

CALIFORNIA BOWLING NEWS

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2021-2022 STORM 625 Scratch Trio League TOP 10 Bowlers & Honor Scores

by Frank Weiler

LAKE ELSINORE – “LET THE GAMES BEGIN”. Let’s Bowl. That is the call throughout the United States of America at hundreds of Bowling Centers at this time of year. It is no different at Pins N Pockets Entertainment Center in Lake Elsinore. The Top Bowling League in Riverside County is ready to roll.

The **Storm 625 Scratch Trio League** is poised to start the 2022 Bowling season with some of the top bowlers from SoCAL competing for thousands of dollars in prize money up for grabs. Last season the Prize Fund exceeded **\$33,000**.

With Opening Night in sight I thought I would report who the **TOP 10** league bowlers were for last season and who rolled Honor Scores.

The league competed on a “Challenging Shot” which limited the number of Honor Scores. Even so there were three 800 series and eight perfect 300 games:

The three 800 series were rolled by KEVIN GAGNON (825), JACOB



Kevin Gagnon-Top Bowler at Storm 625 Scratch Trio League.

GROTH (819) and JASON HOCKMAN (806). The eight perfect games were rolled by JAMES DOOLEN, KEVIN GAGNON, JACOB GROTH, JASON HOCKMAN, JEFF LEWEN, RICARDO MENDOZA, TED PRATT and CHRIS WALIGORA.

My thanks to league Secretaries **SCOTT** and **SHARI FILIPI** for providing the data I needed to report on the best league I have ever bowled in. I competed in the league for ten seasons with great teammates like **KEN CLAY, DAVE COOK, JERRY DeYAGER** and **ALAN MOJADO** to name just a few. “THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES”.

We Will Never Forget

by Dave Williams

Fall is an interesting time of year. Many say that it’s the best time of year. The changing colors of the leaves, the cooler and less humid weather, apple picking (nothing beats a semi-sweet Gravenstein apple), the start of another season of league bowling, and the return of the Pumpkin Spice Latte at Starbucks!

But for many of us, the approaching fall season is also the memory of September 11th, 2001, when an unprecedented attack by a group of terrorists upon unsuspecting citizens in our country took place in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C.

Unlike the attack of Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, which was directed at a military base, the enduring legacy of the 9/11 attacks will always be the reality that it was directed at our institutions, our citizens, and our very way of life. If you are old enough to remember the day, no doubt you can recall where you were and what you were doing when you heard the news.

For me the entire event was life changing, as I was headed for work at Nationwide Bowling Centers corporate offices and driving directly toward New York City across the Casciano Memorial Bridge, with my car eerily pointed at the Twin Towers in lower Manhattan.

Suddenly everything stopped. I tuned the radio to a news channel to see if there was an accident on the interstate.



Tribute to 9/11 at Starbucks

That was when I noticed smoke from one of the Twin Towers. It was 8:55AM. Then the report came over the radio that a plane had hit the north tower of the World Trade Center.

As we crept closer and closer towards New York City and to the very top of the steel arched Casciano Bridge, a flash of light caught my eye as word came across the radio waves that the second tower had been hit by a second plane. It was 9:03AM, and at that moment I realized the world had forever changed.

Two jet airliners striking the two different towers could not be an accident. The radio hosts began speculating that this had to be an act of terrorism. As I reached the Bayonne/Jersey City exit, I witnessed the first

of the towers to collapse, at 9:59AM.

When I arrived at the home office of Nationwide Bowling Centers, the place was like a morgue. No one knew what to do. We continued listening to the radio as the announcement came that the second tower had collapsed, at 10:28AM.

Then came the news that all of the airports and bridges were closed for fear of more terrorist attacks. Because most of our office staff were from either Bayonne or Jersey City, they weren’t that concerned about the bridge closings.

By early afternoon I instructed my two office interns to go home, as the office would soon be closing. The phone receptionist let me know that one of the surface

roads between Jersey City and Newark might still be open, because it was not considered an actual bridge.

The route was open, and I was able to connect with Interstate 95 South and headed for my home in Edison, New Jersey. The scene along the Interstate was that of a war zone, with literally no civilian traffic heading away from the city in the southbound lanes.

On the other side of the highway I watched as groups of vehicles bearing the same markings made their way towards New York City. First came military vehicles, then ambulances, then armored trucks, all in squadrons of 10 to 12 units.

I thought back upon my career with AMF

continued on page 5

The **TOP 10 BOWLERS** for 2021-2022 were:

Bowler	Average
Kevin Gagnon	234
James Doolen	226
Lloyd Irwin Jr.	223
Jason Hockman	222.3
Mark Dyer	222.1
Darron Peters	216.93
Jeff Lewen	216.92
Ricardo Mendoza	215.48
Paul Nilsen	215.46
Warren Nelson	215.1

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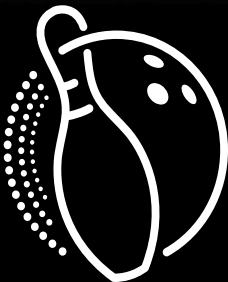
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PBA ANNOUNCES ALL STAR
CELEBRITY EVENT AND CONCERT:
THE JIMMIE ALLEN PBA CHALLENGE PRESENTED BY BOWLERO
AIRS SUNDAY, OCT. 16 ON FOX

The PBA announces an all-new celebrity event with Jimmie Allen, Darius Rucker, and Terrell Owens, including performances by Allen and fellow country music stars Chris Young and Chuck Wicks, plus more to compete alongside professional bowlers.

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - The Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) announces a celebrity event to be hosted by GRAMMY nominated, award-winning, multi-platinum recording artist and avid bowler Jimmie Allen. The Jimmie Allen PBA Challenge presented by Bowlero will air Oct. 16 on FOX, varying per market, before or after local NFL games.

The event will take place on Oct. 5 at Bowlero Matthews in Matthews, N.C. with a live musical performance beginning at 6 p.m. ET and bowling beginning at 8 p.m. ET. This event will feature performances from some of country music's best talent including Wicks, Young, Neon Union and of course, Allen. In addition to their performances Wicks, Neon Union and Allen will be joined by Owens and Rucker on the lanes.

The country music stars will also be competing alongside PBA Tour stars Pete Weber, Kyle Troup, Sean Rash, Ronnie Russell, and AJ Johnson. Each artist will be paired with a PBA player for a doubles competition, with the artists bowling the odd-numbered frames and the PBA players bowling the evens. In addition to the main tournament, the event will feature a Celebrity Super Clash, in which each celebrity rolls one shot and the low score is eliminated in each round until only one celebrity remains as the victor.

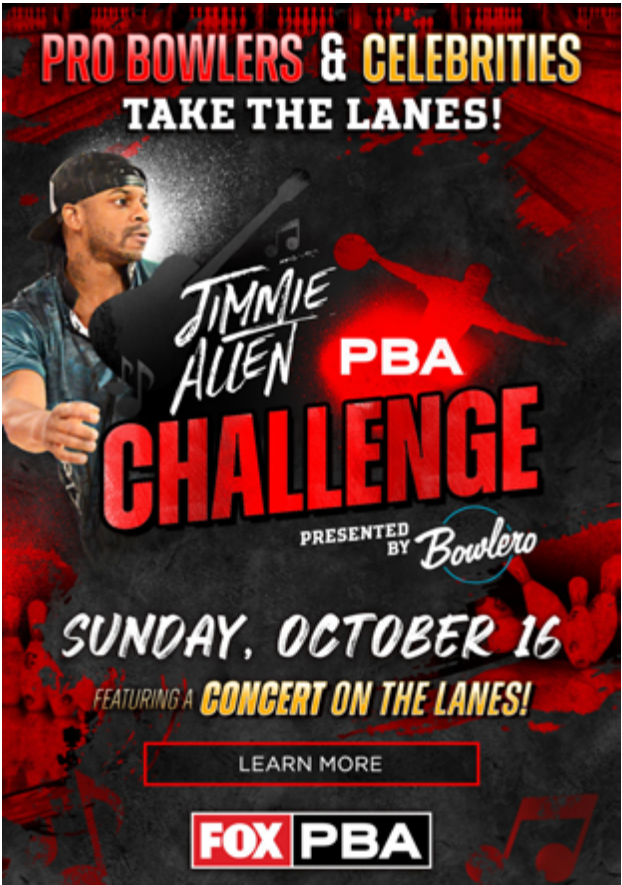
"Since the moment my friend Cortland Finnegan introduced me to bowling, I've been hooked," said Jimmie Allen. "I've been a fan of the PBA for years as a viewer. But I'm excited for the next part of my journey with the PBA, and that is to make bowling a worldwide sport with the same respect that's given to basketball, baseball, and football."

Allen discovered his love for bowling during the pandemic, calling it his "pandemic passion", after being introduced to the sport. He quickly made it a goal to become an expert, bowling several hours a day in different cities while on tour in addition to at home in Nashville. He currently belongs to five bowling leagues and plans to try out for the Professional Bowlers Association in 2023.

Viewers can live stream the PBA on the FOX Sports and FOX Now apps or at FOXSports.com. Select highlights will be available on @FOXSports social handles across Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. To purchase tickets and learn more, please visit the link here.

About Jimmie Allen

Signed to BBR Music Group's Stoney Creek Records, multi-platinum recording artist and songwriter Jimmie Allen has been blazing trails since the beginning of his breakout career. Allen was nominated for Best New Artist at the 64th Annual GRAMMY Awards, his first ever GRAMMY nomination. He was also nominated for Male Artist of the Year nominee at the 57th ACM Awards (which he co-hosted alongside Dolly Parton & Gabby Barrett) and Outstanding New Artist nominee at the 53rd NAACP Image Awards. Allen launched his career with two consecutive No. 1 hits off his 2018 debut album Mercury Lane (which The New York Times dubbed as one of 2018's strongest) – the first being his RIAA 2x Platinum debut single "Best Shot," which claimed the No. 1 spot on Country radio for three weeks, and second being Platinum-certified "Make Me Want To." In February 2022, Allen embarked on his Down Home Tour 2022, his first headline tour. Starting this Fall and through Spring 2023 he will join Carrie Underwood's The Denim & Rhinestones Tour as special guest on all 43 U.S. arena dates. His new single "Down Home" was released March 8 – listen HERE and watch the music video (co-directed by Allen) HERE. The song is the first single from Allen's third album Tulip Drive, which was released June 24, 2022 and is named for the street in Lewes, DE that his late grandmother lived on. For more information on Allen, visit www.jimmieallenmusic.com or follow him on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.



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ANTHONY NEUER ISN'T DONE MAKING PBA HISTORY

by Nolan Hughes

It was the shot heard 'round the world: The ball annihilated the 10-pin at the National Bowling Stadium, sending it flying across the deck and onto its final destination atop the 7-pin.

Anthony Neuer made bowling history at the 2021 U.S. Open, becoming the fourth player to convert bowling's most infamous spare on TV and the first in 30 years.

Sporting a red mullet and wielding as much raw power as any player on tour, Neuer became the apple of FOX announcer Rob Stone's eye. "The Ginger Assassin" was born.

The landmark moment transcended into mainstream sports media. Yet for the last 18 months, Neuer has been trying to conceal that spare from his record.

Making the 7-10 involves a tremendous amount of luck; finishing third in the U.S. Open at 18 years old does not.

"I want to be known as something else," he said. "It's really driving me to want to win because I want people to be like, 'Oh, you made the 7-10, but you also have a title.'"

He does not want to be remembered as "the guy who made the 7-10." He wants to be remembered as a champion and ultimately, a Hall of Famer.

While Neuer made his PBA TV debut in the 2021 U.S. Open, that was not his first time bowling under the bright lights. Back in 2014, he won the inaugural U12 Junior Gold Championships title, kicking off a remarkable Junior Gold career.

In 2017, he returned to TV and finished as the U15 division runner-up. Solomon Salama's 299 game and 553 two-game set proved insurmountable.

Six months later, Neuer secured his first career berth on Junior Team USA. He has earned a spot on the national team in each of past five years and hopes to make a sixth consecutive appearance at Team USA Trials in January.

Neuer turned 16 before Junior Gold in 2018, but the stiffer competition posed little threat. He won the U20 title and became the first boy to win titles in different age divisions.

The next year, he led U20 qualifying by 138 pins and finished tied for ninth.

Neuer began to crave a higher level of competition, feeling like a big fish in a small bowl. After Junior Gold was canceled in 2020 due to the pandemic and a brief stint in college that fall, Neuer opted to make the leap to the pro ranks.

"I decided that there was no point in me wasting years not doing what I want," he said. "The tour is what I've been looking forward to my whole life."



Like many pro athletes, Neuer grew up inundated by the sport. His family runs Imperial Lanes in central Pennsylvania.

"I started bowling as soon as I was old enough," he said. "Standing around watching everybody else do it when you're too young to bowl makes you want to do it." By virtue of being four years older, his sister Alexis received a head start in the family pastime. It wasn't long before the brother-sister rivalry was off to the races.

"You never want your sibling to be better than you," he said with a sincerity that every brother or sister knows well. Before long, Anthony moved his sights toward beating his father, Andy.

Andy competed on the PBA Tour during the 1980s and 90s. The journeyman bowled in 176 PBA tournaments before finding the winner's circle.

As the top seed, he won the 1994 PBA Bud Light Hall Of Fame Championship, taking down a prime Walter Ray Williams Jr. to his lone PBA title.

It doesn't take a genius to figure out where Anthony learned to bowl. His game is the modern equivalent of his dad's — less finesse, more power — and their fist pumps are frighteningly similar.

"He was my main coach for a long time, still kind of is," Anthony said. "He was really big on teaching me versatility with my release. I can trick my hand a little bit to make the ball do what it needs to do. That allows me to stay where I'm more comfortable."

Anthony said his dad helped prepare him for life on tour more than anything else. When he joined the tour at 18, he had known to shift his mindset. "The first two years are a learning experience," he said. "You don't go out there and just expect to win."

Anthony said he caught lightning in a bottle with his U.S. Open performance, capitalizing on matching up with the patterns. He said learning remains the primary focus on a week in, week out basis.

During his PBA education, he said Jakob Butturff and Ryan Ciminelli have taken him under their wing. Neuer said Butturff has become one of his best friends on tour, which made the 7-10 conversion more special because it was against him.

Neuer said he's learned how to read the lanes front-to-back, slow his ball speed down and loft over the fronts more often. The next step of his evolution is applying those skills to combat the early friction left-handers often face.

He saw that early friction at the Chesapeake super regional against fellow southpaw Eric Jones. Neuer's solution that day was switching from urethane to reactive. While the move did not pay off that day, he said it's all part of the learning process.

That match between 18- and 20-year-olds perhaps offered a glimpse at a future PBA telecast.

In his second season on tour, Neuer showed steady improvement and more consistency.

He didn't reach any championship rounds, though he came just 31 pins shy PBA David Small's Best of the Best Championship with a fifth place finish. He later added three more top-25 finishes.

Overall, Neuer finished 59th in points, not far behind PBA major titleists Graham Fach, Thomas Larsen and Parker Bohn III, who has been another mentor throughout Neuer's career. Now that he's gotten his feet wet on tour, he's ready to dive in.

"I'm hoping to use the knowledge I've learned going into my third year," he said. "Now that I've got a year or two under my belt, I'm thinking I've figured it out pretty good now. Expectations have gone back up."

Only four father-son duos have won PBA titles: Dick and Pete Weber; Don and Jimmy Johnson; Don and Eugene McCune; and Guppy and Kyle Troup.

"That's a pretty narrow list," Anthony said. "It'd be pretty cool to join that list."

"It would be great," Andy said. "This sport is something I've loved my whole life and I just feel very fortunate and thankful that both my kids love the sport as much."

Andy pointed out that Alexis finished sixth in a PWBA tournament last year, and wants to see both of his kids win professional titles.

In 2023, Anthony aims to return to TV. Down the road, he wants to reach the Hall of Fame.

"10 titles or five with two majors," he said. "That's the long term goal."



Anthony and Alexis Neuer celebrate making Junior Team USA in 2018.

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Never Forget continued from page 1

Bowling Centers, American Recreation Centers, and finally Nationwide Bowling Centers, and wondered if I might have been a witness for the Lord during the catastrophic events of the Mt. St. Helens eruption in the Pacific Northwest (AMF), the Loma Prieta earthquake in the San Francisco Bay Area (ARC), and then 9/11 in New York City (Nationwide Bowling). It's an interesting correlation of one tragic event with each company, and the coincidence of living in that particular part of the country at the same moment those events happened.

While researching for this article, I found a most powerful video presentation by The American Waterways Operators, narrated by Tom Hanks, and presented in high definition by Eyepop Productions and Encyclopedia Britannica - [youtube.com/watch?v=18lsxFcDrio](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18lsxFcDrio).


As reported in the video, it was the U.S. Coast Guard that put out a distress call asking for anyone that could help with the evacuation of the island of Manhattan. Suddenly there were hundreds of tug-boats, ferry boats, party boats... just about every kind of boat you could imagine, all within a matter of minutes, according to Hanks.


Hanks points out in the twelve minute video presentation that the evacuation of Manhattan during 9/11 by hundreds of boats was the largest sea evacuation in modern times, topping Dunkirk during WWII. Almost 500,000 people were rescued by boat in less than 9 hours, while the 338,000 from Dunkirk took many days. There were suddenly no political or racial differences during the evacuation of Manhattan. "The thing that was the best," said Vincent Ardolino, Captain of Amberjack V, "everyone helped everyone."

During my afternoon break, which usually includes a visit to my favorite Starbucks for a decaf triple espresso over ice (shaken and not stirred), I noticed a table with a white cloth, flowers and plaque, and thought that one of the staff might have died. Upon closer investigation, I was relieved and somewhat impressed with the tribute to those that lost their lives on 9/11. Here's the inscription from the plaque:

On this day, 21 years ago, 246 people went to sleep in preparation for their morning flights. 2,606 people went to sleep in preparation for work in the morning. 343 firefighters went to sleep in preparation for their morning shift. 60 police officers went to sleep in preparation for morning patrol. 8 paramedics went to sleep in preparation for the morning shift. None of them saw past 10:00AM Sept. 11, 2001. In one single moment life may never be the same. As you live and enjoy the breaths you take today and tonight before you go to sleep in preparation for your life tomorrow, kiss the ones you love, snuggle a little tighter, and never take one second of your life for granted. #wewillneverforget

(Portions of the above memories appeared in an article titled "Crisis Management," in the January 2020 edition of BCM Magazine, and are reprinted with permission).




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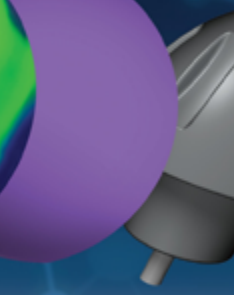


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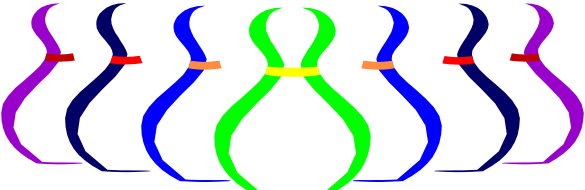
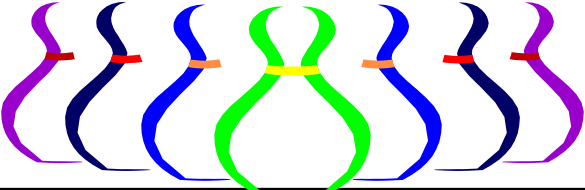
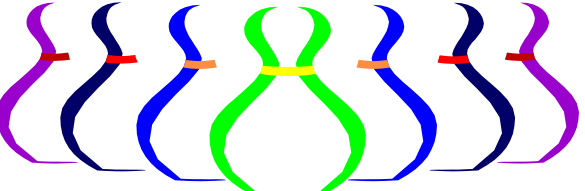
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36th Year!

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INVITATIONAL

Bowlers Settle Into The House Shot On Week Two

Vince Duarte Posts 809, Silva and Barnett are Perfect 300

by David Yamauchi

DOWNEY – The Brunswick Invitational took to the lanes for week two of the new season. Bowlers were settling in to the house shot and the strikes were piling up. Vince Duarte put up an impressive 809 set, while Scott Silva and Michael Barnett recorded the first perfect games of the new league season.

In the “A” match, Family Ties took on Junior Amateur Tour with both teams looking to stay perfect for the season. J.A.T. stole game 1 902-884 but it was all Family Ties from there as they put up games of 945 and 1038 to breeze to a 4-1 win. Anthony Santos led J.A.T. with a nice 717 but the story was Vince Duarte posting games of 268-255-286 for a very nice 809 series.

In the “B” match, the high of the 4-1 teams matched up with Cal Bowl facing US Foods. This match was all US Foods as they swept to jump into the “A” match next week. Gabriel Martinez and Paul Barraco topped seven with 725 and 717 sets respectively while Leonard Ruiz once again led Cal Bowl with a 685 set.

The other two 4-1 teams paired up with Team 11 and Westminster Lanes looking to stay high in the standings. Team 11 took the first game but Westminster Lanes stepped on the gas and finished huge for the 4-1 win. Vernon Adams paced Team 11 with a 782 set while Michael Barnett went 199-268-300 with the perfect game rising him up to a 767 series.

Team 9 and Forest Lanes were the sole 3-2 teams after week one. Forest Lanes bounced back from a slow start to sweep their match over Team 9. Anthony Rieger led Team 9 with a 670 series while Jon

Diso definitely doubled this week en route to a 772 series with big help from Brad Jones and his 728 series.

Bowlmum and Threadworks were looking to get above the .500 mark and add on to their 2-3 starts. The night was all Threadworks as they swept through Bowlmum with their 2636 set. Ramiro Garcia was high for Bowlmum with a 654 series while Paul Varela went big for Threadworks with a 717 set.

Team 13 and DV8 were the highest of the teams that started 1-4 last week. Team 13 took the first game but it was all DV8 from there as they breezed to a 4-1 result. Kyle Duster was back and paced DV8 with a nice 729 series while Edward Estrada was high for Team 13 with a 631 set.

J.K. Inc, Professional Approach, Team 6 and Jiffy Lube rounded out the matches on Monday. Team 6 bounced back from week one with a sweep over Jiffy Lube to take their record to 5-5. Austin Sugarman led Team 6 with a nice 663 set while Jiffy Lube was paced by William Morris’ 700 series. In the other match, J.K. Inc. started off the night with a win but it was Professional Approach finishing up the night with a 4-1 win. Scott Silva’s 771 and Brian Ritchie’s 762 sets paced Professional Approach while Ian Markstrum led J.K.Inc. with a 706 series.

The Financial Advisor’s pot went to Scott Silva with his perfect 300 for \$160 with 2nd to Brian Ritchie (289) for \$70. Sidepots went to Leonard Ruiz (279) and Scott Silva (300) for \$54 each with 2nd to Vernon Adams (269) and Brian Ritchie (289) for \$27. Superpot went to Michael Barnett (300) for \$162 with

TOP 10 ROUND ONE	
Family Ties	9
US Foods	9
Westminster Lanes	8
Forest Lanes	8
Threadworks	7
Junior Amateur Tour	6
DV8	5
Team 11	5
Professional Approach	5
Team 5	5

TOP 10 THIS WEEK	
Vince Duarte	809
Vernon Adams	782
Jon Diso	772
Scott Silva	771
Michael Barnett	767
Bryan Osborne	766
Brian Ritchie	762
David Cogswell	759
Jonathan Gale	736
Kyle Duster	729

SUPER SWEEPER POT
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Transamerica Financial Advisors Inc.
1st Scott Silva 300 \$160 • 2nd Brian Ritchie 289 \$70



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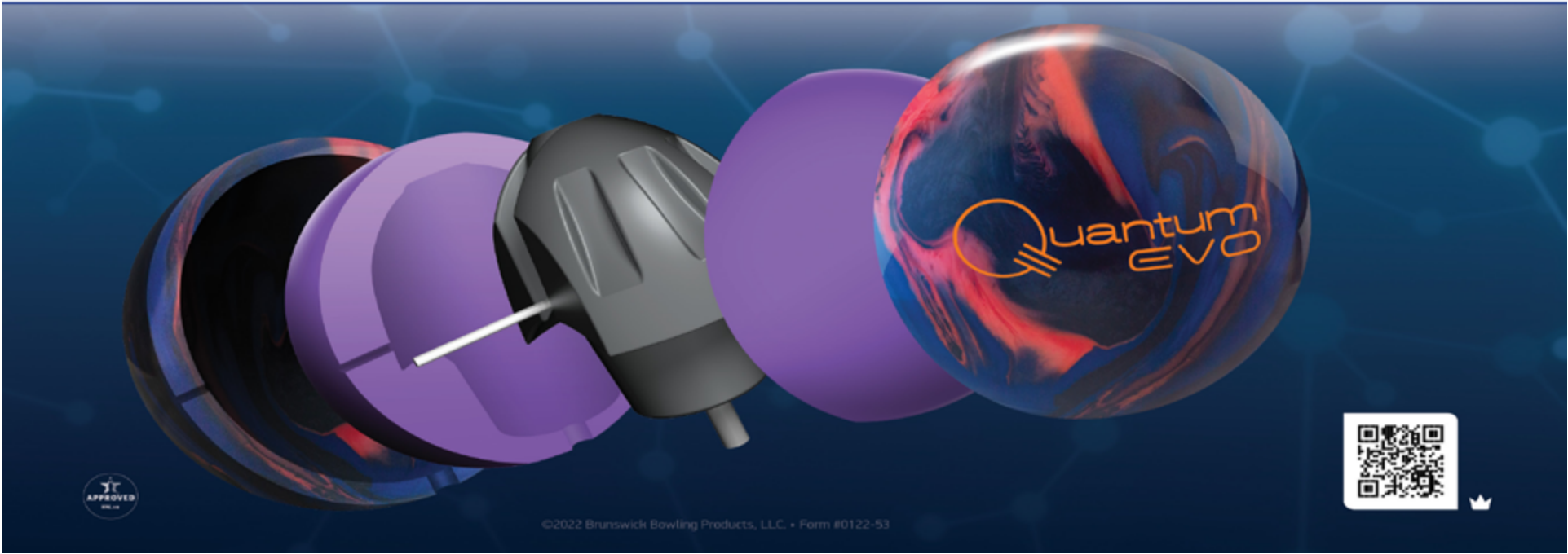
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2nd to Brian Ritchie (279) for \$81. Come on out and watch Southern California’s Richest League put up some big scores next Monday at 8:00!

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Q U A N T U M E V O L U T I O N





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