## CALIFORNIA

# IE SMART 

## SMART MAKES \$7MILLION ALLOCATION, ADDITIONAL S1MILIIONTO Pell grant match <br> by Aaron Smith

ARLINGTON, Texas - Due to policies adThe United States Bowl- opted in 2021, a poring Congress Scholar- tion of the allocation will ship Management and Account Reporting for Tenpins (SMART) program is making an investment earnings allocation of $\$ 7$ million to provide additional scholarships for youth bowlers in 2024.

The $\$ 7$ million allocation is consistent with funding provided in 2022 and 2023. This allocation matches the largest investment earnings allocation in SMART history.

In addition to the earnings allocation, SMART is allocating an additional \$1 million to the SMART Pell Grant Match program.

## JIff I LWEN I leals Teamto Pala Casiliol league Bloch Wins

by Frank Weiler


AIITHONY SIMONSEE CIIMBS LADDERTO WIIN PBA PTET WEEER MISSOURI CLLASSIC
Simonsen wins four consecultive matches to claim 14th career PBA Tour title
by Nolan Hughes
Fifth-seeded Anthony Simonsen climbed Sunday afternoon's stepladder finals, defeating AJ Johnson, Matt Russo, EJ Tackett and top-seeded Bill O'Neill to win the PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic.
With the win, Simonsen earned his 14th career PBA Tour title and the $\$ 25,000$ top prize.

On Friday, Simonsen threw the front-nine in the final game to punch his ticket to the finals. Following a pivotal strike, he tapped his wrist and said "too much time."
"I really had nothing to lose that last game, and that was the motto today," Simonsen said. "I barely made the show. I was on house money. Sometimes all it takes is just sneaking through until you get that opportunity."


Though he felt he had a couple of those until right lane - the same nothing to lose, Simon- hopefully we made the blunder that cost him in sen concocted a game- lanes dry enough to the last week's PBA Illinois plan to conquer the 45- right to throw that At- Classic title match. foot Dragon oil pattern. tention Star. I think my Johnson advanced His command over lanes gameplan today was re- to face the lone lefty in 29-30 at Enterprise Park ally solid and I executed Russo, who now lives in Lanes in Springfield, Mo. proved to be the difference.
"On TV shows, I like using balls that I'm comfortable with," Simonsen said. "I decided I was going to shuffle through

##  <br> by Dave Williams

I first met Pete We- slightly above that of ber during AMF's nego- a delegate to a pacitiations to purchase Dick Weber Lanes from his father in Florissant, Mo., still home to most of the Weber clan. Pete was already a PBA champion at the time with a couple of titles under his belt. He was an intense young man that had heard of my 300 and 800 exploits on the east and west coasts and was ready to duke it out on the lanes when we first met that day.
But once he learned
that my personality was
fists convention, and that I had no interest in defending my "valor" against one of the greatest bowlers in the history of bowling, we became fast friends in a mutual admiration that has continued to this day.

In an article that penned in May of 2021 ("Pete Weber - Still Doing It His Way"), I remarked about the hospitality extended to me by all of the Weber housecontinued on page 5


Dick and Pete Weber (1985) Check in 11:00am o Bowlat 12:00pm • $\$ 30$ Entry Fee Optional Pots \& PLENTY of \$5 Brackets

# Why Bow inilergulues? Here'SWhy! 

by Fred Eisenhammer

WINNETKA - So you've never bowled in a league? Or you've taken a break from a bowling league and want to get back in?

This is a good time to start considering joining a league for the popular three-month summer season. Bowling coordinators will start mapping plans within the next couple of months to patch together the requisite number of teams for their leagues.

## And space is tight!

With many bowling centers closing or abandoning leagues, bowlers need to inquire early or they may find themselves squeezed out of a spot. Some leagues are saturated with would-be entrants and there's no guarantee that latecomers will have an opening available.

## So why bowl in leagues?

Here is a list of 10 reasons to join a bowling league, courtesy of About.com, along with my comments:

## 1-The Characters

About.com: League bowling brings out some of the most colorful, interesting, baffling personalities in the world. You have no idea these people are in your community until you join a bowling league. From unbelievably talented bowlers to inexplicably strange humans, you get a cross-section of society you didn't realize existed.

Fred Eisenhammer: Because there are so many characters, there is absolutely no shortage of individuals to write about. You never know when you encounter a bowling league icon like Ken Borshell among the mix of players. Borshell is someone who for 30 years traveled round-trip more than 200 miles every week just so he could bowl in Los Angeles on the same league team as his good friends. Borshell hit the road from Bakersfield to L.A. for seven years and then drove from Palm Desert to L.A. for 23 years.

## 2-Camaraderie

About.com: Bowling leagues, especially with your friends (or strangers who will become your friends), are great ways to spend a few hours a week.

Fred Eisenhammer: It's a great way to make friends, especially for widows and widowers.

3 - Fun
About.com: Whether league bowling or not, it's fun to bowl.
Fred Eisenhammer: Not only is it fun, but it's exciting. One day, anchorman Greg Kolski prepared to bowl in the 10th frame of a league game knowing that the match was on the line. Greg needed a mark to seal the victory for his team. Considering Greg's average was near 200, Greg's teammates were feeling pretty confident. Then Greg drilled a pocket shot that inexplicably left the imposing 6-7 split and it was apparent that the bowling gods had intervened to upset the norm. There were no groans from Greg's team. It was more like shock. Then Greg threw his big hook for his second shot, and again it was another huge surprise. He clipped the 6 pin gently on the right side and the pin slid over and barreled into the 7 - an improbable shot that snatched victory from the jaws of defeat.

## 4-Gambling

About.com: Small-time gambling is acceptable in most bowling leagues. Often, half your league fees go toward your bowling and the other half goes toward the prize fund. At the end of the season, you and your team will receive prize money based on where you finish. Individual prizes are usually up for grabs, too. Other ways to win a

Fred Eisenhammer: It's not usually a tremendous sum of money that is up for grabs, but bowlers are a competitive group - and even a little money means a lot.

## 5 -Fitness

About.com: Repeatedly hurling a heavy sphere requires strength and endurance, and you can burn a significant number of calories bowling.

Fred Eisenhammer: Bowling may not be the exercise program prescribed by your doctor, but even a little exercise is better than none.

## 6-Pizza

About.com: Never mind you're counteracting the exercise portion while cutting into your prize fund - it's delicious.

Fred Eisenhammer: Don't forget beer for those with an appreciation of that beverage.

## 7-Television

About.com: If bowling isn't enough for you, many bowling centers have TVs playing whatever most of you want to watch (typically sports). Depending on the time of your league, you can watch entire hockey and baseball games while bowling.

Fred Eisenhammer: Hockey? No thanks. Thumbs-up on football, baseball and basketball - and particularly any game involving the Dodgers, Angels, Clippers, Lakers, Kansas City Chiefs or San Francisco 49ers.

## 8 - United States Bowling Congress Memhership

About.com: You'll be a part of the USBC, which costs about \$20 a year (and is often hidden in your league fees, so you don't even have to think about it if you don't want to) Membership qualifies you for awards and gives you discounts with various merchants, including hotels and rental cars.

Fred Eisenhammer: As a USBC member, a bowler is eligible to participate in many tournaments.

## 9 -Relaxation

About.com: Except on the nights during which you're bowling so poorly you find yourself doing anything but relaxing, the sport can give you a nice respite from the workday or workweek. Show up, relax, throw a few frames and have fun.

Fred Eisenhammer: Relaxation is nice in theory. Fact is, even a small pot of money at the end of the rainbow creates a competitive environment. And many bowlers feel the tension during the ninth and 10th frames. But competitiveness is a good thing. It's fun to show that one can come through when the chips are down. A bad thing is when some bowlers resort to gamesmanship - deliberately distracting the other team's bowlers or "disappearing" so the other team's players bowl ahead of them in the 10th frame.

## 10-Status

About.com: You'll be amazed by how many people are impressed when they find out you bowl in a league.

Fred Eisenhammer: Perhaps more importantly, bowling in a league could provide a boost to your self-esteem. Your first 200 game, your first 500 or 600 series - it shows that you can accomplish things in your 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s and older. It's no coincidence that some of the most successful people are avid bowlers.

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## Missouri Classic

continued from page 1
and washed out in the sixth. That was all Simonsen needed to prevail with a 247-202 victory.

The semifinals pitted Simonsen against reigning Player of the Year EJ Tackett. The 2023's season's top two players grinded through the transition as neither player struck for five consecutive frames.

Tackett tossed aside any struggles as he aced three strikes in the 10th, forcing Simonsen to double

Just as he did on Friday evening, Simonsen dialed in when he needed it most.

O'Neill, seeking his second title of the season, awaited Simonsen in the title match.

The current front-runner for Player of the Year elected to finish on the left lane, a decision he soon came to regret. O'Neill left a variation of the 2-10 split in the fourth, sixth and eighth frames

Simonsen, who displayed the savviness of a fifth year senior point guard, cruised to a 225-156 win.

When Pete Weber threw his final shots on the PBA Tour last Thursday, Simonsen was the first player to congratulate the Hall of Famer. Sunday, Weber returned the favor to present him the championship trophy.
"The sport of bowling wouldn't be where it is today without him," Simonsen said. "It's emotional for me because we're getting to the point where Father Time
has kind of taken over a lot of the guys who I watched at a younger age. This is going to be the first time in 66 years without a Weber associated with the PBA Tour."
"I think me and Pete are alike at times," Simonsen said. "Sometimes it seems like we need to bowl angry to bowl better. Sometimes it comes out the way it should; sometimes it's a little unprofessional."
"I jokingly told Pete, 'I don't know if there's anybody better to win the inaugural Pete Weber event than me."

No days off in 2024: The PBA Tour keeps rolling as the Just Bare PBA Indiana Classic, the fifth title event of the season, begins Monday in Anderson, Ind.

## Championship Round Scores

Match 1: No. 5 Anthony Simonsen def.
No. 4 AJ Johnson, 234-159
Match 2: No. 5 Anthony Simonsen def. No. 3 Matt Russo, 247-202
Match 3: No. 5 Anthony Simonsen def.
No. 2 EJ Tackett, 203-193
Championship: No. 5 Anthony Simonsen def. No. 1 Bill O'Neill, 225-156

## Final Standings

1. Anthony Simonsen, $\$ 25,000$
2. Bill O'Neill, $\$ 15,000$
3. EJ Tackett, \$12,500
4. Matt Russo, \$10,000
5. AJ Johnson, \$8,000

More information on the PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic is available here.

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Smart continued trom page 1
scholarship.
$\$ 1.9$ million in new SMART deposited unassigned funds for Providers to allocate toward future scholarships.

This is in addition to the new $\$ 3.2$ million SMART deposited unassigned funds Providers received for allocation in December from expired Recipient accounts.
$\$ 2.55$ million is set aside for the SMART Pell Grant Match program for the 2024-2025 academic year.
"The SMART program continues to develop into one of the most impactful programs in our sport," USBC President Melissa McDaniel said. "We are proud to announce another meaningful earnings alocation, which will benefit our youth bowlers and SMART Providers."

The federal Pell Grant is a national program that helps students and families with the greatest financial need pay for college. The SMART Pell Grant Match maximizes the power of this federal program for bowlers by matching it dollar for dollar. The SMART Pell Grant Match will be available to any student with at least one season of USBC Youth participation and two seasons of overall USBC membership.

Students can request the SMART Pell Grant Match by visiting BOWL.com/SMART.
"We are seeing interest in the SMART Pell Grant Match program grow and clearly meeting a need within our bowling community," said Frank Wilkinson, chair of the USBC SMART Committee. "We want the awareness to continue to spread and encourage more kids to learn about SMART and take advantage of the resources available to them."

In 2021, the USBC Board of Directors approved a series of policy changes for SMART, designed to increase scholarship benefits for SMART Recipients. The new policy allocates a portion of investment gains to be awarded as new scholarships in SMART Recipient accounts

LeWPI continued from page 1
Top 5 finish in every of the five seasons. There is every reason to believe he will lead this season's team to another league championship.

TEAM LEWEN won this season's first eight week Block with 159.5 points by a whopping 27 points over second place "VISITING TEAM" led by William Conrad. TEAM LEWEN won the second Block with 145 points a mere seven points more than TEAM 1 led by Alan Mojado and Jerry DeYager.

Jeff Lewen is averaging 225, third best in the league, and just half a pin behind John Cooper's league leading 226 average. Over the past five seasons Jeff has recorded the league high average three times and has recorded one of the Top 3 league averages in the seasons he hasn't led the league.

Congratulations to Jeff and his teammates. Their lane accomplishments are more examples of why CALIFORNIA BOWLERS ARE THE BEST BOWLERS IN THE WORLD".


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MPDPr continued from page 1
hold, refusing to let me return to my hotel room, and instead enjoying home cooked meals and visits to the famous trophy room that housed all of the Weber's memorabilia. Whenever I would see Pete, usually during the U.S. Open at Carolier Lanes in New Jersey, he would always comment about how much his parents thought of me and enjoyed my company. The feeling was mutual.

Pete first announced his retirement from the regular PBA Tour in 2021. But Weber also said that he would continue to bowl the majors, or special invitations, as well as the PBA50 circuit for members over the age of 50. Ironically, Walter Ray Williams Jr., Pete's nemesis for all those years, would make virtually the same announcement a couple of days later.

In Pete's most recent announcement, he told the crowd at the PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic, "After 44 years, it's very humbling for me to be with you today. It's been an honor and a privilege. I will continue to bowl on the senior tour, but you will never see me throw another ball on the kid's tour, the Tournament of Champions, the U.S. Open or the Masters. I love you all so much. Thank you."

In his final frame, he rolled a strike on the first ball. "Most importantly - 200," he exclaimed, pointing to the overhead scoreboard. On the next shot he left a solid 9 pin. "How appropriate, to leave a solid 9 on my last shot," said Weber. You could almost sense the sarcasm in his voice, referring to the many taps that he's had to live with the past few years. As I continued watching the telecast on Bowl-TV from Enterprise Park Lanes in Springfield, Mo., I could see the frustration that must have weighed heavily upon the 61 year old Weber.

While Pete was leaving solid 9 pins, or 4 pins, or even the proverbial 10 pin, other bowlers around him, mostly two-handers, were striking at will, with only an intermittent 4 or 5 count split preventing them from a perfect score. There were so many 279's and 280's being rolled that it was reminiscent of playing pinball on a no-tilt machine! Only those crazy 3-4-6-7-9-10, or similar splits, were all that was preventing the players from averaging 250, or even higher. It's a wonder that Weber and Walter Ray have remained as long as they have on the regular tour. The game is just not the same.

Pete Weber won his first title at the 1982 Greater Hartford Open in Connecticut. But he didn't stop there, racking up a total of 10 titles by the tender age of 24 , which is still a record. He's the only PBA player to win the Triple Crown (U.S. Open, Tournament of Champions, World Championship) twice, and he has won the U.S. Open an amazing 5 times.

PBA staff writer Nolan Hughes comments that since Weber's first retirement in 2021, he has bowled an occasional event each season, in addition to the majors. He has become a fixture at the PBA50 events, and last season earned PBA60 Player of the Year honors. The Pete Weber Missouri Classic will continue through Saturday, with the finals airing Sunday, February 19th at 1 p.m. Eastern, on Fox Sports 1.
"I can't wait to give the best bowler the trophy on Sunday," said Weber.

ANOTHER WEBER SAYS FAREWELL - John Weber spent a good deal of his life overseeing PBA Regional and PBA50 Tour operations.

With his retirement, and that of his brother Pete, we soon may see the very first national tournament since the inception of the PBA without the name Weber in front of the camera, on the lanes, or behind the scenes. "I thank all of you for the support you've shown throughout the years.

You guys made my job the best in the world. I'm so lucky and thankful for everything and everyone that was part of my journey. Thank you all," said John in a posting at BCM Magazine.

Photo from the files of Henry Kaven, and provided by Dave Williams

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# Brínswick: .  

by David Yamauchi

DOWNEY - The Brunswick Invitational took to the lanes for the first week of the fourth round, featuring the USBC Nationals Team Event pattern from 2023. In a rare occurrence, USBC used the same pattern two consecutive years, so veteran bowlers were looking at the same pattern as last year's fourth round and had their equipment ready for the shot.

Teams matched up by overall round wins to start the round. The " $A$ " match featured Cal Bowl (Leonard Ruiz Jr.) with 67.5 points taking on Bowlium (Billy Myers Jr.) with 65 points. Cal Bowl took the first two by a bunch, dropped game three, but scored totals and the 4-1 result. Ramon Torres was big for Cal Bowl with a 665 series while Arnold Cheesman led Bowlium with a 629 set.

Next up in the "B" match was Forever Hope Foundation (Vernon Adams) at 65 points taking on Junior Amateur Tour (Kevin Valmonte) at 61.5 points. Forever Hope Foundation took a very close first game by 2 but Junior Amateur Tour bounced back for a big win in game two. Game three game down to the final shot, as an errant shot gave Junior Amateur Tour a one-pin win for the 4-1 result. Anthony Santos led the league with a 727 set for Junior Amateur Tour while Eric Williams Jr. was big for Forever Hope with a 697 set.

US Foods (Gabriel Martinez) was sitting at 61 wins taking on first-round winners Family Ties (Mikey Villarreal) who also were sitting on 61 points. This match was all US Foods as they swept the match 5-0. Gabriel Martinez led US Foods with a strong 684 set while Vince Duarte put up 639 to pace Family Ties. US Foods will move to the " $A$ " match next week.

DV8 (David Cogswell) matched up with Threadworks (Eric Snow) in the middle of the pack with 60/59 wins respectively. Thread-
works was the tough draw tonight as they took bookend wins including a close 7-pin first game win for the 4-1 result. Paul Varela returned to Threadworks and led them with his 629 set while Daniel Hong struck to a 646 series for DV8.

Forest Lanes (Jon Diso) took on Del Rio Lanes (Jonathan Huezo) in the battle of the centers. The match was all Forest Lanes as the cruised to a big 5-0 win to start the round. JT Diso led Forest Lanes with a solid 671 set while Marquan Rivers went big with a 680 series to pace Del Rio Lanes. Forest Lanes will move to the " $A$ " match next week to take on US Foods.

Westminster Lanes (Jonathan Gale) battled Professional Approach Oak Tree (John Struckman) in the 11/12 matchup. The Oak Tree bunch took the first and third games with totals for a 4-1 result. David Silva was huge for Oak Tree with a big 681 series including a Clean- 30 set while Tony Brunning posted a 620 set to lead Westminster Lanes.

Touchstone Homes (Christian Eichelkraut), Professional Approach Del Rio (Eric Daniels), Professional Approach Keystone (William Morris) and iColor Printing (Javier Hernandez) rounded out the night's action. Touchstone Homes took a 4-1 result led by Anthony Rieger's 562 set while Professional Approach Del Rio was led by Eric Daniels' 543 series. Pro Approach Keystone Lanes cruised to a sweep over iColor printing led by Saul DeUlloa's 623 set. Javier Zavala paced iColor Printing with a 578 effort.

The Financial Advisor's pot went to Kasey Uyesugi (287) for $\$ 160$ with 2nd to Kevin Valmonte (256) for \$70. Sidepots went to David Silva (245) and Kasey Uyesugi (287) for $\$ 46$ each with 2nd to Gabe Martinez (233) and Matt Murtishaw (239) for $\$ 23$. SuperPot went to Anthony Santos (279) for $\$ 138$ with

| TOP 10 OVERALL POINTS |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Cal Bowl \$\$\$. | Junior Amateur Tour . . 65.5 |
| Bowlium \$\$ | ThreadWorks. . . . . . . . 63 |
| Family Ties \$. | DV8................. 61 |
| US Foods. . . . . . . . . . 6 | Forest Lanes. . . . . . . . 56 |
| Forever Hope Foundation | Del Rio / Westminster. . 46 |
| TOP 10 ROUND 4 WEEK, |  |
| US Foods. . . . . . . . . . 5 | ThreadWorks......... 4 |
| Forest Lanes. . . . . . . . 5 | ProApproach Oak Tree 4 |
| ProApproach Keystone5 | Touchtone Homes .... 4 |
| Junior Amateur Tour . . 4 | Forever Hope Foundation 1 |
| Cal Bowl \$\$\$......... 4 | DV8................. 1 |

## TOP 10 THIS WEEK 727 Anthony Santos 697 Eric Williams Jr. 691 Kevin Valmonte 684 Gabriel Martinez 681 David Silva <br> 680 Marquan Rivers 671 JT Diso 665 Ramon Torres 663 Kasey Uyesugi 660 James Bael

## SUPER SWEEPER POT

Sponsored by Dean Sanderson of
Transamerica Financial Advisors Inc. Kasey Uyesugi $287 \$ 160$ • 2nd Kevin Valmonte $256 \$ 70$

| In | 11801 Pierce Street <br> Suite 215 <br> Riverside, CA 92505 |
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| 堲TRANSAMERICA ${ }^{\circ}$ |  |
| FINANCIALADVISORS, INC. Transamerica Financial Group Division | Office: 951.530 .9343 |
| Dean Sanderson $\quad$ Fax: $\quad 951.389 .3755$Investment Advisor Representative |  |
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| License: OF92487 | dean.sanderson@ affaconnect.co $^{\text {a }}$ |
|  | https:/deansanderson.wfgopportunity.com/ |

2nd to Eric Williams Jr. (262) for \$69. David Silva is the first to go Clean-30 and is guaranteed half the pot.

Come on out and watch Southern California's Richest League as they continue round four on the USBC Nationals Team Event pattern every Monday at 8:00!
 Weekly Scratch 5-Gamer Every Tuestay
\$55 Entry Fee with Optional Pots and Brackets Check-in at 6pm • Bowl at 7pm • 1 in 5 Payout February 20: TAT 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

