw of his hoops ambition. Facing a dearth of college basketball offers and searching for a new challenge to funnel his unyielding competitive spirit, he turned to the family trade.

"When I first picked up a ball," Ryan said, "I wasn't really thinking. I was just bowling."

Even in the teen's fledgling state, his untapped potential became readily evident to his mother Lynda, a USBC Hall of Famer herself, and Chris.

Ryan's parents embraced his latest avocation with slight apprehension. They knew what it took to be truly great at the sport; they also knew what sort of expectations would be placed upon their son by the bowling world.

"Would bowling just be one of those hobbies teenagers pick up and abandon?" they wondered. "Or could this game become his future career?"

The Barnes' soon learned that Ryan, the ever-so-slightly older of their twin boys, was in this for the long haul.

"We went (to practice) for a few days, and he wanted to go again and again," Chris said. "I thought, 'Alright, we're really doing this. Let's go to work.'"

The thing is... when you pick up a sport mere months before high school graduation, college coaches aren't exactly knocking down your door to offer you a scholarship. The NIL bagmen don't pay any mind to newbies, let alone those who aren't 6'5" with an Olympic caliber standing broad jump.

Not that it would have mattered anyway: Ryan already knew where he wanted to spend his next four years.

On the Kansas prairie, wearing the black and gold, just like his dad.

Chris and Lynda, from an athlete's perspective, knew Wichita was one of the best bowling communities in the U.S. Their instincts as parents differed.

"Why would you go to Wichita?" Lynda said she asked Ryan. "You're never going to get to play."

Wichita State bowling is akin to Alabama's football program: If you're not a five-star recruit, good luck cracking the lineup.

Ryan knew it would take time to earn his keep. Teeming with teenage hubris, he also felt it wouldn't take as long as others thought.

"I wanted to make the varsity team," Ryan said. "That was the immediate goal."

Ahead of his freshman season, Ryan qualified for the developmental (JV) team at Wichita State's team trials. The varsity team included five past/present/future Junior Team USA members — not including, spoiler alert, Ryan himself — in addition to some of the most decorated youth players in the country.

"Ryan chose to come to Wichita when it was really above his level at the time," Chris said. "But there's no better place to be, in my opinion. The best bowler at Wichita State is almost never the best bowler in the city. When (Alec) Keplinger was the Collegiate Player of the Year, he could go to Northrock in the afternoon and practice with Packy Hanrahan and François Lavoie. It's one of the best bowling communities in the whole country. There's so much knowledge and so many good ways to get better if you're willing to put in the work."

During his freshman season, Ryan bowled three tournaments for the JV team. He averaged 189 for his 15 games. He said he practiced every day, turning the eight-lane bowling center inside the campus student center into his dorm room.

Midway through his sophomore season, Ryan earned a permanent promotion to the varsity team after leading an entire tournament field, including varsity players. He averaged more than 215 the rest of the season, notching an NCBCA First Team All-American berth.

Two years after trading in a basketball for a bowling ball, Ryan was an All-American collegiate bowler.

Let's address the elephant in the room: The Barnes' connections granted Ryan instant access to some of the best coaching and training available.

Team USA's training facility in Arlington is about an hour from the Barnes' home in Denton. Any shred of bowling knowledge unpossessed by mom or dad, of which there are very few, can be answered by a single call or text.

Neither Ryan, nor his parents, would deny Ryan benefited from these privileges. But there are plenty of players with strong genes — bloodlines, if you will — who never became professionals.

The genetic code for sending messengers has yet to be discovered.

"None of it means anything if you don't put in the work and figure out how to apply it," Chris said.

As Ryan's talent started to blossom, the nepotism comments inevitably followed. He soon learned to accept, even embrace, chatter from the peanut gallery.

"It's an unfair advantage for me," Ryan said. "I don't really see it as pressure or anything like that. If anything, I think it intimidates other people. Imagine bowling

continued on page 7

GREATER LA COUNTY USBC OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

TEAM EVENT with VIRTUAL SINGLES

GLAC USBC will be donating an additional \$500 Prize Money!

CORBIN BOWL

19616 Ventura Blvd, Tarzana, CA 91356
(818) 996-2695

Sat, January 18, 2025 – 1pm

Open to the first 26 entries!

KEYSTONE LANES

11459 Imperial Hwy., Norwalk, CA 90650
(562) 868-3261

Sat, January 25, 2024 – 1pm

Sun, January 26, 2024 – 9am



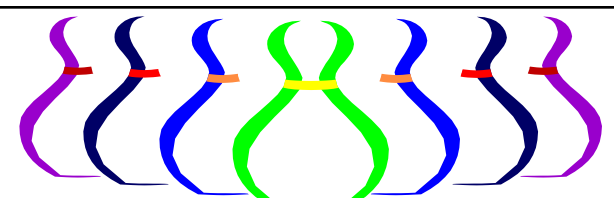
Sign up for SWEEPERS ROUND ROBIN DOUBLES. Overall payout (ratio 1:8) per location.

- ▶ **Open to Greater LA County (GLAC) USBC adult members**
- ▶ **4 Person Teams / 3 games per event**
- ▶ **USBC Certified**
- ▶ **Brackets and Side Pots Available**
- ▶ **Handicap: 90% of 220**
- ▶ **Entry Fees: \$140 Team / \$25 Virtual Singles**
- ▶ **Questions? Call (562) 426-2030 or email: info@glacusbc.com**



VISIT GLACUSBC.COM TO ENTER ONLINE AND FOR MORE INFO!

BOWLING NEWS DIRECTORY

Los Angeles County	Orange County	Las Vegas Laughlin
<p>CAL BOWL - 68 2500 E. Carson Street, Lakewood, CA 90712 (562) 421-8448 • Fax: (562) 420-4775 www.calbowl.com • Manager: Leonard Ruiz Jr. Email: Leonard@calbowl.com</p>	<p>FOREST LANES - 40 22771 Centre Drive, Lake Forest, CA 92630 (949) 770-0055 • Fax: (949) 770-7839 www.forestlanes.com • Manager: Jon Diso Email: Jon@forestlanes.com</p>	<p>GOLD COAST - 70 Hotel, Casino, & Bowling Center 4000 W. Flamingo Road Las Vegas, NV 89103 (800) 331-5334</p>
<p>DEL RIO LANES - 32 7502 Florence, Downey, CA 90240 (562) 927-3351 • Fax: (562) 928-5453 www.delriolanes.com • Mgr: Sabrina Gonzalez Email: Sabrina@delriolanes.com</p>	<p>LA HABRA "300" BOWL - 32 370 E. Whittier Blvd., La Habra, CA 90631 (562) 691-6721 Fax: (562) 691-0272 www.lh300bowl.com</p>	<p>THE ORLEANS - 52 Hotel, Casino, & Bowling Center 4500 West Tropicana Las Vegas, NV 89103 (888) 365-7111</p>
<p>GARDENA BOWLING CENTER - 16 15707 S. Vermont Ave., Gardena, CA 90247 (310) 324-1244 gardenabowl.com</p>	<p>SADDLEBACK LANES - 32 25402 Marguerite Parkway, Mission Viejo, CA 92692 (949) 586-5300 • Fax: (949) 586-0740 www.saddlebacklanes.com Mgr: John Chapman • Email: john@saddlebacklanes.com</p>	<p>RIVERSIDE LANES - 34 1650 S. Casino Drive Laughlin, NV 89029 (888) 590-2695 • Fax: 702-298-2687 Email: Jcaudle@riversideresort.com</p>
<p>KEYSTONE LANES - 48 11459 E. Imperial Hwy., Norwalk, CA 90650 (562) 868-3261 • Fax: (562) 929-0701 www.keystonelan.es.com • Mgr: Dave Piazza Email: Dave@keystonelan.es.com</p>	<p>WESTMINSTER LANES - 40 6471 Westminster Blvd., Westminster, CA 92683 (714) 893-5005 • Fax: (714) 891-4225 www.westminsterlanes.com Mgr: Jennifer Chow • Email: jennifer@westminsterlanes.com</p>	<p>SAM'S TOWN - 56 Hotel, Gambling Hall, & Bowling Center 5111 Boulder Highway Las Vegas, NV 89122 (800) 634-6371 • SamsTown.com</p>
<p>OAK TREE LANES - 36 990 N. Diamond Bar Blvd., Diamond Bar, CA 91765 (909) 860-3558 oaktreelan.es.net</p>		<p>SOUTH POINT - 64 9777 Las Vegas Blvd. South Las Vegas, NV 89123 (866) 796-7111 Fax: 702-797-8081 64 Lanes, Snack Bar, Pro Shop</p>
<p>SANTA CLARITA LANES - 32 21615 W. Soledad Canyon Rd., Saugus, CA 91350 (661) 254-0540 • Fax (661) 254-7562 www.santaclaritalanes.com Email: scl4usc@aol.com</p>		<p>SUNCOAST - 64 Hotel, Casino, & Bowling Center 9090 Alta Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89145 (702) 636-7400</p>
<p>ESTABLISHED 1940 CALIFORNIA BOWLING NEWS</p> <p>MAILING ADDRESS: 7502 Florence Ave. Downey, CA 90240 EDITORIAL OFFICE: 11459 Imperial Hwy. Norwalk, CA 90650</p> <p>TEMP. OFFICE NUMBER: 626-252-2985 24-HOUR FAX NUMBER: E-mail: news@californiabowlingnews.com Website: www.californiabowlingnews.com</p> <p>CHARLES KINSTLER.....Publisher DEAN LOPEZ.....Editor / Typesetter CAROL MANCINI.....2/28/24 R.I.P. California Bowling News is NOT responsible for ADS, EDITORIALS, STORIES, FACTS, PICTURE CAPTIONS or SPELLING emailed for publication. Published 52 weeks.</p>	<h2>San Diego</h2>	<h2>Ventura County</h2>
<h2>Riverside & San Bernardino</h2>	<p>MIRA MESA LANES - 44 8210 Mira Mesa Blvd., San Diego, CA 92126 (858) 578-0500 miramesalan.es.com</p>	<p>BUENA LANES - 42 1788 S. Mesa Verde, Ventura, CA 93003 (805) 677-7770 buenalan.es.com Email: buenalan.es1@earthlink.net</p>
<p>BOWLIUM LANES - 32 4666 E. Holt Blvd., Montclair, CA 91763 (909) 626-3528 • Fax: (909) 626-2144 www.bowlium.com Facebook.com/Bowlium</p>		<p>CITRUS BELT Association Manager - Elise Hamner 667 West 2nd Street, San Bernardino, CA 92410 citrusbelt@verizon.net (909) 381-4599</p>
<p>CANYON LANES - 24 49750 Seminole Dr., Cabazon, CA 92230 (951) 572-6120 Fax: (951) 922-2385 Located next to Morongo Casino</p>		<p>CALIFORNIA USBC ASSOCIATION Association Manager - Lynn Matsubara 3673 Industry Ave. #102, Lakewood, CA 90712 info@calusbc.com • calusbc.com www.californiayouthbowling.com (562)449-4527</p>
	<p>NORTH COUNTY USBC Association Manager - Ross LaBar 306 W. El Norte Pkwy #95, Escondido, CA 92026 ncusbcmanager@gmail.com www.ncusbc.com (714)322-2780</p>	<p>ORANGE COUNTY Association Manager - Stacie Osborn PO Box 4396, Garden Grove, CA 92842-4396 E-Mail: assnmgr@ocusbc.org (714) 554-0111</p>
	<p>VENTURA COUNTY USBC Association Manager - Debbie Brickell vcusbc@gmail.com (805)339-9334</p>	<p>SAN GABRIEL VALLEY Association Manager - Annette Anderson 1832 Greenacre Rd., Pomona, CA 91768 E-Mail: sgvusbc@gmail.com (909) 326-1201</p>
		<p>SAN DIEGO U.S.B.C. Association Manager - Donald Way 7840 El Cajon Blvd. Ste 203, La Mesa, CA 91941 E-Mail: sandiegousbc@gmail.com www.sandiegobowling.com (619)697-3334</p>

LOCAL USBC ASSOCIATIONS

Barnes continued from page 5

against me, and you look back and I'm talking to Chris and Lynda."

"You can't teach what they have, and they're teaching it to me."

After throttling EJ Tackett in the second game of 2024 PBA Players Championship match play, Chris Barnes took down Chris Via before losing to Boog Krol and Bill O'Neill.

He walked to his next pair and, in signature Barnzy fashion, barked some snarky comment toward his opponent as he set down his bag.

The pain in his back had evaporated and been replaced by an ineffable feeling, perhaps most closely defined as pride.

In the sixth game of match play, EJ Tackett took on Cristian Azcona. Jason Belmonte squared off with Keven Williams. O'Neill went head-to-head with Nate Stubler.

Chris Barnes faced Ryan Barnes.

Ryan, then a senior at Wichita State, and three of his Shocker teammates were awarded a commissioner's exemption to bowl the event's pre-tournament qualifier.

All four proved their mettle and advanced to the main field. All four cashed. Ryan and TJ Rock qualified for match play.

By 2024, the bowling world had caught onto the ascendance of Ryan, now a member of Junior Team USA and a collegiate national champion.

But no one could have foreseen him contending for a PBA major championship so soon.

"I was hoping this would happen someday. I didn't think it would happen by now," Chris said. "I don't know how much longer I'll be competitive. A chance to bowl against each other in match play of a major, that was a lot of the driving force (this week)."

In one of the rare, but not unprecedented, father-son matches in PBA history, Ryan snuck by Chris with a 195-193 victory.

(The Barnes duo's low scores during a high-scoring event, they insisted, are explained by the inherent characteristics of lanes 27-28. Ryan's notes from multiple years of practice and league indicated those lanes are more difficult than most other pairs; Chris' records and recollections from the 1990s corroborated his son's observations.)

Not only did Ryan gain ultimate bragging rights over his old man, but he seized 30 bonus pins, which sounds like the type of superficial detail that would overshadow an emotional, transcendent moment unquantifiable by any metric.

While that would be true, those 30 bonus pins were about to offer Ryan much more than mere ammunition to mock Dad at Thanksgiving dinner.

"We both make match play and get to bowl in a match against each other. That was awesome," Chris said. "And then I realized: Holy crap, he's going to make the show."

Ryan finished the first round of match play in 15th place. He tallied a 6-2 record during the second round to climb into ninth place, less than 80 pins behind fifth place.

"I'm Going to Kansas City, Kansas City Here I Come"

by Frank Weiler

LAUGHLIN, NV. — "I'm going to Kansas City, Kansas City here I come" is a popular song sung by many Americans on their way to Kansas City. I've sung it myself on many occasions. But not now. Bull to "Kansas City here I come"! I'm headed to Laughlin, Nevada. "I'm going to Laughlin City, Laughlin City here I come". I like the Kansas City tune but I'm singing a better tune now "Laughlin City here I come".

Yes, that's it, I'm going to Laughlin City, Nevada. I'm going to Laughlin for my favorite tournament, the Laughlin Blast. I'm packing my bags and getting ready to hit the road later this month, leaving to take on the world. It's time for me to flex a few muscles and stretch my arms in Victory again!

The Laughlin Blast tournament is here again. I am going to "River City" with big, bad intentions. Watch out world. Watch out "River City" rats.

I won it all a decade ago with partner Jerry Wood so why not again. Just because Jerry is approaching 90 years of age and I'm approaching 85 doesn't mean we can't still strike! That we still can't win.

While I drive from sunny California with my wife Therese, Jerry will be flying from Texas with his beautiful darling wife Judee. Our competitive juices will be flowing to repeat something we did ten years ago at the Laughlin Blast and has never been replicated since. Back then we prevailed against all the odds to win all three daily tournaments. The Triple Crown.

The Laughlin Blast, run by Eric McNair of Bullhead City, will be conducted at Riverside Lanes from January 19th to the 22nd. If you think you've got what it takes, come on out and take on Jerry and myself. If you think you are up to the challenge, come on out and take on Jerry and myself. Give Eric a call at 800-227-3849 if you want to meet Jerry and myself.

Are you up for the challenge, SUCKER! I don't think so. At least when you're vanquished you can cry in your beer at the Riverside Resort's famous "Loser's Lounge". From there you can drive a few miles west to Christmas Lane to watch for UFO's. They visit there often according to Erich von Daniken, author of several pseudoscientific books including his big hit Chariots Of The Gods.

Hope to see you there. "I'm going to Laughlin City, Laughlin City here I come".

Every time a relative novice like Ryan should have folded, or at least stumbled, he flourished. Even the time when Ryan literally face planted onto the lane — his heel stuck during his slide — he regrouped and made the spare like nothing ever happened.

To start the final round of match play, Ryan needed four strikes in the ninth and 10th frames to shut out Kris Prather. He hamboned without blinking.

"He got that from me," Lynda said with a smile.

With a berth in the televised finals fully within reach, Ryan averaged more than 243 for his next six games. Heading into a position round match against BJ Moore, Ryan found himself in sixth place and a mere 43 pins outside of the show.

To make the show, Ryan needed to beat Moore by at least 13 pins and hope none of the players beneath him in the standings usurped him. When a disastrous fifth frame from Moore opened the door for Ryan, the relentless and ruthless competitor snatched it.

Chris, himself in 15th place, had already sped through his inconsequential match. Why would he care about a meager difference in prize money when his son was bowling the biggest match of his life 30 feet away?

The veteran has bowled in a hundred of these matches and witnessed a thousand more. None quite like this.

Chris stood a few feet away wearing a matching pink and purple jersey; seldom has the line between parent and competitor been more grey.

Just two strikes lied between Ryan and the show. Unfazed by the hoard of cameras and undaunted by the magnitude of the moment, he labeled three strikes for good measure.

Ryan celebrated with a fist pump, walked off the approach and hugged his father. No words were exchanged; there didn't need to be.

"He did it in the best way, the one we always dream about," Chris said. "Whether it's basketball or baseball, you want to step up and make the big shot to make it. That's the dream come true as a competitor. As a parent, it hits different. That's all I can say."

Critics could boil Chris' entire Hall of Fame career down to shortcomings on TV. The meticulous nerd owns 19 PBA Tour titles; a more carefree competitor, those detractors would argue, might have won another dozen.

Chris has served many roles during PBA shows, from fan to player to color commentator to coach. Dad would be a new one, though.

"I thought it was interesting watching Chris and how nervous he was," Lynda said. "Standing next to him, I could feel it. He made me more nervous than anything because he wanted it for Ryan so much. He was second guessing himself: 'Did I give them the right information? Am I doing the right thing?'"

"But really it's in Ryan's hands," Lynda continued. "Ryan is going to do what Ryan does."

What Ryan does is the singular thing that Chris never could: turn off his brain.

"That's the trick I don't have. I'm envious of it," Chris said. "He wasn't overthinking the process. That's when I thought this could get real fun today."

With his mom and dad sitting behind him and his entire college team to his left, Ryan started off perfect. Five frames. Five strikes.

"In the fifth frame, Ryan just dead-labeled it and I almost burst into tears," Lynda said. "I've watched Chris bowl a thousand times and I've never felt like that. I was just so proud of how (Ryan) was managing his emotions and taking care of business. I was overwhelmed by the whole thing, and I had to get myself together for him."

During his 267-223 first win over Chris Via and narrow 224-220 win over Nate Stubler, a recent graduate of Wichita State-rival St. Ambrose University, Ryan relished the hometown atmosphere.

"I knew I had all my guys right there," Ryan said. "I was just trying to take advantage of that. I was trying to talk trash today and get in other people's heads a little bit."

"I mean, I did."

A [Brooklyn strike](#) from Bill O'Neill in the ninth frame ended Ryan's poetic run in the semifinal match.

(Please use that link and watch Chris' reaction in the background. It's the funniest thing you'll see all day.)

The rookie made the switch from urethane to reactive a couple frames too late and O'Neill, using a trick he once learned from Chris himself, went on to win the tournament.

But Ryan won the day.

Twenty-seven years after Chris earned PBA Rookie of the Year honors, his son will be a favorite for the same honor.

Ryan Barnes, the kid who never envisioned a bowling career, will be an exempt, full-time touring player in 2025.

Ryan joined the PBA after graduating in May and spent the rest of the year competing in the PBA Southwest Region. He racked up six top-10 finishes in eight events and earned the region's Rookie of the Year award.

"People in the bowling world (look at me differently now)," Ryan said last summer. "I gained a little bit of people's respect. I stopped becoming just Chris Barnes and Lynda Barnes' son."

In August's PBA Tour Trials, Ryan secured an exempt berth on the 2025 PBA Tour. In January 2025, he won Team USA Trials, securing his first berth on the team his father presided over for two decades.

"From the beginning, I wanted to get to this level," Ryan said. "It's like a dream because everything's going, I want to say, as planned. You make a TV show before you're (on tour), then you come out to Tour Trials and make it out. I'm just really excited to bowl against these guys in January."

Among those competitors will be Chris himself. The living legend is no longer an exempt player, but his résumé will grant him priority entry into most, if not all, events.

Entry fees are a mere pittance to pay to be alongside your son's budding professional bowling career.

"He's reinvigorated my desire to be out here and share some of that early part as he makes his way," Chris said. "I can't wait to watch what happens next for him. Hopefully I'm around and get to enjoy it along with him versus just watching, but either way I'm excited for him. I hope he goes by every achievement that I was lucky enough to get."

"The kid doesn't know failure," Lynda said. "And I hope he never does."

38th Year!

Brunswick®

INVITATIONAL

Pro Approach Oak Tree Keeps Rolling; Mike Bogue Goes Clean-30

by David Yamauchi

DOWNEY – The Brunswick Invitational took to the lanes at the half way mark of the third round. Second-round winners Pro Approach Oak Tree were leading the round and the overall standings and were looking to remain on top with their 14-1 record. Mike Bogue goes clean-30 to guarantee himself half of the pot for this round.

In the “A” match, second-round winners Pro Approach Oak Tree (Leonard Ruiz Jr.) were sitting atop the round at 14-1, taking on Junior Amateur Tour (Kevin Valmonte) who had climbed to second at 13-2. A tight pair led to some low scores as Pro Approach Oak Tree, even with a blind, swept Junior Amateur Tour to move to 19-1. Leonard Ruiz Jr. led Pro Approach with a 599 set while Michael Marmolejo paced Junior Amateur Tour with a 525 set.

The “B” match featured Bowlium (Billy Myers Jr.) who dropped one match after a tough week three, taking on Weaverbird (Eric Williams Jr.) coming off a 4-win week. Bowlium took the first and third game wins, dropping the second game by 73, but holding on for a 28-pin totals win and a 4-1 result. Bowlium was led by Billy Myers Jr.’s 605 and Kevin Jones’ 604 while Eric Williams Jr. led Weaverbird with a solid 630 set.

Family Ties (Bobby Campagnale) was looking to bounce back taking on Pro Approach Del Rio (Augie Labrado Jr.) in the 5-6 match. Pro Approach took a close first game, but it was all Family Ties from there as they took a 4-1 win. Bobby Campagnale led Family Ties with a 604 set while Javier Hernandez Sr. managed 556 to lead Pro Approach Del Rio

Taco Bell (Kaven Massey) was looking to bounce back after a rough finish last week, matched up with US Foods (Gabriel Martinez) coming off a sweep. US Foods took the bookend games by enough to cover a 93-pin second game loss for the 4-1 win. Mike Bogue went clean-30 en route to a 697 set to lead US Foods while Jeff Hickenbottom was solid for Taco Bell with a 615 series.

DV8 (Matthew Zwieg) took on Forest Lanes (Jon Diso) with both teams looking to get back into the round. DV8 took the first and third games en route to a 4-1 win over Forest Lanes despite a huge bounce-back 658 effort from Jesse Perez. DV8 was paced by Bryan Osborne’s 593.

Threadworks (Eric Snow) was looking to get tough against Pro Approach Cal Bowl (Austin Wasielewski) with both teams sitting at 6-9. Threadworks was back in form as they took the 5-0 sweep over Pro Approach Cal Bowl. Ryan Cunningham stroked a solid 647 set to lead Threadworks while sub David Jones Jr. booked 604 to lead Pro Approach Cal Bowl.

Love Laundry (Ramsey Basurto), Del Rio Lanes (Michael Barnett), Don Julio Tequila (Gabe Garza), and Touchstone Homes (Christian Eichelkraut) rounded out Monday’s action. Love Laundry took an easy 5-0 sweep over Del Rio Lanes. Vernon Adams tossed a 589 to lead Love Laundry while Ricky Arellano led Del Rio Lanes with a 508 set. Don Julio Tequila took a 4-1 result over Touchstone Homes. Don Julio was led by Phil Sujo with a 591 set while Touchstone Homes was paced by Anthony Rieger’s 571 series.

TOP 10 ROUND 3 WEEK 4

Pro Approach Oak Tree \$\$. 19	DV8. 12
Bowlium. 15	Threadworks. 11
Junior Amateur Tour. 13	Weaverbird. 10
Family Ties. 13	Love Laundry \$. . . . 10
US Foods. 12	Pro Approach Del Rio 10

TOP 10 THIS WEEK

697 Mike Bogue	615 Jeff Hickenbottom
658 Jesse Perez	605 Jon Diso
647 Ryan Cunnimngham	605 Billy Myers Jr.
630 Eric Williams Jr.	604 Bobby Campagnale
616 Stephanie Zavala	604 David Jones Jr.

SUPER SWEEPER POT

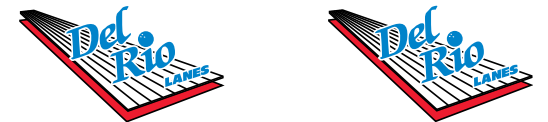
Sponsored by Dean Sanderson of Transamerica Financial Advisors Inc.
1st Jon Diso 245 \$160 • 2nd Kaven Massey 229 \$70



Dean Sanderson
Investment Advisor Representative
License: 0F92487 dean_sanderson@tfaconnect.com
<https://deansanderson.wfgopportunity.com/>

11801 Pierce Street
Suite 215
Riverside, CA 92505

Office: 951.530.9343
Mobile: 714.875.0450
Fax: 951.389.3755



Financial Advisors Pot went to Jon Diso (245) for \$160 with 2nd to Kaven Massey (229) for \$70. Sidepots went to Mike Bogue (245) and Jon Diso (245) for \$72 each with 2nd to Leonard Ruiz Jr. (235) and Eric Snow (224) for \$36. SuperPot went to Jesse Perez (234) for \$216 with 2nd to Mike Bogue (229) for \$108.

Back on the lanes next week to battle the Mexico City pattern as we cross the half-way point in Round 3. Come out and watch Southern California’s Richest League take the lanes at 7:30 every Monday night at

Del Rio Lanes 7502 Florence Ave., Downey CA 90240 • (562) 927-3351

Saturday WEEKLY

NO TAP Tournament

Check in 11:00am • Bowl at 12:00pm • \$30 Entry Fee

Optional Pots & PLENTY of \$5 Brackets

Handicap is 90% of 230 • Call to Reserve a Spot (562)927-3351 At Del Rio Lanes: 7502 Florence Ave. Downey, CA. 90240