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CALIFORNIA

# BOWLING NEWS

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## PBA DEBUTS 2025 PBA ON FOX TOUR SCHEDULE

### *New-look PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands and expanded PBA Playoffs elevate the 2025 PBA Tour*

RICHMOND, VA —

Today, the Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) debuts the 2025 PBA Tour schedule in partnership with FOX Sports, featuring over 60 hours of televised bowling and a record-tying eight broadcasts on FOX.

More than 27 million viewers watched the PBA on FOX Sports in 2024, reflecting year-over-year growth and a 21% increase in viewership on FS1.

The PBA's seventh season on FOX Sports features the return of five major championships and introduces a supercharged PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands, where the rivalry between bowling ball manufacturers and their sponsored athletes will be taken to new heights.



The modernized team competition also introduces a team points race to the PBA Tour regular season.

"We're elevating the PBA experience for both the players and the fans on the 2025 Tour," said Lev Ekster, President of

Bowlero Corp. "The new PBA Elite League format is an exciting update for this season, combining individual excellence

and strong team dynamics. It also allows fans to connect with our partner brands while their favorite players compete."

Throughout the PBA on FOX season, players will compete in 15 televised title events, including... continued on page 2

### **A Wandering Vagabond...!**

## **Whatever Happened To Rich Carrubba?**

by Dave Williams

A few weeks ago we wrote an article entitled, "Kings Bowl - A Center Fit For A King," appearing in most publications in September of 2024. It was one of the establishments memorialized in a new book called simply, "Bowlarama: The Architecture of Mid-Century Bowling," by author Chris Nichols.

During the course of the article, we flashed

back to 1977, when the USBC state tournament was being held at Kings Bowl and nearby Millbrae Bowl in the peninsula area just south of San Francisco. I had decided at the time to get together a group of my newfound friends from the PBA and form a team to compete in the annual event.

Here's an excerpt from that story: "Larry Laub

(my chauffeur) and Ron Lisher (my roommate on tour) 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 (and Laub's) new bowling center, Hawthorne Bowl, located about 30

minutes south from his home on the 405."

One of my internet friends wrote and asked, "Whatever happened to Rich Carrubba?" I told him that I remembered reading on Larry Lichstein's blog that he had passed away, and that I would follow up to see what I could find. Here are my findings about Rich, one of bowling's many vagabonds...

Rich Carrubba did indeed pass away in 2021 at the age of 74. He first gained fame while bowling at Fiesta Lanes in Hayward, a bowling center where I was fortunate to have rolled my 2nd sanctioned 300 game while competing in the Professional Central California Bowlers tournament. It was also the first time that I cracked the prestigious top five

in a professional event. The year was 1974.

Fiesta had its share of top flight bowlers that would go on to fame in the bowling world. Perhaps the most notable was Jim Godman, who also died much too young at the age of 55, in 2001. Godman had a storied career, winning the USBC Masters in 1971, as well as the... continued on page 3

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**PBA Schedule** continued from page 1

ing all five major championships on FOX: the U.S. Open presented by Go Bowling, PBA World Championship, USBC Masters, PBA Players Championship and PBA Tournament of Champions. Four major championships will include a televised preliminary round on FS1.

Additional highlights of the 2025 season include the World Series of Bowling XVI, featuring four standard titles plus a major championship at Reno's iconic National Bowling Stadium. Additionally, the game's top stars and talents will head to Wisconsin in April for the second annual PBA All-Star Weekend.

The regular season concludes with the PBA Tournament of Champions on April 20, with the top 12 players advancing to the PBA Playoffs. Six shows of head-to-head, single-elimination competition culminates with the PBA Playoffs Championship in May.

"We're excited to continue our partnership with the PBA and showcase the sport to an even wider audience across FOX and FS1," said Bill Wanger, EVP of Programming at FOX Sports. "This season's structure offers a great balance of individual and team competition and will foster deeper engagement among fans, while bringing in new audiences."

As part of its commitment to growing the sport, the PBA will introduce new digital content and fan experiences throughout the season, ensuring multiple ways for bowling enthusiasts to engage with the tour.

In addition to the 2025 PBA on FOX schedule below, the remainder of the PBA Tour schedule will be released at a later date.

Fans can watch all 2025 PBA Tour qualifying rounds live on BowlTV.

For the latest information and updates about the 2025 PBA Tour, visit [www.PBA.com](http://www.PBA.com) and follow the PBA Tour on Instagram, Facebook, X, TikTok and YouTube.

# 2025 PBA ON FOX SCHEDULE

**PBA Delaware Classic —**

Middletown, DE | Mid County Lanes and Entertainment  
Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025 | 5 PM ET on FS1

**U.S. Open presented by Go Bowling —**

Indianapolis, IN | Royal Pin Woodland  
Prelims — Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025 | 4 PM ET on FS1  
Finals — Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025 | 4 PM ET on FOX

**PBA Illinois Classic —**

Vernon Hills, IL | Bowlero Vernon Hills  
Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025 | 8 PM ET on FS1

**PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic —**

Springfield, MO | Enterprise Park Lanes  
Sunday, Feb. 16, 2025 | 1 PM ET on FS1

**PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship —**

Vernon Hills, IL | Bowlero Vernon Hills  
Sunday, March 2, 2025 | 12 PM ET on FS1

**PBA Nevada Classic —**

Reno, NV | Coconut Bowl at Wild Island  
Saturday, March 15, 2025 | 6 PM ET on FS1  
Finals to be held at National Bowling Stadium in Reno, NV

**PBA World Series of Bowling XVI —**

Reno, NV | National Bowling Stadium  
**Animal Pattern 1 Championship —**  
Sunday, March 16, 2025 | 7:30 PM ET on FS1  
**Animal Pattern 2 Championship —**  
Monday, March 17, 2025 | 7 PM ET on FS1  
**Animal Pattern 3 Championship —**  
Tuesday, March 18, 2025 | 7 PM ET on FS1  
**Animal Pattern 4 Championship —**  
Wednesday, March 19, 2025 | 7 PM ET on FS1  
**World Championship —**  
Saturday, March 22, 2025 | 3 PM ET on FOX

**USBC Masters —**

Allen Park, MI | Thunderbowl Lanes  
Prelims — Saturday, March 29, 2025 | 12 PM ET on FS1  
Finals — Sunday, March 30, 2025 | 12 PM ET on FOX

**PBA Jr. National Championships —**

Reno, NV | National Bowling Stadium  
Friday, April 4, 2025 | 7 PM ET on FS1

**PBA All-Star Weekend —**

Waukesha, WI | Foxx View Lanes  
Saturday, April 5, 2025 | 12 PM ET on FS1  
Sunday, April 6, 2025 | 12 PM ET on FS1

**PBA Players Championship —**

Jackson, MI | David Small's JAX 60  
Prelims — Saturday, April 12, 2025 | 7 PM ET on FS1  
Finals — Sunday, April 13, 2025 | 12 PM ET on FOX

**PBA Tournament of Champions —**

Fairlawn, OH | AMF Riviera Lanes  
Prelims — Saturday, April 19, 2025 | 5 PM ET on FS1  
Finals — Sunday, April 20, 2025 | 12:30 PM ET on FOX

**PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands —**

Allen Park, MI | Thunderbowl Lanes  
Prelims — Saturday, April 26, 2025 | 3 PM ET on FS1  
Finals — Sunday, April 27, 2025 | 12 PM ET on FOX

**PBA Playoffs —**

Allen Park, MI | Thunderbowl Lanes  
Round 1 — Saturday, May 3, 2025 | 7 PM ET on FS1  
Round 1 — Sunday, May 4, 2025 | 7 PM ET on FS1  
Quarterfinals — Saturday, May 10, 2025 | 2 PM ET on FS1  
Quarterfinals — Sunday, May 11, 2025 | 6:30 PM ET on FS1  
Semifinals — Sunday, May 18, 2025 | 12 PM ET on FS1  
Championship — Saturday, May 24, 2025 | 2:30 PM ET on FOX

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**CORBIN BOWL**

19616 Ventura Blvd, Tarzana, CA 91356  
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**Sat, January 18, 2025 – 1pm**

*Open to the first 26 entries!*

**KEYSTONE LANES**

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(562) 868-3261

**Sat, January 25, 2024 – 1pm**

**Sun, January 26, 2024 – 9am**

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EARLY!**



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## Carrubba

continued from page 1

Classic Doubles and All Events titles in 1974. But he will most be remembered for his Firestone Tournament of Champions titles, in 1969 and again in 1973. He was a fierce competitor.

## About Rich Carrubba

Richard Dean Carrubba passed away on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. He lived in Diamondhead, Mississippi, with his loving wife Gayle. They married while living in Las Vegas, where Rich was the Resident Professional for Coast Resort's two bowling properties at Gold Coast Casino & Hotel, and the Orleans Casino & Hotel. He was there for 10 years.

Prior to that, Rich had attended the University of California at Berkeley for one year, but in 1966 he elected to join the United States Air Force. He served honorably in Vietnam and attained the rating of Staff Sergeant. Upon his return to the USA in 1969, he decided to start a career on the Professional Bowlers Tour.

During my time at American Recreation Centers, I remember Rich applying for a position as a bowling center manager in the Sacramento district. But I could sense that Rich was not going to be happy just managing a bowling center. It was not long after that he left the Coast Resorts Properties and landed a job with Storm Bowling in Utah, where he remained for ten years, achieving the title of Vice President of Business Development.

Following his foray with Storm Bowling, he ended his business career by writing on the internet for his good friend Keith Spear, owner of bowlingball.com. Many of Rich's YouTube videos from his years with Mr. Spear can still be viewed online. One of my favorites is a tribute to bowling great Don Johnson. When I was first sent by AMF to New College Park Bowl in Las Vegas, one of the first events that I conducted was a monthly scratch 10 game endurance on Sunday afternoons.

I invited Don, the house pro at Charleston Heights Bowl, to come and bowl with some of the other two dozen ex-PBA members in the Las Vegas All Stars league at Charleston Heights. To my surprise, Don showed up and tied Jack Shannon for the top prize. Rather than have a rolloff, Don and Jack decided to split the first and second place prizes. Johnson's attendance in that first 10 game endurance added credibility to the tournament, and it continued for many years.

Here now is that video from Rich Carrubba, focusing on just releasing the ball, rather than lifting the ball, one of Don Johnson's basic teaching methods:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ExvMVqV7A2g>

You can see that Rich is very much at home with these instruction videos, and he's not reading from a script! His messages are truly from the heart, and even though most are from about 10 or more years ago, they are still apropos to the game of bowling... today!

**RICH THE VAGABOND:** Rich had his share of places that he called home during his 50-year career in bowling. I'll probably leave a few out, but feel free to let us know if you are aware of any other of Carrubba's places to call home:

- Hayward, California
- North Brunswick, N.J.
- Melbourne, Florida
- Las Vegas, Nevada
- Brigham City, Utah
- Phoenix, Arizona
- Diamondhead, Mississippi

**FINAL THOUGHTS:** One memory I will always have is Rich "sparing" with the 10 pin when it wouldn't fall. Rich was an intimidating figure if you didn't know him, but for those that knew him - he was a pussycat! When he retired from Storm Bowling Products, he had this to say:

"I'll miss the people... beginning from Mr. And Mrs. Chrisman, the people in the field, and all the wonderful professionals in Utah. When it is all said and complete, it is the people in life who touch your heart the most. The greatest honor I have received is to have been fortunate to have shared the 'field of battle' with the great folks at Storm!"

Portions of the preceding were adapted from:

- Richard Dean Carrubba Obituary, Audubon Funeral Home
- About Rich Carrubba, bowlingball.com
- Rich Carrubba Retiring from Storm, bowlingboards.com

# GREATER LA COUNTY USBC WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS

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# JIM SHEPPARD Tops Golden Agers League

by Frank Weiler

REDLANDS – Jim Sheppard is the Citrus Belt’s MISTER CONSISTENT on the lanes. He probably is the best spare maker this area has ever seen. While Walter Ray Williams Jr. is nicknamed “Deadeye” because of his accuracy as a spare maker, many call Jim Sheppard “Hawk Eye” because he is a great spare maker as well.

Jim’s reputation as a spare maker shouldn’t be construed to mean that he doesn’t strike. His accuracy as a spare maker easily translates into a consistent striker. As an outstanding spare maker and striker it is not surprising that Jim Sheppard has moved to the Top of the Golden Agers League Leader Board.

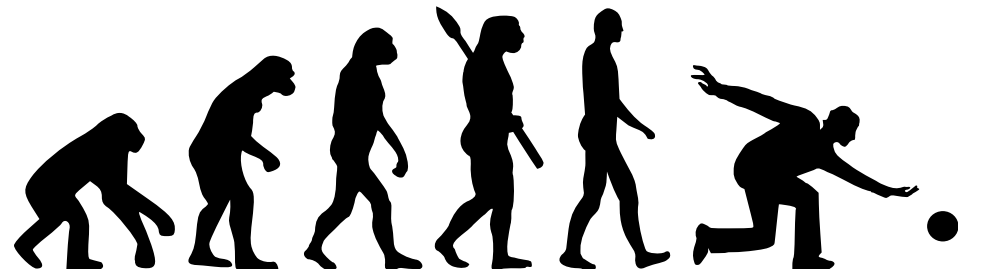
This past week Jim rolled a 623 scratch series and 241 scratch game in the Golden Agers League. That series allowed him to move from second to first on the League Leaderboard.

**The TOP TEN bowlers of the Golden Agers League follow:**

1.	Jim Sheppard	201
2.	Tom Collins	199
3.	P.J. Buckner	198
4.	Gary Nakano	193
5.	Tom Smith	192
6.	Frank Weiler	191
7.	Tracie Lucky	190
8.	Bob Pedersen	188
9.	Claude Heffington	185
10.	Bob Corrigan	183.47
	Gary Young	183.0

The League wishes to give a “SHOUTOUT” to Tom Smith for rolling last weeks league high scratch series of 641 and Frank Weiler for rolling the league high scratch game of 257.

The exploits of these great bowlers prove again that “CALIFORNIA BOWLERS ARE THE BEST BOWLERS IN THE WORLD”



Leonard Ruiz Jr. made a special pumpkin this year!


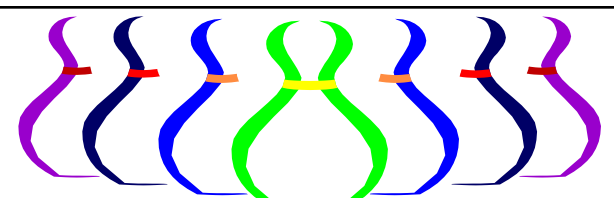


*in loving*  
**MEMORY**



*To my loving wife Karen MacDonald*  
12-3-60 - 11-2-24  
*Rest in peace babe... Dean*

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## INVITATIONAL

# Family Ties Stays Atop Round Two At 9-1

by David Yamauchi

DOWNEY - The Brunswick Invitational took to the lanes for the second week of the short pattern with bowlers swapping out last week's balls for something else to try and control the big hook better. Family Ties was looking to repeat their first round start after going 5-0 to start the season.

In the "A" match, 5-0 **Family Ties** (Bobby Campagnale) was taking on the high 4-1 team from last week **Threadworks** (Eric Snow) with both teams coming off similar scoring the previous week. Family Ties came out strong, taking the first two games, dropping only the last game by 28 for a 4-1 win. Daniel Hong led Family Ties with a 621 set while Eric Snow managed 583 to pace Threadworks.

The "B" match featured the next two 4-1 teams with **Pro Approach Oak Tree** (Leonard Ruiz Jr.) taking on **Don Julio Tequila** (Gabe Garza). Pro Approach Oak Tree started the night with a huge 185-pin win and coasted to a 4-1 result, dropping only the last game to Don Julio's nice 810 effort. Ramon Torres was big for Pro Approach Oak Tree with a nice 657 effort while Frank Ortega paced Don Julio Tequila with a 599 series.

The low of the 4-1 teams was a matchup of **Taco Bell** (Kaven Massey) and **Pro Approach Del Rio** (Augie Labrado Jr.). Pro Approach Del Rio started the night with a 96-pin win but Taco Bell stormed back to take the last two and totals for the 4-1 win. Mike Zuck was back in form with a solid 609 to lead Taco Bell while Omar Ponce Jr. posted 613 to pace Pro Approach Del Rio.

Two teams went 3-2 last week with **Junior Amateur Tour** (Kevin Valmonte) taking on **Forest Lanes** (Jon Diso) in a battle of veteran teams. Marshall Degnan's huge 718 was

enough to bury Junior Amateur Tour as Forest Lanes took the 5-0 sweep. Brandon Grant led Junior Amateur Tour with a 612 effort.

**US Foods** (Gabriel Martinez) battled **Weaverbird** (Eric Williams Jr.) with both teams sitting at 2-3 after one week. US Foods took the bookend wins including a 134-pin win in game three for a 4-1 win. Gabriel Martinez paced US Foods with a nice 626 set while Chris Equilos was huge for Weaverbird with a nice 663 series.

**DV8** (Matthew Zweig) matched up with **Bowlium** (Billy Myers Jr.) as the highest of the 1-4 teams after one week. DV8 took the bookend wins but a big second game by Bowlium gave them totals and a 3-2 win. Butch Jackson stroked to a 622 set to lead Bowlium while new anchor Matt Zweig was huge for DV8 with a nice 662 effort.

**Touchstone Homes** (Christian Eichelkraut), **Pro Approach Cal Bowl** (Austin Wasielewski), **Love Laundry** (Ramsey Basurto) and **Del Rio Lanes** (Michael Barnett) rounded out Monday's action. Pro Approach Cal Bowl took the sweep over Touchstone Homes led by Austin Wasielewski's 598 set. Kevin Cowden led Touchstone Homes with a 604 series. First-round winners Love Laundry bounced back with a 4-1 win over Del Rio Lanes led by Ramsey Basurto's 638 set. Sub Michael Montano paced Del Rio Lanes with a nice 620 series.

**Financial Advisors Pot** went to Chris Equilos (246) for \$160 with 2nd to Scott Smith (242) for \$70. Sidepots went to Matt Zweig (250) and Ramsey Basurto (240) for \$60 each with 2nd to Daniel Hong (246) and Matt Zweig (235) for \$30 each. SuperPot went to Bobby Campagnale (224) for \$180 with 2nd to J.T. Diso (223) for \$90. Last week, only

### TOP 10 ROUND 2 WEEK 2

Family Ties . . . . . 9	Pro Approach Cal Bowl . 6
Forest Lanes . . . . . 8	Threadworks . . . . . 5
Pro Approach Oak Tree . 8	Don Julio Tequila . . . 5
Taco Bell . . . . . 8	Pro Approach Del Rio . 5
US Foods . . . . . 6	Love Laundry . . . . . 5

### TOP 10 THIS WEEK

718 Marshall Degnan	638 Ramsey Basurto
663 Chris Equilos	626 Gabriel Martinez
662 Matt Zweig	622 Butch Jackson
657 Ramon Torres	621 Daniel Hong
641 Jon Diso	620 Michael Montano

### SUPER SWEEPER POT

Sponsored by Dean Sanderson of Transamerica Financial Advisors Inc.  
1st Chris Equilos 246 \$160 • 2nd Scott Smith 242 \$70



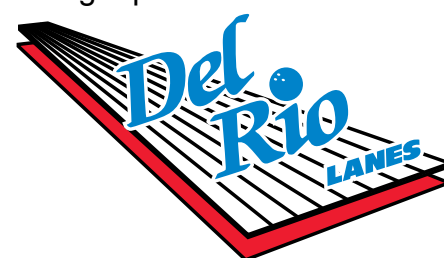
**Dean Sanderson**  
Investment Advisor Representative  
License: 0F92487 [dean\\_sanderson@tfacconnect.com](mailto:dean_sanderson@tfacconnect.com)  
<https://deansanderson.wfgopportunity.com/>

11801 Pierce Street  
Suite 215  
Riverside, CA 92505

Office: 951.530.9343  
Mobile: 714.875.0450  
Fax: 951.389.3755

two bowlers struck out. Congratulations to Bobby Campagnale and Paul Varela who take home \$500 each as the first winners of the strike-out pot this season!

Come out on Monday at 7:30 and watch Southern California's Richest League take the lanes at Del Rio as they continue on the 29' short/light pattern next week!



**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

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