



## **KISSIMMEE TO HOST FINALS OF 2024 PBA PLAYOFFS** *AMF Kissimmee Lanes in Kissimmee, Fla. and Angel of the Winds*

AMF Kissimmee Lanes in Kissimmee, Fla. and Angel of the Winds Casino Resort in Arlington, Wash. to host the 2024 PBA Playoffs

The fifth edition of the PBA Playoffs, a postseason tournament featuring the season's top performing players, will conclude at AMF Kissimmee Lanes in Kissimmee, Fla. The four finalists will compete in the televised bracket finals on Sunday, May 19 on FOX.

"I couldn't be more excited to have the PBA Playoffs back," said Kyle Troup, the two-time defending PBA Playoffs champion. "To have that season-long goal and be able to become the PBA Playoffs champion is an incredible feeling." by Nolan Hughes



"Kissimmee is honored to be hosting the culminating event of the PBA Playoffs at AMF Kissimmee Lanes," said Jessica Beers, Executive Director of Kissimmee Sports Commission. "This opportunity allows us to showcase our city's unique charm to a broader audience through the PBA's broadcast platform, contributing to the exposure of Kissimmee as a desirable destination for sports enthusiasts. We offer a warm welcome to professional bowlers and fans traveling to Central Florida and encourage them to explore our local continued on page 2



**PLAYERS INVITATIONAL** by Nolan Hughes Over 100 of the nation's top regional players, including 70 PBA and 48 PBA50 players, will compete next

month in the 2023 BowITV PBA Regional Players Invi-

tational. The tournament will be held Jan. 2-4, 2024 at South Point Bowling Plaza in Las Vegas. First-place finishers will receive \$15,000 in the PBA division and \$10,000 in the PBA50 division.

Additionally, the champion of each division will receive an automatic entry into their respective 2024 Tournament of Champions field. If the RPI champion has previously qualified for the TOC, the automatic TOC entry will not carry over to the runner-up.

Players were invited to the RPI based on their performance throughout the 2023 PBA Regional Tour season.

Each of the PBA and PBA50's seven regions awarded three RPI berths to the top finishers in its RPI qualicontinued on page 11



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## Holiday Trivia for Bowlers

by Frank Weiler

Most bowlers are damn smart. They must know physics and chemistry to understand bowling balls. They must know meteorology if they are to understand lane conditions and the changing of those conditions. Bowlers must be expert psychologists if they are to understand and compete successfully against experienced and tested competitors. With this in mind how much do bowlers know about the Christmas holidays? Let's see.

#### Here are 10 Christmas Trivia Questions to test every bowler's knowledge:

- 1. In total, how many gifts were given in the "Twelve Days of Christmas"?
- 2. What brings Frosty the Snowman to life?
- 3. Which winter beverage do Americans like the most?
- 4. What was the original name of Clement Clark Moore's "The Night Before Christmas"?
- 5. When did Rudolph become Santa's unofficial ninth reindeer?
- 6. What's the best selling Christmas song of all time?
- 7. When did lighting the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree become an annual tradition?
- 8. What's the most popular type of Christmas tree?
- 9. When was "A Christmas Carol" published?
- 10. Which country was the first to use the tradition of the Christmas tree?

#### Answers:

- 1. 364
  - 2. A magical hat
  - 3. Hot Chocolate
  - 4. A visit from St. Nicholas
  - 5. 1939
  - 6. White Christmas
  - 7. December 1933
  - 8. Fraser fir
  - 9. December 19, 1843
  - 10. Germany

#### 2024 PBA Playoffs continued from page 1

restaurants and attractions during their stay."

The first three televised rounds of the PBA Playoffs will take place at Strikerz Bowling in Angel of the Winds Casino Resort. Strikerz Bowling, located in Snohomish County in Arlington, Wash., has hosted the PBA Tour Finals each of the past two seasons.

"The fans there love bowling and the massive crowds are proof of that," said Jason Belmonte, who has bowled two televised 300 games at Angel of the Winds.

Both PBA Playoffs locations will host an exclusive VIP event, where a limited number of fans will be able to meet and bowl with the PBA Playoffs finalists.

The 2024 PBA Playoffs will include the top 16 players in competition points during the 2024 PBA Tour season. Points will be earned via PBA Tour title events from January's PBA Players Championship through April's PBA Tournament of Champions.

Tickets will be available for the 2024 PBA Playoffs soon.

#### 2024 PBA Playoffs Schedule

Round 1 — Saturday, May 4 at 10:30 p.m. ET on FS1 Round 2 — Sunday, May 5 at noon ET on FS1 Round 3 — Sunday, May 12 at 6:30 p.m. ET on FS1 Finals — Sunday, May 19 at 2 p.m. ET on FOX

#### **Past PBA Playoffs Champions**

2022 — Kyle Troup 2021 — Kyle Troup 2020 — Bill O'Neill





Kyle Troup celebrates his second consecutive PBA Playoffs victory in 2022





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# May the New Year bring joy to the lanes!

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famous fictional character, Sherlock Holmes, is known for his many catchphrases. There is none that is more iconic than "the game's afoot." The phrase was reported to be a declaration of Sherlock's excitement and anticipation for the prospect of a new investigation.

And so it goes with the investigation of the bowling lane in Scotland's Fyvie Castle. I cannot help but think of myself as a "consulting detective," another of Holmes favorite catchphrases. We've come a long way in just a few weeks as we continue to narrow down the original installation and possible replacement of the lane in archetypal form.

A number of individuals have now become involved following an email directive from Kevin Hong of the International Bowling Media Association (IBMA). Project manager at the castle, Annie Robertson, has turned away one wooden bowling lane vendor already because of her interest in having the lane identical to the one constructed in the early 1900's.

Here are some interesting excerpts from an email that was received from Ms. Robertson:

"What we have found is that the lane floor itself is constructed from 3 panels. They are about six meters



The Fyvie Alley and Racquet Court next door sustained considerable damage from Storm Otto (2023)

#### by Dave Williams

long and each panel is formed from maple (sections laid on edge in the manner described in the article) and then bolted together using iron rods. Our thinking is that they were purchased as a kit and shipped to the site. Some of the other gutters and pit end are different wood with different profiles, etc., so were likely made in Scotland by the estate joiner."

I think that the project manager may have answered her own question... it was made in the USA. The fact that she mentions six meters, or about 20 feet, means that the 3 panels would roughly equal the length of a lane, or 60 feet. I remember this being done at another time in history, when so many lanes and machines were purchased from Japan following the overbuilding of bowling centers in that country during the 1960's and 70's.

Those of you old enough to remember will recall lanes that were sawed into sections and then transported across the ocean from Japan, along with squeaking machines in dire need of oil. Jim Decker (father to former BPAA president Jim Decker III), who I worked for at the time, took advantage of the sale and replaced the older AMF 82-30 machines in most of his locations with the more modern AMF 82-70 version. The small amount of lanes that he purchased came in three sections, and I can remember a noise, or even a slight hopping of the bowling ball at times, when rolling over the splices.

Annie Robertson continues, "Lord Leith, for whom the building was constructed, made his money in America and he married an American woman. The racquets court in the main building is set to American dimensions and the whole concept of a playhouse is somewhat American. Hence, our ambition to track down the manufacture of the bowling alley to see if it too is American."

Another of our "super sleuths," retired union worker and lifetime Exxon employee Bruce Bakos, asks if a portion of the maple wood could be analyzed to determine its origin? That's an interesting thought. And perhaps the iron rods as well? To all of you that have contributed to our adventure thus far, we say good "sherlocking" of this puzzle... as the plot thickens!

UPDATE — The Fyvie Racquets Court and Alley, originally known as The Playhouse, sustained considerable damage earlier this year during Storm Otto, when a noble fir fell directly onto the building, compromising sections of the glazed roof and facade housing the bowling lane (see photo provided by Kari Smith of the Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame). WE GET EMAILS — Another interesting subject that we wrote about a few weeks ago, that of Cocked Hat Bowling, has brought a couple of interesting photos and a video our way. It seems that Cocked Hat Bowling was quite popular in Dallas and Houston from 1907 to 1927.

Kari Smith, curator at the Bowling Museum in Arlington, Tx., provided the following information: "As far as Cocked Hat is concerned, I am a little familiar with this niche game. It was played in Dallas and Houston for a time and we have some items related to those that played in the two Texas cities." (see photos)

Another new friend, Kevin Hong from the IBMA has furnished a youtube video of a two-lane Cocked Hat bowling facility in St. Charles, Mo., near the home of legendary professional bowler Pete Weber. Kevin writes, "Cocked Hat Bowling is a variation of bowling that originated in English pubs. According to legend, the game derived its name from the way men would tip their hats to the side while they bowled. As recently as two decades ago, several cocked hat lanes existed in the U.S. — most of them in taverns."

The lanes in St. Charles have reportedly been there since 1875! Check out Kevin's video at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4QxrpHllzTE



Texas Cocked Hat Championship Cup won by Houston (1913), Dallas (1914) and Houston (1915)



Participants in the 3rd Annual Cocked Hat Contest in Houston (1915)

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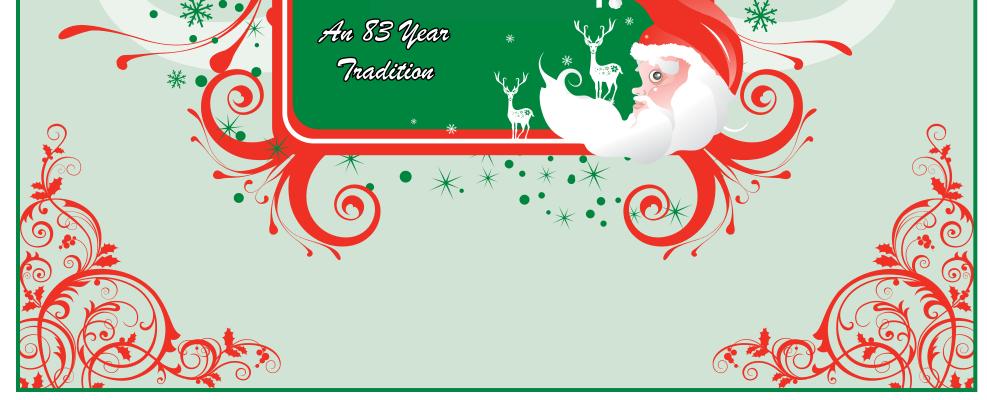
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# Merry Christmas From All of Us at The California **Bowling News** May the holiday season bring you joyful moments, warm memories and special happiness Charlie • Carol Dean



## **PBA REGIONAL RECAP:** Walter Ray Williams Jr., deo Benard Cap Off Regional Season as both Win 4th title of 2023

by Chase Kaufman

No, this is not a repeat article. No, I did not write about the same event twice. Yes, Walter Ray Williams Jr. won for the fourth straight month. Yes, Deo Benard also picked up his fourth title of the season. Yes, they are both very good.

In the conclusive five events of the 2023 PBA Regional Tour, plenty of notable players made one last attempt for a title in 2023. Others used the competition to sharpen their skills before heading to Vegas for the 2023 BowITV PBA Regional Players Invitational. Whatever their plan, the action was as good as it can get.

For the final time in 2023, read more in this week's Regional Recap:

#### **PBA FIRELAKE SOUTHWEST INVITATIONAL**

The PBA Southwest Region commenced the weekend in Shawnee, Okla. by honoring the region's annual Hall of Fame inductees on Friday night. This year, John Burns, Del Ballard Jr., and Mark Williams joined the prominent bowlers in the Southwest Region Hall of Fame.

Once bowling began, Alex George guided the star-studded 32-man field at +352 for 12 games to claim a double-bye along with François Lavoie, Trey Brand, and Eric Jones. But once the bracket got underway, the touring players took over.

Jones and Packy Hanrahan battled in the first semifinal, right after Hanrahan shot a 300 in his previous match, and Packy got this one done also with a 2-1 win. Anthony Lavery-Spahr squeaked past Shawn Maldonado in the other semifinal with wins of 224-223 and 237-234.

The final match between Hanrahan and Lavery-Spahr was a thriller. The lefty got on the board first with a 264-219 win. But the righty never backed down. Lavery-Spahr produced a 279-241 win and then followed it up with a 230-222 victory to claim his 11th career regional title.

PBA FireLake Southwest Invitational Final Standings Anthony Lavery-Spahr, \$4,000 Packy Hanrahan, \$2,400 Eric Jones, \$1,500 Shawn Maldonado, \$1,500 PBA FireLake Southwest Invitational Full Results



#### PBA TIMMY SEE MEMORIAL YULEE MEMBER/NON-MEMBER DOUBLES



Yulee Bowling Center hosted this December PBA South Region event, which is perfect because maybe they handed out some 'Yule' Logs? No? Sorry.

Toby Sambueno and Steve Novak led qualifying by averaging 223, over nine pins higher than second place on the demanding 45-foot Dragon pattern. After 11 games of baker match play, Shawn Naumann and Tom Daugherty jumped into the lead with

#### **PBA/PBA50 SELECT KEY MOTORS BRISTOL BAKER DOUBLES**



Remaining in the South Region for their final event of the year during the last regional weekend, Jeff Campbell and Kennon McFalls put together quite the qualifying round. They delivered not one, but two baker 300s to propel them to the lead. But after 16 games of match play, they fell to fifth place, one spot outside of the stepladder.

Michael Ritz and Zachary Tackett faced Brian Dennis and Nick Pate in the first round of the four-team stepladder. Team Dennis/Pate went strike-nine-spare in the 10th frame for a 226, giving Ritz and Tackett a chance to win with all three in the 10th. A 7-pin on the second shot ended their run.

In the next match, Dennis and Pate put their opponents, Bob Learn Jr. and Bryan Hahlen, in the same situation after striking out for 257. This time, Learn and Hahlen delivered all three in the 10th for a 258 and moved on to the finals.

The scoring pace dropped in the final match when Jon Rakoski and Nate Garcia stepped in, but the battle was still close. It was a two-mark match through eight frames, but a 2-10 split from Team Learn/Hahlen sank their hopes, shooting 189. Rakoski and Garcia finished with a 210, as Rakoski picked up his first regional title and Garcia his fourth.

#### PBA/PBA50 Select Key Motors Bristol Baker Doubles Final Standings

Nate Garcia and Jon Rakoski, 2,500 points, \$4,000 Bryan Hahlen and Bob Learn Jr. 1,500, \$2,250 Nick Pate and Brian Dennis, 1,150, \$2,000 Zachary Tackett and Michael Ritz, 950, \$1,900 PBA/PBA50 Select Key Motors Bristol Baker Doubles Full Results

#### **PBA50/PBA EMERALD SOUTHWEST DOUBLES**



Onto another doubles tournament in December, this one at Emerald Bowl in Houston, 40 doubles teams competed on the Rick Steelsmith pattern for eight individual games. Texans Dino Castillo and Shawn Maldonado combined for a +405 and a first-place lead with plenty of games remaining.

But stop me if you've heard this one — Walter Ray Williams Jr. and Deo Benard jumped up to first after match play to claim the one-seed. Tom Hess and Sean Lavery-Spahr took the two-seed, while Chris and Ryan Barnes earned the three seed and

Nate Garcia and CJ Petrin in second.

Garcia and Petrin won their position round match 194-180, but Sambueno and Novak shot 246 in their own position round to jump from third place to first, leapfrogging Garcia and Petrin by two pins to claim the title. Sambueno claimed his second title as a member and third overall, while Novak won his second as a non-member.

#### PBA Timmy See Memorial Yulee Member/Non-Member Doubles Final Standings

Toby Sambueno and Steve Novak, \$4,700 Nate Garcia and CJ Petrin, \$2,400 Tom Daugherty and Shawn Naumann, \$2,000 Charles Noble Jr. and Cory Misura, \$1,800 PBA Timmy See Memorial Yulee Member/Non-Member Doubles Full Results faced Pete McCordic and Cody Meiers.

In the first match, the Barnes duo won 210-199 over McCordic and Meiers to set up a contest with Hess and Lavery-Spahr. In a high-scoring second match, Hess and Lavery-Spahr won 255-236 to move onto the finals. But in a close and exciting final, Williams and Benard earned a 236-232 victory. Both players notched their fourth title of the 2023 regional season, marking Williams' 66th career regional win and Benard's seventh.

#### **PBA50/PBA Emerald Southwest Doubles**

Walter Ray Williams Jr. and Deo Benard, 2,500 points, \$6,000 Tom Hess and Sean Lavery-Spahr, 1,500, \$4,000 Chris Barnes and Ryan Barnes, 1,150, \$2,700 Pete McCordic and Cody Meiers, 950, \$2,000 PBA50/PBA Emerald Southwest Doubles Full Results



For the final recap before the grand poobah RPI, The Lanes Fort Meade hosted 61 bowlers hoping to grab a title in 2023. The top 16 bowlers headed into singleelimination bracket play separated by a little over 100 pins, so it was anyone's game.

The one-seed Bobby Hall II lost the first game in his best-of-three-games opening match, but put together a 299 and a 242 to move onto the semifinals. Hall then took down George Tomlinson III 213-199. Andrew Rettig shot a strong 269 to the 203 of Ray Edwards in the other semifinal.

In the finals, it was a battle of the chalk as the one and two-seeds faced off in a winner-take-all final. Rettig won 226-167 to capture his third career title and \$1,700.

#### PBA50 Fort Meade Open presented

by Auto Spa Express Final Standings Andrew Rettig, 2,500 points, \$1,700 Bobby Hall II, 1,500, \$1,150 George Tomlinson III, 1,150, \$900 Ray Edwards, 950, \$900 PBA50 Fort Meade Open presented by Auto Spa Express Full Results

View the season-long points standings in each region  $\underline{here}.$ 

Learn more on the BowITV PBA and PBA50 Regional Players Invitational, which will be held Jan. 2-4, 2024 in Las Vegas, <u>here</u>.

#### **PBA Regional** continued from page 1

fier tournament. The PBA50 Northwest Region awarded two RPI berths in its qualifier.

Through the season-long points list, an additional seven PBA players and four PBA50 players per region qualified for the RPI.

Players who finished among the top 50 on the PBA National Tour points list and the top 10 on the PBA50 National Tour points list were not eligible for the RPI. However, a top-10 finishing PBA50 player would be eligible in the Regular Division.

#### **PBA REGULAR DIVISION**

#### **PBA EAST**

**Points Leaders:** Alex Cavagnaro, Massapequa, N.Y.; John Furey, Howell, N.J.; Jake Rollins, Glen Rock, N.J.; Peter Fox, West Hartford, Conn.; Tom Sorce, Blasdell, N.Y.; Arturo Quintero, Mexico; Joe Paluszek, Bensalem, Pa.

**RPI Qualifier:** Anthony Neuer, Lewisburg, Pa.; Eric Cornog, Cherry Hill, N.J. Tim Foy Jr., Seaford, Del.

Cavagnaro led the East in points, but Sorce found himself atop the region's earnings list. However, no player could match the former U.S. Open finalist Anthony Neuer's two titles — and he only competed in five events this season.

#### **PBA CENTRAL**

**Points Leaders:** Bailey Mavrick, Whitestown, Ind.; Ryan Liederbach, Northfield, Ohio; Cory Hersha, Larwill, Ind.; Frank Snodgrass, Center Line, Mich.; Ryan Lakota, Minster, Ohio; Zeke Bayt, Westerville, Ohio; Mi-

#### **PBA SOUTH**

**Points Leaders:** Nate Garcia, Port St. Lucie, Fla.; Ethan Fiore, Tampa, Fla.; Matt Taylor, Zebulon, N.C.; Trevor Roberts, Colin Champion, Spring Hill, Fla.; Mathew Woodall, Norfolk, Va.; Connor Pickford, Charlotte, N.C.

**RPI Qualifier:** Patrick Dombrowski, Parma, Ohio; Zachary Tackett, Virginia Beach, Va.; Scott Anderson, Cooper City, Fla.

By the laws vested in sports competition, defending RPI champion Dombrowski must be discussed first. The veteran right-hander also earned a sixth place finish at this year's USBC Masters.

Zachary Tackett may not be related to PBA Player of the Year EJ Tackett — though he does share a name with EJ's actual brother — but Zachary sure lived up to the Tackett name. He led the region in points, earnings and titles (3) all while averaging over 225.

#### **PBA SOUTHWEST**

**Points Leaders:** Deo Benard, Roanoke, Texas; Eric Jones, Edmond, Okla.; Beau Peterson, McPherson, Kan.; David Krol, Nixa, Mo.; Dylan Macon, Lubbock, Texas; Cody Meiers, Lubbock, Texas; Andres Villarreyna, Port Arthur, Texas

**RPI Qualifier:** Kris Koeltzow, Wheat Ridge, Colo.; Ildemaro Ruiz Jr., Venezuela; Dallas Leong, Las Vegas

The southpaws found plenty of success in the Southwest this season. Benard led the region in points and titles (3), while Jones added a title himself.

There will be no shortage of heavy hitters with Koeltzow and Krol also winning multiple titles this season.

#### PBA WEST

**Points Leaders:** Ramsey Basurto, Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif.; Tim Cagle II, Hercules, Calif.; Riley Chin, Clovis, Calif; Nickolas Freiberg, Sparks, Nev.; Wesley Low Jr., Palmdale, Calif.; Tim Ursillo, Lakeside, Calif.; Chris Mayes, Mesa, Ariz.

**RPI Qualifier:** Cortez Schenck, Phoenix; Matt Murtishaw, Menifee, Calif.; PJ Haggerty, Roseville, Calif.

The West Region has not one, but two finalists for the 2023 Harry Golden PBA Rookie of the Year award in Basurto and Schenck, who won the award.

Basurto led the West in points, while Schenck topped the region in earnings and titles (2). The veteran Haggerty rounds out the three-headed monster atop the West Region, all of whom boast tons of experience at South Point Bowling Plaza.

#### **PBA NORTHWEST**

**Points Leaders:** Nick Borgaro, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; Lanndyn Carnate, Redding, Calif.; Payden Stumpf, Puyallup, Wash.; Chris Tuholski, Vancouver, Wash.; Zack Stone, Clay Rees, Johnny Leggett

**RPI Qualifier:** Cameron Weier, Seattle; Jordan Jung, Canada; Craig Tuholski, Gresham, Ore.

There are, unfortunately, no sasquatches making the trek from the Pacific Northwest down to Vegas. However, Borgaro's near-220 average and Washington's Stumpf can perhaps make up for the mythical beast's absence.

#### PBA50 DIVISION PBA50 EAST

**Points Leaders:** Ryan Shafer, Horseheads, N.Y.; Sammy Ventura, Syracuse, N.Y.; Jay Boyle, Garnet Valley, Pa.; Andy Rettig, Hamburg, N.Y. earned a fourth place finish in last year's PBA50 RPI.

#### **PBA50 SOUTH**

**Points Leaders:** Walter Ray Williams Jr., Oxford, Fla.; Dan Knowlton, Dade City, Fla.; Peter Dohan Jr., Tampa, Fla.; James Campbell, Vonore, Tenn.

**RPI Qualifier:** James Winterfeld, Fort Mill, S.C.; Darryl Bower, Middletown, Pa.; Bill Vannoy, Lexington, S.C.

Bower nearly brought home the trophy last year, finishing as the runner-up to Troy Lint. But the great Walter Ray Williams Jr. will surely be motivated to win one of the few PBA trophies not yet in his collection.

#### **PBA50 SOUTHWEST**

**Points Leaders:** Glenn Smith, New York; Tony Franklin, Frisco, Texas; Robert Lawrence, Austin, Texas; Pete McCordic, Katy, Texas

**RPI Qualifier:** Mike Bailey, Carrollton, Texas; Rick Benard, Roanoke, Texas; Chris Warren, Grants Pass, Ore. McCordic, who was inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame earlier this year, seeks to end his 2023 season on a high note. Smith, Franklin and Bailey each captured titles in the Southwest Region this season.

#### **PBA50 WEST**

**Points Leaders:** Rich Corwin, Portland, Ore.; Rick Meneley, Santa Maria, Calif.; Eric Adolphson, Concord, Calif.; Skip Pavone, San Jose, Calif.

**RPI Qualifier:** Scott Critchfield, Canyon Country, Calif.; Steve Smith, San Diego; Jerry Vertigan, Yorba Linda, Calif.

The wild, wild west saw a plethora of players battle for supremacy. No PBA50 player managed to win multiple titles out west this season, but one-time champ Corwin led the region in points.

#### PBA50 NORTHWEST

**Points Leaders:** Jeff Polson, Ashland, Ore.; Clyde DeLoach, Culver, Ore.; Blaine Weninger, Happy Valley, Ore.; Shawn Horenberger, Boise, Idaho

**RPI Qualifier:** Michael Kennedy, Bonney Lake, Wash.; Bob Reed, Weed, Calif.

Kennedy, however, dominated in the Northwest. He captured two titles, a runner-up placement and six topsix finishes in his seven events.

Both the PBA and PBA50 divisions of the 2023 BowITV Regional Players Invitational begin qualifying on Jan. 2, 2024. All rounds will be livestreamed on BowITV.

More information on the PBA Regional Tour is available <u>here</u>.

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chael Davidson, Versailles, Ohio

**RPI Qualifier:** Michael Schlabach, Goshen, Ind.; Sam DeWitt III, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Dean Vargo, Willowick, Ohio

Schlabach won a pair of titles in the Midwest this season, including the region's RPI qualifier. But Mavrick might be the region's hottest player as he just earned his second title of the season in mid-November.

Additionally, PBA League Elias Cup champion Snodgrass enters the RPI coming off a strong summer and fall season.

#### **PBA MIDWEST**

**Points Leaders:** Brady Stearns, Saint Augusta, Minn.; Ben Sobel, Columbus, Ohio; Benjamin Martinez, Mexico; Tim Curran, Tim Gruendler, St. Louis, Mo.; Jerry Marrs, Lake in the Hills, III.; Russ Oviatt, Sioux Falls, S.D.

**RPI Qualifier:** Brandon Runk, Milton, Pa.; Nate Purches, Marlborough, Mass.; Phillip Watson, Cahokia, III. Purches led the Midwest in points and earnings while maintaining a 220.68 average across 139 games. He tallied five top-five finishes in his 12 tournaments.

Did we mention he's a 20-year-old rookie?

**RPI Qualifier:** Ray Edwards, Middle Island, N.Y.; David Show, Smock, Pa.; Rick Graham, Elizabethtown, Pa. Edwards and Boyle were the lone RPI representatives to win in the East Region this year, but Shafer is undoubtedly the man to beat of this crop.

#### **PBA50 CENTRAL**

**Points Leaders:** Larry Verble, Mason, Mich.; Dave Johnson, Ashtabula, Ohio; Mark Sullivan, Indianapolis; Eddie Graham, Kettering, Ohio

**RPI Qualifier:** Eugene McCune, Munster, Ind.; Charles Ferrell, Painesville Twp., Ohio; John Marsala, St. Louis Verble eclipsed McCune by just a few points to lead the region, though each have a title and two runner-up finishes on their résumé this season.

#### **PBA50 MIDWEST**

**Points Leaders:** Lyle Kuhlmann, Woodruff, Wis.; Jeff Johnson, Freeport, III.; Scott Merritt, Iowa City, Iowa; Gary Alstott, Washington, III.

**RPI Qualifier:** Steve Jaros, Yorkville, Ill.; Bo Goergen, Sanford, Mich.; Brian Kretzer, Dayton, Ohio

Kuhlmann had a tremendous regional season, winning a title and ranking second in points, while Kretzer





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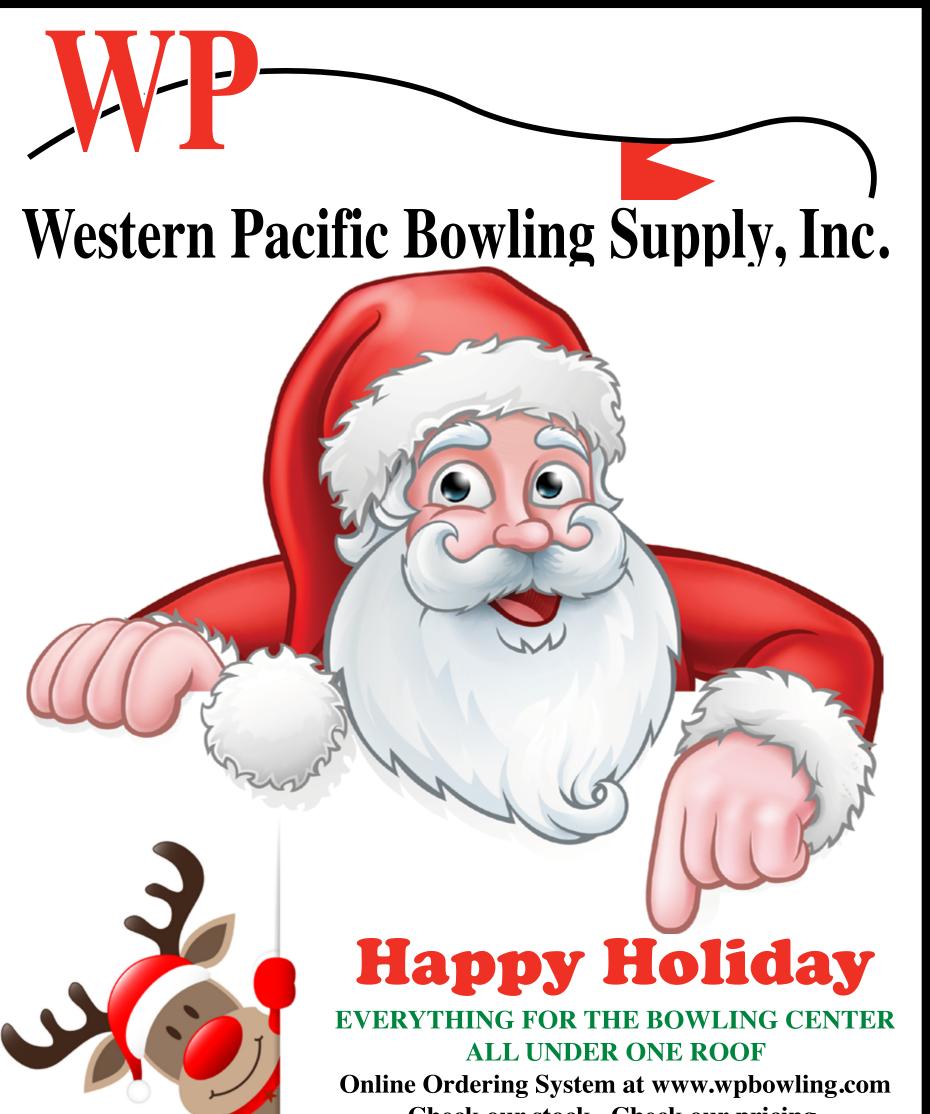
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