

DECEMBER 12, 2024

# CALIFORNIA BOWLING NEWS

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

## FIVE INDUCTEES TO BE ENSHRINED IN USBC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2025

by Dave Schroeder

ARLINGTON, Texas – The United States Bowling Congress Hall of Fame will welcome five new members when the 2025 class is inducted May 7 during the [USBC Convention](#) in Las Vegas.

The USBC Hall of Fame Committee recently elected **Shannon O’Keefe** of Jacksonville, Alabama; **Bryan Goebel** of Shawnee, Kansas; and **Randy Pedersen** of Orlando, Florida, in the Superior Performance category, and **Tom Clark** of Muskego, Wisconsin, and **Keith Hamilton** of Park Ridge, Illinois, in the Meritorious Service category.

O’Keefe, 45, was elected in her inaugural year on the ballot. The right-hander has amassed 15 titles on the [Professional Women’s Bowling Association](#) tour, including three major championships, and is a three-time PWBA Player of the Year.

Her first win was a doubles title with [Professional Bowlers Association](#) champion Bill O’Neill in the 2015 PBA/PWBA Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles in Houston. The pair successfully defended that title in 2016, and O’Keefe broke through with a pair of PWBA singles titles

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## Tillie And Twinkle

by Dave Williams

A few weeks ago we wrote a column about Tillie Taylor (“The Legend of Tillie Taylor”) and I asked about any memories or information anyone might have about her life and bowling career. I received a couple of photos from readers, and a thoughtful response from Kari Smith Williams, curator of the International Bowling Museum and Hall Of Fame.

Kari wrote that she did

locate some information on Tillie under the name of Taylor Syring, including photos and an article from the San Francisco Examiner that appeared on Sunday, September 9th, 1945. The headline was a bit of a surprise: “Bowling Hailed as Teenage Sport.” Note the year... 1945!

It seems that when a fashionable girls school in New York decided to give pupils physical edu-

cation credits for bowling, it was only following a trend that had rapidly gained momentum since the early days of World War II.

Author Paul Gardner wrote, “Teenagers have been taking increasingly to bowling and medical men applaud the fact that bobby soxers are demonstrating their efficiency at the game which up to a few years ago was considered al-

most exclusively a masculine pastime.”

Gardner continued, “Interest in bowling received a tremendous impetus during the war, when war plants set up bowling leagues as recreational and health projects. The sport was particularly attractive to teenage girl workers, who flocked to bowling alleys all over the country in increasing numbers.”

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Twinkle Watts Approach



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## USBC Hall of Fame continued from page 1

that same year.

In 2017, O'Keefe started a string of three consecutive years of winning a major championship by capturing the Smithfield PWBA Tour Championship in Richmond, Virginia. She collected the 2018 USBC Queens in Reno, Nevada, and completed the trifecta with another PWBA Tour Championship in 2019, again in Richmond, Virginia.

She garnered PWBA Player of the Year honors in 2018 (two wins, including one major), 2019 (five wins, including one major) and 2022 (one win). Twice she led the PWBA Tour in single-season earnings (2018 and 2019) and average (2021 and 2022).

In addition to her PWBA accolades, O'Keefe had a stellar career with [Team USA](#) where she spent 18 consecutive seasons from 2005-2022, earning nearly 50 medals in international competition. She also is a two-time [USBC Team USA Trials](#) champion (2018 and 2008).

O'Keefe has left her mark at the [USBC Women's Championships](#), too. She owns four WC titles (three team championships and the 2016 Diamond All-Events title).

Not only a great competitor, O'Keefe also excels as a coach. She's currently the head coach of the women's team at Jacksonville State University where she guided the team to the 2024 NCAA championship. Previously, as head coach of the women's team at McKendree University, O'Keefe won the 2023 and 2017 [Intercollegiate Team Championships](#) and the 2022 and 2017 NCAA Championships.

**Goebel**, 63, is a PBA Hall of Famer who won 10 times on the PBA Tour, including one major victory.

The right-hander bagged his first title in 1990 at the Miller Lite Challenge in Tucson, Arizona. Goebel defeated four competitors to take home the win at Golden Pin Lanes.

Goebel posted another win in 1991 then went winless in 1992 and 1993. He made up for his brief dry spell by having the best year of his career in 1994, collecting four titles, including the season-ending Merit Mixed Doubles Championship with partner and PWBA champion Aleta Sill.

In many years, winning four titles would be enough to garner PBA Player of the Year honors, but Norm Duke won the award in 1994 with five titles that included the PBA Tournament of Champions.

Golden Pin Lanes in Tucson proved to be truly golden for Goebel as he would add victories in that center in 1995 and 1996 to add to his 1990 title there.

His crowning achievement came at the 1998 Brunswick World Tournament of Champions in Overland Park, Kansas, where, bowling as the "hometown" favorite, he defeated Steve Hoskins to claim the lone major title of his career.

His final PBA Tour win came in 2003 in Medford, Oregon, and he also added a PBA50 title in 2016. A three-time Bowlers Journal and USBC First Team All-American, Goebel was inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame in 2017.

**Pedersen**, 62, put together a PBA Hall of Fame career that featured 13 wins, including one major championship.

The right-hander broke into the win column in 1986 when he defeated four opponents to claim the title at the AC-Delco Classic in Union City, California.

A pair of wins the following year would include his lone major championship, the 1987 PBA National Championship in Toledo, Ohio. Pedersen would defeat three future hall of famers in David Ozio, Marshall Holman and, in the title match, Amleto Monacelli, to earn the victory. Pedersen won the PBA Senior/Touring Pro Doubles Championship title with the legendary Carmen Salvino in 1988 and followed that up with his best year in terms of number of wins when he collected three titles in 1989.

He won one title each in 1990, 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1999, with his last tour title coming at the 2002 PBA Pepsi Open in Springfield, Pennsylvania. He added a PBA50 Tour title in 2013.

Despite his hall of fame bowling career, to many, Pedersen is most recognizable as the TV color analyst and "voice of the PBA Tour." It's a role he has filled for the last 25 years on networks that include FOX, FS1, ESPN, CBS and CBS Sports Network.

A three-time Bowlers Journal First Team All-American, Pedersen was ranked 35th on the list of the 50 Greatest Players in PBA history in 2008 and was inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame in 2011.

As a key influencer in the bowling industry, Hamilton's distinguished career spans more than five decades and is characterized as being creative, energetic and effective, which has led to advancing the brand of bowling internationally.

**Hamilton**, 61, played an important role in bowling as the president/co-owner of Luby Publishing, Inc. and as the publisher of Bowlers Journal International Magazine, which itself has a history that spans more than a century.

Hamilton and Mike Panozzo were just the fourth generation of owners of Luby Publishing and owned it for exactly 25% of its life when the publication was sold

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**USBC Hall of Fame** continued from page 2

to USBC. The previous three generations of owners (David Luby, Mort Luby Sr. and Mort Luby Jr.) are all in the USBC Hall of Fame, and Mort Jr. also is in the PBA Hall of Fame.

As president, Hamilton doubled the size of LPI by creating several magazines, the first being Bowling Center Management, the official publication of the BPAA, to accompany its flagship publication, Bowlers Journal International. He also published a series of books, most notably The PBA 50 Greatest Bowlers, Earl and Revolutions II.

Hamilton led the effort in promoting the 100th anniversary of BJI in 2013. His innovative strategy resulted in national media coverage, including a featured story highlighted on the CBS Morning Show, a front-page story in the Wall Street Journal and scores of other national print and electronic media.

As a volunteer, Hamilton continued his quest to further the cause of the bowling industry by occupying the following positions: President of the International Bowling Media Association (2014-2018), Chairman and President of the International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame (2011-2014) and Chairman of the IBPSIA Advisory Board (2005-2009).

Hamilton played a key role in the building of the new museum and hall of fame that resides within the International Bowling Campus. He also worked in cooperation with the city of Reno in opening bowling's first satellite museum within the National Bowling Stadium. With the IBMA, Hamilton restructured the Chuck Pezzano Scholarship by creating a corporate partnership program that led to an increase in the scholarship.

Now in his fifth decade serving bowling, Hamilton is currently the Executive Director of the Illinois State Bowling Proprietors Association and sits on the Board of Directors of the Bowlers to Veterans Link, occupying the position of treasurer. He also is the publisher of the BBIA Consumer Catalog.

For his efforts in co-founding and chairing the IBPSIA Advisory board, Hamilton earned the "Friends of IBPSIA Award" in two consecutive years (2014 and 2015). He also received the BPAA Special Projects Award (2005) for the creation of Bowling Center Management and the BPAA Media Award (2018). Hamilton received the IBMA Mike Hennessey Award of Merit in 2021 and was inducted into the IBMA Luby Hall of Fame the following year. In 2024, Hamilton received the BPAA Chief Wapensky Award.

**Clark**, 55, has held several positions in the bowling industry, getting his start with the USBC in 2005 as Director of Communications before transitioning to Vice President of Marketing from 2006-2008.

Among his most notable contributions during his time with USBC were Bowling's Clash of Champions (2007) and the PBA Women's Series (2007-2008). In 2007, he also was instrumental in the start of [BowlTV](#), USBC's online channel for livestreaming and video content.

Additionally in 2007, he helped bring back women's professional bowling for the first time since the PWBA went on hiatus in 2003 with the return of the U.S. Women's Open. The event concluded with a series of five ESPN television broadcasts.

From a public relations and media perspective, Clark served as the executive editor for U.S. Bowler and U.S. Youth Bowler, USBC's membership publications, with a combined reach of nearly 2 million. He also led USBC's Strategic Planning Committee with a focus on growing the sport through increased media exposure, produced a bowling blog for USAToday.com (2001-2005) and served as the staff liaison to the USBC Hall of Fame Committee.

Clark moved on to a series of roles at the PBA that included PBA Tour Deputy Commissioner (2008-2011), PBA Tour Commissioner (2011-present) and PBA Chief Executive Officer (2013-2019). He has played a key role in the oversight of PBA Tour, PBA Regional and PBA Senior events, working with staff, bowlers, sponsors and proprietors.

His contributions at the PBA include the creation of the PBA World Series of Bowling (2009-present), Chris Paul CP3 Celebrity Invitational (2009-2021), PBA League (2013-2024), PBA Tour Finals (2016-present) and PBA Playoffs (2019-present).

Clark was instrumental in bringing visible oil patterns to TV, making dye-sub athletic jerseys a fixture in PBA competition, bringing dual-pattern/plastic ball-only/King of Bowling/PBA Clash/PBA Strike Derby/other unique formats to the PBA Tour and growing the PBA's online (Xtra Frame) and TV coverage and presence.

Under his leadership, PBA bowling has appeared on ESPN, ESPN2, CBS, CBS Sports Network, FOX, FS1 and ABC, and his efforts helped secure multi-year deals with FOX Sports and Flo Sports in 2018. For countless hours and events, he has served as an executive producer for online and televised content.

A focus on the growth of the PBA and creating global membership and events led to PBA members in more than two dozen countries and a partnership with the International Bowling Federation (then World Bowling), allowing PBA Tour events to be held in 10 different countries. Additionally, he has served as a board member for the International Bowling Media Association (2005-2009) and International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame (2014-present).

Clark has been honored as the Bowlers Journal International Person of the Year (2005 and 2018), earned the Bowling and Billiards Institute of America Industry Service Award (2008), USBC Joyce Deitch Trailblazer Award (2009), John Davis Award presented by Kegel (2019), Bowling Proprietors' Association of America Media Award (2020), IBMA Alberta E. Crowe Meritorious Service Award (2024) and IBMHOF Striking Contribution Award (2024).

Through 2024, there are 460 members of the USBC Hall of Fame – 233 in Superior Performance, 127 in Meritorious Service, 55 in Veterans, 23 in Outstanding USBC Performance and 22 in Pioneer. The USBC Hall of Fame was created in 2005 by merging the former American Bowling Congress and Women's International Bowling Congress Halls of Fame.

Visit [BOWL.com/HallofFame](http://BOWL.com/HallofFame) for more information on the USBC Hall of Fame.pooooo0p

**Twinkle** continued from page 1

"It was not an uncommon sight during wartime to see hundreds of young 'swing shift' workers head for the alleys after a night of labor to relax their nerves and tone their muscles before hitting the hay."

As I continued reading through the items sent by Kari and others, I discovered yet another female bowling star from the 1940's — a preteen movie star named Twinkle Watts. She was accomplished in both bowling and ice skating at the young age of 6.

Watts appeared in at least 13 movies, including "California Joe," in 1943, with Don "Red" Barry and Helen Talbot. Most of the films that Twinkle appeared in were westerns. In 1944, she appeared with Roy Rogers in "Lake Placid Serenade," in which she was able to showcase her ice skating ability.

"In the mid 40's, Republic (Pictures) was promoting precocious young ice skating star Twinkle Watts," wrote Boyd Magers at westernclippings.com. "I thought Twinkle was a very sweet little girl but I was astounded by the name. And I was absolutely astounded to find out her older sister's name was Kilo... Watts."

**Successful Campaign**

The San Francisco Examiner article goes on to explain that colleges and high schools everywhere had been advocating bowling. Officials like Tillie Taylor Syring, herself a manager of Roxy Bowl in New York, campaigned successfully to prove that bowling was not an underground activity that appealed only to men.

"It was also necessary to convince women (and girls) that Amazonian strength was not required to bowl well," wrote Gardner. "When the girls learned that Twinkle Watts, weighing forty pounds, could fling a ten pound ball down the alley to score 200 or better, they decided they could do it, too."

"Instructors like Floretta McCutcheon and Tillie Taylor Syring, the Women's International Bowling Congress champion, have greatly aided teenage bowlers. They declared that women's bowling has never been so important, with young girls coming to the game at an astonishing rate."

**Looking Back, With Carol Mancini**

In one of Carol Mancini's "Looking Back" segments (1985 - Part 2, appearing in the August 16th, 2018 issue of California Bowling News), she mentions an 8 year old Twinkle Watts that appeared in a 1944 issue of the California Bowling News. "She was a great bowler," said Carol. "She traveled all over the U.S. strutting her stuff. A story printed in 1985 asked whatever became of Twinkle Watts? Does anyone know?"

In a post by 'Trav S.D.' at Travalanche, he wrote that there were apparently no acting offers after Twinkle left Republic Pictures. "The last mention that I have been able to find was a spread in issue number 11 of 'Polly Pigtales' magazine (December 1946). I find it probable, even likely, that as a teenager she sought to bury the cutesy pie image. But she seems not to have pursued competitive bowling or ice skating. All I know is that she lived another 70 years after dropping out of the public eye."

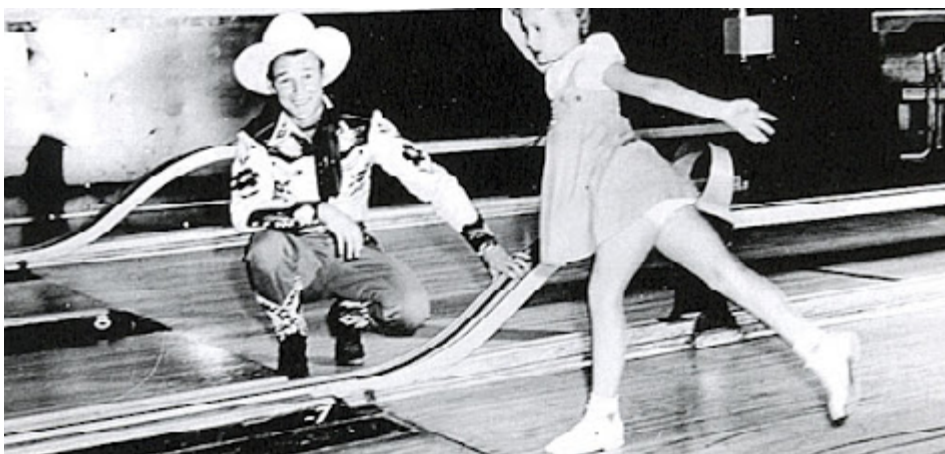
Twinkle Watts died on January 21st, 2018, in Los Angeles, at the age of 85.

Here's one last memory of Twinkle, a video provided by British Pathé from 1942:

[YouTube.com/watch?v=dGbVNGQsxU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dGbVNGQsxU)

- or visit British Pathé to view -  
 "Six-Year-Old Bowling Champ Aka Young Bowling Champ Dublin Issue (1942)"

- Excerpts of this article derived from "Bowling Hailed as a Teenage Sport," appearing in the San Francisco Examiner on Sunday, September 9th, 1945. Provided by International Bowling Museum & Hall of Fame. Credit: newspapers.com
- Excerpts of this article derived from Trav S.D. at Travalanche (travsd.wordpress.com)
- Excerpts of this article derived from Boyd Magers at westernclippings.com
- Twinkle Watts with Roy Rogers photo provided by Trav S.D. at Travalanche (travsd.wordpress.com)
- Twinkle Watts approach and follow through at Roxy Bowl in New York (1942) by Bernard Hoffman. Credit: Life Magazine



**Twinkle Watts with Roy Rogers**

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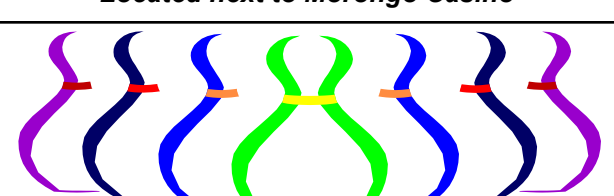
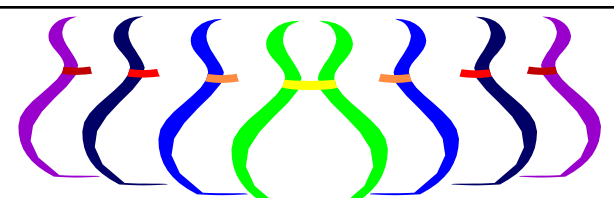
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LOCAL USBC ASSOCIATIONS

# 38th Year! Brunswick® INVITATIONAL

## Teams Get Ready To Battle Round The Long Round Three

by David Yamauchi

DOWNEY – The Brunswick Invitational took to the lanes to end the second round with everyone just trying to bank some wins after Professional Approach Oak Tree locked up the round last week. **Pro Approach Oak Tree** drops out of the position round and match up with first-round winners **Love Laundry**.

**Threadworks** (Eric Snow) and **US Foods** (Gabriel Martinez) matched up as the two highest teams just falling short of a shot at the round. Threadworks was tough again as they rolled to a strong 5-0 sweep. Paul Varela (644) and Eric Snow (642) led Threadworks while Gabriel Martinez was the lone light for US Foods with a nice 665 series.

**Family Ties** (Bobby Campagnale) met **Forest Lanes** (Jon Diso) with both teams looking to stay high in the season rankings. Family Ties took games one and three for a 4-1 win over Forest Lanes. Jon Diso led Forest with a even 600 set while Bobby Campagnale's 650 helped Family Ties to the wins.

**Taco Bell** (Kaven Massey) paired up with **Don Julio Tequila** (Gabriel Garza) in a match that sounded like a fiesta waiting to happen. Taco Bell took two of three, dropping a close second game for a 4-1 result. Kaven Massey led Taco Bell with a 589 set while Jason Carrillo struck to a strong 652 series for Don Julio Tequila.

**DV8** (Matthew Zweig) who looked rejuvenated with their lineup shuffle, took on **Junior Amateur Tour** (Kevin Valmonte) who were unexpectedly short-handed for the night. DV8 took the bookend games including a clutch strikeout from Matt Zweig for a 2-pin win in game three. J.A.T.'s second game win was enough to sneak a 8-pin totals win and

the 3-2 result. Semaj Lewis led DV8 with a 618 set while Michael Marmolejo was big for J.A.T. with a 689 series.

**Bowlium** (Billy Myers Jr.) and **Weaverbird** (Eric Williams Jr.) were looking to get some wins after a tough round. The match was all Bowlium as they rolled to a big 5-0 win. Billy Myers Jr. (674) and Kevin Jones (664) led Bowlium while Eric Williams Jr. was huge for Weaverbird with a 674 in the losing effort.

The round winners battled as **Pro Approach Oak Tree** (Leonard Ruiz Jr.) took on **Love Laundry** (Ramsey Basurto). Love Laundry took a big second game for a 3-2 win. Ramsey Basurto led Love Laundry with a nice 698 set while Bobby Hornacek led Pro Approach Oak Tree with a 630 series.

**Touchstone Homes** (Christian Eichelkraut), **Del Rio Lanes** (Michael Barnett), **Pro Approach Cal Bowl** (Austin Wasielewski) and **Pro Approach Del Rio** (Augie Labrado Jr.) rounded out Monday's action. Touchstone Homes swept Del Rio Lanes led by Christian Eichelkraut's 625 series. Del Rio Lanes was paced by Michael Barnett's 622 set. Pro Approach Cal Bowl swept through Pro Approach Del Rio with a 605 set from Scott Silva. The Del Rio bunch was led by Augie Labrado Jr.'s 581 set.

**Financial Advisors Pot** went to Billy Myers Jr. (258) for \$160 with 2nd to Ramsey Basurto (245) for \$70. Sidepots went to Eric Williams Jr. (256) for \$62 and a tie between Joe Smith and Ramsey Basurto (245) for \$46 each. Second place went to Joe Smith (254) for \$31. SuperPot went to Augie Labrado Jr. (251) for \$186 with 2nd to Joe Smith (230) for \$93.

### TOP 10 ROUND 2 WEEK 7

Pro Approach Oak Tree \$\$. 28	US Foods. . . . . 19
Threadworks. . . . . 25	Junior Amateur Tour. 18
Taco Bell . . . . . 21	Forest Lanes. . . . . 18
Family Ties . . . . . 20	DV8. . . . . 17.5
Bowlium. . . . . 19.5	Don Julio Tequila . . 17

### TOP 10 THIS WEEK

729 Joe Smith	673 Billy Myers Jr.
698 Ramsey Basurto	665 Gabriel Martinez
689 Michael Marmolejo	644 Kevin Jones
689 Marquan Rivers	660 Jason Carrillo
674 Eric Williams Jr.	652 Bobby Campagnale

### SUPER SWEEPER POT

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