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JACK JUREK ROLLS 299 TO WIN 2024 SUPER SENIOR CLASSIC

by Aaron Smith

LAS VEGAS – Jack Jurek of Lackawanna, New York, left nothing to chance in his return trip to the championship match at the Super Senior Classic, winning the 2024 event Sunday by rolling 299 in the finals to secure the title for the top players age 60 and older.

The 61-year-old right-hander posted 11 strikes at Sam's Town Bowling Center before a 10 pin remained on his final delivery against Chris Warren of Plano, Texas, to record a 299-220 victory and take home the \$8,000 top prize live on BowlTV. Warren earned \$6,550 for the runner-up finish.

Jurek has been the top seed for the stepladder finals in both of his appearances at the Super Senior Classic, but things did not go his way during the title match in 2023 as St. Louis' John Marsala rolled to a 244-168 victory at Sam's Town.

The championship pair gave Jurek trouble in 2023, and Lanes 19-20 at Sam's Town continued to slow him down early on in his run in 2024. He found the right look on the pair in a 268-247 win in match play against Professional Bowlers Association and United States Bowling Congress Hall of Famer continued on page 2

Congress Hall of Famer continued on page 2 Brunswick Brunster Brunster Continued on page 2 Rolloffs Start June 5th 7pm & 8:30pm June 6th 7pm & 8:30pm Finals June 10 7pm

Cherie Tan Wins PWBA BowlTV Classic for Fifth Career Title

SMYRNA, Tenn. – In the all-Singapore final, Cherie Tan came out on top over national teammate New Hui Fen to win her fifth career Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour title at Smyrna Bowling Center in Smyrna, Tennessee.

Tan continued her dominate week at the PWBA Classic Series – Nashville, earning the number one seed for the second consecutive event, this time coming away with the win over New, 269-206. This is also the second BowlTV Classic win for Tan, who won the event in 2022 as well



For Tan, she wasn't worried about the fact that she was facing off against someone she was so familiar with.

"At the end of the day,

it's just about making the shot and having the pins falling your way," said Tan. "New bowled great all week too and I just happen to have better

ball motion."

New was coming into the final match with the immediate momentum after winning the semicontinued on page 4

Sin Li Jane Wins PWBA Greater Nashville Classic for Second PWBA Title of Season

SMYRNA, Tenn. Malaysia's Sin Li Jane defeated Singapore's Cherie Tan, 257-208, to claim her second Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour title of the 2024 PWBA season, and third career title in Smyrna, Tennessee, at the Smyrna Bowling Center. Sin had won the PWBA Bowlers Journal Rockford Open on May

Both Sin and Tan never lost sight of the pocket in their match, but Sin was able to string together two 4-baggers to clinch the win. The left-handed Tan left three 7 pins in the first six frames and only had



one double all game. After the match, Sin had nothing but praise for her opponent, who had led nearly the entire event.

"Cherie is a great competitor and I know

that any time I go against her, the scores will be high and it will be a tough match," said Sin. "I just had to focus on throwing good shots."

Sin started the step-

ladder finals as the No. 3 seed and faced off against Lauren Russo of Ballwin, Missouri, who was seeking her first PWBA title.

continued on page 5



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PBA60 continued from page 1

Lennie Boresch Jr. of Kenosha, Wisconsin, on Saturday, but he quickly saw the pair wasn't going to allow him to do the same thing Sunday during the stepladder finals.

"My original thought after yesterday on that pair was to move right, play straighter and just roll it," said Jurek, who collected his first PBA60 Tour victory. "Warming up before the show started, I knew that look just wasn't there today. I wasn't really sure how I was going to go about it.

"I think the final key was in the second match, when Chris Warren started with a shinier ball and was having trouble getting it to roll up to the pocket and went back to a stronger and more aggressive ball and tried to hook the lane a little more. That made (Storm bowling ball representative) Jim Callahan suggest I try the (Roto Grip) Magic Gem I had down there. I tried it for a shot or two, and it started seeing the lane pretty well."

Jurek, a two-time winner on both the PBA and PBA50 Tour, saw the pins falling his way early in the championship round, and back-to-back hits in the fourth and fifth frames suggested things might be aligning in his favor.

In the fourth, the 8 pin nearly stood on his first delivery before toppling over. In the fifth, the 9 pin was the last to fall.

"I would say they definitely let you breathe a sigh of relief," Jurek said. "Those are the kind of moments – when they happen for you – that let you think it might be my time for a change."

Although the final score resulted in a 79-pin difference in the title match, Warren kept the pressure on Jurek through the majority of the match. After Jurek stepped off the approach in the ninth frame, Warren still had a chance to get to 265 after delivering strikes in seven of his first eight frames. Warren's lone miss during that stretch was in the third frame, when he left a 2-8-10 he was unable to convert.

Warren recorded a spare after leaving a 10 pin in the ninth frame, and a split in his final frame assured that the only pressure Jurek would feel during his victory lap was whether or not he could close out the perfect game.

"That would have been the cherry on top of the sundae for sure," Jurek said. "At that moment, knowing that I finally won again - I tend to be an emotional person - it was hard not to get a little choked up. But, all things considered, the shots in the 10th were pretty good. The last one - if that struck - I was going to play the lotto or something."

The emotions were high for Jurek after securing the victory, and he has worked continued on page 5

INCREDIBLE - HISTORIC - MEMORABLE "We Are The Champions" of the Golden Agers League

by Frank Weiler

REDLANDS – Claude Heffington led his team to the Golden Agers League Championship. Claude averaged a team high 191 as he led his "HOLY ROLLERS" trio to a league high 80 points and a league championship. The road to the championship was full of twists and turns.

The final chapter on the road to the title was filled with **controversy** that included questions and confusion involving league rules, conflict and finally the expulsion from the bowling center of one of our most experienced and respected bowlers.

This all transpired while the season was ending, the last week with the top teams fighting the last battle for the championship.

onship.

The season began as a "Tale of Two Halves".



Golden Agers League Champion Team: (L-R): Claude Heffington, Therese Weiler, Frank Weiler

The "HOLY ROLLERS" started the season slow, settling for a **50-50** win-loss pace for the first two and a half months. Then Claude Heffington caught fire leading the team on an unbelievable **39 point winning streak!** That's **going undefeated** for two months! That's winning every point for two full months!

That's INCREDIBLE, that's HISTORIC, that's MEMORABLE.

After 39 consecutive winning points the team lost just one point before winning another dozen. At that point the "HOLY ROLLERS" Trio was within a point of first place with one month remaining in the season. Then **disaster! Wayne Phelps** singled handedly handed the "HOLY ROLLERS" four losses in one day when he bowled a league high scratch series of **824**. Wayne's series was the second highest Senior League series in **EMPIRE BOWL history**.

Over the past 60 years of Senior League play, at Empire Bowl, the highest sanctioned scratch series was a pair of 828 series. The first was bowled by **BOBBY LYONS** and the second by **LARRY BOYD**. Bobby Lyons is an Empire Bowl legend who probably is the greatest senior league bowler in house history.

After that four point set back the "HOLY ROLLERS" only lost one point thereafter until the end of the season. They went 15-1. That one point loss though meant that the "HOLY ROLLERS" showed up for the final week of competition one point behind **Corky DeMaio's** Trio. Corky's team was in first place most of the season and it seemed they would **seal the deal** by defeating the "HOLY ROLLERS" in the traditional season ending **Position Round**.

That's when **all HELL broke loose!** League Secretary Bob Corrigan announced there would be **No Position Round!** What? That meant the "HOLY ROLLERS" might face a weaker team than CORKY's Trio on the last day of the season? Who knows who had the easier road to the title? But we do know that the "HOLY ROLLERS" won the title.

The way it went down was that the "HOLY ROLLERS" won their first game while CORKY's Trio lost theirs. The teams were then tied with two games to go in the season. Then, **unexpectedly** and **inexplicably**, Proprietor Will Mossontte expelled Corky from EMPIRE BOWL. Apparently Will and Corky had a disagreement after the completion of Game One that led to CORKY's expulsion. Now CORKY's Trio would have to complete the season without him. They did so and lost the remaining three points of the day, going 0-4. The "HOLY ROLLERS" won all four points of their Match and the league championship.

When the "Heavenly Trio" realized it had clinched the League Championship Claude, Therese and Frank huddled and with broad smiles hugged each other and quietly sung "We are the Champions".

What happened the final week of the Golden Agers League stunned everyone involved and still has left all the participants bewildered.

Claude teamed with **Frank** and **Therese Weiler** to produce one of the league's strongest teams, the "HOLY ROLLERS" Trio. All three are pressure tested bowlers with multiple league titles under their belts. However, some might say that it took **heavenly intervention** or "an act of **GOD**" for the "HOLY ROLLERS" to win the league championship after witnessing the events the transpired the last day of league competition. Nonetheless, Congratulations to the "HOLY ROLLERS" Trio. They are 2024 Golden Agers League Champions.

June 6, 2024

Never Assume... My First Faux Pas Since 2020!

by Dave Williams

It's been a while since I committed the dreaded faux pas in a bowling article. Don't hold me to it, but I think the last time was in 2020 when making reference to a Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) affiliation with Seagram's Coolers. Dean Lopez, editor of the California Bowling News, sent an email that reader Craig Kisro was most polite in pointing out an error in my recollection of past tournaments:

"Dave Williams made a rare error. He stated that Seagram's US Open sponsorship in the PBA was for three years. Actually it was four. The first three years, 1987-89, the total prize fund was \$500,000 with \$100,000 to the winner (Ballard, Weber, Aulby). In 1990 it was \$400,000 with \$80,000 to winner Ron Palombi."

Mr. Kisro was absolutely correct! As I noted at the time, in my quest to get the story together on time, I went to my usual source for all items involving professional bowlers, PBA.com, but received the following message: "The page you are looking for is currently under construction while we work to improve your experience."

I assumed that what I had written was correct without the PBA confirmation, because I had actually been involved in the original Seagram negotiations with Mr. Pat Roney, an executive at the posh Seagram Building at 375 Park Avenue in New York City. When that contract ended, Seagram signed on for another year in 1990, but I had already moved on to greener pastures with American Recreation Centers in California.

Well, now it's all happened again. In my haste to get the information out on a story about string machines ("Tangles Or Not, String Machines Are Here To Stay"), I quoted information from a bowl.com article by Mr. Dave Schroeder entitled, "USBC Certifies String Pin Bowling As Independent Competition Effective August 1, 2023." The article appeared to be final and even stated at the end, "USBC will provide an update on the additional testing and potential for conversion in advance of the 2024-2025 season."

Josh Blanchard, Business Development-West Region for QubicaAMF, wrote to Dean Lopez at the California Bowling News regarding the information contained in the story and provided that the information was old and not true based upon findings that USBC released in October of 2023.

Blanchard wrote, "The report, which was posted on their website in November of 2023, summarizes that the USBC Equipment Specifications has completed a four month long study into the scoring pace between an approved string pinsetter and a free fall pinsetter. The data shows:

- There is no statistically significant difference between the scoring pace of the pinsetter types when controlled in the same environment.
- The differences in scoring do not relate to bowler's averages, age or gender.
- The differences in bowler results compared to Bowlscore relate to the distribution of where the balls hit the pins. Based on the results of this study, an average adjustment between string pinsetter and free fall pinsetter averages will not be needed."

"Therefore, as next steps," Blanchard wrote, "Effectively immediately, USBC will allow for the averages between the pinsetter types to be interchangeable, and USBC will continue to monitor averages of bowlers around the country as some transition into string pinsetter leagues to gather additional data. An average conversion between the pinsetter types will not be necessary and, effectively immediately, USBC will update its playing rules to allow for the averages between pinsetter types to be interchangeable provided the string pinsetter has been certified by USBC."

Blanchard did state that he enjoyed the article bringing to light that certified string pinsetters are here to stay, and he asked that this be provided as an update to the "Tangles Or Not, String Machines Are Here To Stay" story: "Bowling centers that have converted to certified strings are not required to be listed in a separate category. All averages from certified string pin centers and free fall centers will be listed the same when averages are released this summer," stated Blanchard.

Mr. Blanchard went on to say that he could provide further knowledge into the specifics of the string machines and the 47 centers in the USA that have installed QubicaAMF Edge String pinsetters for the 2023-2024 season. I opined that readers seem very interested in this topic and appear to be intrigued about the location of the 47 centers here in the USA, as well as further information on the unique machinery.

Hopefully the conversation will continue, without more faux pas from yours truly...





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BOWITY Classic continued from page 1

final match over Bryanna Coté of Tucson, Arizona, 255-181, throwing the last seven strikes to move on against Tan, who once again lapped the field through match play just like she did in the Greater Nashville Classic, but lost to Malaysia's Sin Li Jane in the final match. This time around, things worked out better for Tan.

In the title match, Tan and New were keeping pace with each other through six frames, but Tan proceeded to throw the final six strikes of the game to shut out New by the ninth frame, taking home the title and \$10,000 top prize.

The stepladder finals kicked off with Coté and England's Verity Crawley, with Coté making the stepladder after jumping to the fifth spot in the final game of match play.

Crawley did not have the start she was hoping for, opening twice in the first five frames and never got comfortable until it was too late, ending the match with a 147. Coté stayed clean and moved on with a 229. Crawley collected \$2,000 for her fifth-place finish.

Up next for Coté was Josie Barnes of Hermitage, Tennessee, the local favorite and assistant head coach of nearby Vanderbilt University. Coté started with a turkey while Barnes had an open to start the match and nearly had a second one in the fourth frame, but picked up the 2-4-10 split to stay close after Coté had an open of her own in the fourth.

Another turkey for Coté kept the momentum on her side after Barnes had an open in the sixth, with Coté staying clean the rest of the way to continue her climb up the ladder with a 221-173 win. Barnes earned \$2,500 for her fourth-place finish.

Coté was not able to keep up with New in the semifinal match, and bowed out with a third-place finish, earning \$4,000. New earned \$5,000 for her runner-up finish against Tan.

Tan has already bowled 50 games through four days and has at least another 24 games to go as she also leads the Music City Classic, which combined the qualifying totals of the Greater Nashville Classic and BowlTV Classic. She keeps her focus off of bowling during breaks to keep her mental edge during longer events like this.

"During the down time, I don't even think about bowling because you overload yourself," Tan said. "You don't want to do that and start making mistakes."

The final event of the Classic Series starts Sunday at 11 a.m. Eastern with the first of three eightgame round-robin match play blocks with the top 24 competitors based off of the Greater Nashville Classic and BowlTV Classic qualifying totals. Tan led that event as well, and all pins will reset back to zero Sunday morning.

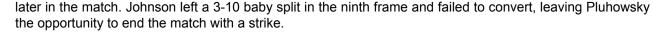
After match play, the top five will move on to the stepladder finals on Monday at 7:30 p.m. Eastern to determine the Music City Classic champion. All rounds of match play and the stepladder finals will be streamed live on BowlTV.

Pluhowsky Takes Home Music City Classic Title to Conclude Week in Smyrna

SMYRNA, Tenn. - In a stepladder full of Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour veterans, Shannon Pluhowsky of Dayton, Ohio, won the PWBA Music City Classic at Smyrna Bowling Center in Smyrna, Tennessee, bringing a thrilling conclusion to the PWBA Classic Series – Nashville.

Pluhowsky was the No. 1 seed in the stepladder finals after ending match play with a 6,188 total, including 540 bonus pins for her 17 wins and two ties. She faced off against Stefanie Johnson of McKinney, Texas, in the title match.

Johnson started off the match with two opens to fall behind early as Pluhowsky kept things clean and began to pull away even as Johnson started to strike



with her own failed conversion and needing any mark in the 10th frame to clinch the title.

Pluhowsky did what she has done her entire career and threw a great shot that went a touch high in the

Slight disaster struck for Pluhowsky however, leaving a split of her own and bringing silence in the building

pocket, leaving a 6 pin. She quickly picked it up and threw a strike in the fill ball to end at 204 and leave Smyrna with her second title of the season. fourth PWBA title overall and the \$12,000 top prize. Johnson struck all three times in the final frame and ended with 193. She earned \$6,000 for the runner-up finish.

always someone to watch for week in and week out on the PWBA Tour.

For the first time in her career, Pluhowsky has multiple wins in a season and continues to show that she is

"I've bowled pretty good here before and I'm just trying to ride the momentum of the season, it feels great to have a multi-win season," said Pluhowsky.

The stepladder finals began with Missy Parkin of San Clemente, California and Bryanna Coté of Tucson, Arizona. Both competitors went strike for strike with each other, but two straight opens of Parkin in the seventh and eighth sunk her chances, as Coté went nine straight strikes. Coté ended up winning 279-223, leaving Parkin with a fifth-place finish and \$2,600.

Waiting for Coté was Singapore's Cherie Tan, who already had a first-place and runner-up finish during the Classic Series and was looking for her second straight win.

Tan started off hot with four strikes in the first six frames and Coté opening in the second frame, but Coté started to claw back with three straight strikes in frames four through six. A light hit in the pocket for Coté left a 2-5 combo, which she converted, but Tan continued to strike and eventually lock up the win with a 236 to move on to the semifinals. Coté ended with 204 and bowed out with a fourth-place finish, earning \$3,000.

The semifinals pitted Tan and Johnson against each other, and had the feeling of being a high-scoring match before they started bowling with how well both competitors had been doing prior to the stepladder.

Johnson quickly pulled ahead with seven straight strikes after a spare in the first frame, while Tan could not carry the corner pins and missed two single pin spares early to fall behind. Tan never had an opportunity to catch Johnson, even after ending with the final five strikes for 214. Johnson had already locked up the match by the eighth frame and finished with 257, leaving Tan with her lowest finish of the week in third place and earning \$4,000, and Johnson moving on to the title match against Pluhowsky.

Tan ended up bowling 76 total games for the week, which included 24 qualifying games, 48 match play games, and four games in the stepladder finals.

The win was extra sweet for Pluhowsky, as her family was there to see her take home the title.

"My youngest daughter and step-son have never seen me win so it was special to have them here along with my mom and oldest daughter, it's nice to share the success with them," said Pluhowsky.

The PWBA heads to Clarksville, Indiana, for the Southern Indiana Open starting June 6 with a pre-tournament qualifier.



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PBA60 continued from page 2

hard to keep his game and body ready to compete at the highest levels.

Adding a win at the Super Senior Classic to go along with his runner-up finish from last year shows Jurek it has all been worth it.

"Being 61 now, I've done my best to stay fit and I don't feel my age – I still have a hard time saying I'm 61 because it just doesn't seem right yet," Jurek said. "I think everything I've done in the last 10-15 years to keep myself up is paying dividends, especially now at this level. I've been very fortunate that my body is holding up very well so far. It's a hard format, a tough field and to be able to lead two years in a row is special.

"You go through stages where you don't win for a long time, and you start to wonder if your skills aren't just there anymore. To lead this event two years in a row, I guess I still got a little game left in me."

Warren, the owner of six PBA Tour titles and winner of the 2018 USBC Senior Masters at Sam's Town, earned his spot in the finals after a pair of hard-fought victories over Skip Pavone of San Jose, California, and Boresch.

In the semifinals against Pavone, Warren bounced back from a slow start through his first four frames. After making a ball change to start the match, Warren opened the first frame and followed with three consecutive spares, including a 3-4-6-7 conversion in the fourth.

Pavone, a 68-year-old left-hander, had started the match with strikes on four of his first five deliveries to build an early advantage, but a missed 7 pin in the sixth frame allowed Warren to start his comeback.

Warren made another ball change in the fifth frame, which resulted in a strike, and he got to the pocket again in the sixth but left a 9-10, which caused the crowd at Sam's Town to buzz in confusion. He converted the spare, however, and delivered strikes in the seventh, eighth and ninth frames to tighten the match.

Pavone stepped up first in the 10th frame needing the first strike for the opportunity to shut out Warren, but a 7 pin remained standing. Pavone converted the spare and got nine on his fill ball, meaning Warren would need a double to advance to the finals.

He rolled the two strikes he needed and got eight pins on his final shot for a 221-215 victory.

In the opening match of the main stepladder, Warren held a two-pin advantage after nine frames over Boresch after both players posted spares in the foundation frame.

Boresch, making his third consecutive appearance in the stepladder finals at the Super Senior Classic after a runner-up finish in 2022 and third-place performance in 2023, started his 10th frame with a strike. His second offering also got to the pocket but left a 7-10. He got one on the spare attempt to finish at 213.

Warren left a 10 pin on his first shot of the 10th frame and covered the spare. He left another 10 pin on his fill ball to record a one-pin victory with 214.

The 2024 Super Senior Classic started with 204 players bowling 12 games of qualifying over Thursday and Friday to determine the top 52 competitors for Saturday's cashers' round.

The advancers bowled six more games, with 18-game totals determining the 12 players for match play.

The match-play finalists were placed into one of two groups. Group A consisted of the qualifiers who placed as an odd seed after the cashers' round (1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11), while Group B featured the even seeds (2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12).

Each competitor in match play bowled six head-to-head games, including a final position round, and 24-game totals – including 30 bonus pins for each victory – determined the top two seeds for the main stepladder finals.

Jurek earned the top seed by winning Group A with a 5,877 total, while Pavone claimed the No. 2 seed by taking the top spot in Group B with 5,855.

The second-, third- and fourth-place finisher in each match-play group still were in contention to advance to the finals through a group stepladder that took place Sunday prior to the main stepladder at Sam's Town.

Boresch and Warren each punched their ticket to the main stepladder as the second-place finisher in their respective groups.

Boresch earned the spot from Group A by defeating Canada's Michael Snow, 235-214, while Warren advanced out of Group B with a 259-223 win over PBA Hall of Famer Pete McCordic of Katy, Texas.

Snow won the opening match of the day in Group A with a 206-193 victory over James Campbell of Loudon, Tennessee. McCordic posted a 214-191 win over John Conroy of Mahopac, New York, to advance to face Warren in Group B.

With the conclusion of the Super Senior Classic, the top bowlers age 50 and older will take to the lanes at Sam's Town for the USBC Senior Masters.

The Senior Masters is the first major championship on the 2024 PBA50 Tour schedule and will be held from June 3-9 with livestream coverage provided by BowlTV

Greater Nashville Classic

continued from page 1

Sin and Russo were unable to have success carrying corner pins early on, with only two strikes between them through five frames. Both players found a groove after that point, and heading into the 10th frame, it was neck and neck.

Russo ended the game first, going strike, nine, spare to finish at 215, meaning that Sin needed at least a mark to move on to the semifinal match. Sin aced the first ball of the 10th and knocked all 10 pins over and got count to finish at 221, leaving Russo with a fourth-place finish and earning \$2,500.

Waiting for Sin was England's Verity Crawley, who last won in 2021 at Smyrna Bowling Center, and looking to defend the building for her third PWBA title.

Pin carry was not an issue in this match, as both Sin and Crawley had four strikes through the first five frames, but both players uncharacteristically miss single-pin spares to keep it close heading into the final frame of the match.

Crawley had the opportunity to shut out Sin, but a 10 pin that could have been a 7-10 split if not for a messenger left the opportunity open for Sin once Crawley ended the game at 224. The first strike in the 10th frame sealed the win for Sin, ending at 235. Crawley earned \$4,000 for her third-place finish, while Sin faced off against Tan in the title match, eventually coming away with the title.

Sin now becomes the frontrunner for the PWBA Player of the Year as the only player to be a two-time winner this season, and has come back from an extended hiatus of the PWBA Tour tearing up the competition through three events bowled.

"That would be great, I hadn't thought about that," said Sin. "If that were to happen, it would be incredible."

The stepladder finals started with Russo and Shannon Pluhowsky of Dayton, Ohio, where Russo started hot and never let up over the winner of the first event of the PWBA season, taking down Pluhowsky, 258-212. Pluhowsky earned \$2,000 for her fifth-place finish.

The combined qualifying totals of the Greater Nashville Classic and BowlTV Classic will determine the 24 competitors for the Music City Classic beginning on Sunday, who will bowl three rounds of round-robin match play over two days before the stepladder finals. All competition will be streamed live on BowlTV.



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PAGE 6

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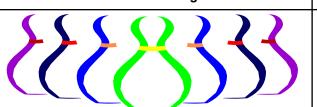
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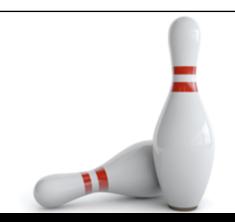
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BOWLING CENTERS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Executive Director - Gary Forman PO Box 4396, Garden Grove, CA 92842-4396 ed@socalbowling.com www.socalbowling.com (657)210-2695

CALIFORNIA USBC ASSOCIATION

Association Manager - Lynn Matsubara 3673 Industry Ave. #102, Lakewood, CA 90712 info@calusbc.com • calusbc.com www.californiayouthbowling.com (562)449-4527

NORTH COUNTY USBC

Association Manager - Ross LaBar 306 W. El Norte Pkwy #95, Escondido, CA 92026 ncusbcamanager@gmail.com www.ncusbca.com (714)322-2780

VENTURA COUNTY USBC

Association Manager - Debbie Brickell vcusbc@gmail.com (805)339-9334

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Email: buenalanes1@earthlink.net

CITRUS BELT

Association Manager - Elise Hamner 667 West 2nd Street, San Bernardino, CA 92410 citrusbelt@verizon.net (909) 381-4599

GREATER LA COUNTY USBC

Association Manager - Lynn Matsubara 3673 Industry Ave. #102, Lakewood, CA 90712 E-Mail: info@glacusbc.com alacusbc.com

(562) 426-2030 Fax: (562) 426-2032

ORANGE COUNTY

Association Manager - Stacie Osborn PO Box 4396, Garden Grove, CA 92842-4396 E-Mail: assnmgr@ocusbc.org (714) 554-0111

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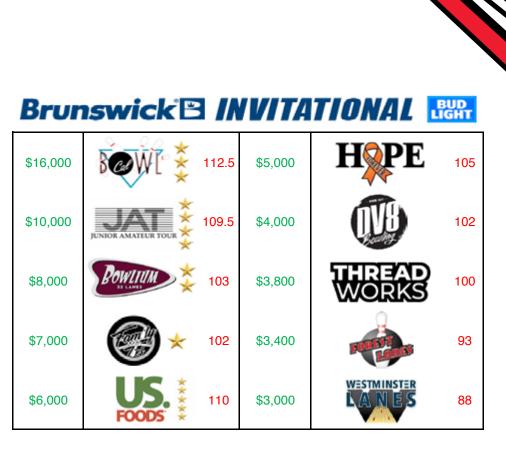
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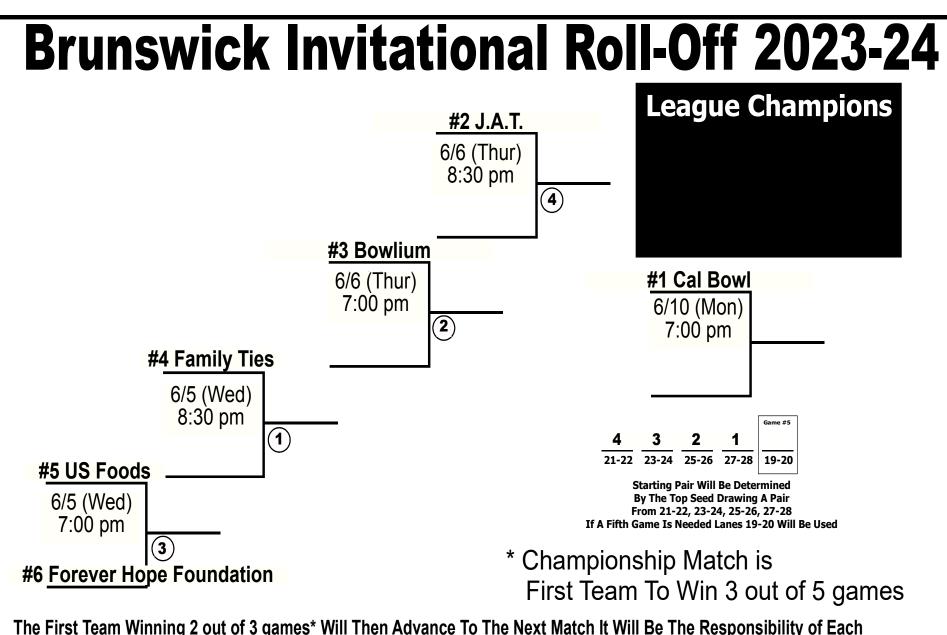
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The First Team Winning 2 out of 3 games* Will Then Advance To The Next Match It Will Be The Responsibility of Each Team To Be Ready To Bowl When The Next Match Is Available To Start.