

Timmy Takes 2.0 2026

## **BBG 2026 Preview Edition**

### **The Reviews Are In!**

#### **Wall Street Journal**

The Nick Picca breakout has moved from speculative asset to buy rating.

#### **PGA Tour**

We have formally requested that the Big Body Games stop comparing its athletes to professional golfers.

#### **The Slack Channel**

Theo has not read any of this.

#### **Nick Panarello**

I love you, Jordy.

## **Introduction**

Welcome to the 2026 edition of Timmy Takes.

What began years ago as a loosely researched collection of predictions, biases, and personal grievances has gradually evolved into one of the premier analytical publications covering the Big Body Games.

The methodology remains questionable.

The confidence remains unjustified.

The commitment to the process has never been stronger.

Despite consistently generating readership numbers that would be deeply concerning for a legitimate publication, Timmy Takes continues to endure. Countless hours have once again been invested into statistical analysis, historical research, athlete evaluations, and conclusions that will almost certainly be disproven before lunch on Saturday.

For reasons that remain unclear, Timmy continues to pour an unreasonable amount of time, energy, and emotional investment into a document that will ultimately be read by the same seven people it was written about.

And yet, the work continues.

This year's edition features expanded statistical analysis, historical performance data, athlete comparisons, event previews, championship projections, and several conclusions that will almost certainly age poorly.

As always, the objective remains simple:

Identify the contenders.

Predict the outcomes.

Create several completely avoidable controversies before the competition even begins.

The field has changed.

The expectations have changed.

The arguments have not.

What follows is the most comprehensive preview in Timmy Takes history.

Whether it is also the most accurate remains to be seen.

So grab a drink, get comfortable, and settle in.

The next hour of your life starts now.

## **Setting the Stage**

The mountains of North Conway will host a group that has changed considerably since the first Big Body Games.

Careers have advanced. Families have grown. Sleep has quietly disappeared.

Timmy, Picca, Joe, and Eliot all enter the weekend as fathers. Theo recently completed his ophthalmology fellowship and now has two children of his own. Eric's small kennel welcomed a new dog and immediately developed a personal dislike for Eliot. Timmy remains stranded in Virginia. Efforts to relocate him back to New England remain ongoing. Picca's fascination with robot dogs has only intensified.

For the first time in years, BBG returns to New England.

Long before careers, mortgages, children, and questionable recovery times, New England was where these friendships began. Returning to the White Mountains feels less like a new destination and more like coming home.

Theo returns after missing last year's competition. No longer a fellow, he enters BBG as a fully trained ophthalmologist, father of two, and a new home owner. He hopes to rebound after a last place team finish during the 2024 games. The student loans may be gone. The second-place finishes are not.

Panarello returns after several years away from competition carrying the same combination of confidence, athleticism, and unpredictability that made him one of the most entertaining competitors in the field. The layoff creates more questions than answers, leaving the analytics department with one of the most difficult competitors in the field to model.

Will the return resemble the Panarello of old, or has time away simply improved the stories? Nobody seems entirely sure.

Panarello least of all.

Together, Theo and Panarello give BBG something it has been missing in recent years:

The full field.

The format changes once again. Partners will rotate. Alliances will form. Alliances will disappear. Some competitors will benefit from Joe's randomizer. Others will spend the weekend questioning its legitimacy.

Only one thing is guaranteed.

An individual champion will be crowned.

What is known is this:

Seven friends will return to New England for a weekend of competition, chaos, questionable decision-making, and renewed arguments about games that have somehow become increasingly important with age.

The results will be unpredictable.

The stories will not.

## **The Randomizer Report**

For the first time in BBG history, the randomizer deserves its own section.

The scoring format is simple:

Win a game.

Earn a point.

Both players on the winning team receive credit.

Most total points wins BBG.

On paper, this sounds fair.

Naturally, further investigation was required.

Timmy Analytics reviewed the 2026 schedule against lifetime event win percentages to determine which competitors are most likely to accumulate points across the weekend. BucketGolf projections for Theo and Panarello were treated as neutral due to limited historical data, an assumption that feels reasonable and will almost certainly be disputed.

## **Projected Points**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Competitor</b>	<b>Projected Points</b>
1	Joe Laviano	22.13
2	Theo Bowe	20.72
3	Nick Picca	20.07
4	Eliot Johnson	20.00
5	Nick Panarello	19.44
6	Timmy Takach	19.32

The first finding is familiar.

Joe remains the projection.

This is unfortunate for the field, the article, and anyone hoping for a fresh storyline.

Even under a rotating-partner format designed to introduce chaos, Joe still projects first. The reason is simple: cumulative scoring rewards consistency, and no competitor has been more consistently annoying to project against than Joe Laviano.

He does not need to dominate. He simply needs to keep collecting points. Historically, that has been enough.

## **The Theo Problem**

The more interesting finding is Theo.

Theo projects second overall, and the gap between him, Picca, and Eliot is razor thin.

This is no longer just a return-to-competition storyline.

This is a championship storyline.

Theo's profile is built for this format. He doesn't need highlight moments or event wins. He simply needs to keep ending up on the winning side often enough for the standings to become uncomfortable.

Kubb loves him. Beer Die loves him. Thursday night's Magic draft may not.

And historically, Theo has shown very little interest in respecting projections that place him outside the contender tier.

Ignoring Theo has always been risky.

In 2026, it may be impossible. If the standings do deteriorate, Timmy Analytics expects at least one conveniently timed emergency surgery.

## **The Race Behind Joe**

The real chaos begins after the top spot.

Theo, Picca, and Eliot are separated by less than one expected point.

That matters.

One BucketGolf swing.

One Beer Die dispute.

One Kubb game that lasts long enough for Timmy to begin searching for a chair.

Any of those could change the standings.

Picca projects third, which fits the broader narrative. His BucketGolf résumé gives him the clearest event-specific weapon in the field. If he converts there and survives Kubb, the championship path is real.

## **Corporate Eliot**

Eliot officially joins BBG 2026 as a homeowner, father, and corporate employee. The transformation is nearly complete. Timmy Analytics still projects him near the top of the standings despite the increasingly responsible lifestyle. The numbers continue to believe. The rest of BBG remains skeptical.

But it is getting harder to ignore.

## **The Panarello Variable**

Panarello projects fifth.

The spreadsheet is trying its best.

The problem is that Panarello remains difficult to model because the available data is incomplete, the layoff is real, and Day 1 Panarello and Day 2 Panarello continue to be treated as separate athletes by the analytics department.

Interestingly, the schedule itself gives Panarello a slight boost. He receives one of the better partner-support profiles in the field and is not buried by the draw. If the return is real, the path exists.

If it is not, the spreadsheet may have been too generous.

Which is exactly how Panarello prefers it.

## **The Timmy Trap**

Timmy projects sixth, but the number is misleading.

Outside of Kubb, Timmy projects surprisingly close to average. The problem, as always, is Kubb.

The schedule gives Timmy a real chance to stay alive. That may be the cruelest possible outcome. If he performs merely average in Kubb, the entire tournament changes. Suddenly the middle of the standings becomes contention. Polish Horseshoes becomes an opportunity instead of a side quest. BucketGolf suddenly matters. The curved throw becomes relevant again.

But if Kubb goes the way Kubb usually goes, the rest of the weekend becomes damage control.

The chair may be needed earlier than expected.

## **The Eric Problem**

Eric projects seventh.

That feels harsh. According to Eric, the only thing standing between him and multiple BBG championships has been teammate selection.

It also feels explainable.

The historical numbers are not kind in BucketGolf, Cornhole, or Polish Horseshoes. The eye test continues to insist that Eric is dangerous.

The spreadsheet responds with a simple question:

When?

That is the Eric dilemma.

The talent is real.

The IPO is reportedly real.

Timmy Analytics remains uncertain which arrives first.

But cumulative scoring does not reward flashes as much as it rewards sustained point collection. Eric's path requires turning volatility into wins before it turns into damage.

## **Randomizer Winners and Losers**

The randomizer did not create massive schedule gaps, but it did create subtle advantages.

**Biggest Schedule Boost:** Nick Panarello

The actual schedule gives Panarello one of the better draws relative to a neutral schedule. For a returning competitor with uncertain form, that matters.

**Sneaky Beneficiary:** Nick Picca

Picca receives enough help to keep his championship case alive. The schedule does not erase his Kubb concerns, but it gives him a workable path if BucketGolf delivers.

**Neutral but Dangerous:** Joe Laviano

Joe's schedule is basically fair relative to expectation. Unfortunately, fair is enough when the baseline is Joe.

**Quietly Fine:** Theo Bowe

Theo does not need schedule help. The draw does not dramatically boost him, but it also does not damage him enough to change the projection.

**The Slightly Unlucky One:** Eliot Johnson

Eliot loses a bit of value compared to a neutral draw. Not enough to bury him, but enough to give him material if things go poorly.

**The Toughest Draw:** Eric Holtzman

Eric faces one of the more difficult opponent environments in the field. For someone already relying on volatility, that is not ideal. Timmy Analytics briefly considered apologizing.

**The Excuse-Free Experiment:** Timmy Takach

Timmy's schedule is not unfair. This is deeply unfortunate. Several traditional excuses remain available, but the randomizer may not be one of them.

## **Event Preview: BucketGolf**

No event has risen through the BBG ranks faster than BucketGolf.

What began as a simple attempt to throw golf balls into buckets has evolved into one of the defining competitions of the weekend. The rules remain straightforward. The strategy does not.

Athletes are routinely faced with a difficult decision: play it safe or attempt the shortcut. History suggests many will choose the latter.

Last year marked BucketGolf's debut appearance, and the event immediately delivered. Aggressive routes over the drink produced mixed results, with competitors learning firsthand that the shortest path is not always the easiest one.

Despite the uncertainty surrounding a brand-new event, one competitor adapted faster than the rest.

Picca finished with the strongest BucketGolf performance in the field.

With a year of experience now available to the competitors, the competitive landscape should be considerably tighter. Familiarity, however, does not guarantee success. BucketGolf remains an event where confidence can disappear as quickly as a golf ball.

What is known is this:

No competitor enters BBG 2026 with a stronger BucketGolf résumé than Picca.

The highest winning percentage.

The strongest performance during the event's debut season.

This year, however, 5 of the 7 competitors enters with the same advantage they lacked a year ago:

Experience.

Whether that narrows the gap remains one of the weekend's more interesting questions.

## **BucketGolf Golfer Comparisons**

### **Joe Laviano — Patrick Cantlay**

The comparison is unavoidable.

Like Cantlay, Joe approaches competition with a level of preparation that borders on excessive.

While most competitors spend the year focusing on careers, families, and responsibilities, Joe somehow continues to find time to sharpen his game. The results are rarely dramatic, but they are consistently effective.

Rarely flashy.

Rarely rattled.

Always prepared.

Every year begins with competitors identifying ways to beat Joe.

Every year ends with Joe near the top of the standings.

At some point, coincidence can be ruled out.

### **Timmy Takach — Rickie Fowler**

The people's champion.

Few competitors inspire more optimism entering a weekend than Timmy. The fundamentals are there. The talent is there. The advanced analytics are certainly there.

And yet BBG has repeatedly demonstrated that good projections and actual trophies are not always the same thing.

Hope remains undefeated.

## **Eliot Johnson — Tommy Fleetwood**

The comparison feels appropriate.

Thoughtful, prepared, and consistently competitive, Eliot approaches BBG much the same way Tommy Fleetwood approaches a golf tournament. Birds were not the only things Eliot spent the offseason studying.

Every year begins with a plan.

Most of that plan is successfully executed.

The standings remain stubbornly unimpressed.

## **Nick Picca — Rory McIlroy**

For years, the potential has been obvious.

The results have finally started catching up.

After opening his BBG career with 7th- and 6th-place finishes, Picca has steadily climbed the standings with consecutive runner-up finishes. What once felt like potential has become expectation. Like Rory the talent has never been the question. The question is whether 2026 is finally his year.

## **Eric Holtzman — Tyrrell Hatton**

Capable of brilliance.

Capable of frustration.

Occasionally capable of both within the same five-minute stretch.

Like Hatton, Eric competes with an emotional range that can best be described as visible. Opponents never need to wonder how Eric feels about a result. The answer is generally available immediately.

What makes Eric dangerous is that beneath the reactions lies a genuinely elite competitor.

On any given weekend, Eric is capable of producing performances that change the trajectory of an entire tournament.

On any given weekend, he is also capable of arguing with an inanimate object.

That unpredictability remains both his greatest strength and greatest mystery.

## **Nick Panarello — Bryson DeChambeau**

No competitor embraces chaos quite like Panarello.

Much like Bryson, conventional approaches hold little appeal. There is always another angle. Another strategy. Another explanation for why the difficult option is actually the correct one.

The results can be spectacular.

The process can be difficult to explain.

After years away from competition, Panarello returns carrying something few competitors ever receive:

The benefit of mystery.

Nobody remembers the missed shots.

Nobody remembers the bad weekends.

Only the highlights remain.

Whether the reality can live up to the reputation remains one of the defining questions entering BBG 2026.

Panarello seems unconcerned.

## **Theo Bowe — Xander Schauffele**

Theo's BBG résumé has always suffered from a visibility problem.

While other competitors generate headlines through controversy, celebrations, emotional outbursts, or questionable strategic decisions, Theo has generally preferred a simpler approach:

Play well.

Like Schauffele, Theo has spent years producing results without always receiving the same level of attention as some of his more outspoken competitors.

The numbers, however, remain difficult to ignore.

The highest Beer Die winning percentage in BBG history.

A long track record of competitive performances.

And a tendency to remind everyone of those facts whenever the opportunity presents itself.

After missing last year's competition, Theo returns to the field carrying considerably more professional credentials than the last time he competed. Whether ophthalmology training translates directly to BBG success remains unclear.

What is clear is this:

Ignoring Theo has historically been a mistake.

BBG 2026 may provide another reminder.

## **Competitor Outlook**

Nick Picca enters as the favorite.

No competitor produced better BucketGolf results during the event's debut season. While the rest of the field spent the year wondering what BucketGolf might become, Picca quietly accumulated the strongest résumé in the game. With the highest winning percentage and a full year of experience now behind him, he enters North Conway as the standard everyone else is chasing.

The Rory comparison follows him here as well. For years, the potential was obvious. Recently, the results have begun to follow. The question is whether BucketGolf becomes another step toward glory or another reminder that expectations only grow heavier with success.

Nick Panarello enters as the primary challenger.

Projecting Panarello remains one of the more dangerous exercises in Timmy Analytics. Years away from competition have only increased the uncertainty. What is known is that Panarello can hit a golf ball an alarming distance, often with the same confidence Bryson DeChambeau displays before attempting something the rest of the field considers unnecessary. BucketGolf rewards creativity and aggression, two qualities Panarello has never lacked.

Whether that translates into results remains to be seen. Timmy Analytics is betting that it will.

Timmy enters carrying one of the most fascinating BucketGolf résumés in the field.

Last year produced the event's only hole-in-one. It also produced several golf balls that never came particularly close to their intended destination. No competitor better embodies the BucketGolf experience. The highs are spectacular. The lows are often submerged.

Like Rickie Fowler, the fan support remains remarkably strong regardless of recent results. The crowd will undoubtedly be behind him. The question, as always, is whether he can hang on long enough to reward their faith.

Joe enters with perhaps the most interesting offseason development.

After last year's competition, Joe responded by purchasing his own BucketGolf set and continuing to sharpen his game with what sources have described as his "West Coast friends." The existence of these individuals has not been independently verified by the BBG community.

Regardless, Joe has been practicing.

Historically, that has been a problem for everyone else.

Much like Patrick Cantlay, Joe's greatest strength is his willingness to prepare for games that most competitors stopped thinking about months ago.

Eric remains one of the field's most difficult competitors to project. Eric's BucketGolf swing remains under review. His mustache is already in midseason form.

Day 1 of last year's competition was largely forgettable.

Day 2 he was a force to reckon with.

Few competitors displayed a wider range of outcomes over the course of the weekend. If the version of Eric that appeared late in the competition arrives early this year, he could quickly become a factor.

Eliot's debut season could best be described as steady.

Eliot quietly put together a solid BucketGolf debut. Birds weren't the only things he spent the offseason studying, and another year of experience should only help. The challenge remains turning steady play into memorable finishes.

Theo remains one of the event's biggest mysteries.

There is limited BucketGolf history available to analyze, making projections difficult. What history does tell us is that Theo has developed a habit of finishing near the top of BBG leaderboards regardless of the competition. For someone with so many unknowns entering the event, it would be surprisingly unsurprising to see his name near the top once again.

**Favorite:** Nick Picca

**Runner-Up Prediction:** Nick Panarello

**Event Preview: Kubb**

Few events reward precision quite like Kubb.

What appears simple from a distance quickly becomes a test of execution, patience, and strategy. Small mistakes are magnified, momentum shifts rapidly, and matches are often decided by a handful of throws.

Historically, Kubb has produced some of the weekend's most competitive battles and remains one of the most respected events in the BBG rotation.

## **Competitor Outlook**

Joe enters as the standard. His résumé in Kubb speaks for itself. Year after year, he continues to produce results in one of the weekend's most demanding events. While others search for answers, Joe simply continues knocking down kubbs.

Which is exactly why Timmy Analytics is predicting against him.

Eric remains Kubb's most fascinating storyline. His relationship with the king can best be described as personal. No competitor has spent more time battling it. No competitor has suffered more heartbreaking defeats at its hands. And yet, every year, Eric returns convinced that this will finally be the year he conquers his greatest rival. At this point, the king may be Eric's most enduring rivalry. The king currently leads the all-time series.

Theo enters as one of the strongest contenders in the field. Despite missing last year's competition, his Kubb résumé remains among the best in BBG history. Kubb rewards patience, consistency, and execution—qualities that have historically served him well. Unlike some competitors, Theo rarely beats himself.

Few competitors think more about Kubb than Eliot. Somewhere between becoming a homeowner, joining corporate America, and bird watching, he has continued to find time to study the game. For all the jokes, Eliot has quietly built one of the strongest Kubb résumés in the field. And whenever confidence begins to waver, the Ellie Palmer is never far away.

Panarello remains one of the tournament's biggest unknowns. Years away from competition make him difficult to project, but Kubb has always rewarded competitors capable of producing moments of brilliance. We expect a Day 1 Panarello in this event.

Picca's Kubb résumé presents one of the more difficult evaluations in the field. The numbers are not particularly flattering. The context may be more forgiving. Years spent sharing Kubb responsibilities with Timmy have likely impacted the statistical record, making it difficult to determine exactly how much responsibility belongs to either competitor. What is clear is that Kubb has never been one of Picca's strongest events. Picca thrives when confidence builds. Kubb rarely provides that luxury. The event has an unfortunate habit of forcing competitors to sit alone with their thoughts between throws.

Timmy's outlook is considerably easier to project. The event has a tendency to drag on, and few competitors have suffered more from Kubb's war of attrition. Timmy often starts Kubb looking like a contender. By the end, he generally looks like someone searching for a chair. Carpenters remain bullish. Still, there is reason for optimism. If Timmy can simply perform at an average level, Kubb transforms from a liability into an opportunity. That possibility alone makes him more dangerous than the numbers suggest.

As with every year, Kubb will reward the competitors capable of balancing strategy, execution, and patience. And as with every year, someone will convince themselves they were one throw away from winning the entire thing.

**Top Spot:** Theo Bowe

**Runner-Up:** Eliot Johnson

## **Event Preview: Polish Horseshoes**

Few events embody the spirit of BBG quite like Polish Horseshoes.

Polish Horseshoes has a unique ability to reward precision one moment and pure improvisation the next.

Unlike some of the weekend's other events, Polish Horseshoes rarely produces a clear separation between competitors. Most of the field enters with remarkably similar résumés, making it one of the most balanced competitions in the BBG rotation.

Except for Joe.

Year after year, Joe continues to find himself near the top of the standings in an event that often seems determined to produce randomness. While the rest of the field hovers around mediocrity, Joe has quietly established himself as the standard.

The challenge for BBG 2026 is simple:

Can anyone close the gap?

Several competitors enter with reason for optimism. Some have shown flashes of brilliance. Others have produced stretches of success. What none have managed to do consistently is match Joe's results.

Polish Horseshoes has always rewarded execution. This year, it may also provide the field with its best opportunity to prove the gap is smaller than it appears.

### **Competitor Outlook**

Joe enters as the standard.

No competitor has consistently produced better results in Polish Horseshoes. His hands remain among the safest in the field with his ability to catch both frisbee and bottle has frustrated opponents for years.

Of course, no discussion of Joe's Polish Horseshoes résumé would be complete without mentioning his long and complicated relationship with the line.

Whether through timing, positioning, or a generous interpretation of the rules, Joe has developed a reputation for securing catches suspiciously close to the point where the frisbee may or may not have already crossed. Joe maintains every catch was legal.

His competitors remain unconvinced.

Eric brings one of the event's most unique weapons.

His patented one-hand chest catch has produced some of the most impressive moments in Polish Horseshoes history. It has also occasionally produced the exact opposite. The margin between brilliance and disaster is often surprisingly small.

Theo enters as one of the more difficult competitors to project. His overall BBG résumé suggests he belongs near the top of the standings. Whether that translates directly to Polish Horseshoes remains unclear. Given his track record, however, it would be unwise to leave him out of the conversation.

Eliot may possess the most aesthetically pleasing throw in the competition. When his soft-touch frisbee release finds a rhythm, it can be remarkably difficult to defend. The challenge has never been the highs. The challenge has been producing them consistently.

Panarello offers the opposite experience. Subtlety has never been a defining characteristic of his game. His fastball approach can overwhelm opponents when it is working and create entirely new problems when it is not. Either way, it tends to attract attention.

Picca enters as one of the steadier competitors in the field. While others fluctuate between brilliance and disaster, Picca generally remains somewhere in between. In an event where momentum can disappear quickly, that reliability becomes increasingly valuable.

Timmy's outlook may hinge on a late discovery from BBG 2025. For years, Polish Horseshoes has offered flashes of promise without consistently delivering results. That may have changed late last season when Timmy unveiled a new curved-trajectory throw that showed surprising effectiveness. Whether the breakthrough was real or simply a brief moment of inspiration remains unclear.

Timmy Analytics has already reached its conclusion.

If the throw holds up under pressure, it may be the difference between another respectable finish and a legitimate run at the top of the standings.

Unlike some of the weekend's other events, Polish Horseshoes offers opportunities for everyone.

**Top Spot:** Joe Laviano

**Runner-Up:** Timmy Takach

## **Event Preview: Cornhole**

Cornhole remains one of the longest-standing staples of BBG competition.

On paper, the rules are simple.

Throw the bag.  
Score the points.  
Move on.

In practice, much depends on the boards.

Every year, competitors arrive convinced they understand the playing conditions. Every year, the playing conditions have other ideas. Matches that should be quick have a tendency to become marathons. Discussions about strategy eventually become discussions about board slickness. Discussions about board slickness eventually become excuses.

What makes Cornhole unique is that it may be the one event least likely to follow the script.

BucketGolf has favorites.

Kubb has standards.

Beer Die has history.

Cornhole has surprises.

More than any other event in the BBG rotation, Cornhole has a habit of rewarding the competitor nobody predicted and humbling the competitor everyone did. A hot streak can appear without warning. Confidence can materialize out of nowhere. A player who spends most of the weekend in the middle of the pack can suddenly look unstoppable for an hour.

That unpredictability is what makes Cornhole dangerous.

And why it may ultimately produce the tournament's biggest surprise.

## **Competitor Outlook**

Eliot enters as one of the event's most intriguing contenders.

When his confidence builds, Cornhole has a tendency to snowball in his favor. Few competitors are more dangerous once momentum starts working for them. The challenge, as always, is ensuring the momentum arrives before the explanations.

Panarello possesses perhaps the highest ceiling in the field. Cornhole rewards confidence, aggression, and a willingness to trust your throw. Panarello has never struggled with any of those qualities. If he finds a rhythm early, opponents may spend the rest of the event chasing him.

Joe remains Joe. His Cornhole résumé is among the strongest in BBG history, and few competitors possess a steadier hand. While others ride hot streaks and cold streaks, Joe generally continues doing what Joe does. Accumulating points.

Eric has a tough track record with the boards and the board conditions may prove particularly important. Should the playing surface favor a slower, stickier style of play, Eric could be poised for one of the strongest Cornhole performances of the weekend. Few competitors stand to benefit more from a board that refuses to cooperate. Eric remains optimistic that both his IPO and Cornhole breakout are right around the corner.

Theo's Cornhole résumé is quietly stronger than most people realize. Years of surgical training have developed an attention to detail and precision that few competitors can match. Whether those skills translate directly to throwing beanbags remains unclear, but Theo's ability to consistently place himself near the top of BBG standings suggests it may not be entirely coincidental. Then again, if surgery and Cornhole were the same thing, medical schools would look very different.

If Cornhole produces a surprise champion, Nick Picca may be the leading candidate. Much of the conversation surrounding Picca centers on BucketGolf, and understandably so. But championships are rarely won by excelling in a single event. They are won by finding points where nobody expects them. Picca's Cornhole résumé is unremarkable. Which may be exactly what makes him dangerous. Few competitors enter the event with less pressure and more upside. If the bags start falling early, Cornhole could quickly become another stop on the rise of a new champion.

Timmy enters with a familiar strategy. Hang around. Stay competitive. Wait for someone else to make a mistake. It is not always glamorous. It has occasionally worked. As always, Cornhole promises drama, momentum swings, and renewed debate regarding the playing surface.

Some traditions remain remarkably consistent.

**Top Spot:** Eliot Johnson

**Runner-Up:** Nick Panarello

## **Event Preview: Beer Die**

No event in BBG produces more disputed memories than Beer Die.

Every competitor remembers the impossible catches.

Nobody remembers how the score reached that point.

Games have a tendency to last longer than expected, momentum has a tendency to disappear without warning, and confidence often proves remarkably fragile.

Beer Die also remains one of the few events where controversy is almost guaranteed.

For years, certain competitors have been accused of consistently throwing suspiciously low tosses. The accusations are frequent. The evidence remains inconclusive. The debates continue.

For reasons that remain unclear, Beer Die has a habit of producing outcomes that make considerably more sense in hindsight than they do in the moment.

Which is exactly why competitors keep coming back to it.

## **Competitor Outlook**

Theo enters as the standard.

The highest Beer Die winning percentage in BBG history speaks for itself. Despite missing last year's competition, no competitor enters North Conway with a stronger Beer Die résumé. However after another year of medical fellowship recent report suggest that his jump shot has been recalibrated and we sense a lot of air ball throws in the first few games.

Joe remains one of the most consistent competitors in the field. His success has never relied on spectacular moments. Instead, Joe has built a reputation on avoiding mistakes and capitalizing when opponents make them. In Beer Die, that tends to work remarkably well.

We expect a stronger showing from Eric in Beer Die. Powered by the modelos and his mustache we expect Eric to lead the swishes on Day 1. Will he be able to continue the performance into Day 2 remains the question.

Eliot may own the strangest résumé in the event. The numbers suggest he has quietly been one of the stronger Beer Die competitors in BBG history. Very few people remember it that way. Whether that reflects skill, circumstance, or one of the great statistical mysteries in BBG history remains open for debate. Eliot's Beer Die résumé remains difficult to explain.

Panarello remains difficult to project. Years away from competition have created more questions than answers. Beer Die has always rewarded instincts and athleticism, however, which gives him a path to immediate success.

Picca enters with a profile remarkably similar to Beer Die itself. Reliable.

Competitive. Difficult to get excited about statistically. And yet somehow always hanging around. Timmy's Beer Die résumé can best be described as unfinished. The flashes have been there. The consistency has not. Like many Beer Die competitors before him, Timmy enters convinced this will be the year everything comes together. History suggests caution.

By the time Beer Die arrives, the standings will begin to take shape.

Some competitors will be protecting a lead.

Others will be trying to erase one.

With little separating much of the field, Beer Die may once again become the event that determines who leaves North Conway at the top of the standings.

Beer Die has a way of humbling predictions.

**Top Spot:** Theo Bowe

**Runner-Up:** Eric Holtzman

## **Timmy Analytic's Swing Games**

Every game in BBG 2026 is worth one point.

Not every point is worth the same.

Some points simply move a competitor up the standings. Others validate predictions, create momentum, derail championship hopes, or become evidence in arguments that will continue long after the weekend ends.

Timmy Analytics reviewed the schedule, historical performance, and projected standings to identify the single most important swing game for each competitor.

These are the games most likely to determine whether a competitor leaves North Conway discussing championships or explanations.

### **Joe Laviano**

#### **Kubb Game 3**

##### **Joe & Picca vs Theo & Eliot**

Every tournament has a matchup that feels bigger than a single point.

This is that matchup.

Joe enters Kubb as the established standard. Across the field stand Theo and Eliot, Timmy Analytics's top two finishers in the event. A Joe victory reinforces the status quo. A Theo and Eliot victory immediately validates one of the boldest predictions in the publication.

The game also reunites one of BBG's most familiar pairings. Joe and Picca have spent years accumulating wins, deep runs, and enough success to earn the nickname Godfather Part II. Joe brings the résumé. Picca brings the momentum. Together they bring enough Italian confidence for all four players.

Which makes what happens next all the more surprising.

Like the Italian National Team watching another World Cup from home, Godfather Part II enters with expectations and leaves with questions.

Meanwhile, Theo and Eliot arrive carrying considerably less pressure and significantly more Peppid.

### **Winner: Theo & Eliot**

Expect a heavy dose of morning Peppid, several unsolicited medical opinions, and the first major statement of the Kubb tournament.

## **Theo Bowe**

### **Beer Die Game 2**

#### **Theo & Picca vs Joe & Timmy**

Theo enters Beer Die with the strongest résumé in the field. If BBG 2026 is going to produce a new champion, there is a strong chance Beer Die plays a significant role.

Standing across from him is Joe, the tournament favorite, and Timmy, a competitor whose Beer Die performances have ranged from surprisingly competent to immediately regrettable.

This game presents Theo with an opportunity to do something few competitors have managed over the years: take a point directly from Joe in one of his best events.

Unfortunately, Theo's biggest challenge may not be standing across the table.

It may be standing next to him.

For this matchup, Theo is paired with fellow Harvard man Nick Picca. While the partnership appears strong on paper, maintaining focus will be critical. Rumor has it Picca has at least thirty medical devices, startup ideas, and investment opportunities to discuss over the course of the

weekend. Whether Theo can survive a full Beer Die game without receiving a sales pitch remains one of the tournament's more intriguing storylines.

Meanwhile, Joe and Timmy arrive with a simpler strategy:

Throw die.

Drink beer.

Ask fewer questions.

A strategy Harvard somehow never teaches.

**Winner: Joe & Timmy**

Hot Tub Folliculitis strikes early. Before Picca can finish explaining his latest investment opportunity, the Ivy League pairing finds itself staring at a goose egg.

**Nick Picca**

**Cornhole Game 7**

**Joe & Eric vs Timmy & Picca**

If Nick Picca is going to become BBG's next champion, there is a strong chance this game appears somewhere in the story.

Across the boards stand the only team to ever win a BBG team championship. Too Spicy arrives with a proven track record and a championship pedigree. Together, they remain one of the most dangerous pairings in the tournament.

Standing opposite them are the Boost Looters.

Momentum has always been their preferred strategy. When things are going well, the calf slaps start flying, confidence grows, and the pair can become difficult to stop.

For Picca, this matchup represents more than a Cornhole point.

It is an opportunity to take a direct point from Joe while proving that the rise of a new champion is more than just a BucketGolf storyline.

Championship contenders win games.

Champions win games like this.

**Winner: Boost Looters**

The calf slaps arrive early. Too Spicy never recovers.

## **Eliot Johnson**

### **Polish Horseshoes Game 8**

#### **Eliot & Panarello vs Picca & Theo**

This may be the most important Turn Around Lenny matchup of the weekend.

Eliot and Panarello have spent years playing together, but BBG 2026 presents a different challenge. For the first time, Eliot enters the tournament needing more than a few timely contributions from Panarello. He needs the full version.

The challenge has never been Panarello's talent.

The challenge has always been directing it.

Like a mythological hero attempting to harness a legendary beast, Eliot enters the weekend with one objective: point Panarello in the right direction and hope nothing catches fire along the way.

Standing across the field are two of the strongest contenders in the tournament. Picca enters BBG 2026 carrying championship expectations for the first time in his career. Theo arrives with one of the strongest analytical profiles in the field and a long history of finishing near the top of the standings.

Together, they represent exactly the type of pairing a championship contender needs to beat.

For Eliot, this game is about more than Polish Horseshoes.

For years, Timmy Analytics has insisted he is better than the standings suggest. This matchup provides an opportunity to prove it against two competitors expected to be near the top of the leaderboard.

If Turn Around Lenny wins, the championship conversation gets significantly more crowded.

If they lose, the spreadsheet may once again be accused of seeing things nobody else remembers.

#### **Winner: Eliot & Panarello**

The beast is successfully harnessed. At least for one game.

## **Timmy Takach**

### **Kubb Game 11**

## **Timmy & Eric vs Joe & Panarello**

No game better captures Timmy's entire tournament.

The objective is not domination.

The objective is survival.

For years, Kubb has been the event standing between Timmy and a respectable BBG résumé. Every tournament seems to follow a familiar pattern. Optimism enters. Kubb arrives. Explanations follow.

BBG 2026 offers another opportunity to change the script.

Unfortunately, the challenge could hardly be greater.

Across the field stands Joe, the established standard in Kubb and the competitor most responsible for turning Timmy's Kubb dreams into Kubb reality. Alongside him is Panarello, a competitor whose confidence has somehow continued to grow despite spending recent BBGs on the sidelines.

Eric provides Timmy with the perfect partner for this assignment.

No competitor has spent more time battling the king. No competitor has suffered more heartbreaking defeats at its hands. Every year Eric convinces himself this will finally be the breakthrough. Every year Kubb finds a new way to test that belief.

Together, Timmy and Eric form a partnership built almost entirely on hope.

If they win, Kubb becomes manageable.

If they lose, history remains undefeated.

## **Winner: Joe & Panarello**

The weight of Timmy's kubb skills is too much for Eric to carry.

## **Nick Panarello**

### **BucketGolf Game 11**

#### **Joe & Panarello vs Eliot & Theo**

Some BucketGolf games are decided by great shots.

This one may be decided by philosophy.

Across the field stand Eliot and Theo, two intelligent competitors with a shared tendency to play things a little too safely. While other competitors are searching for shortcuts, Eliot and Theo are often busy identifying all the reasons they should not take them.

In most sports, that is called discipline.

In BucketGolf, it can occasionally mean taking the long way around the course.

Fortunately for Joe, Panarello embraces unnecessary risk.

While most competitors see a water hazard and begin calculating risk, Panarello sees a shorter route. The same confidence that occasionally gets him into trouble also allows him to attempt shots few others would even consider. In BucketGolf, that can be a dangerous weapon.

Especially when he can drive a golf ball a mile.

Give Panarello a shortcut over water, trees, or terrain and there is a very good chance he is taking it. Give Joe the follow-up shot and suddenly the aggressive play becomes a legitimate strategy.

### **Winner: Joe & Panarello**

Eliot and Theo spend the afternoon taking the safe route. Panarello spends it flying over hazards.

## **Eric Holtzman**

### **Beer Die Game 8**

#### **Eric & Eliot vs Joe & Theo**

No competitor enters BBG 2026 with a wider range of outcomes than Eric Holtzman.

On the right weekend, Eric looks capable of beating anyone.

On the wrong weekend, he spends the postgame explaining why the result was much closer than the scoreboard suggests.

That uncertainty is exactly what makes this matchup so important.

Across the table sit Joe and Theo, two competitors expected to spend the entire weekend near the top of the standings. Together they represent experience, consistency, and an alarming number of lifetime wins.

Eric and Eliot represent something else entirely.

Chemistry.

For reasons that remain poorly understood by both science and medicine, the partnership between Eric and Eliot appears to improve with each Modelo consumed. As the evening progresses, communication improves, confidence grows, and strategic decisions become increasingly ambitious.

Standing across from them is a much different operation.

Joe and Theo are methodical. Calculated. Sober. Professional.

Unfortunately, professionalism has rarely been a decisive advantage in Beer Die.

Particularly after Joe gets called out for drinking water.

### **Winner: Eric & Eliot**

The first Modelo loosens the group up. The second changes the momentum. By the third, Eric and Eliot are operating as a single organism while Joe is still defending his beverage selection.

## **Biggest Body Prediction**

Every year the race for Biggest Body produces spirited debate.

Every year that debate ultimately comes down to a simple question:

What exactly are we measuring?

Is it athletic performance? Physical stature? Competitive spirit? Willingness to sacrifice one's body in pursuit of victory? Or is it something less tangible entirely?

Fortunately, Timmy Analytics is not responsible for answering any of those questions.

The title currently runs through Eric Holtzman.

Year after year, Eric continues to establish himself as one of BBG's premier physical specimens. The résumé is impressive. The credentials are undeniable. The respect is earned.

And yet...

Nick Panarello returns.

After years away from competition, Panarello arrives carrying something few competitors have ever possessed:

A reputation that has continued to improve despite not participating.

The stories have grown.

The expectations have grown.

The legend has grown.

Few competitors have benefited more from not playing.

At this point, Panarello's reputation may have spent the last two years putting together a Hall of Fame career.

Nobody remembers the missed shots.

Nobody remembers the bad weekends.

Only the highlights remain.

Somewhere along the way, the return of Nick Panarello stopped becoming a roster update and started becoming a storyline.

Whether reality can match the legend remains to be seen.

Timmy Analytics is willing to take that risk.

**Favorite: Eric Holtzman**

**Prediction: Nick Panarello**

## **Timmy's Rankings**

For years, Timmy Analytics has worked tirelessly to remove emotion, bias, and personal opinion from the prediction process.

For years, Timmy has worked just as hard to put them back.

While the analytics department deserves credit for assembling the projections, strength-of-schedule analysis, event breakdowns, and approximately twenty pages of supporting evidence, it is important to remember one thing:

The spreadsheet does not have to make the picks.

Timmy does.

And after reviewing the numbers, the projections, and several completely unscientific vibes, Timmy has reached a different conclusion.

### **1. Nick Picca**

## **The Rise of a New Champion**

Every BBG seems to have a moment where potential becomes expectation.

Back-to-back runner-up finishes.

The strongest BucketGolf résumé in the field.

Improvement every year.

At some point, the breakthrough stops feeling hypothetical.

Timmy thinks that point has arrived.

## **2. Joe Laviano**

### **The Champ Gets Dethroned**

Ranking Joe second feels irresponsible.

History suggests it probably is.

But every dynasty eventually faces a challenge, and for the first time in years, the field feels deep enough to provide one.

If Joe wins again, nobody will be surprised.

Including Timmy.

## **3. Eliot Johnson**

### **I Still Don't Believe It Either**

The numbers love Eliot. Mango Tango loves Eliot. The standings remain undecided.

Timmy remains somewhat confused by all of this.

And yet every time the data gets updated, Eliot remains near the top.

At some point, skepticism becomes denial.

## **4. Theo Bowe**

### **The Second Place Retirement Tour**

For years, Theo has quietly accumulated strong results.

The problem is that somebody else usually ended up one spot ahead.

The numbers suggest this may be the strongest version of Theo we've seen enter a BBG.

The only question is whether the standings finally agree.

## **5. Eric Holtzman**

### **A Step in the Right Direction**

The talent remains obvious.

The teammates letting him down remains consistent.

Timmy sees progress.

Whether the standings do remains to be seen.

## **6. Nick Panarello**

### **Trying to Make Up for Lost Time**

No competitor enters BBG 2026 carrying more expectations relative to recent participation.

The return is real.

The excitement is real.

The temptation to force the issue may be real as well.

Sometimes the comeback story writes itself.

Sometimes it needs another year. We expect Day 2 Lenny to remain in hiding for 2026.

## **7. Timmy Takach**

### **Reverse Psychology**

Historically, Timmy performs best when expectations are low.

Historically, Timmy has also attempted this strategy before.

The results have been mixed.

Still, it feels irresponsible to rank himself any higher.

And if this somehow works, Timmy Analytics will immediately claim it was intentional.

Timmy Analytics stands by its projections.

Timmy does not. Will this finally be enough to motivate him or will he once again stay in his lamby ways and not break out of his shell.

## Final Thoughts

Six years ago, the Big Body Games began as an excuse for a group of friends to get together, compete, and prove absolutely nothing.

Since then, we've moved across the country, changed careers, gotten married, had children, and somehow become even less mature.

Every year, Timmy Takes attempts to make sense of it all.

Every year, the results remind us why that is a difficult task.

But this year feels different.

Seven competitors.

One weekend.

Dozens of opportunities to make this publication look either remarkably intelligent or completely ridiculous.

The dangerous part is that Timmy Takes genuinely believes it may finally have gotten this one right.

History suggests caution.

History also suggests Joe will probably win.

Fortunately, history does not award points.

Good luck, gentlemen.

We'll see you on the field.

*Timmy Analytics is not responsible for any financial losses, damaged friendships, randomizer conspiracies, line violations, low toss accusations, Kubb-related exhaustion, or emotional distress resulting from these predictions.*