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OPEN
CHAMPIONSHIPS
Baton Rouge 2025



2025
USBC OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS
PROGRAM



2025 BowlTV SCHEDULE

Dates subject to change

MARCH

March 3-20	PBA World Series of Bowling XVI*
March 7-9	ITC Sectionals - Region 1 (Addison, Ill.)
March 7-9	ITC Sectionals - Region 2 (Allen Park, Mich.)
March 7-9	ITC Sectionals - Region 3 (Smyrna, Tenn.)
March 7-9	ITC Sectionals - Region 4 (Dallas)
March 14-15	PBA Jr. National Championship*
March 16	PWBA Albany Regional
March 21-23	SWAC Championship
March 23-28	USBC Masters*

APRIL

April 7-11	PBA Players Championship*
April 9-13	USBC Senior Queens
April 12	PWBA Eastern Pennsylvania Regional
April 14	PBA Hall of Fame Banquet
April 14-17	PBA Tournament of Champions*
April 15-16	Intercollegiate Singles Championships*
April 17-18	Intercollegiate Team Championships*

MAY

May 5-8	USBC Convention
May 8-10	PWBA Topeka Open
May 14-19	USBC Queens*
May 23-26	U22 Queens and Masters
May 28-29	PWBA Greater Cleveland Open
May 28-June 1	USBC Super Senior Classic
May 30-31	PWBA BowlTV Open

JUNE

June 1-2	PWBA Rock 'n' Roll Open
June 2-8	USBC Senior Masters
June 5-7	PWBA Waterloo Open
June 10-16	U.S. Women's Open*

JULY

July 9-10	USA Bowling National Championships*
July 9-13	PWBA Green Bay Open
July 11-19	Junior Gold Championships - Youth*
July 13	Junior Gold Championships - Opening
July 24-27	PBA/PWBA Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles

For the full schedule, visit BowlTV.com.

PBA Regional, PBA Jr. and more events to be added.

BowlTV is the exclusive home of the PWBA, PBA and PBA50.



* Finals on National TV. Please check your local TV station for times.

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THE RETURN TO RED STICK

The USBC Open Championships previously visited Baton Rouge in 2005 and 2012, and those events also were contested inside the Raising Cane’s River Center. It’s always a treat to compete inside a specially constructed venue for the tournament, and it took just over two months to turn this open convention center space into a state-of-the-art bowling venue.

This transformation features 54 lanes, office space for the tournament staff, vendor row – featuring the latest and greatest for all your bowling needs from our great partners – enough wiring to cover 10 miles and hardware to build four two-bedroom houses. Once the final ball is rolled, our team will return the River Center to its natural state (in just eight days) with all salvageable materials from the build being donated to the local Habitat for Humanity ReStore.

The 2005 (13,222) and 2012 (11,794) events each produced big team counts, and we are thrilled for another great showing in 2025. We are expecting more than 11,500 teams and 57,500 bowlers across 150 days to compete for titles in three average-based divisions (Regular, Standard, Classified).

We’ll have to wait and see who will post the big scores in 2025, but we can look back at some of the moments and numbers that helped define the tournament’s last two visits to Red Stick. In addition to the impressive team tallies, a total of 31 300 games were rolled across those two events (12 in 2005 and 19 in 2012) and two 800s – both taking place in 2012.

Henry Teetz III finished with exactly 800 to win Regular Singles in 2012, and Matt McNiel – now a five-time Eagle winner – rolled games of 268, 300 and 279 on the way to an 847 series to claim Regular Doubles with three-time champion Charles Vashaw (1,489) and Regular All-Events (2,202).

Fun facts for McNiel: The 800 in 2012 marked McNiel’s third 800 at the Open Championships and second of three wins in Regular All-Events – he’s the only bowler in tournament history to accomplish both of those feats.

In 2005, the excitement was highlighted by USBC Hall of Famer Jeff Richgels and Steve Richter winning a pair of titles in Baton Rouge. They combined for a 1,500 total to win Regular Doubles and helped Smith Barney #1 – also featuring USBC Hall of Famer Mike Shady, Marc McDowell and Gail Myers Jr. – record the victory in Team All-Events with a 9,698 total.

Richgels now owns five titles at the Open Championships, and Richter has three wins. Shady, McDowell and Myers each have a pair of Eagles.

While 32 Eagles will make their way to well-earned homes at the end of the 2025 event, we also know you’ll be looking to have some fun during your trip.

That’s why we worked with our friends at Visit Baton Rouge to help put together a list of some of the top spots to

Welcome to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, for the 2025 United States Bowling Congress Open Championships! We are excited to bring the 121st edition of the event back to The Capital City for the third time in tournament history!

Louisiana’s State Capitol





Raising Cane's River Center

enjoy all that the area has to offer. We encourage you to head to VisitBatonRouge.com to tailor your trip for you and your teammates, but while you're flipping through this book, be sure to put some of these spots near the top of your list.

MUSEUMS AND HISTORY

- **Capitol Park Museum:** Located across from the State Capitol Building, the Capitol Park Museum celebrates Louisiana's rich history, culture and natural wonders and is the only Louisiana State Museum in Baton Rouge.
- **USS KIDD Veterans Museum:** This inspirational venue is located across the street from the River Center and pays tribute to the USS KIDD (Fletcher-class destroyer from World War II that has been restored back to its 1945 configuration) and Louisiana veterans of all service branches. The USS KIDD was removed from its cradle for repairs in April 2024, but the "Pirate of the Pacific" is expected to return and be available to tour in the spring of 2025. The museum will be open throughout the 2025 Open Championships, however.
- **Louisiana's Old State Capitol:** Just down the street from the River Center, Louisiana's Old State Capitol is a National Historic Landmark that was the former statehouse. It now serves as a museum showcasing the state's political history and is renowned for its architecture.

CASINOS

- **The Queen:** Baton Rouge's first land-based casino, The Queen is about a mile away from the River Center and has more than 700 slots, 18 tables and a sportsbook to watch your favorite team. There are four restaurants inside, including 1717 – the winner of a Diners' Choice Award in 2024 and home to weekly live performances on its interior stage.
- **Belle of Baton Rouge:** Sitting across the street from the

River Center, the Belle of Baton Rouge is a familiar stop for those who competed in 2005 and 2012. Although The Belle will be under construction early in the year, be on the lookout for a new experience during the 2025 event.

- **L'Auberge Casino Hotel:** South of downtown and on the banks of the Mississippi River, L'Auberge is a 74,000-square-foot venue featuring more than 50 table games and 1,000 slots. Five restaurants are on-site, and their event center seats 1,600 to showcase some of your favorite musicians and comedians.

SPORTING EVENTS, GOLF AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

- **Baton Rouge Zydeco:** Professional hockey is back in Baton Rouge and next door at the River Center Arena. The Zydeco joined the Federal Prospects Hockey League to debut during the 2023-2024 season, and regular-season games will be taking place at the River Center Arena through the middle of April.
- **Topgolf Baton Rouge:** A new attraction since 2012, this facility includes three levels and 72 all-weather bays for a multitude of unique games, food and fun.
- **Hitting the Links:** Baton Rouge and its surrounding areas feature more than 30 courses. Keep an eye on the Audobon Golf Trail.
- **Swamp Tours:** Take in the bayou and explore the area's natural surroundings. Find the tour that's perfect for your group.

RESTAURANTS

- **Phil's Oyster Bar and Seafood Restaurant:** Established in 1950, Phil's is known for serving fresh local seafood, Italian and New Orleans-style dishes, and you can't leave without trying their charbroiled oysters. It's a great spot to catch a game, too.
- **Perkins Overpass Area:** Featuring a little bit of everything, this area has nearly 20 restaurants to satisfy

every taste bud. From DiGiulio Brothers Italian Café to Frankie's Dawg House, Parrain's Seafood Restaurant to Schlitz & Giggles and more, be sure to find a spot to enjoy along this eclectic stretch.

- **The Chimes:** With a pair of locations in Baton Rouge, The Chimes is a local and LSU staple bringing favorite local dishes from their made-from-scratch menu. These spots also have a hearty beer and spirit list to wet your whistle.

BARS, BREWS AND MORE

- **The Bulldog:** Let's talk about beer. The Bulldog has approximately 80 beers on draft, with a mix of local and craft options and more than 150 bottled beers available, too. This spot also is known for having some of the best bar food in town with a great outdoor patio and beer-tap fountain.
- **Don Juan Cigar Bar:** With Louisiana's largest walk-in humidor, Don Juan Cigar Bar has an exquisite selection of premium cigars curated for many palates. The team will help you find the perfect cigar, and the facility also has your favorite cocktails available to relax in style.
- **BR.cade:** This 21-and-older spot in Mid City features all your favorite arcade games restored and ready to go. BR.cade offers a full menu of drink choices, and they also have a workshop on-site, so new machines are constantly being brought into the rotation.
- **Cypress Coast Brewing Company:** Mid City's craft brewery always has something new on tap. They're getting a bigger facility in 2025, too, so be on the lookout for not only new brews, but trivia and game nights as well.

LSU AND SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

- **Tiger Stadium:** Also known as Death Valley, the home to LSU's football team can hold more than 100,000 spectators and first opened its gates in 1924. On gamedays during the football season, Tiger Stadium becomes the fifth-largest city in Louisiana.
- **Mike the Tiger's Habitat:** Home to a live Bengal tiger that represents LSU's athletic program, this 15,000-square-foot environment is considered a world-class habitat and available to view free of charge.
- **Human Jukebox:** Southern's marching band is renowned as one of the top programs in the country and has performed around the world.

In addition to all this excitement in Baton Rouge, another city in Louisiana known for having a little fun is about an hour away – New Orleans. We're sure many will make their way to experience the incredible culture and history found in the Crescent City and enjoy the famed French Quarter neighborhood with a stroll down Bourbon Street or a beignet at Café du Monde.

We always encourage you to consult with the experts, though, so head over to NewOrleans.com to plan your excursion.

We hope everyone enjoys their time both on the lanes and in Louisiana, and we'll be sharing our own highlights across our social media channels during the tournament, too.

Want to follow along? The tournament's official Facebook page is [USBC- Open Championships \(Facebook.com/USBCOpenChamp\)](https://www.facebook.com/USBCOpenChamp), and you also can find us on Instagram (@[openchampionships](https://www.instagram.com/openchampionships)) and X (@[USBC_OC](https://twitter.com/USBC_OC)).

Get ready for Red Stick and an unforgettable experience at the 2025 Open Championships!



Horace Wilkinson Bridge over the Mississippi River



Old State Capitol

NEW SQUAD TIMES IN 2025

We're sure your team captain told you, but there are new squad times for the 2025 Open Championships. Take a look at the daily schedule in Baton Rouge:

- 7 a.m. – Doubles and Singles
- 11:30 a.m. – Team
- 3:15 p.m. – Doubles and Singles
- 7:45 p.m. – Team
- 11:30 p.m. – Doubles and Singles

CHANGES AHEAD IN 2026

In October 2024, USBC made an announcement noting several adjustments to the tournament structure at the Open Championships. These adjustments will be introduced at the 2026 event, so be sure to let your teammates know what's new when the tournament returns to Reno next year.

The key changes include:

- An adjustment to the average ranges for each of the tournament's three divisions.
- An increase in the entry fee, which goes solely to the prize fund.
- An adjustment to the rules for team/doubles composition impacting past national team members, collegiate athletes and professional bowlers age 60 and older.

All of the details can be found at BOWL.com/OpenChamp under **Information**, or you can check out the **press release and FAQ** by scanning this QR code.



FOLLOW US

In addition to the latest news and notes, the tournament's social media channels also are the place to follow more of the tournament experience around the dynamic Raising Cane's River Center and check out highlights around lively Baton Rouge.

Follow along to see the latest in your feeds! Scan the QR codes with your camera to visit our pages!

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The 2024 United States Bowling Congress Open Championships featured memorable moments from start to finish as 11,012 teams and more than 55,000 bowlers traveled to Las Vegas and the South Point Bowling Plaza.

When the final ball was rolled July 29, 32 bowlers were able to revel in victory, whether the wait lasted several months or just a couple hours.

Four of those 32 competitors – Derek Magno (Regular All-Events) and teammates Joe Bailey, Dan Higgins Jr. and Chad Roberts (Team All-Events) – were able to add another Eagle to their collection, while the other top finishers were able to experience the thrill of championship glory at the tournament for the first time.

Learn more about the excitement in Las Vegas for the 2024 USBC Open Championships!

HIGGY'S RETURNS TO WINNER'S CIRCLE IN TEAM ALL-EVENTS

The crew that makes up Higgy's Aquarium is considered a contender each year at the Open Championships, and the team shined once again to claim the title in Team All-Events in 2024.

The 2024 squad – featuring Chad Roberts, Vincent Bellar, Tim Pfeifer, Joe Bailey and Dan Higgins Jr. – took the lead by nearly 140 pins after posting a combined total of 10,226, and they held onto the top spot by more than 100 pins when the 120th edition of the Open Championships came to a close in late July.

All five members contributed at least 2,000 to the winning

effort, with Bellar pacing Higgy's in 2024 with 2,111. Bailey had 2,056, Pfeifer rolled to 2,051, Higgins finished with 2,008 and Roberts recorded 2,000.

Bellar kicked off their team performance with 300, which doubled as the 1,000th perfect game in tournament history. The team finished tied for eighth in Regular Team in 2024 with 3,282.

They added 3,449 in doubles and 3,495 in singles to average more than 227 as a team across 45 games and two oil patterns at the Bowling Plaza.

As mentioned, the victory now gives Bailey, Higgins and Roberts three Eagles each at the Open Championships. The trio helped Higgy's Aquarium to the Team All-Events win in 2016 and Regular Team title in 2019 (also at South Point). After close calls in the past, both Bellar and Pfeifer recorded their first wins at the Open Championships.

DOWN TO THE WIRE FOR HOLLINGSWORTH IN REGULAR SINGLES

Let's face facts – it's exciting to beat the buzzer. The equivalent at the Open Championships is taking the lead on the final day of competition – which is exactly what Jason Hollingsworth achieved during his performance on the second-to-last squad of the 2024 event to win Regular Singles.

After posting 277 in his final game of doubles for a 673 series, Hollingsworth started his singles set with games of 289 and 257. He started Game 3 with seven strikes before a single-pin spare in the eighth set the stage for the dramatic finish.

Hollingsworth, of Oregon City, Oregon, needed strikes on his next three deliveries for the chance to go around the 815 posted by Brad Miller of Lee's Summit, Missouri. He rolled the necessary strikes and added one more on his fill ball (needing one pin to take the lead) to finish with 279 for an 825 series.

The right-hander averaged more than 275 during his final four games at the Bowling Plaza, and the moment was made even sweeter for Hollingsworth by sharing it with his teammates, including USBC and Professional Bowlers Association Hall of Famer Dave Husted.

MAGNO IS MAGNIFICENT ON WAY TO REGULAR ALL-EVENTS WIN

Derek Magno's resume at the Open Championships already spoke for itself before he laced up his shoes for his appearance in 2024.

The right-hander claimed victory with his Mento Produce teammates in Team All-Events at the 2019 event, and he has produced a pair of 300 games on the championship lanes (2019 and 2022). In 2022, the group broke the Team All-Events record with a 10,444 total to best a score that had stood since 1996, ultimately finishing in third place.

He added onto his legacy with another big performance at South Point in 2024, rolling sets of 779 in singles, 761 in doubles and 715 in team for a 2,255 total to win Regular All-Events.

Magno, of Cicero, New York, averaged more than 250 across his nine games at the Bowling Plaza and more than 256 in minors. After starting his team event with 192, Magno's next-lowest game was 233, and he had five games of 255 or more to also finish the year in the top 20 in Regular Team (14th), Regular Singles (15th) and Team All-Events (16th).

EVANS AND FISHER CLAIM THE TOP SPOT IN REGULAR DOUBLES

A fast start and big finish helped Shawn Evans of Titusville, Florida, and Nicholas Fisher of Palm Bay, Florida, earn the victory in Regular Doubles at the 2024 Open Championships with an impressive 1,531 total – the sixth highest combined score in tournament history.

Evans fired 299 in Game 1, while Fisher added 260 for a 559 start. The pair added 458 in Game 2 (259 for Evans and 199 for Fisher) and finished with 514 (268 for Fisher and 246 for Evans) to get to the top spot.

Evans finished the set with an 804 series, and Fisher, making his tournament debut, posted 727.

Both Evans and Fisher struck on their first delivery in the final frame, which helped secure the lead in early April and hold off a late charge in July by Derek Graves of Spring Grove, Virginia, and Adam Jozwiak of Akron, New York, who finished second with 1,528.

The pairing in 2024 marked the first time Evans and Fisher had bowled doubles together, and both were substitutes in their group at the Open Championships.

CLOSE COMPETITION IN REGULAR TEAM

We'll dive deeper into the victory for Before the 1st Frame #4 in Regular Team starting on Page 17, but the challenging team pattern in 2024 provided plenty of excitement coming down the stretch at South Point.

While 3,373 ended as the winning tally, four other teams finished within 32 pins of the number. The last time the top five in Regular Team was that tight was at the 2017 Open Championships (first trip to the Bowling Plaza) when 27 pins separated first from fifth. Check out entire top five on Page 15.

SECURING VICTORIES IN THE STANDARD DIVISION

Matt Garcia of Long Beach, California, authored the first all-events score north of 2,000 in the young history of the Standard Division to earn the title at the 2024 Open Championships, finishing with a 2,003 total at South Point.

After posting 542 in team, Garcia got lined up in minors to fire sets of 743 in singles and 718 in doubles. The big day also helped him finished second in Standard Singles and Standard Doubles (with his brother, Darren Garcia – 1,292).

The top score in Standard Singles belonged to Michael



Jason Hollingsworth



Derek Magno



Higgy's Aquarium (from left): Chad Roberts, Vincent Bellar, Tim Pfeifer, Joe Bailey and Dan Higgins Jr.



Nicholas Fisher and Shawn Evans

added scores of 175, 234 and 235 for 644.

In Standard Team, the members of Team Bel Aire Drive of Mequon, Wisconsin, held the lead for more than three months to claim the victory with a 2,848 total. After starting their set with games of 896 and 886, the group finished strong with 1,066.

David Wentlandt led the charge for Team Bel Aire Drive with a 644 series and was joined at South Point by Samuel Weber (636), Steven Weber (624), Randy Weber (569) and Bryce Wentlandt (375).

CHAMPIONSHIP PERFORMANCES IN THE CLASSIFIED DIVISION

The waiting game was in effect for three of the four champions in the Classified Division at the 2024 Open Championships – the winners in Classified Doubles, Team and Singles all bowled in the first 90 days of the 158-day event.

The longest wait in 2024 belonged to Punsal Grish of Aurora, Colorado, and James Bayarsaikhan of Centennial, Colorado. The pair took the lead in Classified Doubles with 1,149 on March 31 and retained the top spot for nearly four months.

Grish had games of 214, 184 and 206 in the performance for a 604 series, and Bayarsaikhan improved each game, rolling scores of 166, 180 and 199 for 545.

A week later, the members of Hansen Hardscapes of Alexandria, Minnesota, put together the top score in Classified Team with a 2,607 total. The group had games of 957, 812 and 838 to record the win by 89 pins.

Eric Ohlrogge had 605 to lead Hansen Hardscapes and was joined by Jessica Cook (537), Christopher Cook (527), Ashley Ohlrogge (502) and Lauren Johnson (436).

Jason Sarno of Erie, Colorado, had more than two months at the top of the leaderboard in Classified Singles, earning the victory with a 633 series.

Humphrys of Milwaukie, Oregon, with 745. Humphrys found his rhythm in singles after struggling in doubles, improving by 363 pins with games of 244, 255 and 246 on the way to victory.

A father-and-son pairing – Gary and Shane Goldermann – earned the top spot in Standard Doubles with a final score of 1,319. They also were the only tandem to eclipse 1,300 in Standard Doubles in 2024.

Shane, of Ault, Colorado, rolled games of 214, 215 and 246 for a 675 series in the effort. Gary, of Keenesburg, Colorado,



Ryan May and Frankie May Jr.

Sarno had steady games at the Bowling Plaza, posting scores of 206, 211 and 216.

The top score in Classified All-Events was posted in early July, as Aider Xiong of Maplewood, Minnesota, recorded the win with a 1,729 total in Las Vegas.

Xiong had 623 in doubles, 592 in team and 514 in singles during his tournament debut.

MAJOR MILESTONES IN LAS VEGAS

The 2024 Open Championships honored several incredible competitors for their longevity and skill at South Point, highlighted by USBC and PBA Hall of Famer Glenn Allison of Corona, California, breaking the tournament's participation record with his 72nd appearance. Learn more about Allison's historic career on Page 24.

Two bowlers – Frankie May Jr. of Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania, and John Kerpan of Waukegan, Illinois – joined the 100,000-Pin Club in 2024, bringing the exclusive group to 31 members.

May earned his crystal pin during his 57th appearance at the Open Championships and now sits at 101,018 pins for a career average of 196.9. Kerpan celebrated a pair of milestones in 2024, as he also made his 60th tournament appearance. Kerpan now has a career pinfall of 100,284 for a lifetime average of 186.7.

Along with Kerpan, three additional bowlers celebrated 60 years on the tournament lanes in 2024 – Robert Brissette of Petersburg, Michigan; Dale Diamond of Chatham, Illinois; and 1971 Team All-Events champion Wayne Hutchinson of Franklin Park, Illinois.

A total of 36 bowlers have made 60 or more appearances at the Open Championships. The 2024 event also had 23 bowlers celebrate 50 years of participation, bringing the all-time total to 355.



John Kerpan

BIG-TIME PERFORMANCES

Along with the winning scores and major milestones, competitors posted big numbers across the board during the 2024 Open Championships.

A total of 10 bowlers achieved an 800 series at the Bowling Plaza, with five taking place in singles, four in doubles and one in team (Joe Meier of Kenosha, Wisconsin, rolled the lone 800 in team, finishing with 801).

The top series for the year belonged to Brandon Bonta of Wichita, Kansas, with 837 in doubles (279-259-299). Bonta, a collegiate standout at Wichita State and past member of Team USA and Junior Team USA, joined his father – Kelly Bonta – on the honor score list at the Open Championships. Kelly is one of 43 competitors at the tournament with multiple 300s.

Speaking of 300s, 36 bowlers reached perfection during their time at the 2024 Open Championships.

While every 300 has its own story to tell, Tina Williams' perfect game in doubles served as a first at the tournament and allowed her to share the spotlight with her husband – two-time PBA Tour champion Stu Williams.

Tina created a new entry in the record book for both the Open Championships and USBC Women's Championships, becoming the first competitor to roll a 300 game at each event. She posted her 300 at the Women's Championships during the 2021 event.

She also joined Stu with a perfect performance at the 2024 event. He rolled his 300 during singles on the way to an 805 series and finished the tournament as the runner-up in Regular All-Events, fourth in Regular Singles and fifth in Regular Doubles (with David Bartlett).

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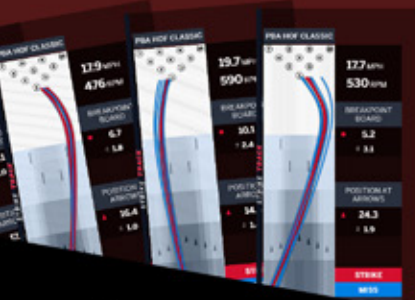


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THE TOP PERFORMERS FROM THE 2024 OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

More than 55,000 competitors made their way to the South Point Bowling Plaza in Las Vegas to compete at the 2024 Open Championships. Here's a look at the top five in each of the tournament's three average-based divisions.

REGULAR DIVISION

Team (combined averages of 876 and above)

1. Before the 1st Frame #4, Huntersville, N.C., 3,373
2. Trip 4 Pro Shop, St. Clair Shores, Mich., 3,363
3. Triangle Bowl 2, Kelso, Wash., 3,352
4. Top Score Bowling, Whitestown, Ind., 3,350
5. Team H5G, Ocala, Fla., 3,341

Doubles (combined averages of 351 and above)

1. Shawn Evans, Titusville, Fla., and Nicholas Fisher, Palm Bay, Fla., 1,531
2. Adam Jozwiak, Akron, N.Y., and Derek Graves, Spring Grove, Va., 1,528
3. Tim Heimann, St. Louis, and Jonathan Heimann, Troy, Ill., 1,515
4. Ethan Evans, Rogers, Ark., and Mark Clark, Charlotte, N.C., 1,484
5. Stu Williams, Pflugerville, Texas, and David Bartlett, Bloomington, Ill., 1,476

Singles (averages of 176 and above)

1. Jason Hollingsworth, Oregon City, Ore., 825
2. Brad Miller, Lee's Summit, Mo., 815
3. Joe Barket, Morro Bay, Calif., 806
4. Stu Williams, Pflugerville, Texas, 805
5. Kevin McCune, Munster, Ind., 801

All-Events (averages of 176 and above)

1. Derek Magno, Cicero, N.Y., 2,255
2. Stu Williams, Pflugerville, Texas, 2,245
3. David Jecko, Whitesboro, N.Y., 2,217
4. Daniel Vick, Pittsford, N.Y., 2,194
5. Mike Conn, Savannah, Ga., 2,192

Team All-Events (combined all-events totals of all five team members; includes teams in each division)

1. Higgy's Aquarium, Lewis Center, Ohio, 10,226
2. Before the 1st Frame #4, Huntersville, N.C., 10,120
3. Top Score Bowling, Whitestown, Ind., 10,087
4. Team NABR, Fairport, N.Y., 10,065
- T5. Maximum Potential Pro Shop, Rome, N.Y., 10,032
- T5. BowlU #1, Blasdel, N.Y., 10,032

STANDARD DIVISION

Team (combined averages of 776-875)

1. Team Bel Aire Drive, Mequon, Wis., 2,848
2. TP's Pro Shop 11, Cicero, Ill., 2,825
3. Alan Brunelle Team 2, Attleboro, Mass., 2,815
4. Leave Your Mark Pro Shop #2, Keller, Texas, 2,810
5. Champion Inc., Griffith, Ind., 2,801

Doubles (combined averages of 311-350)

1. Gary Goldermann, Keenesburg, Colo., and Shane Goldermann, Ault, Colo., 1,319
2. Darren Garcia and Matt Garcia, Long Beach, Calif., 1,292
3. John Barnett, Marshfield, Mo., and David Arnall, Springfield, Mo., 1,260

4. Glenn Hashizumi, Binghamton, N.Y., and Kenneth Coy, Inver Grove Heights, Minn., 1,246
5. Courtney Hayes, Thornton, Colo., and Matthew Johnson, Brighton, Colo., 1,244

Singles (averages of 156-175)

1. Michael Humphrys, Milwaukie, Ore., 745
2. Matt Garcia, Long Beach, Calif., 743
3. Adriana Sheck, Frederick, Md., 733
4. Garrett Preszler, Redlands, Calif., 729
5. Paul Myrick, Murray, Ky., 707

All-Events (averages of 156-175)

1. Matt Garcia, Long Beach, Calif., 2,003
2. Jeffrey Robinson, Westerville, Ohio, 1,957
3. Douglas Moore, Loveland, Ohio, 1,920
4. Luke Brown, Saratoga Springs, Utah, 1,885
5. Rudy Crisolo Jr., Woodland, Calif., 1,879

CLASSIFIED DIVISION

Team (combined averages of 775 and below)

1. Hansen Hardscapes, Alexandria, Minn., 2,607
2. Peter Jones Team 1, New Castle, Ind., 2,518
3. Chiefs, Bogota, N.J., 2,462
4. Kool Runnings 2, Oxnard, Calif., 2,459
5. Strike Out Cancer Team 5, Long Beach, Calif., 2,457

Doubles (combined averages of 310 and below)

1. James Bayarsaikhan, Centennial, Colo., and Punsal Grish, Aurora, Colo., 1,149
2. Richard Petri, Kuna, Idaho, and Renee Hand, Meridian, Idaho, 1,121
3. Dustin Keener and Patrick Lowendick, Cleveland, Ga., 1,114
4. Matt Parker, Monett, Mo., and Marc Bagley, Carrollton, Mo., 1,109
5. Rick Padilla, Wallace, Calif., and Brian Lutrania, Stockton, Calif., 1,107

Singles (averages of 155 and below)

1. Jason Sarno, Erie, Colo., 633
2. Benjamin Klawitter, Brooklyn, Conn., 628
3. David Hunnicutt Jr., Thomaston, Ga., 626
4. Bobby Patel, King City, Calif., 622
5. Mark Blocher, Porter, Okla., 620

All-Events (averages of 155 and below)

1. Aider Xiong, Maplewood, Minn., 1,729
2. Leon Gibson, Albany, Ga., 1,725
3. Sean Badger, Ogden, Utah, 1,718
4. Karl Hamm, Camarillo, Calif., 1,700
5. Nathan Som, Pendleton, Ore., 1,699

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BUILDING THE BOND

The members of Before the 1st Frame #4 delivered a memorable win in a closely contested race for the top spot in Regular Team at the 2024 USBC Open Championships.



Before the 1st Frame #4 (from left): Matt Fitch, Steven Zimmer, Jacob Yazell, Mike Conn and Tim Foy Jr.

There's no shortage of talent at the Open Championships. Strong players walk through the doors each day to lace up their shoes on bowling's biggest stage in search of the right combination to put together a memorable performance.

It's amplified at the team level. Talent certainly gets you in the conversation, but the additional elements of chemistry, cohesion and trust are needed as well to create the perfect blend.

Sometimes, that blend takes years to cultivate. In other instances, the mix is just right from the start.

The members of Before the 1st Frame #4 – Matt Fitch, Steven Zimmer, Jacob Yazell, Mike Conn and Tim Foy Jr. – fit in the latter distinction, and now they get to share a spot in the tournament's storied history as the 2024 Regular Team champion.

The group's performance in 2024 came down to the final frame as they moved into the lead at the South Point Bowling Plaza, which also is where the journey began three years to the day in Las Vegas.

July 2, 2021

Only two of the five soon-to-be teammates happened to be in Las Vegas this day – Zimmer and Foy. Both were new to the Before the 1st Frame group – organized by Chris Hans – and both closed their event strong that day on different

teams. Zimmer bounced back to finish with 279, while Foy connected for 300.

Hans and his teammates on Before the 1st Frame #1 also had some excitement brewing that Friday as they took over the lead in Regular Team at South Point to eventually claim the title with a 3,400 total.

While the world watched that moment on the tournament's official Facebook page – including Dennis Killough's famous bucket that wasn't and Kyle Troup striking out to secure the top score – you also could notice both Foy and Zimmer intently watching the action unfold.

"I had a front-row seat to watch them do that," Zimmer said. "I was right next to them watching the bucket crumble. It was a great experience to be there and watch it all."

With the Open Championships returning in 2021 after the tournament was canceled in 2020, Hans' group served as a landing spot for both players to compete in Las Vegas.

"My team didn't go that year, and I didn't want to miss a year, so I saw an opportunity to go with Hans' group," Zimmer said. "I didn't know Tim at the time. That year, we both bowled well. Hans looked at us and said let's put you two together to get another good team in. My guys wanted to come back – Fitch, Conn and Brett (Shepherd) – and I talked to Tim and told him I wouldn't steer him wrong."

"I was with another group, and during the COVID year,



More than 11,000 teams competed in Las Vegas during the 2024 Open Championships.

my group decided not to go," Foy said. "Chris Hans said he could use another bowler, so I said I'd go. I bowled on a different team and ended up bowling 300. The following year, I went to a pretty strong team by joining Zimmer, Fitch, Conn and Brett Shepherd. I didn't really know them that well – we truly met the day we bowled team event in the squad room. But, the way we communicated, got together and got along ... if you had just seen us, you wouldn't have known we had just met that day."

From Hans' perspective, the mix fit perfectly as part of his talented crew of teams.

"The first team that we had Tim bowl with in 2021 had a couple members that weren't able to return the following year, so that team kind of dismantled," Hans said. "At the same time, our Kentucky crew needed someone to fill a team. I believe the initial conversations about having Tim join those guys started even way back at that point.

"Our group places a lot of emphasis on styles of bowler, types of lane play and how they may help or possibly even hurt other bowlers on a pair or team. I knew the core of that team had built some very good chemistry over the years, so I wanted someone in that spot that blended in with those guys. Aside from that, those guys already had a lot of respect for Tim and his accomplishments even before they had met. If you didn't know any better while watching that team over the past couple of years, you would think that they had all known each other for many years."

As Hans mentioned, the Kentucky crew of Zimmer, Fitch, Conn and Shepherd had built plenty of familiarity through their time competing in the Louisville area. Zimmer, Fitch and Conn also bowled collegiately at Morehead State University and were all part of the 2011-2012 team that advanced to the Intercollegiate Team Championships.

Foy joined the group from Seaford, Delaware, but had been working his way toward the national spotlight on the

Professional Bowlers Association Tour, advancing to his first TV show during the East Region finals at the 2021 PBA Players Championship.

The new team didn't disappoint in its first appearance on the lanes, either. Returning to the Bowling Plaza in 2022, they had the lead in sight heading into the final frames before ultimately finishing the year in a tie for 19th place with 3,356.

"Bowling with those guys locally, we had an idea of what each other could do and knew how to help each other out," Fitch said. "When you have someone you don't know, you don't always know how they're going to respond to feedback or what kind of feedback they'll give you. Tim never missed a beat. It's almost like we had all been friends forever."

Finding a Fifth

Shepherd was unable to join the team at the 2023 Open Championships in Reno, Nevada, but a last-minute substitute helped them to a 3,098 total.

The team again was down to four players as their competition dates were creeping up for the 2024 event. As they continued discussing potential candidates for the fifth spot in their group chat, Yazell entered the picture after crossing paths with Zimmer.

"I walked into a bowling center here in Louisville and saw Jacob Yazell – he was a really good collegiate bowler, bowled well at Junior Gold and just throws it really great," Zimmer said. "I saw him and went, 'Holy crap. I don't think Jacob has a team.' I didn't even ask the guys. I asked him if he wanted to bowl with us at nationals."

Yazell, who also competed at Morehead State, wasn't planning to bowl at the Open Championships in 2024. The timing of the group's dates also made his journey to Las Vegas tricky, but he was on board.

"It was probably a month before the event," Yazell said. "I

had not planned on bowling with everything I had going on. They asked me, so I talked to my fiancée to see, but I knew we had a family vacation the week before that.

"I went on the family vacation, and we were supposed to get back on July 1, and of course, we bowled on July 2. On July 1, I drove from Orange Beach, Alabama, all the way back to Louisville. I caught a flight at 8 p.m. and had a layover in Denver that ended up getting canceled to the next morning. By the time we got there, there was no point in getting a hotel room, so I slept in the airport. I arrived in Las Vegas at like 8 a.m., got breakfast and then took a nap before we bowled our team squad."

Although the travel plans didn't allow Yazell much time to acclimate prior to taking the lanes in Las Vegas, the communication between the teammates was ramped up through their group chat as they narrowed down bowling ball selections for the trip and a strategy for lane play.

Foy jumped in without hesitation as he welcomed his new teammate.

"I didn't know who Jacob was, but I knew if they trusted Jacob, I had to trust Jacob as well," Foy said. "As soon as they said Jacob was coming, I was all for it. If they say he can play – he can play. And he bowled phenomenally. He can play."

July 2, 2024

As the group headed to the lanes for team competition, the score they were chasing in the Regular Division was 3,363. The number was set by the members of Trip 4 Pro Shop of St. Clair Shores, Michigan, and had been at the top of the standings since early April.

On the challenging oil pattern laid out for the team event in 2024, Before the 1st Frame #4 posted a respectable number to start – 1,071. Conn led the way with 244.

"We wanted to break them down a little differently than most people might in practice," Conn said. "We used more plastic instead of urethane to create carry down and hold in the middle. We agreed that urethane wasn't going to be a game changer, and Tim was the only one to throw urethane – and he only threw it for a game. It really created some nice hold in the middle but didn't create a lot of hang. We made them nice.

"We just had to make sure we got it off our hands going in the right direction. We couldn't get too grabby with it, and I think that's what everyone focused on. We weren't afraid to start moving a little left but didn't open it up too much or create too much angle early. We just kept feeding it to the spot and let the ball do its thing. We all were able to stick to the game plan and didn't feel like we had to pull any audibles or anything."

With the team's plan and execution firing on all cylinders, Game 2 set the stage for the excitement down the stretch. The group posted 1,227 – the second highest team game of the 2024 event – to catapult themselves in position to take the lead.

Zimmer led the charge by starting with 10 strikes to finish with 289 (a 10 pin ended his run at 300). Conn rolled 279, Yazell added 234, Foy had 215 and Fitch finished with 210.

"I kind of told the guys to just have a free swing and give the ball a chance down the lane," Zimmer said. "The 1,070 was a good start, but if we were going to go after it, we needed more than 1,070. In this moment, if you have a good Game 2, I feel like you have a chance. We just needed to stay

in the moment and throw shots. Everyone did their job."

"If you don't think about popping off a big score, that's when it kind of happens," Conn said. "I felt we kept communicating with each other and kept going with what we saw. That was the game where we made some ball changes, and they paid off."

Heading into Game 3, the team needed 1,065 for a share of the lead. Three opens from the group in the first four frames slowed down some of the momentum from Game 2, but they continued to keep their foot on the gas.

In the ninth frame, four of the five teammates struck. The lead was within reach as they headed into the final frame, but strikes were going to be necessary.

The Final Frame

Fitch served as the team's leadoff player in 2024, and he was fitting the role well by filling frames. Unfortunately, strikes had been tougher to come by for the right-hander.

As he stepped up in the eighth frame of Game 3, Fitch had recorded just seven strikes in the block. He struck in the eighth and ninth frames and closed his set with three more in the 10th for 218 and a 603 series.

"I've been telling people since we've finished that was the hardest fought 600 in my entire career," Fitch said. "I was so close, but I just couldn't put anything together. The one thing that really helped me through the process was having the team behind me. I was communicating the whole time to try and work together and fill frames. Fortunately for me, making spares is probably the strongest asset I have in my game.

"The last game, I was super close. I was throwing good shots and knew at some point I'd probably catch a couple breaks. Thankfully, those five frames happened to fall the right way."

Fitch's strong finish after grinding through the first two-plus games served as an extra spark for his teammates, too.

"Fitch was close the whole game and had the pocket – it was a 4 pin/10 pin look," Foy said. "I think when he started with the double, it just kind of set us off."

Zimmer wasn't striking in the way he had in Game 2, but he stayed clean and finished the game with a spare and strike in the 10th for 196 and a 705 set. He admired the team's ability to work through the final game and not run away from the moment.

"There was no second guessing," Zimmer said. "To start the game, we knew we were bowling well, but nobody pressed. None of us were tense. We just kept the good thing going."

Yazell had gotten to his sweet spot on the lanes in Game 3, and his confidence was high stepping up in the moment. He posted three strikes in the 10th for 248 and a 700 series.

"Before I even stepped up, I knew I was going to lace all three in the 10th," Yazell said. "My look on the lane ended up being exactly what I needed it to be for that moment. I knew as long as I got them off my hand clean and going to the right, it was going to have the chance to strike. They started to transition a little weird in the middle of the third game – that's when we really had to step on the gas – but I had full faith in everybody stepping up and striking to give us a chance."

Conn's final frame made things a little more interesting for the team. After leaving the 3-10 split on his first delivery, he was able to narrowly escape with the spare as his ball grazed just enough of the 10 pin to push it over.

If he had just gotten the 3 pin on the attempt, the lead still would have been attainable for Foy from the anchor spot but would have required a strike on his first delivery. Conn's conversion, followed by a six count on his fill ball for 192 and 715, changed what Foy needed in the final frame to a spare and strike to take the lead by one.

"I was telling myself to get the ball off my hand, which I didn't do a good job of and left the baby split," Conn said. "A bunch of people have asked me what was going through my head, and honestly, I told myself to just move a little more left, throw it even harder, make sure I hit the 3 pin and hope for the best – that's typically how I shoot at that split. I got lucky and made it.

"Thank goodness I haven't resurfaced that ball. I think I needed that extra part of the coverstock to hit that pin. It was crazy. My gut told me to move a couple more left on that spare, and I'm glad I did to create a little more angle. It was just enough."

While each of his teammates offered their impressions on Conn's spare attempt, Zimmer provided some additional background to consider.

"I've seen him shoot 3-10s since we were 10 years old," Zimmer said. "I know his ball will backup a little bit right there, so off his hand, I thought we were OK ... but it was pretty dang close."

Foy's confidence in the conversion attempt wasn't quite as high as he watched the ball make its way down the lane, but seeing the 10 pin topple over offered a little more light to the moment.

"I thought he chopped it," Foy said. "I'm not sure how

he made it. The ball might have never hit the 10 pin – it blew over. When he made it, though, that was one of the moments where you think it's our time."

For Foy, it was time. He had delivered a clinching strike in Game 7 earlier in the year to advance to the stepladder finals at the PBA Delaware Classic, where he eventually placed fourth.

The talented two-hander settled onto the approach with the confidence he needed to get the team to the lead and rolled a strike on his first delivery. A 10 pin stood on his second shot, but it was more than enough to complete the task. Foy covered the spare for 221 and a 650 set, helping the team close with 1,075 to take over the top spot by 10 pins with 3,373.

"I knew I had a good look on the lanes – I had a good look the whole day," Foy said. "I had been bowling really well, and luckily, I had a few shots during the year to build up to that moment. I had been in a few pressure shots earlier in the year that helped give me the belief in myself to do it.

"When we made the run in 2022, if it came to that 10th frame ... I don't know how I would have been able to handle it. I have kind of learned and understood the process of my process to be able to deliver that quality shot. I think with everything that happened leading up to that got me in the right mindset for that moment."

While the teammates reflected on each of their individual journeys and the wave of emotions that followed, they also were able to share the moment with the entire group.

"The group is massive, and there's a lot of talented players," Foy said. "Even though we're competitors and trying to achieve the same thing, we all want the same thing for everyone else. If we don't have a chance to win an Eagle, but one of them does, I want to see them do it. The camaraderie in this group and the energy we get from everyone is what nationals is all about."

"I think that's been one of the coolest experiences – being part of a group like this with so many talented bowlers," Fitch said. "To know they're back there and cheering for your team, it just feels like you have all the support you need. Being part of a bigger group like that makes moments like this a little sweeter because you're around people who care about you."

Taking It Home

Although the team lead had been secured, there still was more work to do before leaving Las Vegas.

The group returned the following day – across two shifts – to move into second place in Team All-Events (10,120). Conn led the way with 795 in singles to finish with an all-events tally of 2,192. He was followed by Yazell (2,016), Fitch (1,992), Zimmer (1,975) and Foy (1,945).

They remained in second place in Team All-Events, and Conn finished in the top 10 of Regular Singles (sixth) and Regular All-Events (fifth).

Conn finished with his best overall performance at the Open Championships across 12 appearances, and the 2009 Junior Gold Championships winner credited his role as an assistant coach at Savannah College of Art and Design-Savannah in helping his overall performance.

"I couldn't have fallen into a better gig – it's a beautiful area, the team is amazing and Katie (Thornton) has done

an amazing job of establishing the program," said Conn, who joined the staff at the start of the 2022-2023 season. "I don't think the players know, but they played a big role in this. I really don't bowl as much as I used to, but when I'm constantly talking to them about it, more times than not, I'm telling them things I need to do in my game as well. We're constantly talking about it and knowing how to communicate, and that helps in a team tournament like the Open Championships. Being a coach and being around that all the time keeps my mentality that way. Bowling is always on the mind, and I think that played a huge role in how I performed at the Open Championships."

With their 2024 event complete, the clock officially started on the wait to clear the final team squad in Las Vegas – 26 days away. Experiences varied for the teammates across those three-plus weeks (see more in the breakout on the right).

"From the group chat and looking at scores, Steven and I probably watched the least," Yazell said. "Mike and Tim definitely watched a lot and were keeping us updated. It was the longest 26 days. I was still nervous. I woke up nervous every day, checking the group chat to see how close anyone got."

The nerves were warranted, as several teams made late runs at the score. Ultimately, however, the team was able to reach the finish line with their name at the top of the standings.

"I was relieved when it was over," Conn said. "The number of emotions you go through to win an Eagle is incredible, but it's worth it. I'd do it again."

"To me – outside of a major – an Eagle is the most coveted thing in bowling," Foy said. "The moment it felt surreal was when the call came in and everything was official. I just received my Eagle, and when you finally get to hold it ... that's when the reality set in that the boys and I will forever be champions at the Open Championships."

The team will return to the tournament this year in Baton Rouge and revel in the chance to experience all the excitement that comes with being a first-time champion at the event.

"It's going to be awesome," Yazell said. "I hadn't bowled the Open Championships in a couple years. I'm running a bowling center and just got married, so I really hadn't found the time. Now, I'll definitely be making the time from here on out. Having the Eagle next to your name makes it special, and all of it is going to be exciting for us."

"I think it's going to be a very emotional experience," Fitch said. "From what I've heard from other people, I think it's going to be the solidifying moment. Being able to celebrate with those guys, see the banner and get the big team trophy – I think that's going to be the emotional part of it. The moment where we can say we really did it."

While the celebration certainly will be on at the Raising Cane's River Center, the teammates also see it as just the beginning.

"It's everything, and it's something no one can take away from you," Zimmer said. "I'm going to preach to the guys to try and take it all in. It's going to be an awesome feeling to see your name up there, have the bird next to your name and feel all the love people will bring to us. But, I know we can do it again. We're all hungry to keep digging and scratching to do it again. We're going to try and enjoy it, but let's get another one."

TALES FROM THE WAITING GAME

Everyone's experience after taking the lead at the Open Championships is a little different. Learn more about the wait from the 2024 Regular Team champion.

STEVEN ZIMMER: I'm very superstitious, so if something is working, I'm going to keep doing what's working. As everyone went to the bracket table after we took the lead, the next squad was starting. I walked up there to watch, and I felt like I saw a group with three people starting with turkeys. I said, "Yep, I can't watch this." I didn't even know what division they were in. They're striking, and I can't watch this. I think that was the last score I watched. The guys kept me updated in the group chat, but I didn't watch a single thing.

MATT FITCH: Tim and Mike would lead the charge of watching scores and start texting, then I'd start watching. It's a cool story if you took the lead at nationals, but to win is a whole new ball game. There were a lot of ups and downs for 26 days.

MIKE CONN: I was totally stress free ... until the moment after we figured out who still had to bowl. It was tough. My screen time on my phone was probably at an all-time high.

When Marshall Kent's team bowled (Triangle Bowl 2 – 3,352), I was playing in a sand volleyball match. Thankfully, it was during the back half of their set. It lasted about an hour. When I got to my phone after the match, I had five or six texts from Tim – guys, they're about to do it ... they need this ... all right, we're good. Thank God I was playing volleyball during that entire conversation.

TIM FOY JR.: I didn't get a good night's rest from the day we bowled team event until the day after it was over. Every day I would try to go to bed, but I would wake up every day in the middle of the late block. I would roll over, and the first thing I would do was check my phone and check scores. If someone was bowling well, I would text Conn, or he would text me.

My dad might have been worse than all of us. He would pay attention to every squad. I paid attention to every squad I could, but when I was at work, I didn't have access to the outside world. My dad, on the other hand, could tell me what was going on during every squad – counting down, doing math, this lane is eliminated, this lane needs this. You would have thought he won an Eagle. It was awesome. On the last day, my dad stayed up the entire night and watched scores on that very last squad. He never went to bed.

Tim Foy Jr. at the 2024 PBA Delaware Classic (photo credit: PBA)



FUTURE SCHEDULE FEATURES NEW HOST

The stage is set for plenty of excitement looking ahead at the schedule for the USBC Open Championships, highlighted by a new host city entering the mix in 2028.



Greenville, South Carolina, will host the Open Championships for the first time in 2028.

The bowling world was buzzing during the USBC Convention and Annual Meeting last April as USBC Executive Director Chad Murphy dropped some exciting news about a vacant spot in the lineup for the Open Championships – Greenville, South Carolina, was in position to claim the open bid for the 2028 event.

In July 2024, the deal became official as a press conference held at Spare Time Greenville served as the initial welcome for the 124th edition of the Open Championships to the city and the Greenville Convention Center.

The Open Championships has traveled all across the United States since its introduction in 1901, but the 2028 event will be the tournament's first visit to South Carolina. In fact, the tournament has only been within 200 miles of Greenville during its two trips to Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1970 and 2003.

Greenville will be the 50th city to host the Open Championships with its appearance in 2028, and the tournament will visit its 27th state with the trip to the Palmetto State.

While the transformation of the Greenville Convention Center to a one-of-a-kind bowling venue still is three years

away, it's never too early to get excited about a new area to explore for your trip to the Open Championships. To take a look into attractions and more in the area, be sure to check out VisitGreenvilleSC.com.

Before the tournament heads south, though, there will be a pair of trips to the west as the 2026 and 2027 events will return to familiar spots in Nevada.

Next year's tournament will be contested in Reno at the famed National Bowling Stadium, while the 2027 Open Championships will be going to the South Point Bowling Plaza in Las Vegas.

The 2026 event will mark the tournament's 15th appearance in Reno and 12th trip to the 78-lane Taj Mahal of Tenpins.

Although the tournament has spent plenty of time in The Biggest Little City in the World, there's always something new to explore in Reno and the surrounding areas, like Lake Tahoe, Virginia City and Carson City.

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ALLISON SETS RECORD



USBC Hall of Famer Glenn Allison surrounded by family and friends at the 2024 Open Championships.

The top number in participation at the USBC Open Championships had been 71 since 1981. Now, only one name sits at the top of the list with 72 years, and the new record belongs to the legendary Glenn Allison.

The USBC and PBA Hall of Famer made his appearance during the first week of the 2024 Open Championships in Las Vegas to break a four-way tie with three other figures in tournament lore – Bill Doehrman, Joe Norris and Sylvester Thiel.

Doehrman, a USBC Hall of Famer and 1922 Regular Team champion, made his 71st appearance in 1981. Norris – also a member of the USBC Hall of Fame and three-time winner at the Open Championships – matched the mark in 2000, while Thiel made his 71st appearance in 2016.

Allison, of Corona, California, started his journey at the tournament during the 1947 event in Los Angeles. He returned to the tournament for his second trip in 1950, and since 1954, Allison has made his annual appearance each year at the Open Championships.

He made his 25th appearance during the 1976 event in Oklahoma City, and he celebrated No. 50 at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nevada, in 2001.

As he set the record in Las Vegas, Allison was joined by family and friends at the South Point Bowling Plaza while being presented with a custom trophy, plaque and chevron to recognize his longevity.

The 2024 appearance was special for many reasons, but it also marked the first time that Allison was able to bowl his team event with four family members. He was joined on the record-setting day by his son (Mark Allison), daughter (Suzanne Allison), grandson (Glenn Allison II) and granddaughter (Danielle Ledezma).

Allison is a four-time Eagle winner at the Open Championships, with victories taking place in 1962, 1964, 1966 and 1970.

He paired with fellow USBC Hall of Famer Dick Hoover to win Classic Doubles in 1962 – Allison fired an incredible 780 series (his highest at the Open Championships) to lead the way. They finished with a 1,431 total.

A pair of team wins followed for Allison as he helped St. Louis' Falstaff Beer (1964 – 6,417) and Ace Mitchell Shurhooks of Akron, Ohio (1966 – 6,536), claim the top spot in the Classic Division.

The Classic Team event featured two three-game blocks for a six-game total to determine the champion from 1961-1969, and Allison performed admirably in each winning performance. In 1964, he posted sets of 661 and 665 and added 648 and 751 to the top score in 1966.

In 1970, Allison collected his fourth victory with games of 258, 258 and 214 for a 730 series in Classic Singles.

Allison joined the 100,000-Pin Club at the Open Championships during his 55th appearance in 2006 (Doehrman, Norris and Thiel also are members), and his pursuit of the top spot in pinfall is scheduled to continue in 2025.

Through 72 years, Allison has accumulated a total pinfall of 123,341 (that's an overall average of more than 190 at the tournament) and sits in third place on the all-time list.

He is 430 pins away from passing Norris (123,770) for second and 747 pins shy of passing USBC Hall of Famer Bill Lillard Jr. for the pinfall record (124,087).

Allison is scheduled to make his 73rd appearance at the Open Championships on May 17.

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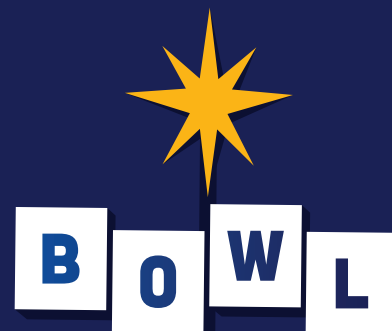


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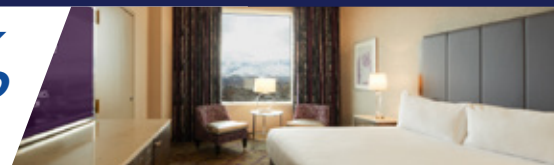
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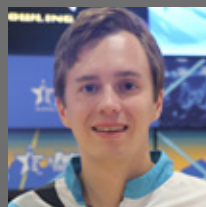
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2024 BOWLERS JOURNAL CHAMPIONSHIPS WINNERS

South Point Bowling Center, Las Vegas

OPEN SINGLES

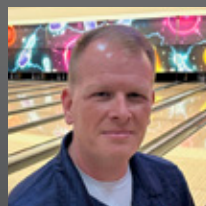
Gregory Jasinski, Jersey City, N.J., 824



Gregory Jasinski

SENIOR SINGLES

Ron Hurt, Greenwood, Ind., 802



Ron Hurt

SUPER SENIOR SINGLES

Rick Hara, Arlington Heights, Ill., 756

175 & UNDER HANDICAP SINGLES

Dylan Kindig, Burlington, Iowa, 703

OPEN DOUBLES

Jakob Butturff, Tempe, Ariz., and Cory Misura, Oviedo, Fla., 1,548

SENIOR DOUBLES

Rick Hara, Arlington Heights, Ill., and Kerry Painter, Henderson, Nev., 1,443

HANDICAP DOUBLES

Ken Johnson, Henderson, Nev., and Robert Yadao, Las Vegas, 1,294

DUAL ENTRY PRIZE FUND

Jeffrey Martin, Westtown, N.Y., 811



Cory Misura and Jakob Butturff

GETTING READY

A strong performance at the USBC Open Championships often starts with a good game plan and preparation, and competitors will have a chance to settle in and get ready for their time at the Raising Cane's River Center by swinging over to All Star Lanes for the Bowlers Journal Championships and team practice sessions.

All Star Lanes is just under 10 miles away from the River Center, and the 64-lane facility will be buzzing with excitement throughout the day with four squad times available for most of the week (Sunday-Thursday).

Squads for the Bowlers Journal Championships and team practice sessions will be at 9 a.m., noon, 3 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. The 9:30 p.m. squad will not be held on Friday or Saturday evenings during the tournament.

The Bowlers Journal Championships will celebrate its 78th year as the premier side tournament alongside the Open Championships and once again offer the chance to compete, earn prize money and get a firsthand look at this year's doubles and singles oil pattern.

The three-game event features singles and doubles competition, with several divisions available in each discipline depending on age and skill level. There are four divisions in singles (Open, Senior, Super Senior and 175 & Under Handicap*) and three in doubles (Open, Senior and Handicap*).

**175 & Under Handicap Singles and Handicap Doubles are based on a bowler's Championships Average.*

Competitors have the chance to enter both singles and doubles during the same set, which also gives them a shot to claim some additional cash from the tournament's Dual Entry prize fund.

Speaking of cash, the entry fee for the Bowlers Journal Championships remains at \$80 for singles and \$40 per bowler for doubles (\$80 total). By entering singles, participants also will receive a one-year subscription to Bowlers Journal International magazine.

In addition to the entry fee, bowlers can sign up for the Jackpot Trio for an extra \$20, which gives them three ways to win – High Game, 30 Clean and Strike Jackpot.

Bowlers can enter each event they're eligible for up to eight times, so there are multiple opportunities to lace up your shoes for the Bowlers Journal Championships.

A team practice session is exactly what it sounds like – it gives you and your teammates the chance to get some time together on the lanes and finalize your strategy for attacking this year's oil pattern for the team event.

A session is available for up to 10 bowlers and runs for one hour. A team practice session costs \$100, so it's the perfect chance to pair up with your companion team to save a couple bucks across the board.

Reserve your spots and check availability by visiting BOWL.com/Side-Tournaments (this also is the place to find updates for standings and additional information). Reservations also can be made on-site at All Star Lanes at our tournament counter, so be sure to say hello to our staff members!



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Three bowlers are slated for major milestones in Baton Rouge as they continue to add to their legacies in the sport and at the USBC Open Championships.

Clinton Zavakos of Henderson, Nevada, is looking to become just the fifth bowler in tournament history to reach 70 years of participation in 2025, while USBC Hall of Famer Jamie Brooks of Fairview, Texas, has his sights set on becoming the 17th competitor to make 65 appearances at the event.

Dale Diamond of Chatham, Illinois, hopes to join both Zavakos and Brooks in the 100,000-Pin Club in Baton Rouge, sitting 1,415 pins away from becoming the 32nd member of the elite group.

At 18 years old, Zavakos stepped up on the championship lanes to compete for the first time at the 1955 event in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He's made it back to the Open Championships each year since his debut, participating in 37 cities and 22 states along the way.

His introduction to the tournament started well before his first appearance, though. His father, Tom, helped the members of Jefferson Clothiers of Dayton, Ohio, win the Regular Team title at the 1932 event in Detroit.

Zavakos has toppled 106,994 pins through his first 69 trips to the Open Championships, maintaining an overall average north of 180. He posted his first all-events score of 1,800 or higher (200 average) at the 1967 event in Miami, and his top total score for nine games is 1,846 (1992 in Corpus Christi, Texas). He's also the owner of a 701 series in singles competition during the 1989 event in Wichita, Kansas.

He collected his crystal pin during his visit to El Paso, Texas, in 2015 (61st appearance), and he enters the 2025 event in 15th place in total pinfall.

Brooks also joined the 100,000-Pin Club during his 61st appearance at the 2021 event in Las Vegas, and he's accrued a total pinfall of 105,115 through his first 64 appearances (183.4 career average).

He made his first appearance at the 1957 event in Fort Worth, Texas, and in 1973, Brooks paired with Houston's Jim Paine to win the Regular Doubles title in Syracuse, New York, with a 1,337 combined total. Paine posted 686 in the winning effort, and Brooks had 651.

His top three-game set also occurred in doubles, rolling a 714 series at the 1960 event in Toledo, Ohio, to record a fourth-place finish. Brooks finished his performance in 1960 with his first 1,800 (1,837) at the tournament, and his top all-

events tally for nine games is 1,847 (1992 in Corpus Christi).

Brooks earned his induction to the USBC Hall of Fame in 2023 for meritorious service for his work as a proprietor and past president of the Bowling Proprietor's Association of America. His work has been recognized with several industry awards as well. He's been named the USBC Proprietor of the Year (2010) and has received the USBC Joyce Deitch Unity Award (2016), Flowers for the Living Award (2018) and BPAA President's Award (2019).

Diamond is looking for major milestones in back-to-back appearances at the Open Championships after celebrating his 60th appearance in 2024.

He started his journey at the tournament during the 1962 event in Des Moines, Iowa, and he's made his annual appearance each year since 1967.

Diamond's first 1,800 at the Open Championships took place at the 1967 event in Miami (1,826), and he eclipsed 1,900 during his trip to Tulsa, Oklahoma, for the 1993 event (1,906). He also posted his highest set at the tournament in 1993, firing 738 in singles. He's knocked over 98,585 pins through his first 60 appearances for a career average of 182.5.

Diamond also made a recent stop near the top of the leaderboard at the Open Championships. During his 58th appearance in 2022, he helped the members of Dale Diamond Team 2 finish in third place in Standard Team.



Clinton Zavakos



Jamie Brooks



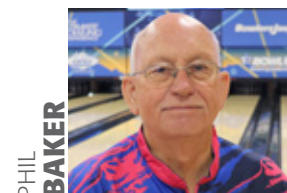
Janann and Dale Diamond

50

Everyone has a reason for making the annual journey to the USBC Open Championships. Some are searching for championship glory, while others simply go for vacation and to spend time with family and friends.

A small group of bowlers can boast of making the trip for 50 years. Through 120 years of competition at the Open Championships, 355 bowlers have joined the elite 50-Year Club.

The following bowlers are scheduled to reach the milestone this year at the Raising Cane's River Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana:



PHIL BAKER
HOMETOWN: Urbana, Ohio
FIRST APPEARANCE: 1974 – Indianapolis
PINFALL TOTAL: 81,961
TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 191

FAVORITE TOURNAMENT MEMORY: It would be bowling with my doubles partner, Jack Russell, at the 1997 event in Huntsville, Alabama. We were sitting in the top 10 in doubles when we left, and I think we ended up in the top 40. Another favorite is getting to bowl doubles with my daughter, Jess. It's always great to bowl with your kids.

FAVORITE HOST CITY: That would have to be Baton Rouge. I really like the city, the food and the music, and I'm looking forward to being back there this year.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU: It's something I kind of reached for. About a year or so ago, Jess said, "Hey Dad, it looks like you're going to make 50." I said, "50 ... heck ... I'm shooting for 60." I'm looking forward to continuing. The 100,000-pin mark would be great, but it's a long way in the distance.



THOMAS CARTER
HOMETOWN: Aurora, Ill.
FIRST APPEARANCE: 1975 – Dayton, Ohio
PINFALL TOTAL: 85,655
TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 195.5

FAVORITE TOURNAMENT MEMORY: Tampa, Florida, in 1979 – three of us and our wives rented a motor home and drove from Chicago. We parked in trailer parks and didn't need a hotel. We went from the ABC stadium to the beach, Disney World and a dolphin excursion out on the bay. We stopped at the Chattanooga Choo Choo on the way home.

FAVORITE HOST CITY: Corpus Christi, Texas – the frontage beach was just spectacular, and the dog races were so exciting that we went twice.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU: These USBC tournaments are the pinnacle for amateur bowlers. Our presence and my presence bear that out, but the best thing is that I end up meeting new bowlers and form closer friendships with those bowlers I already know.



EDWIN CASE
HOMETOWN: Albuquerque, N.M.
FIRST APPEARANCE: 1974 – Indianapolis
PINFALL TOTAL: 83,193
TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 191.2

FAVORITE TOURNAMENT MEMORY: Corpus Christi, Texas, in 2006 – Gary Skidmore and I won Century Doubles. I had 749.

FAVORITE HOST CITY: Niagara Falls, New York, in 1987 – able to visit Toronto, Canada, and the Falls.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU: It's nice to have the blessings to have such a long-term accomplishment.



THOMAS CORBETT
HOMETOWN: Maple Grove, Minn.
FIRST APPEARANCE: 1974 – Indianapolis
PINFALL TOTAL: 85,176
TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 193.1

FAVORITE TOURNAMENT MEMORY: Billings, Montana, in 2002 – we won Team All-Events for the first time. Even though I wasn't on the winning team, all 10 of us shared in winning the title.

FAVORITE HOST CITY: Baton Rouge, Louisiana. In 2012, we, as The Linds Lakers, had a great tournament and a lot of fun afterward. This was my best finish in doubles with Gary Green, as we ended up in sixth. Teammates Chuck Vashaw and Matt McNeil won doubles, and Matt won all-events. In 2005, my teammate and good friend Todd Savoy was inducted into the USBC Hall of Fame.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU: Ever since I started bowling the ABC Tournament in 1974, I wanted to bowl every tournament. I saw bowlers getting recognition for milestones and wanted the same thing. I missed 1975 because of some reason I can't remember, but I will have 49 consecutive.



FRANK DELARME
HOMETOWN: Grampian, Pa.
FIRST APPEARANCE: 1968 – Cincinnati
PINFALL TOTAL: 73,117
TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 168

FAVORITE TOURNAMENT MEMORY: Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1970 – it's where I took my wife for our honeymoon.

FAVORITE HOST CITY: Las Vegas. Until a few years ago, it was the residence of my daughter and two grandsons.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU: My goal has always been to reach the 50-year milestone. A few farming accidents and the loss of my wife of 49 1/2 years made that goal seem unlikely. Thanks to the good Lord and my family and good friends who helped me get here.



JEFFREY DICKINSON
HOMETOWN: Port Huron, Mich.
FIRST APPEARANCE: 1975 – Dayton, Ohio
PINFALL TOTAL: 80,438
TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 184.9

FAVORITE TOURNAMENT MEMORY: At the 1992 event in Corpus Christi, Texas, I had my mom and dad watch me. Flew down to McAllen, Texas, where they stayed for winter from Michigan and drove to Corpus Christi, and I think they enjoyed watching me.

FAVORITE HOST CITY: Jacksonville, Florida, in 1988 – I drove with two friends from Michigan in a 1975 Cadillac Eldorado convertible down to Naples, across to Daytona Beach and then to Jacksonville. One of the best times of my life.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU: Who would have thought of doing something like this? Bowling against bowlers from all over the country hoping one time you could compete against some very good bowlers and possibly be in contention for some type of award. There was always hope!



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REACHING 50 YEARS

KENNETH
DOYLE



HOMETOWN: Sun City, Ariz.

FIRST APPEARANCE: 1970 – Knoxville, Tenn.

PINFALL TOTAL: 74,676

TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 170.4

FAVORITE TOURNAMENT MEMORY: Partnering with my granddaughter Kaci in doubles and having other family members as teammates. My best all-events was in Syracuse.

FAVORITE HOST CITY: I like both Reno and Las Vegas (because they are close to home). I also like Baton Rouge.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU: It's difficult to accomplish and takes dedication.

DAVID
GULLEY



HOMETOWN: Lake Elsinore, Calif.

FIRST APPEARANCE: 1973 – Syracuse, N.Y.

PINFALL TOTAL: 81,650

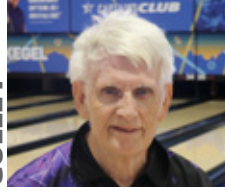
TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 185.1

FAVORITE TOURNAMENT MEMORY: Corpus Christi, Texas, in 2006 – it was the only event that I actually had 600-plus for all three events.

FAVORITE HOST CITY: Probably Syracuse because it was the first event I bowled, and we went back several times over the years. The people were always very friendly.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU: It is the "icing" on the cake. I have always loved and respected the game, and to accomplish this milestone is incredible. Bowling has been very good to me over the years, and I was able to average over 200 in five decades.

RANDY
GULLEY



HOMETOWN: Pahrump, Nev.

FIRST APPEARANCE: 1974 – Indianapolis

PINFALL TOTAL: 76,466

TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 178.2

FAVORITE TOURNAMENT MEMORY: There are so many great memories during my 50 years of participation in the Open Championships it is difficult to select just one; however, my first event in Indianapolis was very special. In 1974, a law was enacted limiting vehicles to 55 mph to save gasoline in the United States, making driving much longer than today. That same year, my brother, David Gulley, and I were asked to bowl for one of the teams formed by Trio Bowling Supply of St. Ann, Missouri. As a group of teams, we decided to rent a bus to travel to nationals, leaving the long, slow drive to someone else to enjoy our teammates and ride in comfort.

FAVORITE HOST CITY: Among the many cities visited, Billings, Montana, in 2002 was my favorite. I loved the bowling venue, and the surrounding atmosphere was exceptional despite the cold March weather. Our local hosts were very pleasant and helpful. We all felt as if you were in the "real" West, so much so you expected to see bowlers riding in on horses.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU: I bowled my first Open when I was 31 never imagining my brother and I would reach 50 years of participation. During that time, I have met many awesome individuals and visited places I would, otherwise, never have seen. It's been a blessing for me to bowl with so many special teammates throughout my journey. At 82 years of age, I now have more tournaments behind me than in front, so I am going to cherish this accomplishment with friends and family. As a bonus, this year my two brothers and two sons will be bowling with me on our team. That's something I will eternally treasure.

PAUL
HAGMAN



HOMETOWN: Hudson, N.H.

FIRST APPEARANCE: 1975 – Dayton, Ohio

PINFALL TOTAL: 73,475

TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 166.6

FAVORITE TOURNAMENT MEMORY: All of them.

FAVORITE HOST CITY: El Paso, Texas, in 2015.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU: It means a lot of memories.

LD
HICKS



HOMETOWN: Birch Run, Mich.

FIRST APPEARANCE: 1975 – Dayton, Ohio

PINFALL TOTAL: 79,165

TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 179.5

FAVORITE TOURNAMENT MEMORY: Dayton, Ohio, in 1975 – my first tournament. I was nervous about bowling the tournament and emotional about bowling my first tournament with my dad.

FAVORITE HOST CITY: Reno, Nevada, in 1984 – my second time in Reno. The Reno shows, Virginia City and a snowball fight in 80-degree heat and in our shorts on our way to Lake Tahoe. Perfect time with perfect friends. A vacation by which all other vacations are measured.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU: 1) I'm getting old. 2) I have bowled for 65 years, bowled league for 61 years, worked at a bowling alley for 60 years, been an owner for over 40 years and bowled this tournament faithfully for 50 years. I guess it means I love this game.

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REACHING 50 YEARS



THOMAS
KELLEY

HOMETOWN: Omaha, Neb.

FIRST APPEARANCE: 1974 – Indianapolis

PINFALL TOTAL: 80,792

TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 187

FAVORITE TOURNAMENT MEMORY: It would have to be in 1974 when we won (Regular Team). In the final game, I contributed 279. I had the front nine and got up to bowl the 10th, and my buddy said, "C'mon, Kelley ... one more." I looked back, and there were so many people behind our pair. I made a bad shot but lucked out. I left a 6 pin, picked it up and struck.

FAVORITE HOST CITY: I'd say Reno, Nevada. My reason – I have a brother that lives south of Reno in Gardnerville (about 50 miles), so I've always enjoyed the tournament because we got to visit with him. The Stadium is so inspiring, too. It's a great place to bowl.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU: It was in my mind – like a goal you want to achieve. But, even more so, my son (Tom Jr.) – he wanted me to get to 50. He kept pushing me all these years as I was getting closer.



BOB
KELLY

HOMETOWN: Dayton, Ohio

FIRST APPEARANCE: 1974 – Indianapolis

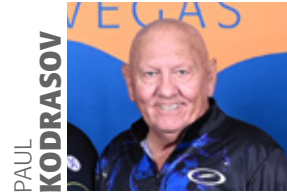
PINFALL TOTAL: 86,747

TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 196.7

FAVORITE TOURNAMENT MEMORY: Reno, Nevada, in 2007 – I had 757 in doubles and 729 in singles.

FAVORITE HOST CITY: Reno, Nevada – had a lot of good times.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU: That I can still bowl. I'm healthy, so my goal is 100,000 pins.



PAUL
KODRASOV

HOMETOWN: Cherry Hill, N.J.

FIRST APPEARANCE: 1974 – Indianapolis

PINFALL TOTAL: 74,134

TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 170.4

FAVORITE TOURNAMENT MEMORY: At the 1994 event in Mobile, Alabama, I was the high scorer for my singles and doubles squad.

FAVORITE HOST CITY: Salt Lake City in 1996 – I was able to tour an underground mine and see the Salt Flats.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU: Many thanks to James Gillan, our team captain, and all the people who have helped organize, set up and made all these events possible.



MIKE
MARKS

HOMETOWN: Byron Center, Mich.

FIRST APPEARANCE: 1974 – Indianapolis

PINFALL TOTAL: 86,862

TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 196.9

FAVORITE TOURNAMENT MEMORY: Bowling with my teammates and getting to travel to different cities.

FAVORITE HOST CITY: Louisville, Kentucky, in 1980.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU: Thankful the USBC has had the Open for all these years. It is always pretty well run. The employees and volunteers do a great job.



CRAIG
MILLER

HOMETOWN: St. Paul, Minn.

FIRST APPEARANCE: 1975 – Dayton, Ohio

PINFALL TOTAL: 80,703

TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 183

FAVORITE TOURNAMENT MEMORY: Wichita in 1989 – it was a great road trip with my team members. We had a lot of fun in Wichita, and I bowled my first 1,800 series.

FAVORITE HOST CITY: Dayton, Ohio, in 1975 – my first event. Billings, Montana, in 2002 – a cool location and my first tournament with my son. Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in 2005, 2012 and 2025 – side trips to New Orleans and the city for my 50th consecutive tournament.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU: I am blessed, lucky, healthy, stubborn and fortunate enough to have participated in 50 consecutive USBC national tournaments. It means that each of the 50 years I could look forward to a great vacation in an interesting city, competing at the highest level in the sport I love with my best friends in bowling. It just doesn't get any better than that!



JOE
MINARIK

HOMETOWN: Seminole, Fla.

FIRST APPEARANCE: 1971 – Detroit

PINFALL TOTAL: 76,697

TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 175.1

FAVORITE TOURNAMENT MEMORY: Getting to bowl across the country with friends throughout the years. Bowling with my grandson the last few years has been great.

FAVORITE HOST CITY: All of them have been great. Billings, Montana, in 2002 stands out as one of the best since we had a great trip in the area.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU: I still get to bowl with great friends even after having a stroke a few years ago. Great friends are made throughout the years at the national tournament.

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REACHING 50 YEARS



THOMAS
MORGAN

HOMETOWN: Wyoming, Mich.

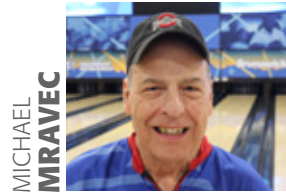
FIRST APPEARANCE: 1975 – Dayton, Ohio

PINFALL TOTAL: 82,542

TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 187.1

FAVORITE HOST CITY: Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU:
Reaching 50 years means a lot.



MICHAEL
MRAVEC

HOMETOWN: Lakewood, Ohio

FIRST APPEARANCE: 1970 – Knoxville, Tenn.

PINFALL TOTAL: 80,775

TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 183.1

FAVORITE TOURNAMENT MEMORY: My two 700s in singles – great achievements! Bowling with my dad when he got his award for 40 years and I received mine for 30 years in 2000. Winning 84 of 87 \$10 senior brackets in my first year of eligibility.

FAVORITE HOST CITY: I have a few! My first tournament in Knoxville (1970). 1995 in Reno – the Bowling Stadium is great! I have bowled really well there and love that place. Also, Viva Las Vegas! I just love the whole setup there.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU:
It's a great honor to have been part of this great and challenging tournament for 50 years. I always look forward to going. My hard work and dedication to bowling and the pro shop business since 1961 has brought me this fantastic and happy achievement.



ALLEN
NELSON

HOMETOWN: Las Vegas

FIRST APPEARANCE: 1969 – Madison, Wis.

PINFALL TOTAL: 75,664

TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 174.7

FAVORITE TOURNAMENT MEMORY: Niagara Falls in 1983 – we had two teams and were bowling opening night. One member of our other team was selected as “Joe Bowler.” With the crown, scepter and cape, he had to throw the first ball. It went into the left gutter. It was also about -10 degrees outside. Burr!

FAVORITE HOST CITY: Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1970 – it was during their Dogwood Festival. The streets in a number of residential areas were marked with dogwood flowers. Following the marks led you through beautiful homes with flowers in full bloom.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU:
I remember having about 20 years, and an individual was getting his 40th plaque. I couldn't imagine ever getting to that level, but, 15 years ago, I joined Stars & Strikes – 40 teams captained by Arman Prescott. I don't think I would have ever made it to this level without Stars & Strikes making it so easy to compete.



WAYNE
NOSSE

HOMETOWN: Crest Hill, Ill.

FIRST APPEARANCE: 1975 – Dayton, Ohio

PINFALL TOTAL: 85,159

TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 193.1

FAVORITE TOURNAMENT MEMORY: Shooting 2,158 for all-events in Tulsa, Oklahoma (1993), with a 300 game.

FAVORITE HOST CITY: Las Vegas and Tulsa, Oklahoma.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU:
I'm happy to make it this far after some health battles.



WILLIAM
RAASCH

HOMETOWN: Houston

FIRST APPEARANCE: 1975 – Dayton, Ohio

PINFALL TOTAL: 64,537

TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 161.7

FAVORITE TOURNAMENT MEMORY: The first time the other members on my team were my wife, my two sons and my friend, who I have bowled with at the tournament for 40 years.

FAVORITE HOST CITY: My favorite city is Reno. The bowling center and hotels are all within walking distance of each other.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU:
When I think back, I realize how fortunate and lucky I have been. Any illnesses, injuries, surgeries or family emergencies never occurred when I was scheduled to bowl.



ROBERT
RICHARDS

HOMETOWN: Ann Arbor, Mich.

FIRST APPEARANCE: 1960 – Toledo, Ohio

PINFALL TOTAL: 76,940

TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 176.8

FAVORITE TOURNAMENT MEMORY: In terms of bowling, it would be my 683 series in team, 675 in doubles and 623 in singles for a 1,981 all-events total in Reno (1995). That was just a nice nine-game total and lots of fun in a national tournament.

FAVORITE HOST CITY: My wife and I like Reno. Before the bowling venue was built, we would stay at Jessie Beck's Riverside on the Truckee River. She was a great host. We would also take day trips to Lake Tahoe, where the mountain scenery is unbelievable.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU:
Reaching 50 years is not easily attainable because employment, education, health and family come first in my life. However, bowling has been a great passion for me. I've traveled all over the country and have met many wonderful people because of it, including my wife of 59 years. I'm just proud I could accomplish this feat and have had such a wonderful time along the way.

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USBC OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS VIDEO POLICY

Please note that video streaming or recording during practice or competition at the USBC Open Championships or Bowlers Journal Championships is prohibited. Anyone found recording the event will be subject to removal from the venue without warning. This rule also applies to spectators in the stands.

We understand competitors may want to record the final frame of a possible 300 game or other noteworthy accomplishment, so short highlight videos will be allowed.

We appreciate your cooperation.

REACHING 50 YEARS



THOMAS
SCALIA

HOMETOWN: Elmira, N.Y.
FIRST APPEARANCE: 1973 – Syracuse, N.Y.
PINFALL TOTAL: 83,543
TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 189.4

FAVORITE TOURNAMENT MEMORY: Being able to travel the country in the earlier years and see other cities with family and friends.

FAVORITE HOST CITY: Las Vegas – there's always a lot to do there to make a vacation out of it.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU: It was a goal I set years ago. Having family and friends to share it with me means a lot. They have stuck with me for years to see me reach this milestone.



DON
SCUDDER

HOMETOWN: Cincinnati
FIRST APPEARANCE: 1975 – Dayton, Ohio
PINFALL TOTAL: 89,318
TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 202.5

FAVORITE TOURNAMENT MEMORY: Baltimore in 1982 – we won the team event on the last shift of the tournament. It was a dream come true for my first title. In 1996 (Salt Lake City), I won singles with an 823 series, and we set a record that stood for 25-plus years to win Team All-Events.

FAVORITE HOST CITY: Salt Lake City – won two titles and had a 300 game and 823 series.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU: I'll be only the second person to reach 50 from Cincinnati – Erwin Hoinke was a mentor of mine, and I'm glad to join such esteemed company. It brings back the fondest memories in my life – bowling with friends, traveling to different cities, making new journeys, seeing sights I would have never seen had I not bowled all my past years at ABC/USBC. My Hall of Fame induction was one of my favorites since I have loved this game of bowling since I was a little boy.



RONALD
SEREYKA

HOMETOWN: Lemont, Ill.
FIRST APPEARANCE: 1971 – Detroit
PINFALL TOTAL: 79,281
TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 181

FAVORITE TOURNAMENT MEMORY: We finished second in Standard Team in 2022 – it was a team effort. The first time bowling with my son in Syracuse, New York (2018).

FAVORITE HOST CITY: Billings, Montana, in 2002 – that's the best of any city I have been at and wish we would go back there.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU: Stick to it. It's hard to make every year, especially as you get older.



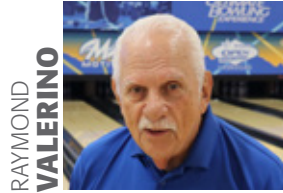
DENNIS
SHERMAN

HOMETOWN: O'Fallon, Mo.
FIRST APPEARANCE: 1975 – Dayton, Ohio
PINFALL TOTAL: 85,883
TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 194.7

FAVORITE TOURNAMENT MEMORY: Getting to bowl doubles with Dick Weber at the ABCs. Placing second in the team event in 1985. Having my son, Kyle, bowl his first tournament on my team. He was my doubles partner.

FAVORITE HOST CITY: Las Vegas is fun.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU: I love to bowl. It's an accomplishment not many people have.

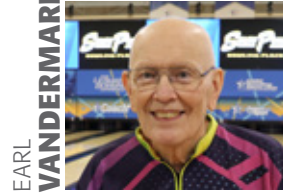


RAYMOND
VALERINO

HOMETOWN: Pittsburgh
FIRST APPEARANCE: 1960 – Toledo, Ohio
PINFALL TOTAL: 71,723
TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 171.9

FAVORITE TOURNAMENT MEMORY: Billings, Montana, in 2002 – I returned to bowling after a seven-year absence.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU: Just living long enough to accomplish this.



EARL
VANDERMARK

HOMETOWN: Marion, Ind.
FIRST APPEARANCE: 1974 – Indianapolis
PINFALL TOTAL: 74,056
TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 167.9

FAVORITE TOURNAMENT MEMORY: At the 1974 tournament in Indianapolis, I got to go with my dad. It was the only one that my dad and I went together. In 1979, I was in Tampa, Florida, with the new automatic computer system when it went offline. They had to go back to manual scorekeeping.

FAVORITE HOST CITY: Reno, Nevada, and Las Vegas – so much to do and see in each city.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU: It means a lot to me just because I lived this long.

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RANDY WIEMER

HOMETOWN: Columbia, Mo.
FIRST APPEARANCE: 1975 – Dayton, Ohio
PINFALL TOTAL: 87,575
TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 198.5

FAVORITE TOURNAMENT MEMORY: We led Team All-Events and set a record that lasted one day. We led doubles that year for many weeks but were beat three times in one week late in the tournament.

FAVORITE HOST CITY: Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1993 – I had my best results there (2,120 all-events score).

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU:
 My brother is two years older, and I was not allowed to come until the age he bowled his first tournament (16), so the milestone I have my sights on is to last longer than him.



R. KENNETH WIGGINS

HOMETOWN: Pekin, Ill.
FIRST APPEARANCE: 1965 – St. Paul, Minn.
PINFALL TOTAL: 74,507
TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 172.4

FAVORITE TOURNAMENT MEMORY: In Baton Rouge, Louisiana (2005), I scored well in doubles.

FAVORITE HOST CITY: Albuquerque, New Mexico, for the weather and friends. Baton Rouge for the food!

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU:
 I lived long enough to make it.

THANK YOU!

While bowlers from across the globe make their way to Baton Rouge for the 2025 USBC Open Championships (thank you for your dedication to the tournament!), a group of incredible individuals already have settled into the community to bring you a championship bowling experience second to none.

Starting in December 2024, members of our construction team descended upon Red Stick to start the transformation of the Raising Cane’s River Center into a 54-lane bowling facility. The process from starting with an empty convention floor to scoreboards, lanes, pinsetters, office space and a row of vendors carrying all the top brands in the sport took just over two months to complete. Once the final ball is rolled at the end of July, the crew will return to disassemble the venue in just eight days. All salvageable materials from the bowling venue will be saved and donated to the local Habitat for Humanity ReStore to help our friendly host city.

Between the end of construction and the start of teardown, we’ll host bowlers inside the venue for nearly 22 hours per day over the course of 150 consecutive days. A dedicated crew of approximately 50 staff members – known as travelers – have moved from their homes across the country to Baton Rouge to lead each department and help the tournament run like a well-oiled machine. The staff also will be joined by approximately 75 local employees to complete the tournament team for 2025.

It’s their goal to create the ultimate bowling experience for each and every bowler, and the tournament wouldn’t be able to continue its storied history without their efforts day in and day out during the Open Championships.

We’d like to take a moment to offer them a well-deserved THANK YOU for what they bring to the tournament each year. Let’s meet the traveling staff in Baton Rouge!

Danny, Iowa, 31 years
 Danny, Pennsylvania, 22 years
 Joy, Pennsylvania, 22 years
 Pete, Nevada, 19 years
 John, Texas, 18 years
 James, Indiana, 16 years
 Robin, Nevada, 16 years
 Bobby, Florida, 15 years
 Tyler, Louisiana, 13 years
 Kelli, Nevada, 11 years
 Amy, Texas, 10 years
 Leo, Nevada, 10 years
 Rick, Nevada, 10 years
 Elaine, Texas, nine years
 Jazmin, Texas, eight years
 Robert, Nevada, eight years
 Brian, Nevada, seven years
 Dusty, Nevada, seven years
 Gary, New York, seven years
 Lisa, Nevada, seven years
 Sheldon, Tennessee, seven years
 Suzanne, New York, seven years
 Jimmy, Nevada, six years
 John, Nevada, six years
 Ronald, New York, six years
 Tres, Michigan, six years
 Dawn, Nevada, five years
 Suzanne, Nevada, five years
 Taimarius, Nevada, five years

Damian, Nevada, four years
 Joyce, Arizona, four years
 Aric, Nevada, three years
 Christell, Nevada, three years
 Christopher, Texas, three years
 Claire, Nevada, three years
 Gordon, Nevada, three years
 Josh, North Dakota, three years
 Justin, Indiana, three years
 Karen, Nevada, three years
 Leslie, Nevada, three years
 Mary, Nevada, three years
 Michael, Nevada, three years
 Alesa, Nevada, two years
 Brian, Arizona, two years
 Elbert, Nevada, two years
 Eric, Nevada, two years
 Gloria, Nevada, two years
 Kayli, New York, two years
 Samantha, Nevada, two years
 Aaliyah, Nevada, one year
 Jason, Louisiana, one year
 Jason, Texas, one year
 Mark, Minnesota, one year
 Michael, North Dakota, one year
 Nick, Indiana, one year
 Silas, Missouri, one year
 Synthia, Nevada, one year

USBC staff providing day-to-day support at the Open Championships

James O’Connor
 Senior Director of Tournament Delivery – Open and Women’s Championships

Chip Aki
 Assistant Tournament Manager

David McCord
 Championships Assistant Manager

Brandy Silva
 Tournament Office Specialist

Ron Helms
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Shaun Helms
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Aaron Smith
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