

JANUARY 30, 2025

CALIFORNIA

BOWLING NEWS

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GRAHAM FACH ENDS TITLE DROUGHT IN DELAWARE

Fach wins second career title, first since 2016

by Nolan Hughes

Almost nine years after winning his first career title, Graham Fach captured his second on Saturday night at Mid County Lanes and Entertainment in Middletown, Del.

Fach defeated top seed Jakob Butturff, 277-200, in the 2025 season-opening PBA Delaware Classic title match to take home the \$30,000 top prize.

"I feel nothing, but I feel everything at the same time," Fach said. "I can't even begin to think of my emotional state

right now. It's everything all at once, and I'm enjoying every second of it."

Fach won his first career title in the second event of his career, becoming the first Canadian to win on the tour. 3,261 days later, the now-father of two said each win feels like night and day.

"I know how hard it is to win on the PBA Tour now," Fach said. "I fought so hard for nine years trying to get back in the winner's circle. I'm

continued on page 5



DUDE WIPES BECOMES OFFICIAL PARTNER OF THE PBA FOR 2025 SEASON

The Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) is excited to announce DUDE Wipes, the nation's leading flushable wipes brand, as a new official sponsor for the 2025 PBA Tour season. This partnership marks an exciting new chapter in the PBA's commitment to bringing fresh and dynamic collaborations to its fans, while furthering DUDE Wipes' reach to the sport's passionate and engaged audience.

DUDE Wipes' bold and innovative marketing strategy aligns perfectly with the PBA's forward-thinking approach to engaging with fans and athletes alike. Kicking off at the PBA Delaware Classic, this partnership will bring new energy to the Tour with on-air brand integrations and a variety of in-person, digital, and social media activations.

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We Lost One Of The Good Ones

by Dave Williams

Bowling lost one of the good ones this past Monday, January 20th, 2025, with the passing of PBA veteran Gary Mage of Vancouver, Washington. Gary, age 78, had done it all in the game of bowling. He was a champion on the PBA Tour, a mentor to many young professionals, the founder of the PBA Northwest Region (in 1979), and also a proprietor.

During his 2022 PBA Hall of Fame induction, Mage spoke about his lengthy career on and off the lanes. "I was a bowler like all of you guys," said Mage. "The only difference is that instead of complaining about who I was following or who was throwing (particular) bowling balls, I made the mistake of complaining there weren't any tournaments in the Northwest."

"The next thing I knew, I became the regional manager for the Northwest," said Gary with a chuckle. "I joined the PBA in 1965. I was able to go out on tour, and I got to bowl with all the greats. I was 'that guy' you read about," remembered Mage. "When Dick Weber won his last singles title on the regular tour, I was 'that guy' he beat," said Gary. "And when Earl Anthony won his last title on the PBA Senior Tour, I was once again 'that guy' he beat."

Upon hearing of his death, PBA Tour Commissioner Tom Clark said, "Gary Mage was the PBA. He ran more professional regional tournaments than anyone, first as the creator and manager of the Northwest Region and then also the Western Region (beginning in 2004)."

Clark continued, "He was first a player, and a player representative. Gary had countless talents, but most of all his integrity and trustworthiness. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Toni, family, friends and the countless members of the PBA who looked up to him for guidance."

He Was A Friend, Before You Knew It

My personal relationship with Gary Mage dates back to 1975, my rookie year on the PBA Tour. Mage was already a ten year veteran at the time, and I remember crossing with him at Cedar Lanes in Fresno. We both made the top 24, and I'm sure he had a lot to do with my success, shouting words of encouragement along the way. I don't remember what place Gary finished, but I do remember "battling" Don McCune for the last spot among the 24.

It's interesting how the PBA arranges the position of bowlers for the qualifying rounds, because I remember crossing with both Mage and George Pappas on numerous occasions. I never did ask, but there must be some sort of numerical code that is used — or perhaps they survey the veteran players before releasing the lane assignments.

After leaving the PBA Tour in the winter of 1978 and hooking up with AMF, I was positioned on and off in both Tacoma, Wash., and Portland, Ore., during the years from 1979-1981. Gary was extremely well known in the Portland market, having grown up and bowled at Crosley Bowl — just across the Columbia River from Portland in Vancouver, Washington.

I looked up on the internet and found that Crosley Bowl is still in existence, with three very qualified instructors: Don Allen III (son of proprietor Don Allen II, who was the night manager at AMF Cascade Lanes in Portland during my time in the City of Roses), Ernie Schlegel of PBA fame, and John Fantini, who ran the pro shop at the Showboat Lanes in Las Vegas for many years.

Gary and I continued our friendship after my time on the PBA Tour. He was very well respected and a favorite of Howard and Ethel Sitter, two of my all-time favorite people, and publishers of the weekly Oregon Bowler newspaper. Whenever I had an event scheduled, even if it was just a company party or league formation, I could usually count on them to be there.

Gary and I scheduled a PBA regional event each year at New Frontier Lanes in Tacoma, and individual stops at Cascade Lanes, Rockwood Lanes and Pro 300 Lanes in Portland (different years). The first year we had an event in Tacoma, New Frontier was still owned by Ted Tadich and Rose Magrini. Gary encouraged me to bowl and during the qualifying rounds that were televised by Group W Cable, I remember beating Earl Anthony. He was not a happy camper.

Whether it was organizing a PBA regional event, or crossing lanes with Mr. Mage during a PBA tournament, I always had a feeling that everything would work out and roll smoothly with Gary on my side, and it always did...

REMEMBER BOWLARAMA, THE BOOK? Well, it seems that Elliot Kane is up to his old tricks at Angel City Press, with the announcement of "Los Angeles Before the Freeways: Images of An Era 1850-1950," by Arnold Hysten with Nathan Marsak. I couldn't find any photos of bowling establishments, but it is nonetheless a fascinating view of the City of Angels before all the freeways!

- Excerpts of this article provided by bowl.com and pba.com news releases
- Photos provided by the Oregon Bowler archives and Angel City Press.



Portland Memories: (l to r) Kent Winklepleck (father of PBA member Jim Winklepleck), Mick McMahon and a young Gary Mage. Photo from the Oregon Bowler Archives



The Adventures of Superman: View of freeway construction near City Hall in 1952. Upon completion this same angle was used as one of the introductory scenes to the Superman television series that aired from 1952-1958. Photo provided by Angel City Press

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DUDE Wipes continued from page 4

"We're incredibly excited to partner with the PBA for one simple reason, DUDES love to bowl!" DUDE Wipes CMO and co-founder Ryan Meegan said. "We're here to keep them clean whether they're at the alley on a Friday night when the nachos hit, or at home watching all the excitement of the PBA from their couch."

All 2025 PBA Tour telecasts will feature prominent DUDE Wipes branding through a sponsored on-air feature and pin sweeps. The brand will also gain visibility across PBA's digital platforms, where DUDE Wipes and the PBA will engage in collaborative social media content.

At the 2025 PBA Tour stops, fans will have the chance to experience DUDE Wipes firsthand, with product samples available for them to take with them, another way DUDE Wipes is connecting with the PBA's passionate audience and ensuring fans stay fresh all season long.

Twelve-time PBA Tour champion Kyle Troup will serve as an ambassador for DUDE Wipes. Known for his fun personality and flair on the lanes, Troup will wear DUDE Wipes branding on his uniform for select 2025 special events. He will also work closely with the brand on social media campaigns across his and DUDE Wipes channels.

"I'm super excited to be teaming up with DUDE Wipes for the 2025 PBA Tour season," Kyle Troup said. "As a bowler, staying fresh and focused is key, and DUDE Wipes is a game-changer in helping us do that. It's an honor to represent such a fun, bold brand and work with them to bring fans exciting content all year long."

DUDE Wipes will also be the presenting partner of the PBA's Friday Five content series, specifically highlighting the No. 2 moment of the week's video.

For the latest information and updates about the 2025 PBA Tour, visit www.PBA.com and follow the PBA on Instagram, Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), TikTok and YouTube.

ANTHONY PLACENCIA Senior "Bowler of The Week"

by Frank Weiler

REDLANDS – This week Anthony Placencia topped all bowlers in the Golden Agers senior league and as a result is selected Senior "Bowler of The Week". Anthony rolled the High Scratch Series (207-216-244=667) of the week and also rolled one of the High Scratch Games (244). This dual accomplishment doesn't happen every week, so Anthony's performance made his selection for this week's award easy.

Anthony's selection was long overdue since he regularly rolls high scores. Trouble is he is consistently good but usually scores second fiddle to someone else's top score. It always happens when Anthony bowls 650, some JOE BOWLER bowls 651!

Not this week. This week Anthony topped everyone including all the Joe Bowlers out there.

It is no surprise that Anthony topped the scoreboard this week because he has been an elite bowler for a long time. His resume includes many high scores, and many "Magic Moments" on the lanes.

Anthony is a "Master Manipulator" on the lanes. He easily adjusts to changing lane conditions and generally is able to manufacture good scores when faced with difficult lane conditions. Also, Anthony's current 186 league average ranks in the TOP TEN averages of the Golden Agers League.

All of these accomplishments prove that Anthony is an excellent bowler. Also, his high scoring and consistent scoring are primarily responsible for his teams success.

Congratulations to Anthony Placencia for his selection as Senior "Bowler of The Week". Your bowling exploits again prove that "CALIFORNIA BOWLERS ARE THE BEST BOWLERS IN THE WORLD".



Anthony Placencia



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Delaware Classic continued from page 1

not a kid anymore trying to see if I can do it. I'm out here proving to myself that I can do it. I'm proving to everyone that I can do it. More importantly, I'm comfortable doing it now."

As the drought prolonged, Fach said he began to suffer from imposter syndrome.

"I didn't really have any expectations when I joined the tour," Fach said. "I was just a kid going to give the tour a shot and I won. After that, you build expectations. When you fall short, it gets heavy. It's a big weight to bear. I started to feel like maybe I don't belong out here. Maybe I had my week and that was it."

Over the past few seasons, Fach had begun to work his way towards title contention. He finished 14th in points last season and made the PBA World Championship finals. He also dominated the PBA Elite League in Portland in 2023 and 2024.

Fach said can't specify any particular low moment during the drought, just incremental burden.

"The weight gets a little heavier each time, but to pinpoint any one event I'd say is unfair," Fach added. "It's definitely a journey, and without it I don't think this would feel as good as it does right now."

Fach said the win felt even sweeter with his wife, Jen, in attendance.

"I'm so thankful my wife was able to make the trip and witness this," he said. "She's my biggest supporter. She will go anywhere if I'm on TV. She believes in me. She watches the kids when I'm out on tour. There's no one that can do anything more than what she's doing for me. To have the support right behind me, enjoying the moment with me, I love this feeling."

Fach ran away and hid from top-seeded Butturff in an all-left-handed championship. Fach started with four strikes, while Butturff failed to notch a second strike until the sixth frame.

"I'd like to say that I handled the nerves better, but man those nerves were there," Fach said. "Jakob is obviously world class. He's the top seed for a reason. You expect him to be Jakob. If we replay that match, nine times out of 10 he's that Jakob."

Butturff nearly converted his split in the fourth frame, but it may have been for naught regardless as Fach cruised to 277 with 10 strikes.

"After Jakob split, that got me thinking this could happen," Fach said, "but you still expect Jakob to be what we all expect Jakob to be. I expected him to strike out for 230 and I knew I needed a couple more strikes to get there. It wasn't until the ninth frame where I was able to strike and enjoy the moment. I sat down in the chair, basking in it, and realized what happened."

Fach defeated Nick Pate in the semifinal, 249-226. Pate, who emerged from the pre-tournament qualifier (PTQ), sought his first career title. Pate needed a double in the 10th frame to upend Fach but missed left on his first attempt.

In the second match, Fach out-struck another PTQ player in Michael Davidson, an impressive feat considering Davidson set the PBA's 12-game scoring record during qualifying.

Davidson made the show as the highest-seeded qualifier to lose in the Round of 8 of bracket match play. He lost to AJ Johnson in that round and earned his revenge in the first match of the stepladder finals.

The PBA Tour continues on Tuesday with qualifying of the U.S. Open presented by Go Bowling.

"Next week is next week. I want to focus on today right now," Fach said. "You can't go into the U.S. Open too high or too low and expect success. I'm going to have to bring myself into reality real quick, and I'm sure that tournament won't hesitate to do so."

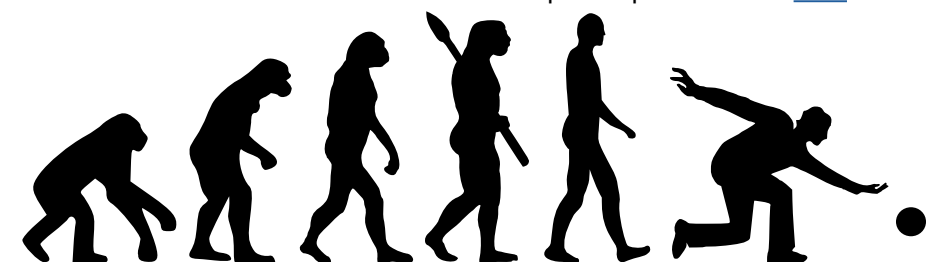
Championship Round Scores

- Match 1:** No. 5 Michael Davidson def. No. 4 AJ Johnson, 237-232
- Match 2:** No. 3 Graham Fach def. No. 5 Michael Davidson, 256-242
- Match 3:** No. 3 Graham Fach def. No. 2 Nick Pate, 249-226
- Championship:** No. 3 Graham Fach def. No. 1 Jakob Butturff, 277-200

Final Standings

- 1. Graham Fach, \$30,000
- 2. Jakob Butturff, \$18,000
- 3. Nick Pate, \$13,000
- 4. Michael Davidson, \$10,000
- 5. AJ Johnson, \$9,000

More information on the PBA Delaware Championship is available [here](#).



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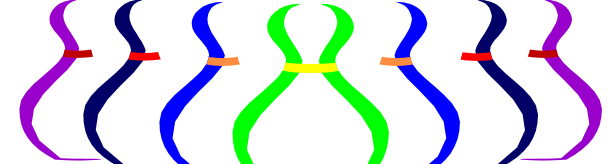
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38th Year! Brunswick® INVITATIONAL

Bowlum Holds A Four Game Lead With One Week To Go

by David Yamauchi

DOWNEY – The Brunswick Invitational took the lanes with just two weeks to go with Bowlum sitting atop the round with a 3 game lead over Family Ties and a 4 game lead over US Foods. The league was rooting for Pro Approach Oak Tree to get some wins and reel Bowlum back to the back.

In the “A” match, the aforementioned **Bowlum** (Billy Myers Jr.) took on **Pro Approach Oak Tree** (Ramon Torres) with Bowlum looking to put themselves in a position to win the round next week. Bowlum took a huge 4-1 win over a short-handed Pro Approach Oak Tree team to stay ahead of the pack. Ramon Torres led Oak Tree with a 570 set while Kevin Jones put up 561 to lead Bowlum.

The “B” match featured **Family Ties** (Bobby Campagnale) matched up with **US Foods** (Gabriel Martinez) with both teams still alive in the round and looking for a spot in the “A” match next week. US Foods took the book-end wins en route to a 4-1 win over Family Ties. US Foods was led by Mike Bogue’s 650 set while Scott Smith paced Family Ties with a 629 set. US Foods moves to the “A” match next week to bowl for the round.

Love Laundry (Ramsey Basurto) was taking on **Taco Bell** (Kaven Massey) with Taco Bell sitting 6 games out and needing some wins to be relevant. Love Laundry took the first and third games by enough to squeak out a 23-pin totals win and a 4-1 result. Ramsey Basurto was huge for Love Laundry with a 691 series while Mike Zuck struck to 655 to pace Taco Bell.

Junior Amateur Tour (Kevin Valmonte) and **Weaverbird** (Eric Williams Jr.) were both sitting 6 back and needing wins to have any

chance in next week’s battles. Weaverbird came out strong with a huge 878 game to bank a 145-pin lead, but Junior Amateur Tour stormed back with a 23-pin win and a huge 150-pin win for the 4-1 win. Kevin Valmonte finished strong to pace J.A.T. with a 663 set while Eric Williams Jr. led Weaverbird with a 659 set.

DV8 (Matthew Zweig) was looking to bounce back taking on **Threadworks** (Eric Snow) who also was looking for wins after a rough week 5. Threadworks was tough, taking the sweep over DV8 led by a league-leading 696 set from Eric Snow. Bryan Osborne paced DV8 with a 623 series.

Don Julio Tequila (Gabe Garza) was matched up with **Pro Approach Del Rio** (Augie Labrado Jr.) with both teams looking to bank some wins. The match was all Don Julio Tequila as they swept through Pro Approach Del Rio 5-0. Jason Carrillo led Don Julio Tequila with a solid 632 set while Omar Ponce Jr. was high for Pro Approach Del Rio with a 590 set.

Forest Lanes (Jon Diso), **Touchstone Homes** (Christian Eichelkraut), **Pro Approach Cal Bowl** (Austin Wasielewski) and **Del Rio Lanes** (Michael Barnett) rounded out Monday’s action. Forest Lanes took 4 from Touchstone Homes. Jon Diso was huge for Forest Lanes with a 681 series while Christian Eichelkraut paced Touchstone Homes with a 571 series.

Pro Approach Del Rio took 4 from Del Rio Lanes led by Austin Wasielewski’s 572 set. Jonathan Huezo was high for Del Rio with a 581 series.

Financial Advisors Pot went to Mike Zuck

TOP 10 ROUND 3 WEEK 6

Bowlum. 24	Family Ties 18
US Foods. 20	Threadworks. 17
Pro Approach Oak Tree \$. 20	Don Julio Tequila . . 16
Love Laundry \$. . . . 19	Taco Bell 15
Junior Amateur Tour. 18	Weaverbird 15

TOP 10 THIS WEEK

696 Eric Snow	655 Mike Zuck
691 Ramsey Basurto	650 Mike Bogue
681 Jon Diso	650 Ryan Cunningham
663 Kevin Valmonte	642 Gabriel Martinez
659 Eric Williams Jr.	641 Marquan Rivers

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(248) for \$160 with 2nd to JT Diso (245) for \$70. Sidepots went to Eric Williams Jr. (265) and JT Diso (245) for \$60 each with 2nd to Mike Bogue (245) and Eric “Legend” Snow (238) for \$30. SuperPot went to Ramsey Basurto (259) for \$180 with 2nd to Mike Bogue (247) for \$90.

Back on the lanes next week to finish round three and the long Mexico City pattern. Come out and watch Southern California’s Richest League take the lanes at Del Rio every Monday night at 7:30!

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

Saturday

WEEKLY

Tournament

NO TAP

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