

CALIFORNIA

MAY 16, 2024

BOWLING NEWS

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STEPHANIE ZAVALA is the
"Top Female" at the USBC MASTERS

by Frank Weiler

LAS VEGAS, NV. – The PWBA contingent of female professional bowlers traveled to Sun Coast Lanes a few weeks ago to "CHUCK" bowling balls for a first place check of \$100,000.

When the smoke cleared, DeeRonn Booker won the big money but the ladies bowled well and acquitted themselves well. There were seven ladies competing against the best men in the world at this season's MASTERS including such heavyweights



as E. J. Tackett, Jason Belmonte, Anthony Simonsen and "Curly Tops" to name a few. No matter what the guys did the ladies persevered and made themselves proud. After three squads and 15 games of Qualifying the ladies finished as follows:

	Plus/Minus	Average
1. Stephanie Zavala	+94	206
2. Liz Johnson	+40	202
3. Verity Crawley	-7	199.5
4. Sandra Gongora	-11	199.3
5. Clara Guerrero	-39	197.2
6. Marie Jose Rodriguez	-42	197.2
7. Daria Pajak	-203	186

Great bowling ladies. I love it when the ladies take on the guys and do well! These ladies did just that and did well. Bravo! And the best of these ladies, Stephanie Zavala is from Long Beach, CALIFORNIA.

TWO-TIME DEFENDING CHAMPION TROUP
HEADLINES FINAL FOUR OF PBA PLAYOFFS

Kyle Troup, Jesper Svensson, Bill O'Neill, David Krol advance to PBA Playoffs semifinals

by Nolan Hughes

The Final Four of the PBA Playoffs features the two-time defending champion, a former Playoffs champion, a two-handed lefty who almost shot 300, and an underdog turned into a hungry wolf.

Kyle Troup, Bill O'Neill, Jesper Svensson and David "Boog" Krol each won their quarterfinal match on Sunday evening to advance to the semifinals. The quarterfinals were taped May 5 at Angel of the Winds Casino Resort in Arlington, Wash.

The four victors advance to the semifinals, which will be held Sunday, May 19 at AMF Kissimmee in Kissimmee, Fla.



O'Neill will face Krol in the first one-game semifinal before Troup and Svensson square off in the second.

The winners will then meet in the Race-to-Two championship match.

Krol won the opening match of the quarterfinals, defeating top seed

EJ Tackett, 257-213. Much like he did in his Round of 12 win over Zach Wilkins, Krol overcame a slow start with a furious finish to close out the season's top player.

Without an exempt spot in the main field, Krol had to earn a spot via the seven-game

pre-tournament qualifier before every PBA Tour event — until he won the PBA Delaware Classic and secured an exempt spot. Despite having to bowl PTQs for the first half of the season, the 28-year-old finished ninth in points.

continued on page 5

Malaysia's Sin Wins Second Career Title at
the PWBA Bowlers Journal Rockford Open

by Donovan Grubaugh

ROCKFORD, Ill. – Sin Li Jane out of Malaysia returned to the Professional Women's Bowling Association after a hiatus and came out on top in the second event of the 2024 season at The Cherry Bowl in Rockford, Illinois, at the PWBA Bowlers Journal Rockford Open.

Sin defeated Ukraine's Dasha Kovalova 204-154 in the title match to win her second career PWBA title after leading most of qualifying and claiming the No. 1 seed in the stepladder finals. She previously won the



2017 Pepsi PWBA Lincoln Open.

Saturday night's stepladder started with Liz Kuhlkin of Schenectady,

New York, and Singapore's Shayna Ng, as Kuhlkin was looking to avenge her runner-up continued on page 5

Parker Bohn III Wins 11th PBA50
Title at the Villages Classic

by Jill Winters

THE VILLAGES, FL – Parker Bohn III is a proven winner and yet every time he earns another title, he still gets chills.

The legendary lefty earned his 11th PBA50 Tour title Thursday at the 2024 PBA50 The Villages Classic.

After throwing a strike on his first shot in the 10th frame in his semifinal match against Chris Barnes to advance to the championship match, Jason Couch shouted toward Bohn III, "I'm tired of bowling you,



man." These lefties have been bowling on tour together for about 35 years Bohn III said and they

always enjoy matching up against one another. Combined, they own 51

continued on page 7



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The New PBA Should Become Old Again

by Dave Williams

One of the favorite followers of this column, Tom Knapp of Minnesota, made an interesting comment when he reviewed DeeRonn Booker's win at the recently contested USBC Masters at the Suncoast Bowling Center in Las Vegas.

"It's nice to see a new face," said Knapp, referring to Booker's first time appearance on national television. "I used to like tuning in each week to see a new bowler qualifying for the TV show and being pitted against the likes of Earl Anthony or Walter Ray Williams Jr., but now it's the same handful of players each week."

Indeed. It does seem repetitious. Almost every week for the past couple of months we have seen the same ten bowlers: E.J. Tackett, Anthony Simonsen, Kyle Troup, Jason Belmonte, Marshall Kent, Jesper Svensson, Kris Prather, David Krol, Bill O'Neill and Matt Russo.

Oh sure, there's been an occasional new face, like rookie Deo Benard winning his first title at the PBA Cheetah Championship on April 15th, or Shota Kawazoe from Japan qualifying for his first televised finals at the PBA Shark Championship on April 17th. But for the most part, it's some of those same ten faces every week.

Both Knapp and I can remember when there was at least one new face every week on the Saturday afternoon PBA telecast on ABC. "I miss that," said Knapp. "It was fun to watch a virtual unknown step on the approach to face the likes of Walter Ray, Anthony or Mark Roth."

I went looking for past tournament results and was surprised at the lack of information from past decades. The PBA still has not updated the vast amount of information they have stored from the years prior to Bowlero's purchase of the PBA. Even the money earnings in recent years are limited to the years since COVID-19. For the record, here are the leading money winners for each year since 2019:

2023: E.J. Tackett \$458,450
2022: Jason Belmonte \$302,525
2021: Kyle Troup \$496,900
2020: Jason Belmonte \$293,050
2019: Jason Belmonte \$275,290

I can remember when money earnings were everything, along with tournament titles, in the PBA annual yearbook. Now that information is gone, although Russ Mills, PBA regional manager, keeps telling me it's all there, waiting to be uploaded. I found an interesting document at mcubed.net that categorizes most PBA wins by decade:

2020's: Jason Belmonte 10 (through 2024)
2010's: Jason Belmonte 19
2000's: Walter Ray Williams Jr. 17
1990's: Walter Ray Williams Jr. 25
1980's: Mike Aulby 17
1970's: Earl Anthony 32
1960's: Dick Weber 17
1959: Dick Weber 2 (PBA's 1st year)



Jason Belmonte



Walter Ray Williams Jr.

It's interesting that although only a few players seem to be dominating the tour in recent months, and since 2019, the overall wins for each decade by an individual have remained somewhat constant, with the exception of the great performances by Walter Ray (1990's) and Anthony (1970's). It's just the mix of unknown players, qualifying for the first time on television, that is missing from the results.

Another engrossing category at mcubed.net was a listing of all-time tournament victories on the standard PBA Tour, with top five TV finishes thrown in for good measure. Walter Ray is far and away the favorite in these categories, with 47 wins, and a staggering 195 top five TV finals. While Earl Anthony is close to Walter Ray in wins (42), Williams is 54 ahead of Anthony in top five finishes. That's almost 40% ahead of Anthony, who also trails Pete Weber (152) in the all-time list of top five televised finishes.

Only a couple of the current PBA stars qualify among the top twenty for these lofty lifetime accolades: Jason Belmonte sits at seventh on the all-time accumulation with 30 wins and 91 TV finals. Next in line among current stars is E.J. Tackett at 14th on the all-time list, with 21 wins and 68 top five finishes.

At the present rate of TV finals among only ten individuals, I wonder how much longer it will be before the likes of Walter Ray Williams Jr., Mark Roth and Earl Anthony will be but a fleeting memory in our recollections...

- Walter Ray Williams Jr. photo provided by bowl.com
- Jason Belmonte photo provided by pba.com

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PWBA continued from page 1

finish in Rockford from the 2022 event.

Kuhlkin started strong with five strikes in the first six frames, but Ng stayed within striking distance after Kuhlkin left and chopped the 3-6-10 in the seventh frame. Ng was unable to capitalize on the miscue however, and Kuhlkin finished with a 222 while Ng ended with 189.

Ng earned \$5,500 for the fifth-place finish.

Waiting for Kuhlkin in the next match was Josie Barnes of Hermitage, Tennessee, who was on the hunt for her fifth career PWBA title and first since winning the 2021 U.S. Women's Open.

The match quickly went awry for Kuhlkin however, opening back-to-back frames in the second and third frames, and while Barnes had an early open as well, Kuhlkin was never able to find a consistent look on the lanes. Two more opens sealed Kuhlkin's fate as she was only able to manage a 150 game while Barnes ended up victorious with a 213.

For the fourth-place finish, Kuhlkin earned \$6,500.

The semifinal match pitted Barnes against Kovalova and would come down to the final frame, as neither competitor could pull away. Just when Kovalova had a chance to do that while working on a double going into the seventh frame, she left a 6-7 split, giving Barnes an opportunity to take control of the match. But Barnes left a split of her own, a 2-10, and Kovalova held on to the lead going into the closing frame.

Barnes ended the match first, closing with a 192, and Kovalova needed a mark in the first ball in the tenth. Her first shot went a little wide, never fully recovering and leaving the 2-7-8 combo. Kovalova converted the split and struck in the fill ball to advance to the title match with a 204. Barnes collected \$7,500 for the third-place finish.

The championship match looked to be a good one, as both Kovalova and Sin pulled away from the field during the four rounds of qualifying, trading turns at holding the lead during the event and were now facing off for the title.

Kovalova encountered some unlucky carry early on though, hitting the pocket in the first four frames and leaving four straight single-pin spares, which she converted. Sin had three strikes in the same frames, but left a baby split and missed in the fifth frame to give Kovalova an opportunity to pull out in front.

Kovalova could not capitalize on it however, leaving her own split in the seventh, while Sin took back control of the match with a few more strikes. Kovalova experienced some bad ball reaction and split twice more to end the match with a 154, while Sin captured the title with a 204.

Kovalova earned \$10,000 for her runner-up finish while Sin earned the tournament's top prize of \$20,000 and the trophy.

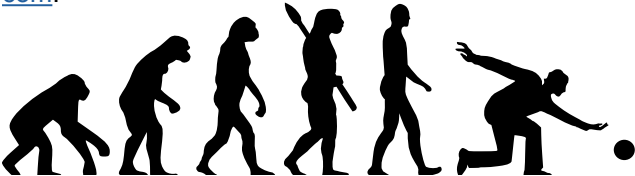
"It means a lot to me to win on the PWBA Tour again, it's been so many years," Sin said after the win.

In prior years, Sin and the rest of Team Malaysia traveled together for the tour season, but Sin traveled stateside on her own for the 2024 season.

"It's taken a lot of courage to do that, and I feel like I have a lot more confidence and belief now after today."

Sin will look to maintain that confidence level heading into the season's first major: the USBC Queens held in Green Bay, Wisconsin, at the Ashwaubenon Bowling Center starting May 14.

For more information on the PWBA, visit [PWBA.com](https://www.pwba.com).





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PBA Playoffs continued from page 1

"Holy smokes. Final Four of the Playoffs coming from the PTQs," Krol said. "It's crazy to say that I have (made it). It's insane. I still don't believe it. It's going to take me a while to process this."

O'Neill, the 2020 Playoffs champion, was the lone higher seed to win in the quarterfinals. After enjoying his one-round bye, O'Neill defeated his doubles partner Jason Belmonte, 238-206.

After a fortunate break to trip out the 4-pin, O'Neill doubled in the 10th to shut out Belmonte.

"The first one in the 10th loosened me up a little bit because it was such a bad shot and still struck," O'Neill said. "I tried to throw it slower and make it hook. I threw it terribly and luckily for me the carry in that spot is really really good. The second one in the 10th was about as good as I could throw it."

After winning the season-opening PBA Players Championship, O'Neill led the tour in points for much of the season. O'Neill has now earned six top-five and seven top-10 finishes in the midst of a career renaissance.

"It feels good to be back in position to win as frequently as I have this year," O'Neill said. "I haven't capitalized on it enough and hopefully I can do that in Florida."

Svensson was the lone southpaw — at least on paper — remaining in the field after he defeated Matt Russo in the Round of 12.

In the quarterfinals, Svensson nearly shot 300. He fired 10 consecutive strikes against Marshall Kent before the 7-pin once again reared its ugly head.

Kent kept up with Svensson for much of the match until a 7-10 in the ninth frame ended the TOC champion's run.

"It's a big mix of emotions because you're kind of relieved that you won the game, but you're still trying to be locked in to finish the job," Svensson said. "I guess I got caught in between. I didn't throw a terrible, but it wasn't the best shot. I'll take a dub."

Troup, who won the Playoffs in 2021 and 2022 (no event in 2023), defeated Chris Via and Anthony Simonson in his Round of 12 and quarterfinal matches to keep his threepeat bid alive.

Simonsen, described by nearly all tour players as the sport's most versatile player, elected to throw a back-up ball on the right lane's 39-foot Mike Aulby pattern and a "normal" line on the left lane's 45-foot Dick Weber pattern on the left lane.

Simonsen started with four straight strikes, but added just two more in the final six frames.

Troup doubled in the eighth and ninth frames to seize the lead for good. He will meet Svensson, his best friend on tour and his title-winning partner in the 2017 and 2020 Roth/Holman PBA Doubles Championships.

"We've been waiting for this moment for a long time," Troup said.

"Obviously there are a lot of jokes and all that, but I know that when the lights come on and we're ready to bowl, I'm going to put my head down and try to beat him," Svensson said.

Quarterfinal Matches

- No. 9 David Krol def. No. 1 EJ Tackett, 257-213
- No. 4 Bill O'Neill def. No. 5 Jason Belmonte, 238-206
- No. 10 Jesper Svensson def. No. 2 Marshall Kent, 289-224
- No. 6 Kyle Troup def. No. 3 Anthony Simonsen, 234-225

Semifinal and Championship | May 19 at 2 p.m. ET on FOX

- No. 9 David Krol vs. No. 4 Bill O'Neill
- No. 10 Jesper Svensson vs. No. 6 Kyle Troup

Championship: Krol/O'Neill vs. Svensson/Troup



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PBA50 continued from page 1

National Tour titles and now 13 PBA50 Tour titles.

“We are best friends off the lanes as much as we are on the lanes and we both want to win,” Bohn III said. “We have been fortunate to have a fair amount of success through the years.”

Couch was the top seed in the stepladder, while Bohn III was the second seed. Both players went with urethane during their friendly battle. Bohn III admits his key was staying patient.

“Jason Couch is going to run over me way more with a urethane ball than Parker Bohn is going to run over him,” Bohn III said. “Yet, I am not afraid to throw it when I need to.”

Couch took an early nine pin lead through four frames before leaving a 7-10 split in the fifth frame. “From my viewpoint, it looked like it was a little bit wide down the lane, but he got the ultimate bad break,” Bohn III said. “I had to stay focused on me and do what Parker Bohn can do best.”

He responded with three straight strikes to take a 15-pin lead. Couch doubled but left the 4-7-10 in the ninth frame for his second open of the match. Bohn III stepped up and delivered three straight strikes starting in the ninth frame ending up with the 246-208 victory. He immediately hugged his son, Justin and his buddy, Couch.

“As much as I am extremely happy for me, my heart bleeds for my friend because he bowled incredible all week,” Bohn III said. “Jason and I together felt like we had a fair amount of hook there. I can combat that with a little bit more speed and I know he can too. Fortunately for me, it matched up right and I was able to overcome it.”

This was Bohn III’s second PBA50 title at Spanish Springs Lanes, a bowling center he has so many fond memories of.

“I had the fortune and the pleasure of coming here for a Brunswick Skins Game that we were here back in the day (1998). Every time I come back here it brings back nothing but great memories and to stand tall now, winning again in front of the crowd is over the top.”

In the opening stepladder match, Iowa native Don Breeden struggled to settle in as Dan Knowlton rolled five straight strikes on the way to a 231-151 victory. Knowlton then battled with Barnes. Both right-handers kept the match close throughout. Barnes posted strikes in seven out of his first nine frames and he closed the door on Knowlton with a 243-212 win.

The semifinal match between Barnes and Bohn III came down to the end. Barnes had just one strike on the right lane, sending multiple messengers toward the 10-pin to no avail, while Bohn III also left three 10 pins. Neither player could put three strikes together. Barnes finished the match first leaving a 2-4-5, which he converted, followed by a strike for 204. Bohn III doubled in the 10th for 223.

CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND SCORES

Match 1: Knowlton def. Breeden 231-151
Match 2: Barnes def. Knowlton 243-212
Match 3: Bohn III def. Barnes 223-204
Championship match: Bohn III def. Couch 246-208

2024 PBA50 THE VILLAGES CLASSIC
FINAL STANDINGS:

- 1. Parker Bohn III, \$8,000
 - 2. Jason Couch, \$4,500
 - 3. Chris Barnes, \$3,000
 - 4. Dan Knowlton, \$2,500
 - 5. Don Breeden, \$2,000
- [Full standings - PBA50 The Villages Classic](#)



TEAM LEWEN Wins Third Consecutive Block of PALA CASINO League

by Frank Weiler

TEMECULA – The PALA CASINO 620 Scratch League is the TOP LEAGUE in the USBC Citrus Belt southern tier and probably the TOP LEAGUE in the entire Association. No Question, Period!

The league has been around for decades starting at Brunswick Cal Oaks In Murrieta then moving to Trevi Lanes in Lake Elsinore until this season. The league moved to Temecula Lanes this season and grew to 18 teams.

Over the past five seasons Jeff Lewen has led his teams to at least two league championships and a Top 5 finish in everyone of the five seasons. There is every reason to believe he will lead this season’s team to another league championship.

TEAM LEWEN (Jeff Lewen, Derek French, Nathan Bishop) won this season’s first eight week Block with 159.5 points. They won the Block by a whopping 27 points over second place “VISITING TEAM” led by William Conrad. TEAM LEWEN won the second Block with 145 points, just seven points more than TEAM 1 led by Alan Mojado and Jerry DeYager.

Now League Secretary Scott Filipi Reports that TEAM LEWEN has done it again and won Block 3 with 147.5 Points. TEAM LEWEN won the third block

by 17 points over TEAM GROTH. The winning of three consecutive Blocks is an unprecedented accomplishment in league history. No Team has ever won more than two Blocks in a season.

While Mister Lewen averaged 225 (third best in the league) to lead the team to victory during the first two Blocks, Nathan Bishop stepped up to raise his average to 225 during the Third Block (second best in the league) to lead the team to the Block 3 win.

Over the past five seasons Jeff Lewen has recorded the league high average three times and has recorded one of the Top 3 league averages in the seasons he hasn’t led the league.

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



Nathan Bishop



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- Pain with Pregnancy
- Menstrual Pain
- Ear Infections
- Wellness

2024 PBA TV SCHEDULE			
Date	Time	Tournament	Channel
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 LIVE	FS1
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 2024	7:00PM EDT	PBA Elite League Presented by Snickers Playoffs Finals LIVE	FS1

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37th Year!

Brunswick®

INVITATIONAL

US Foods Takes The Wildcard Round Title

by David Yamauchi

DOWNEY – The Brunswick Invitational took to the lanes for the last week of the Wildcard round with just two teams mathematically alive for the round. US Foods at 20 wins, was looking for the one win they needed to clinch the round over Del Rio Lanes who sat at 16 going into the night.

In the battle for the round, the “A” match featured **US Foods** (Gabe Martinez) taking on **Del Rio Lanes** (Marquan Rivers) who were needing a sweep to take the round sitting 4 back. US Foods came out strong, taking the first game by plenty to lock up the Wildcard round and slot themselves into the 5th seed for the rollofs. Paul Baracco led a balanced attack by US Foods with a 667 series while Jonathan Huezo managed 569 for Del Rio Lanes.

The “B” match featured **Forest Lanes** (Jon Diso) matched up with **ThreadWorks** (Eric Snow) who were both sitting at 15 wins but just short of a chance at the round. Forest Lanes took the 4-1 result over ThreadWorks led by JT Diso’s 692 set which was also a Clean-30. Ryan Cunningham led ThreadWorks with a solid 661 set.

DV8 (David Cogswell) were the low 15 win team taking on **Westminster Lanes** (Jonathan Gale) with DV8 rooting for US Foods as they would have a shot at taking over the overall wildcard lead. DV8 came out striking, taking the first game, but it was all Westminster Lanes from there as they adjusted to the breakdown to take a 4-1 win. Semaj Lewis led Westminster Lanes with a 631 set while Daniel Hong paced DV8 with a 591 set.

In the **Professional Approach** battle, **PA Del Rio** (Eric Daniels) took on **PA Oak Tree** (John Struckman. Del Rio took the first two by enough to lock up totals and a 4-1 win. Anthony Bourges led Pro Approach Del Rio with a 582 set while Pro Approach Oak Tree was paced by David Silva’s 560 series.

Forever Hope Foundation (Vernon Adams), **Professional Approach Keystone Lanes** (William Morris), **Touchstone Homes** (Christian Eichelkraut) and **iColor Printing** (Augie Labrado Jr.) rounded out the matches, with Forever Hope needing some wins to stay close in the overall wildcard race. Touchstone Homes took a 4-1 win led by Christian Eichelkraut’s 571 set while Omar Ponce Jr. led iColor Printing with a 564 series.

The round winner battles continue with **Junior Amateur Tour** (Kevin Valmonte) held a slim one game lead over **Cal Bowl** (Leonard Ruiz Jr.) as they faced off for the 6th straight week, this time with both teams fully loaded. **Bowlmum** (Billy Myers Jr.) took on **Family Ties** (Mikey Villarreal) looking to close the gap now just 2 games behind Mikey and Co. for the third seed. Cal Bowl started the day strong, then kept the pressure on as they swept through Junior Amateur Tour 5-0 to retake the overall lead in the league, Anthony Santos led Junior Amateur Tour with a huge 729 set while Ramon Torres was solid for Cal Bowl with a 677 series. Family Ties took the first game in their match but it was all Bowlmum from there as they scored the 4-1 win to jump past Family Ties into the 3rd seed position. Ramiro Garcia was big for Bowlmum with a 715 series while Michael Montano led Family Ties with a 642 set.

The Financial Advisor’s pot went to Ramiro Garcia (279) for \$160 with 2nd to Jon Diso (254) for \$70. Sidepots went to Anthony Santos (278) and Ramiro Garcia (279) for \$50 each with 2nd to JT Diso (268) and Leonard Ruiz Jr. (228) for \$25. SuperPot went to Anthony Santos (264) for \$150 with 2nd to Paul Varela (245) for \$75.

Come on out and watch Southern California’s Richest League as they start two weeks of overall Wildcard play on the short pattern next week.

Brunswick INVITATIONAL				BUD LIGHT
\$16,000	BOWL	108.5	\$5,000	97
\$10,000	JAT	105.5	\$4,000	96
\$8,000	US FOODS	105	\$3,800	93
\$7,000	HOPE	99	\$3,400	90
\$6,000	BOWLmum	98	\$3,000	79

TOP 10 WILDCARD ROUND WEEK 6	
US Foods.....25	DV8.....16
Forest Lanes.....19	ProApproach Del Rio....16
Westminster Lanes.....18	Foreverhope Foundation 15
ThreadWorks.....16	Touchstone Homes12
Del Rio Lanes16	ProApproach Oak Tree...11

TOP 10 THIS WEEK	
729 Anthony Santos	677 Ramon Torres
715 Ramiro Garcia	667 Paul Barraco
692 JT Diso	661 Ryan Cunningham
681 Marshall Degnan	649 Kyle Duster
677 Leonard Ruiz Jr.	645 Kasey Uyesugi

SUPER SWEEPER POT
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1st Ramiro Garcia 279 \$160 • 2nd Jon Diso 254 \$70



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