

NOVEMBER 28, 2024

# CALIFORNIA BOWLING NEWS



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## EIGHT PLAYERS QUALIFY FOR 2024 PBA PLAYER OF THE YEAR BALLOT

by Nolan Hughes

Eight players have qualified for the 2024 Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year award, which recognizes the best player during the 2024 PBA Tour season. The award honors the legacy of Schenkel, whose Hall of Fame sports broadcasting career included more than three decades as the voice of the PBA.

Listed in alphabetical order, the nominees for the 2024 Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year award are: Marshall Kent, David "Boog" Krol,

Bill O'Neill, Matt Russo, Anthony Simonsen, Jesper Svensson, EJ Tackett, Kyle Troup.

To qualify for the ballot, which can be viewed here, a player must have won at least one PBA Tour title and ranked among the top 10 earners during the calendar year. Any player who won multiple titles during the year is automatically added to the ballot.

All PBA members are invited to vote for the 2024 PBA Player of the Year and Rookie of Year continued on page 6



## KEPLINGER, PURCHES NOMINATED FOR 2024 PBA ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

by Nolan Hughes



Alec Keplinger of Angola, Ind. and Nate Purches of Fond du Lac, Wis. are this year's nominees for the Harry Golden PBA Rookie of the Year award, which recognizes the best first-year player during the 2024 PBA Tour season.

The award honors legendary PBA Tour tournament director Harry "Goose" Golden, who was inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame in 1983.

To qualify for the ballot, which can be viewed

here, a player must have bowled at least three events and finished in the top five among rookies in points and earnings.

All PBA members are invited to vote for the 2024 PBA Player of the Year and Rookie of Year awards here.

A breakdown of the nominees for the 2024 Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year can be found here.

Winners for all 2024 PBA player awards, in- continued on page 4



# "The Meaning of Thanksgiving" – For Bowlers

by Frank Weiler

Thanksgiving is an annual national holiday in the United States that celebrates our blessings of the past year. It is a **public acknowledgment** of our dependence on a greater power for those blessings and our thankfulness for the good bestowed on us by that power. In the beginning Thanksgiving was meant to be a day of prayer and gratitude to GOD for the blessings received during the past year.

In America, long before there was a United States of America, Thanksgiving began when the English colonists, known as Pilgrims, and the Wampanoag people of New England gave thanks for an abundant harvest in 1621. Americans to this day model their Thanksgiving holiday after that first celebration.

In the United States, Thanksgiving Day is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November, as specified in a joint resolution passed by Congress in 1941 and a proclamation issued by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1942.

Within the United States Thanksgiving is the most traveled holiday of the year. Most families gather together on this day to renew old acquaintances and enjoy each other's company while enjoying the traditional Thanksgiving meal that typically includes turkey, bread stuffing, mashed potatoes, cranberries and pumpkin pie.

For many bowlers Thanksgiving Day is a tournament day. In bowling centers throughout the country bowlers compete for trophies and prize money. It is all about fun and competition. Pursuing the "**Thrill of Victory**" without any thought of the "**Agony of Defeat**". But should there be more involved here?

All of this gathering together and holiday competing seems to fit nicely into our National Motto: "**Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness**". However, is this what Thanksgiving should really be about? Have Americans and American bowlers become smug, complacent and ungrateful? Have we wandered from the nation's founding values? From Godly values? What about "**In GOD We Trust**"? What about in GOD we praise, in GOD we thank?

**Thanksgiving should be about being gracious, generous and grateful.** That's where "**The true meaning of Thanksgiving**" lies. The true meaning of Thanksgiving lives within our hearts and minds, but most of all in our attitudes and actions.

Graciousness is all about being kindly, congenial, courteous and compassionate. A gracious person and gracious bowler is someone who is ever mindful of other people and places, always attempting to make those people and places better for having come in contact with them. Gracious people feel empathy for others, especially those who are oppressed or have been touched by loss. A gracious person is thoughtful and soothes feelings. In some ways a gracious person is a healer.

Thanksgiving is the perfect time to begin practicing graciousness. **Bowlers should always be gracious in victory or defeat.**

Generosity is the quality or condition of being willing to help or support more than is usually expected. A generous person and generous bowlers are willing to do just that.

Generosity is more than going **above and beyond** but doing so enthusiastically and joyfully. Generosity is more than giving treasure but more importantly giving of yourself. Binding wounds, healing hearts and minds with words and actions. A pat on the back and a word of encouragement when not expected and not required.

Thanksgiving is the perfect time to begin practicing generosity. **Bowlers should always be generous.**

Gratefulness or gratitude is a feeling or quality within whereby a person, including bowlers, recognize a need to be thankful for every opportunity, every blessing, every favor and every success one experiences in life and every bowler experiences on the lanes. It is a feeling of appreciation but should be more than that. **Gratitude should be a feeling that should be acted on.** Being grateful means one is willing to express their gratitude in **thought, word and deed.**

Gratitude is telling another person you are thankful for their help and assistance. Gratitude is expressing one's appreciation for a good deed received and accepted. Gratitude is sharing thoughts with someone who has befriended you when you needed encouragement. Gratitude is returning a smile for a smile, a tip of the hat with a tip of the hat and a handshake with a handshake.

Most important of all, gratitude is **giving thanks to GOD** for our life, our liberty, our friends, our family and our many blessings. Most important of all, gratitude is **bowlers giving thanks to GOD** for every win, for every honor score and for every teammate and for every coach who have aided in their success on the lanes.

Thanksgiving is the perfect time to begin being grateful. **Bowlers should always be grateful.**

Happy Thanksgiving. **I am grateful to GOD** for all my blessings as a person and as a bowler. My special thanks to the **California Bowling News** along with **Carol Mancini** and **Dean Lopez** for their support and guidance over the past two decades. Also, thank you to my long-time readers and supporters including my loving wife Therese, Darwin Balding, Mary Lynly and Judy Wood. I am so grateful for these lovely people who have been so gracious and generous with their comments, suggestions and encouragement for these many years.

**Be gracious, be generous and be grateful** my friends!

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# It's Still Not Bowling Across America

by Dave Williams

The Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) came up with a different headline for the full 2025 PBA Tour Schedule, but it's still not bowling across America, as I highlighted in a column last year about this time: "Professional Bowlers To Go Bowling Across America?"

In that article I made reference to the tour schedule from 50 years ago that included just about every region of the USA. Here is an excerpt from that column: "In 1975, I can remember the tour stops being so familiar that most of the players had the schedule memorized, and that made hotel and other arrangements predictable, and easy to organize."

There should be no arguments from the PBA members in regards to the new schedule for 2025, as twelve of the 21 events (57%) are being held in just 6 states in the midwest United States: Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Michigan, Wisconsin and Ohio. My guess is that most of the PBA road warrior members have traded in their motor homes for Extended Stay America Perks Reward Cards!

The schedule begins this year with a stop in Middletown, Delaware, followed by four stops in the midwest: Indianapolis (the U.S. Open), two stops at Bowlero Vernon Hills in Illinois, and the Pete Weber Missouri Classic in Springfield, Missouri.

From there, the PBA members that have traded in their motorhomes will be looking for discounted flights to Reno, Nevada, where the members will enjoy a total of 6 events in 19 days: the Nevada Classic at Coconut Bowl in Reno, as well as five events at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno: the World Series of Bowling XVI, and Animal Patterns 1 thru 4 Championships. I wonder what happened to the colorful animal names, such as Cheetah and Scorpion?

After the extended stay (no pun intended) in Reno, the members return to the midwest for the USBC Masters in Allen Park, Mich., the PBA All-Star Weekend in Waukesha, Wis., the PBA Players Championship in Jackson, Mich., the PBA Tournament of Champions in Fairlawn, Ohio, and then a string of three tournaments at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park: the PBA Elite League Battle of the Brands, the PBA Playoffs (April 27-29) and the PBA Championships (May 23-24).

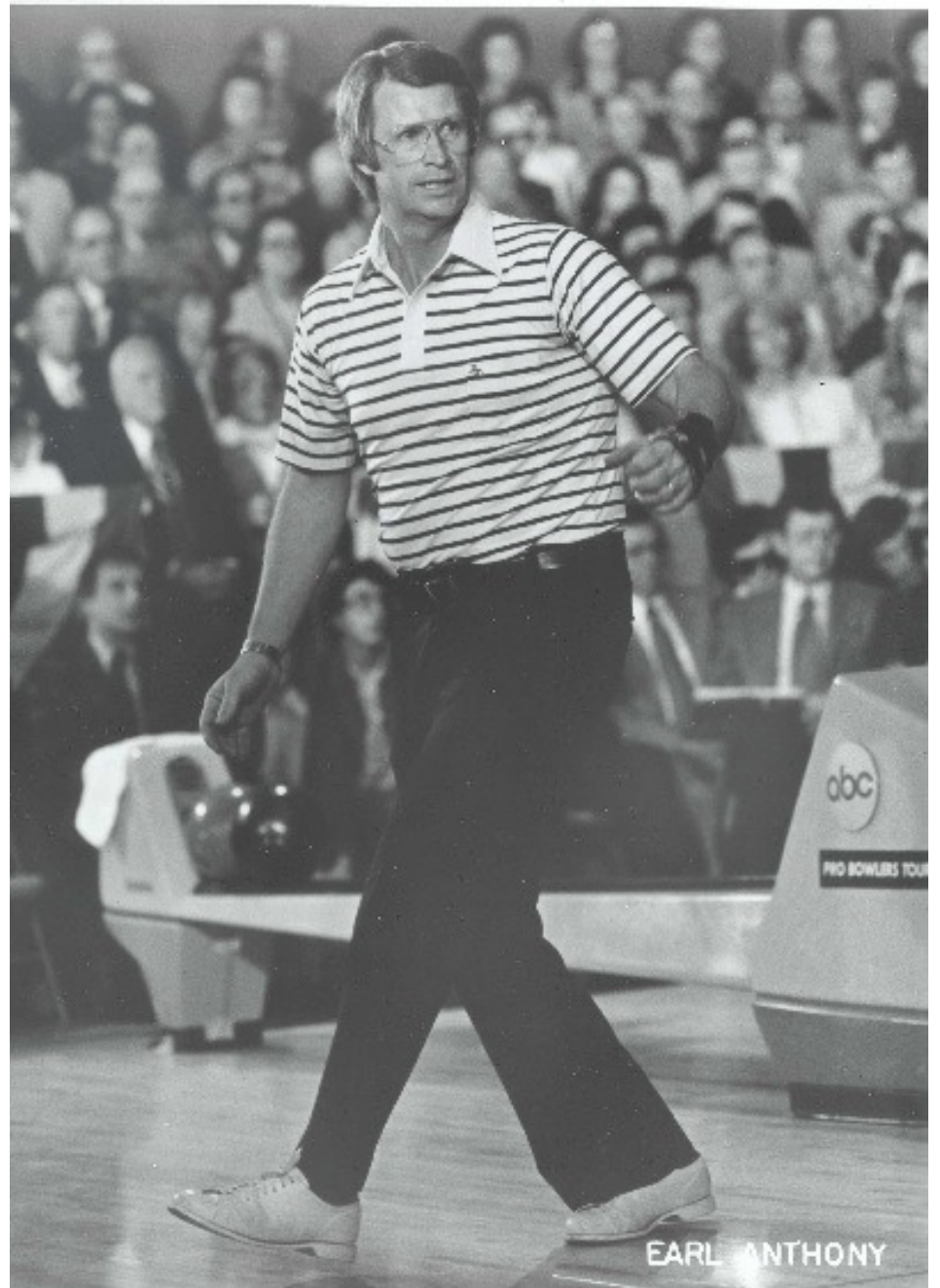
Rounding out the 2025 schedule will be the PBA Tour Finals in Bethlehem, Pa., the PBA/PWBA Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles in Houston, Tex., and the Storm Lucky Larsen Masters in Helsingborg, Sweden. It's nice to see the PBA got at least one event in Texas... but what about other bowling hotbeds like Arizona, California, Florida and New York/New Jersey?

Looking back to 1975, I can still remember the tour stops that have been forever branded in my subconscious mind. As I referenced in last year's column: "The first stop was usually in Arcadia, Calif., followed by Alameda, Calif., and then on to the Showboat in Las Vegas, followed by the Denver Open at Colorado Bowl. Next up was the U.S. Open in Grand Prairie, Texas, followed by the King Louie Open in Overland Park, Kansas, and then the Buckeye Open in North Olmsted, Ohio."

As much as we all detested the travel in those days, you can see by the 1975 schedule that it was definitely designed with the motorhome clan in mind. Last year's column continued by outlining mini-tours in the northeast (Maryland, New York and Connecticut), followed by another mini-tour to the southeast (North Carolina, Florida and New Orleans).



E.J. Tackett (2023)



Earl Anthony (1975)

"The stops (in 1975) were not always consistent, but would then usually return to the midwest for an event at Dick Weber Lanes in Florissant, Mo., followed by Milwaukee, Wis., Toledo, Ohio, and finally the Firestone Tournament of Champions in Akron, Ohio. That's 16 tournaments, covering just about every part of the country."

Once again, I'm sure that the PBA membership is not complaining about the new schedule, which is also a benefit for the Fox television crews. The costs saved by utilizing the same venue for multiple events has to be substantial, as originally espoused by Frank Esposito, a pro bowling pioneer and innovative leader with the PBA telecasts from day one.





Add to all of the above the fact that gate receipts at the local bowling centers are probably not what they were 50 years ago, in the grand scheme of things. The significant increase in prizes provided by Bowlero and the PBA make all of the above changes very acceptable.

Our belief, however, is that the annual schedules from the past will one day influence upcoming PBA calendars, because so much of the country (Arizona, California, Florida, New York, New Jersey and the Pacific Northwest) is being left out of the thrill of a live event.

- Excerpts of this article derived from PBA news release, "Breaking Down The Full 2025 PBA Tour Schedule," by Nolan Hughes
- Earl Anthony was the leading money winner in 1975, becoming the first bowler to earn over \$100,000 in a single season (Photo provided by International Bowling Museum & Hall of Fame).
- E.J. Tackett was the leading money winner in 2023, with \$458,450 in earnings (Photo provided by bowl.com)



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## Rookie of the year continued from page 1

cluding the Tony Reyes Community Service and Steve Nagy Sportsmanship awards, will be announced during the week of Dec. 9.

### ALEC KEPLINGER

Keplinger, 23, is the latest decorated Wichita State product to join the PBA Tour. It took the one-handed righty a few events to adjust to the professional ranks, but he came on strong in the PBA World Series of Bowling (WSOB) XV.

He parlayed a clutch qualifying finish to make match play, then won two matches — including a Round of 8 victory over Purches — to reach his first career championship round in the PBA Cheetah Championship. His fourth-place finish in that event was the highest of any rookie this season.

Keplinger closed his season on a strong note, finishing 12th in the Storm PBA/PWBA Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles and 22nd in the PBA/PBA50/PWBA Jonesboro Trios.

### NATE PURCHES

Though in his first year on the PBA Tour, Purches is no stranger to success on the PBA circuit. The inaugural PBA Junior Boys National Championship runner-up competed in the PBA Midwest Region last year, earning Rookie and Player of the Year honors.

This year on the PBA Tour, the two-handed Purches led all qualifying rookies in points, earnings and average.

Purches, who turned 21 this season, also got off to a slow start before staking his ROY claim with a spectacular WSOB. He made three of four cuts to match play, earning a season-high finish of seventh in the PBA Cheetah Championship and a season-high major finish of 12th in the PBA World Championship.

Before falling to Keplinger in the Round of 8, Purches completed an 0-2 comeback against Jason Belmonte in the PBA Cheetah Championship.

Voting is now open to PBA members here. The 2024 Harry Golden PBA Rookie of the Year award winner will be announced during the week of Dec. 9.

### Past Harry Golden PBA Rookie of the Year Winners

Cortez Schenck, 2023

Santtu Tahvanainen, 2022

Matt Russo, 2021

not awarded in 2020 due to the pandemic

(2020 rookies retained eligibility through 2021)

Mykel Holliman, 2019

Kamron Doyle, 2018

Matt Sanders, 2017

François Lavoie, 2016

Jesper Svensson, 2015

Marshall Kent, 2014

[Harry Golden PBA Rookie of the Year award history](#)

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## Player of the year

continued from page 1

awards [here](#).

A breakdown of the nominees for the 2024 Harry Golden PBA Rookie of the Year can be found [here](#).

Winners for all 2024 player awards, including the Tony Reyes Community Service and Steve Nagy Sportsmanship awards, will be announced during the week of Dec. 9.

### MARSHALL KENT

**Titles (2): PBA Illinois Classic, PBA Tournament of Champions**

Other notes: 2nd place in PBA Cheetah Championship (to Deo Benard); 2nd place in PBA Tour Finals (to Anthony Simonsen)

A career-best season secured Marshall Kent his fourth career Player of the Year nomination and first since 2018.

Kent finished second on tour with 22,048 points and third with \$210,158 in earnings. He averaged 223.90 across 329 games, tallying five top-five finishes, seven top-10 finishes and 11 cashes in his 16 title events.

Kent's finest moment came in the PBA Tournament of Champions triumph, where he climbed the stepladder finals to earn his first career major title.

### DAVID "BOOG" KROL

**Titles (2): PBA Delaware Classic, PBA Playoffs**

Other notes: Started season without priority-entry status

Two titles propelled Krol to what can only be described as a life-changing season. The 28-year-old began the season without priority-entry status, needing to earn a spot in the main field each week through the pre-tournament qualifier.

Despite this hurdle, Krol put himself in contention to make the PBA Playoffs after back-to-back top-15 finishes in the season-opening majors. After winning the PBA Delaware Classic, Krol escaped the PTQs once and for all.

By season's end, Krol ranked ninth in points (11,955), earned \$128,200 and averaged 218.09 for his 313 games.

### BILL O'NEILL

**Title (1): PBA Players Championship pres. by Snickers**

Other notes: 2nd place in PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic (to Anthony Simonsen); 2nd place in PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship (with Jason Belmonte; lost to Andrew Anderson and Kris Prather)

Perhaps no player started 2024 on a stronger note than O'Neill. He not only won the season-opening major, then finished fifth, 10th, second, 33rd and third over the next five events. He couldn't quite snag a second title, finishing runner-up twice, but compiled seven top-five finishes and eight top-10 finishes.

O'Neill averaged 224.50 in 341 games en route to finishing fourth in points (20,790) and fifth in earnings (\$198,540).

### MATT RUSSO

**Title (1): PBA Scorpion Championship**

Other notes: 2nd place in PBA World Championship (to EJ Tackett)

Russo, the 2021 PBA Rookie of the Year, earned his first career Player of the Year nomination after finishing seventh in points (15,405) and earnings (\$145,882).

In the World Series of Bowling (WSOB) XV with scores higher than mountaintops, no one ascended higher than Russo. He led the 61-game PBA World Championship by more than 250 pins, later finishing runner-up to Tackett, and notched a second career title in the PBA Scorpion Championship.

### ANTHONY SIMONSEN

**Titles (3): PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic, PBA Tour Finals, Storm PBA/PWBA Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles**

Other notes: 2nd place in U.S. Open (to Kyle Troup); 2nd place in PBA Tournament of Champions (to Marshall Kent)

The 27-year-old compiled another banner season in 2024, leading the tour with three titles and seven top-three finishes. Simonsen also led two of the five major championships, though he fell in both title matches.

Simonsen ranked third on tour in points (22,030), second in earnings (\$235,850) and third in average (225.33 for 375 games).

### JESPER SVENSSON

**Title (1): Storm Lucky Larsen Masters**

Other notes: 2nd place in PBA Playoffs (to Boog Krol); 1st place in Go Bowling PBA Elite League Strike Derby (non-title event)

For a while, it looked like Svensson's elite execution would result in little more than a handful of top-10 finishes and a whole lot of 7-pin conversions on Lan-etalk. But the two-handed lefty started to knock on the door in the WSOB, earning three top-five finishes in Allen Park.

Svensson broke the door down in the season finale. A momentous, redemptive victory in the Swede's home country secured his fourth career Player of the Year nomination.

### EJ TACKETT

**Titles (2): PBA Shark Championship, PBA World Championship**

Other notes: 229.37 average ranks 2nd all-time; 2nd place in Just Bare PBA Indiana Classic (to Kyle Troup); Made five consecutive championship rounds from the U.S. Open to PBA Delaware Classic

The reigning Player of the Year put himself in contention for back-to-back honors after a spectacular 2024 campaign. Tackett led the tour with 29,920 points, \$265,792 in earnings and a near-record 229.37 average in 440 games.

Tackett also approached PBA history when he advanced to five (and almost six) consecutive championship rounds from the U.S. Open through the PBA Delaware Classic. During the WSOB, Tackett won all six televised matches, including climbing an all-lefty stepladder, to win the PBA Shark and World Championships.

### KYLE TROUP

**Titles (2): U.S. Open pres. by Go Bowling, Just Bare PBA Indiana Classic**

Other notes: 1st place in PBA All-Star Skills Showdown with Team Storm (non-title event); 1st place in PBA Legacy Cup with Walter Ray Williams Jr. and Cortez Schenck (non-title event)

The first player to secure his status on the ballot, Troup won two of the season's first five events. The 2021 PBA Player of the Year prevailed in a historically loaded U.S. Open finals, defeating Tackett, Belmonte and Simonsen to win his first career green jacket.

Troup ranked sixth in points (18,353) and fourth in earnings (\$199,615). He averaged 221.79 for his 310 games, cashing in 13 of 18 title events.

Voting is now open to PBA members [here](#). The 2024 Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year award winner will be announced during the week of Dec. 9.

### Past Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year Winners

EJ Tackett, 2023

Jason Belmonte, 2022

Kyle Troup, 2021

Jason Belmonte, 2020

Jason Belmonte, 2019

Andrew Anderson, 2018

Jason Belmonte, 2017

EJ Tackett, 2016

Jason Belmonte, 2015

Jason Belmonte, 2014



[Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year award history](#)

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<p><b>OAK TREE LANES - 36</b>            990 N. Diamond Bar Blvd.,            Diamond Bar, CA 91765            (909) 860-3558  <a href="http://oaktreelanest.net">oaktreelanest.net</a></p>		<p><b>SOUTH POINT - 64</b>            9777 Las Vegas Blvd.            South Las Vegas, NV 89123            (866) 796-7111 Fax: 702-797-8081            64 Lanes, Snack Bar, Pro Shop</p>
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# 38th Year! Brunswick® INVITATIONAL

## Pro Approach Oak Tree Sweeps To The Second Round Lead

by David Yamauchi

DOWNEY – The Brunswick Invitational took to the lanes kicking off the second half of the second round. Pro Approach Oak Tree was sitting on a 3-point lead over Family Ties with a rematch of last week’s “A” match looming.

In the “A” match, **Pro Approach Oak Tree** (Leonard Ruiz Jr.) spinted past **Family Ties** (Bobby Campagnale) last week with Ramon Torres’ clean 716 set giving them a 3-point lead starting the session. Pro Approach Oak Tree took a close first game, then rolled game two and a big finish by Bobby Hornacek and a punch out for anchor Leonard Ruiz Jr. led to a 5-0 sweep. Bobby Hornacek led Pro Approach with a 619 set while Daniel Hong struck to 624 to pace Family Ties.

The “B” match featured **Forest Lanes** (Jon Diso) taking on **US Foods** (Gabe Martinez) with both teams coming off sweeps to jump to the second pair. Forest Lanes came out striking to take game one, but it was all US Foods from there as they rolled to a 4-1 result including a huge 977 in game three. Gabriel Martinez led US Foods with a big 699 series while JT Diso was strong for Forest Lanes with a 662 set.

**Taco Bell** (Kaven Massey) and **DV8** (Matthew Zweig) were both looking to keep the momentum going after solid four-win sessions last week. Taco Bell took the first game with a clutch double in the 10th, but that was it a DV8 stormed back for a 4-1 result. Tony Brunning lit them up for DV8 with a big 726 series while Kaven Massey paced Taco Bell with a 626 set.

**Threadworks** (Eric Snow) was looking to keep rolling after a sweep last week, taking

on **Love Laundry** (Ramsey Basurto) who was on the wrong side of a sweep last week. Threadworks took the front and back games for a 4-1 result over first-round winners Love Laundry. Paul Varela was huge for Threadworks with a 675 set while Ramsey Basurto posted a 672 series to lead Love Laundry.

**Bowlium** (Billy Myers Jr.) and **Don Julio Tequila** (Gabe Garza) were looking to right the ship after tough sets last week. This match was all Don Julio Tequila as they swept to a 5-0 result. Phil Sujo ran them over with a big 732 set while sub Michael Montano paced Bowlium with a 588 series.

**Pro Approach Cal Bowl** (Austin Wasielewski) was looking to bounce back after a one-win week, taking on **Junior Amateur Tour** (Kevin Valmonte) who were fully staffed and looked more like themselves the previous week. Junior Amateur Tour took the bookend games by plenty, leading to a 4-1 win over Pro Approach Cal Bowl. Michael Marmolejo led Junior Amateur Tour with a solid 638 set while brothers David Silva (573) and Scott Silva (572) led Pro Approach Cal Bowl.

**Weaverbird** (Eric Williams Jr.), **Del Rio Lanes** (Michael Barnett), **Pro Approach Del Rio** (Augie Labrado Jr.) and **Touchstone Homes** (Christian Eichelkraut) rounded out Monday’s action. Del Rio Lanes banked 4 wins against Weaverbird. Eric Williams Jr. led Weaverbird with a 624 set while Michael Barnett (641) and Jonathan Huezo (626) were big for Del Rio Lanes. Touchstone Homes took a 4-1 win over Pro Approach Del Rio. Anthony Rieger led Touchstone Homes with a 574 set while Augie Labrado Jr. paced Pro Approach Del Rio with a 534 set.

### TOP 10 ROUND 2 WEEK 5

Pro Approach Oak Tree . 22	Family Ties . . . . . 14
US Foods . . . . . 18	Don Julio Tequila . . 14
DV8 . . . . . 15.5	Taco Bell . . . . . 13
Threadworks . . . . . 15	Junior Amateur Tour. 12
Forest Lanes . . . . . 15	Love Laundry \$. . . . 11

### TOP 10 THIS WEEK

732 Phil Sujo	662 JT Diso
726 Tony Brunning	657 Paul Barraco
699 Gabriel Martinez	641 Michael Barnett
675 Paul Varela	638 Michael Marmolejo
672 Ramsey Basurto	631 Matt Zweig

### SUPER SWEEPER POT

Sponsored by Dean Sanderson of Transamerica Financial Advisors Inc.  
1st Jonathan Huezo 241 \$160 • 2nd Ramsey Basurto 235 \$70



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**Financial Advisors Pot** went to Jonathan Huezo (241) for \$160 with 2nd to Ramsey Basurto (235) for \$70. Sidepots went to JT Diso (257) and Jonathan Huezo (241) for \$64 each with 1st game 2nd place tie to Gabe Martinez and Daniel Hong (233) for \$16 each. Second game 2nd place went to Ramsey Basurto (235) for \$32. SuperPot went to Mike Bogue and Bobby Hornacek (258) for \$144 each.

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