

CALIFORNIA BOWLING NEWS

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WALTER RAY WILLIAMS JR. WINS FIRST PBA60 TITLE AT TRISTAN'S T.A.P.S. MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

by Jill Winters

Columbus, Ohio – The all-time winningest bowler in the history of the PBA just did something he had yet to accomplish, he won his first PBA60 title at the PBA60 Tristan's T.A.P.S. Memorial Tournament.

The Oxford, Florida resident was the No. 5 seed to begin the stepladder finals Wednesday night and all he did was strike 68 percent of the time over four games to win the tournament throwing the new Brunswick Teal Rhino Pro.

Before his first match play round of the day, Williams Jr. told Tom Carter, who owns Tom Carter's Pro Shop inside Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl, that he had a few new bowling balls from Brunswick, so he decided to drill the Teal Rhino Pro. That ball was used in the first game of his three-game match against Ron Mohr leading to a 257. Since Williams Jr. was already down 49 pins early, he decided to try something different, which didn't work. He lost that match which resulted in the No. 5 seed. After that, Carter made a key adjustment to Williams Jr.'s ball that turned out to be a winning combination.

"Tom put some surface on it and when I saw it hook, I liked that," Williams Jr. said. "It turned out to be a nice move. I also threw some decent shots, and my opponents didn't strike as much as I did, which made it better for me."

In Williams Jr.'s title match against Lennie Boresch Jr., he decided to slow down and moved in several



Walter Ray Williams Jr.

boards on the lanes.

"I managed to strike the first shot of the left lane and that was a total guess," he admits. "Next shot on the right lane, I left a weak 10 then managed to get some strikes after that."

Boresch Jr. started with a double before converting the 2-8 sleeper and then he left the Greek church for an open frame in the fourth. Williams Jr. capitalized throwing five straight strikes in frames three thru seven for a 21-pin lead. Boresch Jr. struck four straight times after the open frame before opening again in the ninth with a 4-6-7 split. Williams Jr. struck seven times out of his 11 shots in the match for the 238-206 win.

"Unfortunately, my PBA60 career has been less than super stellar, so it was nice to get that good finish there," Williams Jr. said.

He celebrated the win with his daughter who was in the crowd all week.

In the opening match, Williams Jr. threw his ball hard and direct as he cruised past John DiSantis, who was making his first stepladder finals appearance, 254-196. DiSantis was the final player to make it into the round of 24. Williams Jr. continued to stay clean and strike in match two, defeating Bo Goergen, 246-193.

And then in the semifinal match, Williams Jr. found continued on page 6



Bowling Trading Cards To Make Exciting Introduction... For The Third Time

by Dave Williams

When you've been around as long as I have, you find that things have a way of repeating themselves in life. One of the most recognizable leaders of the 20th century, Winston Churchill, once said before the British House of Commons, "Those that fail to learn from history are condemned to repeat it."

Churchill was most likely comparing World War I and World War II when he made his famous speech in 1948, suggesting that this must

never happen again. Another famous writer and historian, Mark Twain, had a much softer twist on the subject when he said more than fifty years before Churchill, "History never repeats itself, but it does often rhyme."

Here's hoping that Twain's flip side to Churchill's argument will apply to the most recent collaboration between the PBA and Leaf Trading Cards. This will be at least the third time that an individual or group has made an attempt to

unlock the rich history that exists in the game of tenpins through the introduction of bowling trading cards.

There may have been other attempts in the 1950's and 1960's when baseball trading cards were at their peak, but the first bowling card campaign that I can remember came from pro bowler Lou Scalia of Hollywood, Fla., in 1972. Scalia had won the USBC Masters title in a double elimination finals in 1967, defeating Bill

Johnson of New Orleans by 19 pins.

Scalia parlayed his Masters victory into a lifetime of dedication to bowling pro shop sales and service in Davie, Fla., a town of more than 100,000 situated about 10 miles northwest of Lou's hometown of Hollywood, and only 25 miles north of Miami. His "Lou Scalia's Awards" is still in operation, but is now owned by Rob Comito.

I reached out to Rob continued on page 2

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to see if I could get some quotes from Mr. Scalia, but the attendant at the awards shop said that Comito would be unavailable until next week. The attendant also said that he had never met Scalia, and did not know if he is still alive. Scalia was born on October 26, 1942, which would make him 81 years young today.

I can still remember speaking with Lou in 1972 and ordering two boxes of the original cards that he created that year. I believe it was his suggestion to order a second box and leave it sealed... which I did! Looking through my listing of file boxes for the "Mini-Storage Warehouse Bowling Museum of the East," I could not locate the bowling cards, but my guess is that they are packed in with my baseball (and other sports) card collection.

It was 92 degrees here today, with 83% humidity, so it was hard to stray from the pool and/or air conditioned comfort of my home. Perhaps next week I can track down Comito, Scalia and the cards in the warehouse, and do a proper follow up to this interesting story. Meanwhile, I was able to locate a most interesting half hour program that was produced by Madison Square Garden (MSG) Sports, and hosted by Lou Scalia:

https://youtube.com/watch?v=xQdq4_Qx4Os

The half hour show called "The 10th Frame" is jam packed with an array of memorable clips and interviews from past champions and current bowling stars from the 1990's. Scalia narrates the entire program, as outlined below:

- Stan Gifford's 300 game on Championship Bowling (from 1955)
- John Jowdy on Coaching
- Tom Hennessey Profile
- Bowling Endorsements
- Paula Sperba Carter on Targeting Adjustments
- Carmen Salvino and Positive Thinking
- David Ozio - Winning on Tour
- Ernie Schlegel and The Armswing

Wow! That's a lot of material in just one half hour show! As I reviewed the telecast a couple of times, it occurred to me that this is something that's missing on the PBA shows today. Whether you liked them or not, Nelson Burton Jr. and Mike Durbin really helped beginning bowlers and were an integral part of the telecasts for more than 40 years.

PBA Kingpins - The Second Bowling Card

Not a lot could be found regarding the next set of cards, known as the 1990 Kingpins Card. I was able to locate a blog, "The Shlabotnik Report," that provided some information that seems completely credible. Here is Joe's recollection of the 1990 cards from November 15, 2018:

"The 1990 Kingpins set, which featured members of the Professional Bowlers Association (PBA), seem to be the most common bowling cards available. I started out looking for pictures and names I was familiar with... I don't follow pro bowling, but my parents used to watch the Pro Bowlers Tour on TV in the 1970's, and I sure as heck remember Johnny Petraglia."

Shlabotnik continued, "Petraglia is a member of the PBA Hall of Fame, and as part of the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the PBA, he was named one of the 50 greatest bowlers from 1958 through 2008. When I was thinking of bowlers to search, I remembered Chris Hardwick, host of "Talking Dead," mentioning that his father was a top bowler. I searched the name Hardwick and found his dad, Billy Hardwick. The elder Hardwick was listed in that same 50 greatest list, and was twice named PBA Bowler of the Year."

"But my bowling quest did not end there," commented Shlabotnik. "I found out there was at least one other American bowling card set from the 1970 era." (The Scalia Cards). "The fifty card set was a bit smaller than the others. The front featured a full bleed photograph with a facsimile autograph. The back of the card was very rudimentary."

"These two sets seem to be the main targets of any bowling collection," stated Shlabotnik. "There's a Japanese set from 2014 which features women bowlers. In searching COMC (Check Out My Cards), I discovered, very much to my surprise, there was an APBA bowling game from 1979. I'm not sure how a bowling game like this would even work, or what type of decisions would need to be made in a statistically-based game."

(That last comment shows that Shlabotnik is definitely not a bowler!)

Good Luck To The Leaf Bowling Cards

The last in our trilogy of trading cards is the one currently being offered by Leaf Trading Cards. In a release offered by the PBA and Leaf Trading Cards, the rich heritage of professional bowling over the past six decades is mentioned, with an opportunity for collectors to own a piece of this dynamic history. "We are absolutely thrilled to partner with the Professional Bowlers Association," said Brian Gray, CEO of Leaf Trading Cards.

"The PBA has a dedicated and passionate fan base, and we are excited to bring them an authentic and engaging collecting experience," said Gray. Leaf Trading Cards have built a reputation for crafting high quality, innovative products for baseball, basketball, football, soccer, and now bowling.

As part of their announcement and news release, Leaf Trading Cards celebrated with the special creation of cards for Jason Belmonte, E.J. Tackett and Kyle Troup that are available on their website at LeafTradingCards.com. A couple of them are just three rows down from Joey Chestnut's 2023 Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Championship card. The cards are priced at \$7.99 each. I did not see any mention of the pink "hardtack" gum that used to accompany every Topps Baseball Card purchase (remember that?).

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF, AGAIN — As I was wrapping up this story on Saturday night, an article caught my eye about the 2008 PBA Bowling Heroes & Legends Trading Cards. This comprehensive PBA trading card collection, according to blowoutcards.com, offered 77 cards in a salute to the grand history of bowling. Only 250 cases were produced. This limited edition product does fill a gap that existed between the 1990 Kingpins cards and the 2023 Leaf cards. It's interesting that the phenomenon of new bowling trading cards has occurred about every 17 years, since Lou Scalia first introduced the idea to the game of tenpins. I guess history does repeat, and rhyme...

- Lou Scalia photo provided by Dr. Jake's Bowling History Blog
- "The 10th Frame" video provided by [irishpogi](http://irishpogi.com) at youtube.com

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PBA REGIONAL RECAP: KEVEN WILLIAMS WINS FIRST REGIONAL TITLE

by Chase Kaufman

There were points aplenty to be had over the past two weeks, but more specifically, in the last week of June. Seven of the latest nine events transpired between June 23 and June 30, including a triple-header in Norfolk, Virginia. Players desiring to qualify for the RPI took their chance at the thousands of points awarded in the previous handful of days, along with the opportunity to bring home some cash and a regional title.

PBA NORFOLK PBA BOOSTER CLUB OF HAMPTON ROADS OPEN



Beginning with the triple-header in the South Region, it felt like a PBA PTQ with the players that emerged in the single-elimination bracket. The likes of Trevor Roberts, Dwight Adams, Pete Vergos, Ryan Lane, and Nate Garcia headlined the final hopefuls, so it was sure to be an exceptional remaining 16. But in the end, Zachary Tackett of Virginia Beach stood tall above them all. After losing with a 199 in his very first game, Tackett won his next eight straight contests. He defeated Colin Champion, Adams, Roberts, Lance Morris, and finally Connor Pickford, 267-192, to claim his second career regional title.

PBA Norfolk PBA Booster Club Of Hampton Roads Open Final Standings

Zachary Tackett, 2,500 Points, \$3,000
Connor Pickford, 1,500, \$1,610
Lance Morris, 1,150, \$900
Matt Taylor, 950, \$900

[PBA Norfolk PBA Booster Club Of Hampton Roads Open Full Results](#)

PBA WOMEN'S PBA BOOSTER CLUB OF HAMPTON ROADS OPEN



Twenty-one ladies entered the regional event in Norfolk, and the top six advanced to bracket play. Elise Bolton dominated qualifying to earn the one-seed and a first-round bye, but she fell in the semifinals to Ashley Scott, 221-168. Jenna Williams, the two-seed who also possessed a bye, dropped in the semis to Kaylene Bishop 224-170. In the final battle between Bishop and Scott, Bishop couldn't get anything to fall her way as Scott cruised to a 207-144 victory to earn a cool \$1,000.

PBA Women's PBA Booster Club of Hampton Roads Open Final Standings

Ashley Scott, \$1,000
Kaylene Bishop, \$800
Elise Bolton, \$700
Jenna Williams, \$700

[PBA Women's PBA Booster Club of Hampton Roads Open Full Results](#)

PBA50 ED TENAN MEMORIAL NORFOLK PBA BOOSTER CLUB OF HAMPTON



Next up in the PBA50 division, Darryl Bower, Peter Dohan Jr., Jeff Campbell, and James Winterfield all bowled well enough to earn themselves a double-bye for the bracket play, including the top 16 from qualifying. But double-bye or not, nothing was powerful enough to stop Darryl Bower over the weekend. After qualifying first, Bower ate an extra scoop of Wheaties and a Flintstones Vitamin and powered through the bracket. Bower shot a 236 and 244 to defeat Rob Kuntz, beat Steve Hollandsworth 258-232, and wrapped up the tournament by taking down Joe Scarborough 278-184.

PBA50 Ed Tenan Memorial Norfolk PBA Booster Club of Hampton Final Standings

Darryl Bower, 2,500 Points, \$2,000
Joe Scarborough, 1,500, \$1,400
Jeffrey Campbell, 1,150, \$805
Steve Hollandsworth, 950, \$805

[PBA50 Ed Tenan Memorial Norfolk PBA Booster Club of Hampton Full Results](#)

PBA EDMOND SOUTHWEST OPEN



Moving over to Oklahoma, precisely 100 bowlers entered the Edmond Southwest Open and 1 in 3 moved into advanced's round number one. After advanced's rounds one, two, and three, François Lavoie, Sean Lavery-Spahr, Trey Ford III, and Kris Koeltzow settled into the top four for the stepladder. Koeltzow produced a 257 in game one against Ford's 216 but fell to Lavery-Spahr 245-244 in the second match after needing nine on his fill and getting just seven. In another rousing match, Lavoie needed strike, strike, nine, and aced each of the three shots for his eighth regional title and first since 2019.

PBA Edmond Southwest Open Final Standings

Francois Lavoie, 2,500 Points, \$2,800
Sean Lavery-Spahr, 1,500, \$1,900
Kris Koeltzow, 1,150, \$1,500
Trey Ford III, 950, \$1,175

[PBA Edmond Southwest Open Full Results](#)

PBA BEEHIVE OPEN



The plan was to compose a terrible segue here on how to remove a beehive, but everything online says to call a professional, so off we go. Ryan Burton led qualifying in Lehi, Utah, at the Beehive Open by over 70 pins on the Del Ballard pattern. Burton held onto the lead to claim the one seed in the stepladder, while Brody Chatterton, Tim Ursillo, and Ramsey Basurto earned the following three seeds. After Ursillo beat Basurto, Chatterton squeaked past Ursillo to set up a sensational final. After a tie at 257, the two faced each other in a roll-off that took five shots apiece to determine the winner. Burton struck on shot five while Chatterton rocked a glued seven-pin to give Burton the win.

PBA Beehive Open Final Standings

Ryan Burton, \$2,400
 Brody Chatterton, \$1,600
 Tim Ursillo, 1,150 Points, \$1,350
 Ramsey Basurto, 950, \$1,100
[PBA Beehive Open Full Results](#)

PBA BUFFALO WILD WINGS CENTRAL OPEN



Boneless or bone-in is the ultimate question (and I won't accept any boneless slander, bone-in is just too much work), but the ultimate question here is how high can scores be on the Viper pattern? The answer: very high. It took +191 for eight games to make the cut, which led to some intriguing bracket matches. In the first semifinal matchup, Brendan Salo put away a first-game loss to Zac Tackett, and came back to win 2-1 to move onto the finals. His opponent was a scorching Chris Via, who just went 300-279 against Tom Sorce. Salo claimed the hot hand in the finals, winning 2-0 for his first career title.

PBA Buffalo Wild Wings Central Open Final Standings

Brendan Salo, 2,500 Points, \$2,700
 Chris Via, 1,500, \$1,375
 Zac Tackett, 1,150, \$1,100
 Tom Sorce, 950, \$1,100
[PBA Buffalo Wild Wings Central Open Full Results](#)

PBA FIRST STATE DOUBLES CLASSIC PRESENTED BY ANCHOR BUICK/GM



In a matinee event if you will, 36 teams fought to the end in Middletown, Delaware, on the Cheetah pattern. Anthony Pepe and Alex Cavagnaro led at +691, but with a single-elimination bracket in the wings, nobody was guaranteed a spot at the top of the mountain yet. Ethan McDonald and Jonathan Kleer made a run to the finals, defeating Zach Gentile and Sam DeWitt in the semifinals. They would face Joe Paluszek and John Furey in the finals, who just wrapped up their match against Jake Rollins and Jason Sterner. In the last bout, a pair of 236 games would be enough for Paluszek and Furey to take down McDonald and Kleer to claim the title.

PBA First State Doubles Classic presented by Anchor Buick/GM

Final Standings

Joe Paluszek/John Furey, 2,500 Points, \$4,000
 Ethan McDonald/Jonathan Kleer, 1,500, \$2,000
 Zach Gentile/Sam DeWitt, 1,150, \$1,600
 Jake Rollins/Jason Sterner, 950, \$1,600

[PBA First State Doubles Classic presented by Anchor Buick/GM Full Results](#)

PBA RITA JUSTICE CLASSIC PRESENTED BY BALLY'S DOVER CASINO RESORT

Continuing in The First State, after a dominant individual performance in the doubles tournament averaging just a shade under 260, Tim Foy Jr. continued his prominence in the singles portion, qualifying in first place at +262. He made it out of the advancer's round but fell in his quarter of the bracket to Tom Sorce. In the stepladder featuring each quarter's winners, Ryan Galli took down Malik Grove in match one, 209-202, but Sorce then crept past Galli 211-210. Jason Sterner owned the one-seed after a dominant 4-0 bracket performance, but the winner-take-all final match went the way of Sorce as he claimed his first regional title in over 15 years.



PBA Rita Justice Classic presented by Bally's Dover Casino Resort

Final Standings

Tom Sorce, 2,500 Points, \$6,000
 Jason Sterner, 1,500, \$3,200
 Ryan Galli, 1,150, \$2,300
 Malik Grove, 950, \$1,500

[PBA Rita Justice Classic presented by Bally's Dover Casino Resort Full Results](#)

PBA CONTRA COSTA COUNTY OPEN



For the final contest of the fortnight, a full field entered the Contra Costa County Open, where Keven Williams qualified in the top spot with seven games over 230. It's not always the case that the chalk holds throughout the tournament, especially in a bracket setting, but in this tournament, it did. Williams, the one-seed, and Nickolas Freiberg, the two-seed in the running for Rookie of the Year, faced off in the final match. Williams struck out for a 216 to force Freiberg to strike to win or spare, strike to tie. Freiberg first converted a ten-pin but left another ten on the fill to lose by one as Williams picked up his first career regional title.

PBA Contra Costa County Open Final Standings

Keven Williams, 2,500 Points, \$2,400
 Nickolas Freiberg, 1,500, \$1,600
 Brandon Kring, \$1,350
 Chad Uyehara, 950, \$1,100

[PBA Contra Costa County Open Full Results](#)
[PBA Regional Points Leaders](#)

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PBA60 continued from page 1

himself behind early to Ron Mohr. Mohr started off with five out of six strikes before a 3-6-7-10 split led to an open frame. Williams Jr. doubled and converted the 4-9 split in the third frame, before reeling off four straight strikes to take the lead in the seventh frame. Williams Jr. went on to win 242-217.

View the full PBA60 Tristan's T.A.P.S. Memorial results at [PBA60 Tristan's T.A.P.S. Memorial | PBA](#)

2023 PBA60 TRISTAN'S T.A.P.S. MEMORIAL FINAL STANDINGS:

1. Walter Ray Williams Jr. \$7,500
2. Lennie Boesch Jr. \$4,000
3. Ron Mohr \$3,000
4. Bo Goergen \$2,500
5. John DiSantis \$2,000

MATCH SCORES

- Match 1 – Williams Jr. def. DiSantis 254-196
- Match 2 – Williams Jr. def. Goergen 246-193
- Match 3 – Williams Jr. def. Mohr 242-217

Championship Match –

Williams Jr. def. Boesch Jr. 238-206



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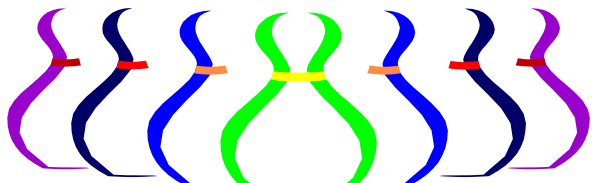
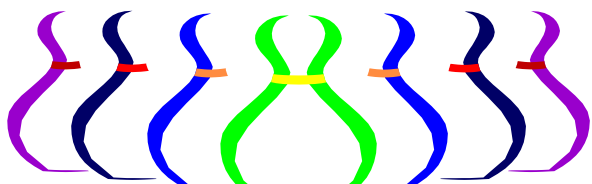
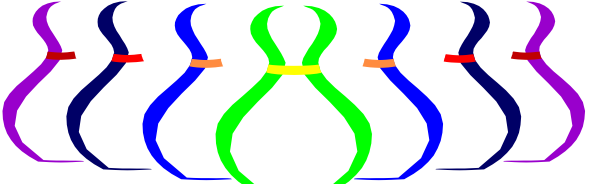
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