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CALIFORNIA

BOWLING NEWS

7502 Florence Ave, Downey, CA 90240 • Website: CaliforniaBowlingNews.com • Email: news@californiabowlingnews.com • Phone: (626) 252-2985

BREAKING DOWN THE FULL 2025 PBA TOUR SCHEDULE

A deeper analysis of the full 2025 PBA Tour schedule

Nolan Hughes

The countdown to the 2025 PBA Tour is on.

Historic venues, from Indianapolis' Royal Pin Woodland to Fairlawn's AMF Riviera Lanes, provide the idyllic setting for major championships.

The World Series of Bowling (WSOB) XVI seeks to break records as the world's premier international bowling event returns to the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev.

A revamped PBA Elite League invigorates the regular season by shining a spotlight on the rivalries between ball manufacturers, while the return of All-Star Weekend showcases the game's top talents and provides a glimpse at the future of the sport.

Finally, the season's top performers collide in the PBA Playoffs, the 15th title to be awarded on FOX Sports networks this year.

In total, the 2025 season ventures across 10 states, includes 18 title events and provides more than 60 hours on FOX Sports and nine hours on CBS Sports Network.

Additional coverage, including livestreams of all qualifying rounds, will be provided by BowlTV.

Entries for all 2025 PBA Tour events will open Nov. 20, 2024.

CLASSIC SERIES RETURNS

This year's PBA Classic Series spans nearly coast to coast, beginning with the PBA Delaware



Classic. After a pit stop in Indianapolis for the U.S. Open presented by Go Bowling, the tour heads to Vernon Hills, Ill., Springfield, Mo. and Reno, Nev.

The Delaware, Illinois and Missouri Classics will utilize bracket match play to determine the stepladder finalists, while the Nevada Classic will feature elimina-

tion qualifying rounds.

The PBA Roth/Holman Doubles will also take place in Vernon Hills. Illinois Classic qualifying will count towards both events.

BIGGEST WSOB EVER

This year's WSOB, the fourth held at Reno's National Bowling Stadium, features four animal pattern championships in

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Norris Runnels – Bowling's GQ CEO

by Frank Weiler

Norris Runnels is the **Best Dressed**, most fashionable and stylish bowler I have encountered during my decades participating in the sport of Bowling as a bowler, coach and writer.

His attire is always in tune with current trends, he is always well groomed, clean and looks like he could be the Chief Operating Officer (CEO) of Gentleman's Quarterly (GQ) magazine. If not CEO, Norris would make a great model for the premier men's fashion magazine in the world.

GQ magazine has inspired men to look sharper and live smarter with its

unparalleled coverage of style, culture and beyond for six decades.

GQ Has been the global flagship of men's fashion and the **"Arbiter of COOL"** for anyone who sees the world through the lens of taste and style.

That description of GQ so appropriately describes how I see Norris Runnels. A man aware of cultural trends, a man who presents himself to the Bowling World with taste and style.

Bowling has been the focal point of Norris Runnels life. He has spent six great decades in every capacity in the Bowling industry. He has been a

Bowling Center proprietor and manager.

He has managed and worked Pro-Shops, he has been a lane man, managed snack bars and coached bowlers.

He has competed as a professional bowler and has been a 40-year member of the Professional Bowlers Association (PBA).

On the lanes Norris has averaged 230 two different seasons (2006 and 2007) and above 200 for four decades.

He has rolled 26 perfect 300 games and fourteen 800 series. Norris is an **"old school"** bowler who relies on accuracy,

consistency and speed control to score. He is a **"stroker"** and a master at what he does on the lanes.

Norris has always been an innovator. When running a Pro-Shop in the Chicago area several decades ago he introduced the **"Open Concept"** to the bowling ball drilling process.

The same concept used today by the **SURE-FIRE Pro-Shop** operated by Brian Markowitz and Norris in **Bullhead City, Arizona**.

The **"Open Concept"** introduced by Norris decades ago involves the

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Norris Runnels

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- ▶ Entry Fees: \$105 Team / \$25 Virtual Singles
- ▶ Questions? Call (562) 426-2030 or email: info@glacusbc.com

Sign Up Early!!



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The "Speed Bowling" Strike Derby - Part V

by Dave Williams

The 5th annual PBA Strike Derby had a few changes to the format... not the ones that I would like to have seen, but nonetheless the PBA hierarchy have recognized the need for change, so perhaps in the future we might see an end to the emphasis on "speed bowling."

This year the eight-player field included players from the PBA Elite League teams via a fan vote. Heading the list was none other than Andrew Anderson from Holly, Michigan. He perfected the speed bowling technique by his own admission, practicing the method for hours on end during his youth.

The remainder of the field included Jason Belmonte, Packy Hanrahan, Jesper Svensson, E.J. Tackett, Kyle Troup, and two wild card selections from PBA commissioner Tom Clark: Chris Via, last year's winner, and Arturo Quintero from the host center in Portland, Maine.

I've talked about my frustration with this event over the past five years and offered some suggestions, with two being incorporated into the format — beginning the clock with the release of the ball rather than at the start of the approach on the first roll; and stopping the clock when there's a lane breakdown or other mechanical failure.

However, there must be some element of the fan base that enjoys the "speed bowling" aspect and causes the powers that be at the PBA to continue this competition. From a proprietor's (or their mechanic's) point of view, the contest must be similar to scratching fingernails on a blackboard.

Let's take a look back at some of my rants over the past five years:

2020: In the inaugural year I made mention of the similarity between the contest and casual open play bowlers here in New Jersey, that are more concerned with the number of rolls of the ball they can achieve in one hour instead of their score. One employee at Stelton Lanes in Piscataway, N.J., referred to it as "speed bowling." At the time I remarked, "I don't know if the Strike Derby is a consequence of this new phenomenon in bowling centers, but it certainly did bear a striking (no pun intended) resemblance to the New Jersey speed bowlers!"

2021: In the second year of the challenge, I was quick to point out all of the good that had been done by Bowlero and iStar in changing the landscape of bowling centers for years to come. "The one event that falls short for me is the PBA Strike Derby," I observed. "Casual, or open play bowlers, have become more concerned in the past couple of years with the number of rolls of the ball they can get, rather than their ultimate score, as they continue to roll balls and hit sweeps, and walk down the middle of the lane to retrieve a ball."

2022: In year three some interesting new concepts took place to prevent potential damage to the machines. The most important was stopping the clock when the machine was still in cycle. Another was the observation by the participants that they "should have taken more time," or "quality shots over quantity," or even PBA television analyst Randy Pedersen admitting, "Too fast is no good. You have to make good shots."

2023: Here's one of my remarks from last year's event: "I sometimes wonder why the PBA, and especially Bowlero (operator of bowling centers), continue to promote this competition. A local desk attendant in New Jersey has dubbed it 'The Speed Bowling Derby.' The consequences of the activity are numerous, but perhaps most notable is the effect that it has had on open play customers renting lanes by the hour. Their objective, as my desk attendant friend so appropriately puts it, is to see how many rolls of the ball they can achieve in an hour — Damn The Bowling Machines! Full Speed Ahead!"

So, what was different this time around? Not much, except that a foreign born player, Jesper Svensson from Sweden, was the eventual winner. "I'm not really the best at this thing," Svensson said after heaving a last-second strike to defeat perennial favorite Andrew Anderson. "I feel like I'm not fast enough, I don't get enough shots in. But I got better as we went."

Is this really the kind of activity we want our young bowlers to follow? Does this set a good example for our casual open play customers? I think not. But, with no disrespect to Bowlero, the PBA, or the players, there might be another route to follow that tracks only strikes in a more logical approach.

Take a look at this video from January 2nd, 1961. It's the famous Jackpot Bowling series, presented by Milton Berle. The broadcasts took place from Hollywood Legion Lanes, and featured announcer Chick Hearn (of Los Angeles Lakers fame), and famous bowler Johnny Klares as the referee. Therm Gibson was the first and only bowler to roll 6 consecutive strikes in the final game roll off, and won \$75,000! Here's the video, provided by irishpogi:

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

Gibson's winning prize of \$75,000 would be worth about \$792,000 today! In 1961, the amount was more than most baseball, basketball or football players made in an entire year, according to Hearn.

Don Ellis, a native of Houston, was living in Detroit at the time and defeated another Detroit resident, Bob Kwolek, in the first match by a total of five strikes to four.

In the second match, ^{continued on page 3} Therm Gibson, also of Detroit, started with the first 6 strikes in a row to win the \$75,000 jackpot. Some of the comments below the YouTube video are from people that were in the stands back in 1961, saying in unison that they had never seen such a wild reaction from a crowd.

I don't know, maybe "speed bowling" isn't necessary to get the kind of reaction that the PBA, their fans and sponsors are seeking. It's just a thought...

- Portions of the preceding article adapted from a PBA news release of October 27, 2024, by Nolan Hughes
- Purchasing power of \$75,000 in 1961 determined by using in2013dollars.com calculator, resulting in \$791,799.33 for 2024

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Runnels continued from page 1

movement of the drill press to the front of the Pro-Shop so that bowlers can see the drilling process first hand. Bowlers can then see the expertise, precision and work involved in weighing, calibrating and drilling their bowling ball. It makes the bowler more appreciative of the process and skill demonstrated by the ball driller. The bowler better understands what he is paying for. **Brilliant.**

Norris is an intelligent observer of human nature and the human condition. He realizes that Bowling has been very good to him, and he enjoys giving back to the sport he loves. He wants to help every bowler as a coach and Pro-Shop operator. As a Pro-Shop operator and bowling ball driller he wants every

bowler to choose the right bowling ball, have it drilled perfectly, with a superior fit, resulting in a satisfied and confident bowler.

I salute Norris Runnels for his efforts to make Bowling a better sport than he found it decades ago, because of his positive philosophy and positive actions on and off the lanes. Thank You Norris for the example you have set and the knowledge you have imparted to thousands of bowlers through the decades.

If you want Norris Runnels to help you and your bowling game visit him at **SUREFIRE Pro-Shop** on 1700 Lakeside Drive in Bullhead City, Arizona. I have been there and like the "Open Concept" Pro-Shop.

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2025 Schedule continued from page 1

addition to the major championship. Each of the four animal pattern championships will include 12 games of qualifying and a 24-player elimination match play bracket. The four players who emerge from the bracket and the highest-seeded player who loses in the Round of 8 will advance to the stepladder finals.

For the PBA World Championship, the top quarter of the field will advance following all 48 games of qualifying each animal pattern. Two eight-game advancer rounds will then set the 16-player field for round robin match play, where the five finalists for the season's second major championship will be determined.

The PBA Nevada Classic finals and PBA Jr. National Championships will be held during this time as well.

MASTERS

The Masters returns to Thunderbowl Lanes near Detroit next year — the same site where Anthony Simonsen demolished the USBC Masters match play scoring record two years ago en route to a second consecutive victory.

The Masters fosters dichotomic champions like no other major. On the one hand, seven of the past dozen Masters champions are Simonsen and Jason Belmonte; on the other, virtual unknowns like last year's champion DeeRonn Booker have transformed themselves into a household name.

TWO MAJORS CLOSE REGULAR SEASON

The tour heads to Big 10 country for the regular season finales, both major championships.

If the 2023 PBA Jackson Classic — where EJ Tackett defeated Simonsen in the title match — is any indication of what might transpire at David Small's JAX 60, the PBA Players Championship could be one for the ages.

If there is a more apropos setting to finish the regular season than historic AMF Riviera Lanes, the tour hasn't discovered it. After inducting the next class of PBA Hall of Famers, the season's fifth major champion will be crowned.

PLAYOFFS

By closing with back-to-back, triple-point major championships, the race to make the PBA Playoffs could be flipped on its head.

The season's top dozen players in competition points after the TOC will reconvene at Thunderbowl Lanes for the season's premier standard title event.

All matches of the elimination bracket, featuring Race-to-Two matches, will air on FS1. May Madness concludes with the Race-to-Three championship match May 24 on FOX.

SUMMER SWING

3 title events remain following the PBA Playoffs.

The PBA Tour Finals, featuring the top eight players in points over the 2024 and 2025 seasons, returns to Bethlehem, Pa.

Then the PBA links up with the PWBA Tour for the Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles in Houston. The charitable doubles event brings out the best of tour players, both on and off the lanes.

Finally, the tour heads across the Atlantic for the Storm Lucky Larsen Masters in Sweden. Jesper Svensson will look to go back to back in his homeland.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The second annual PBA All-Star Weekend heads to the greater Milwaukee area April 4-6. The star-studded exhibition will celebrate the game's top talents and serve as a midseason checkpoint.

The new-look PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands will factor in the entire PBA Tour regular season, akin to Formula 1's Constructor Standings. The stepladder finals in late April add a team dynamic to a jam-packed season slate at Thunderbowl. More information on these special events will be available

at a later date. More information on 2025 PBA Tour events are available [here](#). More information on the PBA on FOX schedule is available [here](#).

2025 PBA TOUR SCHEDULE

PBA Delaware Classic

Jan. 20-25, 2025
Middletown, DE
Mid County Lanes & Entertainment

U.S. Open presented by Go Bowling

Jan. 25 - Feb. 2
Indianapolis, IN
Royal Pin Woodland

PBA Illinois Classic

Feb. 3-8
Vernon Hills, IL
Bowlero Vernon Hills

PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship

Feb. 3-8
Vernon Hills, IL
Bowlero Vernon Hills

PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic

Feb. 11-16
Springfield, MO
Enterprise Park Lanes

PBA Nevada Classic

Feb. 25-28; March 15
Reno, NV
Coconut Bowl at Wild Island

PBA World Series of Bowling XVI

March 3-22
Reno, NV
National Bowling Stadium

PBA WSOB XVI Animal Pattern 1 Championship

March 3-16

PBA WSOB XVI Animal Pattern 2 Championship

March 6-17

PBA WSOB XVI Animal Pattern 3 Championship

March 8-18

PBA WSOB XVI Animal Pattern 4 Championship

March 10-19

PBA WSOB XVI World Championship

March 3-22

USBC Masters

March 23-30
Allen Park, MI
Thunderbowl Lanes

PBA All-Star Weekend

April 4-5
Waukesha, WI
Foxy View Lanes

PBA Players Championship

April 7-13
Jackson, MI
David Small's JAX 60

PBA Tournament of Champions

April 14-20, 2025
Fairlawn, OH
AMF Riviera Lanes

PBA Elite League: Battle of the Brands

April 25-27
Allen Park, MI
Thunderbowl Lanes

PBA Playoffs

April 27-29
Allen Park, MI
Thunderbowl Lanes

PBA Playoffs Championship

May 23-24
Allen Park, MI
Thunderbowl Lanes

PBA Tour Finals

June 2025
Bethlehem, PA
Steel City Bowl & Brews

PBA/PWBA Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles

July 24-27
Houston, TX
Copperfield Bowl

Storm Lucky Larsen Masters

August 22-31
Helsingborg, Sweden
Olympia Bowling

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**Questions? Contact (562) 449-4527
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SQUAD DATES:

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April 26-27

May 3-4

May 10-11

May 17-18

May 24-25

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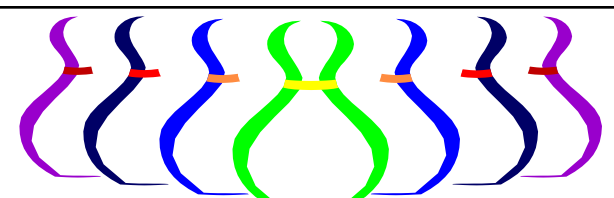
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38th Year! Brunswick® INVITATIONAL

Pro Approach Oak Tree Strikes To The Round Lead Ramon Torres Goes Clean-30

by David Yamauchi

DOWNEY – The Brunswick Invitational took to the lanes at the halfway point of the dry round. 6 teams were within 4 points of the lead going into the night with a pair of 13-2 teams in the top match.

In the “A” match, **Family Ties** (Bobby Campagnale) and **Pro Approach Oak Tree** (Leonard Ruiz Jr.) were both sitting atop the round at 13-2 after hot starts in the first three weeks. Pro Approach Oak Tree put up some huge numbers, dropping a 891-876 second game, en route to a 4-1 win to take over lead of the round. Bobby Hornacek (720) and Ramon Torres (716) were huge for Pro Approach Oak Tree while Bobby Campagnale (687) and Daniel Hong (685) put up big sets for Family Ties in the tough loss. Ramon Torres was the first this round to go Clean-30 so he is guaranteed half of the pot.

The “B” match featured 10-5 **Love Laundry** (Ramsey Basurto) taking on the high 9-6 team in **Forest Lanes** (Jon Diso). Love Laundry was short-handed and Forest Lanes took advantage of it with a 5-0 sweep. Marshall Degnan and JT Diso put up even 600 sets for Forest, while Marquan Rivers led Love Laundry with a 598 series.

US Foods (Gabe Martinez) and **Don Julio Tequila** were the low of the 9-6 teams sitting in 5th and 6th for the round. This night was all US Foods as they breezed to a 5-0 result. Gabe Martinez was big for US Foods with a solid 678 set while Jason Carrillo managed 568 to pace Don Julio Tequila.

Bowlium (Billy Myers Jr.) jumped back into the round after a strong week three moving up to take on **Taco Bell** (Kaven Massey) who was hoping for a bounce back after a week three sweep. Taco Bell came out strong tak-

ing the first two games by over two hundred, but dropped the last game for the 4-1 win. Mike Zuck paced Taco Bell with a 635 set while Butch Jackson topped Bowlium with a 610 series.

Pro Approach Cal Bowl (Austin Wasielewski) matched up with **DV8** (Matthew Zweig) who jumped to 10th after a 5-0 sweep last week. Pro Approach Cal Bowl started the night with a win but it was all DV8 from there as they rolled to a 4-1 win. Austin Wasielewski paced Pro Approach Cal Bowl with a 647 set while Tony Brunning stroked to a solid 696 to pace DV8.

Threadworks (Eric Snow) was looking to be tough against **Pro Approach Del Rio** (Augie Labrado Jr.) with both teams looking for some wins after a tough week. Threadworks were all over it as they cruised to a 5-0 result over Pro Approach Del Rio. Paul Varela was huge for Threadworks with a big 709 series while Augie Labrado Jr. struck to 650 for Pro Approach Del Rio.

Junior Amateur Tour (Kevin Valmonte), **Del Rio Lanes** (Michael Barnett), **Weaverbird** (Eric Williams Jr.) and **Touchstone Homes** (Christian Eichelkraut) rounded out Monday’s action. Junior Amateur Tour took a 4-1 result, dropping a close third game. Michael Marmolejo led J.A.T. with a nice 621 series while Max Castillo paced Del Rio Lanes with a 605 set. Weaverbird took the bookend games against Touchstone Homes for a 4-1 win. Erick Williams Jr. finished huge for Weaverbird for a 629 set while Anthony Rieger put together 564 for Touchstone Homes.

Financial Advisors Pot went to Bobby Campagnale (248) for \$160 with 2nd to Paul

TOP 10 ROUND 2 WEEK 4

Pro Approach Oak Tree . 17	DV8. 11.5
Forest Lanes. 14	Threadworks. 11
Family Ties. 14	Love Laundry \$. . . . 10
US Foods. 14	Bowlium. 9.5
Taco Bell. 12	Don Juilo Tequila . . 9

TOP 10 THIS WEEK

720 Bobby Hornacek	685 Daniel Hong
716 Ramon Torres	678 Gabriel Martinez
709 Paul Varela	656 Paul Barraco
696 Tony Brunning	650 Augie Labrado Jr.
687 Bobby Campagnale	647 Austin Wasielewski

SUPER SWEEPER POT

Sponsored by Dean Sanderson of Transamerica Financial Advisors Inc.
1st Bobby Campagnale 248 \$160 • 2nd Paul Varela 245 \$70



11801 Pierce Street
Suite 215
Riverside, CA 92505

Office: 951.530.9343
Mobile: 714.875.0450
Fax: 951.389.3755

Dean Sanderson
Investment Advisor Representative
License: 0F92487 dean_sanderson@tfacconnect.com
<https://deansanderson.wfgopportunity.com/>

Varela (245) for \$70. Sidepots went to Gabe Martinez (279) and Bobby Campagnale (248) for \$66 each with 2nd to Jeff Hickenbottom (269) and Paul Varela (245) for \$33 each. SuperPot went to Eric Williams Jr. (265) for \$198 with 2nd to Bobby Campagnale and Paul Varela (258) for \$49 each. Ramon Torres is the first to go Clean-30 and will take home at least half of the pot.

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



Weekly Scratch 5-Gamer Every Tuesday

\$55 Entry Fee with Optional Pots and Brackets
Check-in at 6pm • Bowl at 7pm • 1 in 5 Payout
11/19 2024 Masters • 11/26: SYC Laurel • 12/3: Ong Open

Saturday HDCP No-Tap Tournament

\$30 Entry Fee with Optional Pots and Brackets
Check-in at 11am • Bowl at Noon • 1 in 5 Payout
4 Games on Same Pair of Lanes on House Shot

22771 Centre Dr. Lake Forest, CA 92630 (949) 770-0055