# DEFOON BOOXER COMPIIIESIIIPROBBBBIE  <br> by Nolan Hughes 

LAS VEGAS, NV DeeRonn Booker of Albuquerque, NM entered Sunday's championship round of the USBC Masters as the undefeated top seed. The relative unknown to those outside of the bowling community and devout The Price is Right fandom left Suncoast Bowling Center in Las Vegas a bowling celebrity and a PBA Tour major champion.

Booker defeated Patrick Dombrowski to win the 2024 USBC Masters, earning his first career PBA Tour title and the $\$ 100,000$ top prize.
"With the amount of work that I put in, I knew I was going to be here someday," Booker said. "I'm here now. I'm not going anywhere. I hope you guys can see me."

## 2024 USBC Masters Champion DeeRonn Booker

 opportunity at the right ment, learning myself. I to keep my emotions more excited."
"It's just the perfect the PBA, learning equip- emotionally. I was able for this and I couldn't be time," Booker said. "I've had a feeling that I was in check. I was able to Booker became the worked really hard to get going to do well be- embrace myself in the third Black player to to this moment, learn- cause I prepared myself surroundings. I felt like win on the PBA Tour. ing the lanes, learning physically, mentally and I really prepared myself All three, including five-
time champion George Branham III and Gary Faulkner Jr., won major championships.
"What this does is keep inspiring me to keep inspiring others to do this, to get here, to be here. When I get back home, come and see me. Let's do this together," Booker said. "There are people out there that need help, that want help, that want inspiration. This win is going to help inspire them. This win means I can continue to do this. I can continue to inspire. I can continue to coach. I can continue to bowl. I can continue to do everything that I want to do for everyone else." Booker, who qualified tied for 58th of 465 players, went undefeated in continued on page 4


The final Round 10 matches of the PBA Elite - adver League presented by Dallas and Waco with Snickers, televised from just four rounds remainSuncoast Bowling Cen- ing. Therefore, New Jerter in Las Vegas, took sey - and the Portland place on Saturday night. Lumberjacks - have
The New Jersey King- clinched a trip to the Pins dispatched the postseason, featuring struggling Go Bowling the top six teams in the Dallas Strikers in con- PBA Elite League. secutive games, 196195 and 242-201. KingPins moved to $7-3$ llinched a postseason
ders on Saturday. The High Rollers hoped to take a onegame lead over the KingPins and Lumberjacks for a postseason bye.

Instead, those three teams enter the final four rounds of the season in the three-way tie with just two playoff byes available.
"Our goal now is to continue to try to win continued on page 6


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# Join Us To Celebrate The 2024 Hall of fame Inductions Part2 -Event To Be Held At Holiday Inn Ontario AirportSaturday, June 1, 2024 

by Dave Williams

Here are the final three inductees for this year's California USBC Hall of Fame Inductions, to take place on Saturday, June 1st, 2024, at the Holiday Inn Ontario Airport. Further details can be obtained by visiting calusbc.com.

Last week I mentioned a national Hall of Fame member, Bruce Pluckhahn, and his comment to me about joining any Hall of Fame being unlikely because of my frequent moves around the country. I couldn't find that note... l'll probably find it next week while looking for something different. But here's one that I did locate, regarding my move from American Recreation Centers in Sacramento, Calif., to Nationwide Bowling Corporation in Jersey City, New Jersey:

> "Good to hear from you, Dave, and to know you've landed solidly on your feet. Congratulations! As you might suspect, I hardly ever see that fellow named Weber. AMF has him on the run almost constantly, Things are going well here. Had a great time writing about half of the BJ's 80th anniversary issue. Now must buckle down and finish my book on the history of bowling. One of these years...!"

I'm not sure if Bruce ever finished that book, but there are a couple of nice write-ups about him online at britannica.com and upi.com. Speaking of Dick Weber, as I often do, I'm reminded of a quote from him that I never really thought about until today. I recall Weber saying something to this effect: "Records are made to be broken, but they can never take a title away from you."

Those are good words for every young bowler to take to heart. Don't get lost in the numbers but go for titles. The scores being thrown today are like telephone numbers compared to the best scores in the history of the game from just 40 years ago. But as Mr. Weber says, they can't take the titles from you!

Now, without further ado, here are the remaining profiles for this year's inductees. The first two are presented by me, while BCM editor Bob Johnson has been so gracious as to submit some kind words about yours truly... for which I am so truly grateful.

Ty Dawson - Ty was born in Muskegon, Mich., in 1953. His family moved to the city of Riverside, Calif., in 1958. He began bowling at Tava Lanes at the age of 9, and his first 300 game was recorded in 1979, at Delrosa Lanes in San Bernardino. Dawson now has a total of 101-300's, one of the highest totals in the country.

Dawson's accomplishments in his 41 years as a USBC member are many, including 54-800 plus scores - the highest being an 844 in tournament action at Yosemite Lanes. He moved to Northern California in 1989, but that didn't stop his assault on league and tournament records. Here are a few of his major victories:

- 1998 State Open Scratch Champion (including a 300 game)
- 2017 Cal State Seniors All Events Champion
- 2019 USBC National Super Senior Champion
- USBC State Mixed Doubles Title with Nina Bennett
- (5) PBA Regional Titles
- (2) Santa Clara USBC Masters Titles
- (1) West Coast Senior Title
- Highest sanctioned league average - 238

Even with all of his personal achievements, Dawson, at age 71, finds his greatest joy in teaching others. The USBC Silver Certified Coach has students that have recorded 300's and 800's following his instruction. Ty and his wife of 20 years, Elizabeth, live in Sunnyvale

Pam Pancoast — Pam is a native Californian, currently residing in Lomita. She started bowling at the age of 9 and has never looked back, averaging over 190 in her twenties and over 200 for the past $30+$ years. Pam has always been athletic, enjoying many sports, including owning a horse for 24 years. She didn't start competitive bowling until her thirties and credits her husband, Jon, with her focus and success. "I would never have been as competitive in bowling were it not for my husband," said Pancoast.

Pam has rolled 25-300's in her career, one of the highest totals in the history of women's bowling. She was the first woman to record a 300 in the California Open Championships in 2000. She has 5-800 series with a high of 835 bowled during a WWPB event at Mission Hills when she bowled a record holding 1619 total for six games (269.8 average).

Pancoast has a USBC National Scratch Singles, International Golden Ladies, (5) WWPB, (1) PWBA Regional, a California State team and multiple city titles to her credit. She held the national high average of 204 on a sport shot condition in 2001-02 and was WWPB Bowler of the Year in 2000.

Dave Williams - Meritorious service? Are you aware that in 1975, Williams rolled six 300 games in an eight-month span - something that had never been done in sanctioned competition? Or that the next year he set a California full-season average record of 230 for 75 games (as a member of a five-bowler team)? Or that he won the All-America Youth Bowling Championship in 1970? The list of on-the-lanes accomplishments in Central Sonoma County B.A., Marin County B.A. and Petaluma B.A. goes on... and on.

Williams grew up in a junior program in which "Peanuts" comic strip creator Charles M. Schulz was a coach and contributed cartoons to the weekly "Ten Pin Tales" newsletter. Perhaps some of that creativity rubbed off, as Williams would go on to create or co-create 30 adult league, 55 youth league, 16 senior league, 38 tournament, 13 learn-to-bowl and many other programs for AMF Bowling Centers... and even more for American Recreation Centers that put California residents on the lanes and helped transform untold numbers of them into lifelong bowlers.

The number of league bowlers alone amounted to more than 100,000. Williams also developed youth scholarship programs for both AMF and ARC, as well as an intramural bowling program that was adapted by the California State University system. A prolific writer, Williams is a regular contributor to Bowling Center Management Magazine, the California Bowling News, and other bowling newspapers from coast to coast. Since 2017, he has been a weekly contributor to the California USBC Association's website via his "Dave's Corner" column. Meritorious service? You bet.
-Bob Johnson

Bruce Pluckhahn died in 2008, at the age of 84


The "Peanuts" Connection — Photo of the "L \& L Traveling Preps" showing three of the Schulz kids: (l-r) Meredith Schulz, Craig Schulz, Dave Williams, Monte Schulz and Laura Anderson. (Photo is from 1961, and provided by Dave Williams)

| Date | Time | Tournament Chater |
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USBC Masters
continued from page 1
the 64-player, double-elimination bracket to earn the top seed of the five-player stepladder finals. Along the way, he beat two-time defending Masters champion Anthony Simonsen and throttled reigning PBA Player of the Year EJ Tackett by shooting 300 and 784 in the three-game total pinfall match.
"I was able to channel a level of myself that I didn't even know I had," Booker said. "Bowling against arguably one of the best bowlers to do this game, I said to myself, 'DeeRonn focus, but let's really focus.' I was able to be so focused that to be perfectly honest, it wasn't even about the 279 or 300 . It was about focus and keeping myself in the moment. I can't miss against (EJ) because he can throw a nine-bagger at any moment."

Players advanced to the championship round through the 64-player, double-elimination match play bracket. Booker went undefeated, winning six consecutive three-game total pinfall matches to earn the top seed. Dombrowski went 5-1, falling to Booker in the seeding round match.

Jason Belmonte, Sam Cooley and Richie Teece all lost at various points in the bracket, but emerged from the elimination bracket to earn the final berths on the show.

EJ Tackett, who sought to make his sixth consecutive televised championship round, finished sixth.

In the title match, Booker took down Dombrowski, 217-177. Booker converted a 9 -pin in the 10th frame, then needed just two pins to clinch the title.

The crowd, which included over two dozen of Booker's friends and family in attendance, chanted his name as he soaked in the life-changing, careerredefining moment.

Dombrowski reached the title match after escaping from a chaotic 198-193 semifinal against four-time Masters champion Belmonte. Dombrowski opened in the ninth frame, which meant Belmonte only needed a mark in the 10th frame to win the match. However, after failing to recalibrate after a distracting noise, Belmonte missed right and left an 8-10 split.

Belmonte won the battle of Australia in the previous match, besting Cooley 222-191. The Australians each started strong, but Cooley's pin carry faded in the second half of the game. Belmonte fired a hambone from the sixth through ninth frames while Cooley left and missed a 3-10 split in the ninth frame.

In the opening match, Cooley defeated England's Teece, 206-180. After an opening double, Teece threw just two more strikes and missed a 10-pin in the fifth frame.

The PBA Tour continues with the World Series of Bowling XV in Allen Park, Mich. Roth/Holman PBA Doubles Championship qualifying gets underway on Wednesday.

With the win, Booker earned an exemption into the WSOB and April's PBA Tournament of Champions.
"The next step is preparing myself for the next tournaments," Booker said. "(The Masters) is here and it's gone. Now let's work to prepare myself for the upcoming tournaments. Let's do two majors. Let's go back to back."

Championship Round Scores
Match 1: No. 4 Sam Cooley def.
No. 5 Richie Teece, 206-180
Match 2: No. 3 Jason Belmonte def.
No. 4 Sam Cooley, 222-191
Match 3: No. 2 Patrick Dombrowski def.
No. 3 Jason Belmonte, 198-193
Championship: No. 1 DeeRonn Booker def
No. 2 Patrick Dombrowski, 217-177
Final Standings

1. DeeRonn Booker, $\$ 100,000$
2. Patrick Dombrowski, \$50,000
3. Jason Belmonte, $\$ 25,000$
4. Sam Cooley, \$15,000
5. Richie Teece, \$10,000

More information on the USBC Masters is available here.

# Jim Land Plans to Put Adversity Behind Him <br> by Fred Eisenhammer 

WINNETKA - Jim Land has done some impressive stuff in his more than 70 years of bowling.

He's averaged more than 200 in league play, he's drilled a 289 game and he's bowled a near700 series.

And this feat may be
 unprecedented: Jim has an uncanny knack for bowling triplicates (three games with the same score in one series). He bowled a 154 triplicate in November 2021, then bowled a 156 triplicate about two weeks later. Then in early 2022, Jim rattled off a 156 triplicate and a 158 triplicate.

Jim is now ready to claim a new milestone.
At 83, Jim says it's only a matter of time before he resumes bowling at Winnetka Bowl after suffering a stroke, which was followed by a heart attack two weeks later.

Weeks after his ordeal, Jim visited Winnetka Bowl several times during his convalescence. Jim looked the part of someone who had just emerged from an ordeal but he talked freely and confidently about the future even then.

Jim Land, you see, is a fighter.
"My mom quit bowling at 92," Jim said, "and she died at 94."

It's been about five months since those disabling events forced Jim off the lanes. But Jim remains as upbeat as when he was bowling.
"I love bowling and I want to go back," said Jim, definitely one of the most popular bowlers in the Funtimers and 49'ers senior leagues at Winnetka Bowl.

Jim typically arrives early for his league and greets bowlers with a bellowing salutation whenever his colleagues show up.
"I like people and I like people who like me. Like my mother said, I never meet a stranger," said Jim, who bowls in the same league as his longtime partner, Barbara Sonnabend.

And he added: "l'll come back one of these days. I really will. I have four bowling balls now so l'll get back. I can hardly wait. I miss it a lot."

How much does he miss the game?
"How much is a lot?" he said, laughing. "I've been bowling my whole life."

Sonnabend says Jim has been getting stronger by the day and expects "he'll be ready by maybe the winter league."

As for the doctors' prognosis: "A lot of doctors have done all kinds of things [to me] and I'm as clean as a whistle. I have a long life left is what they say," Jim said.

Even in his 80s, Jim throws one of the fastest shots in his senior league. And Jim knows it.

So do the rest of the players in his league when this right-handed marksman splatters the pins with one of his thunderous pocket shots.
"I've got a pretty good slice when I put the bal down and crank it," said Jim, also a talented horseshoes player who installed his own horseshoes pit in his Woodland Hills yard.

As for all those triplicates he's compiled, Jim quipped: "That's what happens when you bowl a long time."

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PBA League
continued from page 1
matches so we can get that bye, that's very important," KingPin co-manager Carolyn Dorin-Ballard said.

The Wonders earned their second televised win of the season, winning 224212 and 211-184. Unfortunately for the defending Elias Cup champions, those are the teams' only wins of the season.

Tied with the 2-8 Wonders in the PBA Elite League cellar are the floundering Strikers, who fell two full games behind Lucky Strike L.A. X and a postseason berth.

Through 10 rounds, the Strikers boast the third best team average in the league; their opponents, however, average a whopping 226.10, nearly 10 pins more than the next highest team.

Bill O'Neill, who took responsibility for the Strikers' loss to Waco on Saturday, which he called their worst match of the season, said it feels like everything has gone against his team so far this season.
"We've bowled fairly well most of the season," O'Neill said. "We just haven't been able to get anything going. We've had a lot of big scores pulled against us and untimely breaks or bad shots and just just everything's going against us so far this season. We're killing ourselves right now."
"We're making some good shots, it's just the pins haven't fallen our way," Shawn Maldonado added. "And then if we are bowling well, our opponents are bowling better. They're just striking way more than us."

The PBA Elite League continues next week in Allen Park, Mich. Round 11 will take place April 3 at 6 p.m. Eastern on BowITV, then the entirety of Round 12 will be televised on April 6 and April 7.

The PBA Elite League schedule is available here.
With four rounds remaining, there is time for the Strikers and Wonders to make a last season charge. But time is running out.
"We're probably gonna need all the rest of the way to try to get in (the playoffs)," O'Neill said.

| TEAM | RECORD | PIMFALI | AVERAGE | $\begin{aligned} & \text { opp. } \\ & \text { PIWFăt } \end{aligned}$ | OPP. AVERAGE |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1. New Jersey KingPins* | 7-3 | 4,181 | 209.05 | 4,067 | 203.35 |
| 2. Las Vegas High Rollers* | 7-3 | 4,324 | 216.20 | 4,194 | 209.70 |
| 3. Portland Lumberjacks* | 7-3 | 4,365 | 218.25 | 4,231 | 211.55 |
| 4. Akron Atom Splitters | 6-4 | 4,158 | 207.90 | 4,158 | 207.90 |
| 5. Motown Muscle | 5-5 | 4,262 | 213.10 | 4,266 | 213.30 |
| 6. Lucky Strike L. A. X | 4-6 | 4,247 | 212.35 | 4,333 | 216.65 |
| -7. GoBowling Dallas Strikers | 2-8 | 4,316 | 215.80 | 4,522 | 226.10 |
| --8. Waco Wonders | 2-8 | 4,109 | 205.45 | 4,191 | 209.55 |

## Round 10 Results

New Jersey def. Dallas, 2-0 (196-195, 242-201)
Waco def. Las Vegas, 2-0 (224-212, 211-184)
Standings
Team, Record, Pinfall
*New Jersey KingPins, 7-3, 4, 181
Las Vegas High Rollers, 7-3, 4,324
Portland Lumberjacks, 7-3, 4,365
Akron Atom Splitters, 6-4, 4, 158
Motown Muscle, 5-5, 4,262
Lucky Strike L.A. X, 4-6, 4,247
GoBowling Dallas Strikers, 2-8, 4,316
Waco Wonders, 2-8, 4,109
*The three-way tiebreaker between New Jersey, Las Vegas and Portland is incomplete at this point.

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## CANYON LANES - 24

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Cabazon, CA 92230 (951) 572-6120 Fax: (951) 922-2385 Located next to Morongo Casino

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# Brunswicko Junior Amateur Tour Thaces The Fourth Round Title 

DOWNEY - The Brunswick Invitational took to the lanes for the last week of the fourth round. Three teams were mathematically still alive in the round with 4 games separating the leaders from 3rd place. Round winners were taken out of the mix as they bowled each other's scores with the round on the line for the rest of the league.

The "A" match featured Junior Amateur Tour (Kevin Valmonte) sitting at 22 taking on US Foods (Gabriel Martinez) in second 4 points back at 18. Junior Amateur Tour knew that if they could get one win, combined with a Forest Lanes loss, they could lock up the round. Junior Amateur Tour came out striking putting up a 870 game to win game one, and as the dust settled to their right, Forever Hope Foundation eliminated Forest Lanes from contention. In the end, Junior Amateur Tour barely held on for totals and a 4-1 win in the match. Kasey Uyesugi wowed the crowd game one with a 297 en route to leading US Foods with a nice 707 set while David Yamauchi led Junior Amateur Tour with a 629 seriest. Congratulations to Junior Amateur Tour for punching their ticket to the rolloffs!

The "B" match had Forest Lanes (Jon Diso) who was still alive at 18 wins taking on Forever Hope Foundation (Vernon Adams) who was a win short for a look at the round at 16. Forever Hope Foundation took a big 102-pin lead in game one, dropped the next two, and held on for the 3-2 win over Forest Lanes. Frank Ortega led Forever Hope Foundation with a solid 640 set while Jon Diso paced Forest Lanes with a 619 series.

Westminster Lanes (Jonathan Gale) matched up with DV8 (David Cogswell) with the two teams sitting right around the .500 mark for the round. The match was all DV8 as they swept through Westminster Lanes for the $5-0$ win. Daniel Hong led DV8 with a 611 series while Tony Brunning was big for Westminster Lanes with a nice 666 set.

Touchstone Homes (Christian Eichelkraut) and ThreadWorks (Eric Snow) matched up in the 7 vs. 8 matchup. ThreadWorks was the tough draw for sure as they swept to a $5-0$ win over Touchstone Homes Paul Varela led ThreadWorks with a 601 series while Anthony Rieger put up a 569 set to pace Touchstone.

Professional Approach Del Rio (Eric Daniels) took on Del Rio Lanes (Marquan Rivers) in the battle of Florence Ave. Del Rio Lanes took the first game, but it was all the pro shop after that as they ran to a 4-1 win. Eric Daniels led Pro Approach Del Rio with a solid 634 set while Max Castillo posted 593 to lead Del Rio Lanes

Professional Approach Oak Tree (John Struckman), Professional Approach Keystone (William Morris) and iColor Printing (Augie Labrado Jr.) rounded out the round matches with iColor Printing bowling against the scores of Professional Approach Keystone. The Oak Tree gang swept through the Keystone shop guys for a $5-0$ win paced by supersub Stephanie Zavala's 697 series. Pro Approach Keystone was led by William Morris' 554 set. iColor Printing was bowling the scores of Keystone where they tied game one, but beat their scores the rest of the night for a $4.5-.5$ win. Javier Hernandez was big for iColor Printing with a solid 614 set.

The round winners bowled together with Cal Bowl (Leonard Ruiz Jr) at 90.5 wins, Bowlium (Billy Myers Jr.) at 81 and Family Ties (Mikey Villarreal) at 80. Both Cal Bowl and Family Ties were bowling against the scores of Bowlium. Cal Bowl swept Bowlium's scores for 5 wins led by Chris Equilos' 623 set. Bowlium was again paced by Billy Myers Jr. with a 601 series. Family Ties battled Bowlium's scores also which gave them a $4-1$ win for the night. Vince Duarte was huge for Family Ties with a solid 685 series.

The Financial Advisor's pot went to Anthony Santos and Ramiro Garcia (233) for $\$ 115$ each. Sidepots went to Kasey Uyesugi (297) and Anthony Santos (233) for $\$ 48$ each with 2nd to Brian Ritchie (230) and Mikey Villarreal (225) for $\$ 24$. SuperPot went to Gabriel Martinez (266) for $\$ 144$ with 2nd to David Silva (227) for $\$ 72$.

The patterns for the WildCard will be rounds 1-3-4-2-1-4-2-3. The WildCard round is a 8 -week round, with a WildCard round winner after 6 weeks taking the 5th seed in the rolloffs, followed by two weeks of wildcard play to determine an overall wildcard winner who will be the 6th seed.

Come on out and watch Southern California's Richest League as they start the WildCard round next week on the house shot Monday at 8:00!

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## TOP 10 ROUND 4 WEEK 7 <br> Cal Bowl \$\$.......... 28 Forever Hope Foundation . 19 <br> Junior Amateur Tour $\$ \$ \$ \$ .26$ US Foods. ............ 19 <br> Family Ties \$......... 23 ThreadWorks. ......... 18 <br> DV8..................... 20 ProAppproach Del Rio 17 <br> Forest Lanes.......... 20 Bowlium. <br> .16

## TOP 10 THIS WEEK <br> 707 Kasey Uyesugi 697 Stephanie Zavala 685 Vince Duarte 666 Tony Brunning <br> 649 Gabriel Martinez <br> 647 Ramiro Garcia 640 Frank Ortega 634 Eric Daniels 629 David Yamauchi 624 Brian Ritchie

## SUPER SWEEPER POT

Sponsored by Dean Sanderson of
Transamerica Financial Advisors Inc.
Anthony Santos $233 \$ 115 \cdot$ 2nd Ramiro Garcia $233 \$ 115$


## 譍TRANSAMERICA

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## \$55 Entry Fee with Optional Pots and Brackets

 Check-in at 6pm • Bowl at $7 \mathrm{pm} \cdot 1$ in 5 Payout April 2: 2024 Weber Saturday HDCP No-Tap Tournament
## \$30 Entry Fee with Optional Pots and Brackets Check-in at 11 am • 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