

# CALIFORNIA BOWLING NEWS

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## CHRIS BARNES GETS A MAJOR WIN AT PBA50 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

by Jill Winters

JACKSON, Michigan – Chris Barnes was experiencing a little bit of déjà vu on Sunday. The last time he won a PBA50 tournament was at the 2022 PBA50 David Small's JAX 60 Open when he climbed the stepladder from the fourth seed to earn the victory.

When he won that event, it was his fourth PBA50 title and he collected \$7,500. Today, in the same bowling center, it was for a major title and \$25,000.

After leading the majority of the PBA50 World Championship during the inaugural PBA50 World Series of Bowling, Barnes fell out of the lead for the first time dur-

ing match play on Sunday, but he was able to take what he learned on the 45-foot Dick Weber oil pattern to help him regroup and get the win.

"It was a culmination of a lot of mistakes over the last four blocks on this pattern," Barnes admitted. "When you make that many mistakes hopefully you learn a lot. We cycled through what I knew wouldn't work, caught some good breaks, and I am certainly going to enjoy this one."

The opening match presented Barnes with the chance to get past Tom Hess, who defeated him in the PBA50 Petraglia Championship on Friday. Barnes threw four



out of five strikes to end the game for the 245-236 win.

In match two, Barnes only missed once and that was the 3-4-6-7-9-

10 split in the third frame. His opponent John Janawicz opened the match with five of six strikes. Janawicz failed to strike in the 10th frame, and

Barnes, who was working on six strikes after his open frame, struck out for the 258-244 win.

Game 3 saw Barnes take on Brad Angelo,

who was the first player to jump him in the overall standings on Sunday. After Angelo failed to convert the 2-10 in the fourth frame, Barnes continued on page 4

## TOM HESS WINS FOURTH CAREER TITLE AT PBA50 PETRAGLIA CHAMPIONSHIP

by Jill Winters

JACKSON, Michigan — Tom Hess is a bit tired after completing 57 games over six days at the inaugural PBA50 World Series of Bowling, and he is ready for even more.

He tied for third place at the Ballard Championship, took second at the Monacelli Championship, and then on Friday, he won the Petraglia Championship for his fourth career PBA50 title.

"I am one win away from being Hall of Fame eligible," the Iowa native said. "That was my goal. To now finally be out here, this is all I am focusing on, and the results are showing."

His path to the championship match against Chris Barnes began with wins against John Janawicz, Dino Castillo, and William Gates, who was the No. 1 seed.

"Today was probably

the toughest day that a guy could have out here just the way my bracket broke down," he said.

His match with Janawicz went the full five games and he just told himself to "keep digging." Against Castillo, he lost the first game before he admits he got really focused and battled his way back. Gates presented a different challenge as the surface on

continued on page 6



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# CREATIVITY POWERS DOM BARRETT TO VICTORY AT PBA SKILL BALL CHALLENGE

by Nolan Hughes

Dom Barrett looked out of sorts in the opening game of the PBA SKILL Ball Challenge championship match against Matt Ogle. He guttered in the second frame and sputtered to a 150, falling to Ogle's 193.

But in the second game of the Race-to-Two match, Barrett made a pair of bold moves that changed the tides. On the right lane, he moved right of the first arrow with added ball speed; on the left lane, he abandoned a jump left and began throwing the ball hard and straight up the second arrow.

Those creative solutions turned open frames into clean ones, helped him double twice, and extend the match with a win. In the roll-off, Barrett converted a pair of 4-pins to prevail over Ogle and claim the championship.

"Bowling throughout my career, I've never been afraid of committing to making big moves and quick decisions," Barrett said. "Even though maybe nine-spares is a good frame bowling on this right now, you still can't help but try to catch a double, catch a triple, and strike the right way."

Though Barrett does not add a PBA Tour title to his résumé, he does earn \$16,000 in a triumph over many of the PBA's best from this season. The eight-player field at Thunderbowl Lanes featured the top performers from this season's PBA Classic Series, which included five PBA Tour title events.

The PBA SKILL Ball Challenge offered a rare experience for the eight players, which also included EJ Tackett, Sam Cooley, Tommy Jones, Jakob Butturff, Packy Hanrahan and Sean Lavery-Spahr.

Players competed with a single bowling ball: the PBA SKILL 3.02, a non-flaring pearl urethane ball. Several players likened the ball's reaction to that of a traditional plastic ball.

Additionally, players competed on a pair of oil patterns which utilized one-third the oil volume of a typical PBA pattern. The 35-foot and 46-foot oil patterns had only 8.5 mLs of oil, compared to the 31mL Webb and Anthony patterns used at last month's PBA Tour Finals.

"What I did there was just try and be as creative as possible," Barrett said. "I've never bowled the plastic ball tournament or with a plastic ball (on a pattern

with) so little volume. I attacked lanes very differently very often, just trying to rack my brain for ideas, but it was pretty cool to do that."

The evening began with a ceremony to honor Tom Strobl, the longtime proprietor of Thunderbowl Lanes who passed away in April.

Thunderbowl's arena bay hosted some of the most iconic moments in PBA history, including the inaugural World Series of Bowling in 2009, Jason Belmonte's record-breaking 11th career major title in 2019, and Anthony Simonsen's third USBC Masters and fifth career major title earlier this year.

The arena bay will now bear the name of the man who worked tirelessly to help make those moments possible.

"It's really an honor to be the first winner here in the Tom Strobl Arena," Barrett said.

### FINAL SCORES

#### Round of 8

- No. 8 Matt Ogle def. No. 1 EJ Tackett, 2-0 — 223-212, 217-201
- No. 5 Jakob Butturff def. No. 4 Tommy Jones, 2-0 — 213-163, 224-205
- No. 7 Sean Lavery-Spahr def. No. 2 Sam Cooley, 2-0 — 192-173, 176-163
- No. 3 Dom Barrett def. No. 6 Packy Hanrahan, 2-0 — 200-162, 209-181

#### Semifinals

- Ogle def. Butturff, 2-0 — 170-170 (9-7), 187-159
- Barrett def. Lavery-Spahr, 2-1 — 175-201, 222-148, 37-25

#### Championship Round

- Barrett def. Ogle, 2-1 — 150-193, 213-172, 37-24

### FINAL STANDINGS

- Dom Barrett, .....\$16,000
- Matt Ogle, .....\$10,000
- Jakob Butturff, .....\$6,000
- Sean Lavery-Spahr, .....\$6,000
- EJ Tackett, .....\$3,000
- Tommy Jones, .....\$3,000
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More information on the PBA SKILL Ball Challenge is available [here](#).



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# A Week To Remember For Tom Hess

by Dave Williams

What a week for Tom Hess. After finishing 3rd in the Ballard Championship on Wednesday, he took second the next day in the Monacelli Championship, and on Friday he captured his fourth career PBA50 title, winning the Petraglia Championship at JAX60 Bowling Center in Jackson, Michigan. For his efforts, Hess received \$5,000 for the Petraglia Championship on Friday (in addition to \$3,000 on Thursday and \$2,500 on Wednesday).

The event is actually four tournaments in one, with the Ballard Championship (won by Dan Knowlton of Dade City, Fla., for \$5,000), Monacelli Championship (won by Jon Rakoski of Estero, Fla., for \$5,000) and finally the Petraglia Championship, won by Hess, all leading to the PBA50 World Championship on Sunday, with a first place prize of \$25,000. Through Saturday night action, Hess is seeded 5th in the World Championship, with a total of 8,264 pins for 36 games.

The term "seeded" is appropriate for Hess, who is a sod installer by trade in his native home in Granger, Iowa. He won the 2011 USBC Masters for his first PBA Tour victory, as well as his first major, at the age of 41. He joined the PBA50 tour in 2021, winning two major championships (PBA50 US Open, and USBC Senior Masters), the PBA50 Player of the Year, and Rookie of the Year — all in the same season!

The other leaders going into the final day of action on Sunday include: Chris Barnes of Denton, Texas, 8,422; John Janawicz of Winter Haven, Fla., 8375; Brad Angelo of Lockport, N.Y., 8297; and Ryan Shafer of Horseheads, N.Y., 8269. Perennial favorite (and now a super senior over the age of 60) Pete Weber of St. Ann, Mo., sits in 7th place with a total of 8,196 (all totals are including bonus points).



(l to r) Ron Mohr with Harvest Park Bowl owner Jim Wangeman at Nor Cal Senior Classic (2011)



Tom Hess (2021)

It's always interesting to look at the previous trade or profession of PBA50 competitors. Gene Stus was the first to shock the bowling world when he came from virtual obscurity as a retired General Motors auto worker, to dominate the seniors for many years. Stus took advantage of a program offered by GM (age plus years of service) to retire at age 50 and join the PBA50 Tour in 1990. One of his most amazing statistics is an incredible 50 top five finishes in 173 senior events.

Another senior tour player that took advantage of an early retirement program was Ron Mohr, an air traffic controller from Anchorage, Alaska. Mohr retired at age 52 and decided to give the PBA50 Tour a shot. In the intervening years he racked up enough achievements to merit a Bowling Hall of Fame selection, thirteen PBA50 victories, two Player of the Year awards (2009 and 2011) and two Super Senior Player of the Year awards (2016 and 2017). I wonder if he still does 550 sit-ups and 180 pushups every day?

After winning the Petraglia Championship for his fourth career PBA50 title, Hess sat down with Jill Winters of pba.com for an exclusive interview. "I am one win away from being Hall of Fame eligible," said the Iowa native. "That was my goal. To now finally be out here, this is all I am focusing on, and the results are showing."

In the best of three championship match against Chris Barnes, Hess started the first game with a strike and a washout open in the second frame. Then he struck nine consecutive times to finish with a 263. Although he lost to Barnes in the second game, you

could just sense that Hess was going to win. He finished the third game with seven consecutive strikes for a 258-164 route, and a 2-1 victory. "It has really been a good week making the top 4 in each of the last three tournaments," said Hess. "I was able to be patient, stay focused and get it done today."

Ms. Winters reported that after three titles have already been awarded in the WSOB for seniors, it all comes down to the finals of the PBA50 World Championship on Sunday. "The guys in front of me are not going to lay down," said Hess. "I am going to have to run down, chase them and catch them. Hopefully I can stay in the same momentum and get things done."

The final day of action on Sunday will begin at 9 a.m. for the final 12 games of match play. Then the final top five players will convene for a more traditional stepladder finals that is set to start at 6 p.m. Sunday evening. Tune in to see if Tom Hess will become eligible for the Hall of Fame. All of the action will be aired (and archived) on bowltv.com, or you can look for the final results at pba.com.

(Gene Stus passed away in 2014, at the age of 74)  
 -Tom Hess photo provided by bowl.com  
 -Ron Mohr photo provided by PBA, LLC  
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Gene Stus (1992)

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**PBA50 World Championships**

continued from page 1

frame, Barnes made a ball change in the fourth frame after two single-pin spares and threw seven out of eight strikes to get the 248-211 victory.

After noticing the friction starting to get to his ball toward the end of the semifinals match, Barnes and ball rep Jim Callahan decided he should switch to a 900 Global Xponent for the championship match, based on how it had reacted on the 46-foot Petraglia pattern Friday.

"I went +200 the last four when they broke down before using that ball, so we took a swing for the fences, assuming Troy was going to shoot a big game," Barnes said. "Every once in a while, the stars align."

Barnes and Callahan hit a home run as Barnes slammed home six straight to start the match giving him a 41-pin lead. With Lint not having quite the same look on this pair that he had to power his way to the No. 1 seed, Barnes finished his impressive stepladder run with the dominant 278-193 win. Barnes averaged 257.25 during his four-game title climb.

"At this point, this would be the most special of the five titles I have out here," Barnes said. "Tom (Hess) probably had the best overall week. But winning this one was my biggest goal, and this worked out as good as I could hope."

Barnes, who bowled 72 games at the World Series of Bowling this week, joked that his \$25,000 first-place pay day will help pay for his family's trip to Lima, Peru starting July 30 to cheer on his son, Ryan, who is representing Junior Team USA at the PANAM Bowling Youth Championship 2023.

In addition to Barnes winning the PBA50 World Championship, and Tom Hess winning the PBA50 Petraglia Championship, Dan Knowlton won the PBA50 Ballard Championship for his first PBA50 title, and Jon Rakoski won his first title at the PBA50 Monacelli Championship to conclude the PBA50 World Series of Bowling.

**WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES**

- Match 1: Barnes def. Hess, 245-236
- Match 2: Barnes def. Janawicz, 258-244
- Match 3: Barnes def. Angelo, 248-211
- Championship match: Barnes def. Lint. 278-193

**FINAL STANDINGS**

1. Chris Barnes, \$25,000
2. Troy Lint, \$13,000
3. Brad Angelo, \$8,000
4. John Janawicz, \$6,000
5. Tom Hess, \$5,000

[Full PBA50 World Championship standings](#)

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## DAN KNOWLTON WINS FIRST CAREER PBA50 TITLE AT PBA50 BALLARD CHAMPIONSHIP

by Jill Winters

JACKSON, Michigan – In his third season on the PBA50 Tour, Dan Knowlton achieved something he didn't even expect. He won his first PBA50 title at the PBA50 Ballard Championship.

"It's a dream I didn't know I had," the Florida native said. "I turned professional when I was 50. I am 52, and I never thought I would have a chance at a title."

After qualifying third, Knowlton defeated Paul Fleming, Walter Ray Williams Jr. and John Janawicz to put himself in the best-of-three championship finals on Wednesday against lefty Troy Lint, who won his first title at the PBA Senior U.S. Open.

In the first game, Knowlton started with four strikes and kept the momentum throughout to earn the win, 228-201. In the second game, as both players continued to use urethane, Knowlton chopped a 2-4-5-8 in the third frame followed by a pocket 7-9 split for back-to-back open frames, but he wasn't rattled. "I felt really confident I was going to win that game even when I was down 30 early," he said. "I just felt like I could get on a run, and I knew his look wasn't very good. So, I tried to brush it off and get back to business."

Lint was able to post strikes in the fourth thru seventh frames. Knowlton responded with five straight strikes after his open frames. With the lead in the eighth, Lint's shot was wide resulting in the 3-7-9 split and an opening. Lint finished with 224 and Knowlton stepped up and delivered in fashion. "I've gotten a bunch of top fives, but I just keep shooting myself in the foot. This time I didn't," he said. "I am just so glad I had the opportunity to double to win and did it."

With his hands straight up in the air he celebrated the title along with his wife, Michelle, his parents, and his son who was on FaceTime.

"My parents have been my biggest supporters outside of my wife," he said fighting back tears. "It's awesome to have family here. It means everything."

Knowlton is the fourth first-time PBA50 winner so far this season. His close friend Michael Haggitt got his first title at last week's PBA50 South Shore Open. "It's really surreal," Knowlton said. "We are pretty close to each other in standings and in total points. Just seems like we are neck-and-neck on just about everything, so I think it is pretty fitting we got titles back-to-back."

Knowing the PBA50 Johnny Petraglia BVL Tournament of Champions will be taking place only 30 minutes from his home in Florida, Knowlton has been competing in lots of tournaments this summer trying to get a title to qualify. Now that he will be getting a banner with his name on it, he also will get to sleep in his own bed when the final event of the season takes place at Orange Bowl Lanes in Lakeland, Florida.

### BALLARD CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

Game 1: Knowlton def. Lint, 228-201  
Game 2: Knowlton def. Lint, 233-224

### FINAL STANDINGS

Dan Knowlton, \$5,000  
Troy Lint, \$3,000  
Tom Hess, \$2,500  
John Janawicz, \$2,500

[Full standings – PBA50 Ballard Championship](#)



## JON RAKOSKI WINS FIRST CAREER PBA50 TITLE AT PBA50 MONACELLI CHAMPIONSHIP

by Jill Winters

JACKSON, Michigan – After a fifth-place finish at his first PBA50 tournament last year, Jon Rakoski decided he would bowl full-time on tour in 2023. On Thursday night, he became a PBA50 champion.

The always-focused-looking right-hander flashed one of the biggest grins of his life after delivering his fifth straight strike in the ninth frame to win the PBA50 Monacelli Championship over Tom Hess.

"I'm not a very emotional person," he said smiling. "This is pretty amazing."

In the opening game of the best-of-three title match, the two players matched each other strike-for-strike until Hess got a spare in the sixth frame. Rakoski kept striking until the ninth when he converted back-to-back spares followed by a strike for the 265-218 win.

In Game 2, Rakoski kept striking with eight strikes through the first nine frames on the way to a 256-215 victory and championship trophy presentation.

"When I committed myself to bowling on tour full-time, I practiced a lot and it's paying off," the Florida native said. "My friend, Donnie Schwartz, flew in today to surprise me. It was great to have him here. My wife gets in tomorrow."

The Florida native has cashed in four of his five tournaments this season and sits in the top 10 on the points list. He has rolled two perfect games so far this week, and he will be back on the lanes at JAX 60 on Friday. He will face Kevin Duncan in best-of-five bracket match play at the PBA50 Petraglia Championship.

And then on Saturday, he is seeded sixth for the start of the advancers round at the PBA50 World Championships.

"It's been an amazing season and there is still a lot more to go," he said.

Rakoski is the fifth overall and third straight first-time winner on the PBA50 Tour in 2023.

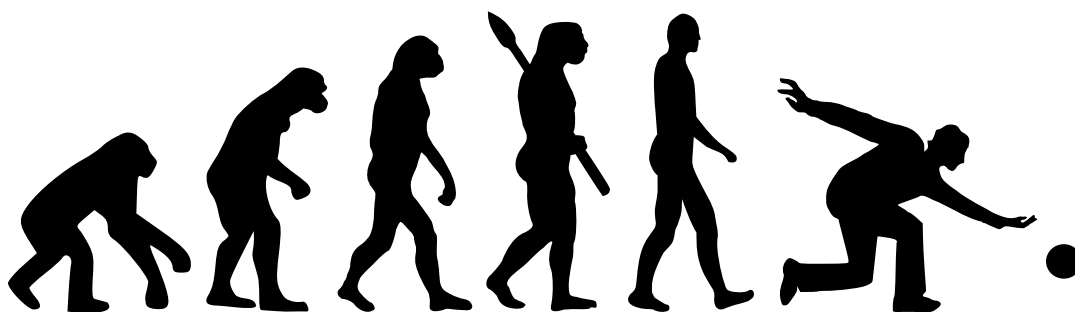
### MONACELLI CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

Game 1: Rakoski def. Hess 265-218  
Game 2: Rakoski def. Hess 256-215

### FINAL STANDINGS

Jon Rakoski \$5,000  
Tom Hess \$3,000  
Tom Adcock \$2,500  
Brad Angelo \$2,500

[Full standings – PBA50 Monacelli Championship](#)



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## PBA50 Petraglia Championship continued from page 1

his equipment affected Hess's game, but his ball rep Jim Callahan got him lined up after a 163 game, rebounding with a 259 to take the match.

"I really stayed in the process," the 53-year-old said. "I really wish I could do that more often. A couple of years ago, when I went on the run (in 2021 winning PBA50 Player of the Year and PBA50 Rookie of the Year), I was able to stay in the process, but it's hard to stay there. This week, what a week to get in it."

In the best-of-three championship match, Hess started the first game with a strike then a washout for an open frame. After that, he struck nine straight times finishing with a 263. Barnes started with a four-bagger, converted the 2-10 in the seventh and stayed clean for 248.

Game 2 saw Hess open in the third frame and strike only five times, while Barnes was once again clean and finished with seven strikes for the 258-203 win to even the match.

In the final game, Hess closed the door early on Barnes starting with seven strikes as Barnes opened three times. Hess took the victory lap with a 268-164 win.

"It has been a really good week making the semifinals and bowling for a title last night," Hess said. "I was able to be patient, stay focused and get it done today."

After three titles have already been awarded at the WSOB, it all comes down to the PBA50 World Championship. Barnes is in first through 24 games of qualifying, followed by Pete Weber, John Janawicz, Brad Angelo and Hess.

"The guys in front of me are not going to lay down," Hess said. "I am going to have to run down, chase them and catch them. Hopefully, I can stay in the same momentum and get things done."

### PETRAGLIA CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

Game 1: Hess def. Barnes, 263-248  
 Game 2: Barnes def. Hess, 258-203  
 Game 3: Hess def. Barnes, 268-164

### FINAL STANDINGS

Tom Hess, \$5,000  
 Chris Barnes, \$3,000  
 William Gates, \$2,500  
 Jon Rakoski, \$2,500

[Full standings – PBA50 Petraglia Championship](#)

## SUE LEE SANTERO Is Inland Empire Ladies Club (IELC) Champion

by Frank Weiler

REDLANDS – Sue Lee Santero is proving the old adage "THE BEST LIKE THE BEST" to be true. Sue Lee likes EMPIRE BOWL LANES and EMPIRE BOWL LANES like Sue Lee Santero. Sue Lee Santero is one of the best female bowlers in Southern California and **Empire Bowl is the best Bowling Center in Southern California.**

Sue Lee has mastered Empire Bowl's lanes using a combination of skill and bowling knowledge. Her "lane moxie" has led to her finishing as Club Champion for the spring block and her being recognized as the **TOP BOWLER** of the Inland Empire Ladies Club. Sue Lee lives in the present and the present is her time to shine. Now first place is her place.

The IELC standings at the end of the Spring Block follows:

Name	Peterson Points	Average
SueLee Santero	93.60	189
Janice Riley	83.98	166
L. Elias	77.38	140
Kathy Nakano	76.94	152
Cari Burris	75.94	149

### The IELC Scoring Average Leaders:

SueLee Santero	189
Janice Riley	166
Therese Weiler	165.3
Stephanie White	165.0
Victoria Fox	164

<b>High Scratch Series:</b>	<b>SueLee Santero</b>	<b>815 (4 games)</b>
<b>High Scratch Game:</b>	<b>Janice Riley</b>	<b>226</b>
<b>High Handicap Series:</b>	<b>L. Elias</b>	<b>931</b>
<b>High Handicap Game:</b>	<b>Carolann Williams</b>	<b>255</b>
<b>Most Wins:</b>	<b>SueLee Santero</b>	<b>15</b>

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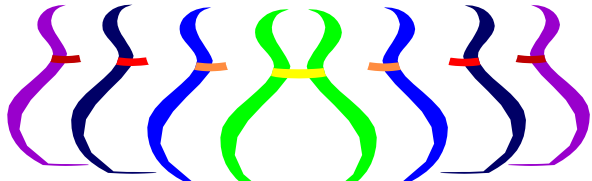
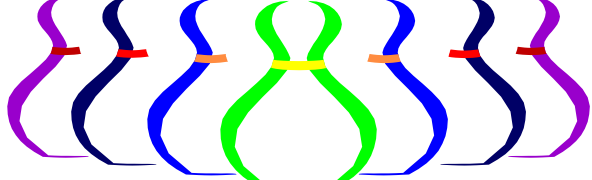
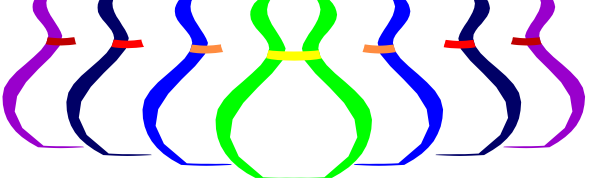




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