



# News

All the bowling news that's fit to print in the Bowling Capital of the World

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## U20 champions determined at 2017 Junior Gold Championships

*Local players Ryan Winters and Julia Huren named to Junior Team USA*

**WICKLIFFE, Ohio** - Wesley Low Jr. of Palmdale, California, and Allie Leiendecker of Wooster, Ohio, find themselves at different stages of their youth bowling careers, but each are ready for the next step after winning the 20-and-under titles at the 2017 Junior Gold Championships presented by the Brands of Ebonite International.

Low, 20, capped off his youth career with a second U20 boys title after defeating David Hooper of Greenville, South Carolina, 394-357, at Game of Wickliffe. Leiendecker, a 16-year-old right-hander who made her debut in the U20 division this year, averaged 230 in her two-game total-pinfall match against Caitlyn Johnson of Lumberton, Texas, to claim the U20 girls title, 460-379.

Low jumped to a commanding lead against Hooper after rolling strikes on five of his first seven deliveries, but the left-hander had back-to-back 2-4-7-10 splits in the ninth and 10th frames that cut his advantage to 34 pins after the first game, 202-168.

Although Low still was making adjustments in Game 2, he maintained his lead and sealed the title after recording a double in the eighth and ninth frames on his way to a 192-189 finish.

"I thought both of those shots were pretty good, but that's when I noticed that the fronts were starting to hook," Low said. "Throwing a urethane ball with such a high surface, you expect that to happen at some point. I began

making small moves to the right, since I didn't want to do something crazy. I ended up finding a good look on the left lane and gave the shot on the right lane in the ninth a little air time to make sure it got through the front part of the lane."

Low recorded his first U20 title as a 16-year-old at the 2013 event in Detroit. After several close calls, including a runner-up finish in 2014, he finished his Junior Gold career by becoming the first player in the boys division to win two U20 titles.

Leiendecker had been a consistent performer in her previous two trips to Junior Gold in the U15 division, advancing to the match-play portion of the event. In those two appearances, however, she was unable to secure a win in the double-elimination format.

Upon a return visit to match play in her U20 debut, she had one goal in mind.

"I had not won a match the past two years, so that really was the main goal heading into match play," Leiendecker said. "When I was able to do that, things really started rolling, and I was able to stay calm and focus on what I was trying to achieve."

In the title match, Leiendecker may have been nervous on the inside, but she looked like a seasoned veteran as she recorded a total of 16 strikes on her way to scores of 224-178 and 236-201 against Johnson.

Taking the title approximately 70 miles from home also served as a special moment for Leiendecker, hav-

ing family and friends on-site at Game of Wickliffe to celebrate the performance with her.

"I was shaking a lot, but I felt like I kept everything under control," Leiendecker said. "It was fun, though, even with the nerves. Moving up to U20, my goal was just to make the cut, so to win in my first year really is amazing. Being able to win in Ohio, with all of my supporters coming to watch, was pretty amazing, too."

Six boys and six girls automatically earned spots on Junior Team USA for 2018 through their performances at Junior Gold this week.

Jeffery Mann of West Lafayette, Indiana, Kristopher Yadao of Pearl City, Hawaii, Pete Vergos of Apopka, Florida, Ryan Winters of Livonia, Michigan, and Michael Martell of Brooklyn, New York, earned spots on the boys team through qualifying, while Hooper also made the team by advancing to the championship round.

Mann, the 2016 U20 Junior Gold champion, and Vergos each are making their second appearances on the team, while Yadao, Winters, Martell and Hooper will represent Junior Team USA for the first time.

"It's an indescribable feeling, I never imagined that I would get a chance at being on the team but it's relieving that all the years of hard work paid off," Winters said. "I hope that I get a chance to represent our country on the big stage but just being apart of the team itself is enough. Being on a tournament team would just be icing on the cake and make it even more memorable than it already is."

Two-time Junior Gold champion Breanna Clemmer of Clover, South Carolina, will represent Junior Team USA for the fifth consecutive year after earning her spot through qualifying.

Johnson, Alexis Neuer of Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, Crystal Elliott of Palm Bay, Florida, and Julia Huren of Westland, Michigan, also made the girls team through qualifying, while Leiendecker earned her spot by making her way to the title match.

Leiendecker was part of the U15 Developmental Team in 2017, while Johnson, Neuer, Elliott and Huren will make their Junior Team USA debuts in 2018.

The U20 division of the 2017 Junior Gold Championships featured 1,418 boys and 840 girls, who each rolled 16 games across four bowling centers, before the top 203 boys and top 120 girls moved on to a five-game advancers round.

The top 64 boys and top 64 girls advanced to the final advancers round, with 26-game pinfall totals determining the top 16 to advance in each division to double-elimination match play, which also featured two-game matches with total pinfall determining the winner.

The Junior Gold Championships features the top youth bowlers in the country seeking national titles in three divisions - 12-and-under, 15-and-under and 20-and-under - and spots on Junior Team USA. The 2017 tournament was held in seven Cleveland-area bowling centers, featured a \$320,000 scholarship fund, and more than 3,500 entries, both tournament records. The 2018 event will be held in Dallas and the 2019 event will return to Detroit.

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**A Future FOR  
THE Sport.**

## From the Editor

Mark A. Martin  
MDUSBC  
Association Manager



With the season already several weeks in it's time to attend to some items such as the prize list.

USBC Rule 117a specifies that the league prize committee shall submit one or more prize lists for consideration within five weeks after the start of the season. While there is not penalty to non-compliance the longer a league waits to resolve this issue potentially the worse it can get. Many leagues specify in their league bylaws that prize money is paid on a per point basis and in this case this rule has already been addressed. For those leagues that have no such protocol for prize lists in their bylaws this needs to get done.

Speaking of prize lists, when developing a prize list make sure it's not too top heavy. Making a prize list too top heavy isn't necessarily in the best interest of the league. Just because your team finishes on top doesn't necessarily mean that your prize money should cover all of your expenses for the entire year. Bowlers need to remember that part of the weekly fee you pay goes for lineage to the center. Much like when you bowl in a tournament only a portion of your entry fee goes towards a prize list, same in a league. Ideally a well constructed prize list will return the prize fee portion of your weekly fees to teams that finish in the top one-third or top one-half of the league.

# The season is off and running Is your league ready?

League officer salaries should be specified in the league bylaws. If they are not it is something that needs to be addressed for next year. League officer salaries should be based on either the number of teams or the number of bowlers. This way the officers get compensated for increased number of teams and the league gets protected if there are less teams than expected.

Generally league secretaries and treasurers should be paid in the neighborhood of \$20 to \$30 per team or \$3 to \$5 per bowler for the season. This amount may change also if the bowling center is doing the league sheets. If the bowling center is doing the league sheets, league secretaries should receive less.

The bottom line is that leagues should try to keep their expenses to a minimum in order to maximize the return to the bowlers.

## JACKPOTS

There was a time in this great sport of ours when competition derived from league bowling was enough to satisfy the competitive juices in all of us. Times have changed, however not necessarily for the better.

In many leagues today the cost to enter all of the optional jackpots has become greater than the actual cost to compete in the league (weekly fees). As a result the "total" cost to compete in the league has become more than many bowlers can afford resulting in both loss of bowlers and members.

Under USBC Rule 103b(1) the league board of directors has control of activities within the league which would include jackpots.

The league board of directors should review each of the jackpots that are run in the league to determine if those jackpots are in the best interests of the league. Also the league board of directors should insure that the jackpots are being operated properly. If there is a cut being taken from the jackpots by the collectors this should be made clear to those bowlers

who pay their money. If there is any question regarding the operation of the jackpots the board of directors should get the answer and see to it that everything is being run properly.

The league board of directors has a huge responsibility to make sure the league remains strong and maintaining the league in the spirit that it was intended by the membership. This is a key ingredient to that responsibility.

## MEMBER HANDBOOK

Once your league is certified each member that has purchased their membership in that league will receive a Member Handbook and a Bag Tag. The Member Handbook includes the 2017-18 USBC Playing Rules. Look for your today.

## MDUSBC AWARDS PROGRAM

MDUSBC has expanded the awards program for the 2017-18 season to include recognition for members of all averages.

The following accomplishments will be recognized with a pen:

- 150 Game (110 and under)
- 175 Game (125 and under)
- 200 Game (150 and under)
- 250 Game (190 and under)
- 400 Series (120 and under)
- 500 Series (135 and under)
- 600 Series (165 and under)
- 700 Series (200 and under)

A deck of cards will be awarded for those bowlers bowling a game 75 pins over average, while those 100 pins over average in a game will receive a towel.

## Bowling Showcase News

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Randy Tambourine

For those bowling a series 150 pins over average will get a keychain light and those 200 pins over average in a game will be awarded a watch.

Each of the following will be recognized with a lapel pin:

- Triplicate series
- Stepladder series
- Clean series
- Dutch 200 game
- All Spare game
- 7-10 split conversion
- 4-6-7-10 split conversion

MDUSBC members who purchase a Premium Award upgrade option for an additional \$15 are eligible to earn crystal awards for an 11-in-a-row, 300 game and 800 series (limited to one per season in each category). If a bowler doesn't purchase the upgrade, they can still get the crystal award for \$30 for each honor score achievement.



## Bowling TV Schedule



- |                             |              |                                     |
|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| Saturday, Oct. 7 - 10 a.m.  | WADL-Detroit | Bowling Showcase                    |
|                             |              | 2016-17 Challenge Edition - Round 2 |
| Saturday, Oct. 14 - 10 a.m. | WADL-Detroit | Bowling Showcase                    |
|                             |              | Magazine Edition                    |
| Saturday, Oct. 21 - 10 a.m. | WADL-Detroit | Bowling Showcase                    |
|                             |              | 2016-17 Challenge Edition - Round 3 |
| Saturday, Oct. 28 - 10 a.m. | WADL-Detroit | Bowling Showcase                    |
|                             |              | 2016-17 Challenge Edition - Round 3 |

# Watch



# On



# Every Saturday at 10 a.m.



# Happy Diamond Anniversary BVL

## Personal Perspectives

Libbi Fletcher  
MDUSBC Director



Seventy-five years ago, last month, the bowling associations and industry leaders met to devise a plan to help bring the wounded home and to support the soldiers at the front. It's incredible to think that they raised enough funds to purchase two troop transport planes, three ambulances and sent thousands of sewing kits, fishing kits, sports books and playing cards to the men fighting on the front. Once the war was over their mission turned to recreation therapy, which was cutting edge at that time. Through those 75 years the bowlers and industry have quietly raised \$50 million for veterans, an awesome amount!

Fast forward to today, we still have the same mission; to brighten veteran's lives through recreation therapy programs and services. The work we do is important and needed. There are currently 3.8 million veterans with a service connected disability, and that number grows daily. Some Vietnam vets are just now starting to have problems with delayed on-set PTSD or even Agent Orange exposure; they've lived all these years with no symptoms and now must seek treatment. The soldiers coming home from overseas now are missing limbs, have traumatic brain injuries, multiple physical, as well as psychological problems like PTSD. Twenty-two Veterans every day in this country take their own life. There is so much that needs to be done and only a few nonprofits doing it.

I am very proud to serve on the Board of Directors for BVL, as well as the Chair of the BVL committee for Metro Detroit USBC. League Secretaries will be receiving a letter asking during the month of November to

continue the amazing support MDUSBC has given to BVL over the years. Our MDUSBC Board members are already beginning to sell our \$10 raffle tickets, which coincide with the Michigan Lottery evening 3-digit number.

Most of the Michigan bowling associations have embraced BVL as their primary charity over the last few years and the state raised over \$50,000 for BVL last season! I am so proud of our state and our leaders who are working so hard to help our veterans.

The Michigan State USBC WBA have 2 pigs that get "fed" at every tournament and event. Bacon van Lean and Sammy Sausage made an appearance at the first joint Jamboree in Holland in September. President Merry Deboer and Association Manager Sharon Schildroth made sure they were "fed" nicely to the tune of nearly \$1000! Thanks also to Jim DeGraff of Holland and the State BA and State Youth for supporting BVL during this fun-filled educational weekend.

Because of all the dedicated volunteers and supporters of BVL, this past season BVL has raised over \$1 million to support our VA Centers!!!! We are so proud that we have finally made it back to this level and I want to thank all of you who buy a raffle ticket, donate your 50/50 money one night in your leagues, add to the envelope that is being sent to the league secretaries, buy a bracelet or pin at our merchandise booth at one of our tournaments, or any other way you are supporting BVL.

One way my friend Patti Bryans is supporting BVL was to run a 50/50 at her bowling birthday party! Thanks Patti and Karen Lafata for choosing BVL as your charity!

Please continue to do so. The need is great as our veterans are returning home with many issues, both physical and mental and therefore, require additional care and assistance from the VA Centers across the country.

For additional information and to make donations honoring or memorializing someone you love, please go to the BVL website at [www.bowlforveterans.org](http://www.bowlforveterans.org).

Thank you in advance for supporting BVL again this year.

God Bless you.

God Bless our Veterans.

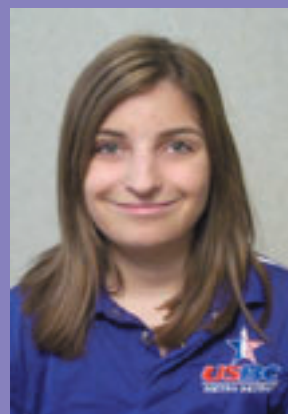
God Bless the USA.

Libbi Fletcher

# Practice Makes Perfect

## The Youth Angle

Ashley Krywy  
MDUSBC Youth Director



The saying "practice makes perfect" is a perfect fit for when it comes to bowling. However, many youth bowlers don't understand what this means when it comes to practicing. For youth bowlers, the key to becoming a better bowler is to understand this statement, and to understand it early within their bowling career.

This statement means that one practices until they get it right, multiple times. One does not get better by just practicing until they get it correct one or two times in a row. Instead, one will get better when they practice it and get it correct at least 10 times in a row.

Continuing on this statement, just practicing one day to where one will get it correct is not enough. As a bowler, going out multiple days to practice will help you become a better bowler. That is because what you worked on one day, will not be forgotten by the time your league comes around or a tournament comes around.

This leads to the next point of the statement "practice makes perfect," and that is how to go about practicing, even if a bowler is working on a specific aspect of their game. When one is practicing, they have to realize that scores do not matter at all. You are there to practice to work on specific aspects of your game or to fine tune them. Scores do not matter in practice, because after all, one is just practicing, they are not competing in a tournament or bowling in league.

As a fellow youth bowler myself, I can't stress these points enough. I used to be that bowler when practicing, that it was all about the scores, and not about working on becoming a better bowler. Once I started to realize that scores do not matter when it comes to practicing, is when I started to see the major changes in my game for the better. I started to become more consistent as a bowler not only on spares, but other parts of my game as well. This is something that youth bowlers need to realize, while it's nice to shoot scores when it comes to bowling, when you are practicing, it shouldn't be your focus.

A Future FOR  
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# Finish Position & Leverage

## Pro Tip

Michelle Mullen  
USBC Gold Coach



Last time we looked at the effect timing has on your posture and leverage at the line. While we focused on the side view to analyze this position, let's take a closer look at this position from the back view to maintain good upper body posture, while getting low with your hips.

It's important to understand that bowling is a game of power and repetition. While you want your swing to be the source of consistency, your lower body functions to create the power and leverage at the line. Focus on the motion of your trail leg to initiate delivery, as it functions in 3 major ways: to create a slot for the swing, generate power and help you balance.

Once balanced, use the analogy of a clock to develop a *better* finish position. Strive to get your back leg closer to 7:30 (4:30 for left hander). As you get your leg over to the other side of your body, your upper body posture will improve, as your hips get lower.

You can further strengthen this position by getting your leg over to about 8:00-8:30, which increases the distance between your feet to get even lower at the line. In your *best* position, your leg would be at about 8:30. You can work to achieve either a "good, better or best" finish position at the line.

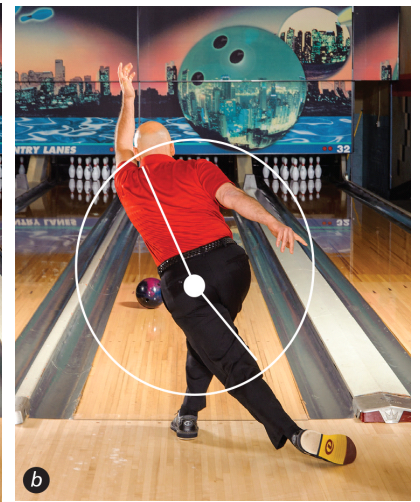
Much of this depends on your strength and/or flexibility. I caution you that it is simply easier **not** to use your legs, just like it is easier to not go to the gym and do squats! It takes strength and exertion to use your legs. So when you try, do not give up too easily. See what you can do consistently, with a little work. Once you feel a position of using your legs more, you will have a lot more respect for the sport aspect of bowling. It truly is athletic to use your legs at delivery.

Another trick to get lower, if you have the flexibility to do so, is to try to get the laces of your back foot onto the floor. This will create even more knee bend at delivery. In fact, if you have ever been told to bend more at the line, consider it a function of your trail leg, and possibly your trail foot. If your back leg kicks up off the ground, so will your knee pop-up. If your back leg stays low and stretches away from your delivery foot, your slide knee will bend more, lowering your hips. To get as low as you can, try this trick to curl the top of your foot to the floor and you will have more knee bend at the line.

**Obstacles: Swing and timing.** Keep in mind that if your swing gets to the line too soon or too late, you will struggle to get into a strong finish position. In fact, a lot of balance issues are a result of poor timing or a muscled swing. You can literally *pull yourself off balance* at the finish. So if you are unable to balance at all, consider whether your timing is good and your swing relaxed allow you to use your legs.

Note that many bowlers are still stuck in the mentality that it is important to keep the swing shoulder up as if "dropping the shoulder" (to the side) is a bad thing. It is not! Many years ago, when the balls were much weaker, bowlers brought the trail leg straight back to keep the shoulders square, because the balls didn't hook much. They had to be rolled straighter to the pocket.

**Good. Better. Best.** Strive to develop a stronger position at delivery. I like to refer to your potential finish position as being either good, better or best. It would be *good* to simply be in balance at the line, rather than falling off the shot, due to poor timing or a muscled swing.



In today's game, the balls hook more and so players have to drop their swing shoulder as they move their trail leg over to create more leverage to project the ball. You cannot generate this leverage if you worry about keeping your shoulder up. This advice to "keep your shoulder up" is simply an outdated concept.

If you take a look at Hall of Famers pictures, you'll see much different finish positions among today's players than those of the past. This is because the equipment has changed

and the leverage necessary to project the ball today is much different than what was necessary years ago, when the balls hooked less.

With better timing and swing patience, work on getting your hips lower using your legs to generate power, and leave the consistency and accuracy to your loose armswing. You'll strike that important balance between power and repetition.

For more, visit:  
[www.YourBowlingCoach.com](http://www.YourBowlingCoach.com).

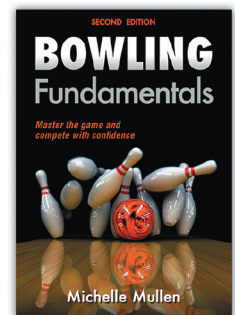


## PLAY AND COMPETE.

Learn the skills and tactics so you can play and compete, with *Bowling Fundamentals*, Second Edition.

With almost three decades of experience that includes multiple PWBA titles and collegiate championships, former Team USA Coach, Michelle Mullen shares the secrets that have made her one of the world's most highly sought-after instructors for bowlers of all ages and skill levels.

Covering the latest equipment and the essentials of execution-footwork, arm swing, timing, finish position, and release-Mullen leaves no skill uncovered, including insight on making changes and specific instruction for left-handed bowlers. You'll find tactical tips for picking up the game's most common spares (in both a traditional and advanced spare-shooting system), advice for keeping emotions and focus in check, and basic and advanced lane-play strategies that will make a significant impact on the score sheet.



Order your signed copy today at  
[www.YourBowlingCoach.com](http://www.YourBowlingCoach.com)



# Just my opinion, but your league should be SANCTIONED!

## (Ann)ouncements

Ann Block  
MDUSBC Director



Hi, everybody out in reader land. I am just going to get something off my chest this month. Bear with me while I vent a little.

I sanction because I believe in bowling as a sport. What do I mean by that statement? Bowling to me is more than just a fun thing to do for a few hours. Bowling offers the opportunity for participants to compete against others and challenge yourself both physically and mentally. That is the definition of a sport. Isn't it? Sports have rules. Organized sports are governed by associations that have its best interest at the center of its mission.

Why should you believe in sanctioning? If you are a bowler, you are an athlete. Sports and athletes should have uniform rules and a level playing field. Even the meekest one amongst us likes to compete and win. It is human nature to want to be the best at least once. To do that everyone has to have a level playing field and uniform rules. If a league is

not sanctioned that league does not have rules. An unsanctioned league can write all the numbers and words on a piece of paper that they want and call them rules but without the organization behind it they are just words and numbers. Who wants to be the enforcer of rules with no one to back them up? I hear all the time from bowlers that "we just bowl for fun and we all get along on our league". I believe them until I see someone doing something like taking credit for a spare when the ball comes out of the gutter. It is all fine and dandy then that team wins by one pin. Points mean money in bowling. I have seen bowlers fight over less than a dollar. The wallet speaks loudly to everyone. When a league has rules that are not uniform and not enforced, that league is headed down a shaky path. You are probably thinking that it could and has happened in a sanctioned league. Maybe. Probably. But a sanctioned league has a wealth of rules and procedures to fall back on in any situation. Many leagues and individuals have learned the hard way about not having rules. USBC playing rules have evolved from over a century of league and tournament competition. Playing rules are a pretty big part of the sanctioning equation.

I could go on with my opinions and reasons for sanctioning a league and being a member, but I won't keep you. And yes, I have said sanctioning rather than certified. I don't think "certify" will ever totally catch on with the general bowling population. If your league did not sanction yet....think about it again. I did not even mention sandbagging, leaving a league owing money, and absconded funds. Oops, yes did! Until next time!

## PBA Unveils Library of 16 New Lane Oiling Patterns

The Professional Bowlers Association has announced plans to introduce a newly-revamped library of 16 different lane oiling patterns for the GoBowling! PBA Tour's 60th anniversary season, creating a wide variety of challenges to test player skills at the highest level.

Several of the revised patterns will make their debuts during the GEICO PBA World Series of Bowling IX, presented by Eldorado Reno Properties, in Reno, Nev., Nov. 7-19. WSOB IX is collectively the opening event of the 2017-18 GoBowling! PBA Tour schedule.

Two new named patterns will debut in 2018. The "Dragon" is a 45-foot pattern in the animal pattern library that figures to provide a high level of difficulty for PBA players. And for the first time, the PBA will have an official "house shot" design named in honor of the PBA's long-time celebrity bowling partner, Chris Paul, that is likely to become the PBA's highest-scoring pattern.

More information at pba.com.

## Shannon O'Keefe wins 2017 Smithfield PWBA Tour Championship

**RICHMOND, Va.** - For the third time in her career, Shannon O'Keefe of O'Fallon, Illinois, found herself in tears on the television set of a major bowling championship, but this time it was as the winner of the 2017 Smithfield Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour Championship, the first major title of her career.

The 38-year-old right-hander struck six times in the first seven frames of the title match against Kelly Kulick of Union, New Jersey, and claimed her sixth PWBA Tour title by a 222-203 margin. The win earned O'Keefe \$20,000, while Kulick took home \$10,000 as the runner-up.

O'Keefe was slowed only by a 3-6-7-10 split in the third frame, which she was unable to convert, but spared a 10 pin in her final frame and got nine on her fill ball to shut out Kulick, whose only strike in the second half of the game came on her fill ball.

"I've dreamed of this moment for a really long time, and I don't know if there are words to describe how I feel," O'Keefe said. "I've been a contender at the U.S. Women's Open for the last decade and haven't been able to pull it off, which has been frustrating. I'm just overwhelmed right now by how this feels."

The last time O'Keefe bowled for a major title was the 2015 U.S. Women's Open, where she left, and missed, a final-frame washout, allowing United States Bowling Congress Hall of Famer Liz Johnson of Deerfield, Illinois, to claim the second of her four consecutive U.S. Women's Open titles.

This win also nearly got away from O'Keefe, who left a 4-6-7-10 split in the 10th frame of her semifinal match with Johnson. O'Keefe entered the final frame on a string of five consecutive strikes, and the miscue allowed Johnson to throw a strike and then spare a 7 pin for a 222 tie.

It took three one-ball roll-offs for O'Keefe to lock up her spot in the championship match. Both players struck on their first two opportunities, and O'Keefe won the third, 10-9.

"The split in the 10th was a really bad shot, and I knew it wasn't going to hold because I whipped my hand around it," O'Keefe said. "I immediately thought back to last time, but ultimately, I knew I threw nine great shots, and I was happy. It wasn't the best result in a pressure moment, but it is what it is. Then, she gave me an opportunity, and from that moment on, it was go. I am grateful I had that second chance."

As the points leader each season since the PWBA Tour returned in 2015, Johnson has been seeded into the televised portion of the event. The three-time reigning PWBA Player of the Year has not been able to advance to the title match.

On her way to the final, Kulick built an early lead against Shannon Pluhowsky of Dayton, Ohio, and led by nearly 40 pins at the halfway point. Two opens from Pluhowsky in the first six frames proved to be her undoing, and Kulick tossed nine strikes on the way to a 247-191 win.

Kulick, a six-time major champion, also was the runner-up at the 2017 Go Bowling PWBA Players Championship, losing to Johnson in the final.

"I did my job and threw really good shots, and the ball reaction just went away a little bit," said Kulick, whose last major title was the U.S. Women's Open in 2012. "Swishy 7, ring 10, it could've gone either way. Shannon had a good look all week long and bowled great. I have no regrets, but I'm really tired of finishing second. Overall, I had a great season. Even though Liz ran away with it, I finished second for player of the year. I'm making cuts, I'm cashing and I'm making TV. That's all I can do, and next year, something's going to give."

PWBA members qualified for the Tour Championship either by winning a title during the 2017 season or earning enough competition points. All eligible 2017 PWBA Tour champions received automatic invitations to the Tour Championship, and the remainder of the 16-player field was filled through the PWBA points list.

O'Keefe earned her spot at the season-ending event with her recent win at the PWBA St. Petersburg-Clearwater Open, Kulick secured her place with a win at the PWBA Fountain Valley Open and Johnson, the season's only three-time winner, advanced with a win at the PWBA Storm Sacramento Open.

Pluhowsky, whose best finish this season was a runner-up effort at the Nationwide PWBA Rochester Open, was the lone left-hander to qualify for the Tour Championship and did so via the points list.

Johnson also won two of the season's three majors, the Go Bowling PWBA Players Championship and the U.S. Women's Open, while finishing second at the other, the USBC Queens. Her consistency locked up her third consecutive player-of-the-year award before a single ball was thrown at the Tour Championship.



# Bowling Centers of the Metro Detroit USBC



BOWLING CENTER NAME (# of Lanes)	ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP CODE	PHONE
300 BOWL (52)	100 S Cass Lake Rd	Waterford	48328	(248) 682-6300
AIRWAY LANES (32)	4825 Highland Rd	Waterford	48328	(248) 674-0424
ALLEY 59 (24)	44925 N Groesbeck Hwy	Clinton Township	48036	(586) 469-6411
APOLLO LANES (14)	29410 Gratiot Ave	Roseville	48066	(586) 772-2070
ASTRO LANES (48)	32388 John R Rd	Madison Heights	48071	(248) 585-3132
BEECH LANES (16)	15492 Beech Daly Rd	Redford	48239	(313) 531-3800
BELMAR LANES (16)	4035 Fort St	Lincoln Park	48146	(313) 381-4242
BIDDLE BOWL (8)	708 Biddle St.	Wyandotte	48192	(734) 283-0660
BONANZA LANES (44)	24600 Hoover Rd	Warren	48089	(586) 756-3000
BOWL ONE LANES (40)	1639 E 14 Mile Rd	Troy	48083	(248) 588-4850
BOWLERO LANES (16)	4209 Coolidge Hwy	Royal Oak	48073	(248) 549-7500
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CHERRY HILL NORTH (36)	6697 Dixie Hwy	Clarkston	48346	(248) 625-5011
CLASSIC LANES (32)	2145 Avon Industrial Dr	Rochester Hills	48309	(248) 852-9100
COLLIER LANES (32)	879 S Lapeer Rd	Oxford	48371	(248) 628-2851
COUNTRY CLUB OF DETROIT (6)	2220 Country Club Dr.	Grosse Pointe Farms	48236	(313) 881-8000
COUNTRY LANES (32)	30250 W 9 Mile Rd	Farmington	48336	(248) 476-3201
DETROIT ATHLETIC CLUB (8)	241 Madison St	Detroit	48226	(313) 442-1003
DRAKESHIRE LANES (40)	35000 Grand River Ave	Farmington Hills	48335	(248) 478-2230
FERNHILL COUNTRY CLUB (12)	17600 Clinton River Rd	Clinton Township	48038	(586) 286-4700
FIVE STAR LANES (50)	2666 Metropolitan Pkwy	Sterling Hts	48310	(586) 939-2550
FORD LANES (24)	23100 Van Born Rd	Dearborn Heights	48125	(313) 292-1700
FRASER STAR LANES (16)	33042 Garfield Rd	Fraser	48026	(586) 293-5590
GARDEN BOWL (16)	4120 Woodward Ave	Detroit	48201	(313) 833-9850
GROSSE PTE YACHT CLUB (6)	788 Lake Shore Rd	Grosse Pointe Shores	48236	(313) 884-2500
HARBOR LANES (20)	25419 Jefferson Ave	Saint Clair Shores	48081	(586) 772-1200
HARTFIELD LANES (52)	3490 12 Mile Rd	Berkley	48072	(248) 543-9338
HAZEL PARK BOWL (24)	24211 Hughes Ave	Hazel Park	48030	(248) 543-7303
IMPERIAL LANES (80)	44650 Garfield Rd	Clinton Twp	48038	(586) 286-8700
INDIAN LANES (32)	4500 13th St	Wyandotte	48192	(734) 283-4700
LAKESHORE LANES (16)	31025 Jefferson Ave	Saint Clair Shores	48082	(586) 293-2722
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MAYFLOWER LANES (32)	26600 Plymouth Rd	Redford	48239	(313) 937-8420
MERCURY LANES (16)	7630 Schaefer Rd	Dearborn	48126	(313) 846-4900
MERRI BOWL LANES (40)	30950 5 Mile Rd	Livonia	48154	(734) 427-2900
NORTH HILL LANES (32)	150 W Tienken Rd	Rochester Hills	48306	(248) 651-8544
NORWEST LANES (16)	32905 Northwestern Highway	Farmington Hills	48334	(248) 626-2422
NOVI BOWL (40)	21700 Novi Road	Novi	48375	(248) 348-9120
PLAZA LANES (40)	42001 Ann Arbor Rd E	Plymouth	48170	(734) 453-4880
PLUM HOLLOW LANES (24)	21900 W 9 Mile Rd	Southfield	48075	(248) 353-6540
PREMIER LANES (34)	33151 23 Mile Rd.	Chesterfield	48047	(586) 725-2228
RECREATION BOWL (8)	40 Crocker Blvd	Mount Clemens	48043	(586) 468-7746
REGAL LANES (34)	27663 Mound Rd	Warren	48092	(586) 751-4770
RENAISSANCE FAMILY CTR (40)	19600 Woodward Ave	Detroit	48203	(313) 368-5123
ROOSEVELT LANES (20)	6701 Roosevelt Ave	Allen Park	48101	(313) 381-0222
ROSEBOWL LANES (48)	28001 Groesbeck Hwy	Roseville	48066	(586) 771-4140
SHELBY LANES (24)	50721 Van Dyke Ave	Utica	48317	(586) 731-4800
SHORE LANES (40)	31100 Harper Ave	Saint Clair Shores	48082	(586) 293-0880
SKORE LANES (48)	22255 Ecorse Rd	Taylor	48180	(313) 291-6220
STERLING LANES (50)	33200 Schoenherr Rd	Sterling Hts	48312	(586) 979-5200
SUMMIT SPORT CENTER (36)	66600 Van Dyke Avenue	Washington	48095	(586) 752-7006
SUPER BOWL (60)	45100 Ford Rd	Canton	48187	(734) 459-6070
TEN PINS OF TRENTON (32)	2591 Fort St	Trenton	48183	(734) 675-2695
THUNDERBOWL LANES (90)	4200 Allen Rd	Allen Park	48101	(313) 928-4688
TOTAL SPORTS LANES (20)	40501 Production Drive	Harrison Township	48045	(586) 463-2000
TROY LANES (40)	1950 E Square Lake Rd	Troy	48085	(248) 879-8122
TURBO 2-N-1 RESEARCH FACILITY (2)	46460 Continental	Chesterfield	48047	(586) 598-3948
UNIVERSAL LANES (28)	2101 E 12 Mile Rd	Warren	48092	(586) 751-2828
VISION LANES (32)	38250 Ford Rd	Westland	48185	(734) 641-8181
WATERFORD LANES (40)	7100 Cooley Lake Road	Waterford	48327	(248) 366-4778
WAYNE BOWL & RECREATION (40)	36900 Michigan Ave	Wayne	48184	(734) 721-7530
WESTLAND BOWL (60)	5940 N Wayne Rd	Westland	48185	(734) 722-7570
WONDERLAND LANES (40)	8265 Richardson Rd	Commerce Township	48390	(248) 363-7131
WOODHAVEN CENTER (36)	20000 Van Horn Rd	Woodhaven	48183	(734) 675-3554
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# Big changes ahead for U.S. Open

## 11th Frame.com

Jeff Richgels



The United States Bowling Congress and Bowling Proprietors' Association of America on March 1 announced that there would be a limited field and other significant changes for the U.S. Open starting this year.

A day after the changes were announced, USBC Executive Director Chad Murphy made a post on Facebook stating that "The Women's U.S. Open will be conducted later this summer as it has been in the past. The 2018 event will mirror this event moving to a qualified Open field."

The unexpected news in the announcement was the dates and times for tournament, which will be

held June 23-30 at Boardwalk Bowl in Orlando, Florida.

USBC didn't mention what that means until the very end of the release, when it stated that the location and timing of the tournament will require some additional adjustments to the 2018 PWBA Tour schedule that will be announced at a later date.

In the original 2018 PWBA Tour schedule, Boardwalk Bowl was scheduled to host the PWBA Players Championship June 20-24 and the PWBA Oklahoma Open was to follow June 28-30, while the U.S. Women's Open had been set for July 30-Aug. 5.

Ashwaubenon Bowling Alley in that Green Bay suburb has hosted the Players Championship the last weekend of June the past couple of seasons, but can't at that time in 2018 due to hosting the Midwest Women's Tournament in June 2018.

With stops in Minnesota and Ohio the first two weekends of July, perhaps Ashwaubenon still could host the Players Championship later in July or in early August?

While the U.S. Open now is limited to 144 players, the 2018 U.S. Women's Open will be limited to 108 based on performance criteria from 2017 competition.

This year's U.S. Women's Open in Plano, Texas, drew 114 players so the reduction won't be as big as with the U.S. Open.

Bowlers may qualify for entry in the 2018 U. S. Women's Open based on the following criteria as of Dec. 31, 2017 in the following order:

*Top 50 members on 2017 Professional Women's Bowlers Association Tour points list. If an invitee from this list declines, the spot will go to the next athlete from the PWBA Tour points list.*

*Top 5 bowlers on 2017 World Bowling Tour women's points list (not on the top 50 PWBA point list). If an invitee from this list declines, the spot will go to the next athlete from the WB Tour points list.*

*5 Recent U. S. Women Open champions (not on PWBA point list). If an invitee from this list declines, the spot will go to the next athlete from the PWBA Tour points list.*

*2017 Team USA women. If an invitee from this list declines, the spot will go to PTQ.*

*2017 Junior Team USA girls, If an invitee from this list declines, the spot will go to PTQ.*

*Top five amateurs based on 15 qualifying games at 2017 USBC Queens. If an invitee from this list declines, the spot will go to the next eligible athlete from this list.*

*Top five all-events finishers at 2017 USBC Women's Championships. If an invitee from this list declines, the spot will go to the next eligible athlete from this list.*

*Top two women from each of the four 2017 Intercollegiate Singles Championships Sectionals (Allentown, Smyrna, Addison, Dallas). If any of those two qualify from a higher-priority list, or decline, the invite will go to the next athlete on the list up to the cutline at that sectional. Any unclaimed spot from the sectional will go to the PTQ.*

*2017 Junior Gold U20 champion (girls). If an invitee from this list declines, the spot will then go to PTQ.*

*An on-site pre-tournament qualifier (PTQ) to fill any remaining spots.*

*Any bowler qualifying on multiple lists will be placed on the highest priority list, beginning with the PWBA Tour point list. Once an athlete receives an invite, their name will not be moved to another list. Bowlers who do not accept their invitations and pay their entry fees by April 1, 2018 will lose their spots in the field, and the spot will be awarded to the next eligible competitor.*

Any non-invitees wishing to compete in the U.S. Women's Open must enter the PTQ, which is limited to the first 80 entries. Additional entries will be placed on a waiting list. The entry fee is \$400 and players not making the field for the U.S. Women's Open will be returned half of their entry fee upon the completion of the qualifier. Anyone running a local qualifier/win-a-spot can do so but it would be for a spot into the Pre-Tournament qualifier, not directly into

"The response to the changes at the U.S. Open has been terrific, and it only made sense to make sure the two tournaments mirror each other as closely as possible," USBC President Frank Wilkinson said. "These events are revered for their long and challenging formats, and the competition will be even more exciting and intense with the best of the best out there."

As with the U.S. Open, 24 lanes will be used and competitors again will bowl 24 games of qualifying over three days, with one oiling per day and non-competition pairs used for warm-up before the squads. When players move to their competition lanes at the start of a squad, there will be no practice balls in qualifying and one on each lane in match play.

"We definitely are excited and proud to be a part of continuing the future of the U.S. Women's and U.S. Open, and we know the centers hosting these events are looking forward to welcoming the best in the world and helping showcase their talent in such a special way," said BPAA President Nancy Schenk said. "The new format helps to increase the level of competition at this prestigious tournament and makes the U.S. Women's Open one of the most elite competitions in the world."

USBC said first prize again would be \$20,000 with a total prize fund of more than \$143,000.

## PBA will celebrate 60th anniversary in 2018

2018 is the PBA's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and as part of the organization's celebration, PBA is going to recognize the "60 Most Memorable Moments in PBA History" as a part of the PBA's ESPN television schedule beginning Feb. 4 and concluding May 13, PBA announced.

The 60 moments will be selected by a panel of PBA historians, veteran bowling writers and long-time PBA Tour competitors, who are reviewing a list of more than 100 of the PBA's most memorable victories and defeats, triumphs and disappointments, record-setting achievements and headline news stories.

I am honored to be part of the panel taking on this formidable task — formidable because how does one decide what is most and more memorable between events like Pete Weber's "Who do you think you are" U.S. Open win, Earl Anthony going over the \$1 million mark with his PBA National Championship win, Don Johnson's 299 at the Firestone, Jack Biondillo's first nationally-televised 300 game, Kelly Kulick winning the TOC, Pete McCordic's televised 300 in 1988, the meeting where Eddie Elias formed the PBA in 1958, and so on?

It's a daunting task, but it also should be great fun to go through the 100-plus and try to rank the top 60.

PBA said fans will be invited to offer their rankings as well.

If 11thFrame.com subscribers want to send me their rankings, I will consider their input in my rankings, and possibly write a story featuring reader rankings if I get enough.

Other special 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary touches for the PBA in 2018 include the new Go Bowling! PBA 60th Anniversary Classic tournament, a 60th Anniversary celebration dinner, a special line of PBA 60th Anniversary merchandise, video highlights of PBA's most memorable moments shared on PBA's YouTube channel as well as Xtra Frame.

The PBA 60th Anniversary Dinner and PBA Hall of Fame ceremonies will air live on Xtra Frame, and components of the historical moments will be built into Concrete Software's PBA Challenge Mobile Game.

PBA said more special features of the 2018 celebration planning in cooperation with the Go Bowling! PBA Tour in 2018 will be announced later.

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Jeff Richgel's posts**



# Peace and Fun!

## Bowling, etc.

Phil Goodman  
Figure 8 Networking



When first entering the bowling industry a couple of decades ago, the "biz" was rolling, yet changing. Glow lights became the new and upcoming must have piece of equipment, league play was starting to decline yet was more than 50% of the bowling revenue in most centers, and lounge revenues were significantly higher than snack bar/food sales. However, the purpose of a bowling center remains the same in terms of bringing all people together whether for a full league season, single event, or open bowling.

Several key writings at this time had a huge impact on me. First, a summary of surveys indicated bowling was the second highest activity in the fun rating yet very low as a first choice activity in the planning process. This set the marketing objective as making bowling the first choice activity on both sunny and rainy days. Another article was written about bowlers from Taiwan rolling the ball very slowly down the lane with significant spin. When the ball hit the pin deck, it would just spin from pin to pin knocking them all down without falling off. From a management standpoint, I hoped nobody read this article because league contracts would have been extended to 7 hours if people started bowling in this manner. By the way, this was not one of the several key writings but there are two more. One was a book and the other a magazine article.

Though the source of the impactful magazine article cannot be recalled, the theme of it still remains fresh in my mind. In this article, bowling centers were portrayed as a source of fun

and peaceful play. In two scenarios, bowling centers were located in areas of violence yet people checked their differences at the door and had fun inside. This does not mean they bowled together but at least agreed to peace while there. The first scenario was inner city Chicago with competing gangs agreeing to leave weapons out of the bowling center and be near each other without confrontation. The second location was Northern Ireland back in the early-mid seventies with nationalists and UK supporters agreeing to the same terms as the gangs in Chicago at a local bowling center. In both situations, this was the only place considered to be a "deconfrontation" zone.

Last but not least is the book *Bowling Alone*. Without rereading it, two important factors are recalled. First, the scenario with one league bowler donating an organ to another one demonstrated the impact of being together for fun and peace without regard to differences in race, ethnicity, opinion, etc. Yes, in this case the two bowlers had little in common other than their weekly bowling. Secondly, the author uses bowling centers as a microcosm to the American Community. The declining commitment to league bowling was used to express a lowering of dedication to others in regards to relationships, time together, and many other components important to an ideal community.

What does all this mean to bowling center operators and customers? It is very clear. History is on our side and the four walls within the bowling center are an ideal representation of the American community. Though we won't solve any world issues, bowling centers can be the staple of the community where everyone comes together for a Fun experience and a little respite from everyday stuff. Invite everyone you know and let's get together.

Peace and Fun!

For responses and more information, contact:

Phil Goodman  
Figure 8 Networking  
C: (248) 210-3953  
E: f8nLeaders@gmail.com

## U.S. Open direct qualifiers introduced, site set for 2018

**ARLINGTON, Texas** - The United States Bowling Congress and the Bowling Proprietors' Association of America will introduce a special direct-qualifier program for the 2018 U.S. Open, which will be held at Northrock Lanes in Wichita, Kansas, the organizations announced Thursday.

The operation of the U.S. Women's Open and U.S. Open is a collaborative effort by USBC and BPAA and jointly funded by the two organizations. The 2018 U.S. Open will take place Oct. 24-31.

The direct-entry program for the 2018 tournament will give 10 BPAA bowling centers across the country the opportunity to host a qualifying event, from which one bowler can earn a spot in the U.S. Open field.

The centers will be able to determine the format, provided it includes at least nine games and is contested on a Sport Bowling-compliant lane condition. Direct qualifiers for the 2018 U.S. Open must be held between Nov. 1, 2017 and May 1, 2018.

The host centers for the direct qualifiers for the 2018 event will be:

- ☐ Lucky Strike Lanes, Malone, N.Y.
- ☐ Thunderbowl Lanes, Allen Park, Mich.
- ☐ Buffaloe Lanes Mebane, Mebane, N.C.
- ☐ Gaudé Lanes Bowling Center, Biloxi, Miss.
- ☐ Sparetime Lanes, Decatur, Ill.
- ☐ May City Bowl, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- ☐ International Training and Research Center, Arlington, Texas
- ☐ Golden Pin Lanes, Tucson, Ariz.

Please contact the centers directly for additional information. Two additional centers will be announced at a later date.

"We're looking forward to getting some of our centers involved in the U.S. Open and the new format, which we feel really has added even more prestige to a great event," BPAA President Nancy Schenk said. "Bowlers at the grassroots level from coast to coast will have a chance to join the select field, and we can't wait to see the response to these qualifiers."

The U.S. Open is a premier event for 144 of the best bowlers in the world, and Northrock Lanes already has been the backdrop for many great moments in recent bowling history.

In recent years, the center has been home to the Intercollegiate Team and Intercollegiate Singles Championships and welcomed the Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour. It also is scheduled to host the USBC Women's Championships in 2019.

"Wichita has a great local bowling community that will be excited and very welcoming to the competitors," said United States Bowling Congress President Frank Wilkinson. "As we build on the tradition of the U.S. Open, we're thankful to have Northrock Lanes and the Wichita community continue to play a vital role in professional bowling."

The 2017 U.S. Open, which introduces the new invitation-only format, is set for Oct. 25-Nov. 1 at the 40-lane Flamingo Bowl in Liverpool, New York.

The U.S. Open is revered for its challenging lane conditions and long format that includes 24 games of qualifying, an eight-game cashers' round and 24 games of round-robin match play, before the field is cut to the top five for the traditional stepladder finals.

The invitation-only field brings together the money leaders from the Professional Bowlers Association Tour and the top performers at a variety of USBC and international events, including the World Bowling Tour, Masters, USBC Open Championships, ISC sectional qualifiers and Junior Gold Championships.

Additional spots are awarded to the Team USA men and Junior Team USA boys, past U.S. Open winners and PBA regional leaders. An on-site qualifier (PTQ) each year will help complete the field.

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# MDUSBC 300 Games / 800 Series

## August 2017

Name	Date	Center	League
Craig Johnson	Aug 1 2017	Woodland Lanes	Woodland Inv Sum Trio
Christopher Emmett	Aug 1 2017	Woodland Lanes	Woodland Inv Sum Trio
Roger Bateman	Aug 1 2017	Woodland Lanes	Woodland Inv Sum Trio
Derrance Parker	Aug 2 2017	Bowl One Lanes	Michael & Friends
Derrick Burton	Aug 5 2017	Bronco	Bronco Mixed Doubles
Larry Walker	Aug 8 2017	Woodland Lanes	Woodland Inv Sum Trio
Alger Walker	Aug 8 2017	Woodland Lanes	Woodland Inv Sum Trio
Lonnie Lumpkin	Aug 9 2017	Rosebowl Lanes	Wednesday Summer Bowlers
Aaron Ennis	Aug 13 2017	Bonanza Lanes	Sunday Afternoon Mixed Travelers
Jimmie Burke	Aug 13 2017	Bronco	Bronco Mix Doubles
Robert Michaux Jr	Aug 14 2017	Bowl One Lanes	Gus Ponder Memorial
Stephen Carrier	Aug 15 2017	Five Star Lanes	Tuesday Trio
Stephen Carrier	Aug 15 2017	Five Star Lanes	Tuesday Trio
Dean Pitruzzello	Aug 15 2017	Harbor Lanes	Tuesday Summer Quad
Kyle Howard	Aug 20 2017	Bonanza Lanes	Sunday Afternoon Mixed Travelers
Clifford Outley	Aug 21 2017	Westland Bowl	T.C.A.C.
Clifford Outley	Aug 21 2017	Westland Bowl	T.C.A.C.
Mark Runson	Aug 22 2017	Five Star Lanes	Tuesday Trio
Michael McCleskey	Aug 28 2017	Bowl One Lanes	Gus Ponder Memorial
Anthony Wright	Aug 28 2017	Westland Bowl	T.C.A.C.
Anthony Wright	Aug 28 2017	Westland Bowl	T.C.A.C.
Kevin Bochenek	Aug 30 2017	Alley 59	Wednesday Inv Bowling Lge
Frank Robinson III	Aug 30 2017	Thunderbowl Lanes	Semi Seniors Invitational
Caitlyn Webb	Aug 30 2017	Vision Lanes	Wednesday Trio
Kevin Gray	Aug 31 2017	Shore Lanes	Shore Thursday Men
Ray Harrison Sr	Aug 31 2017	Shore Lanes	Shore Thursday Men
Michael Corkery	Aug 31 2017	Woodland Lanes	Woodland Thursday Night Men

Name	Score	Date	Center	League
Roger Bateman	836	Aug 1 2017	Woodland Lanes	Woodland Inv Sum Trio
Stephen Carrier	836	Aug 15 2017	Five Star Lanes	Tuesday Trio
Christopher Harper	834	Aug 15 2017	Woodland Lanes	Woodland Inv Sum Trio
Christopher Nielson	810	Aug 15 2017	Woodland Lanes	Woodland Inv Sum Trio
Clifford Outley	831	Aug 21 2017	Westland Bowl	T.C.A.C.
Ronald Bradley Jr	800	Aug 22 2017	Woodland Lanes	Woodland Inv Sum Trio
Michael McCleskey	836	Aug 28 2017	Bowl One Lanes	Gus Ponder Memorial
Anthony Wright	815	Aug 28 2017	Westland Bowl	T.C.A.C.



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# The Luck Factor in Bowling

## STRIKES ME

By Bob Johnson  
Bowlers Journal International



How does a man build a legacy in bowling? Some say it's based on the number of PBA titles one wins. Others opine that earnings represent the ultimate arbiter. Still others say it's all about winning multiple majors.

It's fairly easy to make a case for each of these contentions. Every sport is about winning, so quantifying greatness based on total titles won on the PBA Tour — the ultimate performance platform — certainly makes sense.

Those who contend that being a professional bowler is a business can make a compelling case that earnings matter the most.

And since majors are so difficult to win for a plethora of reasons, anyone who manages to nab more than a couple of them would have to rank among the greats of the game.

More recently, however, I've been coming around to a different way of thinking. I've been mulling the thought that total victories at all levels of PBA competition may be a good way to separate the best from the rest. In other words, add up all of a bowler's PBA titles — PBA Tour, regionals, PBA50 Tour and senior regionals — and let that number be the ultimate legacy maker.

My thought process on this matter revolves around one word: luck.

I can't think of another sport in which luck plays such a big role in the outcome of tournaments. Think about how many times the top seed in a PBA tournament ends up finishing second because by the time the championship match rolled around, the lane condition wasn't even close to that experienced during the practice session for the telecast, let alone during the tournament proper.

Think about how many times a bowler needed a mark in the 10th to win, choked, hit the nose, but somehow managed to break up a big split.

Conversely, think about how many times a bowler needed a strike in the 10th to win, absolutely pured the shot, and left either a pocket 7-10 or a stone-9 (or 8, for those of the south-paw persuasion). Bad luck probably has determined just as many titles as good luck.

The strength of the field in any given PBA tournament also can be a factor. Depending on scheduling, it's possible for a PBA50 regional tournament to have a field similar in strength to a PBA Tour event.

For example, when a PBA50 re-

gional is squeezed in between regular PBA50 Tour tournaments, its player roster could be packed with hall of famers. On the other hand, a whole lot of PBA Tour players stayed away from the Xtra Frame Billy Hardwick Classic because of the limitation it placed on the equipment that could be used. That was very good luck for the player who won it, Matt Sanders.

The USBC Masters provides another example of how luck plays a factor in bowling. Its double-elimination format is infamous for gobbling up leading qualifiers and spitting them out after only a few rounds of match play — Parker Bohn III being the most recent example in the 2017 Senior Masters.

The strength of the field may vary, but regardless of the level of PBA competition, there always will be a cadre of solid players in the field. That means winning won't be easy, especially if one happens to be experiencing some bad luck. For that reason, I've come to the conclusion that the total title count of Walter Ray Williams Jr. (101 through the Senior Masters) is even more impressive than his PBA Tour total of 47. I've also come to the conclusion that every PBA tournament title match — at whatever level — should begin with a handshake. But I would not think poorly of a player if he declined to say, "Good luck."

**Bob Johnson is Editor of Bowling Center Management and Senior Editor of Bowlers Journal International. He has won more than 70 national writing awards over the course of his career. For Bowlers Journal subscription information, visit [www.bowlersjournal.com](http://www.bowlersjournal.com).**

## Rhino Page Ends Title Slump

**COLDWATER, Ohio** — Rhino Page of Orlando, Fla., defeated rookie Chris Via of Springfield, Ohio, 190-173, to win his first Professional Bowlers Association singles title in nearly eight years in the PBA Xtra Frame Kenn-Feld Group Classic at Pla-Mor Lanes.

The Kenn-Feld Classic championship match reflected the challenging scoring environment, where strings of strikes were rare and spares were at a premium. Via, the tournament leader coming into the title match, left a 2-10 split and opened in the first frame. Page returned the favor, leaving a 3-7-9 split and opening in the sixth frame.

After a ball change that resulted in a cross-over strike, Page tacked on another for the only double of match, taking a six-pin lead. Via then left a 4-9 split in the ninth and opened again. Needing a double in the 10th to force Page to mark in his final frame, the former Notre Dame College two-handed player got the first strike but not the second.

All Page needed was seven pins to end his title slump, and he threw a strike to lock up his fifth career title.

"I can't even catch my breath," Page said. "It feels so wonderful, I can't even describe it. I can't thank the guys who helped me keep my head up the past seven years."

### Local cashers

Mason Brantley, Detroit, \$1,800.  
Tom Smallwood, Saginaw, \$1,400.  
Andrew Anderson, Holly, \$1,300.  
Frank Snodgrass, Center Line, \$1,025.  
Bo Goergen, Sanford, \$650.  
James Hennessey, Adrian, \$625.  
J.R. Raymond, Clinton Twp., \$600.

## LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR 2018 STATE TOURNAMENT

The Metro Detroit USBC will host the 2018 Michigan State USBC WBA Women's Championship at Airway Lanes and Century Bowl in Waterford.

MDUSBC will be responsible for conducting the 50/50, brackets and jackpots for the run of the tournament. The tournament starts in February and ends in May.

MDUSBC is looking for volunteers to assist in these responsibilities.

There are also tournament staff positions available.

If you are interested, please contact the MDUSBC office at (248) 443-2695.

## Top Reasons to be a member of the Metro Detroit USBC

1. Average Recognition
2. Bonding of league funds
3. Rules of the game
4. Assistance in resolving league issues
5. Equipment standards of the game
6. Bowling Showcase
7. Tournaments
8. Coaching
9. Charities
10. Bowling Showcase News
11. Awards
12. Member Rewards



## **2017 - 2018 SCHEDULE OF TOURNAMENTS**

### **MIXED**

Oct. 21, 22, 28, 29, 2017  
Nov. 11, 12, 18, 19, 2017  
HAZEL PARK BOWL, HAZEL PARK

### **QUEENS**

Oct. 21, 22, 2017  
CLASSIC LANES, ROCHESTER HILLS

### **SUPER SENIOR MASTERS**

Nov. 4, 5, 2017  
HAZEL PARK BOWL, HAZEL PARK

### **YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP**

Nov. 5, 12, 19, 2017  
Dec. 3, 10, 2017  
WAYNE BOWL, WAYNE

### **500 CLUB**

Dec. 3, 2017  
AIRWAY LANES, WATERFORD

### **MASTERS**

Jan. 27, 28, 2018  
THUNDERBOWL LANES, ALLEN PARK

### **SENIOR MASTERS**

Feb. 10, 11, 17, 2018  
MAYFLOWER LANES, REDFORD

### **WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP**

Feb. 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 2018  
March 3, 4, 10, 11, 2018  
SHORE LANES, ST. CLAIR SHORES

### **OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP**

Feb. 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 2018  
March 3, 4, 10, 11, 2018  
SHORE LANES, ST. CLAIR SHORES

### **ADULT / YOUTH BAKER**

March 4, 11, 2018  
COUNTRY LANES, FARMINGTON

### **SENIOR TEAM**

March 10, 17, 24, 2018  
SKORE LANES, TAYLOR

### **JUNIOR MASTERS**

March 17, 2018  
MAYFLOWER LANES

### **WOMEN'S SERIES**

Oct. 14, 2017 - HAZEL PARK BOWL  
Nov. 19, 2017 - MAYFLOWER LANES  
Dec. 10, 2017 - SUPER BOWL  
Jan. 14, 2018 - AIRWAY LANES  
March 11, 2018 - MAYFLOWER LANES  
April 8, 2018 - FORD LANES  
May 6, 2018 - SHELBY LANES