

CALIFORNIA BOWLING NEWS

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Carol Mancini: Tireless, Inspirational, Hilarious .. and More!

by Fred Eisenhammer

TALENT, Ore. – Carol Jean Mancini has always been a hoot.

She was charming, witty, outrageous, tireless, inspirational, encyclopedia-smart, funny. No, funny doesn't go far enough. Carol was hilarious.

If anyone could live forever, that should have been Carol. She was so full of life.

Sadly, Carol died Feb. 28 at the age of 88.

Perhaps Carol's most prominent role was as publisher and editor of the California Bowling News, for which she also served as occasional writer and detail-minded researcher.

"I love it," said Carol in 2016 about her multi-faceted role in the California Bowling News. "I get to put my nose in everyone's business."

Carol and Del Rio Lanes owner Charlie

Kinstler purchased the iconic newspaper in 1989. Established in 1940, it's the longest-running bowling newspaper in the United States and the lone weekly bowling newspaper left in California.

Her bowling knowledge was off the charts, a tribute to her passion for the sport. Carol's whole life seemed to revolve around bowling starting from when she was 16 and became a dedicated bowler destined for a lot of amateur glory.

"I didn't do anything else but bowl," she remembers about her teenage years.

Carol, a Kansas native who moved to California as a teenager, averaged as high as 189 in league play. One of her most memorable achievements came in 1977 when she was part

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Carol Mancini

ROSTER TRANSACTION WINDOW OPENS IN PBA ELITE LEAGUE

Team managers can make trades, add/drop players until March 14

by Nolan Hughes

Nine and a half rounds of the PBA Elite League presented by Snickers season are in the books.

The 7-2 Las Vegas High Rollers hold the league's best record, followed by the three-time Elias Cup champion Portland Lumberjacks at 7-3. Meanwhile the 2-7 GoBowling Dallas Strikers and defending champion 1-8 Waco Wonders sit outside the playoff picture in the current standings.

Reinforcements may be on the way: For the first time since Dec. 23, teams will be able to make roster moves.

Team managers will be able to make trades, drop players from their current rosters and select replacements via the waiver wire. Player trades may be proposed and agreed upon at any time through March 14.

To open the transaction window, managers will be able to make one add/drop roster move. The priority order for teams to confirm dropping a player and selecting a replacement, listed below, is the reverse order of the pre-season draft:

- Waco Wonders
- Portland Lumberjacks
- GoBowling Dallas Strikers
- Las Vegas High Rollers
- New Jersey KingPins
- Akron Atom Splitters
- Motown Muscle
- Lucky Strike L.A. X

Once each team has been given an opportunity to make their first add/drop move, additional add/drop moves can be made on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Players who are in the top 75 on the 2024 PBA Tour points list through the conclusion of the PBA Delaware Classic, as well as any players dropped by their current teams, will be eligible to be picked up by team managers. A full list of available players is listed below.

The PBA Elite League continues March 30 at 7 p.m. ET on FS1. In Las Vegas, the KingPins will take on the increasingly desperate Strikers, while the Wonders take on the hometown High Rollers.

Any players who join or change teams during this time period will be eligible to compete on their new teams immediately, including teams

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Frank Weiler Travels With The "BOWLING NEWS"

by Frank Weiler

I TRAVEL with the CALIFORNIA BOWLING NEWS. Yes I Do, Yes I Do, Yes I Do! It's not hard to do. Just keep a copy of the oldest, longest operating Regional Bowling Publication in your suitcase. Then photograph a copy of the newspaper at the most conspicuous locations you travel.

You may ask if I have a "BUCKET LIST" of places where I would like to travel with the California Bowling News?

Yes I Do, Yes I Do, Yes I Do! My Bucket List targets on the international scene include: the Eiffel Tower (Paris), the Coliseum (Rome), the Great Wall (China), Stonehenge (England) and the Brandenburg Gate (Berlin). Of course, I would have to be a world traveler to take the California Bowling News to these wonderful sites. I would love to do so. Is there anyone out there willing to fund my traveling around the

world with the California Bowling News?

Okay, if I am to be realistic, I know that I will have to focus traveling with the California Bowling News in the United States of America. "I MUST SHOOT" for visits to places like the Empire State Building (New York City), the Liberty Bell (Philadelphia), the Mormon Temple (Salt Lake City), the Space Needle (Seattle) and the Grand

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Date	Time	Tournament	Channel
FRIDAY, MARCH 15 2024	6:00PM EDT	PBA All Star Event - PBA ALL-STAR SKILLS SHOWDOWN	FS1
SATURDAY, MARCH 16 2024	1:00PM EDT	PBA All Star Event - PBA LEGACY CUP	FS1
SUNDAY, MARCH 17 2024	1:00PM EDT	PBA All Star Event - GO BOWLING PBA NASCAR INVITATIONAL AT PHOENIX RACEWAY	FOX
SATURDAY, MARCH 23 2024	7:30PM EDT	PBA Jr. National Championship	FS1
SATURDAY, MARCH 30 2024	7:00PM EDT	PBA Elite League Presented by Snickers at Las Vegas LIVE	FS1
SUNDAY, MARCH 31 2024	1:30PM EDT	USBC Masters Finals BROADCAST LIV	FOX
SATURDAY, APRIL 6 2024	1:30PM EDT	PBA Elite League Presented by Snickers at Allen Park Day 1 LIVE	FS1
SUNDAY, APRIL 7 2024	12:00PM EDT	PBA Elite League Presented by Snickers at Allen Park Day 2 LIVE	FS1
SUNDAY, APRIL 14 2024	12:00PM EDT	(WSOB) Roth/Holman PBA Doubles Championship	FS1
MONDAY, APRIL 15 2024	7:00PM EDT	(WSOB) PBA Cheetah Championship BROADCAST LIVE	FS1
TUESDAY, APRIL 16 2024	7:00PM EDT	(WSOB) PBA Scorpion Championship BROADCAST LIVE	FS1
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 2024	7:00PM EDT	(WSOB) PBA Shark Championship BROADCAST LIV	FS1
SATURDAY, APRIL 20 2024	7:00PM EDT	(WSOB) PBA World Championship Semifinals BROADCAST LIVE	FS1
SUNDAY, APRIL 21 2024	12:00PM EDT	(WSOB) PBA World Championship Finals BROADCAST LIVE	FOX
SATURDAY, APRIL 27 2024	4:00PM EDT	PBA Elite League Presented by Snickers at Fairlawn LIVE	FS1
SUNDAY, APRIL 28 2024	1:00PM EDT	PBA Tournament of Champions Finals BROADCAST LIVE	FOX
SATURDAY, MAY 4 2024	10:30PM EDT	PBA Playoffs Round 1 BROADCAST LIVE	FS1
SUNDAY, MAY 5 2024	12:00PM EDT	PBA Playoffs Round 2 BROADCAST LIVE	FS1
SUNDAY, MAY 12 2024	6:30PM EDT	PBA Playoffs Round 3 BROADCAST LIVE	FS1
SUNDAY, MAY 19 2024	2:00PM EDT	PBA Playoffs Finals BROADCAST LIVE	FOX
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 2024	5:00PM EDT	PBA Elite League Presented by Snickers Playoffs BROADCAST LIVE	FS1
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 2024	7:00PM EDT	PBA Elite League Presented by Snickers Playoffs BROADCAST LIVE	FS1
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 2024	9:00PM EDT	PBA Elite League Presented by Snickers Playoffs Semifinals LIBE	FS1
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 2024	7:00PM EDT	PBA Elite League Presented by Snickers Playoffs Finals LIV	FS1

To The Editor

Dear California Bowling News:

I was saddened to read about the passing of Carol Mancini, a true icon of Southern California bowling. I remember those days back at Grand Central Bowl in Glendale in the 1970s when Carol was working for Deke Walker who owned Grand Central, Alhambra Valley and the lesser-known Alhambra Rec.

She'd be working the Grand Central front desk every Sunday night when Nick Mancini's Hot Pot No-Tap tournament would fill 60 lanes with 3 bowlers on every lane. Grand Central was a split 60 lane center. That was a minimum of 180 bowlers every tournament. It was a ritual. People used to flock from all over Southern California to bowl this No Tap Tournament. A NO TAP TOURNAMENT. Carol ran it with an iron fist. It was the biggest thing going.

What made it super popular, as hard as it is to believe today, was the \$100.00 paid for a No Tap 300. That's a lot of money back then. It was a 5-game event with \$100 paid every game for a 300. But the \$100 prize had to be split between how many people shot a 300 game per game. UNLESS you paid for \$5.00 insurance. If you put the extra \$5.00 insurance in with your entry fee, you were guaranteed a \$100 payout if you shot 300. Carol and I used to marvel at how many people bowled and how many never came close to 300. It was a handicap tournament, so bowlers of all averages participated.

There were quite a few really good bowlers. Grand Central was a hard house that favored no one regardless of which side of the house you bowled on or what hand you threw with. My career ended up in the bowling industry from working at Hollywood Star Lanes, Murrey International and eventually now, US Bowling. So, Carol and I had not just bowling in common, but the bowling industry in common as well.

When Murrey International reinstalled all new equipment in 2004, at the old Village Lanes in El Monte, now renamed Action Lanes, Carol was one of the invited VIP's.

She worked there years before when Village was opened by longtime local pro bowler Art Goddard. I have attached a couple photos of Carol and I having some fun at the grand opening of Action Lanes. Being with the press, she had her box camera at the ready. I'm going to miss Carol as will thousands upon thousands of Southern California bowlers and friends who got to know her. She was one of a kind.

Bill Snoberger, Glendale, CA



Looking At Life Through Rose Colored Glasses

by Dave Williams

If there was ever anyone that looked at life through rose colored glasses — tending to see everything in a positive light — that person would have to be Carol Mancini. She passed away last week at the age of 88.

Carol was extremely optimistic. That's what I remember most during my conversations with her, in person or over the phone. I must have met Carol for the first time while working for AMF in San Diego. She was one of the top bowlers in the area. Carol bowled at the palatial Parkway Bowl in El Cajon.

I can remember driving along Interstate 8 and getting off at the Fletcher Parkway exit to visit Parkway Bowl in the Big Box Valley. It was a breathtaking view, and so was the bowling center, with 60 lanes and 2 movie theaters. It was operated by SRO Bowling Centers, a chain headquartered in Seattle. They also operated La Mesa Bowl, a 56 lane establishment located just west of El Cajon.

In Jonathan Garza's feature article on Carol last week, we learned that she married Nick Mancini, one of the great bowling promoters of the day, in 1970. Prior to that Carol was married to Harold Woodruff, and they were blessed with three children in the first seven years that they were married — Bette, Wendy and Brian.

Nick and Carol would go on from Parkway Bowl to even greater fame at Grand Central Bowl in Glendale, where they started the Hot-Pot No-Tap in the 1970's. Many of my favorite bowling stories revolve around Saturday evenings spent at Grand Central Bowl while stationed for AMF in the San Fernando Valley.

Whenever my duties while working for AMF would allow, I could be found at Grand Central Bowl on Saturday night, enjoying the tremendous format provided by Nick, Carol, "Easy" Anderson, and the rest of the staff. Everything about Grand Central was entertaining, from the difficult lane conditions (that made no-tap fun), to the money that could be had for an insured no-tap 300 game, worth \$100 each. Top notch players of the day, including Fred Conner, Jack Andolina, Hobo Booth, Phil Kapsimallis, Butch Soper and others would join me in what began to look like a PBA regional event.

When I left Southern California, first for Chicago and then on to the corporate offices for AMF in New York, I kept in touch with Carol, who by this time had purchased the California Bowling News with proprietor Charles Kinstler. She enjoyed the promotional releases that I would provide about AMF, and often called to complement me on the articles. I never really thought that much about them, because I had two of the greatest minds in bowling (Jack Graziano and John Mazey) proofreading the bulletins.

It's interesting that in Garza's tribute, he mentions that one of Carol's biggest assets was an ability to recruit individuals to do volunteer work. Looking back on our almost 50 year friendship, I would have to say that's exactly what she and co-editor Dean Lopez did when the COVID crisis struck and there was a lack of information being provided to the newspaper.



Photo of Carol and Her Signature Glasses

Carol and Dean convinced me to provide a weekly column, rather than monthly, to take the place of all the missing league scores. Another that encouraged me to go weekly was Lynn Matsubara of the Cal USBC Newsletter, who came up with the "Dave's Corner" moniker, which now appears in bowling newspapers from coast to coast. Writing the column has become the highlight of my life in retirement.

I have so many memories of the California Bowling News, dating back to when I was a youth bowler at L & L Lanes in Northern California. Every Friday a bundle of the papers would arrive, and I would take one home and spend the weekend checking out all of the articles with the top scores in fine print. Although I never met Helen Kibbe or Jesse Dudley, their bowling prowess had a profound effect upon me to this day. I often conclude an article with Dudley's "... " at the end of my column.

Not enough can be said about former editor and publisher Ken Lowman, who I am honored to have nominated for the IBMA Meritorious Service award in 2018. He was an eclectic man with many different talents, which included being a musician for Popeye the Sailor, and other cartoons. Another former editor, Bob Johnson, has been my life long best friend. We both share a love for Charles M. Schulz and the Peanuts comic strip, as well as bowling.

I also have many fond memories of the individuals at California Bowling News that made it happen. In addition to those already mentioned above, we have advertising manager Lillian Oak, historian/photographer Frank Kietz, opinion columnist Dick Stoeffler (also host of TV Bowling on KTLA), and Yvonne Buchanan... the lady who typeset all those pages before computers! But perhaps none of those memories would have been made possible without the support, encouragement, and friendship of Carol Mancini.

Thanks to Wendy Woodruff, Carol's daughter, for assisting with the information provided in this article.

Photo of Carol Mancini (and her glasses) provided by Wendy Woodruff
Photo of CUSBC 26th Annual Senior Championship provided by Dean Lopez



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Mancini continued from page 1

of the California Women's Bowling Assn. doubles championship team at now-defunct Wagon Wheel Bowl in Oxnard.

She stopped bowling in 2011. "When I couldn't shoot 185 anymore, that's when I didn't want to bowl," said Carol, a powerful right-hander.

Carol filled many administrative roles. She worked at Del Rio Lanes in Downey for decades. She also ran Alhambra Valley Bowl and talked about being a bowling manager during a recent interview.

"I like being a manager of a bowling center but times have changed," she said. "They don't do things like we did in the good old days."

"When I was manager, we always had someone in the house that could give a lesson. And every day, I would talk to everyone. You would know everyone, their kids and their averages."

She added that bowling center employees nowadays fail to do their jobs properly, such as clearing the parking lot before the center opens. "If a manager of mine didn't walk the lanes or check the restroom before they punched in, they were out of there," she said. "I wanted the bowling center to be ready when people walked in."

I served as a reporter for Carol for more than 10 years and I was in awe of her knowledge and encouragement.

I truly loved working for her and frequently told her she was the "best editor I've ever had." Always interesting, Carol was quick with a quip and an anecdote.

I gobbled up many of her quotes and used them in my stories. Once she recounted how she witnessed five different weddings that took place at bowling centers. "I've never seen one that ever lasted," she said. That quote soon became part of my "Best Bowling Quotes" story.

Another time, Carol wrote a short story for the California Bowling News detailing her brief encounter with Hall-of-Fame golfer Arnold Palmer, who had died a week earlier.

"My 15 minutes with Arnold was in 1974 at the Andy Williams Open in La Jolla," she wrote. "I was standing on a small hill next to the sixth green watching the men play through. I looked to the right catching Palmer addressing the ball for his first shot off the sixth tee.

"Whack – the ball headed right toward me. As it got closer, I raised my hand to

ward off a hit. Zoom – the ball hit my hand and rolled within four feet of the flag stick. Palmer came up and asked, 'Are you OK?' I managed a 'yes.' His comeback was 'Thanks for the save. It's the best shot I've had on Number 6 all week.' How could I not be a fan?"

When Carol left California and moved in with daughter Wendy in the tiny city of Talent, Ore., a few years ago, we corresponded often.

Her letters had me in stitches.

Carol was a prolific letter-writer. Perhaps that compensated for the fact that she didn't own a computer. But she didn't need a computer. She knew how to connect with words, written or oral. And she did it her way.

One letter went on: "Oh, boy! Wendy is making my favorites for dinner. Mac and cheese and chicken fingers!! Smells sooooo good!!"

In her letters, she would cover all subjects, but her favorites were family and bowling.

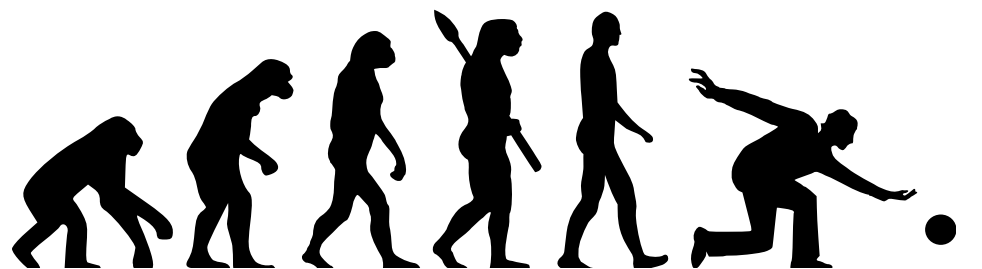
"I was at Del Rio for 40 years," she wrote. "Started in 1965 at Parkway Bowl – El Cajon. Managed 13 different centers over the years. My three kids never bowled!!! Oldest daughter [Bette] was San Diego cop. Second daughter Wendy is in hotel business. Son Brian has been auto mechanic 40 years. No, I'm not writing a book! Just filling up the lines!"

A granddaughter, Katie, Carol wrote, "lives in London with hubby."

When I wrote Carol that I had finally found an amazing woman 10 years after losing my wife, she responded: "I'm so happy that you have a nice gal in your life. Makes going to bed early more fun! I had three husbands – so I'm an expert. Keeping them was a problem!"

"BOWLING WAS (IS) MY LIFE!"

Said daughter Wendy: "She lived and breathed bowling until the day she died."



Editors Note: Every time I use this graphic, I think of Carol. She hated it.. Just my way of saying... I Miss you...

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PBA League continued from page 1

competing March 30 in Las Vegas.

Available Players as of March 4

David Krol (6th in points through PBA Delaware Classic)

Zach Wilkins (8th)

Nate Stubler (17th)

Cristian Azcona (20th)

Sean Lavery-Spahr (28th)

AJ Chapman (30th)

Nathan Bohr (32nd)

Matt Sanders (38th)

Kim Bolleby (40th)

Trevor Roberts (48th)

Tim Foy Jr. (49th)

Tim Gruendler (51st)

Benjy Martinez (52nd)

Anthony Lavery-Spahr (53rd)

Timmy Tan (55th)

Cortez Schenck (58th)

Michael Martell (60th)

Brad Miller (61st)

David Northouse (63rd)

Ronnie Russell (64th)

Eric Jones (65th)

Pete Vergos (66th)

Pontus Andersson (67th)

Brandon Runk (68th)

Michael Davidson (70th)

Zach Weidman (71st)

Bailey Mavrick (72nd)

Deo Benard (74th)

Kris Koeltzow (75th)

Travel continued from page 1

Canyon (Arizona).

Is there anyone out there willing to fund my traveling with the California Bowling News? I hope so. It would be a privilege for me to travel as a envoy on behalf of the California Bowling News.

Does anyone remember the popular television show of a few decades ago "Have Gun Will Travel"? Well, I "Have CALIFORNIA BOWLING NEWS WILL TRAVEL"!



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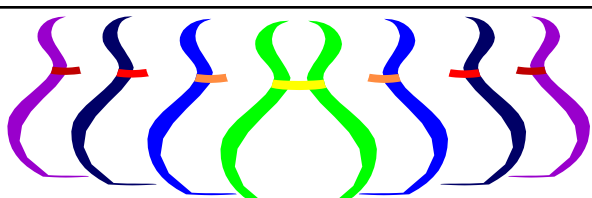
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LOCAL USBC ASSOCIATIONS

37th Year!

Brunswick®

INVITATIONAL

Junior Amateur Tour Takes Four To Jump To The Round Lead

by David Yamauchi

DOWNEY – The Brunswick Invitational took to the lanes for the half-way point of the fourth round on the USBC Nationals Team Event pattern from 2023. Scores continued to be high as bowlers had a good look that opened up as the night went by.

The “A” match featured third-round winners **Cal Bowl** (Ramon Torres) taking on **Junior Amateur Tour** (Kevin Valmonte) with both teams coming off big weeks in week three. Junior Amateur Tour came out huge posting a 945 game to start, finished strong for a game two win, then dropped game three to a huge 928 game for Cal Bowl. Junior Amateur Tour takes the 4-1 win with all four bowlers over six led by Kaven Massey’s 666 set. Sub Julian Zavala was big for Cal Bowl with a 277 in their big third game en route to a 679 set. Junior Amateur Tour will remain in the “A” match next week.

The “B” match was **Forest Lanes** (Jon Diso) matched up with **DV8** (David Cogswell) who were looking to keep it going after four-win weeks in week three. Forest Lanes took games one and three, dropping game two in a close 25-pin game. Jon Diso led Forest with a clean-30 686 set while sub-Stephanie Zavala led DV8 with a consistent 613 series.

US Foods (Gabriel Martinez) was looking to bounce back after a tough week taking on first-round winners **Family Ties** (Mikey Villarreal) who swept their way to the 6th spot. Family Ties put up a big 905 game to take game one but it was all US Foods from there as they took a close game three to wrap up totals and the 4-1 win. Gabriel Martinez was absolutely huge for US Foods with a 792 series while Vince Duarte led Family Ties with a 661 set.

ThreadWorks (Eric Snow) was battling **Touchstone Homes** (Christian Eickelkraut) with the teams in the middle of a pack of 9-6 records. ThreadWorks was again tough taking the bookend games but dropping a tough

second game for a 4-1 win over Touchstone Homes. Eric Snow once again was the man for ThreadWorks with a 607 set while Kevin Cowden managed 571 to lead Touchstone Homes.

Professional Approach Keystone (William Morris) matched up with **Forever Hope Foundation** (Ramsey Basurto) with the Keystone bunch looking to bounce back and Forever Hope trying to keep the momentum of their week three sweep going. The night was all Forever Hope as they swept through Pro Approach Keystone 5-0. All four bowlers on Forever Hope broke six led by Brian Ritchie and Ramsey Basurto’s 639 sets. Joshua Wade managed 608 for Pro Approach Keystone to pace the team.

Del Rio Lanes (Marquan Rivers) and second-round winners **Bowlium** (Billy Myers Jr.) were matched up in a battle of 609 teams. Bowlium took the bookend games but Del Rio’s huge 120-pin win in game three was enough for totals and a 3-2 result. Ramiro Garcia led Bowlium with a nice 641 set while Marquan Rivers put up a 648 set to lead Del Rio to the win.

Westminster Lanes (Jonathan Gale), **Professional Approach Oak Tree** (John Struckman), **Professional Approach Del Rio** (Eric Daniels) and **iColor Printing** (Javier Hernandez) rounded out the night’s action. Westminster Lanes took a 4-1 result over Professional Approach Oak Tree led by Semaj Lewis’ 661 with Oak Tree paced by Scott Silva’s 638 series. Professional Approach Del Rio took 2 games but iColor printing took totals and the 3-2 result. Professional Approach Del Rio was led by Anthony Bourges’ 592 set while iColor Printing was led by sub Justin Saavedra’s 596 set.

The Financial Advisor’s pot went to Jon Diso (249) for \$160 with 2nd to Gabriel Martinez (244) for \$70. Sidepots went to Gabriel Martinez (279, 244) for \$52 each with 2nd to

TOP 10 OVERALL POINTS

Cal Bowl \$\$\$	81.5	US Foods	74
Bowlium \$\$	73	ThreadWorks	72
Family Ties \$	71	DV8	71
Junior Amateur Tour	76.5	Forest Lanes	65
Forever Hope Foundation	76	Del Rio Lanes	55

TOP 10 ROUND 4 WEEK 4

Junior Amateur Tour	15	Forever Hope Foundation	11
Forest Lanes	14	DV8	11
Cal Bowl \$\$\$	14	Family Ties \$	10
US Foods	13	Westminster Lanes	10
ThreadWorks	13	Touchstone Homes	10

TOP 10 THIS WEEK

792 Gabriel Martinez	662 Anthony Santos
686 Jon Diso	661 Vince Duarte
679 Julian Zavala	661 Semaj Lewis
678 James Bael	660 JT Diso
666 Kaven Massey	660 Mikey Villarreal

SUPER SWEEPER POT

Sponsored by Dean Sanderson of Transamerica Financial Advisors Inc.
Jon Diso 249 \$160 • 2nd Gabriel Martinez 244 \$70



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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

Vince Duarte (266) and Marquan Rivers (242) for \$26 each. SuperPot went to Julian Zavala (277) for \$156 with 2nd to Gabriel Martinez (269) for \$78. Jon Diso took a piece of the Clean-30 pot with some exceptional split coverage to stay clean all night.

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!

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

Saturday

WEEKLY



NO TAP Tournament

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