

# CALIFORNIA BOWLING NEWS

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## EJ TACKETT WINS PBA PETE WEBER MISSOURI CLASSIC FOR 25TH CAREER TITLE

*Tackett earned 25th career title with a wire-to-wire win.*

by Nolan Hughes

In a battle between bowling's most recent Triple Crown winners, EJ Tackett prevailed over Dom Barrett to win the PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic.

Tackett defeated Barrett, 238-202, in the championship match on Sunday afternoon at Enterprise Park Lanes in Springfield, Mo.

"It is so cool to win an event with someone like Pete's name on it," Tackett said. "This is one of those trophies that, in 20 or 30 years when I look back on my career, it's going to be a special one, especially with his signature on it. That's something that very few people are ever going to be able to have. It's a surreal feeling."

Barrett almost replicated Anthony Simonson's climb of last year's stepladder in this event. Barrett defeated Ryan Barnes, Timmy Tan and Tim Foy Jr. to set up a title bout with top-seeded Tackett.

After Barrett tallied an easy victory over Barnes, who had four open frames and shot 141 in the opening match, Barrett demonstrated why he is an 10-time titleist.

Timmy Tan, who sought to become the first Malaysian player to win a PBA Tour title, started strong with seven of eight strikes. But two straight single-pin spare conversions by Timmy Tan opened the door for Barrett, who doubled and got nine on his fill ball to



**EJ Tackett and Pete Weber**

win the match, 246-245. Barrett fell behind Foy in the semifinal as well but responded with seven consecutive strikes to win the match.

The title match between Tackett and Bar-

rett had the makings of a back-and-forth thriller — until the sixth frame. Barrett left a pocket 7-10, then left and made the 3-6-10. Tackett said those shots from Barrett changed the momentum

in the match.

"I felt like my next two shots were the two most important ones of the match," Tackett said. "To get up and strike twice after he missed twice was really important to keep the momentum on my side. Then Dom being Dom gets up and strikes in the eighth and ninth, exactly what you would expect from such a great champion."

Every athlete talks about how winning is the result of practice and preparation. Tackett's was put to the test in the championship's final frames.

Tackett missed the cut in last week's PBA Owen's Illinois Classic by 13 pins and he said he missed five 10-pins

during the event's 18 games of qualifying. In response, the veteran said he went home and beat the nuisance to a pulp at his home center.

Tackett then left the dreaded single-pin in the ninth and 10th frames against Barrett, needing to convert both and get nine pins on his fill to clinch the win.

He aced both 10-pins, then secured his 25th career title with a strike. Tackett is tied with Brian Voss for 11th all-time and sits one title behind Don Johnson for a top-10 spot.

"I've always believed in myself," Tackett said. "I've always believed in my abilities. I always believed that I was going to

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## Hello, PBA Bowling? It's California Calling

by Dave Williams

As I look back upon the rich history of bowling, I am constantly confounded by the seeming disregard of California by the Professional Bowlers Association (PBA), and indeed all of the professional bowling organizations, in recent years.

It's a little cool in New Jersey today (26 degrees with snow starting in a couple of hours), so I decided not to brave the elements and journey to my Mini Storage

Warehouse Museum to retrieve old issues of the PBA Tour annuals. Instead, I was able to locate some old issues of the American Bowling Congress (now USBC) Yearbook in my home to serve as reference for this column.

It didn't take long to locate the 1975 PBA Tour season in one of the annuals. It was my first attempt at the big time that year, when I qualified in a BPAA Win-A-Spot tour-

namment in California, for an all-expenses paid trip to the US Open at the Forum Bowl in Grand Prairie, Texas, conducted from March 23rd to March 29th.

As I reviewed the schedule of events for the year, there were no less than 6 pro events scheduled in the state of California. That's more than any other state, and 18% of the 34 events conducted in 1975. The pro's started their sea-

son at the famous Mel's Bowl in Alameda, Calif., followed by Bowling Square in Arcadia, Calif., the next week.

Then beginning in May of 1975, there were a total of 4 tournaments in a 6 week span that were contested in California: the PBA National Championship in Downey, Calif. (May 24th-31st), the Sacramento Open (June 7th-10th), the San Jose Open (June 28th-July

continued on page 3



**Glenn Allison**

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**CALIFORNIA Calling** continued from page 1

2nd), and the Fresno Open (July 3rd-8th).

It's no wonder that so many young professional bowlers were coming out of the Golden State in those years. In fact, as I looked through the Who's Who section of bowlers in the 1975 ABC Yearbook, 18 of the top 100 bowlers were from California. That's 18% of the bowlers, the same percentage as the number of PBA events scheduled in California. Coincidence? I think not.

**Fast Forward to 2025**

There are a total of 22 events scheduled in 2025 on the PBA Tour. Two states dominate the events, with 6 in Nevada and 5 in Michigan. Part of the reason for the dominance of those two states can be attributed to multiple events being scheduled in subsequent weeks (or within a week) at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, and Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park, a suburb of Detroit.

Taking a deeper look at professional bowling in 2025, we see that the PBA50 Tour has also shunned the Golden State. With a total of 18 events scheduled from May through August, there are 6 senior events in Michigan (5 of those are at David Small's JAX 60 Bowl in Jackson) and 4 in Ohio (all at Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl). Once again, the tournaments at these two locations are taking place within a week's time. (The first PBA Senior event was conducted in 1981, so there's no comparison for 1975).

The women's PWBA Tour has also shied away from California. Most of their eight scheduled national events are in or around the Great Lakes region. In 1975, there were 11 professional women's events conducted by the PWBA, and a group known as the LPBA that had splintered from the PWBA in 1974. Four of the eleven events were held in the state of Ohio, but none were conducted in the state of California. (Thanks to the 11thframe.com for information on the 1975 women's tour).

There's no question that the live events from one of the professional groups has a profound effect upon the youth in that area. I'm a result of that indoctrination, having witnessed events at Saratoga Lanes (San Jose), Golden Gate Lanes (El Cerrito) and L & L Castle Lanes (San Francisco) in my formative years. Some of my fondest memories are from those early visits to professional tournaments.

The PBA, PWBA, and PBA50 really need to take a look at this. They are missing out on the future development of professional bowlers by almost completely ignoring the areas that are dominating the swing of population migration today: Arizona, Florida and Texas.

There is one PBA/PWBA combined event that's scheduled in Houston, and two PBA50 events in Florida, but those are the only national tournaments in those 3 states. And even though many residents are leaving California, it still remains the most populous state in the nation... with no scheduled events by any of the professional organizations.

**Once again, for emphasis: There's nothing like visiting a live professional bowling event for an impressionable young bowler... nothing!**

**Looking Back to 1975**

In case you were wondering who all those California bowlers were from the Who's Who section of the 1975 ABC Yearbook, I've listed them below. Keep in mind that the records are for USBC and PBA achievements, so you may not recognize some of the names:

- Glenn Allison
- Barry Asher
- Ed Bourdase
- Tye Critchlow
- Mike Durbin
- Don Glover
- Jim Godman
- Tim Harahan
- Billy Hardwick
- Ted Hoffman
- Bob Hood
- Bud Horn
- Larry Laub
- Andy Marzich
- Mike McGrath
- Norm Meyers
- Jay Robinson
- Don Russell

-Excerpts derived from the 1975 ABC Press, Radio and TV Guide  
 -Excerpts derived from the 1975 ABC Yearbook  
 -Information obtained from PBA, PWBA and PBA50 news releases  
 -Glenn Allison photo provided by bowl.com



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## Roxanne Berch Leads NFL Clubhouse League

by Frank Weiler

REDLANDS – The “**BEST OF THE BEST**” of Empire Bowl roll in the NFL Clubhouse League. The league boasts several **HALL OF FAME** bowlers and many known **high rollers**. A host of the **guys and dolls** competing in the league have rolled numerous honor scores including many perfect games.

The brightest stars among the **guys and dolls** in the league are **TOBY LEE** and **ROXANNE BERCH**. Toby and Roxanne are perennial top scorers in the league. Toby has led the league in average four out of the past five years. He regularly averages close to 240, at least until **string pins** arrived in March of 2024. Now scores are down and Toby is currently at 218, second in league average.

On the ladies side of the lanes Roxanne has been even more dominant than Toby. She has posted the women’s high league average every year she has competed. I know that goes back at least five seasons. During those seasons Roxanne also rolled the high scratch league games and series. That’s **Dominance** with a capital **DEE!**

The league currently boasts thirteen bowlers averaging 200 or higher. The **TOP 3** league bowlers follow:

1. Jordan Price 229
2. Toby Lee 218
3. Justin Bergren 212

The League wishes to give a “**SHOUTOUT**” to Justin Bergren, Jordan Price, Eric Hefftner, Jacob Dragoman and Zack Jellsey for rolling perfect 300 games this season.

**ROXANNE BERCH** leads the league’s ladies with a 190 average. She also leads the ladies with season highs of a 711 scratch series and a solid 266 scratch game. The **TOP 3** league women follow:

1. Roxanne Berch 190
2. Rachel Warren 180
3. Rose Cassidy 173

The exploits of these great bowlers prove again that “**CALIFORNIA BOWLERS ARE THE BEST BOWLERS IN THE WORLD**”.

### Missouri Classic continued from page 1

win at some point. I had no idea this was even possible.”

“Watching guys like Jason Belmonte, Pete Weber, Norm Duke and Parker Bohn III, those guys were still very active and winning when I first came out in 2013,” Tackett continued. “I never thought that anything that they ever did was remotely attainable. I’m not saying that I can get to where they’ve gotten in the sport — but, well, maybe I can.”

Tackett, who also won the U.S. Open earlier this season, will begin his next title pursuit later this month in the PBA Mike Aulby Nevada Classic. The tournament gets underway Feb. 25 at Coconut Bowl in Reno, Nev.

#### Championship Round Scores

**Match 1:** No. 4 Dom Barrett def. No. 5 Ryan Barnes, 190-141

**Match 2:** No. 4 Dom Barrett def. No. 3 Timmy Tan, 246-245

**Match 3:** No. 4 Dom Barrett def. No. 2 Tim Foy Jr., 239-224

**Championship:** No. 1 EJ Tackett def. No. 4 Dom Barrett, 238-202

#### Final Standings

1. EJ Tackett, \$30,000    2. Dom Barrett, \$18,000

3. Tim Foy Jr., \$13,000    4. Timmy Tan, \$10,000

5. Ryan Barnes, \$9,000

More information on the PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic is available [here](#).



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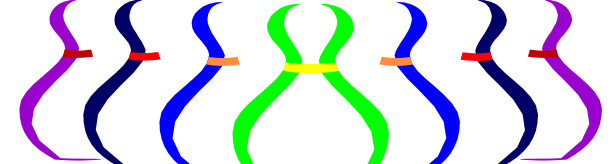
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## Three Teams Move To 9-1 To Lead Round Four, Barraco Goes Clean-30

by David Yamauchi

DOWNEY – The Brunswick Invitational took the lanes for the second week of the fourth round. Bowlers were retooled after week one on the 2024 USBC Nationals Team Event pattern. Weaverbird was looking to stay perfect after a 5-0 start in week one.

In the “A” match, **Weaverbird** (Eric Williams Jr.) put their perfect start on the line against 4-1 **Junior Amateur Tour** (Kevin Valmonte) who was back fully-loaded with their regulars. Weaverbird took a close game one, then a big win in game two gave them a 4-1 win over J.A.T. A.J. Garcia was big for Weaverbird with a 650 set while Brandon Grant led Junior Amateur Tour with a 639 series.

The “B” match featured always-tough **Threadworks** (Eric Snow) taking on third-round winners **Bowlium** (Billy Myers Jr.). Bowlium took two close games then rolled in game three to a 5-0 sweep over Threadworks. Kevin Jones led Bowlium with a 600 set while Eric Snow was big for Threadworks with a 621 series.

Overall league-leaders **Pro Approach Oak Tree** (Leonard Ruiz Jr.) matched up with **Pro Approach Cal Bowl** (David Silva) with the teams sitting in the middle of a stacked 4-1 pack. This match was all Pro Approach Oak Tree as they rolled easily to a 5-0 sweep. Bobby Hornacek was the high of a trio of sixes for Oak Tree with a 670 set while Scott Silva managed 540 to lead Pro Approach Cal Bowl.

**Del Rio Lanes** (Michael Barnett) took on first-round winners **Love Laundry** (Ramsey Basurto) in the low of the 4-1 teams after one

week. Love Laundry took the first two, dropping only game three by 23 for a 4-1 win over Del Rio Lanes. Michael Barnett led Del Rio with a 501 set while Vernon Adams was solid for Love Laundry with a 612 series.

**Forest Lanes** (Jon Diso) was looking for their first-game look from last week as they battled **Don Julio Tequila** (Gabe Garza). Don Julio Tequila took the bookend games en route to a 4-1 win over Forest Lanes. Phil Sujo led Don Julio with a 581 set while JT Diso paced Forest Lanes with a 545 series.

**Taco Bell** (Kaven Massey) and **Family Ties** (Bobby Campagnale) were looking to bounce back after tough 1-4 starts. Taco Bell was huge as they swept through Family Ties led by Kaven Massey’s huge 665 series. Bobby Campagnale paced Family Ties with a 615 series.

**US Foods** (Gabe Martinez), **Touchstone Homes** (Christian Eichelkraut), **Pro Approach Del Rio** (Augie Labrado Jr.) and **DV8** (Matthew Zweig) rounded out Monday’s action. US Foods took 4 from Touchstone Homes led by Paul Barraco’s clean 619 set. Paul is the first bowler to hit the clean-30 and is guaranteed ½ the pot. Kevin Cowden and Christian Eichelkraut put up 530 sets to lead Touchstone Homes. DV8 took a clean sweep of Pro Approach Del Rio with Bryan Osborne leading the way with a 618 series. Omar Ponce Jr. put up 568 to lead Pro Approach Del Rio.

**Financial Advisors Pot** went to AJ Garcia (278) for \$160 with 2nd to Ramon Torres (256) for \$70. Sidepots went to Bobby Hor-

### TOP 10 ROUND 4 WEEK 2

Weaverbird . . . . . 9	Junior Amateur Tour. 5
Pro Approach Oak Tree \$\$ 9	DV8. . . . . 5
Bowlium \$\$\$ . . . . . 9	Don Julio Tequila . . 5
Love Laundry \$ . . . . 8	US Foods. . . . . 5
Taco Bell. . . . . 6	Del Rio Lanes . . . .

### TOP 10 THIS WEEK

670 Bobby Hornacek	621 Eric Snow
670 Kaven Massey	620 Ramiro Garcia Sr.
650 AJ Garcia	619 Paul Barraco
639 Brandon Grant	619 Avian Tran
631 Ramon Torres	618 Bryan Osborne

### SUPER SWEEPER POT

Sponsored by Dean Sanderson of Transamerica Financial Advisors Inc.  
1st A.J. Garcia 278 \$160 • 2nd Ramon Torres 256 \$70



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nacek (236) and Vernon Adams (243) for \$64 each with 2nd to Brandon Grant (228) and Matt Zweig (236) for \$32. SuperPot went to Mike Zuck (250) for \$192 with 2nd to Bobby Hornacek (245) for \$96.

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!

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



### 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**  
 2/18: Johnny Petraglia • 2/25: Arsenic

### 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**