

BOWLING NEWS

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WONDERS SWEEP LUMBERJACKS TO WIN 2023 PBA ELIAS CUP

by Nolan Hughes

The Portland Lumberjacks selected Kris Prather with the first pick of the 2019 PBA League draft. They had not lost since — until tonight.

The Snickers Waco Wonders, led by Ryan Ciminelli and Parker Bohn III, spoiled the Lumberjacks' bid for a fourth straight Elias Cup title, sweeping the hometown team to win the 2023 PBA League Elias Cup presented by Pabst Blue Ribbon.

The Wonders — who include Ciminelli, Bohn, Jason Sterner, BJ Moore, Frank Snodgrass and manager Johnny Petraglia — traveled a long road to claim the franchise's first-ever Elias Cup.

Waco qualified in seventh during Saturday's seeding round, escaped the play-in stepladder



Snickers Waco Wonders – (L-R) Ryan Ciminelli, Frank Snodgrass, Manager Johnny Petraglia, Jason Sterner, BJ Moore and Parker Bohn III.

with wins over Milwaukee and Motown on Sunday, beat NYC in the quarterfinals on Monday, and out-struck Dallas in a three-round roll-off on Tuesday.

Tonight — with all four non-Bohn players rocking a vintage Parker Bohn mustache — Waco defeated Portland 247-204, 247-231 and 267-252 to sweep the best-

of-five championship match.

Ryan Ciminelli was named the Mark Roth PBA League MVP by PBA Commissioner Tom Clark. Ciminelli struck on

70% of his shots (23/33) during the Wonders' nine televised games, which included multiple strike-or-go-home 10th frames.

"I might have the MVP trophy, but today that's

a team effort," Ciminelli said. "We had a strategy that worked almost flawlessly."

Ciminelli eliminated the team he played for in 2022, the Pabst Blue Ribbon Milwaukee Pounders, in the play-in round, then took out another former team in Portland tonight.

"I had a chip on my shoulder, and honestly it just kept getting bigger," he added after tonight's victory. "I just wanted to keep proving myself — I don't feel like I should have to any more, before this week even, it gets frustrating — but I think I did it again."

"I'm an asset to any team," Ciminelli said on Sunday. "The fact that I keep getting dropped from teams and put back into that draft pool. It's continued on page 5



The So. Cal 2023 Junior Shootouts are this week at Valencia Lanes on October 7th and Parkway Lanes on October 8th.

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STORM CO-FOUNDER AND CEO BILL CHRISMAN PASSES AWAY

by Nolan Hughes

Bill Chrisman, the co-founder and CEO of Storm Products Inc., passed away at the age of 74, according to Storm.

Simply put, Chrisman was among the most influential people in the sport of bowling.

"Bill Chrisman was a force," wrote PBA Commissioner Tom Clark on Facebook. "A visionary. A friend. A businessman.

continued on page 5



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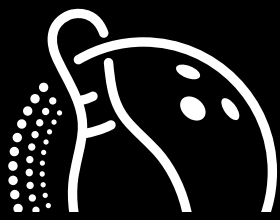


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TOM DAUGHERTY WINS INAUGURAL PBA LBC NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS CLASH

by Nolan Hughes

Twelve finalists walked into the renowned Bayside Bowl hoping to leave with The Duke, the grand trophy commemorating the champion of the inaugural PBA LBC National Championships Clash.

On the very lanes where Norm Duke threw the final shot of his Hall of Fame career, Tom Daugherty raised The Duke as the event's first-ever champion.

Daugherty outlasted 11 competitors in the one-ball roll-off eliminator to earn the win and \$60,000. He struck on 10 of his 12 shots (83.3%), including a roll-off in the sixth round, and bested PWBA star Danielle McEwan in the final round.

The 48-year-old hoisted The Duke, but said the trophy won't be making the trip to Tampa with him.

"There's no way I can take this trophy home," Daugherty said. "This belongs at Bayside Bowl, so it's going to stay here for all the bowlers to look at."

Daugherty and McEwan were the last two players standing, but they were nearly the first two players eliminated. McEwan escaped the first round after two roll-offs against Carleton Chambers.

Daugherty knocked over just seven pins in the second round and thought he had no chance of reaching the third round. Trae Henrichsmeyer, the 17-year-old who won the Open Classic division, tallied a six-count at the end of the lineup, allowing Daugherty a second chance. After that round, Daugherty struck on nine of his 10 shots.

His only non-strike was a 7-pin in Round 6, which put him in a roll-off against McEwan and Liz Johnson. Daugherty missed left in that roll-off, but much to his surprise the ball held and struck.

"I missed in and I had zero expectations of hitting the pocket," Daugherty said. "But when it just laid there, it told me I could move over there and probably create even a little bit more area because it will hook from that spot."

From the leadoff position, Daugherty struck on his next five shots to win the event. He led off each round following Balinda Maple's elimination in Round 4.

"I wanted to go at the top (of the lineup) because I wanted to strike and get it over with," Daugherty said. "As everyone was striking or getting nine, it was just putting more and more pressure down at the bottom of the lineup."

"I made some blind moves because we had such long breaks and there were so many shots thrown between the first few rounds, but towards the end, like I said after that roll-off, I never had to move again."

The four-time PBA Tour champion earned \$60,000 for his efforts.

ROUND-BY-ROUND SCORES

Round 1: Balinda Maple X, Tom Daugherty X, AJ Johnson X, Jake Peters X, Danielle McEwan 9, Carleton Chambers 9, Lennie Boesch Jr. X, Derek Kindig X, Verity Crawley X, Trae Henrichsmeyer X, Liz Johnson X, Hunter Lawless 9
Roll-off: McEwan 9, Chambers 9, Lawless X ||| McEwan X,

Chambers 9

Carleton Chambers eliminated

Round 2: Balinda Maple X, Tom Daugherty 7, AJ Johnson X, Jake Peters X, Danielle McEwan X, Lennie Boesch Jr. 9, Derek Kindig X, Verity Crawley 9, Trae Henrichsmeyer 6, Liz Johnson 9, Hunter Lawless X

Trae Henrichsmeyer eliminated

Round 3: Balinda Maple 9, Tom Daugherty X, AJ Johnson 9, Jake Peters X, Danielle McEwan 9, Lennie Boesch Jr. X, Derek Kindig X, Verity Crawley 8, Liz Johnson X, Hunter Lawless 7

Hunter Lawless eliminated

Round 4: Balinda Maple 3, Tom Daugherty X, AJ Johnson X, Jake Peters X, Danielle McEwan X, Lennie Boesch Jr. 8, Derek Kindig X, Verity Crawley 9, Liz Johnson X

Balinda Maple eliminated

Round 5: Tom Daugherty X, AJ Johnson X, Jake Peters 9, Danielle McEwan X, Lennie Boesch Jr. X, Derek Kindig 7, Verity Crawley X, Liz Johnson X

Derek Kindig eliminated

Round 6: Tom Daugherty 9, AJ Johnson X, Jake Peters X, Danielle McEwan 9, Lennie Boesch Jr. X, Verity Crawley X, Liz Johnson 9

Roll-off: Tom Daugherty X, Danielle McEwan 9, Liz Johnson 7

Liz Johnson eliminated

Round 7: Tom Daugherty X, AJ Johnson X, Jake Peters X, Danielle McEwan X, Lennie Boesch Jr. X, Verity Crawley 9

Verity Crawley eliminated

Round 8: Tom Daugherty X, AJ Johnson 8, Jake Peters X, Danielle McEwan X, Lennie Boesch Jr. X

AJ Johnson eliminated

Round 9: Tom Daugherty X, Jake Peters 9, Danielle McEwan X, Lennie Boesch Jr. X

Jake Peters eliminated

Round 10: Tom Daugherty X, Danielle McEwan X, Lennie Boesch Jr. 9

Lennie Boesch Jr. eliminated

Final Round: Tom Daugherty X, Danielle McEwan 7

Danielle McEwan eliminated

FINAL STANDINGS

Tom Daugherty, \$60,000
Danielle McEwan, \$10,000
Lennie Boesch Jr., \$3,000
Jake Peters, \$3,000
AJ Johnson, \$3,000
Verity Crawley, \$3,000
Liz Johnson, \$3,000
Derek Kindig, \$3,000
Balinda Maple, \$3,000
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Trae Henrichsmeyer, \$3,000
Carleton Chambers, \$3,000



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Five “Wackos” From Waco Are Wonders At Elias Cup

by Dave Williams

It's fun to watch team bowling. There's an extra rush of adrenaline that's released into the body when all the members of a team are together and performing as one. That feeling of excitement was transferred into the crowd Wednesday night, to create what they like to refer to as the Bayside Bowl experience from Portland (in Maine, not Oregon).

The Waco Wonders — including Ryan Ciminelli, Parker Bohn III, Jason Sterner, BJ Moore, Frank Snodgrass and Hall of Fame manager Johnny Petraglia — went on to claim the franchise's first Elias Cup victory this week in the PBA League at Bayside Bowl. Another Hall of Fame member, sixty-years-young Parker Bohn III, was the sentimental favorite on the team from Waco, but it was Ryan Ciminelli that won the hearts of fans with strike after strike in crucial situations.

According to Nolan Hughes in an article that appeared at pba.com, Ciminelli struck on almost 70% of his shots (23 of 33), during the Waco Wonders nine televised games this week. That included many “strike or go home” tenth frames, according to Hughes, which prompted Tom Clark, PBA Commissioner, to award Ciminelli with the PBA League MVP for 2023. “I might have the MVP trophy, but today that was a team effort,” said Ryan in a moment of humility.

Ciminelli's comment reminds me of a humorous moment that I have shared over the years from the California State Bowling Association Tournament in 1977. I searched the internet trying to find my recollection of that event, but it must have been a dream I had about publishing the story, and not reality. In case anyone does find the story in print, my apologies... just chalk it up to old age!



The California State Tournament of 1977

The 1977 USBC (then ABC) tournament was to be held at two locations relatively close to my home — Kings Bowl and Millbrae Bowl, both located along the El Camino Real in the San Francisco Peninsula town of Millbrae. Due to the fact that I had been traveling the PBA circuit the previous couple of years, I decided to try and field a team with my newfound friends.

Larry Laub (my chauffeur) and Ron Lisher (my roommate) were the first on my list, and they both said yes. Next up came Rich Carrubba from Hayward, and Tim Harahan from Marina Del Rey. Carrubba was an instant yes, but I had to coax Tim into joining by naming the team after his new bowling center, Hawthorne Bowl, located about 30 minutes south from his home on “The 405.”

We were all set to bowl when Lisher received a call the night before from Larry Laub. He had dislocated his shoulder, which was not uncommon. He told Ron not to worry and that he found a replacement (another pro) that would be there the next day to compete in the team event. The following day we literally tore up the lanes, with the exception of our last minute backup. Lisher led the team with 720, and I was fortunate to follow his lead with 685. I don't remember the actual scores for Carrubba and Harahan, but they were both in the 640-650 range.

Our substitute, who shall remain nameless, was not on the same wave-link as the rest of the team and checked in with a 495 series. In the last frame, he was working on a strike in the ninth frame and left the 7-10 split. In utter frustration, he just threw the second shot away. “What are you doing,” asked Harahan. “You just threw away 2 pins that we might need.” In the end, Tim's comment was psychic, as we did indeed lose the scratch title by one pin.

The Brooklyn Connection

It's only fitting that the Waco Wonders team, formerly known as the Brooklyn Styles (until 2020), is managed by Petraglia, whose heavy Brooklyn accent once kept him from being a part of the AMF Staff of Champions. That worked out just fine, as Petraglia went on to sign with Brunswick and placed his autograph on all those Johnny Petraglia LT-48 bowling balls that provided him with a giant royalty check each year.

The PBA League has now been in existence for more than 10 years, although no competition was held in 2021, due to the COVID confusion. The league has been dominated by three of the franchises: hometown favorite Portland Lumberjacks (3 titles), Silver Lake Atom Splitters, also with 3 titles, and the Dallas Strikers with 2 titles. The only other winner was the New York City Kingpins in 2013. This year the winning team received \$100,000, or \$20,000 per bowler.

It's interesting that the PBA league is named after the founder of the PBA, Eddie Elias. His dream, to fashion the Pro Bowlers Tour after professional golf, led to lucrative television contracts, but also completely stifled competitive team bowling. It's ironic that during the team era of bowling, keglers were earning well in excess of other professional athletes, including the highest paid pro baseball players.

So, you could say that the founding of the PBA significantly improved the situation of both television audiences and those behind the scenes; but put a damper on the income of the professional bowlers that are still struggling monetarily to keep up with other professional sports. You have to ask yourself what might have been if the National Bowling League — the PBA's rival bowling concept in the 1950's and 60's, would have prevailed...

TARGET STORES CLOSING LOCATIONS — Target Stores will close their Portland locations (in Oregon, not Maine), effective October 21st, 2023. The company cited ongoing retail theft, from which there appears to be no remedy, according to local authorities. One of the locations is at 939 S.W. Morrison Street - the retrofitted AMF Pro 300 Lanes that we wrote about in August-September of 2021.

(Waco Wonders logo provided by pba.com)



Ryan Ciminelli with the PBA League MVP for 2023

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Elias Cup continued from page 1

really starting to piss me off. I'm not old yet. I still got it in me. Anyone's a fool to get rid of me."

Beyond Ciminelli, the entirety of the Wonders embraced the role of the underdog. The team averaged a finish of 52nd on the 2023 points list and ranked last in the PBA's stat-based power rankings before the league.

Regardless of any outside noise, the Wonders built their team with intent and conviction.

"We picked this squad because everyone bowls with a chip on their shoulder," Moore said. "We wanted a dog in every fight. We didn't want someone that came out with some talent and threw a pretty ball. We wanted some dogs that were ready to get down in the dirt."

"We didn't have a star studded team, but we had heart and soul," Bohn said. "We had five guys with Johnny behind us that were digging in every shot."

Bohn, who made the semifinals of the USBC Masters earlier this year and turned 60 years old in July, has achieved almost every conceivable accolade in professional bowling. But he hadn't etched his name on the Elias Cup until tonight.

"I've been very fortunate in the bowling world," Bohn said. "But when you can go out and win an event like this and share it with five guys, I'll remember this literally for the rest of my life."

ELIAS CUP FINALS SCORES

- Snickers Waco Wonders def. Portland Lumberjacks, 3-0
- Game 1: Wonders def. Lumberjacks, 247-204
- Game 2: Wonders def. Lumberjacks, 247-231
- Game 3: Wonders def. Lumberjacks, 267-252

FINAL STANDINGS

1. Snickers Waco Wonders (\$20,000 per player)
2. Portland Lumberjacks (\$15,000 per player)
3. Go Bowling! Dallas Strikers (\$10,000 per player)
4. Las Vegas High Rollers (\$10,000 per player)
5. NYC KingPins (\$8,000 per player)
6. Silver Lake Atom Splitters (\$8,000 per player)
7. Motown Muscle (\$7,000 per player)
8. Pabst Blue Ribbon Milwaukee Pounders (\$6,500 per player)
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More information on the PBA League Elias Cup is available [here](#).

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CHRISMAN continued from page 1

A husband. A legend. His experience, passion, investment, ingenuity, loyalty, anecdotes and wisdom won't be replaced. He was so strong, he'll live in the game, forever."

Chrisman founded High Score Products in 1985. The company sold one product: a revolutionary bowling ball cleaner for urethane equipment [Chrisman developed](#) called "U Clean / U Score Urethane Bowling Ball Cleaner™."

Six years later, Chrisman brought in Keith Orton to help start manufacturing bowling balls. In 1994, the company adopted the name Storm Products, Inc.

Storm's innovation under Chrisman — including the first dual-color [logo](#), three-color high-performance bowling ball, to their scented bowling balls — changed the industry.

PBA players from all brands wrote tributes and shared their favorite stories about Chrisman on social media.

Stu Williams described Chrisman as "the most influential person in the sport for the last 20 years."

Jason Belmonte, who has won a PBA-record 15 major championships, has thrown Storm equipment his entire professional career.

"Bowling is what bowling is because of what Bill did for the game we love," Belmonte [shared](#) on Facebook.

More information on Chrisman's passing is available [here](#).

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THERESE WEILER Is Bowler of The Week

by Frank Weiler

REDLANDS – Therese Weiler is “**Bowler of The Week**” and a strong candidate for “Bowler of The Year”. What does it take to be “Bowler of The Week” and why has Therese Weiler been selected “Bowler of The Week”?

A bowler is selected “Bowler of The Week” based on his/her contributions to our sport and the rolling of a significant bowling score.

Why is Therese Weiler this week “Bowler of The Week”? First of all she is a **TEAM PLAYER**, a positive influence on everyone around her. She is particularly supportive of her bowling teammates looking for ways to help them and always encouraging them. Therese loves the sport of Bowling and competing. She competes in many leagues and is a regular in local tournaments.

Therese has been particularly successful at our local **Senior Olympics**. She is a **21 time Gold Medalist** over the past seven years. Over the past decade she has won several titles at the **LAUGHLIN BLAST TOURNAMENT**.

Second, Therese started the local senior bowling scene recently when she rolled a huge **654** (214 – 204 – 236) **scratch series** in the Senior Laughlin League. A pretty good score for a super senior bowler. That’s averaging 218 per game!

Therese was averaging 171 at the start of her afternoon session and her three consecutive 200 games culminated in a **798-hand-series**. That is the highest handicap series rolled by a local senior female bowler in recent memory. No handicap series has been as high in at least the last two or three seasons. Therese used her Global Reality Check to roll her huge score. It was only the third time using the ball.

Scoring isn’t anything new to Mrs. Weiler. About a decade ago she rolled a **scratch 300 game** and **scratch 800** (223 – 300 – 277) **series!** She was a young senior bowler at the time.

Congratulations to Therese Weiler for her great bowling and high scoring. She is another example of why “**CALIFORNIA BOWLERS ARE THE BEST BOWLERS IN THE WORLD**”.

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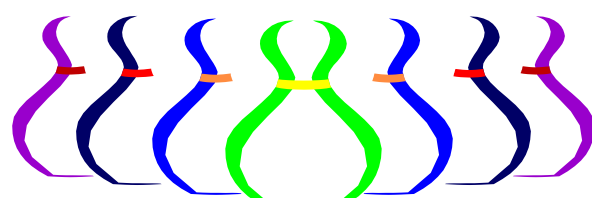
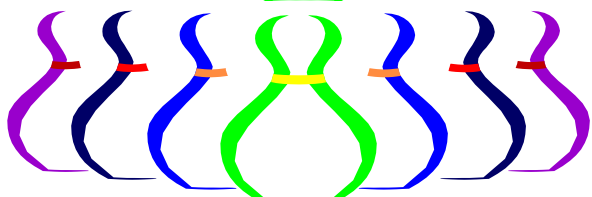
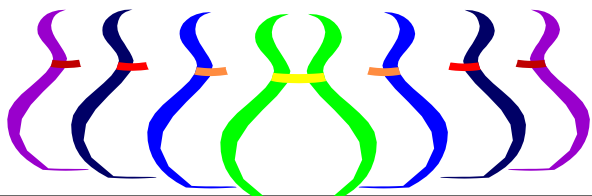
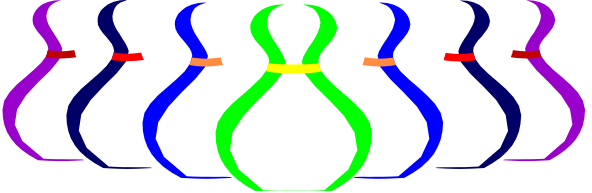
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INVITATIONAL

Family Ties Extends Their First Round Lead *Leonard Ruiz Jr. is Perfect*

by David Yamauchi

DOWNEY – The Brunswick Invitational took to the lanes half way through the first round with scores continuing to remain high. The house shot proved to be little defense against some big team scores. Leonard Ruiz Jr. wowed the crowd with a perfect 300 in game two action.

In the "A" match, **Family Ties** (Mikey Villarreal) took on **Threadworks** (Eric Snow) with Family Ties looking to pad their 2-game lead in the round. Threadworks took the first game with a big 945 game, but Family Ties stormed back with a 974 combined with a game three win for the 4-1 win. Mikey Villarreal paced Family Ties with a 708 set while Paul Varela was again big for Threadworks with a 739 set. Family Ties will remain in the "A" match next week.

In the "B" match, **Del Rio Lanes** (Marquan Rivers) and **Bowlium** (Billy Myers Jr.) were both looking to improve on their 10-5 records and stay relevant in the round. Bowlium took the first game but dropped the second to a big 1003 game by Del Rio Lanes. The last game came down to the 10th as Bowlium posted three straight opens to give Del Rio Lanes a chance. A fourth open gave Del Rio a chance for the win with the double, but they fell a shot short to give Bowlium the 4-1 win. Billy Myers Jr. led Bowlium with a big 748 set while Max Castillo paced Del Rio Lanes with a 727 set. Bowlium will move to the "A" match next week to face Family Ties.

Forest Lanes (Jon Diso) and **Junior Amateur Tour** (Kevin Valmonte) took the lanes for a rematch of week one with both teams sitting four games back at 9-6. Junior Amateur Tour came out hot taking games one and two, but Forest Lanes caught fire taking game three 954-813 and securing totals for the 3-2 win. Jesse Perez burned JAT again with a 754 set while JATr was paced by David Yamauchi's 722 effort.

Cal Bowl (Leonard Ruiz Jr.) paired up with **US Foods** (Gabriel Martinez) with Cal Bowl looking to keep the momentum going and US Foods looking to bounce back after their week 3 matches. US Foods came out striking and took the bookend games by enough for a 4-1 win. Paul Barraco was big for US Foods with a 745 set while Leonard Ruiz Jr. put up 715 with his perfect 300 in game two for Cal Bowl.

Professional Approach- Del Rio (Denis Rivera) met **DV8** (David Cogswell) with both teams looking to continue to stay hot. Pro Approach- Del Rio took games one and two, but a huge 971-853 win in game two gave DV8 enough for totals and the 3-2 win. Daniel Hong (708) and David Cogswell (707) were big for DV8 while Denis Rivera paced Professional Approach Del Rio with a 689 set.

Touchstone Homes (Christian Eichelkraut) battled **Professional Approach- Keystone** (William Morris) with both teams looking to rebound after one-win outcomes the previous week. This match was all Professional Approach- Keystone as they swept to the 5-0 win. William Morris was big for Pro Approach-Keystone with a 702 set while Kevin Cowden managed 649 for Touchstone Homes.

Forever Hope Foundation (Ramsey Basurto), **Westminster Lanes** (Jonathan Gale), **iColor Printing** (Augie Labrado Jr.) and **Professional Approach- Oak Tree** (John Struckman) rounded out Monday's action. Forever Hope Foundation took the 4-1 win over Westminster Lanes led by sub Brandon Grant's 700 set with Semaj Lewis pacing Westminster with a 679 set. iColor took the 5-0 sweep over Pro Approach- Oak Tree led by Javier Hernandez' 692 set with Scott Silva pacing the Oak Tree bunch with a 649 set.

The Financial Advisor's pot went to Leonard Ruiz Jr. (300) for \$160 with 2nd to Daniel Hong (296) for \$70. Sidepots went to Eric Snow (284) and Leonard

TOP 10 ROUND 1 WEEK 4

Family Ties 17	Del Rio Lanes 11
Bowlium 14	Junior Amateur Tour . . 11
Forest Lanes 12	DV8 11
Threadworks 12	Pro Approach Keystone . . 11
US Foods 11	Pro Approach Del Rio . . . 10

TOP 10 THIS WEEK

754 Jesse Perez	727 Max Castillo
748 Billy Myers Jr.	722 David Yamauchi
745 Paul Barraco	717 Ray Minter
739 Paul Varela	715 Leonard Ruiz Jr.
729 Chris Diemand	710 David Cogswell

SUPER SWEEPER POT

Sponsored by Dean Sanderson of Transamerica Financial Advisors Inc.
1st Leonard Ruiz Jr. 300 \$160 • 2nd Daniel Hong 296 \$70



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Ruiz Jr. (300) for \$52 with 2nd to Ramsey Basurto (268) and Steve Gurrieri (279) for \$26. SuperPot went to Chris Diemand Jr. (278) for \$156 with 2nd to Scott Silva (255) for \$78. Come on out and watch Southern California's Richest League put up some big scores next Monday at 8:00!

Del Rio Lanes 7502 Florence Ave. Downey CA 90240 • 562 927-3351

Saturday WEEKLY **NO TAP** Tournament

Check in 11:00am • Bowl at 12:00pm • \$30 Entry Fee

Optional Pots & PLENTY of \$5 Brackets

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