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CALIFORNIA BOWLING NEWS

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EJ TACKETT AND DIANDRA ASBATY WIN 2022 PBA/PWBA SABC MIXED DOUBLES

by Nolan Hughes



At Team USA Trials in 2011, a high schooler asked Diandra Asbaty for a picture and an autograph. Asbaty noticed the teenager's dad wearing the logo of an Indiana tournament series that she bowled as a kid, but didn't catch the kid's name.

After the day's qualifying, Asbaty looked at the standings. She didn't recognize the men's leader and asked a friend to point them out. They pointed to the same teenager who she had just taken a photo with.

"Wait, should I be asking you for your auto-

graph?" Asbaty said to the high schooler.

This time, she made sure to learn his name. It was EJ Tackett.

As the final ball of the 2022 Storm PBA/PWBA Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles Tournament rolled down the lane, Asbaty made sense of the surrounding madness.

"We won?!" Asbaty exclaimed while looking towards her teammate.

"I think we did," said Tackett, grinning from ear to ear while triple-checking continued on page 7

Who Is The PWBA "SPEED QUEEN"

by Frank Weiler

Whenever professional bowling appears on television these days the screen reports all manner of statistics about the bowlers and their performance. The most popular statistics are those reporting ball speed and ball revolutions. These statistics seem to excite viewers because everyone wants to know who's bigger, faster and quicker. It may not have anything to do with who's better or who wins but that doesn't matter. Numbers seem to fascinate. Sports fans want to be "TITILLATED". Size is titillating. Speed is titillating. Domination is titillating. At least for some.

Many sports fans are more enthralled with statistics than with who wins or losses, some are more enthralled with statistics than "the thrill of victory or the agony of defeat". Many are more enthralled with statistics than the excitement of the competition itself or the observance of excellence in execution.

Statistics seem to be even more appealing to those sports fans who love wagering on every aspect of sports. They wager on everything from high, low, over, under, start and stop. They bet on scores not only at the conclusion of an event continued on page 7

JOHN BURKETT STRIKES HIS WAY TO FIRST PBA50 TITLE

by Jill Winters

Hammond, Indiana — John Burkett is a two-time Major League Baseball All-Star and now a PBA50 champion.

On Thursday, the tall righty earned his way into the stepladder finals at the PBA50 South Shore Open after striking out in the 10th frame in the round of 16 match play to defeat No. 1 seed Chris Barnes 738-733. He then beat No. 8 seed Brian LeClair 693-674 to claim the No. 3 seed in his second-ever stepladder finals.

The former MLB pitcher is used to throwing strikes



from the pitcher's mound; now, he did that with a 900 Global Reality bowling ball

in his hands inside Olympia Lanes. It was a ball he hadn't used all week until

his match against Barnes. "I put 360 on that and continued on page 5

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SECOND ANNUAL PBA JR. AND GAZMINE MASON FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Twenty BIPOC youth bowlers represent the second class of scholarship winners

RICHMOND, VA — The Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) in partnership with Gazmine “GG” Mason are excited to announce the second class of PBA Jr. and Gazmine Mason Foundation Scholarship recipients.

In 2021, the PBA and Gazmine Mason came together to launch the PBA Jr. and Gazmine Mason Foundation Scholarship. The scholarship aims to advocate for more representation in the sport of bowling.

“I sincerely thank everyone who applied for the scholarship this year,” Mason said. “I also thank the PBA and the Gazmine Mason Foundation for their efforts to provide an opportunity for kids of color. Growing up as a Black girl in the inner city and winning a free entry into a PBA Jr. event that offers a significant amount of SMART funds, would have meant the world to me when I was a youth bowler. So, I’m a little jealous of everyone who received a scholarship (smiles).”

This year, 20 bowlers representing 14 states are recognized based on their achievements in academics, creativity, and commitment to the sport of bowling.

These recipients have earned an entry into the PBA Jr. National Championship Regional Qualifier event of their choosing. Those tournaments will take place on the weekends of August 12-14 and August 19-21 in five locations across the country.

“To everyone who applied this year, whether you have bowled a PBA Jr. event or not, I wish you much success in the upcoming PBA Jr. National Regional Qualifier events and all of your future tournaments,” Mason said. “No matter how your tournament goes, please keep showing up. Don’t ever feel rushed by the world around you. You are exactly where you’re supposed to be. You are all amazing. I am sending you lots of love and strikes. Good luck!”



PBA Jr. and Gazmine Mason Foundation Scholarship 2022 Recipients

Amari Thompson, SC
Arden Han-Wei, CA
Ashley Adams, GA
Braylen Thomas, MO
Cesar Padilla, AZ
Clyde Johnson, GA
Donald Holt III, GA
Gio Fleurimond, TX
Guyshon Moore, IL
Isaiah Armstrong, WI
Jedric Uganiza, CA
Jordan Peareara, RI
Kalee Stockstill, KS
Larielle Tharps, FL
MaKayla Hampton, IN
Maia Struble, AK
Neriah Ali, GA
Olivia Cameron, IL
Tyler Williams, IL
William Cunningham III, NJ



The PBA Jr. National Championship Regional Qualifiers are the first part in the PBA Jr. National Championship open to youth bowlers, who have not yet reached the age of 18 by August 1, 2021.

Information regarding PBA Jr. National Championship Regional Qualifiers can be found [here](#).

To register for PBA Jr. or learn more about the program, visit PBA.com/junior.

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RENO BOWLS FOR RHINOS

RENO – Come one and all to this kicked back good time in the competition alley at the National Bowling Stadium. Along with Donation Only bowling* there will be a Silent Auction, a Grand Prize raffle and a no host bar and food concession. Gather all of your friends and teammates and come for an evening of fun and play. All proceeds go straight to international cutting edge conservation efforts - www.lewa.org www.rhinos.org - that benefit rhinos, cheetahs and all other flora and fauna that naturally exist in the habitats of these wonderful animals.

Reno Bowls For Rhinos is a conservation fundraiser presented by the Northern Nevada Chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers (NNC-AAZK). www.renobowlsforrhinos.com NNC-AAZK is a 501c3 chapter of the American Association of

Zoo Keepers. (AAZK) www.aazk.org. In 1990 the zoo keeping members of AAZK decided they needed to make a major impact in the world of conservation. Bowling for Rhinos is the result of this. Since its inception over 85 AAZK chapters in the US and Canada have raised \$875,000.00. Grants are raised to cover the production cost of these events and the vast majority of people involved are unpaid volunteers.

Join us in what has to be one of the funnest ways to make a positive impact on the planet. You can get your tickets in advance via the Paypal link on our website or just show up at the door ready to play. For those who need them balls and shoes are provided for free. Be sure to remember to bring your own socks :.)

Saturday, September 10, 2022 4 - 9 PM
National Bowling Stadium
300 N Center St.
Reno, NV
*Suggested donation \$10.00/person/game.



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A Record \$65,000 in Prize Money Being Offered...

New Mexico Open Rivaling Professional Bowling Events

by Dave Williams

When I received an email earlier this week from Steve Mackie, owner of Tenpins & More in Rio Rancho, New Mexico, it was as though the clock had been reversed 40 years to the days that Steve headed up AMF's Marketing Department in the Land Down Under, better known as Australia.

Mackie reported the announcement that there would be increased prize money to a record \$65,000 at the 18th Annual New Mexico Open, to be held at Tenpins & More from August 15th to the 21st. What really caught my eye was the growing number of professional bowlers that were signed up for the event.

"Former tournament winners Nathan Bohr (2013) and Jakob Butturf (2015) have entered, along with the most recent Professional Bowlers Association All-Star Clash champion, Jake Peters," Mackie reported in the release. "Other stars to add their names include Professional Women's Bowling Association (PWBA) major winner Maria Jose Rodriguez of Colombia, and England's Richard Teece."

It's no wonder that Steve Mackie is attracting international bowling stars to the New Mexico Open. I can think of no one that traveled more in promoting the game of bowling and AMF than the likes of Mr. Mackie. Steve even arranged a unique bowling extravaganza in Australia when he brought many of the top PWBA (then LPBT) stars for an unbelievable event called the International Challenge Cup in 1987.

"Dana Miller (Steve's wife) was one of seven who made the trip to Australia," remembers Mackie. "The others were Wendy MacPherson, Donna Adamek, Karen Ellingsworth, Denise Rathbun, Anne Marie Pike and their non-playing captain, veteran Helen Duval." Steve went all out in arranging for an AMF calendar featuring one of the women, along with six of Australia's top women competitors, for each month of the year.

Another top notch event that Steve hosted during his time in Australia was the Trans Australia Airlines (TAA) South Pacific Classic. At its zenith, the tournament had more than 12,000 entries with \$70,000 in prize money. Mackie's attractive flyer promoting the event, with logos for all the sponsors, was the impetus for my approaching Pan American World Airways here in the United States to sponsor "Get Things Rolling," with complimentary flights for all the regional winners (and a guest) to compete in the national finals every year at AMF Altamonte Lanes in Florida.

Along with PanAm, we were able to secure Seagram's Wine Coolers, among others, as major sponsors for Get Things Rolling. Based upon our success, and looking for more involvement in bowling, marketing guru Pat Roney of Seagram approached the Bowling Proprietors and the PBA about becoming the primary sponsor for the men's and women's U.S. Open tournaments. The rest, as they say, is history, with record prize funds that were not equaled until the recent "Colie Edison years" at the PBA.

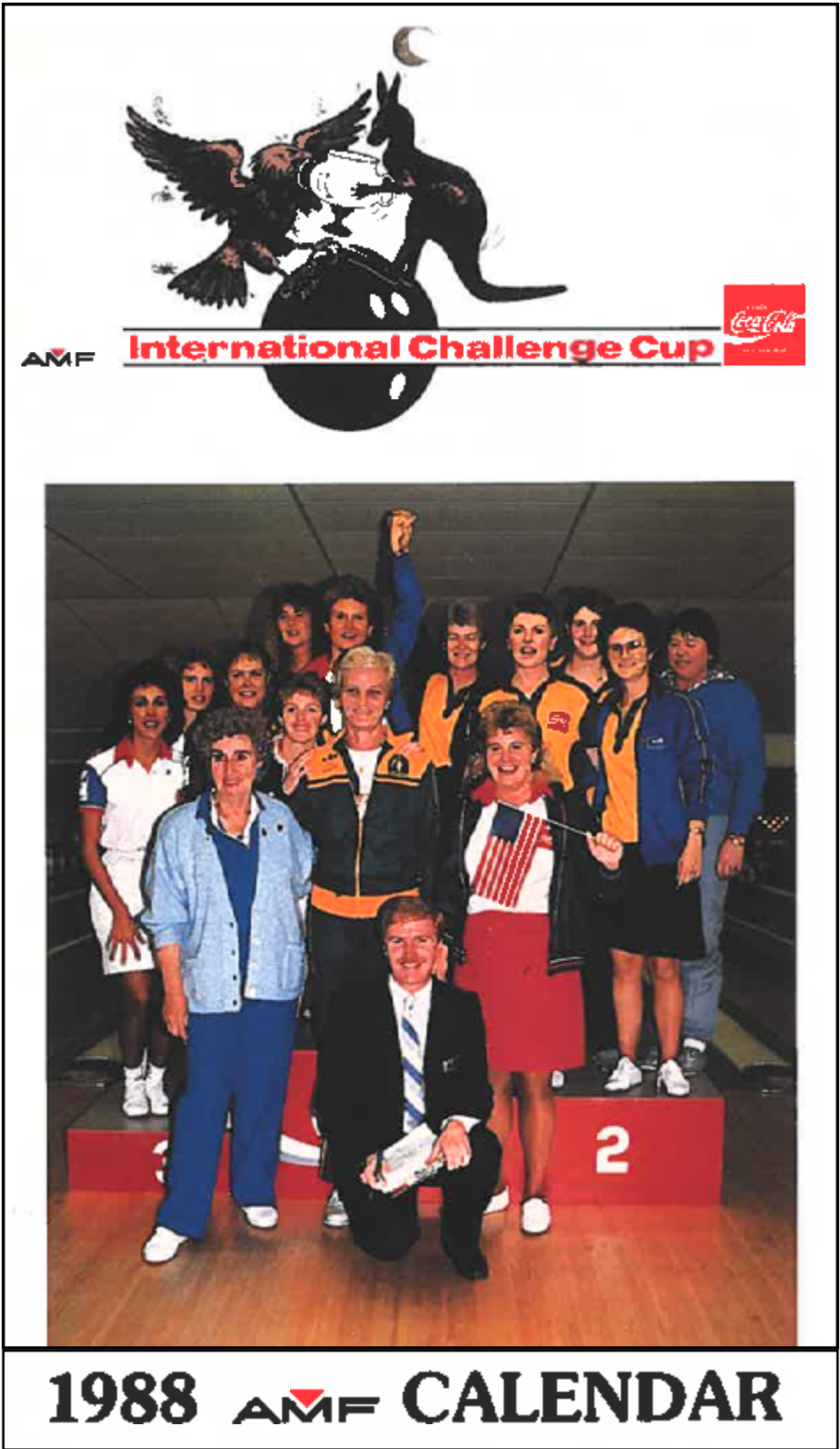
As of Thursday, Mackie reports that the New Mexico Open has a confirmed 125 paid entries, with another 67 spots remaining. Two-hander Zach Wilkins of Canada has signed up according to an email just received from Mr. Mackie. A couple of days ago, Wilkins broke the five game tournament scoring record with a 1455 total at Concord Bowl in St. Louis, using a Motiv Iron Forge bowling ball, according to Brett Spangler of Motiv. Unfortunately for Wilkins, it appears that the score was rolled in a non sanctioned tournament.

Concord Bowl is the place where Shelter Insurance rolled a single game 1457 all time USBC record in 2020. The team recorded games of 289, 300, 279, 300 and 289. Going into the tenth frame, 4 of the 5 players had a shot at 300. Just a 20 minute drive north of Concord Bowl is another famous location — Floriss Lanes, at 4339 Warne Avenue in St. Louis. That's where the famous Budweiser team rolled 3858 on March 12, 1958.

It's interesting to note that twenty-one years before that eventful day, the Her-



Photo from the Land Down Under (1984) - (l-r) Steve Mackie and I talking bowling on the concourse during the "Dave Williams Meet and Greet" at AMF's Rushcutter Bowl (6 game tournament, drink and bite to eat, plus cash prizes... 5 pounds all in!).



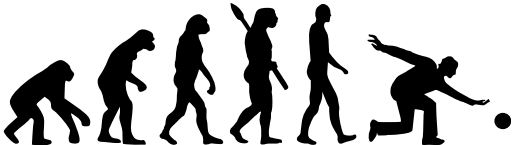
International Challenge Cup (1988) - Steve Mackie prepared this Calendar following the PWBA stars visit in 1987. Each month features the photo and bio of a different star.

mann Undertakers shot 3797 at Floriss Lanes, which was the all time record until the Budweiser team (consisting of Don Carter, Ray Bluth, Pat Paterson, Tom Hennessey and Dick Weber) topped the Hermann Undertakers team by 61 pins. Another interesting tidbit: both of the team records were rolled on lanes 7 and 8. The three story building still stands today, but the bowling center closed many years ago.

Mackie reports that the New Mexico Open event is an entire week of action, with sweepers, a pro-am, a consolation tournament and the main event. You won't want to miss out on this week of events, which also features a new car from the Pitre Auto Group of New Mexico for a championship round 300 game. First place will pay \$12,000 based upon 192 entries.

New Mexico Open SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, August 15th Sweeper #1 at 9:15PM	Saturday, August 20th Squad 3 Qualifier 7AM Squad 4 Qualifier Noon Squad 5 Qualifier 6PM
Tuesday, August 16th Pro-Am Squad #1 at 4:30PM	Sunday, August 21st Top 32 Check-In 7:45AM Top 32 Brackets 8AM Consolation Squads 10AM Top 4 Finals TBA Awards Celebration 5PM
Wednesday, August 17th Pro-Am Squad #2 at 4:30PM Sweeper #2 at 9:15PM	
Thursday, August 18th Practice Session 8AM-10AM Sweeper #3 (five squad times)	
Friday, August 19th Practice Session 7AM-8AM Squad 1 Qualifier 9AM Squad 2 Qualifier 2PM Pro-Am Squad #3 7:30PM	



[View the full PBA50 South Shore Open results at PBA50 South Shore Open | PBA](#)

Championship match – Burkett def. McCune 223-190



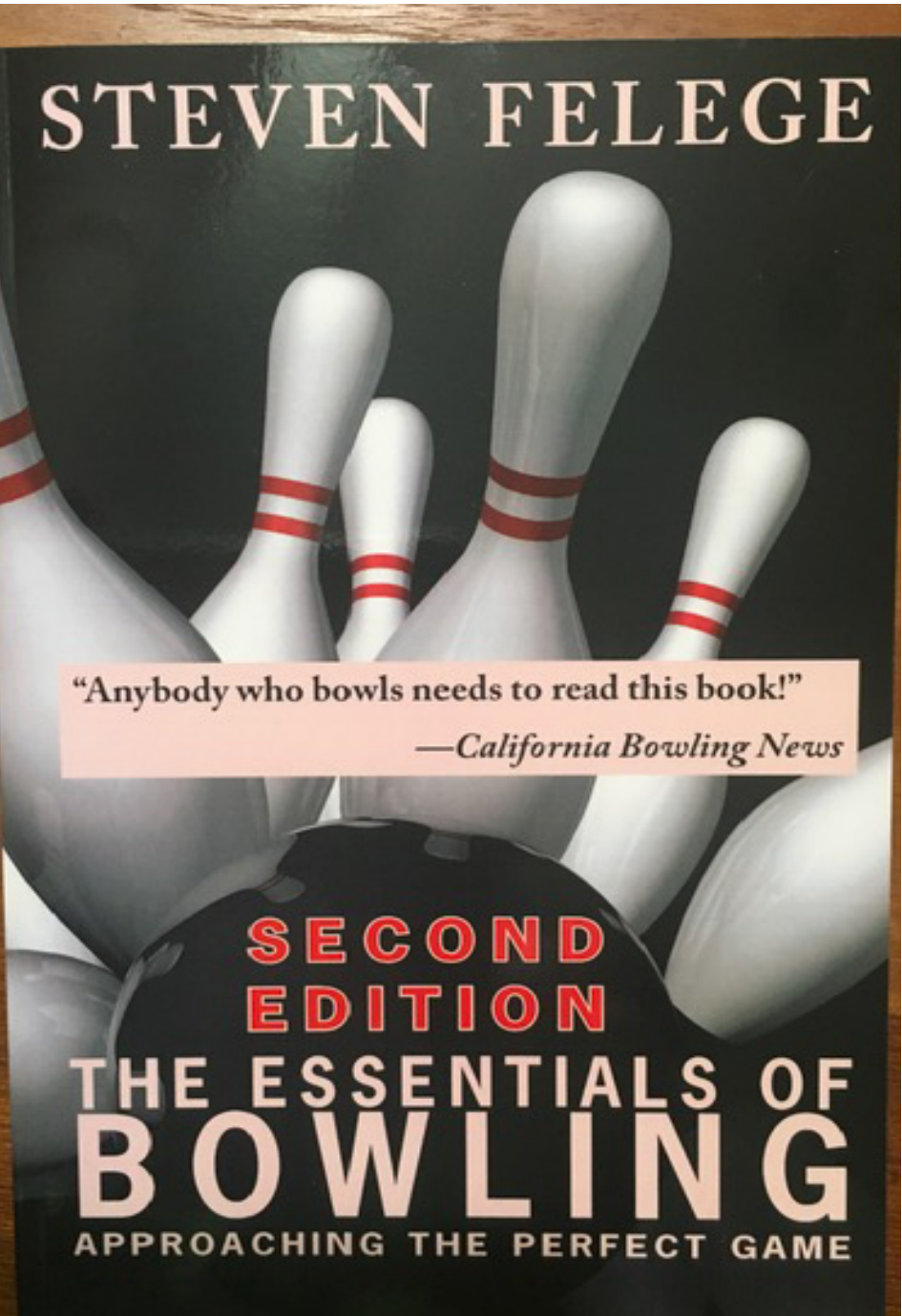
DOWNLOAD ENTRY FORM AT CALUSBC.COM



MONDAY, AUGUST 1 2022 - THURSDAY, AUGUST 4 2022
PBA50 Spectrum Lanes Open Wyoming, Michigan
SATURDAY, AUGUST 6 2022 - TUESDAY, AUGUST 9 2022
PBA50 David Small's Championship Lanes Open Anderson, Indiana
FRIDAY, AUGUST 12 2022 - MONDAY, AUGUST 15 2022
PBA50 David Small's Jax60 Open Jackson, Michigan
TUESDAY, AUGUST 16 2022 - THURSDAY, AUGUST 18 2022
PBA60 Dick Weber Classic Jackson, Michigan
FRIDAY, AUGUST 19 2022 - MONDAY, AUGUST 22 2022
PBA60 Tristan's T.A.P.S. Memorial Columbus, Ohio



PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S BOWLING ASSOCIATION
2022 PWBA TOUR SCHEDULE
With dates, event, center, location and broadcast channel (subject to change):
Aug. 2-4 PWBA DFW Classic, USA Bowl, Dallas, BowITV
Aug. 5-6 PWBA Pepsi Classic, USA Bowl, Dallas, BowITV
Aug. 7-9 PWBA Tour Championship, USA Bowl, Dallas, CBS Sports Network



Carol has a few copies she's giving away to the next 5 people that email her and ask. FREE. CarolMancini83@icloud.com Just Email Name and Address.

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Ball Speed continued from page 1

but during every break in the action. They even wager on the time of day an event commences or ends or who wins the flip of a coin.

I guess that’s why Bowling is joining the “**NUMBERS RACKET**” and reporting on everything from launch point to breakpoint, from launch angle to entry angle, from oil volume to length and everything in between. I have to admit, I am hooked on ball speed and ball revolutions. Not only do I want to know how fast and with how many revolutions professional bowlers are rolling their “**stones**”, I NEED TO KNOW.

While watching the PBA on television I have seen professional bowlers record first ball speeds from 13 MPH (miles per hour) to just over 20 MPH. During league play at home I know a young man who regularly rolls his strike ball at 20 MPH. I have heard that Finland’s PBA star OSKU **PALERMAA** rolled a bowling ball 30 MPH. However, it is rumored that Osku used a twelve pound bowling ball to hit that ball speed. **Is it a crime to ASSAULT bowling pins at 20 MPH?**

I wonder what is the “**WORLD SPEED RECORD**” for each weight of bowling ball. I wonder if anyone has ever rolled a bowling ball 40 MPH or 50 MPH?

I am a huge PWBA fan. I mean, really, huge PWBA fan. I enjoy watching the professional ladies bowl more than watching the PBA stars bowl. It’s because the ladies are better bowlers than the men. They are better bowlers because they are more accurate and more consistent than the men. They have to be because they are not as big and strong as the men. They are also more competitive than the men. I appreciate talent and competitiveness.

Now you know why I subscribe to **BOWL-TV**. **BOWL-TV** broadcasts all PWBA events. **BOWL-TV** features the best bowlers in the world, the women of the PWBA.

While watching the PWBA earlier this season I started recording each bowlers first ball speed to determine who is the PWBA’s “**SPEED QUEEN**”. Who is the PWBA’s “**TOP GUN**”? Who rolls the fastest strike ball on the PWBA Tour?

While I have recorded the ball speeds for the top fifty PWBA bowlers and hope to publish a full listing in the future, I am listing the “**TOP TEN**” Speed Queens here:

Bowler	Recorded Ball Speed (Strike Ball)
1. Daria Pajak	17.40 MPH
2. Shannon Pluhowsky	17.23
3. Dasha Kovalova	17.18
4. Breanna Clemmer	16.95
5. Shannon Sellens	16.89
6. Josie Barnes	16..75
7. Maria Bulanova	16.47
8. Angie Ramirez-Perea	16.44
9. Taylor Bulthuis	16.28
10. Shalin Zukifli	16.24

I realize that my sample size was limited to one tournament and just the two oil patterns (36 foot and 40 foot) applied during two Qualifying Squads. Also, the speed used is the fastest observed and not the average speed of all strike balls rolled. Therefore I realize that my study may not be considered scientific, but at

least it gives us a snapshot of the current ball speeds (strike balls) of our PWBA bowlers.

Other notable ball speeds included: 16.23 by **Shannon O’Keefe**, 15.99 by Liz Johnson, 15.98 by Jordan Richard and 15.88 by Verity Crawley. The lowest observed ball speed was 11.11 MPH with most bowlers rolling in the 14 to 15 MPH range

Mixed Doubles continued from page 6

the math in his head.

Amid a chaotic finish, Tackett and Asbaty prevailed with a final score of 9,287 (+1,287). Four teams finished within 50 pins of first place.

Entering the position round, each of those teams had an opportunity to win the title. And entering the final frame, three teams still had a chance — none of whom were the preceding leaders.

The win notched back-to-back SABC Mixed Doubles titles for Tackett, who won in 2021 with Danielle McEwan, and three wins in the last four events.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the concurrent Devil’s Lair Tasmania tournament in Australia have resulted in a revolving door of teammates for Tackett in recent years. He bowled with Liz Johnson for the 2018 title.

“Who knows what’s in store for next year,” he said laughing.

Tackett also won the PBA Roth/Holman Doubles title with Marshall Kent earlier this season, marking three consecutive PBA doubles titles for the 29-year-old.

While Tackett has grown accustomed to winning this event, Asbaty broke a pair of title droughts. The win ended a 20-year hiatus since her last SABC Mixed Doubles title. She also closed the door on a 10-year dry spell between PWBA titles, last winning the 2012 USBC Queens.

“I can die knowing that (my kids) were there for at least one title,” she said.

Asbaty said she has come close to winning this tournament several times over the years, finishing as the runner-up three times with Jason Belmonte. She nearly experienced the same heartbreak this year.

Ryan Ciminelli and Dasha Kovalova had the chance to leap from third to first in the position round. Their match against Jakob Butturff and Stefanie Johnson, who ultimately finished in second place, came down to the wire.

Butturff missed a 7-pin in his 10th frame, which gave Ciminelli an opportunity to steal the match with a double. Two strikes would have also forced Tackett, who was bowling against Chris Via and Bryanna Coté, to throw at least two of his own.

Instead, Ciminelli went light and left a 3-5-6. Though he converted the spare, the squandered pin count cost their team the match by a single pin.

Based on his internal calculations, Tackett knew he just needed a clean 10th frame to stave off Butturff and Johnson.

Via and Coté entered the position round with the lead, just as they ended the first half of qualifying and semifinals. The two briefly yielded the lead early in match play, but they vaulted back in front after shooting 504 in Game 5.

Game 6 on lanes 7-8 proved frustrating for Via, who couldn’t find any consistent ball motion and shot 151. He returned to form after moving to lanes 5-6 — just in time for Coté to lose her look.

For the position round, the two remained on lanes 5-6. Coté would have been happier if they had been lower in the standings because they would have returned to lanes 7-8, where she just shot 245. Via had zero interest in returning to that pair.

“We almost needed to fall to fifth,” he joked.

“I feel like if it was an execution issue, I’d be mad,” said Coté, who tried six different balls during the last two games. “But I feel like I executed to the best of my ability with what I was trying to accomplish. The lanes just weren’t allowing it for me at the time.”

After finishing sixth in 2021, Via and Coté will look to emerge with the win in 2023.

To do so, they’ll have to get past Tackett, the PBA’s doubles king.

2022 SABC MIXED DOUBLES TOURNAMENT FINAL STANDINGS

- EJ Tackett and Diandra Asbaty, 9,287, \$20,000
- Jakob Butturff and Stefanie Johnson, 9,271, \$10,000
- Chris Via and Bryanna Coté, 9,260, \$6,250
- Ryan Ciminelli and Dasha Kovalova, 9,252, \$5,250
- Wes Malott and Shannon Sellens, 9,238, \$4,250
- Bill O’Neill and Shannon O’Keefe, 9,027, \$3,750
- AJ Johnson and Erin McCarthy, 9,003, \$3,500
- Andrew Anderson and Jordan Richard, 8,949, \$3,250

Complete standings are available here. The SABC Tournament Facebook page has provided additional photos and coverage as well.



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PICKWICK BOWL - 24 921 W. Riverside Drive, Burbank, CA 91506 (818) 845-5300 Ext. 350 or Ext. 351 Pickwick Gardens Bowl and Ice Center “Where The Fun Never Stops”	San Diego	Ventura County
SANTA CLARITA LANES - 32 21615 W. Soledad Canyon Rd.,Saugus, CA 91350 (661) 254-0540 • Fax (661) 254-7562 www.santaclaritalan.es.com Email: scl4usc@aol.com	MIRA MESA LANES - 44 8210 Mira Mesa Blvd., San Diego, CA 92126 (858) 578-0500 miramesalan.es.com	BUENA LANES - 42 1788 S. Mesa Verde, Ventura, CA 93003 (805) 677-7770 buenalan.es.com Email: buenalan.es1@earthlink.net
	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	CITRUS BELT Association Manager - Larissa Sedler 667 West 2nd Street, San Bernardino, CA 92410 citrusbelt@verizon.net (909) 381-4599
Riverside & San Bernardino	CALIFORNIA USBC ASSOCIATION Association Manager - Lynn Matsubara 3673 Industry Ave. #102, Lakewood, CA 90712 lynn.matsubara@calusbc.com • www.calusbc.com www.californiayouthbowling.com (415) 492-8880	GREATER LA COUNTY USBC Association Manager - Lynn Matsubara 3673 Industry Ave. #102, Lakewood, CA 90712 E-Mail: info@glacusbc.com www.glacusbc.com (562) 426-2030 Fax: (562) 426-2032
BOWLIIUM LANES - 32 4666 E. Holt Blvd., Montclair, CA 91763 (909) 626-3528 • Fax: (909) 626-2144 www.bowlium.com Facebook.com/Bowlium	NORTH COUNTY USBC Association Manager - Tena Dunn C/O 1443 Cottonwood Court, San Marcos, CA 92069-3264 ncusbcamanager@gmail.com www.ncusbca.com (760) 294-4070	ORANGE COUNTY Association Manager - Andrea Fredericks PO Box 4396, Garden Grove, CA 92842-4396 E-Mail: assnmgr@ocusbc.org (714) 554-0111
CANYON LANES - 24 49750 Seminole Dr., Cabazon, CA 92230 (951) 572-6120 Fax: (951) 922-2385 Located next to Morongo Casino	VENTURA COUNTY USBC Association Manager - Debbie Brickell vcusbc@gmail.com (805) 339-9334	SAN GABRIEL VALLEY Association Manager - Linda Johnson-Pilios 4020 Shadydale Ave., Covina, CA 91722 E-Mail: thumpr2@verizon.net (626) 337-6270 Fax: (626) 960-9260
		SAN DIEGO U.S.B.C. Association Manager - Donald Way 7840 El Cajon Blvd. Ste 203, La Mesa, CA 91941 E-Mail: sandiegousbc@gmail.com www.sandiegobowling.com (619) 697-3334