

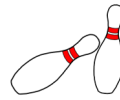


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## Messenger: Hess Wins Third Career PBA50 Major

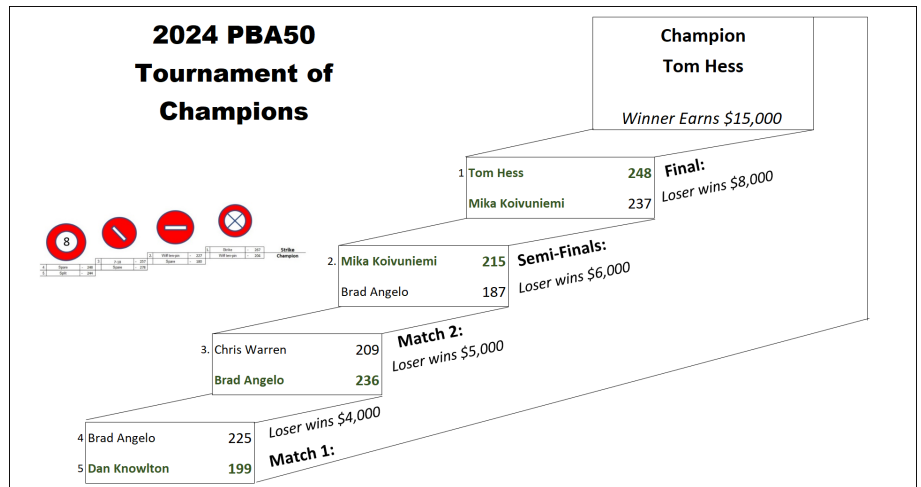
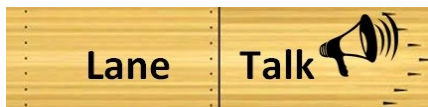


Tom Hess won his third career PBA50 Major at the Tournament of Champions by defeating Mika Koivuniemi 248-237. The match came down to the next to the last shot when Mika needed all three strikes to force a one ball roll-off. Mika got the first strike but left the ten pin on the second ball in the tenth frame, giving Hess his third PBA50 career Major.

After winning, Tom Hess remarked the following “I belong. I wish I could have done it 20 years ago, but 20 years ago, I was a different person and who knows, it might not have worked out. I am just enjoying the moment right now. It has been a lot of fun.”

Mika made an impressive eight consecutive appearances. John Janawicz won five titles this season. This made Janawicz the PBA50 Player of the Year. Walter Ray Williams, Jr. never won the Tournament of Champions; he missed out by finishing seventh. Chris Barnes finished tenth, and Mr. Three-Peat at the TOC Jason Couch just missed match play by finishing 17th. There were three 300s at this year’s Tournament of Champions: Tom Hess, Jeff Johnson and Dino Castillo. These were all done in the match play portion of the tournament.

“One of the advantages bowling has over golf is that you seldom lose a bowling ball.”  
—Don Carter

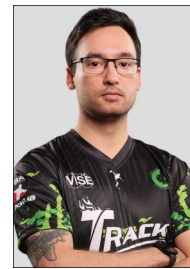
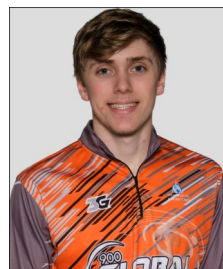
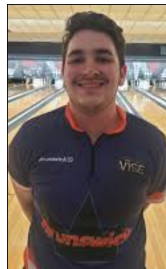
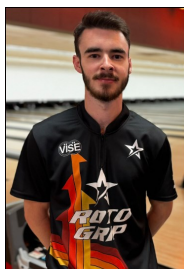


# Spare Column: PBA Tour Trials

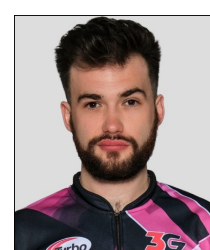
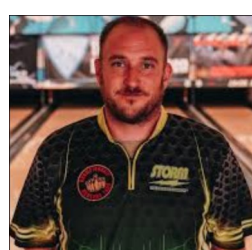
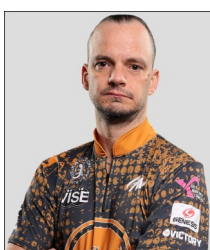
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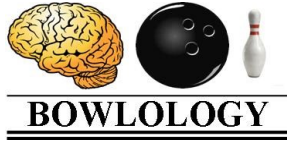
At the 2024 PBA Tour Trials, each bowler bowled 48 games on four different patterns at four different bowling centers with the top 12 receiving PBA Tour exemptions. These bowlers will have no entry fee for all of the PBA Tour Events. Also they earned status beyond the PBA League draft. These 12 bowlers will join the top 43 on the PBA point list. Chris Sloan of Ireland strung the last five to claim an exemption on the 2025 PBA Tour. Brandon Runk of Milton, PA, bowled 3-300s on day 2 of the 2024 PBA Tour trials. Here is who qualified for the 2025 PBA Tour Exemption:

Pos	Bowler	Hometown	Score (+/-)
1	Hayden Stippich	McKean, Pa	+ 1,317
2	Brandon Runk	Milton, Pa	+1,291
3	Tim Foy, Jr	Seaford, Del	+1,237
4	Nate Purches	Fond du Lac, Wis	+1,113
5	Ryan Barnes	Denton, Texas	+1,078
6	Kim Bolleby	Sweden	+ 965
7	Cam Crowe	Orland Park, Ill	+ 953
8	Bailey Mavrick	Whitestown, Ind	+ 944
9	Nathan Bohr	Austin, TX	+ 932
10	Andrew Hall	Westborough,Mass	+ 912
11	Chase Nadeau	Las Vegas	+ 908
12	Chris Sloan	Ireland	+ 897



Above: Hayden Stippich, Brandon Runk, Tim Foy, Jr., Nate Purches, Ryan Barnes, Kim Bolleby  
 Below: Cam Crowe, Bailey Mavrick , Nathan Bohr, Andrew Hall, Chase Nadeau, Chris Sloan

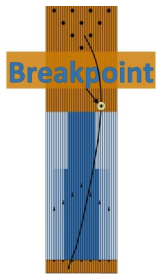




# League Bowling Tips

When bowlers are starting their new league season, they should do the following to prepare for that season.

- Bowling practice sessions at least twice or more before the league starts.
- Check the equipment before the start of the season. Retaping the finger and thumb holes is important. Check on a bowler's accessory bag, grips, tape and Abalone pads.
- A bowler may want to talk with a pro-shop operator about new bowling equipment.
- Arranging the bowlers arsenal
- Practice converting spares
- Set some realistic goals
- Evaluating the team if they want to go to the state or national tournament and setting up the date for that.
- Join a league that matches a bowlers abilities.
- Choose a bowling center that is well run and that a bowler can get to on a regular basis.
- If a bowler wants to get information about the league season contact the league manager by email or phone discussing options for handicaps, averages, and new teams that may come into the league



## Breakpoint: Elias Cup Finals

The 2024 PBA Elite League saw the Portland Lumberjacks and the Las Vegas High Rollers take the top two spots in the PBA League standings. By qualifying in the respective top spots, they receive a first round bye in the Elias Cup. The remaining four teams would have to face each other to determine the semi-finals. These teams will bowl rates to two points. If the two teams are still tied at one point each, they will bowl in sudden death three ball roll off to see who wins the next to see who will be bowling in the semi-finals. The same format be used in the semi-finals of the next round. This should be an interesting PBA League Elias Cup for more information bowling fans can log onto PBA.com.

### Postseason

Quarterfinals-September 15th at 5PM ET-Portland, ME

No 3 Atom Splitters No 6 L.A. X

No 4 Muscle No. 5 Kingpins

Semifinals- September 16th at 7PM ET- Portland, ME

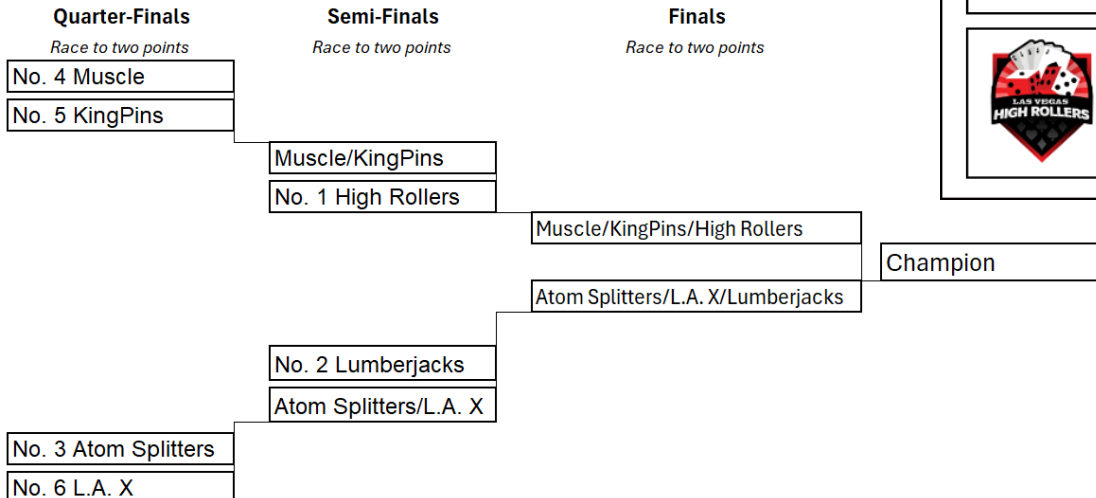
No. 1 High Rollers Muscle/KingPins

Semifinals -September 16th at 9PM ET- Portland, ME

No 2 Lumberjacks Atom Splitters/L.A. X

Finals -September 17th at 7 PM ET- Portland, ME

TBD



X	X	X
300		

# Editorial— US Open Tournament Proposal

Past winners of the US Open were once guaranteed to play in the Tournament for life before 2017. At the 2024 US Open, there was some speculation that Pete Weber was going to have to bowl in the Tournament qualifier to earn a spot to bowl in the US Open. Pete Weber has won five US Open titles and should be welcomed to the tournament without PTQ.

In recent years, the USBC has taken a look as to who should bowl in the US Open. If a past champion wants to come out retirement and bowl in the US Open, the player should not have to bowl in the Tournament qualifier round. This will enable the US Open field to expand the US Open tournament size. If Norm Duke wants to come out and bowl the US Open, he should be able to bowl the tournament. The field should be set at the start of the tournament. This tournament should not have a tournament qualifying round. The top 40 in the PBA points should be exempt. The previous years of the five majors should also get an exemption into the tournament. Each member of Team USA should get a spot in the US Open. The field should be somewhat limited, but not to the point where past champions have to worry whether or not they have a spot in the US Open. Also, when a bowler earns a spot in the tournament, they should know that they are in the full US Open. When a bowling center runs a qualifier for the US Open, it is really for a spot in the PTQ and not the US Open.

The US Open should be a hard tournament to win. Two practice balls on each lane prior to each competition does not give the players a good opportunity to get a feel for their first game of qualifying. Bowlers need practice time on the lanes they will use in competition. There is also a limit on drilling new balls between rounds, and this limits the adjustments bowlers can make. Finally, the US Open lane pattern should be used throughout the whole tournament and not just at the very end. Bowlers want the challenge of beating the best in the PBA on this hard pattern. 180-230 is a score that bowlers try to shoot. They cannot win the tournament on the first day, but they can lose it on the first day. This is the beauty of the US Open.



L to R: Norm Duke, Pete Weber, Mika Koivuniemi and Walter Ray Williams, Jr.