SWEDEN'S OWN JESPER SVENSSON WINS 2024 STORM LUCKY LARSEN MASTERS

Svensson wins 2024 PBA Tour finale, claims 12th career title in home country

One year after losing a heartbreaking title match in his home country, Swedish star Jesper Svensson earned his redemption.

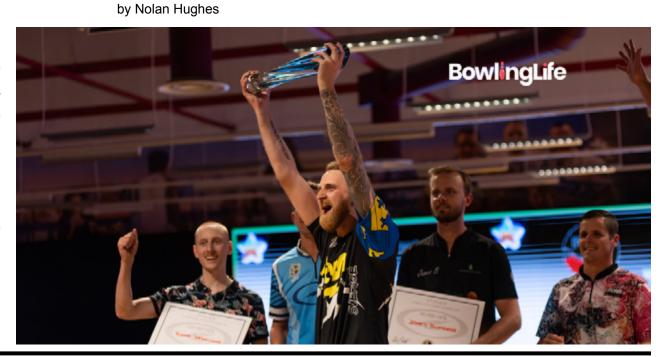
Svensson defeated Teodor Samuelsson, 257-238, in the title match to win the Storm Lucky Larsen Masters at Olympia Bowling in Helsingborg, Sweden.

Svensson eliminated Martin Larsen, the tournament's namesake, in the all-Swedish semifinal, while Samuelsson defeated top-seeded James Blomgren.

With the win, the Swedish native received 16.000 SEK (about \$15,660 USD) and claimed his 12th career PBA Tour title — but number one in his heart.

"Even though I've played a lot of big tournaments in the (United States), this is the one I really wanted to win," Svensson said. "I don't know how to put it into words right now. I'm unbelievably proud of myself. It's truly special.

"To all my American friends: You are tough to continued on page 4



WHEN ONE DOOR CLOSED, NATHAN BOHR OPENED ANOTHER

The game tried to tell Nathan Bohr that he didn't belong on the PBA Tour any longer. He didn't listen.



Father Time comes for us all. In sports, that moment arrives when the game evolves beyond one's ability to compete at the highest level.

This year, Father Time tried to come for 44-year-old Nathan Bohr, the odd man out after the 2024 PBA Tour season.

The season's top 43 players in points secured exempt status for next season, earning priority entry for all 2025 PBA Tour events with no entry fee and eligibility for the PBA Elite League draft.

Bohr finished 44th with 5,490 points — just 30 shy of AJ Chapman.

"It was the most I'd hurt in a while from this sport," Bohr said. "I thought it was a mistake. I thought I had stayed ahead of the guys I needed to. If I had knocked down three more pins in the last event, I'd have got those 30 points and I would have been exempt. Three pins. That's not very many pins after the whole season."

However, Bohr didn't have any time to dwell on his misfortune. He had about a week before transitioning to the Motiv ball rep on the PWBA Tour.

continued on page 5





The Coffee Table Book

by Dave Williams

The year was 1994. Business was good at Nationwide Bowling Centers, a chain of bowling centers based out of Jersey City, N.J., directly across the Hudson River from Manhattan in New York City.

In fact, business was so good that I was afforded the luxury of having four college interns to assist not only with our graphic design and printing, but also with our website, mailing lists and outside sales.

Whenever we had a chance to chit-chat about trivial items of the day, I can recall the interns being amazed that I had never seen an episode of Seinfeld or Friends, two of the more popular sitcoms in the 90's.

You see, while the interns went home after their afternoon gig at Nationwide Bowling, my day was only half done, as almost every evening was spent at one of the Nationwide properties, usually entertaining a new group for a company party and possible conversion to a bowling league.

One of the most famous episodes of Seinfeld that I missed during those years was "The Opposite," that debuted in 1994. In the episode, Kramer decides to have a coffee table book published, about nothing but coffee tables!

Elaine's company, Pendant Publishing, agrees to publish Kramer's book, and as part of his book tour, Kramer appears on Live with Regis and Kathie Lee. After kissing Kathie Lee on the lips, he takes a gulp of his coffee and spits it all over Kathie Lee, apparently because it's too hot.

Kramer's faux pas with Kathie Lee causes his book tour to be cancelled by Pendant Publishing. This is also the episode where George gets an interview at the New York Yankees headquarters and criticizes George Steinbrenner about his style of management, thus landing him the job of Assistant to the Traveling Secretary.

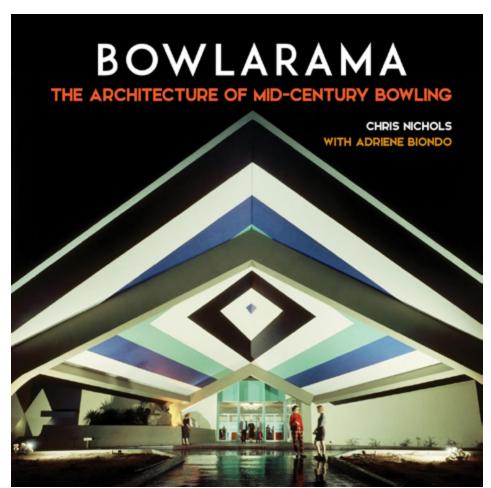
As you can see, I've made up for all the times that I missed those sitcoms in the 90's by virtually memorizing every episode through the reruns that now appear daily on Comedy Central, TV Land and Nick at Nite.

But, what does any of this have to do with bowling, you might ask?

Well it seems that a couple of enterprising individuals, author Chris Nichols, with Adriene Biondo, have come up with the ultimate coffee table book, about nothing but bowling centers. It's called "Bowlarama - The Architecture of Mid-Century Bowling."

Thanks to Elliot Kane, Marketing Associate for Angel City Press at the Los Angeles Public Library, I've been asked to write a review of the book that includes more than 200 pages (and at least that many photos) of bowling centers from the boom years of construction. There are so many memories in those pages!

Following a cornucopia of illustrations and photos in the first 30 pages of the book, the remainder of the pages are divided into eight subsections including: the introduction, a history of bowling, technology, architecture, interiors, entertainment, community, and the final chapter, fall and rise.



Bowlarama Book Cover



Covina Bowl in Los Angeles

There's a fascinating "Guide to Remaining Mid-Century Bowling Centers" on page 199 that actually lists many of the googie style locations that are still in operation. No doubt I will be returning to this page for additional articles, as Mr. Kane has provided me with many approved for publication photos... four of which are included as part of this column.

The book will be available on September 10th, at a cost of \$40. At a time in my life when I'm trying to find ways to unload all of the materials I've collected in 70-plus years of hoarding (in a good way), there's no question that I will be purchasing this book to relive all of those memories that were forged during a lifetime of dedication to bowling.

All images are provided by Bowlarama - The Architecture of Mid-Century Bowling, by Chris Nichols with Adriene Biondo. Published by Angel City Press at the Los Angeles Public Library.

Bowlarama Book Cover: Bowlero, a bowling center in San Diego that first opened in the 1950's, was demolished this year to make room for a Home Depot. In recent years it was home to the Scottish Rite Event Center.

300 Bowl Postcard: 300 Bowl in Phoenix (now operating as Bowlero Christown) is an example of bowling architects at the peak of their creativity. Photo credit: Chris Nichols Collection.

Starlight Bowl: Structural A-Frames punctuate a modern floating roof in this 1961 Armet & Davis architectural rendering for Starlight Bowl in Reno, Nevada. Photo credit: Armet Davis Newlove. (I can remember bowling here in Western Region PBA events. The center had expanded from the original 16 lanes to 32 lanes. The location closed in 2015).

Covina Bowl: The gloriously googie Covina Bowl (by Powers, Daly & DeRosa), shortly after it was completed in 1956, was an instant landmark in the new suburbs. Photo credit: Charles Phoenix. (Yes, that Charles Phoenix from Storage Wars! Covina Bowl closed in 2017).



300 Bowl in Phoenix (now operating as Bowlero Christown)



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Lucky Larson continued from page 1



Svensson is regarded as the greatest bowler in Swedish history. beat over there in the states — but this is my house."

Svensson started with the front-seven strikes in the title match. Samuelsson, a fellow two-handed lefty, kept up with Svensson with a max score of 280.

After Svensson left a light 10-pin in the eighth, Samuelsson could have struck out for the win. He left a 7-pin in the eighth frame to hand the advantage back to Svensson.

Svensson struck in the ninth frame, setting himself up to strike for the win in the 10th. However, he left another light 10-pin.

An errant fill shot, which netted just eight pins, afforded Samuelsson an opportunity to strike twice and get nine pins for his first career PBA Tour title.

Once again, the 10-pin had other ideas. Samuelsson left the pesky corner pin on his first shot in the 10th frame.

After a season in which the corner pins cost Svensson match after match in PBA Tour championship round matches, fortune favored the 29-year-old on Sunday evening in his home country.

"Lady luck was on my side tonight. I'm very thankful," he said.

In the final title event of the 2024 PBA Tour season, Svensson earned his first win since February 2022.

All qualifying and match play rounds were livestreamed on the Storm Lucky Larsen Masters YouTube channel, while the finals were livestreamed on Lanetalk.TV.

More information on the Storm Lucky Larsen Masters is available here.

MATCH PLAY RESULTS

Round of 16

No. 1 James Blomgren def. No. 16 Tim Stampe, 650-642

No. 2 Mario Del Gaudio def. No. 15 Alvin Kvarnström, 702-687

No. 3 Dom Barrett def. No. 14 Mike Bergmann, 708-672

No. 4 Teodor Samuelsson def. Erik Larsson, 656-638

No. 12 Robin Ilhammar def. No. 5 Markus Jansson, 655-605

No. 11 Martin Larsen def. No. 6 Nathan Bohr, 686-670

No. 10 Jesper Svensson def. No. 7 Arnar Jonsson, 699-623

No. 9 Paul Purps def. No 8 Ludwig Ingerskog, 761-572

Round of 8

No. 1 James Blomgren def. No. 9 Paul Purps, 664-651

No. 4 Teodor Samuelsson def. No. 12 Robin Ilhammar, 782-780

No. 10 Jesper Svensson def. No. 2 Mario Del Gaudio, 687-658

No. 11 Martin Larsen def. No. 3 Dom Barrett, 747-726

Semifinals

No. 4 Teodor Samuelsson def. No. 1 James Blomgren, 254-238

No. 10 Jesper Svensson def. No. 11 Martin Larsen, 257-255

Finals

No. 10 Jesper Svensson def. No. 4 Teodor Samuelsson, 257-238

BOHR continued from page 1

That role allowed Bohr to be connected to what he loves — bowling at the highest level and spending time with his wife, Maria José Rodriguez — but it also served as a harsh reminder of what he may have lost.

While he helped the PWBA players living their dream, Bohr knew there was a very real chance he won't get to do the same next season.

Hope was not lost yet for the Texan. He could re-earn full-time status at PBA Tour Trials, where the top 12 of 90 players would join the 43-player exempt field.

But it's a young man's game and Bohr would be among the oldest competitors in the field. He would have to outduel the nation and world's hungriest players across four different patterns for 48 games.

Early on, everything was going according to plan. After two rounds, Bohr sat in 20th place and 29 pins behind 12th place; midway through the event, he moved up to 14th place and 23 pins outside the cut.

The veteran knew the moment would never be too big for him, the pressure would not faze him. If he could just hang around, his poise and know-how would be enough down the stretch.

And then came Rounds 5-6. Bohr showed up to a gunfight with a pocket knife.

As right-handers chased the 44-foot pattern to the deep inside part of the lane and lofted the ball over the fronts, Bohr's old-school, finesse game stood little chance.

He slipped to 24th place and fell 121 pins behind 12th place. More than that, he felt defeated.

"The way that finished, I thought it ended last night," he said Friday morning. "When I woke up, I didn't feel it. Maria asked me how I felt this morning and I lied; I told her that I felt good. But it was at that moment though that something sort of clicked. I started telling myself whether it works out or not, you have to have some sort of belief.

"I decided that one hour last night wasn't going to ruin all the work I'd put in up until that point. I've bowled way too good for way too long to have it ruined by just one hour."

The final day featured a 47-foot oil pattern at an older center, which meant every right-hander would once again be left and lofting by the end of each round, if not sooner.

Well, not quite all of them.

Bohr knew he stood no chance if he tried to keep up with the kids and chase the hold. Instead, he used his soft hand and played the right gutter — a strategy no player in contention to make the cut dared to even attempt.

"It was a pragmatic decision more than anything," Bohr said. "I tried to get in there with those guys yesterday, and it didn't work. I threw two or three balls (to the right) in practice. I got one that looked like it kind of did the right thing through the front. I thought, 'Well, let's give it a shot, and then we'll go from there.' While I was figuring out what the pace was going to be, I could do something that I'm comfortable with."

With games of 206, 227, 224, 245, 257 and 202, Bohr skyrocketed up to the pivotal 12th place. Had the tournament ended there, he would've regained his exempt status by the exact three-pin margin he lost it by.

But Bohr knew better than anybody how tenuous that advantage was — and how badly the players beneath him wanted to destroy it.

Executing the same gameplan, Bohr began the final round with games of 245, 216, 211 and 216. He climbed up to seventh place and created a 69-pin cushion.

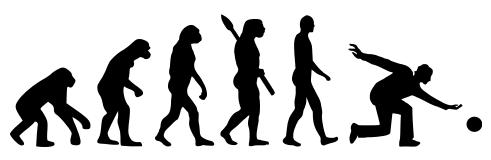
"You don't win 27 regional titles without being able to do something nobody else can do," said Brett Spangler, Motiv's PBA Tour ball rep.

The scoring pace plummeted around the cutline, allowing Bohr to coast through to a ninth-place finish and stamp his return to the PBA Tour.

He hugged his father, who watched all week and helped Bohr keep his mind at ease. For a moment, Bohr felt like every up-and-comer making it on tour for the first time. He said he bowled Tour Trials three or four times in the late 2000s, but was never really close to making it.

"I wouldn't have made this cut 10 years ago," Bohr said. "The things I've learned since joining Motiv, since meeting Maria and getting married, working with Brett... all those things contributed to me being able to make this cut now."

With his back against the wall, Bohr stayed true to himself — and that just might've saved his career.



Sunday, September 29

9:00am (Check-in at 8am)

*THREE DIVISIONS:

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APPRENTICE (Hdcp; 204 Average & Under)



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Ray Gaunt – Bowling's "PERFECTIONIST"

by Frank Weiler

LAUGHLIN, NV. – NoTap tournaments are fun. Spare shooting is out. Striking is in. NoTap tournaments mean there are plenty of strikes and huge scores. Everyone is jacked and HIGH on scoring. Scoring higher than PBA stars, including JASON BELMONTE.

The Laughlin Blast NoTap tournament features many huge scores because of it's NoTap format. The "Blast" is actually four tournaments in four days competed by over 200 bowlers. Many of these bowler's average 200 or better in sanctioned leagues. These scratch bowlers light up the "Blast" scoreboard and roll many high NoTap scores.

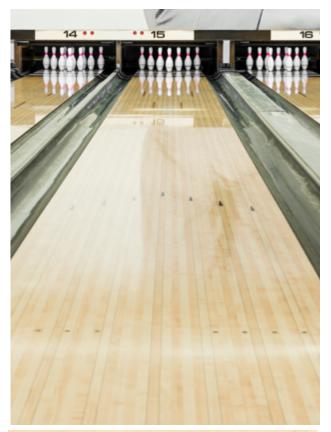
Ray Gaunt is a regular at the Laughlin Blast. He comes to the "BLAST" NoTap Tournaments with a 217 book average and a career total of 17 certified perfect 300 games. Ray is one of Southern California's premier "strokers" who is one of the most accurate bowlers I have ever witnessed bowling. He is one of the many scratch bowlers competing at the "Blast" and lighting up the scoreboard. Ray's accuracy and consistency make everyone of his strike shots nearly certain to strike or at least knock down 9 pins. Either way, 9 or 10 pins down on a strike shot count as a NoTap strike. That means Ray's accuracy and consistency produces at least nine strikes out of ten NoTap shots, that's a 90% strike rate!

A 90% strike rate translates into huge scores and numerous perfect NoTap 300 games. That's what Ray Gaunt does. That's what Ray has done the last two Laughlin Blast tournaments. At the winter tournament in January, Ray rolled three NoTap perfect 300 games. At the recent summer tournament in August, Ray rolled a record 6 perfect NoTap 300 games!

Ray Gaunt's record number of perfect games in the last two Laughlin Blast tournaments make him "BOWLING'S PERFECTIONIST"!









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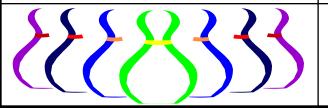
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