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**BELMO MAKES TENPIN HISTORY WITH TEN CAREER MAJORS**

“What a bloody brilliant day!” exclaimed Aussie star bowler, Jason Belmonte following his 225-196 victory over America’s EJ Tackett in the championship match of PBA’s signature tournament at AMF Riviera Lanes in Fairlawn Ohio. I’m on cloud nine.... actually make that cloud ten,” he quipped.

Televised live on FOX on Sunday, an audience of millions across the United States and legions of bowling fans worldwide watched Belmonte’s history-making triumph in the 2019 PBA Tournament of Champions with awe as the 35-year-old clinched his tenth career Major title.

The win tied him with Hall of Famers Pete Weber and the late Earl Anthony for first on the all-time Major titles list. It was also Belmonte’s third ToC title, joining Mike Durbin and Jason Couch as the only bowlers to accomplish this feat. Belmonte, a four-time PBA Player of the Year, had previous Tournament of Champions wins back-to-back in 2014 and 2015.

“It’s madness,” said Belmonte, who was top qualifier for the stepladder finals. “To work so hard at your craft means the world to be here at this moment. “It hasn’t completely sunk in and to have my name next to Pete and Earl is an overwhelming feeling right now. “Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would achieve this,” he added. “It doesn’t seem real to have my name on that list with two of the greatest bowlers of all time.”

Dominating the ToC event from the early stages, and winning his 19th career tour title, Belmonte also became the youngest bowler to win ten Major titles. Anthony won his tenth Major at 46 and Weber won his at age 50. It’s only taken Belmonte 12 years since becoming a PBA member in 2008 to win ten Majors, which is also a record. It took Anthony 16 years and Weber 35 years.

The Tournament of Champions also offered a US$1 million bonus if a player bowled a 300 game in the title match. Belmonte started with the first four strikes but a stubborn ten pin in the fifth frame denied his tilt at the jackpot.

Next weekend, Belmonte will have an opportunity to break the Majors record when the Go Bowling! PBA Tour moves to Wayne Webb’s Columbus Bowl, Ohio for the second Major of the season – the PBA Players Championship.

“Now that I’ve won ten I can’t wait to get to 11,” Belmonte said. “If I get to 11, I’ll be able to put my total focus on bowling and not so much on the records.”

The US$1 million title match bonus remains in effect for the Players Championship stepladder finals which will be televised live in the United States on FS1 on Sunday, 17 February and streamed internationally via FloBowling online.

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For further information or high res images, please contact Lynne Clay
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**PBA TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS
AMF Riviera Lanes, Fairlawn, Ohio, Sunday**

**Final Standings and winnings (US dollars):**

1. Jason Belmonte, Australia, $50,000.

2. EJ Tackett, Bluffton, Ind., $25,000.

3, Marshall Kent, Yakima, Wash., $13,000.

4. Josh Blanchard, Mesa, Ariz., $11,000.

5. Sean Lavery-Spahr, Pasadena, Texas, $10,000.

  