

APRIL 2, 2020

CALIFORNIA BOWLING NEWS

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Professional Bowlers “Carry On” Despite Coronavirus Fears

On March 12, 2020, most of the sports world came to a grinding halt when both the National Basketball Association (NBA) and Major League Baseball (MLB) announced cancellation of their games “until further notice.” Then on March 15, 2020, the Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) not only elected to move forward with the televised finals of the PBA World Championship from Las Vegas, but they added a cool \$100,000 to the televised finals purse, making the first place prize \$150,000!

by Dave Williams

LAS VEGAS – Jason Belmonte, the bowling phenom from Australia, was the victor over fellow two-handed kegler Anthony Simonsen of Little Elm, Texas, by the final score of 213-190. Simonsen received \$70,000 for his second-place finish. In the battle for the best of the “regular” one handed bowlers, E.J. Tackett of Bluffton, Ind., placed third for a generous prize of \$40,000, followed by Francois Lavoie of Canada (\$30,000) and Chris Via of Springfield, Ohio (\$20,000).

While bowling has sometimes been ridiculed for their lack of sports stadiums, or even facilities with arena style seating, such as Thunderbowl in suburban Detroit; the lack of those confining areas has suddenly become desirable in the world of sports, following the announcement of the Coronavirus pandemic in the United States.

Colie Edison, CEO of the PBA, has since placed all tournament activities on hiatus until early April, following a plea by President Trump and many state and local municipalities, in an effort to avoid the spread of COVID-19 (COrona VIRus Disease - 2019). However, in the process of going forward with the World Championship last weekend, the question of a bowling facility as a venue for future television events has once again surfaced.

There was no live crowd at the Las Vegas event - only family, friends and tournament officials were permitted into the event at the South Point Bowling Plaza in Las Vegas. Frank Esposito, long time TV Coordinator for the PBA and ABC-TV, once told me that, “Bowling is the perfect sport for television, because it is in a controlled space and requires very little set up, and only



Jason Belmonte - Photo Courtesy PBA

two cameras!” The years that Esposito spent as proprietor of the famous Paramus Bowl in New Jersey made him an expert on the subject, as he hosted many “made for television” programs, including “Make That Spare,” and the very first televised PBA event, the 1961 PBA Invitational.

Could this be the beginning of the possible remakes of “Jackpot Bowling,” or the previously mentioned “Make That Spare,” or even the popular “Pin Point Bowling” of the 1970’s and 80’s? One of my favorites when I was growing up in the San Francisco Bay Area, was a spinoff

of Championship Bowling called “Top Star Bowling,” shown every Sunday at Noon, with one of the most famous of all the bowling announcers, Jack Buck, who went on to star in both football and baseball broadcasting.

It was Jack Buck, father of popular play-by-play announcer Joe Buck, that was behind the microphone when Kirk Gibson of the Los Angeles Dodgers hit the famous home run in the 1988 World Series that caused the elder Buck to spontaneously exclaim, “I don’t believe what I just saw!” But in bowling’s heyday, it was Jack Buck

that was atop the bowling world of announcers. In fact, you can still watch him on the very first telecasts of the Professional Bowlers Association on You Tube, when he served a dual role with the man that went on to become the most famous of all bowling broadcasters, Chris Schenkel of ABC Sports.

The possibilities of a packaged bowling broadcast are endless. It could not only spawn the likes of a “Jackpot Bowling” or “Make That Spare” on network television once again, but also provide several local ties in promotions with all of the various Bowlero

signature bowling chains. One of my favorite promotions from my formative years, the Youth Pick-Your-Pro, comes to mind... but the prospects are innumerable.

Add to that the relatively inexpensive costs associated with coordinating such a program, which could be filmed in a weekend and then spread out over an entire season, and you can begin to see why Frank Esposito called bowling a perfect environment for television. Who needs a crowd and worries about social distancing when you have bowling, the quintessential sport? Carry on!



ABC-TV BOWLING BRAINTRUST

(l-r) Chris Schenkel, Bud Fischer, Frank Esposito & Billy Welu.
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UNITED THE BOWLING WORLD WILL BEAT COVID-19

by Jonathan Garza

On Tuesday, March 17, the bowling world changed for many people, as many bowling centers throughout the United States shut down in response to the recommendation of health departments reacting to the outbreak of COVID-19, aka the coronavirus.

If you would have told me a month ago that Tom Brady was going to leave the New England Patriots and sign with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, I might have laughed at you. But if you would have told me that just a few weeks later there would be no bowling, that Disneyland and Las Vegas would be completely shut down, I might have punched you in the face. But then it happened, and the world has seemingly shut down. In some places (Germany) it is only permitted to have gatherings of two people or fewer. Locally the ruling is about 10, with a rule of social distancing of six feet away from person to person. Fine. To borrow a line from my fifth-grade teacher, “improvise, adapt, overcome.”

I’ve seen friends on social media turn to the PBA Pro Bowling games (available on Android, iOS, Playstation 4, Xbox One and Nintendo Switch). That game is a lot of fun! I spent countless hours playing it on my Android device, slinging over 600 300 games and 17 900 series at last count. What can I say? I really love bowling! If this lasts long enough, I might challenge a friend or two to a potgame online. Brackets anybody?

Another cool concept I saw on Facebook was the Quaranteen Open, a Wii Sports Bowling tournament for kids at home who are missing their life on the lanes. I played that once upon a time too, shooting eight 300 games. I do remember these things because I really love to bowl, both in person and in video games. In case you’re wondering I have one actual 300 in real life. It was about five years ago, and I feel like the centers need to open up soon so I could keep training hard in an effort to shoot another one.

Last week I was talking to a friend of mine, and fellow Brunswick Invitational bowler, Tony Winn. I told him that we were going to wind up learning just how much we take bowling for granted. Our league was cancelled last Monday night, and will not floor tonight and possibly next week either, depending on what happens going forward. Then I can’t help but think about the bowlers who are elated that they’re bowling unopposed and get to go home early, or the ones who won’t get a sub for their absent bowlers to speed up the bowling process. Do you think they miss bowling? Of course, they do! What will they have to complain about now?

So, life’s orders now state that many people cannot work, or go bowling, or to the gym, or to the movie theater, or even go out to eat! So, what can we do? Can we go visit our friends? Heck, some people decided to violate the order that says you cannot and wound up paying the price for it. If you don’t know what I’m talking about, just Google “Miami Spring Break 2020”. But what can we do?

We can read. How about going out for a walk and letting the air hit your face? Riding a bike sounds fun too. Go out for a jog. Stay loose.

The centers will reopen before you know it. Like every bad nightmare the world has brought to us, this too shall pass. But please, stay safe, be smart and do everything in your power to quarantine yourself and your loved ones – especially those elderly members of your family. If you question anything at all, go get it checked out.

YouTube is a lot of fun to watch. There might be a hidden talent you could learn that you didn’t know you were capable of doing. Maybe there’s a book you can read with some hidden knowledge that could boost your bowling game!

The point is there are lots of ideas. It may seem like an eternity, but before we know it we will be finishing our winter leagues, readying up for summer leagues and laughing this off over some Coronas (they aren’t causing this, if you’re one to believe that) at the bowling center, striking the night away over a laugh or two with your bowling family. Share your favorite bowling memories on social media with your friends. Together we can get through anything!

That’s a couple pieces of my mind as we fight through this. I’ll see you all soon. Be careful and God Bless!

PBA REGIONAL UPDATE: PERFECT GAME HELPS DANNY CLARK WIN FIRST PBA TITLE

• Prior to the suspension of PBA Regional competition, Danny Clark of New Palestine, Ohio fired a 300 game in the position round match play finale as he defeated Dave Johnson of Ashtabula, Ohio by 207 pins to win the PBA50 Strike Zone Lanes Central Classic for his first PBA50 Regional title in Canton, Ohio on Sunday, March 8.

Clark finished with an 11-1 match play record and a total of 5,120 pins for 20 games, including match play bonus pins. Along with his first PBA50 Regional title, he also earned \$2,100.

• Chris Collins of Myrtle Beach, S.C., defeated Chris Johnson of Nashville, N.C., 217-180, to take the \$2,000 first prize in the PBA50 Fayetteville South Open at Lafayette Lanes in Fayetteville, N.C., on Sunday, March 8, improving his all-time PBA Regional titles record to 15.

Collins, who qualified No. 1 for the four-man stepladder finals with a 7-1 match play record and a 16-game total of 3,906 pins, had one of two perfect games in the event. Brett Caramagno of Goose Creek, S.C., had the other.


In the first stepladder match Johnson defeated Jimmy Jean of Kathleen, Ga., 172-155. Johnson then defeated Craig Auerbach of Sunrise, Fla., 203-194, to set up the championship match.

• For an update on PBA Regional activity when it resumes, visit pba.com and open the “schedules” tab periodically to check on PBA Regional Tours.

QUICK NOTES

• Thomas (Gid) Rash and childhood friend Clay Copeland gave “thumbs up” signs in late February after Rash donated a kidney to Copeland in Fort Worth, Texas. Rash was the PBA Southwest Region’s 2019 Rookie of the Year.

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ZACK JELLEY - On The Road To Another High Average Award

by Frank Weiler

REDLANDS – Zack Jellsey is averaging 245. After 54 games in the NFL Clubhouse League at Empire Bowl he is on a pace which should win the Citrus Belt USBC Association High Average Award. Usually the High Average Award is won by a bowler averaging about 240.

Zack lead the Citrus Belt Association in average in 2015, 2018 and 2019. His 240 average in 2016 did not qualify for the award because he didn't bowl the necessary 60 games.

Zack's Citrus Belt averages for the past five seasons were (*High Association Average):

2015	244*	(81 games)	Empire Bowl
2016	240	(33 ")	"
2017	Did Not Bowl in Citrus Belt		
2018	245*	(78 games)	Empire Bowl
2019	237*	(81 ")	"

Time will tell but my money is on Zack Jellsey to repeat as the Citrus Belt USBC Association High Average Award winner this season.

For those interested, the record ALL-TIME HIGH Citrus Belt Association season average (60 game minimum) is 253 bowled by VINCE WOOD at Palm Springs Lanes for the 2012-13 season. Vince is the only Citrus Belt bowler to average 250 or better for a season with a minimum of 60 games bowled.

During the 2008 – 2009 season BOBBY CAMPAGNALE averaged 250 at Empire Bowl but he only bowled 28 games. Bobby led the Citrus Belt in average that season with a 243 average bowled at Del Rosa Lanes in San Bernardino.



New Procedures

First and foremost we hope that all of you are safe and healthy, your families and friends of course included in our wish.. Nobody needs to be reminded that times have changed and we must change our procedure accordingly. So until further notice here is some helpful info:

- 1) We are still conducting our business and the August & October tournaments are still scheduled. Info for the 2021 Military Bowling Championships in January will be out shortly. Those dates are January 17 – 23.
- 2) In compliance with the Governor of the State of Nevada, our office is closed until further notice.
- 3) We are working at home so entries are still being accepted and processed but at a slower rate so we appreciate your patience.
- 4) We are still answering phone calls during normal PST business hours and checking emails daily.
- 5) We are sending mail and checking our Post Office box just once a week but we are not visiting the Pick Up window to claim any mail that needs to be signed for. Those will undoubtedly be returned to the sender. Please resend them via regular First Class Mail so we receive them in our Post Office Box. Our new address is: High Roller, PO Box 33009, Las Vegas, NV 89133
- 6) Credit Card entry fees will be processed just once a week and entry fees paid by check will be deposited just once a week.

We value your loyalty, support and friendship over the years and hope none of this is an inconvenience to you and if it is we apologize but we are doing our part as requested by the many health and government agencies around the world.

Please be safe and stay in touch!

Brad Edelman

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Del Rio Lanes - Downey

Sunday, April 26th
PBA Challenge #4
Bowlum - Montclair

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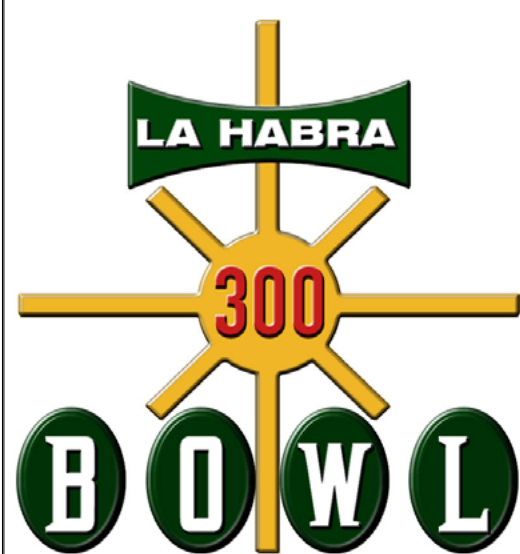
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29th Year

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Invitational

The Professional Approach Moves To The Top Alone at 9-1

by Randy Myers

DOWNEY — It may not have been pretty, but it was effective Monday night as The Professional Approach pulled out a 4-1 over DV8, winning Team Totals by a mere 2 pins!! The defending champs were down by 75 pins entering game 3, but came storming back to win and move to 9-1 for the round. Billy Myers Jr. led his team with 608, while DV8 had all four bowlers shoot between 538-543. Next up for The Professional Approach will be Threadworks, who were to top scoring team on the night, shooting 2427 to defeat Pino's Pizza 4-1. Paul Varela 275/700, Eric Snow 265/627, and Butch Jackson 625 scored big for the winners while Leonard Ruiz Jr. led Pino's with 641. Blizz Yogurt whitewashed Alhambra Coin Center 5-0 to also move to 8-2, just one game behind the leaders. Greg Neuer shot 596 to lead Blizz, while Doug Kempt shot 542 for the Coin Center. Linder Insurance moved to 6-4 with a 5-0 sweep of Cook's Bowling Supply spearheaded by the awesome bowling of Michelle Tran 269/663 and Anthony Santos 258/623. Power House Video Games is also sitting at 6-4 after taking 4 of 5 from J.A.T. The video games group was Powered by Eddie VanDaniker 278/697 and Lee Liu 608, while Larry Campbell shot 631 for J.A.T.

Tifco Industries somehow managed to go 3-2 for the second week in a row and are also at 6-4, just 3 back from the round lead. Tifco used a huge Game 3 to move around Herzog Insurance for Team Totals. Albert Chen was tops for Tifco with 575, while Mikey Villarreal led Herzog and the pair with 604. In the night's most "spirited" match, it was CASAMIGO's Tequila evening their record at 5-5 as they swept away American Harvest Vodka. Joe Jimenez led all bowlers this night with 264/703, getting help from anchor-

man Vernon Adams 601, while American Harvest was paced by Kevin Jones 613. Los Altos Trophies got two strong efforts as Buddy Lucas and Jonathan Huezo shot 624 & 611 respectively to lead their team to a 4-1 win over GJC Services, who were paced by Joey Hanna 568. Bowlmum bowled very well, getting strong performances from James Tipton 629 and Christopher Sutton 621 but only managed to pull out 1 win. In the round winners matchups it was Keystone Lanes outlasting Erickson Foods to win 4-1 as both teams struggled down the stretch. Charles Zelaya 628 and Herbert Jones 616 led Keystone, while Bobby Campagnale 631 & Sol Cericos 605 were doing the striking for Erickson. The last match was very close as SYSCO managed to pull out a 3-2 sin by winning Team Totals by 8 pins. Gabriel Martinez was once again top gun for SYSCO with 589, Jon Diso bowled a very consistent 581 to lead Forest Lanes.

Sidepot winners were Game 1 – Eric Snow 265, Game 2 –Eddie VanDaniker 278, good for both 2nd Game and 1st in Financial Advisor's pot. Joe Jimenez got 2nd for \$100 with 264. Game 3 Super Pot went to Paul Varela with 275.The TRUE ANCHOR award goes to Ricardo Baca with 469, as he was low "man". Debbie Abahazy struggled to 414, followed closely by 3 other ladies...

Two weeks are gone, only six more to determine our last two roll-off teams. Scores will be considerably higher next Monday as we move to the house shot. If you're a fan of strikes and honor scores, you may want to take in the action live at Del Rio next Monday. I am planning on make an appearance the day after Easter so come down to Del Rio Lanes in Downey and see it all for yourself! Have a blessed week everyone!

TOP 10 TEAMS ROUND 5

The Pro Approach	9	Linder Insurance	6
Threadworks	8	Power House Video Games	6
Blizz Yogurt	8	DV8	6
Forest Lanes \$\$\$\$	6	Tifco Industries	6
Erickson Foods \$\$\$	6	Pino's Pizza	6

TOP 10 LAST WEEK

Joe Jimenez	703	Larry Campbell	631
Paul Varela	700	Bobby Campagnale	631
Eddie VanDaniker	697	James Tipton	629
Michelle Tran	663	Charles Zelaya	628
Leonard Ruiz Jr.	641	Eric Snow	627

Super Sweeper Pot

Sponsored by Dean Sanderson of Transamerica Financial Advisors Inc.

1st - 278 Eddie VanDaniker 2nd - 264 Joe Jimenez



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