

CALIFORNIA BOWLING NEWS

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PABST BLUE RIBBON ANNOUNCED AS OFFICIAL BEER OF THE PBA TOUR

Professional Bowlers Association and Pabst Blue Ribbon Announce Multi-Year Partnership Deal

by Jill Laufer

NEW YORK, NY – The Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) announced today a multi-year partnership that makes Pabst Blue Ribbon, America's lager, the Official Beer Partner of the PBA.

"A 300! A perfect game!" is how Colie Edison, CEO of the PBA, describes the partnership with Pabst Blue Ribbon. Edison goes on, "We are thrilled to welcome Pabst Blue Ribbon, an iconic American brand embraced by fans throughout the country, as the Official Beer of the PBA Tour. Much like the PBA, Pabst Blue Ribbon has a distinctive brand identity with passionate, lifelong fans. We look forward to extending the visibility and engagement of professional bowling to new audiences through our partnership."

As the Official Beer of the PBA Tour, Pabst Blue Ribbon will receive an array

of exclusive, first-to-market branding, messaging, and naming opportunities, including the presenting rights to the beloved PBA League, the Tour's team-bowling series featuring 10 five-player teams. One of the teams will be Pabst Blue Ribbon's very own PBR Milwaukee Pounders – a 2020 expansion team (formerly the Brew City Ballers) managed by PBA legend Marshall Holman.

Throughout the PBA Tour season on FOX Sports, Pabst Blue Ribbon will be integrated into all telecasts with a "PBR Beer Frame" in the fifth frame, plus a new "PBR 6-Pack Alert" that will feature a \$1000 bonus prize. If the sixth strike is not achieved, \$500 will be added to the "PBR 6-Pack Alert Jackpot" and grow each match.

Pabst Blue Ribbon will also receive additional exclusive partnership benefits

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TEAM USA WINS GOLD IN WOMEN'S TEAM, SILVER IN MIXED TEAM AS 2021 IBF SUPER WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS CONCLUDES

by Matt Cannizzaro



Back: Jordan Richard, Danielle McEwan
Front: Missy Parkin & Kelly Kulick

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates - If there are two things Kelly Kulick and the members of Team USA have proven, it's that you don't want to bowl them in a roll-off, and they love bowling in the United Arab Emirates.

For the second consecutive night, Team USA found its way to the top of the medal podium by way of a ninth- and 10th-frame roll-off, this time claiming the coveted women's team gold medal at the 2021 International Bowling Federation Super World Championships.

The extended period Monday was necessary after the United States and Malaysia each won a game in the best-of-two championship match. Malaysia took the first game, 190-

170, and Team USA was clean on the way to a 215-171 victory in the second game.

Kulick struck to start the roll-off, and Danielle McEwan added a spare and

a strike for a total of 40 for the two frames.

Malaysia began with a spare, which meant Natasha Roslan would have to strike on her first shot to keep Malaysia's hopes

alive. She left a 4 pin on her first offering.

The win was the first women's team title for the United States since 2015, when the event visited nearby Abu Dhabi. Malaysia last won in 2017.

Kulick and McEwan were joined in the effort by another pair of world champions, Missy Parkin and Jordan Richard, who were trios gold medalists in 2019.

"We were there all week long, and all of us bowled well enough to make it to every medal round, but at times, the format wasn't to our advantage, and the way we qualified, or the number of pins we knocked over, weren't really factors," Kulick said. "But, for all the years I've been on this

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TEAM USA EXCELS AT INAUGURAL IBF PARA BOWLING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN DUBAI

by Matt Cannizzaro



DUBAI, United Arab Emirates – American Wheelchair Bowling Association Chairman Eddy Hutchens said one of the main focuses of the AWBA is getting people out of their homes and onto the lanes.

Hutchens used this week as the ultimate lead-by-example opportunity by traveling nearly 8,000 miles from Franktown, Colorado, to Dubai to represent Team USA at the inaugural International Bowling Federation Para Bowling World Championships from Nov. 13-16.

The AWBA's top-

ranked scratch player led a contingent of four bowlers into the Dubai International Bowling Centre, and all four team members will

return to the United States with countless memories and at least one gold medal.

He was joined in the trailblazing effort by

Shawn Beam of Burleson, Texas, Debra Freed of Framingham, Massachusetts, and Toodie Perry of

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PBA ANNOUNCES NOMINEES FOR 2021 PLAYER OF THE YEAR AND ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year, Harry Golden PBA Rookie of the Year, Steve Nagy Sportsmanship and Tony Reyes Community Service Honors to be Announced in December

by Jill Laufer

NEW YORK, NY – The Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) is pleased to announce nominees have been selected for the PBA Tour’s four major end-of-season awards - Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year, Harry Golden PBA Rookie of the Year, Steve Nagy Sportsmanship Award, and the Tony Reyes Community Service Award.

- The 2021 award winners will be announced in December:
- Monday, Dec. 13: Tony Reyes Community Service Award
 - Tuesday, Dec. 14: Steve Nagy Sportsmanship Award
 - Wednesday, Dec. 15: Harry Golden Rookie of the Year
 - Thursday, Dec. 16: Chris Schenkel Player of the Year



Player of the Year honors will award the Tour’s top player. This year’s nominees consist of the 2021 season’s top seven earners. Candidates in alphabetical order: are, Australia’s Sam Cooley; Tom Daugherty of Riverview, Fla., Canada’s Francois Lavoie; Shawn Maldonado of Houston; Anthony Simonsen of Little Elm, Texas; Kyle Troup of Taylorsville, N.C.; and Chris Via of Springfield, Ohio.

The Harry Golden Rookie of the Year honors return after a hiatus in 2020 due to complications created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Rookie players from 2020 are eligible for this year’s honors and nominees in alphabetical order: are, Deo Benard of Henderson, Nev.; **Wesley Low Jr. of Palmdale, Calif.**; Mexico’s Benjamin Martinez; Anthony Neuer of Lewisburg, Pa.; Matt Russo of Fairview Height, Ill.; and Zac Weidman of Indianapolis, Ind.

The Steve Nagy Sportsmanship Award will be given out to the player who has shown exemplary sportsmanship, and the **Tony Reyes Award** will recognize a PBA member who has done extraordinary community service and/or charitable contributions in the calendar year.

The PBA Player of the Year and the Rookie of the Year will be selected by a panel of veteran bowling writers and the entire PBA membership. The Nagy Sportsmanship Award winner is selected by PBA Tour players who have bowled in at least half of the current season’s tournaments. The Reyes Award recipient is selected by a special panel of PBA leaders.

Last year’s winners of the PBA’s four prestigious awards were Jason Belmonte, Player of the Year; Brad Miller, Nagy Sportsmanship Award, and Danny Wiseman, Tony Reyes Community Service Award. There was no Harry Golden Rookie of the Year for 2020 due to the complications created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING – Thank GOD For Bowling

by Frank Weiler

“GIVE THANKS”. “TAKE A KNEE” and Thank GOD for the sport of Bowling. “GIVE THANKS”.

We all have much to be thankful for. Bowling has much to be thankful for.

Thank you, Lord, for inspiring the Genius who invented the sport of Bowling.

Thank you Lord for giving our sport great past leaders like ROGER DALKIN, KEVIN DORNBERGER, ED-DIE ELIAS, JOHN FALZONE, ELAINE HAGIN, CHUCK PEZZANO, JOAN ROMEO and JOHN SOMMER JR. to name a few.

Thank you Lord for giving our sport great leaders like TOM CLARK, BOB & BARB CHRISMAN, FRANK DESOCIO, KEITH HAMILTON and CHAD MURPHY to name a few.

Thank you, Lord, for giving us great Bowling leaders in California like KATHY BRUEGEMAN, ANDRE EUBANKS, MIKE LUCAS, LYNN MATSUBARA, ROSIE PARKER, LARRY PEPPERS and LARRY WORRALL to name a few.

Thank you, Lord, for giving us great media leaders like JIM GOODWIN, BOB JOHNSON, FRENCHY LE-TOURNEAU, CAROL MANCINI, GIANMARC MANZIONE, and BILL VINT to name a few.

Thank you, Lord, for giving us great media leaders in California like BETTE ADDINGTON, DONNA DILLARD, DONNA HAZEL, MARY LYNLY, DEAN LOPEZ and TINA MARTIN to name a few.

Thank you, Lord, for giving us personable Professional Bowlers like LINDA BARNES, PARKER BOHN III, PAM BUCKNER, TONY REYES, KYLE TROUP and DICK WEBER to name a few.

Thank you, Lord for all those many anonymous bowlers, employees, proprietors and volunteers who have made BOWLING the greatest sport in the world.

“GIVE THANKS”. “TAKE A KNEE” and thank GOD for the sport of Bowling. “GIVE THANKS”.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Dick Weber And The Early Years...

As The Game Changed, He Changed His Game

by Dave Williams

Last week when I reviewed the upcoming Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) Schedule for 2022, I was surprised at the number of people that were not aware of the complete domination of the PBA by Dick Weber in the early years of the organization. It should not have surprised me though, as anyone under the age of 50 might never have even heard of Dick Weber, were it not for a couple of tournament stops that honor his name in the title.

I've written about Mr. Weber so many times in the past five years, so for those of you that have been following this column over that period of time, I apologize for any information that will be repeated, and as always, I'll try to put a little different spin on the recollections. As Robert Palmer said in his 1990's hit... *You Can Never Get Enough of a Good Thing!*

Before getting into my personal remembrances of Dick Weber, I decided to call upon a new friend that was actually there and experienced the Weber magic of the 1950's and 60's — Bud Horn. "There's just no question that he was the greatest bowler that ever lived on and off the lanes," said Mr. Horn. "He's the greatest of all time because as the game changed, he changed his game."

Indeed. Weber was referred to as "Bowling's Ambassador to the World," and if you ever traveled with him, you would understand why. He was known everywhere. We once did an exhibition at AMF Tuen Mun in Hong Kong, and the place was packed! Later that day we addressed the media and fielded questions about bowling as an exhibition sport at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul. I was told that more than 1,000 people were there, and they all showed up to see Dick Weber.

When I asked Mr. Horn about any favorite story he might have about Dick Weber, since he often traveled with Norm Meyers, who was married to Weber's sister, he could not remember one about Weber; but he came up with a great one about another legend, Don Carter, which I can't help but share with all of you:

"We were traveling from Massachusetts to Michigan to bowl in the next PBA stop and I got a seat on the plane right next to Don Carter," said Horn. "Everyone knew that Carter hated to fly, so I tried to put him at ease by saying that I had traveled many times from the west coast for tournaments and never had any problems, and always arrived on time. The next thing I knew we were in a very violent storm and had to make an emergency landing. As we waited for news about our flight, Don said, 'I don't know about you, but I'm going to rent a car and drive the rest of the way.' An announcement came over the loudspeaker saying that the flight had been cancelled, so I joined Carter and drove to Michigan. We missed the Pro-Am, but we made it on time for the tournament."

Speaking of Don Carter, he once said of his old teammate Dick Weber in an interview with Melissa Isaacson of the Chicago Tribune, "Dick could never say no. He was always trying to help the sport of bowling," said Carter. He recalled the opening of one of his bowling centers in South Florida in 1991 when Weber happily agreed to appear. "When I saw him, I asked what are you doing here, because he had just suffered a mini-stroke the week before," remembers Carter. Weber replied, "It's OK, I feel pretty good." He shot a 289.

Another famous teammate of Weber was Ray Bluth, his doubles partner for all those years. Bluth was a great storyteller and he was holding court in the PBA locker room during the 1978 Great & Greatest Tournament at the Showboat



Budweiser Beer of St. Louis (1957) — The most famous bowling team ever assembled: (l-r, from top) Pat Patterson, Don Carter, Jerome (Whitey) Harris, Tom Hennessey, Dick Weber and Ray Bluth. Photo compliments of PBA, LLC

Lanes in Las Vegas. I was living in Vegas at the time, managing College Park Bowl for AMF, and it was possible to enter the locker room with a PBA membership card. I'll never forget one of Bluth's most memorable lines about Dick Weber: "If he could cook, I think I would have married him."

My favorite personal story involves getting lost with Weber while driving to an exhibition in Muskegon, Michigan. You can imagine my excitement as I picked up Weber at the Grand Rapids Airport, and we drove to Muskegon for a series of exhibitions that would begin the next day. This was my first time alone with Mr. Weber, and my attempts to talk about anything must have made Dick wonder if I was a sane person. But he seemed to understand and nodded as I babbled on about the weather, bowling, Budweiser, St. Louis, etc.

It was about this time that Dick pointed up to an overhead sign and asked, "Wasn't that the exit for Muskegon?" I assured him that it was not and that we still had quite a distance to travel. As we approached the Indiana border, I had to admit that I missed the turnoff while babbling, and we turned around and headed north for Muskegon. We finally got to the hotel about 2:00AM.

The next day we went to a 7:00AM breakfast with about 200 screaming youth bowlers, followed by five consecutive squads of bowling starting at 9:00AM and wrapping up at about Midnight. But through it all, Weber never complained, bowled every squad, and was the perfect gentleman to everyone.

When I returned to AMF Headquarters in New York on Monday, Woody Woodruff called me into his office and said, "I've got Dick Weber on the phone." I thought, boy am I in trouble. Between getting him lost and bowling all those squads without so much as a lunch break... oh well, it was a fun job while it lasted, I reasoned to myself.

Then Woody put Dick on the speaker phone, and he asked, "Dave, do you own a road map?"

He never let me forget that day. Whenever I would call or greet him, he would always ask if I had my road map! I always considered it an honor just to know the man, but when he recalled my name and the reference to Muskegon... well, that just made my day.

Incidentally, I never let Dick know that I was a Geography major in college. Eratosthenes, the father of Geography, and inventor of the system of latitude and longitude would never have forgiven me!



Dick Weber bowling outside at Madison Square Garden (1968)
Photo compliments of PBA, LLC

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Bakersfield, California, and they were among 21 bowlers from four countries competing for medals in singles, doubles, mixed doubles and mixed team. The participating nations included Hong Kong, India, Thailand and the United States.

Team USA won eight of the 20 medals available, and Hutchens was the first of the group to strike gold, taking home the men's singles title to kick off the tournament. He was the top seed after six games of qualifying at the Dubai International Bowling Centre and defeated Thailand's Suphan Sinthusuwan, 165-116, to claim his place in the record book. Not only was the accomplishment noteworthy from a historic perspective, it also was special because the gold-medal match took place on a one-of-a-kind stage under the Dubai night sky.

The custom two-lane venue was created for the medal rounds of the 2021 IBF Super World Championships and also hosted the men's and women's singles finals of the Para Bowling World Championships. The setup was built outside in the Sports, Fitness and Wellbeing Hub at Expo 2020 Dubai, a multicultural event that includes exhibits from more than 190 countries and will last six months.

“To represent the United States this week, and to be the first ever to bring back a world championship - there are no words to describe it,” Hutchens said. “It’s right up there with when my boys were born. It’s tears in the eyes. It was a national anthem like never before. There were goosebumps, and I don’t get goosebumps, but I did when I got the call that I was going to be on Team USA, and then last night, it was goosebumps and smiles galore.”

Hong Kong's Wong Mei-Lan, the top qualifier on the women's side after six games, defeated Thailand's Chantira Hutinan, 101-70, to become the first Para Bowling world champion in history. Hutchens went on to medal in every discipline, collecting three gold medals and one silver medal. He teamed with Beam to win the inaugural doubles event, which featured the same Baker format competitors experienced during the Super World Championships. In Baker doubles, the teammates alternate frames to complete one game.

The duo qualified second overall and earned one of four spots in the bracket-style semifinals. They dispensed of Thailand's Kampa Pongtao and Choochat Sukjarern, 178-135, before topping their teammates, Sawai Padpong and Samsak Ruamsab, in the final, 159-146. "It's an amazing feeling to win a gold medal at the inaugural event," said Beam, who in 2012, became the first bowler in a wheelchair to roll a USBC-certified perfect game. "Hearing the phrase world champion is incredible, and there's all kinds of emotions going into that, but it's still very surreal. I hear it, and I know it, but it doesn't register yet. I think once everything is done and we get some time to not worry about competition anymore, it'll hit me."

Beam's 300 game came nearly a decade ago and brought a lot of attention to him, bowling and the AWBA. Even all these years later, the feelings and emotions of that night still are fresh for him, and he tried to compare the two accomplishments.

“This is actually way better, and that’s something I was thinking about this morning, before it even happened,” Beam said. “The 300 is a very personal thing, but this is for Team USA. It’s for our country. It’s for an event that has never happened before and is one we want to promote and grow. The magnitude of all that makes it mean so much more. They’re both right up there, but this definitely is the best feeling I’ve ever had.”

Beam's week started with a bronze medal in singles. He finished qualifying five pins shy of an opportunity to bowl against Hutchens for the gold medal.

Freed and Perry also made the podium in singles, each earning a bronze medal, and their collective effort in doubles helped them improve to silver. They finished behind Thailand's Hutinan and Paramee Panyachaem. Hutchens and Perry added a silver medal in mixed doubles, but that only served as a warmup for the coveted team event, where Team USA cruised to the gold medal, outdistancing Thailand, 358-338, in the three-game total-pinfall match. Team also featured a modified Baker format.

“This has been the most amazing thing I’ve ever done,” Perry said. “Being a world champion feels and sounds really, really good.”

All of the players admitted they weren't sure what to expect about the event, spotlight and experience, and Hutchens even mentioned being apprehensive about the travel aspect of the opportunity. The pride after it was over was unanimous.

“I really didn’t think I’d make it this far, but we did, and it feels incredible,” Freed said. “To participate in something that was held for the first time, and to represent the United States - it doesn’t get any better than that.”

The four newest Team USA members were selected by the United States Bowling Congress National Selection Committee to represent Team USA in the W1 category of the IBF Para Bowling World Championships.

The W1 Para/Amputee Classification incorporates all wheelchair classifications. It includes leg amputees, cerebral palsy (with functional hands), and Les Autres athletes with mobility disfunction. All must compete from a wheelchair and follow the rules of play, along with modified rules established for this discipline.

In future Para Bowling World Championships, there also will be a W2 classification for wheelchair users with quadriplegia. All participants in 2021 chose to compete in the W1 category.

Beyond the competition and the medals is what the event means to the para bowlers and their efforts to grow the sport. The pins don't know how you get to the foul line, and bowling is something anyone can do. "People think life is over, and it's not, as I've proven," Hutchens said. "There are babies to be had and families to raise, and the possibilities are endless, as long as you give it a try. It's especially easy in bowling to include everyone."

The Super World Championships was the first event to get going in Dubai and then shared the spotlight with the Para World Championships.

The 2021 IBF Masters (formerly Senior) World Championships got underway Thursday and will be the final event of IBF's stint in the United Arab Emirates. The Masters World Championships will run through Nov. 26.

IBF is providing livestream coverage and complete results for all three events at StrikeCloud.com. For more information about IBF, visit bowling.sport.

The California Bowling Writers has adopted Operation Freedom Paws!
 Operation Freedom Paws nonprofit organization was founded by "California Bowler and Veteran" Mary Cortani in 2010 that has provided service dogs and training support to veterans and others who suffer from post-traumatic stress syndrome, complex PTSD, traumatic brain injury and other physical, neurological, psychological and mobility needs. According to experts, service dogs help empower people with disabilities to live quality lives.

Operation Freedom Paws carefully matches clients with their specially chosen four-legged companions, most of which come from rescue shelters. The partners then begin a 48-week program which trains the clients to train their own dogs. At the end of the program, they're certified together as service dog teams.

Make donations payable to CBW and mail to Treasurer Tina Martin, 57 Shields Lane, Novato, CA 94947-3877.
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An advertisement for Strike 12 Creations. The background is dark blue with white stars and stripes. On the right, two t-shirts are displayed: one blue with a circular logo and one black with green vertical text. A circular inset shows a blue and white striped facemask. On the left, white text on a dark background provides pricing and ordering information.

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ROMEO GAGENOIU WINS PBA GLOBAL SHOWDOWN POWERED BY LANETALK

44-year-old bowled a 267 in the final round to claim \$20,000 first-place prize

by Jill Laufer

NEW YORK, NY – 44-year-old Romeo Gagenoiu of Romania won the first-ever PBA Global Showdown Powered by Lanetalk on Sunday defeating Tyler Whittle of Virginia Beach, Va. 267-213 in the Grand Finale. Gagenoiu outlasted five other finalists in a three-game eliminator format to win the first-place prize of \$20,000.

Gagenoiu, who bowls out of IDM Bowling in Romania, described the win as “unbelievable” and a dream come true to win the tournament not only for himself but also for his country.

In the Grand Finale eliminator format, all six finalists bowled a single game from their home center with Gagenoiu posting the second-highest score in the first round. Norway’s Marius Kvitnes and Trygve Johansen rolled the two lowest scores, 225 and 223, respectively, and were knocked out first.

Four finalists advanced to the Semi-finals to bowl another game. Gagenoiu rolled a 289, the highest score of the competition, finishing first in the round. Ahmad Aidil of Malaysia and Ramon Hilferin of the Netherlands rolled the two lowest scores, 218 and 176, and were eliminated.

With two players remaining, the championship match was set between Gagenoiu, representing Romania, and Whittle, representing the United States while bowling at AMF Lynnhaven Lanes. Gagenoiu came out strong with three consecutive strikes and back-to-back spares in the fourth and fifth frames. While Whittle stayed closed in the first half of the match, Gagenoiu rolled six more strikes to easily claim victory. Even with an early lead, Gagenoiu’s mindset never faltered, and credited his win to maintain his focus on making quality shots and hitting the pocket.

Now the PBA Global Showdown Champion and winner of \$20,000, Gagenoiu, a taxi driver, will use the prize money to buy a new car.

The PBA Global Showdown brought in over 13,500 bowlers across 27 countries to compete for a prize fund of \$50,000 sponsored by the PBA. The tournament, hosted on the Lanetalk app, featured four stages of the competition – Qualifying, Quarterfinals, Semi-finals, and the Grand Finale. Competitors earned prizes along the way from sponsors KR Strikeforce and Motiv, with the top 15 bowlers earning cash prizes starting at \$400.

Fans that missed the Grand Finale, can watch the competition on Facebook.

For more information on the PBA Global Showdown, please visit pba.com/showdown and like the official Facebook page - @PBAGlobalShowdown.

PBA Global Showdown Final Standings

- Romeo Gagenoiu, Romania**
 - Earns \$20,000
 - Home center: IDM Bowling
- Tyler Whittle, Virginia Beach, Va.**
 - Earns \$12,000
 - Home center: AMF Lynnhaven Lanes
- Ahmad Aidil, Malaysia**
 - Earns \$6,000
 - Home Center: Mega Mall Bowling Centre
- Ramon Hilferink, Netherlands**
 - Earns \$3,000
 - Home center: Bowling En Partycentrum `s-Heerenberg Netherlands
- Marius Kvitnes, Norway**
 - Earns \$2,000
 - Home center: TP Bowlingsenter
- Trygve Johansen, Norway**
 - Earns \$1,200
 - Home center: Evje Bowling

PBA Global Showdown Grand Finale Scores

Round 1

- Aidil – 257
- Gagenoiu – 247
- Whittle – 239
- Hilferink – 238
- Kvitnes – 225 (eliminated)
- Johansen – 223 (eliminated)

Semi-Finals

- Gagenoiu – 289
- Whittle – 226
- Aidil – 218 (eliminated)
- Hilferink – 176 (eliminated)

Championship

- Gagenoiu – 267
- Whittle – 213 (eliminated)



KEVIN MCCUNE WINS THE PBA THE PLAZA BOWL MIDWEST RPI OPEN

LEE’S SUMMIT, Mo. – Kevin McCune of Munster, Ind. defeated Jace Meyer of Monticello, Iowa, 242-233, in the championship match to win the PBA The Plaza Bowl Midwest Open RPI. McCune’s win earned him a spot in the PBA Regional Players Invitational on January 2-5, 2022 in Las Vegas.

Prior to the final match, five bowlers were in contention during the position round of match play with only 46 pins separating third and seventh place.

In the opening stepladder match, Meyer faced Nathan Michalowski of Mount Pleasant, Wis. Both players were tight through seven frames, but an open split in the eighth frame by Michalowski allowed Meyer to grab a 182-167 victory and move on to face the legendary PBA Hall of Famer Pete Weber, St. Ann, Mo.

In an extremely close second match, Weber hammered the pocket on each shot, but had carry trouble leaving multiple ten pins. In the end, it was Meyer who took home the win, 202-197.

Meyer advanced to the final match against McCune, which ended up being the highest scoring game. Each player opened with three strikes followed by opens in the fifth frame. Meyer rolled the last four strikes to force McCune to stay clean, which he did to capture the win.

The next event is in Freeport, Ill. for the PBA50 Western Bowling Proprietors Insurance Greater Freeport Midwest RPI Open on December 3-5, 2021.

PBA The Plaza Bowl Midwest RPI Open

The Plaza Bowl, Clinton, Iowa,
Friday, Nov. 5 – Sunday, Nov. 7

Final Match Play Standings (including match play bonus pins)

Kevin McCune, Munster, Ind., 6-3-0, 17 games, 3,945, 223.24 avg, \$2,300
N – Jace Meyer, Monticello, Iowa, 7-4-0, 19 games, 4,136, 209.79 avg, \$1,500
S – Pete Weber, St. Ann, Mo., 5-4-0, 17 games, 3,872, 218.94 avg, \$1,000
Nathan Michalowski, Mount Pleasant, Wis., 3-6-0, 3,677, 211 avg, \$850
N-Y – Landin Jordan, Sycamore, Ill., 5-3-0, 3,501, 209.44 avg, 155 SMART funds points
Chris Hill, Franklin, Wis., 3-5-0, 3,468, 211.13 avg, \$725
Nick DeCesaro, Kenosha, Wis., 4-4-0, 3,416, 206 avg, \$700
Matt Kuba, Tinley Park, Ill., 2-6-0, 3,364, 206.5 avg, \$675

Other Cashers Standings (after eight games)

Dakota Vostry, Romeoville, Ill., 1,731, 216.38 avg, \$575
Quinton Bohlen, Spillville, Iowa, 1,725, 215.63 avg, \$550
Russ Oviatt, Sioux Falls, S.D., 1,673, 209.13 avg, \$525
Ryan Lakota, Shorewood, Ill., 1,661, 207.63 avg, \$500
S – Tom Hess, Granger, Iowa, 1,661, 206.13 avg, \$475

Key:

- N – Designates Non-Member entry
- Y – Designates Youth entry
- S – Designates Senior entry

PBR continued from page 1
across PBA’s multiple platforms including streaming and digital media as well as inclusion in its esports property, “PBA Bowling Challenge,” with over 31M downloads.

“Pabst Blue Ribbon has been a favorite at bowling alleys across the country for close to a century. Whether it’s at a League Night, a casual gathering with college friends at the local lanes, even Punk Rock Bowling in Las Vegas, we’ve been there,” says Nick Reely, VP of Marketing - PBR. “So, to get the chance to partner with the PBA, and further integrate Pabst Blue Ribbon into the bowling community and culture, it’s a huge level up for us and we’re excited about the scale it offers our brand.”

More than 70 hours of national television and 1,000 hours of live streaming coverage of the 64th season of the Guaranteed Rate PBA Tour begins on FOX Sports, Saturday, Jan. 22, with the PBA Players Championship. Qualifying rounds for the first major of the year begin Saturday, Jan. 15 on FloBowling.

Digital live streams of telecasts will be available on FOX Sports and FOX NOW apps or at FOXSports.com, plus select highlights will be available on @PBATour social handles across Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. International fans can watch live on FloBowling.com For more information and dates on the 2022 PBA Tour season, please visit pba.com.

COTÉ REFLECTS ON JOURNEY TO WINNING 2021 PWBA PLAYER OF THE YEAR



by Arron Smith

ARLINGTON, Texas - As the 2021 Professional Women’s Bowling Association Tour season began to wind down after a busy August, it became clear the chase for the coveted PWBA Player of the Year award was going to be determined at the season-ending PWBA Fall Classic Series.

The Fall Classic Series, which featured the final three events of the 2021 season, set the stage for a multitude of scenarios and an ever-changing order to the season-long points list, which determines the award winner for the year.

Heading into the PWBA Reno Classic, PWBA Pepsi Classic and PWBA Tour Championship, Bryanna Coté of Tucson, Arizona, didn’t necessarily have winning the postseason award on her radar.

The 35-year-old right-hander turned in the best overall performance during the week at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nevada, however, to vault to the top of the points list and secure the award for the first time in her career. Coté earned the top seed at both the Reno Classic and Tour Championship, finishing as the runner-up at each tournament. She added a ninth-place finish at the Pepsi Classic, and her collective effort at the NBS helped her move from eighth on the points list to the top spot.

She finished the season with one win (PWBA ITRC Classic in January), three runner-up finishes (PWBA Greater Cleveland Open, Reno Classic, Tour Championship) and six championship-round appearances. Coté made four of her six stepladder appearances during the final seven events of the season, and she finished ninth or better in six of her last seven tournament appearances.

Her runner-up finish at the season-ending Tour Championship, the third major of 2021, helped her lock up player of the year by the slimmest margin since the relaunch of the PWBA in 2015.

Coté finished the year with 129,445 points, just 175 ahead of two-time PWBA Player of the Year Shannon O’Keefe of Shiloh, Illinois (129,270), who was looking to capture the honor for the third consecutive season. England’s Verity Crawley finished third with 128,900 points and was followed by Julia Bond of Aurora, Illinois (127,045), and Ukraine’s Dasha Kovalova (125,000).

“I had talked with my husband about it, and coming into Reno, we never even thought player of the year was on the table,” said Coté after securing the award at the Tour Championship. “I knew the points were very close, especially with two regular events and a major to go, and things could shift around pretty easily. You can’t count out those ahead of you, though, because they’re there for a reason. All I could do was just bowl and try to bowl great. When I realized I was getting closer and put myself in position to be player of the year, I just stayed the course and tried to stay focused. If it was meant to be, it was meant to be.”

Like several of the athletes on the PWBA Tour, Coté finished her collegiate career without a tour to call home. She was a standout at Central Missouri, becoming the first player in NCAA history to be named the National Tenpin Coaches Association Player of the Year for four consecutive seasons (2005-2008).

When the tour returned in 2015, Coté quickly positioned herself as a player to keep an eye on, earning a spot at the Tour Championship. In 2016, she realized a long-awaited dream by winning her first PWBA Tour title at the PWBA Lexington Open. She was unable to keep the momentum going into 2017, however, dropping to 25th in points and making only one match-play appearance during the season.

“You win your first title and are riding this huge wave of success, then 2017 happened and I wondered if I forgot how to bowl,” Coté said. “I’m grateful for the struggle, though. I’m grateful I went through all that. I learned a lot about myself, the game and just how to compete on tour. I came in with a new mindset to take it one shot and day at a time, be patient, don’t try to make things happen and never give up. I think 2018 and 2019 really reflected on that, as I was able to be more mentally stable and strong and bounce back from those hiccups life throws at you.”

Coté’s bounce back in 2018 and 2019 included five championship-round appearances and three second-place efforts, including at the 2018 United States Bowling Congress Queens.

With a lost 2020 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Coté wasn’t sure what the 2021 season would bring with 20 events and a season ranging from January to October. After kicking off the season in Arlington, Texas, with a 15th-place finish at the PWBA Bowlers Journal Classic, she started her journey toward player of the year with a thrilling win at the PWBA ITRC Classic over 16-year-old sensation Jillian Martin of Stow, Ohio.

Martin applied the pressure by striking out in her final frame, but Coté left and converted a 10 pin and got the necessary count on her fill ball to secure a 244-238 win. “I knew it was going to be a long season, and I really didn’t have any high expectations because I didn’t get to practice as much as I wanted to, so to win the second event out of the gates was amazing and kind of shocking at the same time,” Coté said. “In years past, I had been so close and felt I put in more work and more time and effort to be a winner again on tour. For it to come after being gone for year due to COVID was very shocking and unexpected.

“From that moment forward, I just focused on being as prepared as I possibly could. I had to make sure I was in shape both physically and mentally and sharp on my game. There were some weeks where I wasn’t, and I let things get ahead of me and didn’t make the cut. Those really taught me a lot. A long season really can take its toll on you, and you have to bounce back as best you can.”

In addition to competing in every PWBA Tour event during the 2021 season, Coté also was able to represent the United States at the PANAM Bowling Elite Championships prior to competing in Reno for the Fall Classic Series. She helped Team USA win gold medals in trios and team competition and collected a bronze medal in all-events in Cali, Colombia.

The journey in 2021 for Coté concluded with her holding the most coveted piece of hardware awarded on the PWBA Tour. It was a moment that helped her appreciate the obstacles she faced. The tireless effort to the craft, the ups and downs of tour life and travel and competing each week against the best in the world are all expected along the way.

Learning from a heartbreaking 8 pin that cost her a chance to win the 2019 PWBA Fountain Valley Open wasn’t necessarily in the script, but it was something she was able to take and lean on as she made the shots she needed to win her second title. It all allowed her to trust her ability and process, and every second of the experience helped lead her to the top of the PWBA Tour.

“It means it’s all worth it,” Coté said. “No matter if it takes a day or decade. It’s all worth it. It takes patience, but I’m beyond grateful. It makes the stone 8 worth it. It makes sparing a 10 pin to win a second title worth it. It makes all the good and all the bad worth it.”



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IBF SUPER WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS TEAM

continued from page 1

team, we’ve always said the gold medal we wanted to walk away with most was the one in the team event. We came together as a team today and made that happen, and it was incredibly special.”

The championship round of each discipline at the 2021 IBF Super World Championships took place on an open-air two-lane setup inside Expo 2020 Dubai, a multicultural event that includes exhibits from more than 190 countries and will last six months.

The custom venue was built in the Sports, Fitness and Wellbeing Hub at Expo 2020 Dubai, and all of the action was broadcast live at [StrikeCloud.com](#).

New in 2021, all doubles, trios and team competition at the World Championships featured variations of the Baker format from start to finish.

In the traditional five-player Baker format the leadoff bowler bowls the first and sixth frames, the next competitor bowls the second and seventh frames, and so on. The format was adapted for two, three and four players during the Super World Championships.

In the four-player events, also new in 2021 from five players in the past, the leadoff bowler bowled the first, fifth, ninth and 10th frames. The other team members bowled the second and sixth, third and seventh and fourth and eighth frames, respectively.

Team USA women’s road to the gold was a little bumpy to start and included two opens in the first three frames of their semifinal match against Finland. The team then struck on six of its last seven opportunities to secure a 203-183 win. Malaysia topped the Philippines in the other semifinal, 279-180.



In the men’s team event, Korea cruised to a 2-0 (198-136, 248-196) win over Singapore and earned some redemption for Sunday night, when the Koreans fell to Team USA in a roll-off for the trios gold medal.

Korea earned its spot in the team final with a near-perfect performance against Malaysia, winning their semifinal matchup 299-184. Anchor Ji Geun left a 6 pin on the final shot of their bid for 300. Singapore

reached the final with a 247-228 win over the Philippines.

Each team that lost in the semifinals Monday received a bronze medal. The Malaysian women and Singapore men earned silver medals.

The victory Monday marked Kulick’s sixth win in six appearances at the team-based World Championships, four of which have come in the United Arab Emirates - singles in Abu Dhabi in 1999 and doubles and team (with McEwan) in Abu Dhabi in 2015.

“Every time we’ve come back to this area - UAE, Abu Dhabi and Dubai - the atmosphere has been more and more welcoming and warm,” Kulick said. “Going through this Expo, they talk about unity amongst their people and warmly welcome all visitors. I enjoy bowling in such a safe and peaceful environment, and I’ve done really well here.”

Kulick and Parkin also made a run at perfection Monday night, and it came in the semifinals of the new mixed team event, which debuted this year at the Super World Championships.

They teamed with Jakob Butturff and Kristopher Prather in the effort and strung together nine consecutive strikes against Singapore, before a 10 pin from Butturff ended the run. Team USA won the game 278-246.



The other semifinal featured two Swedish foursomes facing off for a shot at the inaugural gold medal, and it was southpaw standout Jesper Svensson who was able to lift his team to a 232-177 win. He was joined by Sandra Andersson, Joline Persson Planefors and William Svensson.

The best-of-two mixed team title tilt was every bit as exciting as you’d expect from two powerhouse teams, it nearly resulted in another championship roll-off.

A late rally in the opening game from Team USA forced Sweden to mark in its final frame, which Planefors was able to do for a 225-215 win.

Sweden then opened the second game with four consecutive strikes, but Team USA was there nearly every strike of the way. The difference in the match was one pin through seven frames.

A double from Sweden in the eighth and ninth frames increased the lead, but a spare and a seven-count on the fill ball meant Kulick would have a chance to extend the match with two strikes and eight pins. She pulled the first shot and left a 3 pin to fall short, 236-226.

“Even though we didn’t win the mixed event, it still was a positive experience, and we bowled well to keep it close the whole way,” Team USA head coach Bryan O’Keefe said. “There were a couple key moments in the match and a few in-between shots that were the difference. Sometimes, the pins don’t fall your way. I’m proud of everyone. No, we didn’t win, but I don’t think we lost. We just got out-bowled by a great team.”

Each event at the 2021 Super World Championships included 10 qualifying games, all at the Dubai International Bowling Centre, before a cut was made to the top 32 for singles and doubles and the top 16 for trios and the team events.

The advancing bowlers or teams were divided into four equal groups for round-robin match play within that group. Points were awarded for each win in match play, and the top two in each group, based on points, advanced to the single-elimination bracket-style quarterfinals.

Quarterfinal winners advanced to the semifinals and got to experience the custom venue at Expo 2020 Dubai.

Because of the location of the installation, tens of thousands of Expo visitors passing by had the opportunity to see the one-of-a-kind setup and the best players in the world.

Getting there, however, was frustrating at times, as all pinfall from qualifying was dropped before match play.

“It was an up-and-down week, and one where we had some trouble picking up the wins in the quarterfinal round,” O’Keefe said. “We had a lot of big scores shot at us, and I guess maybe that’s a compliment. People know they have to step up their games when they’re bowling a one-game match against Team USA, and many times, they did. Overall, I’m proud of how we fought to put ourselves in that position and how we took advantage when we made it through.”

The finals of team and mixed team marked the conclusion of the 2021 Super World Championships. In all, 36 medals were up for grabs - four for each gender in singles, doubles, trios and team, and four in mixed team.

Sweden left with the most medals, seven overall, followed by Singapore (five), Korea and the United States (four), Finland (three), Guatemala (two), Malaysia (two), Philippines (two), Canada (one), Colombia (one), Czech Republic (one), Denmark (one), Germany (one), Italy (one) and Lithuania (one).

The other medals for the United States were a gold medal in men’s trios and bronze in men’s doubles. The roster included Andrew Anderson, Butturff, AJ Johnson and Prather. It was Anderson and Prather who advanced to the doubles medal round.

In four visits to UAE (1999, 2014, 2015, 2021), Team USA won 19 medals.

There also were supposed to be medals for the most valuable athletes and top-performing federations, but they have not yet been awarded.

“I couldn’t be prouder of this team,” O’Keefe said. “We came here and represented the United States like true champions. Everyone communicated well and bowled great the entire time. The best part of it, is that everyone is going home with a gold medal from the World Championships, and that’s all you can ask for.”

The IBF spotlight in Dubai now will shift to the final day of competition at the inaugural IBF Para Bowling World Championships, which will conclude Tuesday.

The IBF Masters (formerly Senior) World Championships is up next and will help wrap up the visit to the United Arab Emirates. Competition is scheduled to get underway Nov. 18.

IBF is providing livestream coverage and complete results for all three events at [StrikeCloud.com](#).

For more information about IBF, visit [bowling.sport](#).



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Can Any Team Stop Bowlium On The Short Pattern?

DOWNEY, CA – Is Round 2 Bowlium's to lose? Another stellar week is putting Bowlium in a position where it could start to run away with the round in the next week or two.

Bowlium's challenger this week: **Forever Hope Foundation**, winners of Round 1. Talk about a good matchup in our main event of the week. Matt Murtishaw would put Forever Hope Foundation on his back with his 223 game and lift his team to a narrow 803-795 win, handing Bowlium just its second defeat of the season. The scores fell off a bit in Game 2, but Billy Myers, Jr.'s 204 was enough to secure an 11-pin win for Bowlium, 745-734, keeping totals at just three pins going into the rubber game. This one was not even close, as Myers shot 244 (647 for the night to lead Bowlium), coupled with David Schiada's 236 game in an 855-747 win for Bowlium. Bowlium jumps up to 18-2 for the round with the outcome. Murtishaw led the way for Forever Hope Foundation with a 636 night. Forever Hope Foundation goes to 13 points for the round.

Here comes perennial contender, **US Foods**, and on this night, the squad was led by its newcomer, Kasey Uyesugi. They would be opposed by former US Foods team member, JT Diso and **Forest Lanes**, another team to always watch out for. There was no Paul Barraco on this night, and perhaps it was sub Jon Huff's slow start that brought down US Foods in Game 1. The younger Diso would shoot a 223 for Forest Lanes en route to a 757-721 victory in Game 1. Charlie Kinstler led the way for US Foods with a 222 game. The script flipped from there on out, and it wasn't even close. Uyesugi turned it on for US Foods with a 225 game as US Foods pulled out a 797-711 win. Game 3 was more of the same, as Uyesugi shot 222 on his way to a 641 series and an 802-698 win for US Foods. US Foods jumps into a date with Bowlium in next week's "A" matchup with 15 points. Jon Diso would lead the way for Forest Lanes with a 553 series. Their point ups their total to 12 points for the round.

It was the tandem of Carl Labayan and Leonard Ruiz Jr. combining to shoot 202 and 206 respectively in outpointing **Junior Amateur Tour** in Game 1, 775-718. Junior Amateur Tour didn't take too kindly to the outcome, and exacted revenge when its own duo would do something about it in Game 2. David Yamachi and Kevin Valmonte would shoot 229 and 221 in response to Ruiz's 235 game as Junior Amateur Tour would pull out an 827-792 win in Game 2, creeping closer to the totals in the set. The gas would run out in Game 3, though, and **Cal Bowl** reassumed its winning ways behind Ramon Torres' 224 game. Cal Bowl would take the game, 796-757. Ruiz would pace Cal Bowl with a 640 series as its four points brought the round total to 14. Junior Amateur Tour was led by the Anthony Santos' 594 series. Junior Amateur Tour goes to nine points for the round.

The blind score is nobody's friend, and on this night, two of them all but did in **Professional Approach Pro Shop** in its matchup against **Westminster Lanes**. Eileen Bigornia led the way for Professional Approach Pro Shop with a 497 series. Meanwhile, Ray Minter was the high man on the pair for Westminster Lanes with a 616 set in the sweep. Professional Approach

Pro Shop remains with eight points for the round. Westminster Lanes leaps up to 13 points in the round, posting wins of 794-618, 709-651 and 709-645.

This next matchup may have seen one of the more interesting transitions in scores in league history. In Game 1 it was **DV8** pulling out a very narrow victory over **Threadworks**, 815-811, all thanks to Jeff Carr's 268 game for DV8. Eric Snow countered with a 213 for Threadworks. Game 2 saw a gap start to open up as Scott Smith's 213 would help DV8 pull out a 798-743 win. But it was Game 3 that had spectators wondering what happened to the competitive spirit of Game 1. DV8 let it all out, as Smith shot a 279 game and DV8 would post a score of 912 on the short round. Threadworks' answer? A 684 in a losing effort. After a four-pin win in Game 1, DV8 would wind up winning totals by nearly 300 pins. Smith's 703 easily led the pair for DV8 in the sweep. DV8 jumps up to 12 points for the round. For Threadworks it was Kevin Jones' 618 series that would lead the way. Threadworks has six points for the round.

No Blayke Miller meant an Edward Estrada sighting for **California Timberline**. Was he a good luck charm as a sub? Let's find out. Game 1, it was California Timberline pulling out a 759-637 win over **Bowling Guys**, and Gary Duran would lead the way with a 205 game in the victory. Game 2 saw Donell Carter rise up with a 226 game in a 758-728 win for California Timberline. Bowling Guys wouldn't get shut out though, and Bobby Campagnale would shoot a 197 to give his Bowling Guys a 696-658 win in Game 3. Totals went to California Timberline though, and you could say Edward might have been a good luck charm on this night. Nice to see you, kid. California Timberline jumped up to 10 points for the round led by Carter's 602 series. Bowling Guys go to seven points with their lone point. Campagnale's 575 series was the high mark for Bowling Guys.

Team Hu\$tle got off to a fast start with a 728-669 win over **Family Ties** in Game 1 of their matchup, led by Jello Gray's 204 game. Stephanie Zavala didn't like that though, and she willed Family Ties to a 774-767 win with her 233 game. Let's not discount Gray's 240 game to keep Team Hu\$tle in that game. Only fifty-two pins stood between the two teams for totals heading into Game 3, and Zavala's 214, along with Mikey Villarreal's 215 would help Family Ties win the third game, 785-749. However, they'd fall 16 pins shy of totals. Gray's 625 was key in leading Team Hu\$tle to eight points for the round. Zavala shot 604 to lift Family Ties to seven points.

In our final matchup of the night, **WBPI** saw its best night of the round, earning Game 1, 698-670 behind Neema Khazaie's 201 game. **TDI Refrigeration** would get it together in a big way in Game 2, winning by nearly 100 pins, 735-638, thanks to sub Michael Barnett's 210 game. Game 3 would shuffle back to WBPI, and Adrian Pelayo would shoot a 194 to lead his team to a 714-675 victory. Totals stood on TDI Refrigeration's side, as they would win by 30 pins. Barnett led the way for TDI Refrigeration with his 653 series as TDI Refrigeration jumped to five points for the round. It was Khazaie's 554 leading the way for WBPI, which saw its total rise to three points in round

TOP 10 TEAMS ROUND 2			
Bowlium.....	18	Forest Lanes.....	12
U.S. Foods.....	15	DV8.....	12
Cal Bowl.....	14	California Timberline..	10
Forever Hope Foundation\$	13	Junior Amateur Tour..	9
Westminster Lanes....	13	Team Hu\$tle.....	8

TOP 10 THIS WEEK			
Scott Smith.....	703	David Schiada.....	637
Billy Myers Jr.....	647	Matt Murtishaw.....	636
Jeff Carr.....	641	Jello Gray.....	625
Kasey Uyesugi.....	641	Ramon Torres.....	621
Leonard Ruiz Jr.....	640	Kevin Jones.....	618

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two. These two will see each other again next week.

The first game sidepot was won by Carr with a 268. He wins \$48. Second place went to Westminster Lanes' Jonathan Gale with a 237 -- good for \$24.

Game 2 went to Gray with his 240, good for \$48. Second place was split by Minter and Ruiz with their 235 game. They each get \$12.

In the final game, Uyesugi takes home \$144 for his 222 game. Santos' 219 mark earned him \$72.

The Financial Advisors Pot went to Gray for his 240 game, which was worth \$160. Minter and Ruiz each earned \$35 for their 235 game.

- Next week's action will see the following matchups:
- "A" matchup: Bowlium vs. US Foods
 - "B" matchup: Cal Bowl vs. Forever Hope Foundation
 - Westminster Lanes vs. Forest Lanes
 - DV8 vs. California Timberline
 - Junior Amateur Tour vs. Team Hu\$tle
 - Professional Approach Pro Shop vs. Family Ties
 - Bowling Guys vs. Threadworks
 - TDI Refrigeration vs. WBPI

Have you picked your favorite team to win Round 2? Are you going with the hot hand of Bowlium? Maybe you're taking the field? If so, tell us who you like to get hot and knock Billy's bunch off the top of the round.

It's all a part of another week of amazing bowling action live from Del Rio Lanes in Downey, California. These are the best bowlers in Southern California, and you must come out to see it for yourself. Have a happy Thanksgiving everybody, and we will see you next week!

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