

CALIFORNIA

OCTOBER 19, 2023

BOWLING NEWS

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Family Ties Sweeps Their Way To A Round One Clinch in the Brunswick Invitational at Del Rio Lanes *Leonard Ruiz Jr. Is Perfect Again!*

by David Yamauchi

DOWNEY – The Brunswick Invitational took to the lanes for week for the second to last week of the first round. Bowlers had two more weeks to strike before the start of the tough patterns on week 8. Family Ties was looking to lock up a playoff spot early in the league tonight. Leonard Ruiz Jr. wowed the crowd with his second perfect 300 of the round in game one.

In the "A" match, **Family Ties** (Mikey Villarreal) was looking to lock up the round sitting on a five-game lead with just ten points to go. The league was rooting for **US Foods** (Gabriel Martinez) who was sitting five back but needed some wins to keep their round hopes alive. Family Ties came out storming putting up a 987 first game and setting the tone for the rest of the night. Family Ties followed that monster up with a 970 and 905 game for a huge 2862 set to sweep the match and lock up the round holding a seven point lead with just five to go. Mikey Villarreal was huge with a 782 and Michael Montano added 762 for Family Ties while Paul Barraco paced US Foods with a 663 set. **Congratulations to Family Ties for taking the first rolloff spot of the season!**

The "B" match featured **ThreadWorks** (Eric Snow) continued on page 8



Family Ties - (L-R) Michael Montano, Steve Gurrieri, Mikey Villarreal and Vince Duarte



The So. Cal 2023 Junior Shootouts are this week at Victpr Bowl on October 21st and Harleys Valley Bowl October 22nd.

\$200,000 in Smart Scholarship money is up for grabs. 4 Divisions, A 180+, B 161 - 185, C 136 - 160 and D 135 and below.

Bowl as many tournaments as you like. You need 3 to qualify for Grand Championships at Cal Bowl in Lakewood in January 2024. See advertisement on page 3.

Contact Victor Bowl at (760) 241-7396 and Harleys Valley Bowl at (805) 584-2695 for more info.

PRIORITY REGISTRATION OPENS FOR 2024 PBA LBC NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The second annual PBA LBC National Championships heads south to the Chicago-area in 2024.

The national tournament debuted in 2023 at Bowlero Wauwatosa in Wisconsin, bringing together bowlers of all skill levels to compete for over \$340,000 in total prizes.

Six division champions were crowned and four-time PBA Tour champion Tom Daugherty won the PBA LBC continued on page 6



The finalists from the 2023 PBA LBC National Championships Clash include bowlers of all ages and skill levels.



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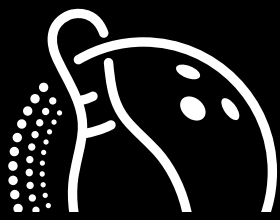


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Bret Roberts – Senior Olympics Gold Medalist

by Frank Weiler

REDLANDS - The Inland Empire Senior Olympics were a success again with bowlers from as far away as Lake Elsinore coming to compete at Empire Bowl in the City of Orange Groves. Tournament Director **LaKeisha Jackson** did a great job and all of the competitors appeared to have a great time. The Senior Olympics give everyone an opportunity to test their bowling skills while socializing with old friends.

The **Most Valuable Player** of the tournament was **Bret Roberts**, the only bowler to average over 200 scratch (211.5) for six games. He used his Storm Absolute bowling ball to knock down the most pins and win two Gold Medals. He won Gold in the Singles and Doubles events. Brett's doubles partner, Frank Weiler, was also a multi Gold Medal winner.

Brett's scratch scores were 629 (217- 216-196) for Singles and 640 (218-218-204) for Doubles. Darn good scoring for a Super Senior bowler.

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Bret Roberts

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- Entries close: **OCTOBER 11, 2023**
- Valid ID required for Check-in and Brackets
- Youth are eligible with signed prize waivers – see rules

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QUALIFYING:
October 14, 2023
1:00pm
Six games moving pairs after each game. Highest scratch series will determine top 16 qualifiers (12 open / 4 seniors)

FINALS:
Held immediately after qualifying
Top 16 will bowl scratch in a single game elimination bracket until a Champion is determined.

DOWNLOAD ENTRY OR ENTER ONLINE AT CALUSBC.COM • ENTER EARLY!!

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Remembering **Doug Hoskins**
October 24th at 2:30pm

CALLING ALL ANGELS

Memorial Service is being held at Angels Stadium in The Diamond Club Area
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\$40

5 GAMES

Division C - 136-160

\$30

3 GAMES

Division B - 161-185

\$35

4 GAMES

Division D - Under 135

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3 GAMES

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4 Divisions Compete For

\$100,000



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ALL BOWLERS MUST PROVIDE BOWL.COM PROFILES WITH ENTRY.



The top male, female, youth boy and girl will qualify to the CA USBC Helen Duval Veterans BVL State Finals on March 30, 2024 at Bowlero San Bernardino

VISIT GLACUSBC.COM TO DOWNLOAD ENTRY FORMS

The Kaven Files...

Bill Lillard Was A Businessman First

by Dave Williams

Bill Lillard (1927-2017), a member of the AMF Staff of Champions for several years, was a businessman first, and then a bowler. He was born in Fort Worth and spent most of his early years in Dallas; but became best known for his bowling prowess, both on and off the lanes, while living in another giant Texas metropolis called Houston.

He was one of the original 33 members of the Professional Bowlers Association (PBA), but many of his successes came before the formation of the PBA. Most remember Lillard for his remarkable performances in the annual United States Bowling Congress (USBC) tournaments, where he accumulated more championships than anyone, with a total of eight (tied with Fred Bujack). He's also the lifetime total pinfall record holder with 124,087 in 68 years.

Lillard's first USBC title came in 1955 as a member of the winning team, Pfeiffer Beer of Detroit. They also won the team all events that same year. The next year he set another record when he won four titles — in doubles (with Stan Gifford of Portland, Ore.), individual all events, team, and team all events, with the famous Falstaff Beer team from Chicago. The four titles in one year have since been equaled by Ed Lubanski (1959), and Mike Neumann (1990).

Whenever I needed to get in touch with Bill, I knew that I could reach him at the Palace Social Bowling Lanes, one of four centers (the others were Emerald Bowl, AMF Diamond Lanes, and Copperfield Bowl) owned by Lillard and his partners, Don Ellis and Pete Treybig. Mr. Lillard never failed to answer the phone, a further sign of his dedication and enjoyment of the bowling business. His wealth of knowledge was a blessing to me in later years when I became involved with both American Recreation Centers and Triangle Bowling Centers properties in Texas.

With all of his bowling talent, he managed only one victory on the PBA Tour, at the Miller High Life Championship in 1966. Like so many champions before him, he chose to forego the rigors of the PBA Tour, and opted for the more secure bowling center ownership lifestyle. Another of his famous bowling teammates over the years, Don Carter, also chose the multiple bowling center ownership route, and most likely influenced Lillard's decision.



USBC Royalty -- (l-r) Joe Norris, Bill Lillard and Dick Weber at the national tournament



Lillard Proofs -- Interesting enlargement of the final selection process for an action shot of Bill Lillard



Meeting the King -- Always dapper Bill Lillard (left) with Mr. Bowling, Don Carter

Bill's other victories in those early years included two BPAA All Star Championships in 1955 and 1956, which today are technically PBA championships, and referred to as the U.S. Open. He was voted to the All American Team in 1952, 1954, 1955 and 1956, and was voted the Bowler of the Year in 1955 and 1956 by the Bowling Writers Association of American (BWAA). Lillard was elected to the Bowling Hall of Fame in 1972.

The Kaven Files

While looking through the Henry Kaven Files from AMF, I located multiple contact, or proof sheets of Bill Lillard. Most of the images look the same until you magnify them. Henry must have spent hours mulling over these to get just the right shot for the Lillard publicity campaign. There were also many drafts of a profile for Lillard, but I never located a final rendition. Unlike many of the other AMF contracted players, Lillard was known to have been with Brunswick for many years, so that might have been the reason that the drafts were never finalized.

Among Kaven's notes were the interests that Lillard shared with him for his two lifelong passions — bowling and family. Bill married his wife of 66 years in 1951. They had two sons, who brought them four grandchildren and (so far) three great grandchildren. I know that at least Bill Jr. followed in his father's footsteps, because I recall speaking with him over the years at the bowling centers.

Jowdy Remembers

An article by John Jowdy (1920-2013) in 2008 ("The Most Impressive Bowler I Have Ever Known," bowlingdigital.com), highlights Lillard's life as a fellow Texan. "Sounds pretty strange coming from someone who has watched such performers as Don Carter, Dick and Pete Weber, Earl Anthony, et al.," writes Jowdy. "It was Lillard's brilliant performances in the National All Star Tournament, now known as the U.S. Open, and his fantastic USBC record that assured him a spot in immortality."

Jowdy adds, "During his 20 years of competition in the All Star Tournament, he posted the highest composite average of any and all participants... an incredible 206 for 1,607 games. He cashed in all 20 events that he entered. He made the finals in 14 of them. And although he never won the USBC Masters, he led the qualifying three times, and finished second to Dick Hoover in 1957."

"Lillard first caught my attention in 1946, as a 19 year old Dallas resident and student at Southern Methodist University," said Jowdy. "Undaunted by the biggest names in the state, he carted off the title in the Earhardt Memorial Tournament in Houston. Perhaps the term finessed was misleading to those who construe Lillard's execution as a soft delivery. Nothing could be further from the truth. He possessed one of the most explosive balls in the history of the game."

He did have one incredible curve that I remember viewing a couple of times in person, and on YouTube videos. Just like Dick Weber and even Larry Laub in their early years, Lillard had a pin punishing hook that included a high leg kick at the end. What's more amazing is that they were all using rubber balls, often with conventional grips. But unlike Weber and Laub, who changed their game to suit the PBA conditions, Lillard never discarded the big hook.

- Portions of the preceding column adapted from an article appearing in the Advocate Newspaper in 2012.
- Portions also adapted from dignitymemorial.com and legacy.com
- Photos provided by the Kaven Files, and from the Lillard Family

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continued from page 1



National Championships Clash, where all divisional winners and 12 total finalists competed to take home The Duke.

“It will be exciting to watch the PBA LBC National Championships grow,” said PBA Commissioner Tom Clark. “This year’s inaugural event brought together players of all skill levels, welcomed under the PBA umbrella, for a lot of great opportunities, big prizes and most of all, fun. The next pursuit of The Duke begins now.” The 2024 PBA LBC National Championships will take place on weekends from June 1 through July 14, 2024 at Bowlero Mount Prospect in Illinois.

The second edition of the tournament will feature two brand new divisions — a handicap PBA Jr. Boys and handicap PBA Jr. Girls division — to highlight this next generation of bowling talent. The five main divisions from the inaugural PBA LBC National Championships will return in 2024: Open Classic, Women’s Classic, Senior Classic, Men’s Handicap and Women’s Handicap. The PBA Exempt division, featuring the top-50 players from the 2023 Guaranteed Rate PBA Tour points list, will return as well.

Guaranteed first-place prizes for each division will be as follows:

- Open Classic: \$25,000
- Women’s Classic: \$5,000
- Men’s Handicap: \$5,000
- Women’s Handicap: \$5,000
- Senior Classic: \$5,000
- The top 10 Super Senior (60+) non-cashers will also cash.
- PBA Exempt: \$5,000
- Boys Jr. Handicap: \$2,500 (SMART scholarship)
- Girls Jr. Handicap: \$2,500 (SMART scholarship)

At the conclusion of the event, 12 finalists will be invited to the televised 2024 PBA LBC National Championships Clash with a total prize fund of \$100,000.

Advancing to the televised finals will be the top two (2) finishers in each of the Open Classic, Women’s Classic and PBA Exempt divisions; the winners of the other five divisions; and the top super senior finisher from the Senior Classic division. Squads for the 2024 PBA LBC National Championships will be held at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. local time on Saturdays and 11 a.m. on Sundays. Additional squads may be added as days sell out.

Players can also compete in the optional doubles and team side events again in 2024. Players can sign up for each event on-site and in advance starting on Nov. 1, 2023 for \$25 per bowler (\$50 total for doubles and \$100 total for team).

The 114th Petersen Classic will be held at Bowlero Vernon Hills and will begin Friday, May 10 and run through Sunday, Sept. 1. Bowlers who are interested in signing up early can do so by contacting Trista Kimmes at 804-417-2011 or info@petersenclassic.com. Entry fees are \$100 per bowler.

PRIORITY REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Priority registration for the 2024 PBA LBC National Championships is now open. Current members of the PBA LBC program, PBA and all participants of the 2023 PBA LBC National Championships can register for \$100 [here](#). Registration will open to all bowlers on Dec. 2, 2023. The timeline for 2024 PBA LBC National Championships registration is as follows:

Priority Registration

Cost: \$100
 Dates: Oct. 1 through Dec. 1, 2023
 Open exclusively to PBA LBC members (Bowlero league bowlers), PBA members and all participants of the 2023 PBA LBC National Championships

Open Registration

Cost: \$150
 Dates: Dec. 2, 2023 through Jan. 31, 2024
 Open to all bowlers of all skill levels

Spring Registration

Cost: \$200
 Dates: Feb. 1, 2024 through April 30, 2024
 Open to all bowlers of all skill levels

Late Registration

Cost: \$250
 Dates: May 1, 2024 through July 14, 2024 (end of tournament)
 Open to all bowlers

More details on the 2024 PBA LBC National Championships can be found [here](#).

#SaveTheBoobies2

3rd Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Fundraising Tournament

October 22nd, Sunday @ 2pm
Check In Starts At 1:00

(JUNIORS ARE ELIGIBLE WITH SMART ACCOUNT)

Location:
 Forest Lanes
 22771 Centre Dr
 Lake Forest, CA 92630

Cost:
 \$70 Per Person
 (Needs to be paid asap to hold your spot) Pay by Paypal using cap685@hotmail.com, Zelle, use Ph# (714) 234-0185 WALK INS ALSO OK
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The Process, Raffles and prizes:

Will be 3 games Handicap, Brackets, Sidepots, 50/50 and Drawing for Prizes.
 Handicap will be based on last year's book, or recent 21 game league sheet. (90% of 220) If none of those, men 180 women 150.
 Prize fund will be 1 in 5 cash
 Oil Pattern: Forest house shot

For more information contact: Jeff Lindenmuth
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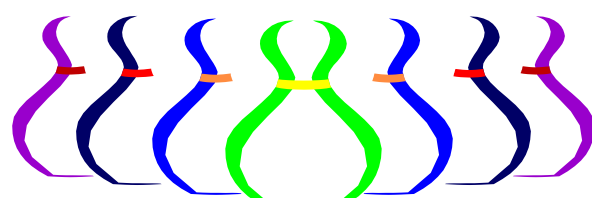
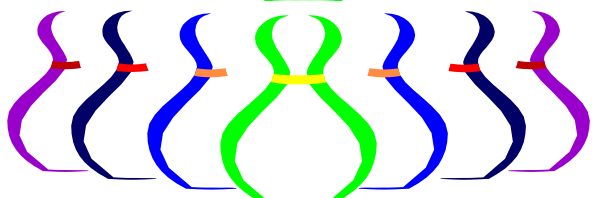
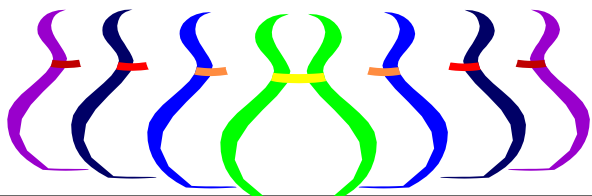
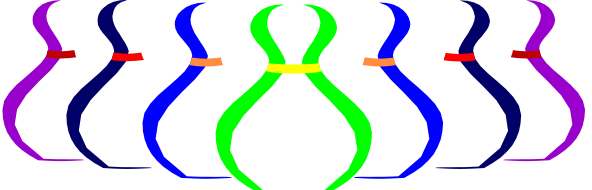
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INVITATIONAL

Family Ties Sweeps Their Way To A Round One Clinch Leonard Ruiz Jr. Is Perfect Again!

by David Yamauchi

Brunswick continued from page 4

who were also sitting five back battling **Bowlium** (Billy Myers Jr.) who were six back and needing help from US Foods to stay in the mix. Bowlium started with a gigantic 1026 game en route to the 4-1 win over ThreadWorks. Billy Myers Jr. was big for Bowlium with a 784 set while Eric Snow put up a 751 set to pace ThreadWorks.

Junior Amateur Tour (Kevin Valmonte) was also six back and watching the "A" match needing help as they battled **Professional Approach Keystone** (William Morris) in the 5-6 match. Junior Amateur Tour started the night big with a 990 game but dropped two close games by 14 and 15 to limp to a 3-2 win. David Yamauchi led J.A.T. with a 724 set while William Morris stroked his way to a 682 series to pace Professional Approach Keystone.

Forest Lanes (Jon Diso) and **Cal Bowl** (Leonard Ruiz Jr.) were sitting in the middle of the pack with the two teams teetering around the .500 mark for the first round. Leonard Ruiz Jr. started the night with the front-17 strikes including his second perfect 300 of the round. Cal Bowl put up 991 to take game one by triple-digits, game two by 80, but dropped game three for the 4-1 win. Leonard Ruiz Jr. led Cal Bowl with a big 764 set while J.T. Diso was solid for Forest Lanes with a nice 675 set.

Forever Hope Foundation (Ramsey Basurto) was banking some wins after a rough start, looking to take on **DV8** (David Cogswell) who were looking to bounce back after a tough week. Forever Hope took all but the second game en route to a 4-1 win. Vernon Adams was big for Forever Hope Foundation

with a 769 set while Daniel Hong paced the way for DV8 with a 655 series.

Professional Approach Del Rio (Denis Rivera) took on **Del Rio Lanes** (Marquan Rivers) in the battle of the home teams. Del Rio Lanes took the bookend games and totals for a 4-1 result. Jonathan Davis subbed his way to a 615 set to pace Del Rio Lanes while Anthony Bourges paced Professional Approach Del Rio with a 584 series.

iColor Printing, Touchstone Homes, Professional Approach Oak Tree and Westminster Lanes rounded out the action on Monday. iColor and Touchstone bowled to a 3-2 result with Touchstone Homes taking totals for the extra point. Westminster Lanes got 3 wins over Professional Approach Oak Tree led by Jonathan Gale's 674 set. Scott Silva led Pro Approach Oak Tree with a 675 series, Christian Eichelkraut paced Touchstone Homes with a 679 set and Augie Labrado Jr. went huge for iColor Printing with a nice 755 series.

The Financial Advisor's pot went to Billy Myers Jr. (279) for \$160 with 2nd to Michael Montano (235) and Vernon Adams (235) for \$35 each. Sidepots went to Leonard Ruiz Jr. (300) for \$58 with 2nd to Ramiro Garcia (278) for \$28. Second game was a tie between Vernon Adams (258) and Michael Montano (258) for \$43 each. SuperPot went to Mikey Villarreal (280) for \$162 with 2nd to Vernon Adams (278) and Scott Silva (278) taking \$40.50 each.

Come on out and watch Southern California's Richest League put up some big scores next Monday at 8:00!

TOP 10 ROUND 1 WEEK 6

Family Ties \$.....26	Cal Bowl16
Bowlium.....19	Forever Hope Foundation .16
Junior Amateur Tour ..18	Pro Approach Keystone ..16
ThreadWorks.....17	Del Rio Lanes15
US Foods.....16	Forest Lanes.....14

TOP 10 THIS WEEK

784 Billy Myers Jr.	755 Augie Labrado Jr.
781 Mikey Villarreal	751 Eric Snow
769 Vernon Adams	724 David Yamauchi
764 Leonard Ruiz Jr.	715 Ramiro Garcia
762 Michael Montano	685 Vincent Duarte

SUPER SWEEPER POT

Sponsored by Dean Sanderson of Transamerica Financial Advisors Inc.

Billy Myers Jr. 279 \$160 • 2nd Michael Montano/Vernon Adams 235 \$35



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

Saturday WEEKLY T NO TAP Tournament

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

Optional Pots & PLENTY of \$5 Brackets

Handicap is 90% of 230 • Call to Reserve a Spot (562)927-3351 At Del Rio Lanes: 7502 Florence Ave. Downey, CA. 90240