

CALIFORNIA BOWLING NEWS

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Dasha Kovalova Wins 2021 PWBA Twin Cities Open

EAGAN, Minn. — After what most would consider a successful run at the 2021 Professional Women's Bowling Association Kickoff Classic Series in January, Ukraine's Dasha Kovalova was not satisfied.

After losing in the semi-final match to eventual champion Julia Bond of Aurora, Illinois, in what she considered embarrassing fashion at the PWBA Hall of Fame Classic, Kovalova was determined to erase the memory of the disappointing performance and put herself back in the winner's circle as quickly as possible.

One event later, she captured her third career PWBA title with a resounding 268-173 victory over Missy Parkin of Laguna Hills, California, in the championship match at the PWBA Twin Cities Open at Cedarvale Lanes in Eagan, Minnesota.

The victory, broadcast live on BowlTV.com, earned Kovalova the \$10,000 top prize.

"I'm driven to be the best, and losing like I did back in January was a big motivator to improve these last couple of months," said Kovalova, who had two top-five finishes at the Kickoff Classic Series in

three events. "I was pretty obsessed about improving in every possible way coming into the rest of the PWBA season."

Kovalova entered Saturday's championship round as the No. 2 seed after surviving a hectic finish during the last qualifying round. She completely dominated her two matches in the stepladder finals, winning by 97 and 95 pins, respectively.

Parkin, the 2011 United States Bowling Congress Queens champion, was looking for her first PWBA victory since the tour's relaunch in 2015. She captured the No. 1 seed after averaging more than 220 for 24 games over two days.

In the final, Kovalova opened with a barrage of four straight strikes, while Parkin struggled to find the range, trailing by 52 pins after five frames. Another string of strikes following a spare in the fifth frame sealed the victory early for Kovalova.

"I tried taking a completely different approach during the finals this time," Kovalova said. "I reminded myself to breath, stay calm and think through my choices, and it worked out

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JASON COUCH WINS JOHNNY PETRAGLIA BVL OPEN FOR FIRST PBA50 TOUR TITLE

Michael Haugen Jr. def. Hall of Famer Chris Barnes 300-289 to advance to the title match

by Jerry Schneider

CLEARWATER, Fla. - PBA Hall of Famer Jason Couch, a 16-time winner on the Guaranteed Rate PBA Tour over a 20-year career, won the Johnny Petraglia BVL Open presented by the Law Firm of Lucas & Magazine and Brunswick Wednesday for his first PBA50 Tour title.

In only his second PBA50 Tour event (for players 50 and over), Couch, the top seed for the finals, defeated 2018 PBA50 Player of the Year and 2017 Rookie of the Year Michael Haugen Jr. 278-260 in the title match at Maple Country Lanes.

For Haugen it was his second consecutive runner-up finish after finish-



(L-R) Maple Country Lanes owner John Laspina, Champion Jason Couch, Johnny Petraglia & General Manager Mark Tibbs

ing second to Walter Ray Williams Jr. in last week's PBA50 Lightning Strikes Open in which Williams won a record 15th career PBA50 Tour title.

"Because this was Johnny's tournament I felt like

there was a lot of pressure to win and the way Michael was bowling I knew I was going to have to stand on the gas and give it my best," said Couch.

"I started with the first five strikes but left the

3-9 in the sixth frame," Couch added. "I was really pumped up which caused me to be a little too firm with that shot. It was obvious I was going to have to continue striking so I just

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CBT \$2,500 SINGLES CHAMP IS CROWNED

\$12,445 in Payouts & \$3,160 in Side Pots

by Elysia Basurto

CABAZON—The month of April brought us much excitement and anticipation as our first \$2,500 guaranteed singles event approached. We spent a lot of time promoting not only the top prize but also that each squad would be paying out a \$500 in guaranteed side pots!

We put out a \$45 squad special and even ran a week of amazing Ball Package specials!

Then on April 23rd, we packed up the CBTmobile and headed to Cabazon, California to set up at Canyon Lanes for the weekend.

Bright and early Saturday continued on page 4



(L-R) Owner/Director Ramsey Basurto, \$2,500 CBT Singles Champion Brandon Stebbins and Owner/Director Troy Brooks.

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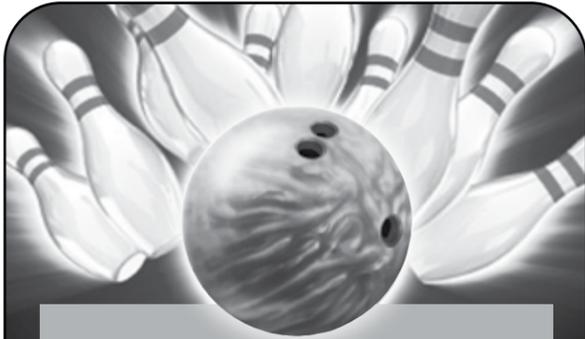
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2021 USBC WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS UNDERWAY IN RENO

by Aaron Smith

RENO, Nev. - The sound of pins crashing and teams cheering filled the National Bowling Stadium on Friday as the opening squad of the 2021 United States Bowling Congress Women's Championships featured the first of more than 2,700 teams.

The 2021 tournament is the 101st edition of the USBC Women's Championships and marked the comeback of the event after the 2020 tournament was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The last time the Women's Championships was not held prior to 2020 was from 1943-1945 due to World War II.

Friday's squad was preceded by an opening ceremony, which featured welcomes from several local dignitaries and representatives from THE ROW Reno, the presenting sponsor of the 2021 Women's Championships.

Reno Vice Mayor Bonnie Weber rolled the ceremonial first ball to help kick off the competition, and the ceremony was capped by the famed Mass Ball Shot, which featured one member of each of the 28 teams on the opening squad rolling a ball down the lane at the same time.

The 2021 event marks the tournament's 12 visit to Reno and ninth trip to the 78-lane NBS.



Rock N' Rowdy Rollers

One of the four-player teams to hit the lanes Friday was Rock N' Rowdy Rollers of Gun Barrel City, Texas, which also bowled on the opening squad at the 2019 Women's Championships in Wichita, Kansas.

"We were very excited to be out here, and it's always a privilege to come out on the first day," Dina Feld said. "We always like to do big things in Texas, and there's nothing bigger than the first day."

The team included Feld, Connie Harlan, Kaye Walker and Debbie Hammack and put up a big number for the Sapphire Division. The group finished its team event with a 1,868 total, seven pins short of the winning Sapphire total from the 2019 event.

Harlan led a consistent team effort with a 489 series and helped the group to games of 581, 686 and 601. Walker had 482, Hammack added 452 and Feld finished with 445.

Teams in the Sapphire Division have combined entering averages of 544 and below.

The Women's Championships features four average-based divisions for team competition and six divisions for doubles, singles and all-events. All-events titles are awarded to the bowlers with the highest nine-game totals at the event, made up of three games of team, doubles and singles competition.

The members of Rock N' Rowdy Rollers credited their team unity and ability to pick each other up in helping put together the big score.

"What really makes it fun and encourages us is when one of us is doing bad, we hold each other up," Feld said. "We're really good about that. I think we all cheered each other on tonight and did that, which made it easier. We're a team, and we're very excited about how we bowled."

The 2021 Women's Championships will run for 73 days, with the final doubles and singles squad taking place July 4. During the course of the event, the Women's Championships will take a break in May to welcome the USBC Queens to the NBS.

The Queens, the first major on the 2021 Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour schedule, is scheduled to take place May 12-18.

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Face-Masked Crusader of Bowling Wins Again... Without a Mask!

by Dave Williams

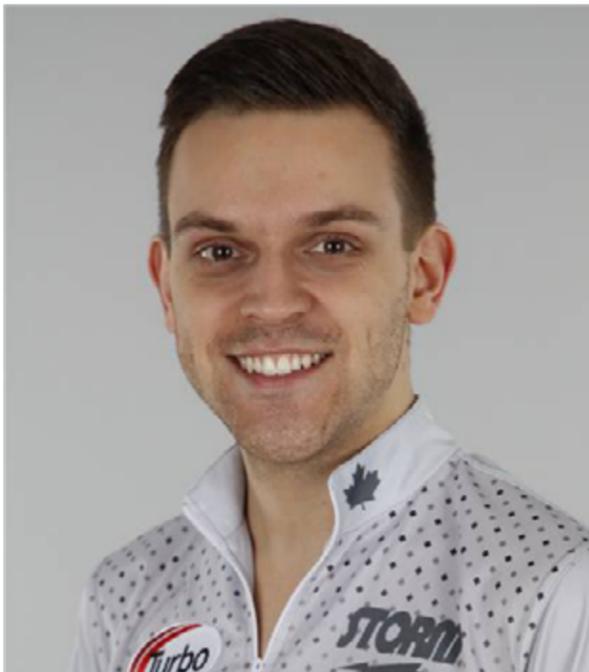
Two months ago, this writer penned an article about Francois Lavoie, the face-masked crusader of bowling. It was a tongue in cheek title, referring to Lavoie's incredible performance in PBA events that have been contested since the face-mask mandate became a requirement for our very existence in most states.

In the article titled *Francois Lavoie, The Face-Masked Crusader of Bowling*, reference was made to Bruce Wayne, the alter ego of Batman, who donned the famous cowl of Batman to become the Caped Crusader. In similar fashion, I compared Lavoie's facemask and how he became a superhero of bowling whenever he strapped on the mask.

However, on Sunday April 18th, Lavoie won once again in the PBA's Super Slam... without a facemask! Perhaps what is just as amazing and seemed to be disregarded by the announcers and others in attendance — no one was wearing a facemask during that telecast! A word that comes to mind from The Bible, in reference to the omission of facemasks during the PBA telecast is... Hallelujah!

Lavoie defeated Kyle Troup in the championship match, 247 to 202, to win the \$100,000 top prize in the non-title special event featuring the five champions from the major tournaments held during the current 2021 season: The Tournament of Champions (Lavoie); The Players Championship (Troup); The US Open (Chris Via); The USBC Masters (Thomas Larsen); and The World Championship (Tom Daugherty).

What's even more impressive about Lavoie is his approach to competition. In an article posted on the PBA website by Jef Goodger, the 28-year-old Lavoie states: "Coming here, I was thinking this was just going to be a fun event and we're all going to have a good time. Once we started bowling, all of a sudden I'm in competition mode and I really want to win."



Francois Lavoie

Indeed. The intensity of Lavoie's scowl at his target on the lanes is reminiscent of an eagle (or Pete Weber!), scouting their prey with an uncanny eyesight that defies human comprehension. I sometimes wondered what the others were focusing upon, as it appeared as though they were using the pins as a targeted focal point, or possibly the range finders that are located far down the lane from the traditional row of dots and arrows nearer to the approach.

Another impressive aspect of Lavoie's game is his well-rehearsed game plan. One can only assume that he goes through a pre-tournament ritual in which he "dreams" about what he will be doing during the actual event. That always worked for me in my bowling days, although sports writers felt that I must have been practicing a form of transcendental meditation. In reality, it probably was a form of silent meditation, going over in my mind what I wanted to accomplish

on the lanes. However, I give no credit to Maharishi Mahesh Yogi!

Such was not the case with Kyle Troup. In a post at 11thframe.com, Jeff Richgels suggests, "One of the things that sets the best bowlers in the world apart from us mortals is the guile and guts to make ball changes when it defies logic. Most of the time, what might leave us shaking our heads turns out to be a wise decision that leads to success. But not always. Kyle Troup made a 'not always' decision to start the championship match, and it effectively handed the title to Francois Lavoie."

On this day, the Lavoie form of meditation and minor adjustments to his approach won out over the power game employed by Troup. Both young men have the wherewithal to represent professional bowling for many years to come. In the case of Francois Lavoie — there are very few pros that have won over \$500,000 in their career, and even fewer that have won 5 career titles (not counting the Super Slam, and two televised 300 games) ... with three of the five being majors, in less than six years! With or without the facemask, Francois Lavoie is destined for greatness in bowling.

Richard "Dick" Kumma 1947-2019 - A couple of weeks ago, I shared excerpts from an article by Ken Lowman that appeared in the January 2, 1981 edition of *California Bowling News*. During the course of my editorial ("Maybe We Should Call Them Avenues"), I made reference to Dick Kumma of Moxee, Washington. I wondered to myself whatever happened to Mr. Kumma and after searching the internet found that he passed away in 2019, at the age of 71. In his obituary it mentions that Dick joined the PBA after returning from Vietnam. He later became a salesman for AMF, where he was most proud of assisting bowling proprietors with the construction of new locations in Idaho, Oregon, Texas and Washington.



(Photos of Francois Lavoie compliments of PBA, LLC)



FINALISTS DETERMINED AT 2021 INTERCOLLEGIATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Aaron Smith

ARLINGTON, Texas – The field is set for the 2021 Intercollegiate Singles Championships after four qualifying events were held Friday throughout the United States. The 2021 ISC will feature 24 women and 24 men vying for individual national titles May 3-8 at the Spectrum Entertainment Complex in Wyoming, Michigan. In each of the four sectional locations Friday, competitors bowled six games, with the top six men and top six women in each event earning a spot at the national tournament. All four sectionals featured livestream coverage on BowITV.com.

At Poelking Lanes South in Dayton, Ohio, Delaware State's Katie Robb fired 279 in her fifth game on the way to a 1,282 total and claimed the top spot in the women's division. She'll be joined by Monmouth's Jenna Lehrer (1,233); Pikeville's Emily Tull (1,202), Lawrence Tech's Victoria Giardina (1,188); St. Ambrose's Megan Hess (1,183); and Duquesne's Allison Hresko (1,180).

In the men's field in Dayton, Andrew Gross of Wisconsin-Whitewater finished at the top of the leaderboard with 1,280. He'll be joined at the ISC by Bowling Green State's Steven Kocher (1,246); St. Ambrose's Zach Denton (1,242); Bowling Green State's Tyler Lowenstein (1,239); Notre Dame-Ohio's Conner Novak (1,239); and Pikeville's Ryan Taylor (1,230).

Clarke's Brooke Allen rolled the highest six-game set of the four sectional qualifiers, posting a 1,325 total at Stardust Bowl in Addison, Illinois. She was followed in the standings by Saint Xavier's Hannah Bond (1,276); Mount Mercy's Cassidy Courey (1,267); Marian-Wisconsin's Samantha Mueller (1,242); Indiana Tech's Maryssa Carey (1,222); and Mount Mercy's Ayra Aminuddin (1,213).

Calumet's Pete Vergos won the men's division at the Addison sectional by a single pin, rolling a 1,305 total to edge Indiana Tech's Cory Hersha (1,304). They'll be joined in Western Michigan by St. Ambrose's Jordan Monnens (1,294); William Penn's Aleksander Kostric (1,277); Calumet's Shaun Quinn (1,261); and Lincoln Memorial's Michael Rachal (1,259).

At USA Bowl in Dallas, Prairie View A&M's Patricia Rosales claimed the top spot in the women's division, finishing with a 1,281 total. The athletes advancing alongside Rosales were Stephen F. Austin's Dakota Faichnie (1,225); Martin Methodist's Emily Crone (1,223); Iowa Western Community College's Shalee Bradley (1,206); Arkansas State's Brooklyn Boudreau (1,201); and Wichita State's Madison Janack (1,181).

The men's division in Dallas featured Wichita State's Alec Keplinger at the top of the leaderboard with 1,277. He'll be joined next month at the Spectrum Entertainment Complex by Newman's Tyler Synovec (1,271); Texas-San Antonio's Seth Gossen (1,242); Lindenwood's Andrew Sacks (1,233); Oklahoma Christian's Joshua Imhoff (1,222); and Lindenwood's Troy Owens (1,210). Strong finishes in the final game highlighted the top of the leaderboard at Smyrna Bowling Center in Smyrna, Tennessee, as McKendree's Isabel Allen finished with 253 to lead the event with 1,262. She was followed in the standings by Vanderbilt's Mabel Cummins (1,241); North Carolina A&T's Ana Olaya (1,236); Tusculum's Jordan Mundt (1,222); North Carolina A&T's Lauren Tomaszewski (1,212); and Rebekah Loker of Ottawa-Kansas (1,209).

Webber International's Ronnie Huff earned the top spot in Smyrna for the men's field, finishing with a 1,242 total. He'll be joined at the ISC by Tusculum's Tyler Moore (1,234); Siena Heights' Ryan Reid (1,219); Webber's Wyatt Smith (1,212); Rio Grande's Nathan Burns (1,207); and Thomas More's Jacob Toelke (1,203). Sectional competition will transition to team qualifying Saturday. The Intercollegiate Team Championships qualifying events will take place Saturday and Sunday and be streamed live on BowITV. Total pinfall for 40 Baker games will determine the four men's teams and four women's teams from each site that will advance to the ITC, which also will be held at Wyoming's Spectrum Entertainment Complex from May 5-8.



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CBT continued from page 1

day morning, our \$45 special hosted the biggest of the 6-squad event followed by 5 more consistent showings.

The event brought out bowlers from all over California, Arizona and Nevada. We totaled 102 entries and paid out 14 places with Brandon Stebbins topping the board. Stebbins rolled four of the six squads of the tournament. As he began his fourth squad on Sunday at 11:30am (CBT's 5th of the tournament), he knew that he had to put up some numbers to beat out Dishawn Byrd who had been holding onto the top score at 668 since the 1st squad. Aside from that, he knew the conditions were tough and that he had tough competition on the lanes as well. They were bowling on the 39' Beijing. Tim Cagle II made a great run this squad putting up 668 to tie Byrd and adding pressure to Stebbins. With a focused mind, Stebbins pulled out a nice 693 series to clench the lead! But it wasn't over yet as there was one more squad to go.

As the sixth and final squad of the event began, Stebbins turned into a spectator. After the first two games, he only had his eye on a couple bowlers that could possibly catch his top score. As the third games began to end, he knew that Travis Horton could still catch him. In the 10th frame, Horton would need a double to claim victory. To Stebbins excitement and Hortons's disappointment, it was an emotional moment when that did not happen. All in all, Horton was excited to have clenched second with his 690 beating out both Cagle and Byrd. Stebbins shared on Monday with his Facebook followers, "I still have a lot to learn in bowling to continue these kinds of wins in the future. But I look forward to continuing to challenge myself and get better with each new pattern these two amazing people and the first lady put out!" Travis Horton &

Brandon Stebbins had joined up on a Crossover Doubles Team in the 5th squad as well posting 1343 which would hold as first place through the last squad. I asked Horton how it felt to win the CBT Doubles Championship, he responded with "It feels amazing and the excitement is unreal. Definitely pumped to bring it home! Ramsey, Troy, Elysia - you guys run a great tournament and I will definitely be doing more in the future."

We are certainly happy for all of our cashers and grateful to every one of our CBT Family that came out and supported the event this weekend. We would like to thank Canyon Lanes and all of their staff for a super smooth event as well. Dave, Sandy & Glenn, thank you! We look forward to bringing more new and larger events to bowlers everywhere!



(L-R) Owner/Director Ramsey Basurto, \$1,000 CBT Doubles Champions Brandon Stebbins & Travis Horton and Owner/Director Troy Brooks.



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TOP SEED TROUP SURVIVES ROLL-OFF TO ADVANCE TO KIA PBA PLAYOFFS QUARTERFINALS

Thomas Larsen also advances, defeating Anthony Simonsen in two games

MILFORD, Conn.—No. 1 seed Kyle Troup needed a tie-breaking roll-off to get past 16th-seeded Andrew Anderson and advance to the 2021 Kia PBA Playoffs quarterfinals. Troup won the first game in a race-to-two-points format in which one point is awarded to the winner of each game. Anderson returned the favor in game two, necessitating the ninth-and-10th-frame roll-off.

Troup, the 2021 PBA Players Championship winner, began the first game with four consecutive strikes to build a lead, but Anderson fought back with five straight strikes late in the game. In the 10th frame, Anderson left a 10 pin on his fill ball, giving Troup an opportunity to win by filling 20 pins in the 10th. Troup struck and spared to take game one, 234-233.

Anderson, who won the PBA Roth/Holman Doubles Championship earlier this season with Kris Prather, also trailed early in the second game, but a string of five consecutive strikes starting in the fifth frame led to a 225-212 victory for Anderson.

Troup, the higher seed, opted to have Anderson start the ninth-and-10th-frame roll-off. Anderson spared, giving Troup a chance to win before Anderson bowled his 10th frame. Troup rolled three straight strikes and an eight count to lock up the match and move into the quarterfinals.

In the quarterfinals, Troup will face USBC Masters champion Thomas Larsen, who defeated 2020 PBA Playoffs runner-up Anthony Simonsen in both games to advance out of the Round of 16. Larsen struck in eight of the first nine frames in game one and was able to fight off a late charge from Simonsen. Larsen took the first game by six pins, 244-238.

Larsen began the second game with the front nine. Only a 9 pin on his first shot in the 10th prevented Larsen from achieving perfection, who won game two, 279-224. In his two games, Larsen rolled 18 strikes in 20 frames.

The winner of the PBA Playoffs will receive a PBA Tour title, \$100,000 and an official WWE championship title belt.

Viewers can live stream the PBA on the FOX Sports and FOX NOW apps or at [FOXSports.com](https://www.foxsports.com). Select highlights will be available on @FOXSports social handles across Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. International fans can watch live on [FloBowling.com](https://www.flobowling.com).

LAVOIE, O'NEILL WIN ROLL-OFFS TO ADVANCE TO KIA PBA PLAYOFFS QUARTERFINALS

François Lavoie defeats Dick Allen, Bill O'Neill eliminates Jakob Butturff

by Jef Goodger

MILFORD, Conn.—François Lavoie and Bill O'Neill both needed tie-breaking roll-offs to win their respective Kia PBA Playoffs Round of 16 matches and advance to the quarterfinals, in which they'll face each other. Lavoie, the No. 4 seed, survived a scare from Dick Allen and 12th-seeded O'Neill, the defending PBA Playoffs champion, came from behind to knock out Jakob Butturff.

In a race-to-two-points format, one point is awarded to the winner of each game. If the players split the games, a ninth & 10th-frame roll-off breaks the tie.

Lavoie, the 2021 PBA Tournament of Champions and Guaranteed Rate PBA Super Slam winner, won game one handily over Allen, rolling the front seven on the way to a 266-185 win. In the second game, Allen built a lead with the front five and, although it was close throughout, never let Lavoie catch him. Allen's 258 game tied the match at one point apiece and required a roll-off to break the tie.

As the higher seed, Lavoie had the choice of starting lane and order and opted to bowl first on the left lane. After a strike from Lavoie, Allen rolled a spare and three straight strikes, forcing Lavoie to get two strikes and a pin in the 10th to win. Lavoie got the first two strikes and nine on his fill ball to secure the victory and advance to the quarterfinals.

Butturff, the No. 5 seed who finished second in both the Guaranteed Rate PBA World Championship and U.S. Open this season, struck in eight of the first nine frames to take the first game from O'Neill, 257-193.

O'Neill, who finished second in the 2019 PBA Playoffs and won the 2020 PBA Playoffs, finished the second game with a 227, forcing Butturff to mark in the 10th frame to win. Instead, Butturff left a 6-7 split and failed to convert, knotting the match at one point each.

Butturff opted for O'Neill to bowl first in the roll-off. After O'Neill struck, Butturff left a solid 8 pin in the ninth frame and a 7 pin in the 10th, finishing with a score of 39. A strike and a spare in the 10th for O'Neill gave him the victory and moved the defending champion into the quarterfinals.

The Kia PBA Playoffs Round of 16 continues Saturday, May 1 at 11:30 a.m. ET on Fox Sports' FS1 and will feature Chris Via taking on Cristian Azcona and Kris Prather battling EJ Tackett.

The winner of the PBA Playoffs will receive a PBA Tour title, \$100,000 and an official WWE championship title belt.

Viewers can live stream the PBA on the FOX Sports and FOX NOW apps or at [FOXSports.com](https://www.foxsports.com). Select highlights will be available on @FOXSports social handles across Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. International fans can watch live on [FloBowling.com](https://www.flobowling.com).

ROUND OF 16 RESULTS (SATURDAY, APR. 24 ON FS1)

Bowlero Milford, Milford, Conn.

No. 1 Kyle Troup def. No. 16 Andrew Anderson, 2-1

Game 1 – Troup def. Anderson, 234-233

Game 2 – Anderson def. Troup, 225-212

Roll-off – Troup def. Anderson, 58-26

No. 9 Thomas Larsen def. No. 8 Anthony Simonsen, 2-0

Game 1 – Larsen def. Simonsen, 244-238

Game 2 – Larsen def. Simonsen, 279-224

ROUND OF 16 RESULTS (SUNDAY, APR. 25 AT 1:30 P.M. ET ON FS1)

No. 4 François Lavoie def. No. 13 Dick Allen, 2-1

Game 1 – Lavoie def. Allen, 266-185

Game 2 – Allen def. Lavoie, 258-238

Roll-off – Lavoie def. Allen, 59-50

No. 12 Bill O'Neill def. No. 5 Jakob Butturff, 2-1

Game 1 – Butturff def. O'Neill, 257-193

Game 2 – O'Neill def. Butturff, 227-222

Roll-off – O'Neill def. Butturff, 49-39

ROUND OF 16 (SATURDAY, MAY 1 AT 11:30 A.M. ET ON FS1)

No. 2 Chris Via vs. No. 15 Cristian Azcona

No. 7 Kris Prather vs. No. 10 EJ Tackett

ROUND OF 16 (SUNDAY, MAY 2 AT 7 P.M. ET ON FS1)

No. 3 Tom Daugherty vs. No. 14 Jason Sterner

No. 6 Jesper Svensson vs. No. 11 Sam Cooley

QUARTERFINALS (SUNDAY, MAY 9 AT NOON ET ON FS1)

No. 1 Kyle Troup vs. No. 9 Thomas Larsen

No. 4 François Lavoie vs. No. 12 Bill O'Neill

QUARTERFINALS (MONDAY, MAY 10 AT 8 P.M. ET ON FS1)

To be determined after Round of 16

SEMIFINALS (SATURDAY, MAY 15 AT 11 A.M. ET ON FS1)

To be determined after quarterfinals

KIA PBA PLAYOFFS CHAMPIONSHIP (SUNDAY, MAY 16 AT 2 P.M. ET ON FOX)

To be determined after semifinals

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The PWBA's Return - Brings Back Memories of ROBIN ROMEO

by Frank Weiler

"Those were the days my friend, those were the days my friend, those were the days when we were young". Those were the days we wish we could live forever. The days I am writing of are the early days of the LPBT Tour when I was young. Those were the days when the LPBT (Ladies Pro Bowlers Tour) was born. I have so many fond memories of tournaments and players from the glory days of the past. A time when Paula Carter, Nikki "G" Gianulias, Tish Johnson, Lisa Rathgeber (Wagner), **ROBIN ROMEO**, Aleta Rzepecki (Sill) and many more were "ROOKIES".



Helen Reddy had it right when she sang: "We (Women) are strong, we are one, we are invincible". I believe that women are strong and invincible. I believe that female bowlers are all of that and I was thrilled years ago when the LPBT was young and those "ROOKIES" proved every word Helen Reddy sang was true. It is a joy sharing my memories and thoughts regarding those early LPBT days and those rising superstars.

I was a youngster stationed at Homestead Air Force Base near Miami from 1978 to 1986 when the world's best female bowlers came every January to kick off the new LPBT season.

The "ROOKIES" were establishing themselves while some old timers like Shirley Garms and Judy Soutar were ending glorious careers. It was a privilege to be there during those wonder years, a privilege to watch those ladies. Lucky me.

My first memory of a LPBT Tournament was probably in January of 1981 or 1982 in Cutler Ridge, Florida. It was the Tour's first stop of the season and the host Center was walking distance from my home. Every day I went to watch the ladies compete. It was my first time seeing professional women bowl. By then I had seen many PBA Tournaments but never a woman's professional tournament.

The women were outstanding bowlers, and I was hooked. My mother had never bowled in her life but after watching these lady professionals she was hooked. From that point mom began bowling for the rest of her life. The LPBT was responsible for recruiting my mother as my best bowling teammate ever. I still cherish my memories of bowling with mom. Thank you BOWLING. Thank you LPBT.

One of my favorite LPBT superstars was **ROBIN ROMEO**. She was a multi-talented competitor who possessed superior bowling skills and a pleasing personality. Those skills and personality endeared her to fellow bowlers and bowling fans. The ladies on Tour awarded her the Robby LPBT sportsmanship award two different seasons.

Robin exhibited superior bowling skills throughout her career and retired with 17 National Titles and one Major Title to her credit. Only a handful of female bowling stars have exceeded Robin's total of Tour Titles.

Robin's success as a professional bowler is notable because she was able to win as a smooth stroker with a game not dependent on power. She did not roll a bowling ball at high speeds or with a high Rev rate. Her winning was a result of superior physical and mental bowling skills. Robin was the "THINKING WOMAN'S" bowler, scoring one of the highest ratings for on-lane intelligence. She was one of the most accurate bowlers ever and had the ability to quickly recognize lane changes and adjusting rapidly. She had what old timers describe as "lane moxie".

For a stroker to be successful on Tour she must have a temperament that complements her style of play. Robin's temperament perfectly complemented her physical game. She was always cool, calm and collected. Her philosophy under pressure was to just let things happen. Let the game come to her. Don't overthink, don't rush and don't panic. Robin was always willing to confront any challenge with a calculated and measured approach.

Best of all Robin was and still is a wonderful person. The adjective that best describes her is "CLASSY". One hundred percent (100%) a Lady. She could easily assume the role of a "Royal" if she was born in England.

Robin's most notable Bowling accomplishments include:

- Induction into the USBC and PWBA Halls of Fame
- 17 National PWBA (LPBT) National Titles
- 1989 Professional Bowler of The Year
- 1989 Women's U.S. OPEN Champion
- 4 USBC Women's Open Championships
- 3 Senior Queen's Championships

When it comes to selecting the greatest Bowling stroker of All-Time, Robin Romeo would have to be in the conversation. Robin, thank you for the memories.



ALEC JOHNSON WINS FIRST-EVER PBA BOWLERO GLOBAL RUMBLE

23-year-old bowled a 543 two-game total to claim \$10,000 first-place prize

by DDZIOMBA

NEW YORK, NY – 23-year-old Alec Johnson of Tempe, Ariz. won the first-ever PBA Bowlero Global Rumble powered by Lanetalk last Saturday with a combined 543 two-game total. Johnson out-bowled 11 other finalists from around the world to become the inaugural champion and win the \$10,000 first-place prize.

Johnson, a student at Arizona State University, bowled all of his qualifying games at Bowlero Via Linda in Scottsdale, Ariz., but competed in the Grand Finale at Bowlero in Euless, Texas. Johnson, who bowls at ASU was also competing in the Intercollegiate Team Sectionals, which took place the same weekend in Dallas, Texas.

Johnson, who credits much of his success from his ASU coach, was not fazed by the change in location for the Grand Finale. He bowled a high 279 in Game 1, followed by a 264 in Game 2 to claim the win.

"Winning the PBA Bowlero Rumble wouldn't have been possible without Coach Jordan Nassberg," said Johnson. "I'm grateful for the opportunities I have because of him and the rest of the coaching staff at ASU."

When asked how it feels to be the first-ever PBA Bowlero Global Rumble Champion, Johnson was ecstatic, thankful, and added how enjoyable of an experience it was to compete in the tournament.

Johnson's combined two-game total was 10-pins higher than Sam Dewitt of Pittsburg, Pa., who also bowled a 279 in Game 1, but fell short in Game 2 rolling 256. As runner-up, Dewitt earned \$6,000. Kevin Lindbladh of Sweden rounds out the top three with a 524 total and collected \$4,000 for third place.

Standings from the PBA Bowlero Global Rumble Grand Finale are as follows:

1. Alec Johnson, Tempe, Ariz. earns \$10,000 - 279, 264 (543 Total)
2. Sam Dewitt – Pittsburg, Pa. earns \$6,000 - 279, 256 (535 Total)
3. Kevin Lindbladh – Sweden earns \$4,000 - 267, 257 (524 Total)
4. Al Wolfe III – Wheat Ridge, Colo. earns \$3,000 - 255, 232 (487 Total)
5. Aleksander Persson – Norway earns \$2,500 - 257, 229 (486 Total)
6. Romeo Gagenoiu – Romania earns \$2,000 - 225, 248 (473 Total)
7. Trygve Johansen – Norway earns \$2,000 - 224, 240 (464 Total)
8. Brian Rigler – Croydon, Pa. earns \$1,500 - 205, 256 (461 Total)
9. Ahmad Aidil – Malaysia earns \$1,500 - 251, 209 (460 Total)
10. Jeremy Milito – East Meadow, N.Y. earns \$1,500 - 204, 232 (436 Total)
11. David Powers – Williamsburg, Va. earns \$1,000 - 182, 177 (359 Total)
12. Mikkel Sørensen – Denmark earns \$1,000 Disqualified

The PBA Bowlero Global Rumble brought in over 5000 bowlers from 20 countries to compete for a prize fund of \$50,0000. The tournament, hosted on the Lanetalk app, featured four stages of competition – qualifying, quarterfinals, semi-finals, and the Grand Finale within six conferences in the United States and Internationally.

Competitors earned prizes along the way, with the top 25 domestic and international bowlers earning cash prizes between \$150-500 for advancing to the semi-finals.

Fans that missed the Grand Finale, can watch the competition on YouTube and view tournament scores at pba.com/rumble#leaderboard.

For more information on the PBA Bowlero Global Rumble powered by Lanetalk, please visit PBA.com/Rumble.

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The closing of Kearny Mesa Bowl in San Diego reminded me of the many centers that have come and gone in Southern California. (This is strictly from memory). Claremont Bowl, Pacific Lanes, Crown Bowl, Frontier Lands, Hillcrest, La Mesa, Golden Bowl, University Lanes, El Cajon, Lakeside, National City, Hadley, (maybe more).

The remaining centers (that are closed at this time) are the ones on the military bases, the one at the casino, San Diego State College and the great Parkway Bowl in El Cajon.

Parkway Bowl was built in 1960 with "teamster" money. The site chosen was the side of the hill overlooking the El Cajon Valley; pasture land for cattle's!

Up went the fabulous 125 foot neon sign. Next came the 60 lanes surrounded by the roaring 20s show room: The Circus Room Lounge, The Geisha Room, A Big10 Pool Table Room, Pro Shop, Beauty Shop, and a Coffee Shop that held 100.

The roaring 20s show room had swings hanging from the ceiling, very long bar and dressing rooms for the entertainers.

I remember seeing Peggy Lee, Louis Prima and Keely Smith, Spike Jones, Louis Armstrong and Tina Turner perform.

In the early 70s Parkway Bowl was sold and changed into the center it is today.

Bowlers in San Diego keep the balls in the cool place! We have survived worse!

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took a deep breath to regroup for the rest of the match."

In the semifinal match that consisted of 22 out of a possible 24 strikes between the two players, Haugen def. Hall of Famer Chris Barnes 300-289 to advance to the title match against Couch.

In the second match Barnes defeated Dennis Rakauskus 252-203 to advance to the semifinal. In the opening match Rakauskus defeated Michael Haggitt 248-205 to advance to the second match against Barnes.

Pete Weber, who led qualifying, dropped to 16th after posting a 5-7 record in match play.

The PBA50 Tour travels to The Villages, Florida for the Florida Blue Medicare PBA50 National Championship presented by Spanish Springs Lanes, the season's first major April 25-29.

FINAL STANDINGS

- Jason Couch, Clermont, Fla., earns \$7,500
 - Michael Haugen Jr., Phoenix, \$4,000
 - Chris Barnes, Double Oak, Texas, \$3,000
 - Dennis Rakauskus, Apopka, Fla., \$2,500
 - Michael Haggitt, Springfield, Ohio, \$2,200
- Stepladder Results
 Match 1 – No. 4 Rakauskus def. No. 5 Haggitt, 248-205
 Match 2 – No. 3 Barnes def. Rakauskus, 252-203
 Semifinal match – No. 2 Haugen def. Barnes, 300-289
 Championship match – No. 1 Couch def. Haugen, 278-260

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very well."

Six-time PWBA champion Kelly Kulick of Union, New Jersey, was the No. 4 seed and opened the stepladder finals with a 245-226 victory over No. 3 seed Erin McCarthy of Elkhorn, Nebraska. Like Kovalova, McCarthy also was making her third championship-round appearance of the 2021 PWBA Tour season.

Once Kovalova stepped in to take on Kulick in the semifinal, she asserted her dominance with a 258-161 victory and continued to roll in the title match.

"Now that I'm living in Michigan, I've been able to spend a lot of time at Brunswick's facility," Kovalova said. "I've been learning more about my equipment, practicing how to read lane transition to make quicker adjustments and getting myself in better physical condition."

The tour resumed this week after a nearly three-month hiatus following the season-opening PWBA Kickoff Classic Series. Twenty titles will be awarded in the 2021 season, and the Twin Cities Open marked the beginning of a 14-event run that goes through the end of August.

All qualifying and match-play rounds at the PWBA Twin Cities Open were broadcast live at BowlingTV.com and will remain in the BowlingTV archives for fans who want to revisit the action.

The 2021 PWBA Tour season will continue starting April 29 with the PWBA Lincoln Open in Lincoln, Nebraska.



Looking Back 2010

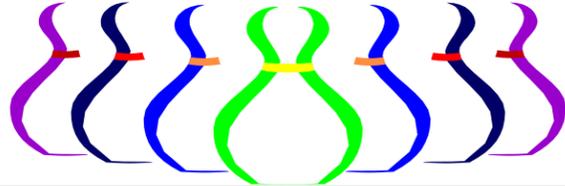
Let's browse through the last six months of 2010. I'm sure there were Big Scores, Tournament Winners and Hall of Fame Inductees

by Carol Mancini

- The Weekly Honor Roll on the front page every week was a very popular square and the first to be checked.
- The August, 2010 issues heralded the upcoming season for Southland Centers. Popular ones were Vacation Leagues, Scratch Leagues, Business Leagues and most advertised Junior Leagues.
- Time to practice, check out new balls in the pro shops and call the teammates.
- September - busy, busy, busy. Are the machines working? Lanes certified? Auto scorer printing out the right answers? Most important? Printers working?
- The fabulous Ebonite League at **Del Rio Lanes** filled their 16 teams with the Best Bowlers in Southern California.
- **Fountain Bowl** also had a great scratch league, but it was never heard about!
- Dick Sanders the manager of the WCST (senior tour) scheduled their events, advertised, wrote the stories and wrote the checks. He was a nagger, shaker and the first to give a pat on the back. He even got Ebonite as a sponsor.
- **Mission Hills Bowl** had a league on Monday night for football fans. What was different? ALL YOU CAN DRINK BEER!
- Dave Wodka was the Cal State Masters Champion. He was on a roll all year.
- October was National Popcorn Month, 3 free games in boxes of Jiffy Time.
- Popular senior bowler Hobo Booth passed away in September, 2010.
- Ray Cobb was named the new manager at **Del Rosa Lanes**.
- **Cal Bowl** bragged about having the largest daytime senior program in So. Cal.
- Agnes Duffy wrote a great story September, 23rd 2010 on the life of Helen Duval. She owned a center, was a great teacher, traveled thousands of miles in her Cadillac. Read the story!
- More on Dave Wodka... he bowled 4 300's in 8 days. See him on 2021 PBA tour as a coach.
- **Bowling Square Lanes** in Arcadia was still open to host ABTA in October.
- Who got married on a yacht in Newport Beach? No prize for a winning guess!
- Pros claimed the REACTIVE URETHANE BALLS were money makers for them!
- Interesting story about Billy Hardwick in November 4 issue.
- **Irvine Lanes** hosted a fundraiser for HIGH HOPES, Pat Boone headed the list of 40 celebs that bowled.
- The USBC had certified 17 900 series up to 2010.
- String Bowling Lanes were installed at **Cal Bowl**. Try it! Picture on page 11, November 11, 2010 issue.
- Popular icon Lou Louis passed away at **Midtown Bowl**, among his bowling friends. He was installed in the Negro Baseball Hall of Fame.
- The **Pinz** weekly column was co-written by Pilgrim Nice n Sweetly American.
- Wendy McPherson won \$121,000 for her 300 game in Japan, plus \$36,000 for winning the Japanese PBA tour.
- Sudoku - a Dean Lopez weekly offering tested your number skills.
- Bob Smith ran his 48th tourney of 2010 **Cal Bowl**. How many did you bowl?
- **Bowlum Lanes** had the best prices after sundown. One Dollar Games, Hotdogs, Soft Drinks and French Fries.

Read past issues starting at 2005. If we can't bowl yet, we can remember the good times and good people.

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