

FEBRUARY 13, 2025

CALIFORNIA

# BOWLING NEWS

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## SANTTU TAHVANAINEN WINS FIRST CAREER TITLE IN PBA OWEN'S ILLINOIS CLASSIC

*Former Rookie of the Year, Tahvanainen becomes third Finnish player to win PBA Tour title*

by Nolan Hughes

The PBA crowned a new champion on Saturday night at Bowlero Vernon Hills in Vernon Hills, Ill.

Santtu Tahvanainen defeated Chris Via, 186-155, to win the PBA Owen's Illinois Classic. The 2022 PBA Rookie of the Year claimed his first career PBA Tour title and the \$30,000 top prize.

"I feel like every bowler who starts bowling and comes over here, they dream of this moment," Tahvanainen said. "I come over to win, but actually having this moment is pretty special."

Tahvanainen became the third player from Fin-

land to win on the PBA Tour, joining Mika Koivuniemi and Osku Palermaa.

"I deeply respect both of them, and especially their careers," Tahvanainen said. "It's a good aim to aim higher than them and to dream even bigger. That is 100% my goal. I feel like, for me, it was a monkey on the back. This has helped me down a little bit for the show and win the title, and now we get to see where we can climb."

Brett Spangler, Motiv's tour rep, said he remembers the first shot Tahvanainen ever threw on the PBA Tour, which came during the 2022



Santtu Tahvanainen

PBA World Series of Bowling.

"There are people

that, for one reason or another, stand out as remarkable," Spangler

said. "He's on a really short list of those people with EJ Tackett and Mar-

shall Kent. There are probably some others, continued on page 4



Terese Weiler

## THERESE WEILER – "Senior Bowler of The Week"

by Frank Weiler

REDLANDS – This week Terese Weiler is our "Senior Bowler of The Week". Terese rolled a Handicap Series of 724 and a handicap game of 268 leading her team to victory in the Golden Agers senior league at Empire Bowl. In fact, her team won their match 4 – 0 primarily because of her high scoring.

Terese's selection is not surprising since she regularly rolls good scores. Trouble is she is consistently good but usually scores second

fiddle to someone else's top score. It always happens that when Terese bowls 650 "JANE BOWLER" bowls 651 or better.

Not this week. This week Terese topped everyone including all the "Jane Bowlers" out there.

It is no surprise that Terese topped the scoreboard this week because she has been one of the most consistent bowlers rolling at Empire Bowl over the past two decades. Her

resume includes many high scores, and many "Outstanding Performances" on the lanes. A decade ago she rolled a scratch 800 series and a perfect 300 game.

Terese is a "shot maker" on the lanes. She is the best "split maker" I have ever seen bowl. She is "Better than most PBA bowlers" when it comes to making splits! Terese is one of a very few bowlers who possesses a specific bowling skill better than that same skill possessed by

most PBA bowlers.

All of Terese's aforementioned attributes and accomplishments validates the selection of her as "Senior Bowler of The Week". She is a great bowler and "a great team player".

Congratulations to Terese Weiler for her selection as "Senior Bowler of The Week". Your bowling exploits again prove that

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# An Investment In The Future Of Bowling

by Dave Williams

School Bowling Programs were the recent topic of an article at bowl.com, focusing on the “free” participation for all the members of the Rockford Public Schools in Illinois. The article states that after-school bowling for children has always been popular, but the Rockford Public Schools have made it so that kids wanting to join can do so for free.

The after-school bowling program has been a big part of my life, especially when I “retired” from Nationwide Bowling Centers and began a consulting business in 2009, known as 300 Bowling Creations, LLC. Things were rolling along smoothly until COVID-19 came upon the scene, virtually putting an end to most of the programs with which I was involved, primarily in the states of New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

With an abundance of after-school programs in a host of different cities and bowling centers, it was certainly enough to keep me busy! The article from bowl.com goes on to mention that the Rockford Public Schools has had a middle school bowling program for many years. The change this season was that the children were no longer required to pay a cent, after bowling was elevated to an official school sport.

Prior to the 2024-2025 school year, students in Rockford were required to pay \$90 each year for all bowling practice, matches, tournaments, shoe rental and uniforms. This same program has existed in New Jersey since 1958, when they were the first to recognize high school bowling as a letter sport. Bowling legend Chuck Pezzano (1929-2015), a lifelong resident of New Jersey, was one of the first to promote bowling as a high school sport at the age of 29.

Pezzano had been a collegiate bowler at Rutgers University, recording the first certified 800 series (824) by a collegiate student. It was also about this time that he began his writing career with a bowling column that appeared three times a week in the Paterson (New Jersey) Morning Call. Pezzano would continue his writing talent in newspapers across the country, becoming the most prolific writer in the game with more than a dozen books to his credit.

Another trailblazer for youth bowling, Ted Rebaun, would continue in Pezzano's footsteps, coordinating more than 40 after-school programs throughout New Jersey. When Rebaun retired, he left his legacy of bowling programs with me, and I was able to maintain and add to the after-school programs that Ted had developed. Those programs included both the free middle school and high school letter programs, as well as the after-school club sport activities for many communities.

## Pathway to League Bowling

Brad Sommer, the son of John Sommer (a member of both the USBC and BPAA Halls of Fame), leads the after-school program in Rockford, where practices are twice a week until the first match of the season, then going to one practice and one match thereafter (the same format followed by schools in New Jersey).

“I think (the free concept) has been a driving force for a lot of parents to try and convince a student that's never done a school sport before,” said Sommer. “It reduces a barrier of entry and helps participation knowing that a kid (has the potential to) make the team.” In bowling, unlike other sports, you don't have to be the strongest or tallest to achieve success.

Sommer says that for the 2024-2025 season there's been a 40% increase in signups. He goes on to say that many of the prior graduates of the after-school and in-school programs are embedded in adult leagues today. “It's a great way to get families involved in the sport and see it carry on from generation to generation,” said Brad.

“We just had to find that one person in the district or in the schools that's going to fight for you, and you can make magic happen,” Sommer said. That one person in the case of Rockford was Dawn Williamson, the Director of Athletics, Activities and Program Development in the Rockford Public Schools. Williamson calls supporting bowling a ‘no brainer.’

The same is true in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. It's easier to promote through a town recreation program, where all of the road blocks have already been eliminated. But when a town program is not available, such as in most parts of Pennsylvania, the Superintendent of Schools becomes the primary contact. Again, if you can convince the Superintendent to approve the program, then the only remaining step is the delivery of flyers to each of the schools.

## Looking Back

As I reminisce about the after-school programs, I find it hard to believe that I was able to coordinate so many programs. I guess when you really love what you are doing, as the old saying goes, it doesn't seem like work at all. But coordinating all of those programs, and making time to follow up with each of them on a periodic basis, makes me convinced that there was someone else there to help me along the way...


- Excerpts of this column obtained from articles appearing at bowl.com
- Sample bowling flyer from Edison Recreation provided by Dave Williams

**Mayor Antonia Ricigliano**  
The Municipal Council  
The Edison Recreation Department  
in association with  
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presents

## Winter Bowling Program

Dear Parent:

Edison Recreation is sponsoring a weekly bowling program for boys and girls between the ages of five and fourteen. This activity will be conducted on Mondays at 4:00 p.m. and will be held at Stelton Lanes which is located at 1665 Stelton Rd. (approx. one mile from the recreation office).




**Bumpers Available for Younger Bowlers under Age 9**

This program is 12 weeks long and will begin on Monday, January 23, 2012 and end April 23rd 2012.  
(no bowling on February 20th and April 9th) (Weather Permitting)

Cost for the Winter Bowling Program:

Cost includes: \$7.00 per session x 12 weeks = \$84.00

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- \*Award for Every Participant



If you would like your son or daughter to participate in this program, please fill out the registration form and return it with a check or money order for \$84.00 payable to Stelton Investors LLC, and return to the Edison Recreation Office at 328 Plainfield Ave, by January 20th or bring it in person to Stelton Lanes by January 23rd.

If you have any additional questions regarding this program, please call Stelton Lanes at 732-985-BOWL (2695).  
Edison Recreation—Monday @ 4 p.m.

Name of Child \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_\_  
I hereby give permission for my/our child to participate in this activity and assume the risk thereof and I do agree for myself/my child at all times to keep the said Recreation Department, Personnel and the Township of Edison free, and harmless and indemnified, from any and all liability for any injury (my child might sustain as the result of said participation. Photographs, videotapes, and audio recordings of the participant, while participating in and Edison Recreation Department Program may be made. I hereby permit, consent and authorize such materials of my/our child as an individual or part of a group with or without text, to be used for Edison Township Recreation Activities. It is further understood and agreed that Edison Township does not provide any insurance coverage for the participation or organization.

Parents Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Phone or Cell # \_\_\_\_\_  
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Stelton Lanes  
1665 Stelton Rd.  
732-985-BOWL (2695)

This leaflet from 2012 shows the basic layout of an after-school program for children ages 5 to 14. Share it with your local school and proprietor to see if you can get something started for the youth in your area.

# W.P.

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## Illinois Classic continued from page 1

but those are the three that really stand out.”

Tahvanainen’s boundless joy and carefree attitude also stand out on tour. Few have seen that personality closer than Spangler, who is traveling with the young Finn this season.

“First of all, I probably wouldn’t be traveling everywhere with him and rooming with him and everything if he wasn’t an absolute delight. He’s genuinely fun to have around,” Spangler said. “He feels like being light hearted and having fun is the way that he best processes what he’s seeing on the lanes. I think there’s something to that. It’s a totally different outlook. You see that with a lot of those special talents. It’s something that sets him apart.

“He feels like a very rare and unique talent, and uniqueness is invaluable on the PBA Tour.”

The 42-foot Salvino pattern — named and used in honor of PBA founding member, Hall of Famer and Chicago legend Carmen Salvino — played tricky at times during the championship round of the PBA Owen’s Illinois Classic.

Matt Ogle never got comfortable in the opening match, splitting twice to shoot 168 and lose to Tim Foy Jr.

The same was true for Ogle’s doubles partner Sean Rash in the second match, who also fell to Foy 242-190.

For much of the semifinal match, it looked like Foy might be on his way to his first career title. The Delaware native split in his 10th frame, opening the door for Chris Via to steal the match.

Via capitalized on the opportunity, doubling to move on to the title match with a 212-202 victory.

Neither Via nor Tahvanainen could get comfortable for very long in the championship. Tahvanainen’s two doubles were the most consecutive strikes by either player.

Via, who played farther right with reactive equipment than any other player, started to lose ball reaction. He opted to chase the pattern left with Tahvanainen.

“I made a couple blind guesses there, hoping I stumbled into something really, really good,” Via said. “I executed the way I wanted to, unfortunately, it was just one of those pairs that just had my number. It felt a whole lot better than 150, but it is what it is. Santtu bowled a great game and you’ve got to tip your hat to him.”

Via moves up to third in the season’s points list after finishing third in last week’s U.S. Open presented by Go Bowling as well. The 32-year-old’s hunt for his second career title continues.

“Obviously the loss sucks,” Via said. “But at the same time, it makes you want it even more. I feel like I’m bowling really well right now. I know it’s hard to win out here, but things are trending upward.”

The week began with the PBA Hall of Fame announcement of Chicago-area native Sean Rash. Ending with the first career title of a 28-year-old with sky-high potential feels like a fitting culmination.

In Tahvanainen’s young career, he has reached the championship round in six of his 24 events (25%).

“Based on those early numbers, I think Santtu gets to pick his ceiling,” Spangler said.

“I feel like when the pattern length starts with a four, I have what it takes when I bowl really well,” Tahvanainen said. “I proved it to myself and to others by making the 2023 PBA World Championship telecast. The third frame of the fifth game (of the tournament), this shot just felt amazing. The ball shaped amazingly. And I knew the pattern was good for me. Even though I was -70 after the first four games, everything just clicked.

“Next week, we bowl on a long pattern and I’m really confident about it. Hopefully we can even go back to back. That’s definitely what we’re aiming for.”

### Championship Round Scores

#### Match 1:

No. 4 Tim Foy Jr. def. No. 5 Matt Ogle, 217-168

#### Match 2:

No. 4 Tim Foy Jr. def. No. 3 Sean Rash, 242-190

#### Match 3:

No. 2 Chris Via def. No. 4 Tim Foy Jr., 212-202

### Championship:

No. 1 Santtu Tahvanainen def. No. 2 Chris Via, 186-155

### Final Standings

1. Santtu Tahvanainen, \$30,000

2. Chris Via, \$18,000

3. Tim Foy Jr., \$13,000

4. Sean Rash, \$10,000

5. Matt Ogle, \$9,000

More information on the PBA Owen’s Illinois Classic is available [here](#).

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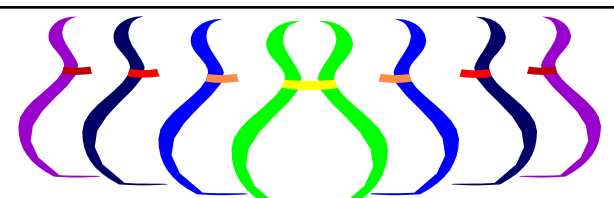
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## INVITATIONAL

# Weaverbird Sweeps to the Fourth Round Lead

by David Yamauchi

DOWNEY – The Brunswick Invitational took the lanes for the first week of the fourth round. Bowlers were gearing up to tackle the 2024 USBC Nationals Team Event pattern which on paper looked to be a challenge. Matches were set by overall wins for the season to start the round.

In the “A” match, league leaders **Pro Approach Oak Tree** (Leonard Ruiz Jr.) with 69 wins, took on **Family Ties** who were 5 points back at 64 going into the night. Family Ties took the first game, but Pro Approach Oak Tree stormed back for a solid 4-1 win. Bobby Hornacek was big for Pro Approach Oak Tree with a nice 643 series while Family Ties was paced by Bobby Campagnale’s 636 effort.

The “B” match featured **Love Laundry** (Ramsey Basurto) at 63.5 wins taking on **US Foods** (Gabe Martinez) at 63. Love Laundry took the first two, then dropped game three by just 11 sticks for a 4-1 win over US Foods. Ramsey Basurto led Love Laundry with a nice 624 set while Charlie Kinstler was high for US Foods with a 571 set.

Third-round winners **Bowlium** (Billy Myers Jr.) were at 63 wins also, battling **Don Julio Tequila** (Gabe Garza) who were sitting at 59.5. Bowlium took the first two games, only dropping game three by 35, for a 4-1 win. Kevin Jones led Bowlium with a 635 series while Phil Sujo was big for Don Julio Tequila with a 615 set.

**Threadworks** (Eric Snow) at 58 were taking on **Taco Bell** (Kaven Massey) who were the high of the 57-win teams. Taco Bell took a close first game, but it was all Threadworks from there as they got tough again for the 4-1 win. Eric Snow led Threadworks with a 659 series while Mike Zuck stayed hot for Taco Bell with a 572 set.

**Junior Amateur Tour** (Michael Marmolejo) at 57 was sporting a different look taking on **Forest Lanes** (Jon Diso) who were at 50 wins for the season. Forest Lanes took game one with a big 805-818 effort, but Junior Amateur Tour stormed back with huge wins in games two and three for a 4-1 win. Brandon Grant was huge for Junior Amateur Tour with a 664 series while JT Diso led Forest Lanes with a 613 set.

**DV8** (Matthew Zweig) at 45.5 were taking on **Weaverbird** (Eric Williams Jr.) who had 45 wins to date. The match was all Weaverbird as they swept to a 5-0 win over DV8. AJ Garcia was huge for Weaverbird with a big 653 set while Matt Zweig managed 556 for DV8.

**Touchstone Homes** (Christian Eichelkraut), **Pro Approach Cal Bowl** (David Silva), **Del Rio Lanes** (Michael Barnett) and **Pro Approach Del Rio** (Augie Labrado Jr.) rounded out Monday’s action. Pro Approach Cal Bowl took 4 from Touchstone Homes led by Stephanie Zavala’s big 645 set. Christian Eichelkraut led Touchstone Homes with a 576 set. Del Rio Lanes took 4 from Pro Approach Del Rio led by Michael Barnett with a 611 series. Augie Labrado Jr. led Pro Approach Del Rio with a 555 set.

**Financial Advisors Pot** went to Brandon Grant (255) for \$160 with 2nd to AJ Garcia (232) for \$70. Sidepots went to Brandon Grant (244,255) for \$62 each with 2nd to Mike Barnett (233) and Gabe Martinez (231) for \$31 each. SuperPot went to Kevin Jones (248) for \$186 with 2nd to Bobby Hornacek (243) for \$93.

Round 4 on the USBC 2024 Nationals Team Event pattern continues next week. Come out and watch Southern California’s Richest League take the lanes at Del Rio every Monday night at 7:30!

### TOP 10 ROUND 4 WEEK 1

Weaverbird . . . . . 5	Pro Approach Cal Bowl . . 4
Junior Amateur Tour. 4	Family Ties . . . . . 4
Threadworks . . . . . 4	Del Rio Lanes . . . . . 4
Bowlium \$\$\$ . . . . . 4	Love Laundry \$ . . . . 1
Pro Approach Oak Tree \$\$ . 4	Forest Lanes . . . . . 1

### TOP 10 THIS WEEK

664 Brandon Grant	636 Bobby Campagnale
659 Eric Snow	634 Michael Marmolejo
653 AJ Garcia	633 Kevin Jones
645 Stephanie Zavala	624 Ramsey Basurto
643 Bobby Hornacek	619 Anthony Santos

### SUPER SWEEPER POT

Sponsored by Dean Sanderson of Transamerica Financial Advisors Inc.  
1st Brandon Grant 255 \$160 • 2nd AJ Garcia 232 \$70

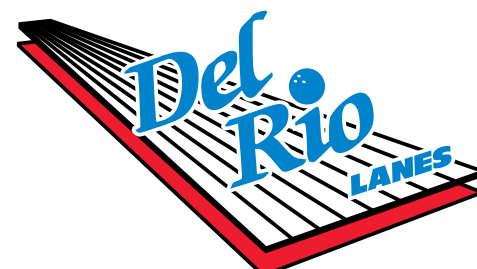


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**Del Rio Lanes 7502 Florence Ave., Downey CA 90240 • (562) 927-3351**

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