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JASON BELMONTE WINS RECORD-TYING SEVENTH CHRIS SCHENKEL PBA PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

by Nolan Hughes

After winning a single-season, career-high five titles, including the 14th major of his career at the PBA Players Championship, Jason Belmonte was named the 2022 Chris Schenkel PBA Player Of The Year.

Belmonte received 62.9% of the votes by PBA members and the media. Anthony Simonsen, who took home a pair of major titles in 2022, finished second in the voting with 18.8%. Kyle Troup, who won this award in 2021, finished third with 8.3% of the vote.

"I am not naive to the level of difficulty it is to win Player of the Year," Belmonte said. "It's a culmination of hard work, sacrifice, travel, mental and physical exhaustion. Whilst I was quietly confident to get that call (from PBA Commissioner Tom Clark), you get a big sigh of relief because you felt confident and then you get this very overwhelming feeling of reward."

This award marks the seventh of Belmonte's career, tying Walter Ray Williams Jr. for the most in PBA history. While Williams Jr.'s Player of the Year continued on page 4



Belmonte's commanding 2022 season results in his seventh Player of the Year award in 10 seasons, tying Walter Ray Williams Jr. for the most such awards in PBA history.

SANTTU TAHVANAINEN WINS 2022 HARRY GOLDEN PBA ROOKIE OF THE YEAR AWARD

The 25-year-old Finnish star becomes the fourth international player to win Rookie of the Year

by Nolan Hughes

When Santtu Tahvanainen received the call from PBA Commissioner Tom Clark and learned that he had been named the 2022 Harry Golden PBA Rookie Of The Year, he was left almost speechless.

"Well, I was not sitting in a chair, so it couldn't be the same as when I was picked to the PBA League," Tahvanainen said. "(But) I would say my reaction was pretty much the same. I couldn't say literally anything."

The 25-year-old re-



ceived 51.1% of the vote from PBA members and media. Kevin McCune finished second with 28.8% of the vote and

Brandon Runk finished third with 15.7%.

Tahvanainen's \$31,350 in earnings and a 216.28 average

topped all rookies, as did his three top-25 and two top-10 finishes. His runner-up finish at The continued on page 7



ARLINGTON, Texas – The United States Bowling Congress (USBC) released a new research report examining how bowling ball hardness changes with use and performance implications of ball hardness.

Key findings of this 2022 report include the following items:

- Urethane bowling balls get naturally softer with use. USBC data shows friction and shear forces along with lane oil exposure are contributing causes. However, this natural softening of bowling balls through use minimally impacts performance, if at all.

- Lower ball hardness at manufacture clearly impacts performance. Testing two versions of the same model urethane ball with different hardness out of the box shows very different performance. The softer ball is stronger.

- Chemically altering bowling balls to make them continued on page 7



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JASON KING, With “HENDRIX” At His Side, Leads The Christmas Club League

by Frank Weiler

REDLANDS – Jason King is the Citrus Belt’s “SPEED KING”. He earned the “Speed King” moniker when he regularly rolled his strike ball over 20 MPH in league play. I personally witnessed Jason regularly register ball speeds above 20 MPH in the Christmas Club League.

Jason is the top bowler in the Christmas Club League at EMPIRE BOWL. He not only has the high average in the league he also has led his team to a league best Won-Lost record of 91 – 29. His team is 13.5 games ahead of the second place “SANTA’S CREW”. Jason has also rolled the league High Game and league High Series.

Jason’s biggest fan is “HENDRIX”. Hendrix is a “YORKIE” Jason regularly brings to the Bowling Center. Hendrix is well behaved and loved by all the bowlers in the league. He is a dog who knows not to bark or fuss during competition.

Hendrix is named after JIMI HENDRIX the musician considered the greatest guitarist of all time. Jimi was an innovator par excellence. He innovated with his guitar and amplifier in every way imaginable. He unleashed the guitars true potential and went to a place never imagined before. By combining FUZZ, FEEDBACK and CONTROLLED DISTORTION Jimi created a new musical form. His first recording “HEY JOE” made him famous and his hit “PURPLE HAZE” made him a celebrity.



Jason King & his dog Hendrix

The TOP 5 Christmas Club league bowlers follow:

1.	Jason King	228 Average
2.	Robb Bourland	201
3.	Terry Jordan	197
4.	Bill Brown	192
5.	Frank Weiler	190

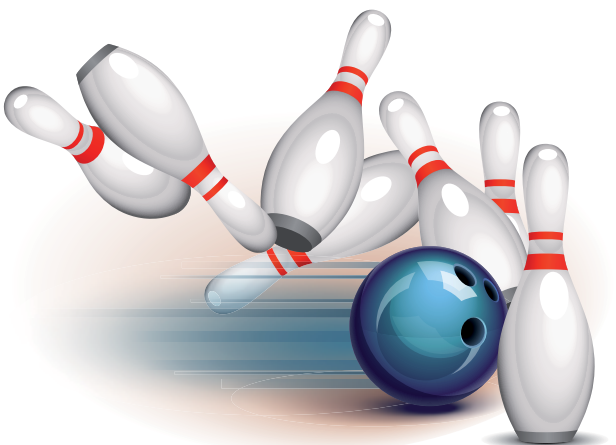
HIGH GAMES so far:

Jason King	300
Bill Brown	280
Jackson Moore	279

HIGH SERIES so far:

Jason King	786
Terry Jordan	699
Bill Brown	664

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- Whiplash
- Numbness
- Tingling
- Asthma
- Allergies
- Pain with Pregnancy
- Menstrual Pain
- Ear Infections
- Wellness

Player of the Year continued from page 1

awards spanned from 1986-2010, a testament to his unprecedented longevity, Belmonte has won all seven awards in the past 10 seasons.

“Walter Ray, the man is a living legend and someone who I see as the best player that I’ve ever seen,” Belmonte said after the Tour Finals in June, when asked about the prospect of tying Williams Jr. “To equal him is a huge accomplishment and something I’m very, very proud of, but it also motivates me to get one more, just one more and have that title all to myself.”

The excellence of Williams Jr., who holds the record with 47 career PBA Tour titles, inspired Belmonte early in his career. Belmonte described equaling Dead Eye with seven Player of the Year awards as “mind-bending.” He said he grew up watching Williams Jr. and wondering how anyone could be so dominant.

Over time, Belmonte grew to view Williams Jr.’s staggering list of accomplishments in a different light.

“If he can do it, then someone else can,” Belmonte said. “So why not me?”

The 39-year-old led the tour with \$302,525 in earnings, 34,230 points, five titles, eight top-five finishes and 13 top-10 finishes. His 224.38 average over a tour-high 380 games ranked second behind EJ Tackett.

Belmonte separated himself from his peers in championship rounds: He compiled a 16-4 record on national television and a 20-4 overall record. Title match wins over Player of the Year contenders Simonsen (PBA Scorpion Championship), Dom Barrett (PBA Tour Finals) and Tackett (The Storm Cup: Lubbock Sports Open) proved critical to his Player of the Year campaign.

“I want to thank my family for the support that they give me through an entire season,” Belmonte said. “A really massive thank you to Storm Bowling, Bill and Barbara Chrisman and Dave Symes, and to my tour reps, Jim Callahan and Shawn Ryan. All of those people, if not for the unwavering support and advice, it’s so much harder to do what I do, and do it as well as I do.”

The dominant 2022 campaign followed a down year, by Belmonte’s standards. In 2021, he went without a title for the first time since 2016 and reached just one championship round.

“I’m typically not someone who really focuses on the narrative, but there was enough said (like), ‘The reign of the king is done,’ and that got to me,” Belmonte said. “I really wanted to come back in the 2022 season, start off strong and put my foot back down as the authority, as if to say ‘Look, I had a very average year in 2021, but those aren’t going to be coming again.’”

That tenacity fueled Belmonte’s season-opening major victory at the PBA Players Championship. He won six consecutive matches on TV, culminating with his “I’m back!” declaration after defeating Sean Rash in the title match.

Belmonte’s remarkable track record in major championships continued in 2022. For the first time in his career, he finished in the top 10 in each of the five majors.

“The part that I’m most proud of with the five (titles) this year was the consistency from beginning to end of the season,” Belmonte said. “The way that the Tour Finals went, with the 300 game and then really dominating that final match, was a big tick for me to say, ‘The last tournament you bowled, you might have performed the best in’ and that was a huge positive for me to take out of this season.”

Belmonte said the moment he will remember the most from the 2022 season is his “I’m back” assertion at the PBA Players Championship.

“That’s something I’ll definitely remember is the comeback after an average season, hearing the narrative, and then making sure that people realize: I’ll call it quits on my career when I’m ready — not the other way around,” Belmonte said. **Recent Winners**

Kyle Troup, 2021
Jason Belmonte, 2020
Jason Belmonte, 2019
Andrew Anderson, 2018
Jason Belmonte, 2017
EJ Tackett, 2016
Jason Belmonte, 2015
Jason Belmonte, 2014
Jason Belmonte, 2013
Sean Rash, 2012

[Complete list of Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year winners](#)



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PROFESSIONAL BOWLERS ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES 2023 PBA ON FOX SCHEDULE

All five majors and the PBA Super Slam Cup will air live on FOX Broadcast Channel

RICHMOND, VA — Major championships are the focus of the 2023 Guaranteed Rate PBA Tour on FOX season. For the first time in PBA Tour history, all five majors will air live on network television, beginning with the U.S. Open on FOX Broadcast Channel in February. The PBA Tournament of Champions, PBA World Championship, USBC Masters and PBA Players Championship will also air live on FOX throughout the season.

All 2023 major champions will be entered into the PBA Super Slam Cup, which will air live on FOX in May. Plus, all majors and the Super Slam Cup will feature additional live televised coverage of match play rounds prior to the championship finals.

Jason Belmonte, a six-time PBA Player of the Year and candidate for a record-tying seventh award in 2022, holds the all-time record with 14 major championships and is one of just two players, along with Mike Aulby, to complete the Super Slam of all five majors in his career. Belmonte will have the opportunity at the U.S. Open to become the first player ever to complete the Super Slam twice.

In addition to the majors, the PBA on FOX schedule will feature World Series of Bowling XIV, including three animal-pattern events (Cheetah, Scorpion and Shark) and the return of USA vs. The World in addition to the PBA World Championship, the third major of the season.

Special events airing in 2023 include the Go Bowling! PBA Celebrity Event, PBA Jr. National Championship, PBA Collegiate National Championship, and the PBA League Bowler Certification National Championships Clash.

The PBA Elite League will compete in late September at Bayside Bowl in Portland, Maine in which eight hours of live coverage on FS1 will showcase the quarterfinals, semifinals and finals of the Elias Cup playoffs.

The full PBA Tour season will also feature eight additional title events in eight different markets, which will be streamed or broadcast.

The PBA welcomes back Guaranteed Rate, one of the top five retail mortgage lenders in the United States, and Pabst Blue Ribbon, an American lager beer sold by Pabst Brewing Company as returning partners of the PBA Tour, as well as welcoming a returning partner in Go Bowling!

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DATE	TIME	CHANNEL	TOURNAMENT	LOCATION
U.S. OPEN PRESENTED BY GO BOWLING!				
SAT. 2/4	4:00P	FS1	MATCH PLAY	ROYAL PIN WOODLAND INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
SUN. 2/5	2:00P	FOX	FINALS	ROYAL PIN WOODLAND INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
SUN. 2/19	1:00P	FS1	PBA COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP	ROYAL PIN WOODLAND INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
SUN. 3/12	12:00P	FS1	GO BOWLING! PBA CELEBRITY EVENT (TBA)	PHOENIX, ARIZONA
PBA TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS				
FRI. 3/17	10:00P	FS1	MATCH PLAY	AMF RIVIERA LANES FAIRLAWN, OHIO
SAT. 3/18	7:30P	FS1	MATCH PLAY	AMF RIVIERA LANES FAIRLAWN, OHIO
SAT. 3/18	9:30P	FS1	MATCH PLAY	AMF RIVIERA LANES FAIRLAWN, OHIO
SUN. 3/19	12:00P	FOX	FINALS	AMF RIVIERA LANES FAIRLAWN, OHIO
SAT. 3/25	7:30P	FS1	PBA JR. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP	AMF RIVIERA LANES FAIRLAWN, OHIO
USBC MASTERS				
FRI. 3/31	7:00P	FS1	MATCH PLAY	THUNDERBOWL DETROIT, MICHIGAN
SUN. 4/2	1:00P	FOX	FINALS	THUNDERBOWL DETROIT, MICHIGAN
GUARANTEED RATE PBA WORLD SERIES OF BOWLING XVI				
SAT. 4/15	2:00P	FS1	USA VS. THE WORLD MATCH PLAY	BOWLERD WAUWATOSA WAUWATOSA, WISCONSIN
SUN. 4/16	12:00P	FS1	USA VS. THE WORLD	BOWLERD WAUWATOSA WAUWATOSA, WISCONSIN
MON. 4/17	7:00P	FS1	PBA CHEETAH CHAMPIONSHIP	BOWLERD WAUWATOSA WAUWATOSA, WISCONSIN
TUES. 4/18	7:00P	FS1	PBA SCORPION CHAMPIONSHIP	BOWLERD WAUWATOSA WAUWATOSA, WISCONSIN
WED. 4/19	7:00P	FS1	PBA SHARK CHAMPIONSHIP	BOWLERD WAUWATOSA WAUWATOSA, WISCONSIN
SUN. 4/23	12:00P	FOX	PBA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP PRESENTED BY PABST BLUE RIBBON	BOWLERD WAUWATOSA WAUWATOSA, WISCONSIN
PBA PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP				
SAT. 5/6	10:30P	FS1	MATCH PLAY	BOWLERD NORTH BRUNSWICK NORTH BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY
SUN. 5/7	12:00P	FS1	MATCH PLAY	BOWLERD NORTH BRUNSWICK NORTH BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY
SUN. 5/7	9:30P	FS1	MATCH PLAY	BOWLERD NORTH BRUNSWICK NORTH BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY
SAT. 5/13	12:30P	FS1	SEMI FINALS	BOWLERD NORTH BRUNSWICK NORTH BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY
SUN. 5/14	1:00P	FOX	FINALS	BOWLERD NORTH BRUNSWICK NORTH BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY
PBA SUPER SLAM CUP				
SAT. 5/20	2:00P	FS1	PRELIMS	BOWLERD JUPITER JUPITER, FLORIDA
SUN. 5/21	3:00P	FOX	FINALS	BOWLERD JUPITER JUPITER, FLORIDA
PBA LEAGUE ELIAS CUP PLAYOFFS PRESENTED BY PABST BLUE RIBBON				
SUN. 9/24	8:00P	FS1	QUARTERFINALS	BAYSIDE BOWL PORTLAND, MAINE
MON. 9/25	9:00P	FS1	QUARTERFINALS	BAYSIDE BOWL PORTLAND, MAINE
TUES. 9/26	8:00P	FS1	SEMIFINALS	BAYSIDE BOWL PORTLAND, MAINE
WED. 9/27	8:00P	FS1	FINALS	BAYSIDE BOWL PORTLAND, MAINE
SUN. 10/1	7:00P	FS1	PBA LEAGUE BOWLER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP CLASH	BAYSIDE BOWL PORTLAND, MAINE

TIMES ARE ET. SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

The Sponge Factor

by Dave Williams

A couple of interesting emails came my way on Tuesday. One was the upcoming schedule for the PBA season, which I’m sure will be reported upon by the staff of the Professional Bowlers Association and others. The second email was a bit more provocative — “USBC Releases 2022 Ball Hardness Report.” That’s the one that got my attention.

The USBC, or United States Bowling Congress, have released their final study regarding the research that was focused primarily upon the Purple Hammer, and other urethane bowling balls, that began last March. As far as mammoth organizations are concerned, that’s a pretty fast turnaround.

The key findings, according to the USBC report, are as follows:

- Urethane bowling balls get naturally softer with use. USBC data shows friction and shear forces along with lane oil exposure are contributing causes.
- Lower ball hardness at manufacture clearly impacts performance. Testing two versions of the same model urethane ball with different hardness out of the box shows very different results, with the softer ball providing “more hook and stronger pin carry.”
- Chemically altering bowling balls make them softer, and significantly impacts performance. The softer altered balls “hook more and provide stronger pin carry.”

The words in quotes are my own, providing a more detailed definition of the word “stronger” from the release, which goes on to say that this report follows up on previous USBC research that demonstrates urethane shell bowling balls drop in hardness after use. Reactive shell bowling balls have less significant changes, showing little to no drop in hardness after use. There was no mention of plastic or rubber bowling balls in the report.

Along with the Ball Hardness Report there were a total of three videos clarifying the findings through the use of film. The first of these videos featured an old friend from my days at AMF, Danny Speranza. Both Danny and I are confirmed “bowling geeks.” Danny’s focus has always been in manufacturing, while mine is concentrated in marketing. When the new ownership occurred at AMF in the mid-1980’s, Danny found an even more meaningful position for his forte at ABC (now USBC) in Greendale, Wisconsin; while I decided after a couple of years to also move on to a very innovative chain of bowling centers called American Recreation Centers (ARC) that was based in California.

When I called Danny earlier this week to touch base and renew our acquaintance, I discovered that Danny was not with USBC all those years. He spent 10



Part of the cast at the Ultra Angle event in 1985: (l to r) Dick Ritger, Jimmy Schroeder, Brian Voss, Gary Skidmore, Pete Weber, Joe Berardi, Tom Baker, Dick Weber and AMF Main Lanes GM Dick Braun.

years with USBC, before joining Columbia Industries in 1996, where he remained in a research and development position for almost 20 years. “I enjoyed my time at Columbia,” said Speranza. “Those were happy years in San Antonio.” With all of the consolidation in the bowling industry, he found himself back at USBC in Arlington, Texas, for the past 7 years as the Senior Director of Certification and Specification. His plans are to retire next year and join some old friends that are now living in the Boynton Beach area of Florida.

While we were reminiscing, Danny brought up our ball testing collaboration at AMF Main Lanes in Columbus, Ohio, when AMF brought together all of the very best bowlers from their talented pro staff (current and retired) to test a very unique product — the Ultra Angle. Both Danny and I were not official members of the AMF Staff of Champions, but we were asked to participate in the testing. “I still have some framed photos from that day,” said Speranza.

In the first of three videos presented by USBC, Danny recounts that hardness of a bowling ball came about because back in the early 70’s the pros were soaking polyester balls with different solvents to make them softer. “That’s when USBC decided to set a hardness factor for bowling balls,” said Speranza. “The PBA had set a specification of 75D (durometer reading). The USBC picked 72D.”

Speranza continues, “The ball manufacturers were shooting for 77 to 78 durometer readings, to be sure that their products would make the TV show on ABC Sports. At some point in time the PBA decided they no longer needed to test all the bowling balls because they were being manufactured at a minimum 77D hardness.” But that’s when the manufacturers decided the new “don’t go below” number should be 72D, according to Speranza.

I first met Danny at AMF’s manufacturing plant in Westerville, Ohio, where he was involved in the testing of bowling balls with a machine called BowlScore. The device, which later was donated to USBC by AMF, is still in use. I remember marveling at the machine, which at the time had an undocumented record of 84 consecutive strikes in a row. “If you get the proper angle of entry, revolutions and speed, it’s capable of striking for long periods of time,” stated Speranza.

“The BowlScore device was invented by Ed Lary out of the AMF White Plains corporate office in New York,” said Speranza. Upon further investigation on the internet, we find that Lary holds many patents for bowling devices, including the innovative AMF Bowling Ball Return Mechanism. He must have also collaborated with Paul Geuvin, a chemist at AMF’s White Plains office that utilized me for the testing of many urethane bowling ball roll-outs, because their names appear on another patent for elastomeric bowling ball material.

What’s next in the urethane bowling ball controversy? It’s certainly not over, even with the completion of the USBC report. Bowlers, like baseball players, will always be looking for a product or chemical to enhance their performance. Whether it’s a corked bat or an exotic weight block, the premiere players in each sport will eventually rise to the top. Complaining about a particular “advantage” through innovation solves nothing.

Having said that, I still miss the good old “lower scoring” days...

Photo and Illustration provided by Dave Williams

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JAKE PETERS WINS SECOND STRAIGHT PBA STEVE NAGY SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

by Nolan Hughes

PBA Tour athletes recognize Peters for his up-standing character and authenticity.

For the second straight year, Jake Peters has been selected to receive the 2022 PBA Steve Nagy Sportsmanship Award.

Peters, Tommy Jones, BJ Moore and Brad Miller earned nominations from PBA players who competed in over half of 2022 national tour stops. Peters received 38.5% of the votes, with Jones receiving 27%, Moore 23% and Miller 11.5%.

“I feel completely overwhelmed and excited,” Peters said. “This award is something you don’t win. It’s something that your peers select you and find you deserving of (because of) the type of person and character you are. I’m so blessed to have such amazing friends and family on the PBA Tour and for them to think of me, it’s unbelievably special and overwhelming.”

While Peters has long been one of the PBA’s exemplary characters, the grace he displayed through personal adversity — losing his wife, Melissa, in May 2021 after a battle with breast cancer — magnified the reverence for him around the PBA.

Peters said he felt overwhelmed during the surreal moment of accepting the 2021 Steve Nagy Sportsmanship Award at the 2022 PBA Hall of Fame dinner.

While accepting the award at this year’s Hall of Fame dinner, Peters received a lengthy standing ovation.

“The entire PBA community was so supportive of everything that my family and I went through the year before,” Peters said. “To look out and see all of them applauding with respect was just so amazing. I truly feel like they’re family, so to feel the exact same coming back was just so special to me.”

Peters, 33, becomes the 17th player to win multiple Nagy awards and the first back-to-back winner since Justin Hromek in 2002.

Peters said he has understood the significance of the Nagy award since his childhood. He said having his name etched in PBA history alongside the greatest guys ever to play the game is unbelievable.

“Jason Queen from my hometown had the opportunity to win it,” Peters said. “That was always a huge deal to us growing up, because it proved that your peers think you’re a great person.”

The PBA’s sportsmanship award honors Steve Nagy, a PBA Hall of Famer and founding member. He was instrumental to the early success of the PBA. The award has been awarded since 1966, the year of Nagy’s death.

Recent Winners, Jake Peters 2021, Brad Miller 2020, Martin Larsen 2019, Tom Smallwood 2018, Chris Loschetter 2017, Tom Smallwood 2016, Josh Blanchard 2015, Brett Spangler 2014, Ryan Shafer 2013, Martin Larsen 2012

[Complete list of PBA Steve Nagy Sportsmanship Award winners](#)

HARDNESS UPDATE continued from page 1

softer significantly impacts performance. The softer altered balls are stronger.

This 2022 report follows up on previous USBC research demonstrating urethane shell balls drop in hardness after use. Reactive shell balls have less significant changes, showing little to no drop in hardness after use.

USBC equipment specifications are designed to set boundaries on the manufacturing of bowling equipment. Manufactured hardness is a physical property of bowling balls that has clearly been demonstrated to have performance implications. Therefore, it is essential that manufacturing regulation in this area continues to ensure that the performance range allowed for bowling balls is maintained. The full report can be found at [BOWL.com/Hardness](#).



RYAN SHAFER NAMED 2022 TONY REYES COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD WINNER

by Nolan Hughes

Shafer’s efforts have raised over \$35,000 for mental health workers and families in need in New York state.

Ryan Shafer, a 35-year PBA Tour veteran and five-time titleist, has been selected as the 2022 Tony Reyes Community Service Award winner. Shafer’s persistent work assisting the New York state mental health community over the past eight-plus years gained the attention of the PBA’s selection committee.

Shafer founded the Michelle Shafer Fund for Suicide Prevention and Awareness to honor his late wife, Michelle, who died by suicide in 2014. His largest fundraising event is an annual team tournament at Crystal Lanes in Corning, N.Y.

Shafer has worked extensively to improve accessibility to treatment for those suffering from depression and other mental health illnesses.

“I’m very honored. It’s very meaningful, not just for me, but for everyone involved in the event that we hold,” Shafer said. “The event couldn’t have happened without the people who get donations, the people who donate themselves, the people who participate in the event and the people who helped run the event, especially my wife, Jennifer, and my best friend, Jim Pitts. They’re indispensable.”

The fundraising event began as a youth scholarship tournament. Shafer said education was very important to Michelle, and he followed the lead of Danny Wiseman, Chris Barnes and Parker Bohn III — all former Reyes award recipients — in starting a tournament to help youth players in his area.

During this iteration of the event, Shafer said they raised \$38,000 in scholarships. Over time, he felt the initial goal of suicide prevention and awareness was being lost. He pivoted to a scratch team tournament with a greater emphasis on the cause and said the response from the community has been incredible.

“You can raise awareness all you want,” Shafer wrote. “But I prefer to do something about it by helping the true professionals have the means to do so.”

Over the past four years, Shafer said they have raised \$7,000, \$7,500 and \$11,000. This year, a 50-team field and countless donors, including annual donors Sean Rash and Tom Hess, raised \$11,500. The proceeds benefit mental health workers and families who have a loved one suffering from mental health illness.

Two organizations that Shafer said he helps support are the Suicide Prevention Center of New York State and GST BOCES, who assist southern New York teens in crisis. Because of Shafer’s diligence, the Suicide Prevention Center of New York State was able to run a webinar series that provided direct service to almost 400 people.

He said when Michelle was ill, the long wait for outpatient care was a big issue.

“You can’t get in to see anybody,” he said. “There’s a long waiting list, so the people who are struggling with depression, mental illness and have made an attempt on their own life and survived that attempt, they really have nowhere to go.”

Shafer said he believes the stigma related to someone admitting they need help is slowly going away. “It’s okay to not be okay” is one of the mottos of his event.

“The reason why this award is important isn’t because it recognizes me,” Shafer said. “I want it to recognize the people who help, participate and donate. Anytime you get focus on what you’re doing, it raises more awareness for (mental health and suicide prevention) and you can grow that way.”

The Tony Reyes Community Service Award recognizes a current PBA member who exemplifies extraordinary community service, charitable or educa-

tional contributions over the course of a PBA season.

Reyes, who died in 2012, was an eight-time PBA Regional champion, collegiate All-American and the 18th player in PBA history to bowl a 300 game on national television. Players today still remember his “everlasting smile” fondly.

Shafer, the 19th player in PBA history to bowl a televised 300 game, defeated Reyes in the match before his perfect game. He said Reyes was always very gracious.

Many years ago, Shafer said he was not invited to a PBA doubles event at Six Flags, though he felt he should have been. He said Reyes, who was invited, voluntarily gave his spot to Shafer.

“That just tells you how he was,” Shafer said.

Past Winners

Warren Eales, 2021

Danny Wiseman, 2020

Chuck Gardner, 2019

Chris Barnes, 2018

Del Ballard Jr., 2017

Rhino Page, 2016

Ed Godbout, 2015

Missy Parkin, 2014

Parker Bohn III, 2013

[Complete list of PBA Tony Reyes Community Service Award winners](#)

Rookie of the Year continued from page 1

Storm Cup: Colorado Springs Open, where he also shot 300 during qualifying, was the best finish of any rookie this season.

Tahvanainen’s freshman campaign almost didn’t happen. Back in July, he said he got cold feet just before leaving for the World Series of Bowling. His friend, Simon Susiluoto, set him straight.

“It’s crazy to think of that moment, if not going to the PBA was my final choice,” Tahvanainen said. “I don’t know what my bowling would be like right now.”

That conversation with Susiluoto will stick with Tahvanainen for a long time. But he said it wasn’t the most memorable moment of his freshman season, nor was the 300 game and runner-up finish in Colorado.

“If there’s something I’m not ever going to forget, it’s Norm Duke’s last shot at the PBA League,” said Tahvanainen, the lone rookie drafted to the PBA League.

Tahvanainen becomes the fourth international player to win the award, succeeding Australia’s Jason Belmonte, Sweden’s Jesper Svensson and Canada’s François Lavoie.

“It feels amazing because it’s also history for Finnish bowling,” Tahvanainen said. “Neither Mika (Koi-vuniemi) or Osku (Palermmaa) were Rookie of the Year. I respect both of them a lot, especially now playing in the PBA. I was able to see how hard it is to actually compete and how good of careers they’ve had.”

Tahvanainen said he doesn’t see himself as following those names — all five are PBA major champions — but he doesn’t want to be the outlier. He said he wants to prove that this season was not a flash in the pan and joining that list of international stars only strengthens his motivation to do so.

“I don’t want this to be my life’s highlight,” he said. “I want to go all the way and chase the Player of the Year. Not next year, but someday.”

The PBA Rookie of the Year Award is named after legendary PBA Tour tournament director Harry “Goose” Golden, who was inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame in 1983.

Recent winners

Matt Russo, 2021

not awarded in 2020 due to the pandemic-interrupted season (2020 rookies retained eligibility through 2021)

Mykel Holliman, 2019

Kamron Doyle, 2018

Matt Sanders, 2017

François Lavoie, 2016

Jesper Svensson, 2015


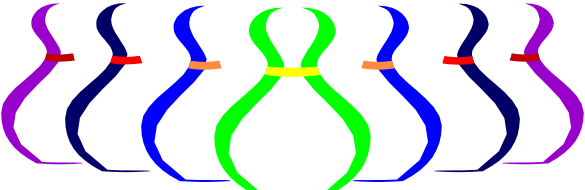
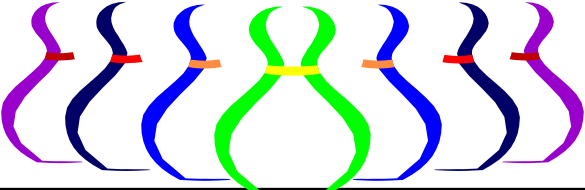
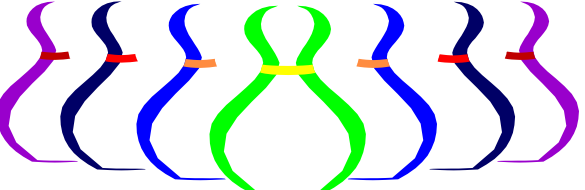
Marshall Kent, 2014

EJ Tackett, 2013

Josh Blanchard, 2012

[Complete list of PBA Rookie of the Years](#)

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INVITATIONAL

Jeff Carr Shoots League Leading 715 Improving DV8 to 9-1

Finishing Touch Floors also 9-1, and will face DV8 on top pair next week

by Mike Cammarata

DOWNEY – The second round of the Brunswick Invitational started a week ago and the short oil pattern proved to be the challenge everyone was looking for as the scores came down dramatically. Four teams got sweeps on the first night, setting up a two matches between 5-0 teams on the second night of the round. None of the four were able to improve to 10-0, as all of them took at least one hit, which allowed a sixth place 4-1 team, DV8, to jump all the way to the top pair on week three.

The first of the 5-0 matchups was between Finishing Touch Floors and the Junior Amateur Tour team. Finishing Touch took the opener by 26 pins, 765-739, being led by Bobby Hornacek's 247 game. A 226 in the opener by Anthony Santos of J.A.T. kept them in the match. The middle game wasn't nearly as close, as Finishing Touch got their second win, this time by 145 pins. Vernon Adams got locked in for Finishing Touch, posting a 277 game. In the final game, Finishing Touch stayed strong with an 829. This time, it wasn't enough, as J.A.T. closed with an 832 to win by three pins. Vernon Adams stayed hot with a 232 finish, but David Yamauchi topped him, leading J.A.T. with a 235. Adams led the pair for series as well with a 682.

JK Inc. and The Bowling Guys both went 5-0 last week and were matched up against each other on the second pair. The Bowling Guys had a couple of subs on the lanes on this night, and while they didn't shoot big numbers, they didn't hurt the team either. In the opener, Bowling Guys came out on top, 642-540. JK Inc. evened the match in game #2, and cut into the lead Bowling Guys had for totals. The final game was close throughout, and ended in a 674-674 tie. For the match, Bowling Guys come out on top, 3 ½ - 1 ½ to improve to 8 ½ wins for the round.

Family Ties won the first round of the season, so the rest of the way for them is all about total wins to secure a top seed. There were no wins on this night though, as DV8 used an impressive 276/715 from Jeff Carr to sweep the match. Carr was high on the pair by close to 200 pins. With the four wins, DV8 is now 9-1 for a round after a disappointing start to the season.

Cal Bowl swept past Complete Builders to improve their record to 8-2 for the round. This match belonged to Cal Bowl from the outset as they won each game easily, taking totals by over 400 pins. Ramon Torres led Cal with a 255/693 set. Leonard Ruiz and Scott Smith both had games over 200 as well to help out on the tough pattern.

U.S. Foods got off to a quick start, winning the opening game in their match against Bowlium. The rest of the night was all Bowlium though, as they took the next two games and easily won total pins for a 4-1 victory. The four wins gets Bowlium to 6-4 for the round after two weeks. Arnold Cheesman led Bowlium with a very steady 216/631 series.

Allied Paving won their opening game against Forest Lanes, by only 9 pins, to get off to a 1-0 lead. They won the middle game as well, by quite a bit more, opening a 110 pin lead for totals. In the final game, Forest Lanes was able to get a win, but they never came close to closing the gap for totals, allowing Allied Paving to get out with a 4-1 win in the match. Edward Estrada of Allied Paving topped the pair with 541.

Threadworks and Westminster Lanes both got swept last Monday night and were looking for a big night to get back in the running after week #2. Neither got that big night though, as the match was 3-2 in favor of Westminster Lanes. Threadworks took two of the three games in close fashion. A big win in the middle game for Westminster was enough to win them totals, giving them three points for the night. Bryan Osborne of Westminster Lanes had a pair leading 217/583 for the night.

The Professional Approach got off to an 0-5 start last week, but evened their record at 5-5 after sweeping all five games from Don Julio Tequila. The second game was very close, with Pro Approach winning by two pins. The other games were decisive victories. In the match, Kevin Jones was the only bowler to break 200 and had a pair leading 543 series.

A 247 game was enough to win Bobby Hornacek the first sidepot of the night. Jeff Carr has a 234 to earn second place money. In the middle game, Vernon Adams had a league high 277 to win the pot. Ramsey Basurto was a distant second with 221, but still earned runner up money. In the final game, Jeff Carr strung enough strikes for a 276 to win the \$174

TOP 10 TEAMS ROUND TWO			
Finishing Touch Floors	9	Junior Amateur Tour	6
DV8	9	Bowlium	5
Bowling Guys	8.5	Allied Paving	5
Cal Bowl	8	Professional Approach	5
J.K. Inc.	6.5	Family Ties	4

TOP 10 THIS WEEK			
Jeff Carr	715	Arnold Cheesman	631
Ramon Torres	693	Kurt Arakaki	599
Vernon Adams	682	Ramiro Garcia	590
Bobby Hornacek	645	Anthony Santos	584
Ramsey Basurto	633	Bryan Osborne	583

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1st Vernon Adams 277 \$160 • 2nd Billy Myers Jr. 246 \$70

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Super Pot money. Vernon Adams took second place with a 232.

The 277 game bowled by Vernon Adams also won him the Financial Advisors Pot, for an additional \$160. Billy Myers Jr. took second place shooting a 246.

As mentioned earlier, a couple of 9-1 teams will lead the way on the top pair, as DV8 will take on Finishing Touch Floors. Cal Bowl and Bowling Guys are right behind though and there is plenty of time left in the second round for more teams to make some noise. The action starts at 8pm at Del Rio Lanes in Downey. Spares will win games on this round, and they aren't easy. Come watch the action and cheer on your favorite bowlers. We would love to see you here.

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