

# The Duckpin Pro Tour Story

*The Greatest Event Since The Invention Of The Game*

In 1903, John McGraw and Wilbert Robinson, then two Baltimore Oriole baseball players later to become baseball immortals, owned the Diamond Bowling Lanes on Howard Street in Baltimore. McGraw and Robinson felt that true skill and the greatest possible challenge could be best accomplished in bowling by using a ball designed to fit the hand and using pins to conform to the size of the ball. Acting as aggressively in business as they were in sports, they had this done and as a group of spectators witnessed the first match of this new bowling game, the remark was heard that the flying pins looked like a flock of ducks in flight.

Since that first match, it's been the custom of bowlers in towns up and down the Eastern seaboard to challenge one another in friendly competition. In fact, most of the better bowlers travel great distances to show their prowess.

Certainly the inventors of the Duckpin Game must have envisioned a time when enough Duckpin Bowling Greats could be gathered to display their skills. Unfortunately, the forefathers of duckpins aren't here to see it, but the time is here. The \$25,000 BPAA Duckpin Professional Bowlers Tour is now a reality. Finally, bowling fans and the average sports fan throughout Duckpin territories will have the opportunity to see the Nation's top talented Duckpin Bowling Stars first-hand as each tour travels into their respective communities.

The BPAA Duckpin Professional Bowlers Tour is a series of ten \$2,500 events conducted once each month for a period of ten months. This season, the tour started in December at Penn Daw Bowling Center in Alexandria, Virginia. Then, after a two-month break, to allow Pro Association Members to participate in the Tenth Annual BPAA Duckpin All-Star Match Game Championship, picks up again in April and continues on to December, 1964. The field for each of these ten events is limited to 64 bowlers. With the exception of the five-man local field provided by each host establishment on the tour,

all bowlers must be members of the Professional Duckpin Bowlers Asso-

## BPAA National Duckpin Professional Bowlers Tour

December 13, 14, 15, 1963  
PENN-DAW BOWLING CENTER  
Alexandria, Va.

★

April 3, 4, 5, 1964  
RINALDI'S MEMORIAL PALACE  
Atlanta, Ga.

★

May 8, 9, 10, 1964  
O. HENRY LANES  
Greensboro, N. C.

★

June 12, 13, 14, 1964  
LONG MEADOW BOWL  
Hagerstown, Md.

★

July 10, 11, 12, 1964  
RINALDI'S PLAZA BOWL  
Norfolk, Va.

★

August 14, 15, 16, 1964  
FAIR LANES SOUTHWEST  
Baltimore, Md.

★

September 4, 5, 6, 1964  
WILLOW BOWL  
Richmond, Va.

★

October 9, 10, 11, 1964  
COLONIAL ANNAPOLIS LANES  
Annapolis, Md.

★

November 6, 7, 8, 1964  
VALLEY BOWLING CENTER  
Harrisonburg, Va.

★

December 11, 12, 13, 1964  
FAIR LANES PRINCE GEORGES PLAZA  
Hyattsville, Md.

ciation. Initial membership was granted on the basis of a bowler holding a 120 or better average for

90 games last season. Each participating Pro pays an entry fee of \$25.00 to enter each event. Each tournament consists of three days of activity. On Friday evening, several of the top stars on the tour come into town early to help conduct a moderated clinic in the host establishment. This clinic is open to the general public and is a time for bowling fans to learn the secrets of the stars. It is at the clinic that fans will have the opportunity to see the stars in an exhibition match, hear them give pointers designed to improve a bowler's game, and actually receive help from them right on the lanes.

Saturday starts the competition. Each of the 64 bowlers competing in 32-man squads will shoot a 16-game qualifying round in two eight-game blocks with total pinfall determining the winners. The eight leaders at the end of Saturday's competition advance into the round-robin finals scheduled on Sunday. These top eight men bowl two game head-to-head matches against each other concluding with a position round pairing in which the number one man in the standings meets number two, number three opposes number four and so on.

Finals competition in the Pro Tour features a new system of scoring whereby a winning bowler gets 30 bonus pins for each game won. These bonus pins will be added into the total pins so that the final tally will show scratch total, bonus pins and grand total. This system was adopted to do away with the more complicated Petersen Point System used prior to the inauguration of these events and to simplify spectator understanding.

A special feature offered to the Professionals on the Tour is the opportunity to become the Bowler of the Year. Besides being able to win top prizes in each of the ten events, an extra \$1,000, plus a handsome trophy, will be awarded to the bowler scoring the most points in competition. The point system used is based on the winning bowler in each of the ten events receiving 15 points. Second place earns 13 points; third, 11; fourth, 9; fifth, 8; sixth, 7; seventh,

6; eighth, 5; then, ninth through twelfth place will receive 3 points; thirteenth through sixteenth, 2 points, and seventeenth through twentieth, 1 point. The bowler with the most accumulated points after the ten events is crowned the Bowler of the Year.

The Professional Tour concept for Duckpins has been broached many times in past years. But, it was not until the BPAA Duckpin Activities Department held their Annual Meeting in Norfolk, Virginia, this past summer, that concrete action was taken to actually start things rolling. It was there that the months and dates for the events were formulated and bid invitations were made to all members.

Quite naturally, certain conditions were attached to hosting the events. Interested establishments must be members in good standing of the BPAA and must be certified by the National Duckpin Bowling Congress. Each must have a minimum of 16 lanes, and there must be a seating capacity for at least 200 spectators. Each establishment must also be willing to provide lanes an entire weekend and pay a franchise fee for this right. The franchise fee goes directly into the bowlers' prize fund.

Encouraged by the rapid acceptance of the ten sites on this year's circuit, the Pro Tour program moved into the next phase of development: that of organizing the Professional Bowlers Association. Since the basic format calls for a 64-bowler field, it was determined that the Pro Association should have a minimum of 150 members. This initial number of Professional Stars would assure complete participation in all events.

Charter Membership in the Pro Association closed on November 23rd, 1963, and from this list of Charter Members came the field for the first stop on the tour. All Charter Members were listed according to average and the top 59 were given first crack at the first event. The other five bowlers in the 64-man field came from the sponsoring house.

After the first tournament, the format used for participation allows the top portion of the field to continue rolling in the next stop on the circuit and holds open enough spots in the field to guarantee that all Pro Association Members will participate at least twice during the season. Membership in the Pro Association, however, has not closed and any members who join after the November 23rd

date will be added to the list and await their turn for participation.

The third, and perhaps most complicated phase of getting the Pro Tour rolling, was that of organizing all of the stops on the circuit into a well oiled tournament package and then getting this information out to the general public by way of the various media outlets in each tour area. The many months of behind the scenes hard work and planning in this area is never seen by the spectators attending the events and sometimes overlooked. Special press conferences, interviews with radio and television executives, and meetings with proprietor and bowlers' associa-

oped to carry the results of each tournament immediately following the action to all interested duckpin territories. Finally, it was suggested that information as overall records, leading money winners, Bowler of the Year point contenders, etc., be carried the week following each tourney, to sustain interest from event to event. The cooperation the Tour Committee received was amazing and a large percentage of any success that the Tour Program might achieve must be credited to all those many interested media representatives who helped along the way.

This is the Duckpin Professional Tour Story we know. The part of the story we don't know and can only surmise is what will happen in the future. The Tour Committee, having no experience from which they could base the planning of the program this season, established the field and tournament play on the ideal figure for participation of 64 bowlers. However, if the interest continues as it has thus far on the part of the bowlers, spectators, proprietors, and press media, expanding the Tour Program will be the only avenue the Tour Committee will have to take. Of course, an expanded Tour Program would mean increasing the field, adding additional sites, and broadening the prize lists for each stop. Conceivably in one year, the total Tour Prize List could jump from \$25,000 to \$35,000, or even possibly \$50,000.00.

Another important possible future development is the televising of all of the Pro events. The impact and identity each of the Pro events have in the communities they reach and the image the Tour itself creates will dictate whether or not sponsors will become interested. At this point, the Tour Committee feels that products will want to become identified with Duckpins as a sport, recognizing through the Tour, the Game is one of the few in existence that is conducive to the entire family. Therefore, the possibility of a TV network for the Pro Tour is bright. In fact, the future of the Pro Tour has endless possibilities and everyone concerned with its operation is extremely excited.

If McGraw and Robinson were on the Duckpin scene today, most everyone in the industry believes that they would be as excited about the BPAA Duckpin Professional Bowlers Tour as they were when they started the Game.

**TOTAL TOUR  
PRIZE FUND  
\$25,000.00**

★

**Each Event**

★

FIRST PLACE _____	\$1,000.00
SECOND PLACE _____	500.00
THIRD PLACE _____	250.00
FOURTH PLACE _____	200.00
FIFTH PLACE _____	175.00
SIXTH PLACE _____	150.00
SEVENTH PLACE _____	125.00
EIGHTH PLACE _____	100.00
TOTAL _____	\$2,500.00

★

**BOWLER OF THE YEAR AWARD  
\$1,000.00**

★

Plus a handsome trophy awarded by the BPAA Duckpin Activities Department.

tions had to be held, to not only plan the kind of coverage that should be provided for each event, but to develop a system of keeping the public informed in the other areas that either the tour has just left or has not yet reached.

As a result of these meetings, many important press tools were developed. First, a press kit of the stars on the tour, including pictures, filler stories, and background information to aid in preliminary stories leading up to each event; then, a series of prepared releases were made to issue to each tour area prior to the tournament to build the interest of the bowling fans. A special reporting system was devel-

# The Duckpin Professional Association Story

A month prior to the first event on the Pro Tour Calendar, a very special meeting was called between the Charter Members of the Professional Bowlers' Association and the BPAA Duckpin Activities Department Tour Committee with the purpose of forming a partnership and developing an Association to govern all future pro activities. In the face of having many people in the bowling industry feeling that a bowlers and proprietors group could never get together, the meeting could be termed as historic. Out of 124 registered Charter Members of the Association, an amazing 49 traveling from all corners of duckpin territory were on hand to give their assistance in the development of the total program. The exchange of ideas and the introduction of possible future activity of the Association from both sides clearly indicated that this meeting was only the beginning of many to be called with the singular purpose of building the Duckpin Game. It was immediately apparent that the BPAA Duckpin Professional Bowlers Tour was the promotional vehicle needed to rekindle interest in the total industry's growth, on the part of bowlers, as well as proprietors.

The need for a Duckpin Professional Bowlers' Association was caused as a result of the BPAA Duckpin Activities Department initiating the Professional Bowlers Tour in their Annual Meeting at Norfolk, Virginia this past summer. The proprietor group felt that they could handle the mechanics of the tournament, securing the sites, developing the promotion and publicity needed to insure success, but needed to have the bowlers themselves form an association in partnership with them to be able to handle basic bowler requirements. Such important topics as bowler participation, rules of conduct, playing conditions, future membership participation, and bowler association rules could not be dictated by proprietors and must be policed by the bowlers, themselves.

It was decided at the first meeting, due to the large number in Charter Membership and their vast geographical spread, it would be impractical to function without first forming an Advisory Committee of bowlers to act as the group's spokesmen. This Advisory Committee, in turn, would work with the BPAA Duckpin Pro Tour Committee to govern all Association projects. The Advisory Committee was formed by breaking down the geographical areas in membership into four basic parts: Metropolitan Washington, Metropolitan Baltimore, Virginia, and Maryland. Included in Virginia were those

Charter Members from North Carolina and in Maryland those Charter Members from West Virginia. Each of the above areas were allowed one representative, with the exception of Metropolitan Washington. Two representatives were chosen from that area of Charter Members as it represents the largest group of participating Pros. Each area elected their own bowler spokesman.

John Weinkam was elected Chairman of the Advisory Committee and Baltimore's representative, Bill Leffler was elected to serve Virginia, John Mandes and Jack Moulton in the Metropolitan Washington area, and Joe Walker was Maryland's choice.

Since the first meeting, the Advisory Committee and the BPAA Duckpin Pro Tour Committee have made duckpin professional history. They compiled a set of tournament rules and regulations completely agreeable to all the traveling pros on the tour, developed a constitution and by-laws of organizational standards for the Association and, in short, established all of the machinery that is now the Duckpin Professional Program.

The ultimate goals and objectives of the Duckpin Professional Association are completely consistent with the quality of program and performance that audiences in duckpin areas viewing the Tour will witness. First and foremost, every member of the Association, through their participation and contributions in the program, want to carry the Duckpin Game forward to take its rightful place as a major sport on the American scene. The word Professional has become a symbol of perfection to everyone associated with the Tour program. Secondly, through sportsmanlike conduct and qualities of true champions, the pros hope to build the image of the Duckpin Pro in the minds of children and grownups alike. Finally, the Association is building toward the continued growth of not only the Pro membership, but the Tour program itself. This season's beginning was realistic but to the participants the thought of weekly participation and a \$100,000.00 purse looks to be only a few short tour seasons away, and all are working hard in that direction.

Most of the Professional programs in other sports were started many years ago, but the membership of the BPAA Duckpin Professional Bowlers' Association is positive that those beginnings could not have had the zeal and enthusiasm that has given birth to the Duckpin Professional.

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# BPAA PROFESSIONAL DUCKPIN BO

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### SQUAD "A"

### SQUAD "B"

10:00 a.m. July 11th	July 12th 5:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m. July 11th	July 12th 8:00 p.m.
LANES	BOWLER AND CITY	LANES	BOWLER AND CITY
1	Oneil Wynne, Norfolk, Va.	1	Pete Pappas, Norfolk, Va.
1	Claude Smith, Richmond, Va.	1	Tommy Gammon, Richmond, Va.
2	Johnny Ressa, Washington, D. C.	2	Ted Cockburn, Arlington, Va.
2	Bob Winning, Rockville, Md.	2	Cliff Kidd, Baltimore, Md.
5	Bain Key, Roanoke, Va.	5	Billy Mischou, Rockville, Md.
5	Bookie Jenkins, Richmond, Va.	5	Dave Volk, Baltimore, Md.
6	Billy Moore, Annandale, Va.	6	Frank Bradsher, Annandale, Va.
6	Jack Moulton, Hyattsville, Md.	6	George Clark, Arlington, Va.
9	Roy Saul, Roanoke, Va.	9	Bill Leffler, Norfolk, Va.
9	Bud Downs, Alexandria, Va.	9	Howell Sherbert, Edgewater, Md.
10	Ralph Gaddi, Silver Spring, Md.	10	Chip Taylor, Highland Springs, Va.
10	Bob Cleary, Baltimore, Md.	10	Willie Zehring, Alexandria, Va.
11	Herman Gaines, Portsmouth, Va.	11	Joe Bitner, Hagerstown, Md.
11	Bobby Mayhew, Washington, D. C.	11	Bill Keckley, Silver Spring, Md.
12	Chuck Freedman, Hyattsville, Md.	12	Bill Wray, Norfolk, Va.
12	Jake Pettit, Alexandria, Va.	12	Ronnie Doss, Chesapeake, Va.
15	Paul Gordon, Silver Spring, Md.	15	Charlie Lewis, Fredericksburg, Va.
15	Steve Foltz, Fairfax, Va.	15	Mike Shatruck, Baltimore, Md.
16	Herb Levin, Silver Spring, Md.	16	Eddie Rusak, Richmond, Va.
16	Marv Gallion, Baltimore, Md.	16	Vic Lancelotta, Baltimore, Md.

NOTE: Each squad will bowl eight games on Saturday and eight games on Sunday. Please note the times indicated for each day. Please register with Tournament officials at least one-half hour prior to above scheduled times.

LANES SHOWN ARE STARTING LANES

## Freddy's Restaurant

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# ASSOCIATION — PROFESSIONAL TOUR

RAIL • VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA • JULY 11 & 12, 1964

## SQUAD "C"

## SQUAD "D"

5:00 p.m. July 11th	July 12th 10:00 a.m.	
LANES	LANES	
BOWLER AND CITY		
1	Al Rush, Baltimore, Md.	10
1	Dave Lemnah, Silver Spring, Md.	10
2	Willy Warfield, Baltimore, Md.	9
2	Jim Wolfensberger, Hagerstown, Md.	9
5	Bill Douros, Norfolk, Va.	14
5	Clark Copenhaver, Hagerstown, Md.	14
6	Jimmy Dietsch, Silver Spring, Md.	13
6	Danny Gammon, Norfolk, Va.	13
9	Bill McCormack, Arlington, Va.	2
9	Werner Trost, Takoma Park, Md.	2
10	*Joe Walker, Norfolk, Va.	1
10	Jimmy DeMarco, Baltimore, Md.	1
11	Fred Tinsley, Baltimore, Md.	4
11	Teddy Hawkins, Falls Church, Va.	4
12	Bill Lewis, Riverdale, Md.	3
12	*Joe Walker, Annapolis, Md.	3
15	Hank Howard, Alexandria, Va.	8
15	Ben Thomason, Arlington, Va.	8
16	Frank Baker, Richmond, Va.	7
16	Wayne Souder, Damascus, Md.	7

8:00 p.m. July 11th	July 12th 1:00 p.m.	
LANES	LANES	
BOWLER AND CITY		
1	LeRoy Christian, Alexandria, Va.	10
1	Mosley Webb, Baltimore, Md.	10
2	Charlie Earle, Baltimore, Md.	9
2	Mickey Nocera, Wheaton, Md.	9
5	Frank Applestein, Baltimore, Md.	14
5	Bob Fahrney, Harrisonburg, Va.	14
6	Bill Burroughs, Norfolk, Va.	13
6	Bobby Lockhart, Fairfax, Va.	13
7	Herman Brown, Frederick, Md.	16
7	Earle Tilghman, Baltimore, Md.	16
8	Bill Ramberg, Hyattsville, Md.	15
8	Charlie Guess, Mt. Jackson, Va.	15
9	Harry Worth, Washington, D. C.	2
9	John Weinkam, Baltimore, Md.	2
10	Jimmie Dinnis, Wheaton, Md.	1
10	Roger Cramer, Adelphi, Md.	1
11	Walter Rusak, Highland Springs, Va.	4
11	Shorry Divver, Hyattsville, Md.	4
12	Sam Housley, Annapolis, Md.	3
12	Bob Lamb, Annapolis, Md.	3
15	Claude Case, Mayodan, N. C.	8
15	Ronnie Atkins, Richmond, Va.	8
16	Lindsey Hammonds, Washington, D. C.	7
16	Thurman Darden, Norfolk, Va.	7

\*Please note city of bowlers indicated. Local bowler, Joe Walker drew same squad as Pro Member Joe Walker of Annapolis, Maryland.

LANES SHOWN ARE STARTING LANES

Professional Bowlers to  
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• ACTION PHOTOS  
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