

# CALIFORNIA BOWLING NEWS

JUNE 20, 2024

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## Sin Li Jane Wins 2024 U.S. Women's Open



INDIANAPOLIS – Sin Li Jane was not going to miss her opportunity to win her first major to-night.

Absent from the Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour for three seasons before the start of the 2024 season, Sin out of Malaysia took down Latvia's Diana Zavjalova, 226-214, winning her first major title and third PWBA Tour title of the season.

For Sin, winning the U.S. Women's Open helped wash away the memory of just missing the telecast at the United States Bowling Congress Queens in Green Bay,

Wisconsin, after she lost the second-to-last match in the Winners Bracket for the No. 1 seed and was the low score out in the Contenders Bracket to finish in sixth.

"I feel very happy, I wanted to make sure that I would get the win tonight," said Sin, who used a clean 226 game to win a close match and earn the coveted green jacket, iconic eagle trophy and the \$60,000 top prize.

Sin only missed the pocket one time in the title match, the first frame where she left the 2 pin and converted it. After continued on page 4

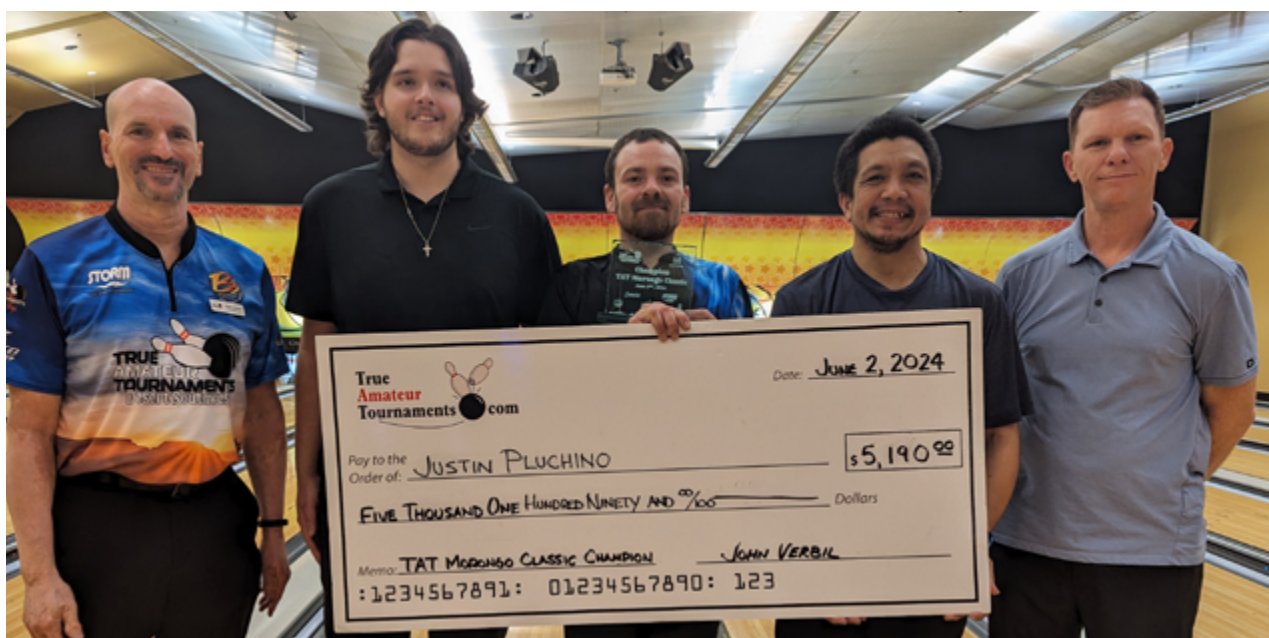
## Justin Pluchino Conquers Tough Pattern at TAT Morongo Classic

CABAZON, CA – In TAT's first California event since 2019, Justin Pluchino of Reseda emerged with the victory and \$5,190 in the TAT Morongo Classic held at Canyon Lanes at Morongo from May 31st to June 2nd.

The 28-year-old righty from the Scratch Division qualified for the TAT Finals with a 687 series, the highest scratch set of any competitor in the tournament, and then surged to his 2nd highest game of the event (238) on the tough pattern to defeat the other three division champions in the TAT Grand Finals.

The 44-foot TAT custom pattern at Canyon Lanes with a 38-foot drop brush and 22.4ml of volume and a 1.7:1 ratio proved to be very difficult for most competitors to conquer. Cut scores varied widely from squad-to-squad and division-to-division, but the average cut score across all squads and divisions was 621, which is significantly lower than the typical TAT.

TAT Desert Southwest paid out over \$30,600 in cash prizes in this event along with many squad prizes such as Storm high-performance bowl-



(L-R) TAT Desert Southwest Director John Verbil, 3rd place Kyle Ponzo, 215 & Under Div., 204 (202+2) \$1,500, Champion Justin Pluchino, Scratch Div., 238 (238+0) \$5,190, 2nd place Carl Mangaran, 189 & Under Div., 226 (202+24) \$2,000, 4th place D.A. Smith, 50+ Senior Div. 185 (185+0) \$1,000.

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**TAT** continued from page 1

ing balls, Coolwick bowling jerseys, B3 Performance lane packages, Tenpin Toolkit subscriptions, and a paid entry into the next TAT Las Vegas national event. There were 121 competitors who rolled 185 main event entries along with 87 entries in the VIP event and 25 entries in the Friday mini-TAT sweeper.

This event again included a VIP side tournament as part of the entry fee with one VIP squad on Saturday morning and one on Sunday morning. VIP squads are always on a fresh oil condition, and the VIP tournament is a 2-game beat-the-board event where only the highest score (with handicap) counts and all divisions are combined. Bowlers use VIP squads as a low-risk way to test out the lane pattern on a fresh condition while still having a chance to win some money if they should toss a high game, while also getting a feel for how they want to play the lanes in the main event. Steve Basdakis of Beaumont grabbed the victory and \$500 for his 270 score (242+28), with Abel Barajas of Banning taking second for \$250 with a 267 (221+46). Low-to-cash in the VIP tournament was 220 and paid \$30.

In the Friday night sweeper, 25 competitors got a head start on the pattern in a "mini-TAT" format that consisted of one qualifying squad followed immediately by finals rounds for the qualifiers. In the Finals, Pat Lombardo of Phoenix, AZ grinded out the victory from the 50+ Senior Handicap Division with a 206 (204+2) and took home \$1,000 for his efforts.

The main event consisted of six qualifying squads spread across two days with the TAT Finals on Sunday afternoon. After each two qualifying squads, a cut of 1-in-6 per division was made for the Sunday Finals with two cuts on Saturday and a final cut on Sunday.

The 30 bowlers advancing to the finals at 4 PM on Sunday were guaranteed at least \$300 and bowled single-game eliminator matches against one to five other bowlers within their respective divisions, narrowing down the field until only one bowler remained in each division. Each division winner was guaranteed a minimum of \$1,000 and a shot at the \$5,000 first prize in the Grand Final match between all of the division winners.

In the 50+ Senior Handicap Division, D.A. Smith of Fontana made the cut with a 625 qualifying score (625+0) and reached the championship title match with a 212 (212+0), defeating Reny Alkonga of Beaumont with 170 (162+8).

The winner of the 189 & Under Handicap Division was Carl Mangaran of Covina, who qualified for the finals with a 680 handicap series (563+117) and advanced to the title match with a 204 (200+4) over Elton Cainag of La Mirada with 189 (158+31)..

To reach the title match from the 215 & Under Handicap Division, Kyle Ponzo of Chandler, AZ made the cut with a 650 qualifying score (638+12) and advanced to the title match with a 213 (193+20), defeating Tyler Veneracion of Irvine with 194 (185+9) and Jeffrey Taino of Ontario with 192 (168+24).

Eventual champion Justin Pluchino advanced past Brandon Mori of Chula Vista by a score of 199-147 in the Scratch Division final match.

Each of the four division winners faced off in a single-game match with handicap for the title. All the finalists entered the Progressive Pot, which increases with each tournament entry and was carried over from the previous event, the 2024 TAT Spring Shoot-out in Mesa, AZ. For this event, the Progressive Pot stood at \$2,900. By entering the Progressive Pot, the winner was guaranteed \$5,000 for first place instead of \$4,000 with a shot at 70% of the remaining \$1,900 in the pot.

One of the key features of TAT events is that bowlers only compete against others in their own division for the entire tournament until there is only one bowler left standing from each division. In TAT Desert Southwest regionals, each division winner is guaranteed at least a \$1,000 payday before facing off against one another in the Grand Final match, which is one game for the tournament championship. Each of the four arrived with a bowling résumé that showed experi-

ence in pressure situations, setting the stage for an exciting final match. Smith, a lefty who is well-known in the Southern California bowling community with countless 300 and 800 games to his credit, faced off against Ponzo, a rising star in Arizona who was captain of the ASU bowling team this past season and owns three AHT Strike Force titles, along with Pluchino, another well-known Southern California force with numerous 300 and 800s, and Mangaran, who has two ABT titles to his credit.

All the finalists threw the ball well in the championship game, with only three splits and one missed single pin in the entire match, despite the difficulty of the pattern. The key to the match ultimately proved to be who could string strikes together, and Pluchino, who strung a 5-bagger across the middle of the game, was the only competitor to throw more than a double before the 10th frame. Nevertheless, the outcome was very much in doubt until near the end of the game, when eventual 2nd place finisher Mangaran was unable to convert a 3-10 in the 9th frame. Pluchino followed that with a Brooklyn strike to open the 10th and a spare to seal the victory.

Because Pluchino was entered into the Progressive Pot, he not only won an automatic \$1,000 bonus to achieve the \$5,000 top prize, but he had a chance to win up to 70% of the remaining pot by throwing three strikes in a row across three lanes after his victory. He ultimately struck only once on three attempts to claim 10% of the \$1,900 remaining in the pot, giving him a grand total of \$5,190 for his victory. The remainder of the Progressive Pot will carry over to the next TAT Desert Southwest event, the TAT Monsoon Classic at Cerbat Lanes in Kingman, Arizona.

Recalling his performance, Pluchino, a first-time TAT participant who recently threw his high series of 866 (266-300-300) at Winnetka Bowl, had observed that the people who played to the right could get to the pocket but were leaving weak 10s, so he resolved to play inside everyone. He threw a Storm Journey at 500 surface the entire event. He stated that his inside line to the pocket was giving him both the high flush strikes and the mixers throughout the tournament, and this was evident to spectators in the Grand Final match.

Pluchino thanks TAT Desert Southwest for bringing TAT back to California, and is looking forward to bowling the TAT Summer Classic in Las Vegas in July. He would also like to thank his good friend George Ritter for bringing him to this event.

TAT Desert Southwest would like to thank tournament sponsors Storm Bowling, Coolwick, TAT Las Vegas, B3 Performance, and Tenpin Toolkit for their generous prize giveaways during the tournament and for their support of True Amateur Tournaments. TAT also sends a heartfelt thanks to Canyon Lanes GM Paula Vidad, along with her outstanding staff, plus Morongo Resort Casino and Spa for their wonderful support of this event in so many ways. TAT looks forward to coming back to Morongo again in the future.

The next TAT event is the TAT Summer Classic in Las Vegas in early July, followed by the next TAT Desert Southwest tournament, the TAT Monsoon Classic in early August at Cerbat Lanes in Kingman, Arizona. Cerbat is under new ownership and they are very excited to be bringing the TAT to their refreshed center. Enter all TAT events online at [tatbowl.com](http://tatbowl.com).

**Main Event Cashers**

\$5,190 Justin Pluchino, Reseda CA, Scratch Div.  
 \$2,000 Carl Mangaran, Covina CA, 189 & Under Hdcp Div.  
 \$1,500 Kyle Ponzo, Chandler AZ, 215 & Under Hdcp Div.  
 \$1,000 D.A. Smith, Fontana CA, 50+ Senior Hdcp Div.  
 \$450 Elton Cainag, La Mirada CA, 189 & Under Div.  
 \$375 Michael Arce, Peoria AZ, 189 & Under Div.  
 \$375 Elinio Nacpil, Henderson NV, 189 & Under Div.  
 \$375 Beatriz Marquez, Chatsworth CA, 189 & Under Div.  
 \$375 Ricky Ellis, Cabazon CA, 189 & Under Div.  
 \$375 Tyler Veneracion, Irvine CA, 215 & Under Div.  
 \$375 Jeffrey Taino, Ontario CA, 215 & Under Div.  
 \$375 Reny Alkonga, Beaumont CA, 50+ Senior Div.  
 \$375 Brandon Mori, Chula Vista CA, Scratch Div.  
 \$300 Ishe Gathers, Encino CA, 189 & Under Div.  
 \$300 Abel Barajas, Banning CA, 189 & Under Div.  
 \$300 Mary Anne Francisco, Anaheim CA, 189 & Under Div.  
 \$300 Sam Ha, West Covina CA, 189 & Under Div.  
 \$300 Luis Boone, Mission Hills CA, 189 & Under Div.  
 \$300 Steve Basdakis, Beaumont CA, 189 & Under Div.  
 \$300 Fabian Johnson, Murrieta CA, 189 & Under Div.  
 \$300 Veronica Boone, Mission Hills CA, 189 & Under Div.  
 \$300 Josh Williams, Tempe AZ, 215 & Under Div.  
 \$300 Floyd Toro, Banning CA, 215 & Under Div.  
 \$300 Andrew Navarro, Norwalk CA, 215 & Under Div.  
 \$300 Isaiah Nepomuceno, Rosemead CA, 215 & Under Div.  
 \$300 Sol Cericos, Arcadia CA, 50+ Senior Div.  
 \$300 Dave Inoshita, Cave Creek AZ, 50+ Senior Div.  
 \$300 Christopher Fikler, Menifee CA, Scratch Div.  
 \$300 Dylan Taylor, Scottsdale AZ, Scratch Div.  
 \$300 Kyler Orosco, Agoura Hills CA, Scratch Div.

**VIP Tournament Cashers**

\$500 Steve Basdakis, Beaumont CA, 270 (242+28)  
 \$250 Abel Barajas, Banning CA, 267 (221+46)  
 \$113 Ishe Gathers, Encino CA, 237 (203+34)  
 \$113 Tyler Veneracion, Irvine CA, 237 (228+9)  
 \$90 DeBrady Hampton, Menifee CA, 235 (197+38)  
 \$70 Tré Mitchell, San Bernadino CA, 232 (220+12)  
 \$70 Robert MacGregor, Phoenix AZ, 232 (199+33)  
 \$70 Elinio Nacpil, Henderson NV, 232 (199+33)  
 \$50 Kelli Hampton, Menifee CA, 229 (195+34)  
 \$45 Joshua Navarro, Norwalk CA, 227 (208+19)  
 \$38 Kyle Ponzo, Chandler AZ, 224 (220+4)  
 \$38 Ricky Ellis, Cabazon CA, 224 (179+45)  
 \$30 Andrew Navarro, Norwalk CA, 220 (203+17)

**Mini-TAT Sweeper Cashers**

\$1,000 Pat Lombardo, Glendale AZ, 50+ Senior Div., 206 (204+2)  
 \$250 Carl Mangaran, Covina CA, 189 & Under Div., 193 (169+24)  
 \$180 Tyler Veneracion, Irvine CA, 215 & Under Div., 174 (168+6)  
 \$150 Jeffrey Ellis, Henderson NV, Scratch Div., 160 (160+0)  
 \$100 Kyle Ponzo, Chandler AZ, 215 & Under Div.  
 \$100 DeBrady Hampton, Menifee CA, 189 & Under Div.





## Remembering "Hobo" Boothe...

# More Legends Of Yore

by Dave Williams

A few years ago I wrote an article entitled "The Legends Of Yore." It focused on a team that was thrown together at the last minute — Robby's Automatic Positioner #1 — who went on to win the USBC Classic Division Championship in 1979 at Tampa Bay, Fla., with games of 1030, 1019 and 1061, for a 3110 total.

The team was comprised of Jack Andolina of Glendale, Calif. (now living in The Villages, Fla.), Tom Laskow (Dover, N.J.), Fred Conner (Henderson, Nev.), Butch Soper (Lake Havasu, Ariz.) and Boysie Huber (Las Vegas, Nev.). I went on to embellish my relationship with three of the team members through our entering the weekly "Hot Pot No-Tap" at the 60-lane Grand Central Bowl in Glendale.

What a great time we had bowling there almost every Saturday night, with a \$5 dollar insurance fee that guaranteed a \$100 payout for any no-tap 300 game. The lanes were tough and the pins were heavy, but if you could consistently hit at or near the pocket, your chances of rolling a no-tap perfect were entirely possible.

Andolina was there almost every week, and we were usually placed on the same pair of lanes with Conner and Soper, if they weren't bowling on the national tour. The lanes were so difficult that PBA bowlers entering did not detract from the usual sell out of spots. Another aspiring PBA50 Senior Tour prospect, Hobo Boothe from Canoga Park, Calif., was a regular participant on our pair of lanes.

Hobo was not talkative, so the number of words we spoke to each other on any given Saturday night could probably be counted on one hand. His bowling ball did the talking for him, with a high track and pin punishing power reminiscent of David Traber, a PBA Tour regular from Illinois. In the vernacular of the day, Boothe's delivery was referred to as "a truck" when it hit the pins.

I wondered what ever happened to Mr. Boothe and discovered from an old California Bowling News issue that he passed away in 2010. A tremendous article was written about him in 1994, when he first made a name for himself on the PBA50 Tour. The article ("HOB0: Laid Off From His Job, Canoga Park's Boothe Kept Paychecks Coming On Senior Bowling Tour"), by Dana Haddad of the Los Angeles Times, chronicled Boothe's entire life.

It's interesting how the Lord works to place people in their proper position in life. Hobo had just lost his job and was heartbroken, according to his wife Mary. "He was just so devastated," said Boothe's wife in the article by Haddad. Mary, who had started her own insurance agency a few years before, decided to sponsor her husband and send him on the PBA50 Tour full time. "This is something

that he's always wanted to do, but he didn't think he'd ever get the chance," Mary said. "Now he's making his dream come true."

In a little over three years leading up to his victory at the ABC/PBA Senior Masters in Greenacres, Fla., Boothe pocketed nearly \$80,000 in career earnings, not including bonuses and perks from bowling equipment companies. According to Haddad, Hobo's lifetime earnings placed him at number 39 in all-time earnings thanks to several high finishes, but never a win.

You can still catch the finals of the 1994 ABC/PBA Senior Masters Stepladder Finals, presented by BowITV and the USBC, featuring Rich Moores, Gary Dickinson, Mike Berlin, Ron Winger and tournament leader Hobo Boothe. It's interesting that the 1994 event attracted more than 400 senior keggers, while this year's Senior Masters fielded only 312. Here's the link to the 1994 classic telecast:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TVvyAH1pyC4>

Haddad goes on to report that Boothe was born in a farm house in Pulaski, Va., the youngest of 12 children born to Shelley and Stella Boothe. He was given the name Delano, but everyone called him Hoboy, because he brought the hoes, hoses and other tools to his older brothers and sisters that were working in the fields. Boothe shortened the name to Hobo when he moved to California in 1962.

Since his \$38,000 victory at Greenacres, television crews and newspaper reporters have cornered him at every tour stop, according to Haddad... more out of a curiosity about his name than anything else.

"He's not a household name yet," said tour press secretary Dick Evans in Haddad's article from August of 1994. "His name draws attention. People want to know where he got the name Hobo."

"He reminds me of John Handegard, the top player on the senior circuit," said Evans. Handegard (now a resident of Spring, Tex.), like Boothe, is also a soft spoken man of few words. But like Hobo, he let his bowling ball do the talking...

Many thanks to Dana Haddad of the Los Angeles Times, and to BowITV (Senior Masters video) for preserving fond memories of Hobo Boothe, a very kind individual that threw an absolute truck of a bowling ball!

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**PWBA** continued from page 1

another single pin conversion, Sin threw three strikes in a row heading into the sixth frame.

Zavjalova avoided getting behind early after making the 2-7-8 split and kept pace with Sin until she missed right in the sixth frame and left the 2-4-10 split, which she was unable to convert.

That did not deter Zavjalova as she threw her the next four in a row to apply pressure before going light and leaving her own 2 pin, spare, to finish at 214. If Zavjalova had struck out, she would have had 225 and forced Sin to get all three in the 10th frame.

Now all Sin needed was nine pins to win, which is exactly what she did before sparing the 3 pin and striking to claim the victory with a 226. Zavjalova earned \$30,000 for her runner-up finish.

"I've dreamt about this moment for a long time, and after watching other bowlers win it while being away, today, I won it," said Sin.

Before the title match, Breanna Clemmer of Clover, South Carolina, and Zavjalova in the semifinals came down to the final ball.

Clemmer was in the midst of climbing the ladder after taking down England's Verity Crawley in the first match of the stepladder, 258-188, striking 10 of 12 shots, and knocking out Stefanie Johnson of McKinney, Texas, 228-195, the following match. Crawley earned \$13,000 for her fifth-place finish and Johnson took home \$17,000 for fourth.

Compared to the first two matches, strikes were not coming easy to either Clemmer or Zavjalova, who struck a combined nine of 24 shots thrown. Both competitors also exchanged splits, but Clemmer struck in the seventh, eighth and ninth frames to put herself in position to advance.

Zavjalova ended the match first, going strike, 6-10 and took only the 6 pin off to finish at 191. Clemmer needed at least a mark in the first ball of the 10th, with a strike ending the match.

The first ball for Clemmer went high flush, leaving a 4 pin, which she took down with ease, and now needed at least nine pins to move on, or eight to tie.

Disaster struck though.

Clemmer's fill ball went right of her target and left the 2-8-10 split, putting her at 189 and one game short for the chance at her first major title, advancing Zavjalova to face Sin instead. Clemmer earned \$22,000 for her third-place finish.

Sin is now the frontrunner for the PWBA Player of the Year award, leading the tour in wins and points. She can be the first international POTY if she continues bowling well at Tour Championship week at historic Thunderbowl Lanes in Detroit, Michigan, August 6-13.

"I have never thought of winning Player of the Year, I'm just going to take it one stop at a time and let what happens, happen," said Sin.

The PWBA Tour takes a break before the next event on the schedule, the Professional Bowling Association/PWBA Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles in Houston, Texas, July 25-28. That event will be streamed live only on BowlTV.





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# Marv Sargent and D.A. Smith are Winners at the Senior Masters

by Frank Weiler

LAS VEGAS – After a week long battle against Pins and Pockets SoCAL superstar bowlers Marv Sargent and D.A. Smith challenged all comers on their way to a final 9th and 25th place finish respectively, at this season’s USBC Senior Masters Championship held at Sam’s Town. Marv earned \$3,000 and D.A. \$1,700 for their efforts.

Winning at the Masters requires grit. That’s a combination of talent and performance throughout a week long competition on a difficult oil pattern. It’s a long haul on rough terrain that is the sternest test of a bowlers technique and execution. Marv Sargent and D.A. Smith showed they had what it takes by qualifying 39th and 42nd respectively, for Match Play. After three Qualifying Blocks of five games each (15 games) both averaged 222.

At the end of the three Qualifying Blocks each of the TOP 64 bowlers compete against each other in a Double Elimination Match Play Tournament to determine the USBC Senior Masters Champion. By finishing in the TOP 64, both SoCAL bowlers moved on to Match Play. Both Marv and D.A. qualified for and won In Match Play and can be considered WINNERS at this seasons Senior Masters, the first Major Championship of the season.

Once Match Play commenced our dynamic duo continued to perform well. Marv averaged 236 while D.A. 225 as both won matches. Both easily rolled 700 series with Marv’s high for three games being 754 and D.A.’s 736. Each three-game match was decided by total pins. Marv won five matches and D.A. two before tapping out.

I’ve been told that Marv Sargent and D.A. Smith are among the best bowlers ever produced in SoCAL and I believe they proved it this week. A good example of their talent is the excellence of their performance at the Senior Masters. By comparing them to All-Time Greats Walter Ray Williams Jr. and Pete Weber we can see that Marv and D.A. are outstanding bowlers. Both of our SoCAL stars finished much higher in the standings than Walter Ray and Pete!!! Walter Ray finished in 104th Place with a 213 average while Pete finished 205th with a 200 average.

Forty-Seven of the 312 entries in the tournament came from California. The Top California Finishers and a few other Notable Californians are listed below with their Qualifying statistics. The listing is in the order of their standing among California bowlers only, after 15 games of Qualifying:

Position	Bowler	Home	Average	Plus
1.	Scott Smith	Lakewood	225	377 pins
2.	Rick Meneley	Santa Maria	223	345
3.	Marv Sargent	Temecula	222	336
4.	Leonard Ruiz	Cypress	222	332
5.	D.A. Smith	Fontana	222	330
	Robert Smith	Oxnard	222	330
7.	George Aboud	San Jose	220	305
8.	Robert Newman	Pacifica	219	293
9.	Scott Critchfield	Canyon Country	217	266
10.	Doug Kempt	Arcadia	216	241
A.	Tony Rodriguez	Rancho Cucamonga	213	207
B.	Steve Smith	San Diego	209	136
C.	Alvin Lou	El Cajon	208	131
D.	Toby Lee	San Bernardino	206	91
E.	Walt Blackston	Hawthorne	205	75
F.	Rudy Crisolo	Woodland	198	—
G.	Russ Simmons	Fontana	192	—

The outstanding performance of these bowlers proves again that “CALIFORNIA BOWLERS ARE THE BEST BOWLERS IN THE WORLD”.



D.A. Smith





## Weekly Scratch 5-Gamer Every Tuesday

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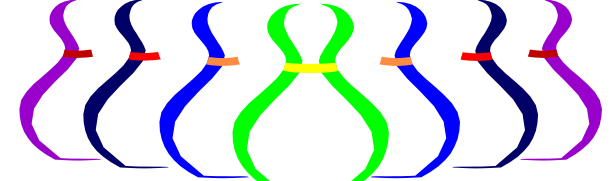
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