

EJ TACKETT WINS FIFTH TITLE OF SEASON AT 2023 PBA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP PRESENTED BY PABST BLUE RIBBON

by Nolan Hughes

In a title match that bore a cursory resemblance to not one, but two 2023 major championships, EJ Tackett claimed the 2023 PBA World Championship presented by Pabst Blue Ribbon title.

Tackett stepped onto the approach of Bowlero Wauwatosa needing two strikes to win. Just as he did at the U.S. Open presented by Go Bowling! in February, he delivered.

The 30-year-old defeated Jason Belmonte, 254-247, to win his second major championship and fifth title of the sea-

son at the finale of the Guaranteed Rate PBA World Series of Bowling XIV.

"It feels really good to have the opportunity to have to get up to double in the 10th against the greatest of all time and get it done," Tackett said. "That is what dreams are made of. It's so rewarding because you know that all the hard work you've put in is actually worth it."

With the win, his fourth career major title, Tackett became the youngest player to win 21 PBA Tour titles, though he joked he



2023 PBA World Champion EJ Tackett

would have rather been the first to 20.

"Twenty would have been a lot cooler because it's that nice, round number," Tackett said. "I feel like 20 is a number that puts you in very elite status in the history of the PBA Tour."

If not for the man opposite him in the title match, Tackett likely would have reached 20 titles long ago. Belmonte defeated Tackett in last month's Tournament of Champions title match, moving to 3-0 in major championship finals and 6-2 on television against

Tackett.

Belmonte's ascent to the World Championship title match this week also eerily resembled his monumental comeback at the TOC.

After finishing 10th, 34th, and 14th, respectively, in the PBA Cheetah, Scorpion and Shark Championships, Belmonte entered the 12-game match play round in 12th place, more than 300 pins outside of the top five. He averaged 250 and compiled an 11-1 record to charge all the way to the No. 4 continued on page 9



EJ TACKETT WINS 20TH CAREER TITLE AT 2023 PBA CHEETAH CHAMPIONSHIP

Tackett defeats BJ Moore to claim his fourth title of the season

by Nolan Hughes

Ten years ago in Milwaukee, EJ Tackett made his PBA Tour television debut. Tonight, on the same pair of lanes at Bowlero Wauwatosa, the 30-year-old claimed the 20th title of his career and fourth of the season at the PBA Cheetah Championship.

Tackett defeated top seed BJ Moore, 259-178, in the first title match of the Guaranteed Rate World Series of Bowling XIV.

With four titles in nine events this season, plus

a runner-up finish at the PBA Tournament of Champions, Tackett has bowled in more than half of 2023 title matches.

"I've just bowled well," Tackett said. "I've given myself a lot of opportunities and I've been able to capitalize on them, where in the past I really haven't done a great job of doing that. This year, for some reason, has been a little bit different. Everything is coming together, and things are full steam ahead."

continued on page 4



JAKOB BUTTURFF ENDS TITLE DROUGHT AT 2023 PBA SCORPION CHAMPIONSHIP

Butturff dedicates first title since 2019 to his late mother

by Nolan Hughes

On Tuesday night at Bowlero Wauwatosa, Jakob Butturff put an end to his near-four-year title drought.

The 28-year-old defeated EJ Tackett, who won the PBA Cheetah Championship on Monday, in the title match to claim his eighth career title.

"It's my first Tour win since my mom passed away back in November 2020," Butturff said. "I know she was looking down on me and made sure I made my 7-pins in

that match."

"She's the reason I am where I'm at in my life right now," Butturff continued. "She motivated me. She took me to every event in juniors. Without her, I wouldn't be where I'm at in life."

Tackett struggled to project the ball to the right throughout his two matches. He said that if he missed to the right, the ball was not going to hook, which caused him to miss left several times.

Tackett appeared to continued on page 10



MATT OGLE ACHIEVES LIFELONG DREAM AT 2023 PBA SHARK CHAMPIONSHIP

Captured his first career PBA Tour singles title

by Nolan Hughes

On Wednesday night, Matt Ogle's lifelong dream came to fruition. The 38-year-old Louisville native captured his first career PBA Tour singles title at the PBA Shark Championship.

Top-seeded Ogle defeated Sam Cooley, 204-191, in the title match at Bowlero Wauwatosa to win his second career title.

"This was a dream," Ogle said. "This is what I wanted. This is it. I did it."

Ogle's victory was reminiscent of Kyle

Sherman's title at the 2022 PBA Cheetah Championship. Both players boasted a doubles title — Ogle won the 2019 Roth-Holman PBA Doubles Championship with Sean Rash — but a singles title fulfills the dream every kid grows up having.

"It's totally two different things," Ogle said. "(Rash) was there for me, set me up, made it all about me. But this — this is totally different. It's amazing. This is some- continued on page 10



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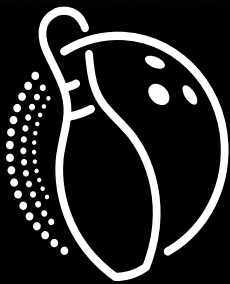
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Steve Pellegrine Receives Golden 300 Pin Award

by Frank Weiler

REDLANDS – Steve Pellegrine rolled another Perfect Game. HO HUM. Steve is a regular honor scorer. He is a threat to roll a big game or big series at any time. Some consider him to be a bowling machine. A Strong machine at that.

Steve may be the strongest man ever to bowl in the Citrus Belt. He regularly lifts weights and is a Hulk of a man. No doubt Steve could handle a twenty pound bowling ball if it were allowed.

Steve loves super heroes and is a big fan of THE HULK and weight lifter turned actor LOU FERRIGNO. I think Steve's taste for superheroes drives his passion for exercise and power bowling.

While Steve's bowling heroics are a common occurrence the presentation of the 300 Pin Award is not. Only a few times each season will Empire Bowl present the GOLDEN 300 PIN to a bowler who has rolled a perfect 300 game. Today was Steve Pellegrine's day.

Great bowling Steve and congratulations for receiving your Golden 300 Pin. Your bowling exploits are more proof that "CALIFORNIA BOWLERS ARE THE BEST BOWLERS IN THE WORLD".



Steve Pellegrine

Empire Lanes Top Senior Bowlers

by Frank Weiler

REDLANDS - There are still active octogenarians bowling up a storm at Empire Bowl. There are still octogenarians taming the lanes at Empire Bowl. There are still octogenarians averaging 200 or higher at Empire Bowl. Why not? We are living longer, active longer and bowling longer than any generation before us.

There are many reasons so many of the old guys are still averaging 200 or better and rolling honor scores. I know of one 83 year old who is still lifting weights. There are some guys flexible enough to practice YOGA! There are others still golfing, meditating, jogging and biking. Such activities stimulate and keep many older bowlers young and able to succeed at bowling.

With that kind of energy driving the old guys it's not surprising to see them score. The TOP 5 senior bowlers at Empire Bowl follow:

Name	League	Average
1. Wayne Phelps	Golden Agers	221
2. Tim Frank	Senior Laughlin	215.555
3. Andy Toro	Senior Laughlin	215.551
4. Stoney Baker	Golden Agers	212
5. George Thiel	Senior Laughlin	206

The HIGH GAMES in the senior leagues follow:

Golden Agers League:	Sam Frisby	300
Monday Doubles League:	Jim Sheppard	290
"	Brian Hemstreet	290
Senior Laughlin League:	Andy Toro	290
Noonlighters League:	Frank Weiler	269

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Cheetah continued from page 1

Tackett said confidence has been a driving force behind his dominance this season. Winning the season opener at the U.S. Open presented by Go Bowling!, the title he coveted more than any other, kick-started perhaps one of the more dominant seasons in recent memory.

With a 20th career title, Tackett surpassed Chris Barnes and tied Amleto Monacelli, Dick Ritger, Wayne Webb, and Tommy Jones — all PBA Hall of Famers.

"It's crazy to etch your name next to guys that are iconic in the sport, people that I grew up watching," Tackett said. "Tommy's definitely one. I watched him from the first time he came on tour. It's an incredible feeling."

Tackett's decisiveness in the title match proved too much for Moore, who sought to win a second career title. After averaging more than 236 throughout 20 games of gutter-free qualifying, Moore threw the first shot in the gutter and rallied to finish with 178.

"BJ was seeing a lot of over-under and a lot of times — and I've been through it 100 times myself — where there's a little bit of nerves and you just roll it a little bit differently than we did all week," Tackett said. "I did that a couple of times in the first game and got away with them. I think being able to bowl that game and go into that title match with a little confidence in what my ball was doing on the lane really, really helped in the shot making."

In the semifinal, Tackett defeated Joseph Grondin, 233-225. Grondin, a 24-year-old graduate of Wichita State University, kept pace with Tackett through five frames despite battling immense lane transition.

However, Grondin's missed 3-6-10 conversion in the sixth frame created what proved to be an insurmountable deficit.

"It was a change in the lanes," Grondin said. "I didn't think to move because I went flush the last shot, and then obviously it went high."

In the previous match, Grondin won the first match on television of his career against AJ Johnson. Grondin took an early lead when Johnson missed the 2-8 in the second frame, but the veteran quickly retook the lead.

Johnson needed all three strikes in the 10th frame to shut out Grondin, but missed the 2-8 yet again.

"I was trying to be a little nicer to (the ball) and let it do its thing. I didn't expect it to (leave a) 2-8," Johnson said. "It hurts. I had ball in hand and could've wrapped it up there, but it is what it is. We're going to learn from it and keep getting better."

The opening match between Johnson and Jakob Butturff was one of the strangest in PBA history. The 35-foot Cheetah pattern forces players to throw the ball near the gutter, often to the very last board, and does not leave much margin for error.

Johnson kicked the match off with a gutter, then guttered again in the fourth and fifth frames; Butturff fouled in the second frame — which he said was only the second of his entire career — then fouled again in the 10th frame.

"I tried out new shoes for the show," Butturff said. "That's my mistake, a rookie mistake, and I made it. I was very fortunate to even be in this position. I'm just going to take my lumps with this one."

Johnson, who delivered in the clutch during the final game of qualifying and a roll-off to make tonight's show, bounced back from the gutter balls with a five-bagger to steal the match. "I knew if it stayed on the lane, it would do the right thing," joked Johnson, adding he adjusted his depth of target to help keep the ball on line.

Tackett, who did not advance to the PBA Shark Championship finals on Wednesday night, can theoretically win seven of the remaining eight titles on the 2023 PBA docket — which means Mark Roth's 1978 single-season record of eight titles is within reach.

"It's incredible to win that many times in a season," Tackett said. "In 2017, I won four times and finished second three times. That's one of the best seasons I've ever had in my career, up to this year. "So is it possible? Yes. Probable? Probably not. But I'm going to give it my all and give it my best and try to catch it."

Tackett will have yet another title opportunity Tuesday night as the No. 2 seed for the PBA Scorpion Championship. Butturff will return as well, this time as the top seed, while No. 4 seed Anthony Simonsen looks to keep up with Tackett in a heated PBA Player of the Year race.

CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND SCORES

Match 1: AJ Johnson def. Jakob Butturff, 208-203

Match 2: Joseph Grondin def. AJ Johnson, 205-194

Match 3: EJ Tackett def. Joseph Grondin, 233-225

Championship: EJ Tackett def. BJ Moore, 259-178

PBA CHEETAH CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL STANDINGS

1. EJ Tackett, \$20,000
2. BJ Moore, \$12,000
3. Joseph Grondin, \$11,000
4. AJ Johnson, \$8,500
5. Jakob Butturff, \$7,500

More information on the PBA Cheetah Championship is available [here](#).

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Silence Is Golden

by Dave Williams

The World vs. the USA event returned to the Guaranteed Rate World Series of Bowling Events XIV at Bowlero Wauwatosa in Wisconsin, after a multiple year pause due to the COVID crisis. The World team of Jason Belmonte, Jesper Svensson, Dom Barrett and Sam Cooley were victorious in the two day match, capturing the title from the USA team of Tommy Jones, Kyle Troup, Anthony Simonsen and E.J. Tackett.

Belmonte provided a bit of gamesmanship before the matches began. "I still feel we're the underdogs," said Belmonte. As the tournament action got underway, the crowd noise was deafening. Between the music and the fans, it was difficult to hear the announcers. Was this a new ploy by the PBA to increase viewership?

I searched my TV remote to see if there was some type of combination of buttons to mute the background noise... similar to the secret combination of buttons that enlarges or reduces the size of the picture for older programs. But alas, I could not find a remedy and eventually chose to mute the sound entirely.

I thought back to simpler times when bowling and golf were unlike other sports, where they would not allow fan applause during a pro's approach (golf is still this way). "Whispering" Joe Wilson was one of the first announcers in bowling to make the lyrics of the hit song, Silence Is Golden, by The Tremeloes, famous in the game of bowling...

**"Silence is golden, golden
But my eyes still see."**

The Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society states that Wilson's style of sports announcing from the famed Faetz-Niesen Bowling Center (now closed) in the Chicago suburb of Edgewater was "comprehensive, emotional and simply unbeatable." And quiet. His whispering voice brought an added sense of excitement to what we were witnessing beginning in 1953 with the airing of Bowling Stars.

But even before Whispering Joe made his appearance, there was another radio announcer-turned TV host from Detroit that made his lane side broadcasting popular with the Bowling Champions show that first aired on WXYZ-TV, in 1950. His name was Fred Wolf, and in 1956, the American Broadcasting Company (ABC), parent company of WXYZ-TV, asked Wolf if he would announce a coast-to-coast show called Championship Bowling. Wolf became a master of the whispering technique during those telecasts, as the bowlers addressed the pins during their approach.

A forerunner to the nationally syndicated Champi-



"Whispering" Joe Wilson (1957)



Fred Wolf (center with mic) interviews comedian/bowling proprietor Harold Lloyd at the 1947 USBC tournament in Los Angeles

onship Bowling show was the original Championship Bowling telecast with Chris Schenkel, that was broadcast from the famous Paramus Bowl in New Jersey, beginning in 1950. One of the most exciting telecasts from Paramus Bowl was a perfect 300 game rolled by Stan Gifford of Portland, Oregon. His prize was \$10,000, which would be equivalent to more than \$125,000 today (adjusted for inflation).

Schenkel went on to become the voice of bowling as the host of ABC's popular Pro Bowler's Tour telecasts for more than 35 years, from 1962 to 1997. But I think that from what I have seen, it must have been Wolf that first introduced and perfected the lane side whisper.

Silence Is Golden, But My Eyes Still See

But back to the current PBA World Series of Bowling and all that noise. While I was watching the show in muted silence, my eyes could still see the action. However, after enjoying a Nutrisystem meal of Ravioli and Meat Sauce with a Kaiser Roll, I unfortunately fell asleep, as I have want to do over the years. I awakened a few hours later and checked the pba.com website for the results.

After my unfortunate incident with the sound, I completely forgot about the Sunday telecast. Then on Monday, I received an email from a friend saying, "You're not going to believe this. Three gutter balls (A.J. Johnson) and two fouls (Jakob Butturff) in one match. I couldn't stand it anymore and shut it off," said my friend. Thankfully I had forgotten to tune in on Monday night as well, so I missed the Cheetah pattern event that forces players to throw the ball near the gutter in order to be rewarded.

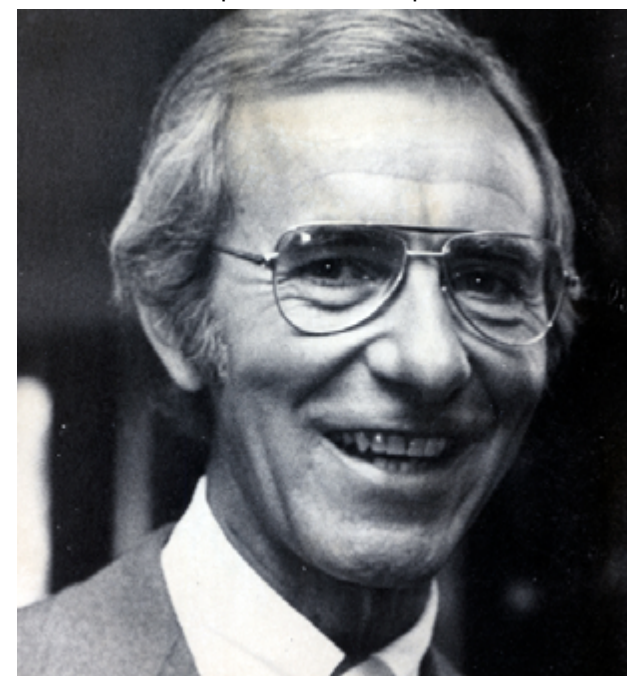
For Jakob Butturff of Tempe, Ariz., the fouling debacle was actually a blessing in disguise, according to bowling writer Nolan Hughes. "I tried out new shoes for the show," Butturff said. "That's my mistake, a rookie mistake, and I made it." The next night at the PBA Scorpion Championship, Butturff was victorious, putting an end to a title drought dating back to 2019.

"It's my first tour win since my mom passed away in November of 2020," Butturff said. "I know she was looking down on me and made sure I made my 7-pins in that match. She's the reason I am where I'm at in my life right now. She motivated me. She took me to every event in juniors. Without her, I wouldn't be where I'm at in life."

As of this writing, there's still a few events to be

contested in the PBA's World Series of Bowling week. I hope that I remember to tune in, have the show muted in honor of the whispering broadcasters of the past, and hold off on my urge for food until after the telecast. 'Sounds' like a lot to ask, but hopefully I will succeed...

- "Whispering" Joe Wilson photo and excerpts from Dr. Jake's Bowling History
- Fred Wolf photo and excerpts from International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame
- Chris Schenkel photo and excerpts from bowl.com



Chris Schenkel (1988)



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SINGLES EVENT CHAMPIONS WILL EARN A FREE JERSEY!

And Another One Gone

by Dave Williams

One of the joys of working for Primo Liberatore at L & L Lanes in my early bowling years was a lot of free bowling practice. Primo was a master at throwing together a bowling league or team at the last minute. All he had to do was ask, and people would sign up. He had the gift of gab, and a great following.

Once the league (or team) was in place, he would then invariably ask me to take his place. One of those occasions was with the North Bay Travel League, a nifty concept that included mostly employees from bowling centers in the immediate San Francisco area, and the counties north of the City by the Bay. The league rolled on Monday at Noon, and I would usually receive a call from Primo on Sunday night saying that he couldn't make it.

The result was a lot of free bowling practice, and also an opportunity to venture to all of the North Bay bowling centers to check out their facilities and lane conditions. One of those places that I always looked forward to visiting was Sea Bowl in Pacifica. The name is appropriate, because the bowling center is on the Coast Highway, directly across from the Pacific Ocean and a beautiful little cove called Rockaway Beach.

Sea Bowl was truly a unique location. I'm not sure if it was by design, but the building resembled an ocean liner, with multiple glass conning towers on the second floor. The mascot, Mr. Pin, was a giant six foot high, three dimensional bowling pin on the concourse, with a sailor's hat. Recent photos at Sea Bowl's website show that Mr. Pin is still there, and a favorite photo opportunity with children's birthday parties.

Attempts to reach the current owner, David Szeto, were to no avail, but a compassionate letter to bowlers has been posted:

It is with heavy heart that I inform you that Sea Bowl will be closing its doors for good on May 31st, 2023, after more than 60 years in business.

We have cherished the many years that we've been able to provide a fun and exciting space for you all to enjoy. We have had many great memories and countless hours of laughter and camaraderie. We know how much our league bowlers have come to love the sport and the community that comes with it.

After 60 years of doing business here in Pacifica, we have made the difficult decision to retire and close our family business. It is with mixed emotions that we announce this decision, but we feel that it is time to start a new chapter in our lives. We know this news will come as a disappointment for many of you.



Sea Bowl signage nestled between two of the glass conning towers on the second floor

We want to thank you for your loyalty and support throughout the years. We couldn't have made it this far without your dedication and enthusiasm for the sport of bowling. We will do our best to make the remainder of our time together as enjoyable as possible, and we hope you will continue to come out and bowl with us until the very end.

Thank you for being a part of our bowling family, and we wish you all the best.

*Sincerely,
David Szeto*



Pro Bowler Darren Tang, at age 16, rolled a 300 game at Sea Bowl (2009)

Amanda Bartlett of sfgate.com reported that when Sea Bowl first opened its doors in March of 1959, it was reportedly so popular that for three nights in a row, they didn't bother to close, hosting an estimated 3,000 patrons in a single weekend.

When they finally shut down on Monday morning at 3:00 a.m., Bartlett reports that they brought back the construction crews to put the finishing touches on the \$500,000 project. "We stayed open as long as there were bowlers, and there were plenty," manager Hal Duncan told the Pacifica Tribune in 1959.

Sea Bowl changed hands in 1996, when it was acquired by the current owners, according to Bartlett. The subsequent renovation of the facility that year generated another 28 years of tremendous success.

(Thanks to Lynn Matsubara at calusbc.com for alerting us to the Sea Bowl closure)

- Sea Bowl photos compliments of Sea Bowl website and Facebook page
- Darren Tang photo compliments of Sea Bowl's Facebook page (photo by Nathaniel Tang)

IN MEMORIAM - Les Feldick passed away on April 5, 2023, at the age of 95. Like most of his followers, I stumbled upon him one day while flipping through the channels. His program is the Bible study that I had been looking for all my life. If you have an opportunity to check out his telecast, I highly recommend viewing the 30 minute program. It could save your life...



Sea Bowl at night with multi-colored glass conning towers (2020)

PBA World Championship continued from page 1

seed.

Boasting a career record of 32-18 and average of nearly 220 in televised major championship matches, Belmonte won three consecutive matches against players who made three of four championship rounds at the WSOB XIV.

In the opening match, Belmonte defeated reigning PBA Rookie of the Year Santtu Tahvanainen. The 26-year-old made two poor shots early that gave Belmonte the lead, but Tahvanainen said he remained confident.

"I was like, 'Now we're gonna look to strike out, shoot 250 and put pressure on Belmo,'" Tahvanainen said. "It was a good shot (in the fifth frame) but I left the 4-pin. I felt like 230 wouldn't be enough anymore."

Belmonte then took down Jakob Butturff, the 2019 and 2021 PBA World Championship runner-up. Butturff had an opportunity to shut out Belmonte with three strikes in the 10th frame, but the southpaw's errant shot allowed Belmonte to advance with a mark.

"Honestly, I was very inconsistent with my ball speed," Butturff said. "You've gotta get those breaks and you've gotta make better shots when you're bowling against the best bowlers on the planet."

Once again, the three finalists of a major championship were Belmonte, Tackett and No. 2 seed Anthony Simonsen. It marks the third time over the past two seasons all three have made a major championship round and the sixth time overall since 2016.

With Belmonte, Tackett and Anthony Simonsen all recording major titles earlier in the season, Butturff clinched a berth in May's PBA Super Slam Cup as the highest finisher without a major title this season.

Transition hit during the semifinal as Belmonte and Simonsen, who each started with urethane equipment, navigated the treacherous situation. On the high-scoring pattern, one error or poor decision could be detrimental.

Belmonte opted to move incrementally left and, later, loft the urethane ball over the front part of the lane; Simonsen switched to reactive on the right lane in the fifth frame, then on the left lane for the 10th.

After leaving a 10-pin on the left lane in the eight frame, Simonsen made the ball change needing a massive 10th frame to put pressure on Belmonte. Instead, he left a 2-8 and allowed Belmonte to continue climbing with a mere mark.

Belmonte, typically stoic until all is said and done, demonstrated a great deal of emotion after clinching wins over Butturff and Simonsen.

"A few days ago, I was 400 pins behind fourth, and then here I am bowling for the title," Belmonte said. "I just felt like this story would have been pretty epic."

The person least surprised by Belmonte's assault on the stepladder: Tackett.

"When the show started, I told (my ball rep), 'I assume I'm gonna bowl Belmo today.' So I was mentally prepared better than maybe I have been in the past to bowl him," Tackett said. "Your preparation for him may be a little bit different than maybe for playing another player. Although it shouldn't be — it should be full focus all the time — you just know that little bit extra you have to do to be able to at least have a match with him."

The heavyweight battle exceeded all expectations: Belmonte fired a five-bagger mid-game to take the lead, while Tackett struck on six of seven shots heading into the 10th frame to keep pace.

The use of urethane throughout the show played into Tackett's hands, he said.

"I wanted those guys to throw urethane, that gave me the best chance," Tackett said. "I think it benefited me a little bit that Santtu lost early. Had he bowled more and beat Belmo, I don't know how the lanes would have played."

Belmonte stepped up in the ninth frame, needing strikes in the ninth and 10th frames to secure a 16th career major title and extend his record. Instead, his ball hooked early and left a 3-6-10.

"I knew it was going to hook, I was hoping it was going to last one more frame for me," Belmonte said. "The story was right there. One more shot on that right lane. If the pattern held up just one more shot, it would have been a pretty good story to tell later on."

After converting the spare — which Belmonte said he would die not knowing how to make after the USA vs. The World event last weekend — Belmonte threw all three strikes in the 10th frame.

If Tackett wanted to beat Belmonte for a major, he needed to double.

"I think there were a lot of things that happened today that benefited me," Tackett said. "The lanes got to where I thought they would and where I wanted them to be. At that point, it was just all about execution."

With his wife, dad, uncle, and cousin (all the way from Germany) sitting in the front row, the Indiana native delivered two strikes.

"It's my time!" he exclaimed, before hugging his father, Ed — just as he did

after winning his first career major at the 2016 PBA World Championship.

With the win, Tackett's grasps the pole position of the Player of the Year race. He owns a Tour-high five titles and over \$350,000 in earnings entering the final major of the season at the PBA Players Championship.

CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND SCORES

- Match 1: Jason Belmonte def. Santtu Tahvanainen, 234-230
- Match 2: Jason Belmonte def. Jakob Butturff, 223-204
- Match 3: Jason Belmonte def. Anthony Simonsen, 236-204
- Championship: EJ Tackett def. Jason Belmonte, 254-247

PBA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL STANDINGS

1. EJ Tackett, \$101,000
2. Jason Belmonte, \$55,000
3. Anthony Simonsen, \$40,000
4. Jakob Butturff, \$30,000
5. Santtu Tahvanainen, \$25,000

Full PBA World Championship presented by Pabst Blue Ribbon standings are available [here](#).

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Scorpion

continued from page 1

have overcome that issue in the title match, firing strikes on seven of the first eight frames. But he missed left again in the ninth frame, leaving a 3-4-6-7-10 split.

The open frame gave Butturff a chance to shut out the Player of the Year front-runner. After tripping the 6-pin forward in the 10th frame, Butturff needed just nine pins on the next shot to clinch the win.

The left-hander made a slight adjustment to the right, but said he threw the ball fast and left the bucket. The missed opportunity cracked the door back open for Tackett, and Butturff said he fully expected him to seize it.

Needing a double and nine pins to secure his fifth title of the season, Tackett said he threw an okay shot — “close enough it could have struck” — but left a 10-pin, ending his bid for back-to-back titles.

Butturff also competed in the PBA Cheetah Championship finals last night, fouling twice while wearing new shoes to lose the opening match. He brought back his old shoes and tested the approaches tonight but said the mistake from yesterday lingered as a demon in his mind. “The best way to overcome the past is to focus on the present,” he said.

Jesper Svensson, the No. 5 seed, defeated Anthony Simonsen in the opening match. Lane transition hit Simonsen early in the match, but he fought back with a hambone in the seventh through 10th frames. But a split on Simonsen’s 11th shot ended the 26-year-old’s bid for a third title of the season.

The next match pitted Svensson against Finland’s Santtu Tahvanainen, the reigning PBA Rookie of the Year. The intense hockey rivalry between Swedes and Finns did not translate to this match as Svensson routed Tahvanainen, 228-186.

Tahvanainen, known for his effortless power and rev rate, played almost three arrows farther left than Simonsen. He said that strategy worked throughout qualifying and even in practice before the show, but it did not work tonight.

“It was my comfort zone,” Tahvanainen said. “It was a little bit tighter (on the TV pair), but I felt like it’s still manageable. I don’t see myself doing any better if I was more right.”

“It’s definitely a good experience,” he said of his first career singles telecast. “But at the same time, I hope this concludes my bad bowling and tomorrow we can see my good bowling.”

Svensson’s ascent of the stepladder came to a screeching halt against Tackett in the semifinal. The two-hander’s look with urethane started to fade, leaving two buckets in the first four frames, and his attempts to switch to reactive led to disastrous splits.

“I knew (transition) was coming,” Svensson said. “I was just hoping that the look I had after wasn’t as bad as it was.”

Svensson exhausted his option to no avail, falling to Tackett 184-158.

“You feel like the tiniest little thing in the world standing on that approach when things are not going too hot,” Svensson said. “If I would have known that EJ would’ve shot 180, I probably would’ve done what I did the first few frames (throwing urethane) and just tried to hit the pocket and make whatever spares are left. But I figured that he’s probably going to have a very good game so I had to be aggressive. “With a little bit of time, I think I’m going to be pretty proud about the performance,” Svensson added. “But obviously, that last game stings a little bit.”

Simonsen and Tahvanainen also advanced to the PBA Shark Championship finals.

Butturff and Tackett narrowly missed the championship round on the 48-foot Shark pattern, but hold the top two positions in the PBA World Championship. Match play for the fourth major championship of the season will take place Thursday.

Butturff said while he is disappointed about missing tomorrow’s show — he shot 175 the final game, needing 226 to make the show — he is glad to take a day off and enjoy tonight’s victory.

“This was an all star, future Hall of Famer lineup of a TV show,” Butturff said.

“I definitely had to think that I was the top seed for a reason. I had to feel like the best bowler in the building. Thankfully enough, I was able to come out on top.”

CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND SCORES

Match 1: Jesper Svensson def. Anthony Simonsen, 248-225
Match 2: Jesper Svensson def. Santtu Tahvanainen, 228-186
Match 3: EJ Tackett def. Jesper Svensson, 184-158
Championship: Jakob Butturff def. EJ Tackett, 225-217

PBA SCORPION CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL STANDINGS

1. Jakob Butturff, \$20,000
2. EJ Tackett, \$13,000
3. Anthony Simonsen, \$10,000
4. Santtu Tahvanainen, \$8,500
5. Anthony Simonsen, \$7,500
Full PBA Scorpion Championship standings are available [here](#).

Shark

continued from page 1

thing I wanted my whole life.” After years of grinding on Tour, mostly as a part-time player, Ogle developed a newfound confidence following last season’s PBA League — between being drafted to the Dallas Strikers by Norm Duke, leading qualifying and anchoring the team. That conviction and the help of two sponsors helped him commit to competing full-time this season.

After posting top-20 finishes in each of his first three tournaments this season, Ogle has tallied three championship round appearances in the past six events. He ranks fifth on Tour in points, behind only EJ Tackett, Anthony Simonsen, Jason Belmonte and Jakob Butturff.

“That’s crazy,” Ogle said. “The dream was to be with those guys and I’m finally there. It hasn’t really sunk in yet, that part hasn’t gotten to me.”

In the title match, Ogle ended Cooley’s climb of the stepladder. Cooley snuck into the show with a 247 to close qualifying last week, then tallied wins over Santtu Tahvanainen, Simonsen and Packy Hanrahan to reach the title match.

Cooley sought to win his second title of the season on the season’s longest pattern used for a full tournament: 48-foot Shark. His first win came on the season’s shortest pattern — 32-foot Wolf — at the PBA Springfield Classic.

Cooley said his work in the offseason has started to pay dividends, but a more recent change in his mindset led to this performance.

“I’m standing here now dumbfounded at just how powerful a couple of words you tell yourself — ‘wait on it’ — can be,” Cooley said. “If you told me I was going to be here, I would’ve laughed. Obviously, you want to come away with a win, but even though that didn’t happen, it feels like a win.”

In the opening match, Cooley downed Tahvanainen, 247-212. The Finnish star performed much better than he did during the PBA Scorpion Championship on Tuesday, but a 3-6-10 spare in the second frame and a pocket 7-10 in the 10th cost him the match.

Cooley faced a tighter match against Simonsen, also seeking to redeem himself after a rough go on Scorpion. After acing a strike in the ninth frame, Cooley needed a double and nine pins to shut out the two-handed virtuoso. He made an adjustment left and aced all three shots to advance.

Hanrahan’s poor ball reaction made the semifinal the least competitive match of the night. The lone left-hander said that he executed well, and his ball reaction reminded him of qualifying.

“I had two really good blocks and two blocks where I bowled very well for like +50. A lot of those games looked like (tonight),” Hanrahan said. “It was one of those nights with a lot of good shots and trying to figure out a way to get the 7-pin down. That isn’t always the best when you’re watching Sam Cooley and his ball is striking.”

For a moment early in the title match, however, the striking stopped for Cooley. After averaging over 242 in his three wins, he opened twice in the first three frames against Ogle.

“I was a bit hesitant and stubborn on making the move, and it cost me those couple of frames,” Cooley said. “Once I saw the ball hook too much, that was like my cue: ‘You have to move, you can’t make this work.’ I made a 2-2 move left and I found my ball reaction again to make it a lot closer down the stretch.”

Ogle capitalized on Cooley’s error, striking on each of his next two shots, which he said gave him a lot of relief. However, Ogle made a gaffe of his own two frames later. He missed a 10-pin in the sixth frame, which combined with Cooley’s own double, drew the match to a near tie.

Both players could max out at 225 as Cooley stepped up for his ninth frame. He missed left and slow, leaving a 3-6-9-10 that cost him significant pin count as well.

“I could not have grabbed that anymore with any slower ball speed if I wanted to,” Cooley said. Ogle responded with a strike in the ninth frame and left another 10-pin in the 10th frame. After an initial balk, Ogle reset and made the spare.

The emotions began to pour out, though Ogle still needed seven pins on his fill ball. He recollected just enough to knock over nine pins and clinch the victory.

He could not hold back the tears any longer.

“I feel like I belong for sure,” Ogle said. “I got my first singles title. I’m here. I’m not gonna look back.”


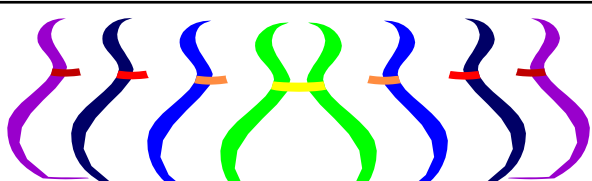
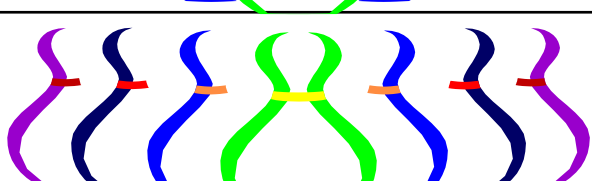
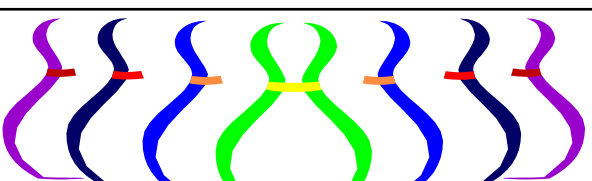
CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND SCORES

Match 1: Sam Cooley def. Santtu Tahvanainen, 247-212
Match 2: Sam Cooley def. Anthony Simonsen, 238-221
Match 3: Sam Cooley def. Packy Hanrahan, 242-203
Championship: Matt Ogle def. Sam Cooley, 204-191

PBA SHARK CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL STANDINGS

1. Matt Ogle, \$20,000
2. Sam Cooley, \$12,000
3. Packy Hanrahan, \$10,000
4. Anthony Simonsen, \$8,500
5. Santtu Tahvanainen, \$7,500
Full PBA Shark Championship standings are available [here](#).

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Allied Paving Remains Atop The Wildcard Round

Brad Jones Strikes To 805, James Blythe and Vince Duarte Punch 300s

by David Yamauchi

DOWNEY – The Brunswick Invitational hit the lanes for the third week of the six-week Wildcard Round and last eight weeks of the league. Scores were expected to sky rocket as the league got some relief on the first-round house shot. Allied Paving had jumped to the top of the round standings and Junior Amateur Tour to the top of the overall standings last week as both teams looked to keep the momentum going.

In the top Round Winner's match, league-leaders **Junior Amateur Tour** (94.5) met **Family Ties** (93) who had jumped all the way up with a hot 9-1 start this round. Family Ties showed why they won the first round as they put up 981 and 934 to take the first two. Junior Amateur Tour struck to a 952 win for their sole point of the night. Family Ties moves to 97 wins and JAT sits at 95.5. Vince Duarte was huge, going **perfect 300** en route to a 759 set to lead Family Ties while super-sub Kyler Orosco lit them up for Junior Amateur Tour with a 787 set.

The other Round Winner's match saw **Finishing Touch Floors** (93) drop down to the second match against **DV8** (85). The first two games were lopsided wins for Finishing Touch Floors but DV8 showed some grit as they struck to the game three win to salvage one win. Finishing Touch Floors moves to (97) wins tied with Family Ties for the overall league lead. Vernon Adams was huge for Finishing Touch with a 730 set while Jeff Carr led DV8 with a solid 687 series.

In the Wildcard round matches, the "A" match featured **Allied Paving** taking on **Professional Approach** with both teams sitting nicely at 8-2 after two weeks. Allied Paving took game one, but Professional Approach stormed back to take a close 760-753 game two. Allied Paving got back in the pocket as the cruised to a game three win and the 4-1 result. Allied Paving was led by Michael Motao's 639 set while Brian Ritchie paced Professional Approach with a 632 series. Allied Paving remains atop the round and will stay in the "A" match next week.

The "B" match put **Threadworks** against **Westminster Lanes** with both teams looking to add on to their 7-3 start. Threadworks put up a huge start with a 968 game, but Westminster Lanes came back with

a 877-786 second game win. The last game went to Threadworks as they won by enough to secure totals by 26 and the 4-1 win. Ray Minter was big for Threadworks with a 694 set while Jonathan Gale put up 683 to pace Westminster Lanes. Threadworks will move to the "A" match next week against Allied Paving.

US Foods and **Bowlum** were both sitting mid-pack at 6-4 with both teams looking to get back into the wildcard round hunt. US Foods started hot with a big 945 game but Bowlum showed resilience as they came back strong to take the last two games by enough for a 4-1 win. It was the leadoff bowlers showing off as Ramiro Garcia was big for Bowlum with a nice 729 set while Paul Barraco paced US Foods with a strong 720.

Forest Lanes was looking to bounce back after a rough week as they took on **J.K. Inc.** who moved up to the 8th spot after a sweep in week two. The teams both came out strong tying the first game 896-896 but it was all Forest Lanes from there as they struck to the 4.5-.5 win. Brad Jones was huge with a 299/805 to lead Forest Lanes while Ian Markstrum paced J.K. Inc. with a 678 set.

Don Julio Tequila, Cal Bowl, HB Complete Builders and Bowling Guys rounded out Monday's action. Cal Bowl started with a triple-digit win as they set up the sweep of Don Julio Tequila. Scott Smith led Cal Bowl with a 681 set while William Morris was high for Don Julio Tequila with a 630 set. Bowling Guys started out strong with a 929-861 win but it was all HB Complete Builders from there as they cruised to the 4-1 win. Terry Hatley led HB Complete Builders with a 689 set while Javier Hernandez was big for Bowling Guys with a solid 699 series.

Financial Advisor's Pot went to Vince Duarte (300) for \$160 with second to Brad Jones (299) for \$70. Sidepots went to Mikey Villarreal (289) and Vince Duarte (300) for \$54 each with second to Ray Minter (280) and Ian Markstrum (279) for \$27 each. SuperPot went to Paul Varela (259) for \$162 with second to Kyler Orosco (258) for \$81.

Oil pattern order for the 5 remaining weeks will be 4th, 1st, 2nd, 4th, 3rd.

TOP 10 TEAMS OVERALL

Family Ties \$.....97	Cal Bowl91
Finishing Touch Floors \$\$ 97	Forest Lanes88.5
Junior Amateur Tour \$\$\$\$ 95.5	Bowlum.....82
DV8 \$\$\$86	US Foods.....80
Threadworks.....92	Professional Approach 75.5

TOP 10 WILDCARD ROUND

Family Ties \$.....13	J.K. Inc.9.5
Allied Paving.....12	Junior Amateur Tour \$\$\$\$8
Threadworks.....11	Westminster Lanes.....8
Bowlum.....10	US Foods.....7
Professional Approach 9	Finishing Touch Floors7

TOP 10 THIS WEEK

805 Brad Jones	729 Ramiro Garcia
787 Kyler Orosco	723 Kevin Valmonte
759 Vince Duarte	720 Paul Barraco
732 Mikey Villarreal	720 Chris Hefner
730 Vernon Adams	699 Javier Hernandez

SUPER SWEEPER POT

Sponsored by Dean Sanderson of Transamerica Financial Advisors Inc.

1st Vince Duarte 300 \$160 • 2nd Brad Jones 299 \$70



TRANSAMERICA
FINANCIAL ADVISORS, INC.
Transamerica Financial Group Division

Dean Sanderson
Investment Advisor Representative
License: 0F92487

11801 Pierce Street
Suite 215
Riverside, CA 92505

Office: 951.530.9343
Mobile: 714.875.0450
Fax: 951.389.3755

dean.sanderson@tfaconnect.com
<https://deansanderson.wfgopportunity.com/>

Come on out and watch the teams take on the 2022 USBC Nationals Team Event pattern next week as the teams' battle Monday at 8:00.



Weekly Scratch 5-Gamer Every Tuesday

\$50 Entry Fee with Optional Pots and Brackets

Check-in at 6pm • Bowl at 7pm • 1 in 5 Payout

4/25: Earl Anthony / 5/2: High Street / 5/9: Middle of the Road / 5/16: Don Johnson

Saturday HDCP No-Tap Tournament

\$25 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