

# '24 IBC YOUTH ANNUAL REPORT





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*We appreciate all you do in support of youth bowling!*

International Bowling Campus Youth Development

Established: 2011 • Headquarters: 621 Six Flags Drive, Arlington, TX 76011

Phone : 800-514-2695, ext: 8426 • Website : BOWL.com/Youth

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## VISION

For all children to experience the fun of organized bowling.

## MISSION

Provide opportunities for youth bowling through services, developmental programs and competitions.

## CORE VALUES



SERVICE



INTEGRITY



EDUCATION



TEAMWORK



COLLABORATION



LEADERSHIP

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Membership Value
- Tournaments
- Education
  - Scholastic Opportunities
  - Marketing
  - Innovation

**# MORE KIDS BOWLING**

## 2023–2024 USBC YOUTH COMMITTEE

### YOUTH COMMITTEE

**Chrissie Kent, Chair**  
Newark, N.Y.  
Chair through 2025  
Member through 2025

**Elizabeth Dewerth**  
LaVista, NE  
Member through 2026

**Chad Estes**  
Statesville, N.C.  
Member through 2024

**Christopher Floyd**  
Slidell, LA  
Member through 2025

**Brooklyn Gagnon**  
Sioux Falls, SD  
Member through 2024

**Angel Metsch**  
Statesville, NC  
Member through 2025

**Matt Orvis**  
Green Bay, WI  
Member through 2026

**Allen Solomon**  
Neptune Beach, FL  
Member through 2026

**Becky Young**  
McDonough, GA  
Member through 2024

### YOUTH LIASIONS

**Zach Burton**  
Director of Youth Development

**Melissa Matos**  
Director of Youth Marketing

# USBC YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORT

The United States Bowling Congress (USBC) Youth Committee is proud of the successes and progress of the past year. Together, we can inspire a few more young competitors to go bowling more often!

The USBC Youth Committee is made up of a diverse group of individuals who represent all of the youth bowling spectrum and have been working together to shape A Future for the Sport.

The mission of the Youth Development team is to “Cultivate opportunities to grow youth bowling through services, developmental programs and competitions.” Through this mission, we will deliver a vision of encouraging all children to experience the fun of organized bowling.

Through the continued partnership and financial support of USBC and BPAA, they are providing us with the opportunity to keep youth bowling moving forward, growing and turning our youth bowlers into lifetime bowlers.

USBC and BPAA continue to work in a collaborative effort toward the mission and values of the USBC Youth Strategic Plan.

To SERVICE bowling with INTEGRITY in all areas through EDUCATION, TEAMWORK and COLLABORATION with our partners. Above all, demonstrate and foster LEADERSHIP within the organization at all levels.

Let’s take a look at the products!

**Membership** –The cost of membership remains unchanged. Youth membership continues to provide a low-cost entry barrier for children to enter the sport. The season ended with more than 102,000 youth members. Junior Gold and Collegiate stayed just about even with 5,962 members and 4,413 members respectively.

**Junior Gold** –More than 3,100 youth members competed at the 2024 Junior Gold Championships for over \$500,000 in total scholarships. This year all participants and spectators attending the event will get to experience a LIVE PWBA TELEVISION show during the 2025 Junior Gold Opening Ceremony.

A Junior Gold working group, consisting of industry experts and members of the Youth Committee, collaborated to create a series of enhancements to the Junior Gold Championships. These updates include a revised qualifying window, adjusted age divisions, modified practice sessions, updated equipment rules, and changes to membership and entry fees. Each of these improvements is designed to enrich the overall Junior Gold experience and will be enacted for the 2026 event.

Congratulations to our 2024 Junior Gold Champions:

- Boys U12 – Eli Franco, Fishers, Indiana
- Girls U12 – Alyssa Randisi, Brooklyn, New York
- Boys U15 – Elliott Gordon, Columbus, Ohio
- Girls U15 – Bella Castillo, Odessa, Texas
- Boys U18 – Ernesto Reynoso, Folsom, California
- Girls U18 – Karina Capron, Fremont, Nebraska

**Youth Open** –The Youth Open Championships hosted just over 900 bowlers vying for a total of more than \$95,000 in scholarship. After the eight days of competition were complete, 96 champions were determined across 28 scratch divisions in team, doubles, singles, and all-events. We would like to thank Bowling.com for their continued support of youth bowling and sponsorship of the Youth Open Championships for 11 years.

**Pepsi Championships** – The Pepsi Youth Championships is open to all USBC Youth members. The Pepsi Championships awarded more than \$1.1 million in scholarships to bowlers across the country, marking three

consecutive years of more than \$1 million in prize distributions. More than 21,000 youth athletes competed at the local and state levels of competition. A special thanks is extended to our partners at BPAA, Strike Ten, Smart Buy, and Pepsi for their continued support of this great event.

**Bowler’s Ed** – The Bowler’s Ed program awarded 25 grants to school districts and organizations around the country. Since 2009, the Bowler’s Ed Grant Program has awarded 354 grants valued at over \$700,000. More than 4.1 million students from 47 states and provinces across the United States and Canada have been positively impacted by the program. Additionally, the team attended the 2024 SHAPE American National Convention and Expo to promote the Bowler’s Ed program to health and physical education professionals. During this event, more than 3,400 curriculums were given to educators with the potential to impact thousands of students across the country.

**High School/Middle School** – The department remains committed to being a resource for local and state initiatives seeking to create and grow high school and middle school bowling. This past year, the high school program was able to award bowling equipment to 198 high school bowlers as part of the S.E.T.S Equipment Grants.

This year, 10 athletes (five boys and five girls) were named to the Dexter High School All-American Team. From these team members, one boy and one girl were selected as the Bud Clapsaddle Team Captain. Congratulations to last year’s Dexter High School All-American Team and thank you to Dexter for your contributions to high school bowling.

Congratulations to the members of the 2024 Dexter High School All-American Team:

#### Girls Team

- Miya Greene, San Antonio, Senior, Brennan High School
- Ashley Imhoff, Cabot, Arkansas, Senior, Cabot High School
- Hailey Lennox, Mount Vernon, Washington, Junior, Washington Virtual Academy
- Maggie Smith, Ypsilanti, Michigan, Sophomore, Milan High School
- \*Tamia Yeager, Tacoma, Washington, Junior, Spanaway Lake High School

#### Boys Team

- \*KC Campbell, Newark, New Jersey, Senior, Seton Hall Preparatory High School
- Houston Fulks, Franklin, Tennessee, Junior, Franklin High School
- Benjamin “Mason” Mullins, Washington Court House, Ohio, Junior, Washington High School
- Jake Paulson, Hudson, Wisconsin, Sophomore, New Life Academy
- Logan Winkler, Lebanon, Tennessee, Senior, Friendship Christian School

\*Denotes the Bud Clapsaddle Team Captain

**Collegiate** – Collegiate bowling continues to be a growing segment in the bowling industry. USBC Collegiate had 238 schools and a record 4,413 members last season. A great season filled with 190 successfully run regular season events, 1,548 athletes competing for their chance at the Intercollegiate Singles Championship titles, and national champions determined across multiple organizations. The 2023-2024 season brought the 50th Celebration of Collegiate Bowling along with the inaugural year of the USBC Collegiate Hall of Fame where five individuals were inducted across three categories.

Congratulations to the 2023-2024 Collegiate Champions:

- Intercollegiate Team Champions (Men) – Webber International, Babson Park, Florida
- Intercollegiate Team Champions (Women) – Wichita State, Wichita, Kansas
- Intercollegiate Singles Champion (Men) – Jaysen Spanbauer, Marian-Wisconsin, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin
- Intercollegiate Singles Champion (Women) – Sara Duque, Wichita State, Wichita, Kansas
- NCAA Champions (Women) – Jacksonville State, Jacksonville, Alabama
- NAIA Champions (Men) – Savannah College of Art and Design - Savannah, Savannah, Georgia
- NAIA Champions (Women) – Savannah College of Art and Design - Savannah, Savannah, Georgia
- NJCAA Champions (Men) – Rock Valley College, Rockford, Illinois
- NJCAA Champions (Women) – Rock Valley College, Rockford, Illinois
- Collegiate Club National Champions (Men) – William Paterson University, Wayne, New Jersey
- Collegiate Club National Champions (Women) – Muskingum University, New Concord, Ohio
- Congratulations to the USBC Collegiate Hall of Fame Class of 2024
- Student-Athlete: Jack Connaughton, Lafayette, Indiana
- Student-Athlete: Kelly Kulick, Union, New Jersey
- Student-Athlete: Rick Steelsmith, Wichita, Kansas
- Coach: Gordon Vadakin, Wichita, Kansas
- Contributor: Karl Nickolai, Canton, Michigan

**USA Bowling** – The USA Coaching program continued its strong resurgence this last year supporting 44 coaching seminars across the country that supplied 642 attendees the knowledge and skills needed to aid in coaching youth bowlers in their communities. Since 2011, the program has supported 728 total seminars with more than 12,000 attendees.

The USA Bowling Tournaments program conducted another successful year, hosting 16 Regional Tournaments and the USA Bowling National Championships. After winning their regional qualifying event, teams in the U12 and U15 age divisions made their way to Detroit to vie for the USA Bowling National Championship.

Congratulations to our 2024 USA Bowling National Champions:

- U12 – Coastal South, Stars and Strikes: Nico Candelero, Vincent Cintron, Kristopher Koehler, Presley Raine, Colton Takas
- U15 – Atlantic East, Gratitude: Matteo Quintero, Jackson Veitch, Sebastian Vetter, Jos Weems

Congratulations to our 2024 National Youth Award recipients:

- Alberta E. Crowe Star of Tomorrow: Melia Mitskavich, DuBois, Pennsylvania
- Chuck Hall Star of Tomorrow: William Smith, Smyrna, Tennessee
- USBC Youth Ambassadors of the Year: Jersie Benson, Evansdale, Iowa, and Derek Hayes, Madison, Wisconsin
- Annual Zeb Scholarship: Ethan Leicht, Florence, Kentucky

- USBC Youth Volunteer of the Year: Patti Mauerman, Tremont, Illinois
- David Dahms Coach of the Year: Nelson Tellames, Richmond Hill, Georgia
- Earl Anthony Memorial Scholarship: Brady Burns, Loveland, Ohio; John Eversole, Fairfield Township, Ohio; Hanna Hale, Hazlet, New Jersey; Edwin Ortiz, Medina, Ohio; Anna Osias, Memphis, Tennessee
- Gift For Life Scholarship: Shelby Brown, Saraland, Alabama; Madison Bruner, Great Falls, Montana; Jessica Gopanchuk, Warrenville, Illinois; Katarina Hagler, Cape Coral, Florida; Emily Holian, Lee, Massachusetts; Kyra Italien, Dorchester, Massachusetts; Madison Morant, Elgin, South Carolina.; Edwin Ortiz, Medina, Ohio; Anna Osias, Memphis, Tennessee; Averyanna Thomas, Connelly, New York; Taylor Waltier, Fircrest, Washington; Sandler Wiekamp, Chamberlain, South Dakota

If you haven’t already, we invite you to check out our online Youth Resource Center at BOWL.com/YouthResourceCenter. The Resource Center was built to provide the tools necessary to build and promote youth programming.

#MoreKidsBowling #AFutureForTheSport

Respectfully submitted,

Committee members: Chrissie Kent (Chair), Robert Cincotta, Elizabeth De Werth, Chad Estes, Christopher Floyd, Brooklyn Gagnon, Angel Metsch, Matt Orvis, Allen Solomon, Becky Young. Staff liaison: Zach Barton

## USBC SMART PROGRAM MAKES \$7 MILLION EARNING ALLOCATION, ADDITIONAL \$1 MILLION TO SMART PELL GRANT MATCH

ARLINGTON, Texas – The United States Bowling Congress Scholarship Management and Account Reporting for Tenpins (SMART) program is making an investment earnings allocation of \$7 million to provide additional scholarships for youth bowlers in 2024.

The \$7 million allocation is consistent with funding provided in 2022 and 2023. This allocation matches the largest investment earnings allocation in SMART history.

In addition to the earnings allocation, SMART is allocating an additional \$1 million to the SMART Pell Grant Match program.

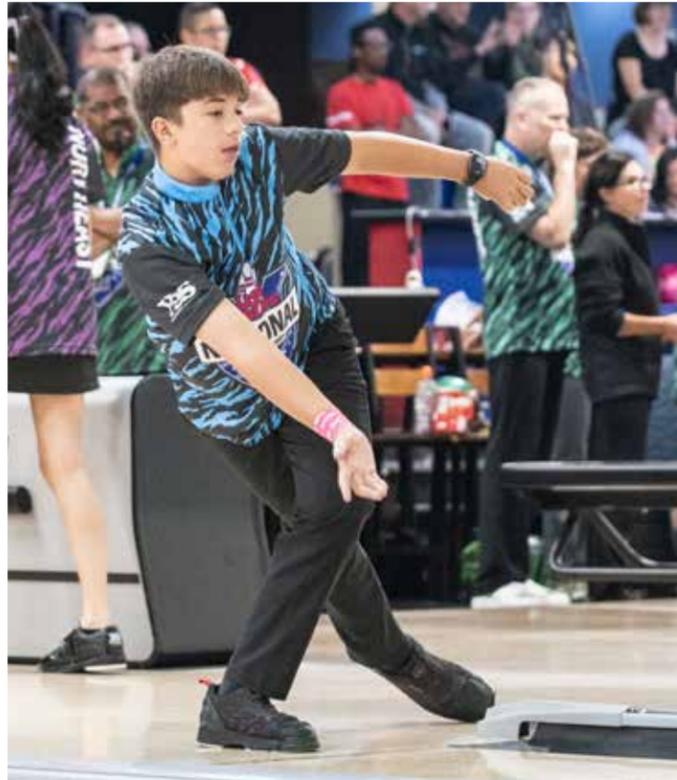
Due to policies adopted in 2021, a portion of the allocation will immediately go to new scholarships for youth bowlers. SMART is progressively paying more benefits for students every year. In 2023, SMART processed the largest total disbursements in program history, reaching \$11.4 million.

Included in this allocation (approximate numbers):

- \$2.55 million in bonus scholarships to the 6,344 active SMART Recipients. These are students who used SMART funds in 2023. Each student will immediately receive a new \$400 SMART scholarship.
- \$1.9 million in new SMART deposited unassigned funds for Providers to allocate toward future scholarships. This is in addition to the new \$3.2 million SMART deposited unassigned funds Providers received for allocation in December from expired Recipient accounts.
- \$2.55 million is set aside for the SMART Pell Grant Match Program for the 2024-2025 academic year.

The federal Pell Grant is a national program that helps students and families with the greatest financial need pay for college. The SMART Pell Grant Match maximizes the power of this federal program for bowlers by matching it dollar for dollar. The SMART Pell Grant Match will be available to any student with at least one season of USBC Youth participation and two seasons of overall USBC membership.

In 2021, the USBC Board of Directors approved a series of policy changes for SMART, designed to increase scholarship benefits for SMART Recipients. The new policy allocates a portion of investment gains to be awarded as new scholarships in SMART Recipient accounts.



## RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED FOR 2024 BOWLER'S ED KITS

ARLINGTON, Texas – Nine schools and three school districts will have the opportunity to incorporate bowling into their educational plans during the 2024-2025 school year.

Twelve recipients have been chosen by the International Bowling Campus Youth Development team to receive Bowler's Ed kits and curriculum information through the Bowler's Ed Grant Program, which directly impacts over 62,000 students. Bowler's Ed is a curriculum- and equipment-based physical education program designed to introduce students to the lifetime sport of bowling.

Each Bowler's Ed kit provides teachers and supporting staff with the equipment and tools needed to enjoy the sport in the most convenient way – bringing a bowling-center-like atmosphere into classrooms, gyms and recreational spaces.

Through the grant program, schools and organizations are able to teach students and young athletes about bowling in an educational and fun setting. Each kit provides six sets of the following: a carpeted mobile bowling lane, rubber bowling ball, plastic pins, step-by-step curriculum and an instructional video on the fundamentals of bowling, which includes etiquette, safety, scoring and fitness activities.

The schools and school districts selected to receive Bowler's Ed kits for the 2024-2025 school year were determined based on applications submitted by the Dec. 31, 2023, deadline. The kits will be received by the following schools and districts:

- Bernice Vossbeck Elementary School – Lynden, Wash.
- Conrad Weiser East Elementary School – Wernersville, Pa.
- College Community School District – Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- Eau Claire Area School District – Eau Claire, Wis.
- Harmony Hills Elementary School – Silver Spring, Md.
- McVey Elementary School – Newark, Del.
- P.S. 121 – South Ozone Park, N.Y.
- Riverdale Elementary School – Mt. Blanchard, Ohio
- Saint Martin de Porres Academy – New Haven, Conn.
- San Antonio Independent School District – San Antonio
- Southwood Elementary School – Kinston, N.C.
- Wellington School – Winnipeg, Manitoba

The curriculum includes lessons that put a new twist on subjects that students are already learning about such as math, language arts, social studies, problem solving, computer skills and more. It also introduces the students to a sport that they can play for a lifetime while providing great exercise, building endurance and developing hand-eye coordination in a fun way.

IBC Youth Development works with local associations, schools and bowling centers throughout the country to deliver the In-School Bowler's Ed kits. Each kit is valued at \$2,200.

The initiative is supported by the bowling industry and aims to bring bowling centers and associations together with schools and non-profit organizations in their communities, allowing physical education teachers and other instructors the opportunity to make bowling one of the sports they teach to their students.

Since 2010, the Bowler's Ed Grant Program has awarded 341 grants valued at over \$750,000. More than 4.7 million students from 46 states and provinces across the United States and Canada have been impacted by the program.

## FIVE EARN INDUCTION TO INAUGURAL USBC COLLEGIATE HALL OF FAME CLASS



ARLINGTON, Texas – The inaugural class for the United States Bowling Congress Collegiate Hall of Fame has been determined, with five inductees helping usher in a historic celebration of the sport in April 2024.

Jack Connaughton of Lafayette, Indiana; Kelly Kulick of Union, New Jersey; and Rick Steelsmith of Wichita, Kansas, have earned induction for their on-lane performances as Student-Athletes. Gordon Vadakin of Wichita, Kansas, will join the inaugural class in the Coach category. Karl Nickolai of Canton, Michigan, completes the 2024 class for his dedication to collegiate bowling as a Contributor.

The ceremony for the 2024 USBC Collegiate Hall of Fame will take place April 17 during the banquet for the Intercollegiate Team Championships in Louisville, Kentucky.

Connaughton, 78, was a standout at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (previously Wisconsin State University-La Crosse) from 1964-1968 and dominated competition across the Association of College Unions International (ACUI) and National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) ranks.

In ACUI competition, Connaughton swept the top spots at the 1967 national finals, winning singles, doubles and all-events. He returned in 1968 to successfully defend his titles in singles and all-events, while finishing fourth in doubles.

During the same two-year span at the NAIA Championship, Connaughton helped Wisconsin-La Crosse win back-to-back team titles, claimed a pair of wins in doubles competition and recorded a first-place finish in singles at the 1968 event. He finished as the runner-up in singles in 1967.

In 1966, he led Wisconsin-La Crosse to the National Intercollegiate Bowling Association (NIBA) team title.

Connaughton, originally from Waukesha, Wisconsin, traveled to Paris, France, in 1967 as the first collegiate representative of the United States at the famed World Cup, where he captured the victory.

He has received numerous awards and honors and is a member of the NAIA, Kansas State USBC and Wisconsin State USBC Halls of Fame.

Kulick, 46, was a collegiate star at Morehead State University from 1995-1999 before ascending as one of the biggest names in the sport through her triumphs on the Professional Women's Bowling Association (PWBA) and Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) Tours and as a member of Team USA.

After earning a spot as a second-team All-American from the National Collegiate Bowling Coaches Association (NCBCA) her freshman season, Kulick rattled off three consecutive first-team selections. She was named the NCBCA Most Valuable Player in each of those seasons (1996-1997, 1997-1998 and 1998-1999).

Kulick also was the recipient of the International Bowling Media Association (IBMA) Collegiate Bowler of the Year award in 1997 and 1998.

Fans from across the globe have watched Kulick deliver clutch strikes to claim seven PWBA Tour titles (including five major championships) and more than 20 gold medals as a member of Team USA and Junior Team USA. In 2010, she garnered global praise as she became the first woman to win a national title on the PBA Tour with her major victory at the PBA Tournament of Champions.

She set the stage for these moments in 1998 at the Intercollegiate Team Championships in Madison, Wisconsin. In the two-game total-pinfall championship against Central Missouri State, Kulick stepped up in a must-strike situation for the Eagles and rolled two strikes to secure the program's second national title.

Kulick was inducted to the USBC Hall of Fame in 2019 for Superior Performance.

Steelsmith, 59, became the first four-time NCBCA first-team All-American during his tenure at Vincennes University and Wichita State University from 1983-1987.

During his two-year stint at Vincennes, Steelsmith helped the Trailblazers win the 1985 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) team championship. He also claimed the national singles title for NJCAA in 1985.

Making his move to Wichita State for his junior and senior campaigns, Steelsmith continued to showcase his talent at the top level. He helped the Shockers to a third-place finish at the Intercollegiate Team Championships in 1986, earning the honor of Most Valuable Player for the all-tournament team.

Steelsmith put together his finest showing in 1987. He was named the NCBCA Most Valuable Player and IBMA Collegiate Bowler of the Year, again earned MVP honors at the Intercollegiate Team Championships and helped the Shockers record the team victory at the ITC.

Shortly after concluding his collegiate season, he went on to win the USBC Masters as an amateur and claimed two gold medals (trios, all-events), one silver medal (Masters) and two bronze medals (singles, doubles) for Team USA at the International

Bowling Federation World Championships in Helsinki, Finland.

At the start of the 2019-2020 season, Steelsmith took over as the men's head bowling coach at Wichita State and has helped the Shockers win the 2021 and 2023 Intercollegiate Team Championships.

Steelsmith, the 1988 PBA Rookie of the Year and two-time PBA Tour champion, is a member of the NJCAA, Kansas State USBC and USBC (2013) Halls of Fame.

Vadakin, 70, was at the helm of the Wichita State University men's and women's bowling programs from 1978-2019 and helped the Shockers claim 18 national titles between both teams.

The men's program collected 11 Intercollegiate Team Championships titles during Vadakin's tenure (1980, 1987, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1998, 2003, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2015), and the men's team is the only program to record three consecutive wins at the ITC, having accomplished the feat two times (1993-1995 and 2008-2010).

The women's team earned seven wins at the ITC under Vadakin's watch, claiming victory in 1978, 1986, 1990, 1994, 2005, 2007 and 2009.

In all, the men's program qualified for the ITC in 37 of Vadakin's 42 years leading the program, while the women's team earned their spot in 41 of 42 attempts, advancing each year since 1982.

Along with the team success, Vadakin also coached nine individual national champions (six at the Intercollegiate Singles Championships). He had 12 student-athletes claim a combined 24 NCBCA Most Valuable Player and IBMA Collegiate Bowler of the Year awards and coached 145 NCBCA All-Americans and nearly 250 academic All-Americans. At the professional ranks, Vadakin coached 17 athletes who went on to win PBA or PWBA Tour events.

In 2020, the NCBCA renamed its award to recognize the top coach in the men's division as the NCBCA Gordon Vadakin Coach of the Year Award.

Vadakin, a two-time Team USA member and two-time Eagle winner at the USBC Open Championships, is a Kansas State USBC and USBC (2007) Hall of Famer.

Nickolai, 62, started his involvement in collegiate bowling first as a student-athlete at Michigan State University before taking over as the head coach of the men's

program. He held the coaching spot with the Spartans for 35 years, and in 2001, became the first recipient of the NCBCA Kerm Helmer (now Gordon Vadakin) Coach of the Year Award.

He left a lasting mark in how the sport was consumed with the launching of CollegeBowling.com in 1997. The website served as a place to view tournament results across the collegiate landscape, and it expanded over time to include rankings, statistics and player profiles. Nickolai maintained the website until 2020, when the site became part of USBC's CollegeBowling.Bowl.com.

Nickolai was responsible for several additional items used to help rank collegiate teams and student-athletes versus the field.

In 1998, he teamed with Joe Ciccone to develop the Team Ranking System (TRS), which is an objective point-based system for ranking schools on performance in regular-season tournaments and used today to help determine sectional assignments for the four qualifying events for the Intercollegiate Team Championships.

He also introduced average differential to the collegiate bowling scene, which measures a student-athletes' average for an event and over the season against the field of competition.

Nickolai also has given his time to the NCBCA and has been a member since 1984. He has served two separate stints as the organization's president (1992-1994 and 1998-2020) and was selected as the NCBCA Gordon Teigen Meritorious Service Award winner in 1999.

He also was recognized for his service in 2010 as the USBC Youth Volunteer of the Year and was presented the IBMA Alberta E. Crowe Meritorious Service Award in 2019.

The formation of the USBC Collegiate Hall of Fame was announced in November 2022, and nominations for the inaugural class were accepted through Jan. 5, 2024.

The USBC Collegiate Hall of Fame Committee reviewed the applications to determine the members of the 2024 class. The committee is comprised of 13 individuals, featuring representatives appointed by the USBC Collegiate Advisory Committee, USBC Hall of Fame members and veteran bowling writers. The committee only considered collegiate achievements when reviewing applications.



## QUALIFIERS DETERMINED AT 2024 INTERCOLLEGIATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS



ARLINGTON, Texas – The finalists have been determined for the 2024 Intercollegiate Singles Championships with the conclusion of four sectional qualifying events held throughout the United States.

The national singles competition will feature 24 female and 24 male student-athletes vying for the title in their respective divisions April 15-20 at Kingpin Lanes in Jeffersontown, Kentucky.

Friday's sectional qualifiers were contested at Stardust Bowl in Addison, Illinois; Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park, Michigan; Cityview Lanes in Fort Worth, Texas; and Smyrna Bowling Center in Smyrna, Tennessee.

Competitors at each location bowled six games with the top four women and top four men at each qualifier earning an automatic spot at the ISC. The remaining spots were determined based on field size at each location.

On the women's side, a total of eight student-athletes advanced from Addison, six from Allen Park and five each from Fort Worth and Smyrna. The men's division advanced eight from Addison, six from Fort Worth and five each from Allen Park and Smyrna.

The qualifiers in the men's division include (place, athlete, college, pinfall):

- Addison – 1, Kai Yamada, Mount Mercy, 1,450; 2, Garrett Lee, McKendree, 1,439; 3, Kyle Rosenberg, Mount Mercy, 1,412; 4, Jalen Pfaff, St. Francis-Illinois, 1,394; 5, Bryant Griffith, Milligan, 1,381; 6, Ardani Rodas, St. Francis-Illinois, 1,380; 7 (tie), Carstin Olson, Hastings, and Jaysen Spanbauer, Marian-Wisconsin, 1,379
- Allen Park – 1, Evan Thro, Muskingum, 1,415; 2, Jayvion Colston, Webber International, 1,396; 3, Bryce Oliver, Pikeville, 1,391; 4, Johann Gamo, William Paterson, 1,371; 5, Nicholas Clauson, Lawrence Tech, 1,366
- Fort Worth – 1, Ryan Barnes, Wichita State, 1,456; 2, Kendrick Siders, St. Ambrose, 1,444; 3, Josh Hammons, Kansas, 1,429; 4, Zachary Smullen, Newman, 1,422; 5, Javier Muniz Vega, Lindenwood, 1,417; 6, Braden Mallasch, Wichita State, 1,407
- Smyrna – 1, Nick Larsen, Webber International, 1,371; 2, Zackary Sisk, Trine, 1,363; 3, Jordan Monmens, Savannah College of Art and Design-Savannah, 1,358; 4 (tie), Devin Flowers, Northwestern Ohio, and Ethan Kai Evans, Savannah College of Art and Design-Savannah, 1,350

The qualifiers in the women's division are (place, athlete, college, pinfall):

- Addison – 1, Mackenzie Ullian, Mount Mercy, 1,329; 2, Chloe Siezega,



Judson, 1,323; 3, Megan Kolberg, Mount Mercy, 1,319; 4, Elena Carr, Mount Mercy, 1,318; 5, Emily Newbauer, Viterbo, 1,315; 6, Erica Lohr, Lewis, 1,306; 7, Juliana Kerrigan, Stephen F. Austin, 1,304; 8, Brystal Beyer, Stephen F. Austin, 1,303

- Allen Park – 1, Kaylee Hitt, Vanderbilt, 1,336; 2, Melanie Katen, North Carolina A&T, 1,331; 3, Molly Chiesa, Sacred Heart, 1,328; 4, Maya Avilez, North Carolina A&T, 1,313; 5, Chloe Newberry, North Carolina A&T, 1,291; 6, Kristina Catoe, Pikeville, 1,282
- Fort Worth – 1, Kylee Trexler, Louisiana Tech, 1,371; 2, Hailey Bozych, Lindenwood, 1,339; 3, Sara Duque, Wichita State, 1,326; 4, Morgan Gitlitz, Tulane, 1,312; 5, Samantha Smith, Lindenwood, 1,306
- Smyrna – 1, Crystal Elliott, Jacksonville State, 1,396; 2, Kayla Smith, Jacksonville State, 1,381; 3, Natalie Kent, Vanderbilt, 1,373; 4, Keyla Covarrubias, Jacksonville State, 1,321; 5, Jaqueline Witura, Webber International, 1,310

Select pairs at each sectional location were broadcast live at BowITV.com.

Team competition will follow at each location for sectional qualifying in the Intercollegiate Team Championships.

Total pinfall for 64 Baker games will determine the four women's teams and four men's teams from each site to advance to the ITC, which also will be held at Kingpin Lanes from April 17-20.

## QUALIFIERS DETERMINED AT 2024 INTERCOLLEGIATE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS



ARLINGTON, Texas – The teams that will compete for the Helmer Cup at the 2024 Intercollegiate Team Championships in April were determined after two days of sectional qualifying concluded at four locations across the country.

The top four performers in the men's and women's divisions at each location advanced to the national team competition, which will take place April 17-20 at Kingpin Lanes in Jeffersontown, Kentucky.

The sectional qualifiers were held at Stardust Bowl in Addison, Illinois; Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park, Michigan; Cityview Lanes in Fort Worth, Texas; and Smyrna Bowling Center in Smyrna, Tennessee.

Teams bowled a total of 64 Baker games Saturday and Sunday at their respective locations with total pinfall determining the advancers.

The possibility of a repeat national champion remains alive in the men's division as Wichita State advanced to nationals by winning the Fort Worth Sectional. There will be a new titlist on the women's side, however, after McKendree finished outside the top four in Addison.

While Wichita State will be looking to repeat and add to its own record by claiming its 14th men's national title, the men's team from Muskingum and the women's teams from Jacksonville State and Oklahoma Christian will be making their ITC national finals debuts this year.

The qualifiers in the men's division include (place, college, pinfall):

- Addison – 1, Wisconsin-Whitewater, 13,546; 2, Mount Mercy, 13,307; 3, McKendree, 13,162; 4, Midland, 13,123
- Allen Park – 1, Calumet, 13,444; 2, Muskingum, 13,290; 3, Lawrence Tech, 13,087; 4, Pikeville, 12,854
- Fort Worth – 1, Wichita State, 13,821; 2, Grand Canyon, 13,106; 3, St. Ambrose, 13,029; 4, Lindenwood, 13,021
- Smyrna – 1, Webber International, 13,248; 2, Marian-Indiana, 13,225; 3, Indiana Tech, 13,178; 4, Savannah College of Art and Design-Savannah, 13,097

The qualifiers in the women's division are (place, college, pinfall):

- Addison – 1, Mount Mercy, 13,130; 2, Duquesne, 12,716; 3, St. Francis-Illinois, 12,178; 4, Saint Xavier, 12,149
- Allen Park – 1, Pikeville, 13,383; 2, North Carolina A&T, 13,135; 3, Sacred Heart, 12,519; 4, Maryville, 12,518
- Fort Worth – 1, Louisiana Tech, 13,051; 2, Wichita State, 12,901; 3, Tulane, 12,450; 4, Oklahoma Christian, 12,450
- Smyrna – 1, Jacksonville State, 13,403; 2, Savannah College of Art and Design-Savannah, 13,235; 3, Maryland Eastern Shore, 12,511; 4, Webber International, 12,379



## INAUGURAL USBC COLLEGIATE HALL OF FAME CLASS INDUCTED, MVPS AND ALL-AMERICANS NAMED DURING 2024 NIGHT OF CHAMPIONS BANQUET

LOUISVILLE, Ky. – The inaugural class of the United States Bowling Congress Collegiate Hall of Fame was inducted and the Most Valuable Players of the 2023-2024 collegiate season were named by the National Collegiate Bowling Coaches Association (NCBCA) and the Storm/International Bowling Media Association (IBMA) during the annual Night of Champions banquet at the Louisville Marriott East.

Jack Connaughton of Lafayette, Indiana; Kelly Kulick of Union, New Jersey; and Rick Steelsmith of Wichita, Kansas, earned induction for their on-lane performances as Student-Athletes. Gordon Vadakin of Wichita, Kansas, joined the inaugural class in the Coach category. Karl Nickolai of Canton, Michigan, completed the 2024 class for his dedication to collegiate bowling as a Contributor.

Speaking of contributions, it would be difficult to argue that anyone did more for their respective teams this season than Wichita State's Spencer Robarge and Webber International's Jaqueline Witura, and that is why both were named the NCBCA's Most Valuable Players and the IBMA Bowlers of the Year for the 2023-2024 USBC Collegiate season. For Robarge, it marks the second consecutive year he's brought home collegiate bowling's top individual men's honors.

The inductions took place and honors were bestowed during the annual Night of Champions banquet, which serves as the kickoff to the Intercollegiate Team Championships.

This year's banquet, which was broadcast live at BowTV.com, was special not only because it incorporated the enshrinement of the first set of USBC Collegiate Hall of Famers but it also set the stage for the start of the 50th edition of collegiate bowling's national championship team competition.

Robarge, who in addition to sweeping both men's top individual honors in 2023, was the 2022 NCBCA Rookie of the Year. This season, he averaged more than 225 over nine events and posted an average differential of 42.32 to lead the nation in both categories as a junior. He also was near the top of both categories in Tier I competition (223.38 and 40.03) to help the Shockers to the top of the team rankings for the regular season.

He collected one individual victory and six top-five finishes during the year. During the Mid-States Championships in October, the two-hander topped the men's field by nearly 100 pins after authoring a six-game total of 1,461 (243.5 average). No other men's competitor averaged higher than 229.

Robarge was joined on this year's NCBCA All-America first team by fellow Wichita State bowlers Ryan Barnes and Brandon Bonta as well as Bryce Oliver of Pikeville and CJ Petrin of Oklahoma Christian.

Zach Andresen of Mount Mercy was named the NCBCA Rookie of the Year after securing one win, four top-five finishes, five top-10 finishes and averaging 212.5 during the season.

Witura, a senior for the Warriors, finished the regular season second in both average (208.36) and average differential (36.29) over 11 total events; however, she topped all women's competitors in both statistics across five Tier I events (211.21 and 37.95).

She posted three individual wins and six top-five finishes to help Webber secure fifth place in the women's regular season team rankings.

Witura earned her second NCBCA All-America nomination – she was named an Honorable Mention during the 2021-2022 season – and was joined on the first team by Webber teammate Linda Himes, Lara Kurt of Savannah College of Art and Design – Savannah, Mary Orf of Wichita State and Mount Mercy's Brooke Salzman.

Salzman also earned NCBCA Rookie of the Year honors after leading the nation in average differential (36.90) and collecting two individual wins on the way to a 204.49 average.



The NCBCA Gordon Vadakin and Kerm Helmer Coach of the Year awards were presented to Grand Canyon's Ben Canfield and Pikeville's Bobby Brown, respectively.

Canfield earned the award for the first time in his career after helping GCU achieve just its second ITC national finals berth in team history and the No. 18 ranking for the 2023-2024 regular season.

Brown claims the Kerm Helmer Coach of the Year after being named the Gordon Vadakin Coach of the Year for the 2011 and 2012 seasons. Brown helped Pikeville finish the regular season ranked No. 4 overall.

The Gordon Vadakin Coach of the Year award recognizes the top coach in the men's division, and the Kerm Helmer Coach of the Year award is given to the top coach in the women's division.

Mike Fine was recognized as the Gordon Teigen Meritorious Service Award winner for 2024. Fine, the head coach of both the men's and women's teams at Florida State, was twice named to the Bowlers Journal "Top 100 Bowling Coaches in America" and currently serves on the USBC Collegiate Advisory Council representing the interests of all collegiate bowling programs and the USBC Collegiate Division. He also serves as Secretary/Rules Editor for NCAA Women's Bowling.

The annual award is presented to an individual for outstanding service to collegiate bowling.

Wednesday night's five Hall of Fame inductees certainly made their own

## COLLEGIATE NIGHT OF CHAMPIONS CONT.

contributions to the world of collegiate bowling.

Connaughton was a standout at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (previously Wisconsin State University-La Crosse) from 1964-1968 and dominated competition across the Association of College Unions International (ACUI) and National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) ranks.

In ACUI competition, Connaughton swept the top spots at the 1967 national finals, winning singles, doubles and all-events. He returned in 1968 to successfully defend his titles in singles and all-events, while finishing fourth in doubles.

During the same two-year span at the NAIA Championship, Connaughton helped Wisconsin-La Crosse win back-to-back team titles, claimed a pair of wins in doubles competition and recorded a first-place finish in singles at the 1968 event. He finished as the runner-up in singles in 1967.

In 1966, he led Wisconsin-La Crosse to the National Intercollegiate Bowling Association (NIBA) team title.

Connaughton, originally from Waukesha, Wisconsin, traveled to Paris, France, in 1967 as the first collegiate representative of the United States at the famed World Cup, where he captured the victory.

He has received numerous awards and honors and is a member of the NAIA, Kansas State USBC and Wisconsin State USBC Halls of Fame.

When reflecting upon all that he accomplished over the years as a bowler, Connaughton noted his slight disappointment that neither his wife Gloria nor his daughter Stacey were ever present to see him roll a 300 game; nevertheless, the fact that Stacey was with him on induction night in Louisville more than made up for it.

Kulick was a collegiate star at Morehead State University from 1995-1999 before ascending as one of the biggest names in the sport through her triumphs on the Professional Women's Bowling Association (PWBA) and Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) Tours and as a member of Team USA.

After earning a spot as a second-team All-American from the NCBCA her freshman season, Kulick rattled off three consecutive first-team selections. She was named the NCBCA Most Valuable Player in each of those seasons (1996-1997, 1997-1998 and 1998-1999).

Kulick also was the recipient of the IBMA Collegiate Bowler of the Year award in 1997 and 1998.

Fans from across the globe have watched Kulick deliver clutch strikes to claim seven PWBA Tour titles (including five major championships) and more than 20 gold medals as a member of Team USA and Junior Team USA. In 2010, she garnered global praise as she became the first woman to win a national title on the PBA Tour with her major victory at the PBA Tournament of Champions.

She set the stage for those moments in 1998 at the Intercollegiate Team Championships in Madison, Wisconsin. In the two-game total-pinfal championship against Central Missouri State, Kulick stepped up in a must-strike situation for the Eagles and rolled two strikes to secure the program's second national title.

Kulick was inducted to the USBC Hall of Fame in 2019 for Superior Performance.

Steelsmith became the first four-time NCBCA first-team All-American in the men's division during his tenure at Vincennes University and Wichita State University from 1983-1987.

During his two-year stint at Vincennes, Steelsmith helped the Trailblazers win the 1985 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) team championship. He also claimed the national singles title for NJCAA in 1985.

Making his move to Wichita State for his junior and senior campaigns, Steelsmith continued to showcase his talent at the top level. He helped the Shockers to a third-place finish at the Intercollegiate Team Championships in 1986, earning the honor of Most Valuable Player for the all-tournament team.

Steelsmith put together his finest showing in 1987. He was named the NCBCA Most Valuable Player and IBMA Collegiate Bowler of the Year, again earned MVP honors at the Intercollegiate Team Championships and helped the Shockers record the team victory at the ITC.

Shortly after concluding his collegiate season, he went on to win the USBC Masters as an amateur and claimed two gold medals (trios, all-events), one silver medal (Masters) and two bronze medals (singles, doubles) for Team USA at the International Bowling Federation World Championships in Helsinki, Finland.

At the start of the 2019-2020 season, Steelsmith took over as the men's head bowling coach at Wichita State and has helped the Shockers win the 2021 and 2023 Intercollegiate Team Championships.

Steelsmith, the 1988 PBA Rookie of the Year and two-time PBA Tour champion, is a member of the NJCAA, Kansas State USBC and USBC (2013) Halls of Fame.

Vadakin was at the helm of the Wichita State University men's and women's bowling programs from 1978-2019 and helped the Shockers claim 18 national titles between both teams.

The men's program collected 11 Intercollegiate Team Championships titles during Vadakin's tenure (1980, 1987, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1998, 2003, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2015), and the men's team is the only program to record three consecutive wins at the ITC, having accomplished the feat two times (1993-1995 and 2008-2010).

The women's team earned seven wins at the ITC under





Vadakin's watch, claiming victory in 1978, 1986, 1990, 1994, 2005, 2007 and 2009.

In all, the men's program qualified for the ITC in 37 of Vadakin's 42 years leading the program, while the women's team earned their spot in 41 of 42 attempts, advancing each year since 1982.

Along with the team success, Vadakin also coached nine individual national champions (six at the Intercollegiate Singles Championships). He had 12 student-athletes claim a combined 24 NCBCA Most Valuable Player and IBMA Collegiate Bowler of the Year awards and coached 145 NCBCA All-Americans and nearly 250 academic All-Americans. At the professional ranks, Vadakin coached 17 athletes who went on to win PBA or PWBA Tour events.

In 2020, the NCBCA renamed its award to recognize the top coach in the men's division as the NCBCA Gordon Vadakin Coach of the Year Award.

Vadakin, a two-time Team USA member and two-time Eagle winner at the USBC Open Championships, is a Kansas State USBC and USBC (2007) Hall of Famer.

Nickolai started his involvement in collegiate bowling first as a student-athlete at Michigan State University before taking over as the head coach of the men's program. He held the coaching spot with the Spartans for 35 years, and in 2001, became the first recipient of the NCBCA Kerm Helmer (now Gordon Vadakin) Coach of the Year Award.

He left a lasting mark in how the sport was consumed with the launching of CollegeBowling.com in 1997. The website served as a place to view tournament results across the collegiate landscape, and it expanded over time to include rankings, statistics and player profiles. Nickolai maintained the website until 2020, when the site became part of USBC's CollegeBowling.Bowl.com.

Nickolai was responsible for several additional items used to help rank collegiate teams and student-athletes versus the field.

In 1998, he teamed with Joe Ciccone to develop the Team Ranking System (TRS), which is an objective point-based system for ranking schools on performance in regular-season tournaments and used today to help determine sectional assignments for the four qualifying events for the Intercollegiate

Team Championships.

He also introduced average differential to the collegiate bowling scene, which measures the average for a student-athlete during an event and over the season against the field of competition.

Nickolai also has given his time to the NCBCA and has been a member since 1984. He has served two separate stints as the organization's president (1992-1994 and 1998-2020) and was selected as the NCBCA Gordon Teigen Meritorious Service Award winner in 1999.

He also was recognized for his service in 2010 as the USBC Youth Volunteer of the Year and was presented the IBMA Alberta E. Crowe Meritorious Service Award in 2019.

**NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BOWLING COACHES ASSOCIATION**

**2023-2024 ALL-AMERICA TEAMS**

**MEN**

First Team – Ryan Barnes, Wichita State; Brandon Bonta, Wichita State; Bryce Oliver, Pikeville; CJ Petrin, Oklahoma Christian; Spencer Robarge, Wichita State

Second Team – Rory Clark, Marian-Wisconsin; Brandon Haney, Indiana Tech; Michael Harmon, Saint Xavier; Alexander Horton, Indiana Tech; TJ Rock, Wichita State

Honorable Mention – Noah Akiona, Newman; Zach Andresen, Mount Mercy; Nolan Blessing, Marian-Indiana; Brandon Bohn, Webber International; Ryan Dreikosen, Marian-Wisconsin; Ken Kloth, Madonna; Garrett Meadows, Wisconsin-Whitewater; Julian Salinas, SCAD-Savannah; Evan Thro, Muskingum; AJ Wolstenholme, Webber International

Most Valuable Player – Spencer Robarge, Wichita State

Rookie of the Year – Zach Andresen, Mount Mercy

Gordon Vadakin Coach of the Year – Ben Canfield, Grand Canyon

**WOMEN**

First Team – Linda Himes, Webber International; Lara Kurt, SCAD-Savannah;



Mary Orf, Wichita State; Brooke Salzman, Mount Mercy; Jaqueline Witura, Webber International

Second Team – Kristina Catoe, Pikeville; Rebecca Hagerman, Jacksonville State; Allie Leindecker, Louisiana Tech; Kinsey Miller, Baker; Ashtyn Woods, Wichita State

Honorable Mention – Alyssa Alexander, Mount St. Mary's; Brystal Beyer, Stephen F. Austin; Denise Blankenzye, Sam Houston State; Megan Kolberg, Mount Mercy; Emaly Kruse, Morningside; Abbie Leindecker, Louisiana Tech; Rachel Moore, Culver Stockton; Morgan Nunn, Indiana Tech; Patricia Rosales, Louisiana Tech; Kylee Trexler, Louisiana Tech

Most Valuable Player – Jaqueline Witura, Webber International

Rookie of the Year – Brooke Salzman, Mount Mercy

Kerm Helmer Coach of the Year – Bobby Brown, Pikeville

Gordon Teigen Meritorious Service Award – Mike Fine, Florida State

**STORM/INTERNATIONAL BOWLING MEDIA ASSOCIATION**

**2023-2024 COLLEGIATE AWARDS**

**MEN**

Bowler of the Year – Spencer Robarge, Wichita State

Runners-Up – Jason Gee, UC-Davis; Brandon Haney, Indiana Tech; Bryce Oliver, Pikeville; CJ Petrin, Oklahoma Christian

Honorable Mention – Ryan Barnes, Wichita State; Brandon Bonta, Wichita State; Rory Clark, Marian-Wisconsin; Noah Samuels, Lawrence Tech

**WOMEN**

Bowler of the Year – Jaqueline Witura, Webber International

Runners-Up – Crystal Elliott, Jacksonville State; Lara Kurt, SCAD-Savannah; Mary Orf, Wichita State; Brooke Salzman, Mount Mercy

Honorable Mention – Linda Himes, Webber International; Kinsey Miller, Baker; Lauren Tomaszewski, North Carolina A&T



## TITLES DETERMINED AT 2024 INTERCOLLEGIATE TEAM AND SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

LOUISVILLE, Ky. – The Webber International men and Wichita State women captured team championships, and Wichita State’s Sara Duque and Jaysen Spanbauer of Marian-Wisconsin claimed singles titles at the 2024 Intercollegiate Team and Singles Championships at Kingpin Lanes in the Greater Louisville area.

The championship rounds in the men’s and women’s divisions in each event were taped for broadcast and will air on CBS Sports Network.

This year marked the 50th edition of the United States Bowling Congress Collegiate team national championship tournament, and Saturday’s title match between Webber International and Lawrence Tech was undoubtedly one of the most exciting in the event’s history.

Webber came in looking for its third men’s ITC title while Lawrence Tech was hoping to break through and collect the first in program history.

Much to the delight of the capacity crowd feverishly supporting both teams, the match was action packed throughout with neither team, nor fan base, willing to give an inch.

Webber International got on the board first, closing Game 1 with a five bagger to top Lawrence Tech by a score of 213-180 and take a 1-0 lead as the green-and-gold clad Warrior faithful serenaded the team with chants of “GO WEBBER, WEBBER, GO WEBBER, GO WEBBER, GO WEBBER, GO!”

But Lawrence Tech wasn’t intimidated, and as its fans loudly asked “WHO ARE YOU,” the Blue Devils declared “LTU” over and over again as they bested Webber International 224-195 during Game 2 and 235-176 in Game 3 to take a 2-1 lead and put themselves just one win away from securing their first ever ITC title.

As the two teams approached the end of Game 4, it looked as if Lawrence Tech was going to get it too after Webber suffered an open in the seventh frame and appeared to be on the verge of another in the eighth after leaving a 1-2-10 washout.

However, Webber’s Nick Larsen had other ideas.

He was put into the lineup to convert the spare, and convert it he did, sending the head pin to the side wall and catching just enough of the 10-pin to send it toppling over to successfully fill the frame.

Riding the momentum of Larsen’s clutch conversion, Webber’s Brett Lloyd delivered a strike in the ninth, and Brandon Bohn added one of his own on the first ball in the 10th to give the Warriors a 210-199 victory and extend the match to a winner-take-all fifth game.

Webber took the early lead during the deciding game, starting double, spare, double, spare while Lawrence Tech managed just two strikes during that same span.

The tide turned shortly thereafter though as a Webber open in the seventh combined with a clutch turkey from Lawrence Tech in frames seven, eight and nine put the Blue Devils back in the driver’s seat once again.

Webber rebounded with strikes from Charles Bostic in the eighth and Bohn in the ninth to keep things close, but Lawrence Tech still controlled its own destiny. If it could produce a double and eight in the 10th frame, the match would be over before Lloyd ever stepped for the Warriors’ final frame.

That double never came, however; instead, the Blue Devils were left to contend with a 1-3-7 washout, which they were unable to convert.

With Lawrence Tech in with a score of 203, Lloyd’s task was crystal clear. If he could deliver a mark, the 2024 ITC men’s title would belong to Webber International.

Given just how many times Lloyd and the Warriors managed to come through under pressure throughout this year’s tournament, it came as little surprise when Lloyd delivered a picture-perfect strike to win the game (224-203), the match (3-2) and the program’s third men’s national title.

Lloyd was selected as the event’s MVP in addition to being named to the 2024 ITC men’s all-tournament team.

The fact that Lloyd was in the anchor position with the national title on the line

during Game 5 was noteworthy because he had actually occupied the No. 4 position in the Webber lineup during Games 1-4 in the final match.

Nevertheless, the Webber coaching staff opted to make the switch heading into the deciding game, and the rest is history.

The 2024 Webber International championship team included Bennett, Bohn, Bostic, Austin Grammar, Larsen, Lloyd, Aaron Reingold and Wolstenholme.

In addition to Lloyd, the men’s all-tournament team featured Bohn, Wichita State’s Spencer Robarge, Indiana Tech’s Alex Horton and Cayleb Carey of Lawrence Tech.

The Chris Stoehr Sportsmanship award in the men’s division went to Julian Salinas of Savannah College of Art and Design-Savannah.

In the women’s title match, Wichita State anchor bowler Mary Orf was clutch early on, delivering a double in the 10th frame of Game 1 and a turkey to close Game 2 to help the Shockers jump out to a 2-0 lead by scores of 200-186 and 191-173.

However, Jacksonville State was not about to back down, so, showing the grit that led the squad to victory at the NCAA’s 2024 National Collegiate Women’s Bowling Championship just one week earlier, the Gamecocks dug in and fought back.

They put up a four-bagger in frames five through eight to grind out a 224-215 victory in Game 3, and they used another during the sixth-through-ninth frames to erase the sting of three early opens and rally for a 200-176 match-tying win in Game 4.

After having won two games in a row, it appeared as if maybe the momentum had shifted in Jacksonville State’s direction heading into the deciding game.

But that notion was dispelled quickly as after both teams began the fifth game with open frames, Wichita State rattled off nine strikes in a row.

Jacksonville State stayed locked in on the pocket as well, but the pins wouldn’t cooperate as the Gamecocks doubled twice and managed just five strikes total in a 264-199 loss that sent the Helmer Cup home with Wichita State for a record 11th time courtesy of a 3-2 victory.

Wichita State Head Coach Holly Harris has spoken at length about how special she finds this year’s team to be, so it was especially gratifying for her to watch this squad add to Wichita State’s legacy of success and bring home the crown during the 50th edition of USBC Collegiate’s national championship tournament.

Harris certainly enjoyed what she saw on Saturday, especially the tenacity the group showed after it was forced to contend with having given up its early 2-0 lead.

Wichita State’s 2024 championship team featured Sara Duque, Brooklyn Gagnon, Aleesha Oden, Orf, Piper Reams, Paige Wagner and Ashtyn Woods.

Orf was named to the all-tournament team and was the women’s division’s most valuable player. Joining Orf with all-tournament honors were Mount Mercy’s Megan Kolberg, Lara Kurt of Savannah College of Art and Design-Savannah, Jacksonville State’s Crystal Elliott and Allie Leiendecker of Louisiana Tech.

The Chris Stoehr Sportsmanship award in the women’s division went to Maya Avilez of North Carolina A&T.

On some level, it could be argued that Wichita State’s Duque wasn’t a great sport on Saturday. Not because she behaved inappropriately in any way, but because she was a bit greedy when it came to taking home trophies.

That’s because just a couple hours after she helped the Shockers capture the 2024 ITC women’s title, Duque took down Lindenwood’s Hailey Bozych, 234-167, to bring this year’s ISC women’s crown back to Wichita as well.

Duque jumped ahead early during the title match and never looked back, using a turkey and two Bozych opens to take a 47 pin lead after six frames.

Bozych did her best to hang in there, but it was to no avail as Duque was simply too. When the Wichita State right-hander struck in the ninth frame, the match was officially over, and the national title was hers.

After advancing to the women’s semifinals on Wednesday, Duque said that it was gratifying to see her hard work and dedication pay off.

Another special aspect of Duque’s victory was that it marked the second consecutive year that a Wichita State bowler brought home the ISC women’s title as Wagner brought home the crown in 2023.

Duque punched her ticket to the women’s title match by topping Vanderbilt’s Natalie Kent by a score of 219-170 during Semifinal No. 1.

In the other women’s semifinal, Bozych used a four-bagger in frames six through nine to get past top seed Crystal Elliott of Jacksonville State, 212-183.

But several hours before the ladies took to the lanes, the men kicked off Saturday’s slate of collegiate bowling action at Kingpin Lanes, and they did so in fine fashion as the men’s ISC TV show was entertaining from start to finish with all three matches coming down to the 10th frame.

In the opener, Wichita State’s Braden Mallasch struck out in the ninth and 10th frames to post a score of 234, which forced Hastings College left-hander Carstin Olson to get the first strike during his final frame to win.

Olson was unable to deliver the strike he needed, however, as his ball got left of target early and then over-hooked, going through the face and leaving the 2-4. He would convert the spare, but he still came up on the short end of a 234-227 final score.

With the victory, Mallasch advanced to the title match where he would face the winner of Semifinal No. 2, which featured Spanbauer and Mallasch’s Wichita State teammate Ryan Barnes.

Spanbauer and Barnes put on quite a show, combining to strike on 19 of 23 deliveries during their semifinal match.

Nevertheless, someone had to win, and someone had to lose, and it was Spanbauer who came out on top, 259-253, after Barnes’ second ball in the 10th frame left a ringing 10-pin.

With one Shocker out of the way, Spanbauer headed to the title match looking to dispatch the other.

He appeared to be well on his way to doing just that during the early stages of the match as he opened the bout with a six-bagger to quickly establish a 41-pin lead.

But that’s when things got interesting.

Spanbauer’s seventh shot went high, leaving the 3-10 baby split, which he failed



to convert, leaving the 3-pin behind.

He recovered by delivering a dramatic messenger strike in the eighth frame, sending the head pin to the side wall and then bouncing across the lane to aggressively take down the 10-pin.

That strike, combined with a ringing 10-pin in the eighth for Mallasch, made Spanbauer’s path to victory quite clear: If he could stay clean during the ninth and 10th frames, he would be the 2024 men’s ISC national champion.

But just as it did two frames earlier, Spanbauer’s ball went high again during the ninth frame, leaving a 4-10 split that put him in danger of opening for the second time in three frames and opening the door back up for Mallasch.

Content to just get good pin count, Spanbauer’s attempt at the conversion covered most of the 4-pin, making it clear that the pin would not slide over to take out the ten.

But he didn’t need it to as instead of sliding over, the 4-pin deflected off the curtain and came back toward the pin deck to trip the 10-pin from behind, resulting in an improbable split conversion that made the crowd go wild and put Spanbauer right back on the verge of victory.

He wasn’t about to let the opportunity slip away. Needing a mark in the 10th to win, Spanbauer delivered a strike on his first shot to officially lock up the match and men’s singles national title.

When the final pins had fallen, Spanbauer had defeated Mallasch 236-205.

All qualifying and match-play rounds held prior to the televised finals were broadcast on BowTV.com.

Teams and individuals competing at Kingpin Lanes earned their spots at the ITC and ISC through four sectional qualifiers held throughout the country.

### 2024 INTERCOLLEGIATE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

At Kingpin Lanes, Louisville, Ky.

#### Men’s Championship

Webber International def. Lawrence Tech, 3-2 (213-180; 195-224; 176-235; 210-199; 224-203).

#### Women’s Championship

Wichita State def. Jacksonville State, 3-2 (200-186; 191-173; 215-224; 176-200; 264-199).

### 2024 INTERCOLLEGIATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

At Kingpin Lanes, Louisville, Ky.

#### Men’s Semifinals

Braden Mallasch, Wichita State def. Carstin Olson, Hastings, 234-227.

Jaysen Spanbauer, Marian-Wisconsin def. Ryan Barnes, Wichita State, 259-253.

#### Men’s Final

Spanbauer def. Mallasch, 236-205.

#### Women’s Semifinals

Sara Duque, Wichita State def. Natalie Kent, Vanderbilt, 219-170.

Hailey Bozych, Lindenwood def. Crystal Elliott, Jacksonville State, 212-183.

#### Women’s Final

Duque def. Bozych, 234-167.

## WINNERS DETERMINED FOR 2024 USBC YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP, ADULT YOUTH LEADER AWARDS

ARLINGTON, Texas – The International Bowling Campus Youth Committee has determined the recipients for the 2024 United States Bowling Congress Youth Scholarship and Adult Youth Leader Awards.

USBC offers several scholarship opportunities for young bowlers to apply for each year. The criteria for these awards can be found at [BOWL.com/ScholarshipAwards](https://www.usbc.com/ScholarshipAwards).

USBC also recognizes several youth leaders who have shown a continued effort and dedication to promote youth bowling within their community and help build the sport for the next generation of athletes.

The award winners were determined by the IBC Youth Committee based on submitted applications.

The 2024 award winners are:

- Alberta E. Crowe Star of Tomorrow: Melia Mitskavich, DuBois, Pa.
- Chuck Hall Star of Tomorrow: William Smith, Smyrna, Tenn.
- USBC Youth Ambassadors of the Year: Jersie Benson, Evansdale, Iowa; Derek Hayes, Madison, Wis.
- Annual Zeb Scholarship: Ethan Leicht, Florence, Ky.
- USBC Youth Volunteer of the Year: Patricia Mauerma, Tremont, Ill.
- David Dahms Coach of the Year: Nelson Tellames, Richmond Hill, Ga.
- Earl Anthony Memorial Scholarship: Brady Burns, Loveland, Ohio; John Eversole, Fairfield Township, Ohio; Hanna Hale, Hazlet, N.J.; Edwin Ortiz, Medina, Ohio; Anna Osias, Memphis, Tenn.
- Gift For Life Scholarship: Shelby Brown, Saraland, Ala.; Madison Bruner, Great Falls, Mont.; Jessica Gopanchuk, Warrenville, Ill.; Katarina Hagler, Cape Coral, Fla.; Emily Holian, Lee, Mass.; Kyra Italien, Dorchester, Mass.; Madison Morant, Elgin, S.C.; Edwin Ortiz, Medina, Ohio; Anna Osias, Memphis, Tenn.; Averyanna Thomas, Connelly, N.Y.; Taylor Waltier, Fircrest, Wash.; Sandler Wiekamp, Chamberlain, S.D.

The award winners for the Alberta E. Crowe Star of Tomorrow, Chuck Hall Star of Tomorrow, USBC Youth Ambassadors of the Year, Annual Zeb Scholarship, USBC Youth Volunteer of the Year and David Dahms Coach of the Year will be recognized on-site at the USBC Convention during the USBC Annual Meeting.

## IBC YOUTH COMMITTEE SELECTS FIVE YOUTH MEMBERS FOR EARL ANTHONY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN 2024

ARLINGTON, Texas – Five United States Bowling Congress Youth members were selected to receive an Earl Anthony Memorial Scholarship in 2024 in recognition of their academic achievements and contributions to their communities.

Recipients were selected by the International Bowling Campus Youth Committee from submitted applications, and each will receive a \$5,000 scholarship. The scholarship, which is part of USBC's Scholarship Management and Account Reporting for Tenpins (SMART) program, is named in honor of the legendary hall of famer who was dedicated to helping youth bowlers.

The five recipients of an Earl Anthony Memorial Scholarship are:

- \* Brady Burns, Loveland, Ohio
- \* John Eversole, Fairfield Township, Ohio
- \* Hanna Hale, Hazlet, New Jersey
- \* Edwin Ortiz, Medina, Ohio
- \* Anna Osias, Memphis, Tennessee

Burns is a senior at Loveland High School where he has maintained a 4.24 weighted GPA despite challenging himself with several honors classes. He has been a straight-A student every semester of his high school career, is currently ranked 47th in his graduating class of 356 students and is a member of the National Honor Society.

Not all of Burns' time is spent on academics, however; his schedule is chock full of extracurricular activities as well, including Ohio Student Safety Advisory Council, Student-Athlete Leadership Team, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Loveland Educating Against Alcohol and Drugs.

On the lanes, Burns currently has a high game of 296 and a high series of 732, and he earned First-Team All-Eastern Cincinnati Conference honors in 2023 after being named honorable mention in 2022.

Eversole currently is completing his freshman year as a student in Miami University's Farmer School of Business. College coursework is nothing new to Eversole, however, as he regularly took classes at Miami during his junior and senior years at Fairfield High School when he was a dual-enrolled college credit plus student. Eversole graduated Summa Cum Laude from Fairfield in 2023 and earned Ohio Honor Diploma Graduate status after having maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout his high school career.

Outside the classroom, Eversole is involved in multiple extracurricular activities. He is a Community Christian Church member and preschool leader and an athlete on both the Miami University Bowling Team and Cornhole Club. While at Fairfield, he participated in National Honor Society, Chick-Fil-A Leadership Academy and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

As a bowler, Eversole authored an all-tournament team performance at the 2022 Wayne Shootout and helped the Fairfield squad to a first-place finish at the 2023 Boys' Varsity Conference Clash. Also, he was named to the USBC Dexter High School All-American Team for the 2022-2023 season.

Hale has maintained a 3.92 GPA during her first three semesters of coursework at Georgian Court University in Lakewood, New Jersey, where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and is minoring in Spanish. Her academic success comes as no surprise, however, as she earned a great deal of college credit while taking honors and dual-credit classes at Mater Dei Prep High School prior to enrolling at Georgian Court full time.

A long list of extracurricular activities fills Hale's schedule when she isn't focused on her studies. She is president of Student Government and the Business Club and is president, and founder, of the Bowling Club. Additionally, she dedicates time to Campus Ministry, Creative Writing Club and Women in Leadership and

Development Club to name a few.

Hale's bowling resume is impressive as well as she was USBC's Annual Zeb Scholarship winner and a Dexter High School All-American during the 2022-2023 season. Also, she has multiple tournament victories under her belt, including first place in the U20 Girls' Division at the 2023 Bowl4Life DV8 Shootout, the top spot in the Girls' Division at the 2023 Twilight Tournament and first place in the Girls' Scratch Division at the Pennsylvania Junior Bowler's Tournament's sixth event on the 2023 schedule, during which she was the only female to finish in the overall top 15.

Ortiz, a senior at Buckeye High School in Medina, Ohio, and one of this year's Gift For Life Scholarship recipients, has excelled in the high school classroom and at the collegiate level, maintaining a 4.5 GPA, completing over 60 credit hours at his local community college and putting himself on track to earn an associate degree and Ohio High School Honors Diploma by the time he graduates at the end of the 2023-2024 school year. Also, he has earned the President's Award for Educational Excellence and is a graduate of Space Academy at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center.

Outside the classroom, Ortiz is a Boy Scout who has attained Eagle Scout ranking, is a three-sport athlete (bowling, golf and track and field) and is an NHS member who has volunteered over 450 hours of his time since June 2020. Also, he was a founding member of the Buckeye High School Jazz Band, first chair and soloist in the concert band, marching band and pep band and contributing member of HUDDLE and the Academic Challenge team.

On the lanes, Ortiz has both a 300 game and 800 series (832) to his credit as well as a high certified average of 204. He has qualified for the Junior Gold Championships national finals multiple times, including this season. As such, he will once again have the opportunity to compete alongside many of the nation's top youth bowlers when the 2024 Junior Gold Championships gets underway in the greater Detroit area from July 12-20.

Osias, who, like Ortiz, is receiving both the Earl Anthony Memorial Scholarship and Gift For Life Scholarship in 2024, is a senior at St. Agnes Academy where she has earned numerous honors while establishing a 4.44 GPA. Those honors include the following distinctions: Dean's List every year, Presidential Service Award, the Paul and Charlotte Clarke Scholarship for Excellence in Art and the Bronze SCAD Summer Seminars Scholarship.

Out of the classroom, Osias founded the academy's Athletic Council, is a member of the STEM Club and is chief editor of the Calliope Art & Literary Magazine. She also volunteers as part of the Bridge Builders COLLABORATE Program.

Osias has taken on leadership roles within the bowling arena as well having served as captain of the St. Agnes Varsity Bowling Team. Also, she was a 2022-2023 Dexter High School All-American and a former Miss Tennessee Bowling runner-up.

In addition to being a USBC Youth member, applicants for the Earl Anthony Memorial Scholarship must have been a senior in high school or a college student and have a record of strong community involvement and academic achievements as well as financial need. Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 based on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent).

## GIFT FOR LIFE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED FOR 2024

ARLINGTON, Texas – The International Bowling Campus Youth Committee has selected 12 United States Bowling Congress Youth members to receive a Gift for Life Scholarship in 2024.

The Gift for Life Scholarships are presented annually to youth bowlers who are in high school and can demonstrate financial need. Applicants are selected based on submitted applications, must have a GPA of 2.5 or higher (based on a 4.0 scale) and provide at least two letters of recommendation.

Each award winner receives a \$1,000 scholarship, managed through the SMART program.

The Gift for Life Scholarship recipients for 2024 are as follows:

Shelby Brown, Saraland, Alabama – A senior at Saraland High School, Brown has been taking honors and AP classes since her freshman year, maintaining a 4.0 GPA and honor roll every year, along with being a National Honor Society member since the seventh grade. She also earned Career Tech Student of the Year in 2020, participates in a variety of extracurricular activities outside of bowling, including softball, and is a member of the Leo Club.

Madison Bruner, Great Falls, Montana – Bruner is a senior at Charles M. Russell High School and is a Junior National Honor Society and National Honor Society member, along with being an honor student while taking AP courses and maintaining a 3.8 GPA. She was part of the Girl Scouts of America growing up and is now part of the Health Occupations Students of America club at school and a major volunteer in her area.

Katarina Hagler, Cape Coral, Florida – A senior at Oasis Charter High School, Hagler has maintained a 3.94 GPA and been on the school's honor roll every semester while taking honors classes and serving in the National Honor Society. Her extracurricular activities include being in the school choir, TV production and a stage tech for theater, as well as captain of the school's bowling team. In 2023, she was nominated for the Al Oerter Award for Academic and Athletic Excellence in Lee County, which is for students that demonstrate excellence in an individual sport and in the classroom.

Jessica Gopanchuk, Warrenville, Illinois – Gopanchuk, a senior at Wheaton Warrenville South, has a 3.95 GPA while taking honors and AP classes while also being a member of the NHS and Spanish Honor Society. Out of the classroom, she is a bowler and team captain for the leagues she participates in, a volleyball player, a member of the student council and a volunteer at the Central DuPage Hospital.

Emily Holian, Lee, Massachusetts – A member of her school's varsity bowling team since the seventh grade, Holian has a 3.7 GPA while taking honors classes all throughout high school and has been on the honor roll every year. In addition to bowling, she's also a member of her school's cross country and tennis teams, as well as the prom committee. Off campus, she helps with her church's community dinners and youth group, while also volunteering at the local nursing home.

Kyra Italien, Dorchester, Massachusetts – A senior at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, Italien has a 3.8 GPA while taking a litany of honors and AP classes and has earned a variety of school awards, including the Visual Arts Award, History Department Achievement and the Cultural Awareness Award. She is also a member of the Yearbook club and Mediation club and is a volunteer at the local Boys and Girls Club and Cradles to Crayons organization.

Madison Morant, Elgin, South Carolina – Morant is not only an excellent student in the classroom, with a 3.93 GPA, honors, AP and dual-enrollment classes under her belt, along with being an active club member, she is also an active volunteer member in her community. Some of the volunteer opportunities she has taken include helping out at a local food pantry, feeding the homeless, reading to local first graders and contributing to Operation One Bead at a Time.

Edwin Ortiz, Medina, Ohio – Ortiz excels in the high school classroom with a 4.5 GPA and will have also earned an associate degree to go along with his high school diploma as a result of completing over 60 credit hours at his local community college. He has earned the President's Award for Educational Excellence and is a graduate of Space Academy at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center. Outside of the classroom, Ortiz is a Boy Scout and has attained Eagle Scout ranking, is a three-sport athlete (bowling, golf, track and field), and is an NHS member who has volunteered over 450 hours of his time since June 2020. Along with the Gift for Life scholarship, Ortiz is also an Earl Anthony Memorial Scholarship recipient.

Anna Osias, Memphis, Tennessee – At St. Agnes Academy, Osias has earned numerous honors while having a 4.44 GPA. Those honors include the following distinctions: Dean's List every year, Presidential Service Award, the Paul and Charlotte Clarke Scholarship for Excellence in Art and the Bronze SCAD Summer Seminars Scholarship. Out of the classroom, Osias founded the academy's Athletic Council, is a member of the STEM Club and is chief editor of the Calliope Art & Literary Magazine. She also volunteers as part of the Bridge Builders COLLABORATE Program. Like Ortiz, Osias is also an Earl Anthony Memorial Scholarship recipient.

Averyanna Thomas, Connelly, New York – Thomas is a student at the Hudson Valley Pathways Academy, where she has a 4.0 GPA while taking college-level courses and is a member of the National Technical Honor Society. When not in the classroom, Thomas is the team captain of the school's bowling team, is part of the school's band and choir, is local president of Kingston Youth and is an active volunteer at ASPCA and her local soup kitchen. She is also State Vice President of the New York State Youth Leaders and Local Secretary.

Taylor Waltier, Fircrest, Washington – An honor roll student at Dr. Dolores Silas High School, Waltier is active in extracurricular activities outside of being the team captain of the bowling team. She is also in JROTC, created the Chess Club, is part of choir and the choir counsel, and is in the Environmental Club. When not in the classroom, she is active in her church and parish, as well as Unified Sports, which is part of the Special Olympics.

Sandler Wiekamp, Chamberlain, South Dakota – Wiekamp has been on the honor roll every year and is a member of the NHS while taking AP classes and enrolled in three sports (baseball, golf, bowling). He has earned Academic All-American honors while playing those sports, and along with participating in sports, Wiekamp is a broadcaster for football, volleyball, basketball and wrestling. Outside of school, Wiekamp is a member of the Harvest Festival Committee and his local church.

Each year, two of the Gift for Life Scholarships are reserved for the children of fire department, emergency rescue or police personnel. The families of Holian and Morant serve in those respective areas.

## ILLINOIS' MAUERMAN TABBED AS 2024 USBC YOUTH VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

ARLINGTON, Texas – Patti Mauerman of Tremont, Illinois, who has spent more than 25 years as a volunteer in bowling at various levels of the sport with the majority of those years coming in service to bowling's youth, has been selected as the 2024 United States Bowling Congress Youth Volunteer of the Year by the International Bowling Campus Youth Committee.

The award recognizes an adult volunteer who has displayed outstanding efforts to foster, organize and promote certified youth bowling programs at the local, state and/or national level. The IBC Youth Committee selects the national award winner from submitted applications.

Mauerman's volunteer service in the sport at the local level started around 1998, and she was also volunteering at the state level by 2000.

At the local level (Peoria River City USBC), she has served as an officer, director (including youth director), and committee chairperson along with spending 10 years as the local association secretary. On the state level (Illinois State USBC), she counts roles as a director and vice president of the Illinois State USBC Youth and as an Illinois State Youth Leader Advisor among her volunteer work.

In 2005, Mauerman founded the Illinois State Scholarship Tour (ISST) and also created and coordinated Junior Gold qualifiers in her area.

The creation of the ISST by Mauerman has made a lasting and extraordinary impact on its youth bowlers. Recognized as one of the largest youth tours in the country, it is estimated the ISST has bestowed more than \$750,000 in scholarship money to youth bowlers. In addition to spawning several successful collegiate careers, alumni of the ISST also have gone on to become members of Junior Team and Team USA.

In addition to her youth volunteer work with the ISST and at the local and state level, Mauerman has been the Zone 7 Tournament Director for the Pepsi Championships for nearly 20 years and has volunteered at Junior Gold for the last several years.

Mauerman works full-time and is approaching retirement with the U.S. Postal Service. Her son Kyle and daughter Laynee were Mauerman's original motivation to be involved in youth bowling, and both were competitive enough to qualify for Junior Gold. Years later, with both Kyle and Laynee now in their 30s, Mauerman still possesses a love for the sport that keeps her spirit of volunteerism going strong.

Mauerman's volunteer work certainly hasn't gone unnoticed as she has twice been named Illinois State Outstanding Youth Volunteer and is also a member of both the Peoria River City USBC Hall of Fame and the Illinois State USBC Hall of Fame for Meritorious Service.

Mauerman will be recognized as USBC's Youth Volunteer of the Year in April during the 2024 USBC Convention at South Point Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

## GEORGIA'S TELLAMES SELECTED AS USBC DAVID DAHMS COACH OF THE YEAR

ARLINGTON, Texas – Nelson Tellames of Richmond Hill, Georgia, who began coaching youth bowlers 17 years ago, has been selected as the 2024 United States Bowling Congress David Dahms Coach of the Year by the International Bowling Campus Youth Committee.

The award is named in honor of David Dahms, who was an instrumental leader in the creation of USBC's Junior Gold program. The award recognizes a coach who has been actively involved in a USBC Youth program and has demonstrated outstanding commitment to coaching, sportsmanship and knowledge of USBC rules for the last seven or more years.

Tellames grew up in a family of bowlers and has been around bowling centers all his life. His dad was in the military, and he grew up bowling in youth leagues on military bases in Hawaii. He continued to bowl after moving to Georgia around the age of 13 and even bowled collegiately at Georgia Tech for a couple years (1987-1988).

Tellames' journey into coaching bowling's youth began 17 years ago when he volunteered as a coach for a Saturday morning youth league in his area. That decision ignited a joy and passion that continues today as Tellames strives to make a difference in the lives of youth bowlers.

Tellames currently serves as vice president of the Georgia State USBC, president of both the Fort Stewart and Greater Savannah USBC and Georgia Director for the Southeast Bowling Association where he is also a member of the Legislative Committee.

But where Tellames really shines is in his role as a youth coach. He is a USBC Silver Level coach and has been the Georgia Youth Interstate All Stars coach since 2019. He's been a volunteer youth bowling coach for the Fort Stewart USBC since 2007 and for the Greater Savannah USBC since 2019. Tellames is a former director of the Georgia Youth Bowling Association (2017-2018) and director of the Georgia Youth Bowlers Tour. He has been the Georgia Pepsi Tournament Director since 2021.

Through his work with bowling's youth, Tellames has gained a sense of pride and fulfillment from providing his bowlers with enjoyment and direction through bowling. Some of his students have gone on to take part in prestigious youth events like the Junior Gold Championships, and a few have advanced to collegiate bowling careers as well.

Tellames adds this award to his distinction of being named 2018 Georgia State Youth Coach of the Year.

Tellames will be presented with his award at the 2024 USBC Convention and Annual Meeting at South Point Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

## PENNSYLVANIA'S MITSKAVICH SELECTED AS 2024 ALBERTA E. CROWE STAR OF TOMORROW

ARLINGTON, Texas – Melia Mitskavich of DuBois, Pennsylvania, has been chosen by the International Bowling Campus Youth Committee as the 2024 Alberta E. Crowe Star of Tomorrow.

The award recognizes the star qualities of a female high school senior or college student, including accomplishments on the lanes, academic achievement and community service. Along with the prestigious honor, Mitskavich will receive a \$6,000 scholarship as the 2024 recipient.

Mitskavich, 18, the daughter of three-time Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour titlist Jackie (Sellers) Mitskavich, is a senior carrying a 4.0 GPA at DuBois Central Catholic High School in DuBois, Pennsylvania, while also taking courses for college credit. Mitskavich is an accomplished bowler and that, combined with her excellence in the classroom and her outstanding record of volunteer work, make her a worthy recipient of this award.

Mitskavich's selection should hardly have come as a surprise though as her academic record, extracurricular involvement and long list of bowling accolades is second to none.

In the classroom, Mitskavich has made First Honors Honor Roll each quarter of her high school career while taking multiple honors and AP classes. She also is a member of the National Honor Society (grades 10-12) and served on Student Council during her junior year. Mitskavich is a recent graduate of the Dale Carnegie Class which teaches leadership and public speaking skills. She will graduate from high school having earned 15 college credits.

Her extracurricular activities include time spent as a member of the Rotary Interact Club (10-12th grades), Cardinal Ambassador Program (12th grade) and varsity volleyball and softball teams (all four years). Mitskavich has donated her time and talent to organizations such as The Salvation Army, St. Mary's Church, the Rotary Radio Auction, the Little League Regional Baseball Tournament, as a volunteer scorekeeper for middle and high school basketball games and is also a peer tutor.

But while DuBois Central Catholic has provided Mitskavich with the opportunity to experience new and different activities over the last four years, one thing that has been there for her since the beginning is bowling, and, not surprisingly, her skills in that arena are exceptional as well.

On the lanes, Mitskavich earned the USBC National High Average Award - Youth Female in consecutive seasons (2021-2022 and 2022-2023 when she averaged 237 and 236 respectively). She is a five-time Pennsylvania Girls State Pepsi Champion and a two-time Allegheny Mountain Bowling Association Youth Bowler of the Year (2021-2022 and 2022-2023).

Among her other bowling accomplishments, Mitskavich was the Storm U.S. National Junior Team Challenge 18 & Under Champion (2023), a PBA Jr. National Qualifier Champion (2023) and is a two-time Storm All-American Team member. She is a three-time champion at the Storm Youth Championships, the 2017 Bowling.com Youth Open Championships U12 Girls Scratch Singles champion and has posted four Top-20 finishes at the Junior Gold Championships.

Mitskavich will be attending Jacksonville State University this fall and plans to major in Pre-Health Biology with the goal of attending Optometry School.

However, that isn't her only goal as she hopes to help the Gamecocks remain a fixture in the national title hunt on the lanes during the next four years and then possibly try her hand at the PWBA Tour as well.

Thus far, Mitskavich has made a habit of not just reaching her goals but exceeding them by leaps and bounds. If that pattern continues, then she's likely to be a force to be reckoned with on the lanes and out in the world for many years to come.

Mitskavich will be recognized during the 2024 USBC Convention at South Point Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

## TENNESSEE’S WILLIAM SMITH HONORED AS 2024 CHUCK HALL STAR OF TOMORROW

ARLINGTON, Texas – William Smith of Smyrna, Tennessee, has been selected by the International Bowling Campus Youth Committee as the 2024 Chuck Hall Star of Tomorrow.

The award recognizes the star qualities in a United States Bowling Congress Youth member, including distinguished bowling performances on the local, state and national levels, academic achievement and community involvement. Applicants must be a male high school senior or college student.

Smith is no stranger to winning scholarship awards, as he was last year’s Annual Zeb Scholarship recipient. In the year since earning the Zeb Scholarship, he continues to excel in the classroom, on the lanes and in his local community.

He has continued to make the school’s Principal’s List or Honor Roll during each quarter of his senior year while taking a number of dual-enrollment and honors classes and carrying a 3.879 GPA in the Mechatronics Engineering program. Recently, Smith was announced as a Bowl4Life John Alan Glasgow Ambassador, as well as being a part of his local All-Area Team for the fourth consecutive year.

On the lanes, Smith has won numerous local and state tournaments and will compete in his fifth straight Junior Gold Championships in July in Detroit after earning his spot through the Georgia Youth Bowler’s Tour. He also has five certified 300 games, two of them on Sport conditions, and he bowled his first 800 series in September 2023.

Even when not competing, Smith continues to put time into bowling as he’s helped with organization for a USA Bowling tournament and coached his middle school team for a few years.

For his high school team, he has been team captain and Most Valuable Player each year and placed ninth in this year’s state tournament for individuals, improving from his last state tournament appearance in 2021 when he placed 28th.

Heading into the 2023-2024 season, he was named one of the players to watch in the October 2023 edition of Bowlers Journal International. Smith recently announced he plans to attend Trine University to further his education in engineering and his bowling career.

He was the 2024 recipient of the Mr. Bowler Award presented by the Tennessee State Bowling Proprietors’ Association of America and Tennessee USBC, which marks his second time winning the award after previously winning in 2021. Smith also has been a USBC Heart of Tennessee Youth Representative since 2021 and is a Bronze-level coach.

His community has greatly benefited from his service work as Smith has put in over 500 hours of community service since 2017, including efforts such as a conservation project where he helped clean up at the marina, built raised flower beds, mulched and planted at a local assisted living facility, and mulched and weeded at the Smyrna Police Department.

Smith also is a member of the Boy Scouts of America, earning the rank of Eagle Scout in March 2023 after completing a project in November 2022 that required building a platform, podium and benches for an outdoor worship/announcement area for New Vision Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

He is active in his church community, playing the drums during mass and caroling during the holidays, filling and distributing Thanksgiving food baskets and helping prepare and serve food for the Safe Haven Shelter in Nashville.

It’s been a year of hard work for Smith with everything that he has accomplished on and off the lanes.

Smith will be recognized during the 2024 USBC Convention at South Point Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

## ETHAN LEICHT BECOMES FIRST KENTUCKIAN TO WIN ANNUAL ZEB SCHOLARSHIP

ARLINGTON, Texas – Ethan Leicht of Florence, Kentucky, has been chosen by the International Bowling Campus Youth Committee as the Annual Zeb Scholarship recipient for 2024.

The Annual Zeb Scholarship recognizes a United States Bowling Congress Youth member who has achieved academic success and gives back to his or her community through service. The recipient, who must be a junior or senior in high school, receives a \$2,500 scholarship.

Leicht, 16, is the first person from Kentucky to earn the scholarship since it was first awarded in 2005.

Leicht is completing his junior year at Randall K. Cooper High School in Union, Kentucky, where he has a 4.0 unweighted GPA (4.5 weighted) while also taking dual-enrollment college courses.

Through his junior year, Leicht’s courses include numerous early-college, dual-enrollment, honors and AP classes. He also has been a member of the Cooper Academy of Mathematics and Science program since his freshman year. The prestigious and selective program provides the most difficult course load the school can offer, and Leicht is the only student in the program completing both pathways – engineering and medical.

Despite this challenging courseload, Leicht has received a multitude of awards for his academic achievements, including the “All A Honor Roll” each year of his high school career, recognition for being in the top 3% of his class of approximately 350 and induction into the National Honor Society.

Leicht’s record of volunteer work and community service is as impressive as his work in the classroom. Incredibly, Leicht has logged more than 2,000 volunteer hours for causes such as GO Pantry, the Hearthstone Community Food Drive, Read with a Teen and his local church. In recognition of his countless hours of volunteer work, he has received the Presidential Volunteer Service Award (signed by the President of the United States) in both 2022 and 2023.

Leicht also is a member of the Student Leadership Council and St. Timothy’s Community Outreach Committee, and he devotes time to mentoring fellow students and peers. He recently was selected for an internship at St. Elizabeth Florence Hospital in the Patient Care tract where he will get to observe various medical procedures and even surgeries during his senior year of high school.

On the lanes, Leicht didn’t pick up the sport until he was a sophomore in high school. Since that late introduction to the sport in 10th grade, Leicht has been a member of both the Randall K. Cooper varsity bowling team and the Greater Cincinnati United States Bowling Congress Youth Championship Travel League (where he is a team captain). He also has been named an Academic All-State bowler by the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (2022-2023).

And while bowling represents an enjoyable outlet for Leicht, he is very serious about his ultimate goal of attending medical school and becoming an orthopedic doctor.

Leicht will be presented with his scholarship at the 2024 USBC Convention and Annual Meeting at South Point Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

## BENSON, HAYES NAMED 2024 USBC YOUTH AMBASSADORS OF THE YEAR

ARLINGTON, Texas – Jersie Benson of Evansdale, Iowa, and Derek Hayes of Madison, Wisconsin, have been chosen by the International Bowling Campus Youth Committee as the 2024 United States Bowling Congress Youth Ambassadors of the Year.

The annual award recognizes one female and one male USBC Youth bowler for exemplary academic accomplishments, community involvement and contributions to the sport of bowling outside of league or tournament play.

Winners are chosen on submitted applications, and each will receive a \$1,500 scholarship.

Benson, 19, is a shining example of someone who has used bowling as a companion to her outstanding work in the classroom and as a volunteer to become a person who is truly representative of the award.

Benson is in her sophomore year at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, where she is an English major preparing for a career as a librarian. Benson graduated from East Waterloo High School where she participated in the UNI-CUE Talent Search Program. The program's mission is to encourage, inspire, challenge and support students in their efforts to achieve academic success with the goal of enrollment in a post-secondary educational institution.

Benson currently participates in the TRIO program at Luther College. The TRIO Achievement Program guides and encourages participants throughout their journey, helping to optimize the college experience while mitigating obstacles and celebrating successes along the way. Benson was one of five Luther students to be awarded the Karen Julesburg TRIO scholarship for the 2023-2024 school year.

Benson was awarded the Dr. Andy Karantinos & Steve and Mildred Dress Scholarships through the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) District 14 for the 2023–2024 school year. The mission of AHEPA is to promote the ancient Hellenic ideals of education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, family and individual excellence through community service and volunteerism. She is a Dean's List student and received the President's Award for Educational Excellence.

On the volunteer front, Benson has donated her time and talent to Hope City Church, Heartland Vineyard Church, the Cedar Bend Humane Society and the Northeast Iowa Food Bank.

On the lanes, Benson was a four-year member of the girls' bowling team in high school that won a pair of conference championships and finished in the top five in the state tournament (including one championship) during three of her four years. She is now a member of the inaugural women's bowling team at Luther College, which just completed its first year of competition.

Hayes, 15, is a sophomore at Verona Area High School who didn't get serious about bowling until just two years ago. However, what he's accomplished as an ambassador for the sport in that short amount of time is certainly notable, and it led to him winning this award.

Hayes got started in the sport when his friend, Connor Smith, asked him to join a Saturday morning junior league in 2020 just to have some fun. Then, in the summer of 2022, he switched to a two-handed style, took a lesson from his local pro shop owner and, through a lot of practice and hard work, improved his average from 116 to 185.

Hayes was hooked. As a freshman, he joined the bowling team at Verona Area High School and was named Freshman of the Year for his district. He also made an active decision to share his passion and love for the sport with others. He learned of a Special Olympics bowling program being run through his high school. Hayes became a volunteer for the program, coaching and socializing with the Special Olympians.

After his freshman year, the bowling program at his high school was in danger of

being eliminated because one senior graduated, two others left the school and one player opted not to rejoin the team. Hayes and Smith took it upon themselves to take the necessary steps to make bowling a club sport at the school, which made it easier for them to recruit players and save the program. The 2023-2024 team had seven bowlers, all of whom were freshman and sophomores.

Even though he's only been bowling competitively for a short time, Hayes has racked up some impressive accolades. During the 2022-2023 season, he won Rookie of the Year awards from both the Junior Bowlers Scholarship Tour and the Wisconsin Youth Bowling Tour.

He earned a \$1,000 scholarship from Bowl4Life for an essay submission, was selected to represent Wisconsin for the Michigan Cup this summer and has back-to-back wins in the Greater Madison Area city tournament. He qualified for the Junior Gold Championships for the first time last year and qualified again for this year's event in Detroit.

Outside of bowling, Hayes plays trumpet in his high school band and qualified for the state competition as a solo artist, with a brass quintet and with the jazz band, which also requires a lot of his time and attention.

In addition to his work with Special Olympians, Hayes has done volunteer work at a local food pantry and mentored middle school and incoming high school band members as well as fellow bowlers.

Hayes' academic interests lie in the areas of both music and engineering, and he hopes to continue his bowling career into the future as well.

Benson and Hayes will be recognized at the 2024 USBC Convention and Annual Meeting at South Point Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

## IBC YOUTH DEVELOPMENT BOWLER'S ED PROGRAM REACHES OVER 9,000 PEOPLE AT NATIONAL CONVENTION



ARLINGTON, Texas – The International Bowling Campus Youth Development team attended the 2024 SHAPE America National Convention and Expo in Cleveland to promote the Bowler's Ed program to health and physical education professionals, and their presence at the expo will directly impact over 9,000 students.

Approximately 3,000 professionals gathered for three days, and IBC Youth set up a booth to spread the word on how Bowler's Ed can be used as a free resource, as well as to show what the program fully entails with the physical curriculum that was handed out.

While at the booth, staff explained the Bowler's Ed Grant program, curriculum and how to order equipment. Roughly 1,700 physical curriculums were given to educators along with 1,500 flash drives and 208 curriculum binders, which will potentially impact thousands of students around the country.

Felicia Ceaser-White, the Curriculum Coordinator of Health and Physical Education K-12 at Houston Independent School District, was at the convention and ordered 500 Bowler's Ed curriculums for her district.

Along with the booth, the team set up two bowling carpet sets so that anyone could come by and bowl five frames. The school with the highest score received six sets of carpets, pins and bowling balls for their physical education classes, while places second through seventh received one set.

By the end of the expo, 235 people participated in the five-frame game, and the highest total belonged to TESIS Dorado, located in Puerto Rico, which enrolls over 750 students.

Places second through seventh went to the following schools (school, location, number of students attending):

- Castle High School, Hawaii, 1,173 students
- Edinboro University, Pennsylvania, 6,000+ students
- Greenbrier Eastside Elementary, 479 students
- Mirman School, California, 375 students
- Sandusky Middle School, Virginia, 548 students
- Wydown Middle School, Missouri, 578 students

Altogether, over 9,000 students will be directly impacted from the Bowler's Ed sets given out at the expo, with more to be impacted by the curriculums that were sent out after the convention.



## GREEN BAY TO HOST 2025 JUNIOR GOLD CHAMPIONSHIPS; ARENA-STYLE PWBA TV FINALS VIEWING EXPERIENCE ADDED TO OPENING CEREMONY

ARLINGTON, Texas – Green Bay, Wisconsin, will welcome thousands of the nation’s top youth bowlers and their families as the host site for the 2025 Junior Gold Championships.

In addition to the Junior Gold Championships, all United States Bowling Congress Youth members will have the opportunity to compete in the Bowling.com Youth Open Championships, which will be conducted in Green Bay, Wisconsin, during a timeframe very similar to that of Junior Gold.

The 2025 Junior Gold Championships will run July 11-19 at multiple bowling centers in and around Green Bay. The Youth Open Championships will take place July 9-11, 18-20 and 26-27.

Junior Gold week will kick off with fun-filled activities like the Product Showcase and trade show, which will take place at the Resch Center & Resch Expo in Ashwaubenon, Wisconsin.

As an added treat, the 2025 Junior Gold Championships traditional Opening Ceremony will feature a special conclusion on the evening of Sunday, July 13, when up to 10,000 competitors, their families and bowling fans will have the opportunity to attend the live TV finals of the Professional Women’s Bowling Association Green Bay Open, which will be contested in an arena setting at the Resch Complex. All rounds leading up to the stepladder finals will be contested at The Ashwaubenon Bowling Alley from July 9-12.

Although Green Bay, Wisconsin, and the historic Ashwaubenon Bowling Alley have hosted several elite-level bowling tournaments over the years, the 2025 event will mark the first time the Junior Gold Championships will be contested in Wisconsin.

In addition to The Ashwaubenon Bowling Alley, host centers for the 2025 Junior Gold Championships will include each of the following locations: Bowlero Superbowl Family Entertainment; Bowlero Sabre Lanes; Buzz Social; Dale’s Weston Lanes; Revs Bowl Bar and Grill; Riviera Lanes, and Rolling Thunder Lanes.



## USA BOWLING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED; PROGRAM TO OFFER \$120,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS AGAIN FOR 2025

ARLINGTON, Texas – The 2025 USA Bowling tournament schedule has been finalized, and more than \$120,000 in scholarships will once again be made available to youth bowlers from across the country during regional and national competitions.

The 16-event regional schedule will begin on Nov. 17 at the Upper Midwest Regional, which will be contested at Bowlerama Lanes in Des Moines, Iowa, and end on May 11 when the season’s final regional is contested in the Midwest Region at Seneca Bowl in Wichita, Kansas.

The schedule of USA Bowling regional events with dates, region, center and city is as follows:

- Nov. 17 – Upper Midwest, Bowlerama Lanes, Des Moines, Iowa
- Nov. 24 – Lower Great Lakes, Mike Aulby’s Arrowhead Bowl, Lafayette, Ind.
- Dec. 8 – Northeast, Rab’s Country Lanes, Staten Island, N.Y.
- Jan. 5 – Coastal South, Aloma Bowl, Winter Park, Fla.
- Jan. 11 – South Central, The Lanes at Oak Hills, San Antonio
- Jan. 26 – Atlantic East, Century Lanes, Hampton, Va.
- Feb. 16 – Heartland, Pheasant Lanes, Bloomington, Ill.
- Feb. 23 – Pacific, Steve Cook’s Fireside Lanes, Citrus Heights, Calif.
- March 1 – South, Bowlero Austell, Marietta, Ga.
- March 23 – Mountain, Sleeping Giant Lanes, Helena, Mont.
- March 30 – New England, Nutmeg Bowl, Fairfield, Conn.
- March 30 – Southeast, Myrtle Beach Bowl, Myrtle Beach, S.C.
- April 6 – Southwest, Suncoast Bowling Center, Las Vegas
- April 26 – Mideast, Columbus Square Bowling Palace, Columbus, Ohio
- May 4 – Upper Great Lakes, Cedarvale Lanes, Eagan, Minn.
- May 11 – Midwest, Seneca Bowl, Wichita, Kan.

The USA Bowling program is expected to continue to grow during the 2025 season, providing young bowlers with the opportunity to enjoy fun and exciting competition in a team setting.

The winning team in each age-based division at each regional qualifier will earn a spot at the national event, which will be held in Green Bay, Wisconsin, right before the Junior Gold Championships.

Each event will include a seeding round and match-play bracket. Teams will bowl eight round-robin Baker match games to determine seeding for the double-elimination bracket at each regional event. Match play will be best-of-three matches until a winner is determined.

USA Bowling lineups will consist of four players using a modified Baker format. Bowlers one and two will each bowl three frames (1-5-9 and 2-6-10, respectively) while bowlers three and four each bowl two frames (3-7 and 4-8).



## INTERNATIONAL BOWLING CAMPUS DELIVERS NEW YOUTH RESOURCE GUIDE

ARLINGTON, Texas – The International Bowling Campus Youth Development team has developed and is distributing a new Youth Resource Guide designed for use by both bowling centers and United States Bowling Congress associations.

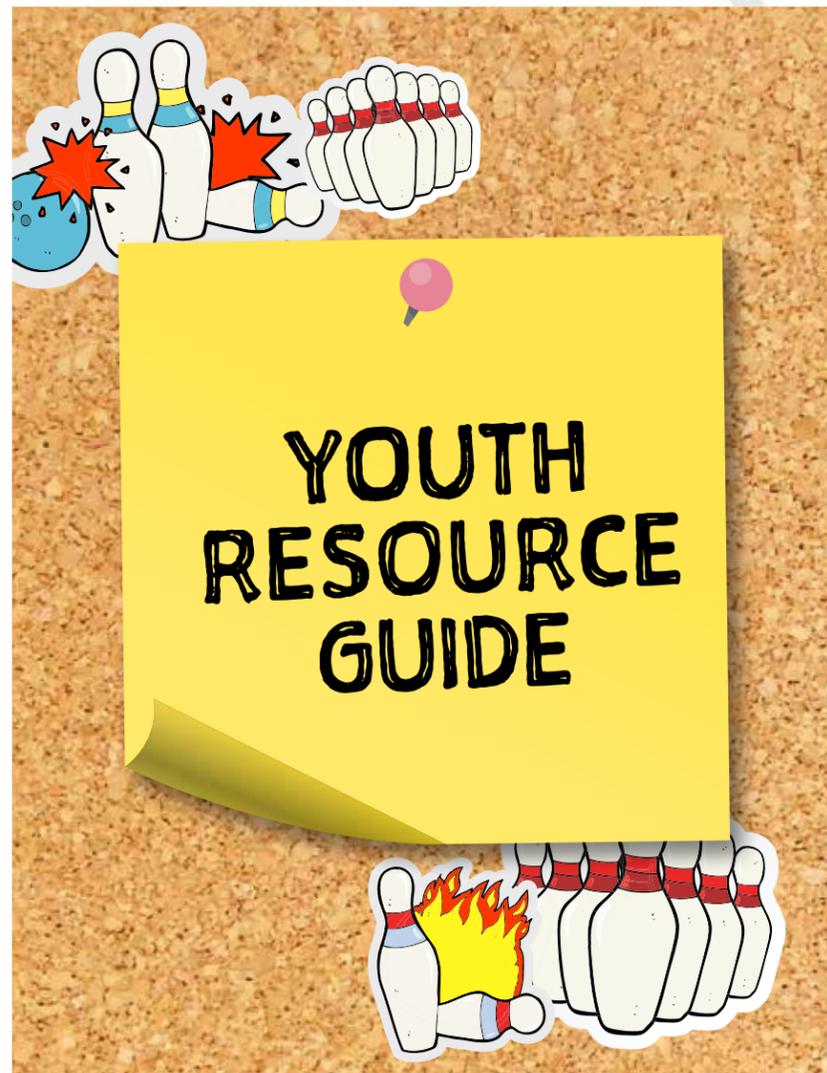
The Youth Resource Guide is designed to aid in the creation of new youth bowling programs in local communities and was created to help bowling centers and USBC associations work together to build relationships and create unique experiences for youth in their community.

The 20-page guide covers a wide range of information, including Bowler's Ed, Standard Youth Programs, USA Bowling Tournaments and USBC National Scholarships. The guide also features a section about the Youth Resource Center on BOWL.com and free creative services offered by IBC Youth Development.

The guide takes time to detail "Why it Works" and "Steps to Success" for each program/topic.

While the previous Youth League Development Guide focused solely on leagues, the new Youth Resource Guide has been expanded to encompass not only league play, but also tournament play, scholarships, the Youth Resource Center and other programs that would not be considered "organized" league/tournament play.

In addition to the new Youth Resource Guide, the Youth Development team has created a way for youths and youth leaders to tell their bowling stories via a "Youth Program Success Story" page on BOWL.com.



## SMART TO PROVIDE NEW FALL BONUS SCHOLARSHIPS

ARLINGTON, Texas – The United States Bowling Congress Scholarship Management and Account Reporting for Tenpins (SMART) program announced a policy change to provide new bonus scholarships in the fall to active SMART recipients.

Under the policy, when SMART deposited unassigned funds in provider accounts are not used by their expiration date, those funds will be distributed equally to active recipients in that state. SMART defines an active recipient as one who used funds in the preceding calendar year.

SMART Providers receive SMART deposited unassigned scholarship funds annually. If the provider chooses not to assign those funds to a recipient within two years, they expire. The first expiration of SMART deposited unassigned funds will take place July 31, 2024. Under this new policy, the expiring funds will be assigned to active recipients throughout the providers' state.

The intent of this policy change is to quickly move expiring SMART deposited unassigned funds to recipients for use and keep the funds within the same geographic area. The amount of the new fall bonus scholarship will vary by state depending on the amount of expiring provider funds and number of active recipients within the state.

Earlier this year, USBC announced an investment earnings allocation of \$7 million to provide additional scholarships for youth bowlers in 2024. The \$7 million allocation was consistent with funding provided in 2022 and 2023 and matched the largest investment earnings allocation in SMART history.

In addition to the earnings allocation, SMART also allocated an additional \$1 million to the SMART Pell Grant Match program.

Active SMART recipients will see the new bonus scholarships posted in their accounts in September.



## TITLES CLAIMED IN U12 AND U15 DIVISIONS AT 2024 USA BOWLING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

ALLEN PARK, Mich. — Teams representing the Coastal South and Atlantic East regions earned titles in the 12-and-under and 15-and-under divisions, respectively, at the 2024 USA Bowling National Championships.

The best-of-five match finals were taped inside Strobl Arena at Thunderbowl Lanes and will air on CBS Sports Network. BowTV provided live coverage of the qualifying and match play rounds leading up to the finals. For the first time in event history, scholarship money was made available with more than \$120,000 awarded in this year's event.

Bowling out of the Coastal South region in U12, Stars and Strikes defeated the South Central region's No Lane No Gain team, in a 3-0 sweep. In U15, it was the Atlantic East region's Gratitude team taking home a 3-1 victory over Ohio's Finest from the Mideast region.

The championship round in each division featured a four-person Baker format with the lead-off bowler bowling the first, fifth and ninth frames, the second bowler bowling the second, sixth and 10th frames, the third bowler bowling frames three and seven, and the fourth bowler bowling frames four and eight.

Bowling for the Coastal South region's Stars and Strikes team in the U12 finals were Nico Candelerio, Vincent Cintron, Kristopher Koehler, Presley Raine and Colton Takas. In charge of the team was head coach Ryan Waters.

Comprising the South Central region's No Lane No Gain team were head coach Matt Dorsett, assistant coach Rachel Toney, and athletes Matthew Dorsett (coach's son), Caleb Ebner, Henry Mann, Treavor Mason, Tripp Perkins and Cooper Powell.

Game 1 of the U12 finals saw the Coastal South team, comprised of players all from Florida, overwhelm their South Central region opponent, featuring players all from Texas, 266-172.

Coastal South started the match with a double, then converted a pair of spares, before reeling off seven strikes in a row to put the opening match away.

The situation didn't improve for South Central in Game 2 as the team suffered opens in the first, third and fifth frames. Conversely, Coastal South sandwiched a pair of three-baggers around a spare in the fourth frame and, despite a late four-bagger by South Central, cruised to a 219-188 victory that put them one win from the championship.

Game 3 was a bit closer. Despite open frames in the second and fifth frames, South Central remained within striking distance, aided by a missed single-pin spare by Coastal South in their second frame. A string of three consecutive strikes in frames six through eight gave South Central some hope, but a foul on the first delivery in the ninth frame, despite the subsequent spare conversion, slowed their momentum.

Coastal South slammed the door with a strike in their ninth frame, followed by a spare and strike in the 10th, that put the icing on a 204-166 win.

It was an outstanding team effort, with Presley Raine and Nico Candelerio authoring standout performances. Raine, the only female in the U12 championship match, bowled lead-off in Games 1 and 2 and struck on seven of her eight shots over the three games. Candelerio, who bowled anchor in Games 1 and 2, struck on seven of his 11 shots.

In the U15 division, the Atlantic East region's Gratitude team brought just four bowlers to the event, so they didn't have the luxury of any substitutions. The roster for Gratitude featured athletes Matteo Quintero (a current member of the Development Program for Team USA and 2021 U12 Boys Junior Gold champion), Jackson Veitch, Sebastian Vetter and Jos Weems, and head coach LaShaune Darden.

Bowling for Ohio's Finest out of the Mideast Region were Isaiah Durlfing (2022

U12 Boys Junior Gold champion), brothers Elliott and Miles Gordon, Baylie Massingill (2021 U12 Girls Junior Gold champion) and Andrew Parker, with Andrew's dad Andy serving as the head coach.

The U15 title tilt found each team struggling to figure out the left lane (Lane 9). In Game 1, it was the Mideast team on the left lane where they suffered a pair of open frames and struck on five shots, but never were able to throw consecutive strikes.

Atlantic East converted single-pin spares in the first, fourth and sixth frames and struck on every other shot (including a closing six-bagger) for a convincing 249-172 Game 1 win.

In Game 2, it was Atlantic East's turn on the left lane and their fortunes were similar to those of Mideast in Game 1. Atlantic East suffered splits in three of their first five frames and couldn't convert any of them. Another open frame in the third after a failed 3-6-10 conversion put them at a serious disadvantage through five frames.

Mideast never let them back in the match, striking in seven of their first eight frames on their way to an easy 232-169 win that evened the match, 1-1.

Game 3 saw Mideast put together a much better performance on the left lane, but an unexpected foul by Elliott Gordon on his spare attempt of the 7 pin in the second frame impacted the match. It was the only non-strike in the first seven frames for Mideast.

Atlantic East had an open frame after a split in the first, converted a single-pin spare in the second, then rattled off four consecutive strikes, before converting another single-pin spare in the seventh to keep the match close.

Mideast converted spares in the eighth and ninth frames and struck on their first shot in the 10th before ending the match with a 4-10 split that was not converted. Strikes in the eighth, ninth and on the first shot in the 10th sealed Game 3 for Atlantic East, 237-223.

The good news for Atlantic East is that they now led, 2-1, and were one win away from the championship. The bad news was that they were headed back to the left lane, where no team had registered a win.

Coach Darden decided to make a lineup change for Game 4, moving Weems out of the lead-off spot to the No. 4 position, switching him with Quintero.

The results were exactly what they were looking for. Atlantic East started Game 4 with five consecutive strikes and never looked back. Mideast suffered open frames after splits in the second and fifth frames. And, despite an open frame of their own in the seventh frame and only striking once in the final five frames, Atlantic East managed to win the game, 220-189, to earn the championship.

Atlantic East entered this event with tournament-tested bowlers. In addition to the accolades noted previously for Quintero, teammates Veitch, Vetter and Weems all have top-five finishes in Junior Gold competition.

The 2024 USA Bowling National Championships in Detroit featured 14 regions that competed in U12 and 16 in U15. Each team that competed in Detroit earned their spot by winning their regional event.

## 2023-2024 DEXTER HIGH SCHOOL ALL-AMERICAN TEAM ANNOUNCED

ARLINGTON, Texas — The Dexter High School All-American Team has been announced for the 2023-2024 school year, with Tamia Yeager of Tacoma, Washington, and KC Campbell of Newark, New Jersey, named as captains.

The teams were selected by Dexter Bowling in consultation with the International Bowling Campus Youth Development staff. Each team is comprised of five student-athletes who had to participate on a recognized interscholastic high school bowling team during the 2023-2024 school year.

Applicants were required to have at least a 3.0 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) and submit a resume of their bowling and academic achievements, along with an essay, to be considered for the team. They also were required to provide recommendation letters from their coaches or athletic directors and at least one additional letter of recommendation.

Each team member will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. Yeager and Campbell were announced as captains during a luncheon as part of the 2024 Junior Gold Championships in Detroit. Both captains will receive an additional \$500 scholarship and take home the Bud Clapsaddle Award, named for the former Dexter Bowling vice president who oversaw selection of the first 12 teams.

The girls team includes:

Miya Greene (San Antonio) — The senior maintained a 4.0 GPA and was ranked No. 45 in her graduating class of 755 students at Brennan High School despite taking on a course-load that featured multiple advanced placement (AP) classes. While at Brennan, Greene was a member of the bowling team and student council. Outside school, she was active in Girl Scouts, San Antonio Youth Leaders, the Greater San Antonio USBC Board of Directors, National Honors Society and the National Society of High School Scholars among other endeavors. On the lanes, Greene helped Brennan to the 2023 Texas High School All-District Team Championship. Also, she was named to the Northside School High School All-Tournament team in 2021, 2022 and 2023 and was a finalist in the U15 girls division at the 2022 Junior Gold Championships, where she finished seventh.

Ashley Imhoff (Cabot, Arkansas) — The senior excelled both in the classroom and

as a participant in multiple extracurricular activities while at Cabot High School. Imhoff maintained a weighted GPA of 4.0392 throughout her high school career, leading to her graduating with Distinguished High Honors status. When not bowling or working on her studies, Imhoff participated in Cabot's Sports Medicine Club (2021-2024), STEM Club (2023-2024) and the National Honors Society (2023-2024). On the lanes — she was the Arkansas State Best-of-the-Best silver medalist in 2024 and a member of that year's Arkansas Overall State Tournament Team while helping Cabot to a runner-up finish in 6A. Imhoff's success wasn't limited to high school bowling, however, as she finished in the top 50 out of nearly 600 competitors in the U18 girls division at the 2023 Junior Gold Championships in Indianapolis as well.

Hailey Lennox (Mount Vernon, Washington) — Through her junior year, Lennox has carried a 4.0 GPA and maintained straight A's to establish herself as an exemplary student at Washington Virtual Academy. She's stayed active in extracurricular activities as well as she's been involved in the WVA Chess Club (2021-2022), Painting Club (2021-2024), Book Club (2023-2024) and Bowling Team (2023-2024) as well as being a member of Future Health Professionals (2023-2024). On the lanes, Lennox earned Washington Interscholastic Activities Association First Team All-Conference status during the 2023-2024 season and was named the Northwest Conference's Most Valuable Player. She also has two Washington Youth Bowler's Tour girl's scratch titles to her credit and made an appearance at the 2022 USA Bowling National Championships.

Maggie Smith (Ypsilanti, Michigan) — The lone sophomore on this year's girls' team, Smith has been solid in the classroom at Milan High School, tallying a 3.7 GPA over the course of her first two academic years. However, she hasn't set herself apart due to classwork alone. Smith also has filled roles as a majorette and clarinet player in various ensembles within the Milan High School Band, has played on the junior varsity tennis team and has served as captain and anchor bowler of the Milan Bowling Team. Her prowess on the lanes allowed Smith to be named Division 3 All-State and Huron League All-Conference First Team in 2024 while carrying a 195 average and authoring a high game of 267.

Tamia Yeager (Tacoma, Washington) — The senior is this year's girls team captain and only two-time Dexter High School All-American Award recipient, having earned the honor during the 2022-2023 season as well. She graduated from Spanaway Lake High School with a 3.83 GPA despite taking multiple honors and AP classes as well as studying both Korean and French. Yeager's track record of volunteerism is equally impressive as, over the years, she has dedicated her time and efforts to multiple organizations in and around the Tacoma area, including Tacoma Rescue Mission Organization, Special Olympics and the South Sound USBC Youth Committee. Despite dedicating so much time and effort to causes off the lanes, Yeager's bowling accolades have continued piling up as well as she won the





2024 Washington State Queens Princess Division title and the 2024 Washington Interscholastic Activities Association Class 3A Division state championship, during which she maintained a 220 average and amassed the highest pinfall among bowlers in all divisions.

**The boys team features:**

KC Campbell (Newark, New Jersey) – This year’s boys team captain was a senior at Seton Hall Preparatory School in 2023-2024, and he finished his high school career with a 3.82 GPA and a host of impressive achievements on and off the lanes. While at Seton Hall, Campbell was a member of the National Honor Society, participated in the Anywhere Real Estate Workforce Readiness Workshop and served as an assistant coach during Jersey Lanes’ Saturday morning youth leagues. Campbell’s role as a coach seems appropriate given his own track record of success on the lanes. He maintained a high average of 237 during the 2023-2024 season, up six pins from his high of 231 the season prior. Additionally, Campbell has 12 career 300 games, two 800 series and is a 2024 Junior Gold Championships U18 boys national qualifier.

Houston Fulks (Franklin, Tennessee) – The junior continued turning heads at Franklin High School this year on account of his 4.17 weighted GPA and high marks in multiple honors and AP classes. His skills in the classroom allowed Fulks to become a member of both the National Honor Society and the National Society of High School Scholars. Outside the classroom, Fulks is a black belt in Waydo Ryu Karate, a cross-fit athlete and an avid golfer and, of course, bowler. On the lanes, he’s been a starter at the high school varsity level since eighth grade. Fulks has authored multiple top-10 finishes at the state level and was a finalist for the WillCo

Award, which is given to the county’s top bowler.

Benjamin “Mason” Mullins (Washington Court House, Ohio) – The junior has established a 4.0 GPA and remained in the top 20 in his graduating class of more than 150 students at Washington High School despite challenging himself with a rigorous roster of honors and AP classes. Mullins, a National Merit Scholar qualifier, also has been a member of Washington’s varsity tennis team, marching, concert and symphonic bands – first chair – and Athletics Advisory Council. He has been a three-year starter and anchor on the varsity bowling team, during which time he has qualified for the individual district tournament twice (2021-2022 and 2022-2023). Mullins is also a USBC Bronze coach and was named Frontier Athletic Conference First Team All-Conference during the 2023-2024 season.

Jake Paulson (Hudson, Wisconsin) – Despite being just a sophomore, Paulson already has left more than four years’ worth of impact on the landscape of New Life Academy and his local community thanks to his outstanding academic performance and numerous community service efforts. During his first two years at New Life, Paulson has established a 4.21 GPA and maintained straight A’s. Outside of school, he’s done volunteer work for Operation Help, Feed My Starving Children and Toys for Tots among other organizations. On the lanes, Paulson has qualified for the state tournament as an individual during each of his first two high school seasons. He’s found considerable success at the Junior Gold Championships as well, finishing 195th out of 695 bowlers in the U15 boys division in 2022 and 131st out of 1,313 competitors in U18 boys in 2023.

Logan Winkler (Lebanon, Tennessee) – The senior managed to maintain a 4.0 GPA throughout his career at Friendship Christian School despite challenging himself with multiple honors-level classes. He was on Friendship’s Academic Honor Roll all four years and was named to the President’s list in 2023 and 2024. Winkler’s community involvement was equally impressive as he dedicated his time and effort to helping causes such as Run4Water, A Christmas for Everyone, Team Alex’s Spend a Day in My Wheels and Jones Brummet Elementary School’s Special Needs Program among other. When not helping others find success, Winkler has found a great deal of his own as he was the 2024 Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association’s Division II individual state bowling champion. Also, he was a 2024 Tennessee USBC Mr. Bowling finalist and is a four-time Junior Gold Championships national finals qualifier.

**2023-2024 DEXTER HIGH SCHOOL ALL-AMERICAN TEAM**

Name, Hometown, Year, High School

**Girls Team**

Miya Greene, San Antonio, Senior, Brennan High School

Ashley Imhoff, Cabot, Arkansas, Senior, Cabot High School

Hailey Lennox, Mount Vernon, Washington, Junior, Washington Virtual Academy

Maggie Smith, Ypsilanti, Michigan, Sophomore, Milan High School

Tamia Yeager, Tacoma, Washington, Junior, Spanaway Lake High School

**Boys Team**

KC Campbell, Newark, New Jersey, Senior, Seton Hall Preparatory High School

Houston Fulks, Franklin, Tennessee, Junior, Franklin High School

Benjamin “Mason” Mullins, Washington Court House, Ohio, Junior, Washington High School

Jake Paulson, Hudson, Wisconsin, Sophomore, New Life Academy

Logan Winkler, Lebanon, Tennessee, Senior, Friendship Christian School

DETROIT – The 2024 Junior Gold Championships officially kicked the weekend off with a bang, as the Junior Gold Trade Show, Opening Ceremony and Party in the Park brought competitors together before they begin their quest for a national title this week.

The Junior Gold Trade Show took place at the Suburban Collection Showplace, featuring more than 120 total vendors and 90 colleges and universities. Bowlers experienced everything the sport could offer, with games, new merchandise and more as they checked in for their squad in preparation of competition week.

Storm, Brunswick and Motiv players were all in attendance to sign autographs and mingle with competitors and parents as the day went on. Many competitors that were friends walked together as they experienced all that the trade show had to offer.

Once the Trade Show was over, the focus shifted to the Opening Ceremony that took place at the Eastern Michigan University George Gervin GameAbove Center.

The Opening Ceremony got underway with the state-by-state athlete parade, followed by U18 competitor Anthony Knecht of Friedens, Pennsylvania, providing an impeccable version of the national anthem.

Following the national anthem, outgoing United States Bowling Congress President Melissa McDaniel officially welcomed everyone, and then special guest speakers Packy Hanrahan and Kris Prather took the stage.

The Professional Bowlers Association Tour champions and current Team USA members provided words of encouragement and motivation to Junior Gold participants as they recounted their own paths through Junior Gold to Team USA and the PBA Tour.

At that point, everyone was turned loose to head outside and enjoy the Party in the Park, which featured a DJ and several fun activities including carnival-like games, footballs, soccer balls and frisbees to utilize, plus cornhole and a variety of food trucks. Stars from the PBA and Professional Women’s Bowlers Association Tours were also on hand to mingle with those in attendance.

Party in the Park also featured the presentation of the 2023-2024 Dexter High School All-American Team and I AM Bowling scholarship winners, bringing an enthusiastic conclusion to a busy Junior Gold opening weekend in Detroit.

BowITV is providing live coverage of the 2024 Junior Gold Championships up until the finals, which are being taped for telecast by CBS Sports Network.



## CHAMPIONS CROWNED AT 2024 JUNIOR GOLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN DETROIT

DETROIT – The 2024 Junior Gold Championships officially came to a close as the U12, U15 and U18 divisions determined who left Detroit as champions at historic Thunderbowl Lanes.

More than 3,100 United States Bowling Congress Youth members competed at Junior Gold 2024, traveling across eight bowling centers in the Detroit area in hopes of winning a piece of the approximately \$500,000 scholarship fund, making a run at a national title and claiming a spot on Junior Team USA.

This year's champions included Eli Franco of Fishers, Indiana (U12), Elliott Gordon of Columbus, Ohio (U15) and Ernesto Reynoso of Folsom, California (U18), in the boys divisions. On the girls side, Alyssa Randisi of Brooklyn, New York (U12), Bella Costillo of Odessa, Texas (U15) and Karina Capron of Fremont, Nebraska (U18) were victorious.

BowlTV provided livestream coverage of every round of the 2023 event leading up to the stepladder finals in each division. All stepladder finals were taped and will be aired on CBS Sports Network.

### U12 Girls

No. 1 Randisi, one of the few two-handed bowlers on the girls side of the field, took home the U12 Girls title, defeating No. 3 seed Aliyana Debina-Gasper of Mililani, Hawaii, 198-153.

Randisi led wire to wire and it was only fitting that she was the winner of the U12 Girls division, putting a stamp on an excellent week after years of hard work.

Randisi opened the title match with three strikes in a row while Debina-Gasper had the first two, but Debina-Gasper had three straight splits. Debina-Gasper was unable to make up the ground the rest of the game, as an additional two open frames for her sealed the win for Randisi, who only had one open prior the 10th frame and had a double in frames seven and eight.

Before the title match, Debina-Gasper faced off against No. 2 seed Daisy Newton of Honolulu, Hawaii. Both competitors struggled to start the match, but a key five-bagger for Debina-Gasper put the game out of reach to advance, 213-175.

### U12 Boys

No. 1 seed Franco was able to parlay a big four-bagger in the middle of his match to a Junior Gold title, taking down No. 2 seed Eason Taylor of Chicago in the title match, 205-179.

Franco and Taylor traded opening frames in the second, but both immediately got back on track with a couple of strikes. Taylor had disaster strike when he opened in frames five and seven while the two-handed Franco stayed clean the rest of the way until the 10th frame, where the match was already decided.

Taylor was able to take on Franco after winning a high-scoring match against No. 3 seed Thomas Ault of Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. Both players kept striking, but it was Taylor who prevailed, 268-257, and advanced to take on Franco.

### U15 Girls

No. 1 seed Castillo prevailed over No. 2 Trishna Desai of Nesconset, New York, 197-157, continuing the streak of two-handers and No. 1 seeds winning 2024 Junior Gold titles to this point.

Neither bowler could find a groove, combining for four strikes, but Castillo stayed clean by converting everything she left as Desai opened three times. Castillo had been practicing her spare shooting before the event and it paid off in a big way in the title match.

Being the top seed can be daunting for some as they have to potentially wait a while before heading to the TV pair, but Costillo wasn't worried about that, instead having the mindset that has she already accomplished so much to this point and to let the pins fall where they may.



Desai had advanced after taking down the defending U15 Girls champion and No. 2 seed Larielle Tharps of Orlando, Florida, using a clean 191 game to Tharps' 155.

### U15 Boys

Gordon entered the stepladder as the No. 1 seed and prevailed over No. 2 seed Kristofer Wagner, 225-208, leaving two-handers four for four in title matches and Wagner claiming second place in the U15 division for the second straight year.

The two competitors were neck and neck after Gordon started with five strikes in the first six frames and Wagner recovered from a first frame open to keep it close. Wagner's string of strikes ended in the eighth frame after a bad shot went high and converted the 3-6-10 combo, before the ninth frame saw a good shot go light for the 2-8 leave, which he also converted.

Another strike by Gordon in the ninth put the pressure on Wagner, who stepped up in the 10th and went flush pocket for a 4 pin, the match slipping away. After converting the single pin spare and getting six on the fill for 208, Gordon went up and ended the match with his own single pin spare and count in the fill to finish with 225 and the title.

Gordon never missed the pocket until the fill, crediting his ball selection and shot making to stay in the pocket as well as the added confidence from the No. 1 seed.

This was his last year in U15 but isn't looking too far ahead for the step up into the U18 division, wanting to stay in the moment and enjoy it without putting any big expectations on himself.

Wagner advanced to the title match after defeating No. 3 seed Lincoln Moyer of Merritt Island, Florida, 244-184. That match saw each competitor never miss the pocket, but the pins fell for Wagner, as Moyer had five frames where the back row

## JUNIOR GOLD NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS CONT.

of pins refused to budge for him.

### Junior Team USA Developmental Team

The U15 division also served as a qualifier for automatic spots on the 2025 Junior Team USA Developmental Team. In the boys and girls divisions, the top two qualifiers after 26 games of qualifying, the event champion, and the event runner-up earned places on the team.

Based on those criteria, the automatic qualifiers for the 2025 Junior Team USA Developmental Team are as follows:

#### Girls

\*Anna Antony, Farmington, Connecticut (third after qualifying)

Lindsay Greim, Poway, California (second after qualifying)

U15G Runner-up - Trishna Desai, Nesconset, New York

U15G Champion - Bella Castillo, Odessa, Texas

#### Boys

\*Ryan Campbell, Clinton, South Carolina (third after qualifying)

Zachary Mayne, Parma, Ohio (second after qualifying)

U15B Runner-up - Kristofer Wagner, Deland, Florida

U15B Champion - Elliott Gordon, Columbus, Ohio

\*Since event champions Casillo and Gordon were also first after qualifying, the next available spots went to Antony and Campbell as the third-place finishers after qualifying

#### U18 Girls

The No. 3 seeded Capron avenged her runner-up finish at last year's Junior Gold

to win the U18 Girls title in her final Junior Gold over No. 1 seed Kaitlyn Stull of Raleigh, North Carolina, 204-173.

Capron advanced to the title match after a narrow 192-180 win over No. 3 seed Kayla Starr of Crofton, Maryland. Both bowlers traded strikes early on in the match and open frames in the fifth and seventh, but it was Capron's double after the second open that moved her forward against Stull.

After a single pin spare to open the game, Capron threw three strikes in a row to gain an early lead over Stull, who was using two different balls in the match. Stull was in the pocket but the right lane was not giving her the hits she needed through the first five frames, going high flush for a 4 pin and a weak 10 pin, converting both.

The wheels started to come off for Stull in the sixth frame, who had a shot go right off her hand for the 1-2-4 combo that she converted, before back to back opens in the seventh and eighth, giving Capron the opportunity to close the door.

Capron promptly did just that, with an open in the ninth not enough to let Stull back in the match, ending with 204 and her second Junior Gold title, previously winning in U12 in 2017.

Her runner-up finish last year gave her extra motivation for 2024 to continue to put in the work behind the scenes at practices.

#### U18 Boys

Reynoso made his mark after winning the U18 Boys title in Detroit, becoming the first person in Junior Gold history to win back-to-back titles in two different divisions after winning U15 in 2023. He also won in the closest match of all the others, defeating No. 1 seed Ethan Crouse of Lowville, New York, as the No. 3 seed, 206-199, in a match that came down to the final frame.

Before the title match, Reynoso had to beat No. 2 Owen Williams of Tipton, Michigan, to have a shot at history. The two competitors had clean games, but Reynoso's 207 topped Williams' 190 as the left lane started to play a little tricky.

That prompted Reynoso to make a ball change that enabled him to switch up his lines a little, sticking with it even after one shot went light for a baby split that he really liked and put his arms up in the air in confusion.

Reynoso threw the next three strikes in a row and would've continued his striking ways if not for a brutal pocket 7-10 split in the seventh, leaving the door open for Crouse to pull ahead. Crouse was clean to that point, before a missed 10 pin brought new life for Reynoso.

The 2023 U15 Boys champion answered the call, doubling in the eighth and ninth to apply pressure on Crouse, who had a double heading into the second shot of the 10th. But Crouse went light and left the 2-4-5-8 bucket, only getting two of the four pins to finish with 199.

Reynoso clinched the win with a strike in the first ball in the 10th and left Detroit as a back-to-back champion with a 206.

#### Junior Team USA 2024

Six boys and six girls from the U18 division also earned spots on Junior Team USA for 2025 based on their performances this week at the Junior Gold Championships.

Joining Stull and Capron on the girls side is Sydney Bohn of Jackson, New Jersey; Taylor Kretz of Erie, Pennsylvania; Eliana Occhino of Fulton, New York; and Melia Mitskavich of Du Bois, Pennsylvania.

Reynoso, Williams and Crouse will be joined by Chance McLane of Chesapeake Beach, Maryland; Keaton Ostrowski of Rochester, New York; and Nicolas Trentler of Phoenix, Maryland



## USBC YOUTH COMMITTEE NAMES SIX JUNIOR GOLD COMPETITORS 2024 DAVID DAHMS SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD WINNERS

ARLINGTON, Texas – Six competitors from the 2024 Junior Gold Championships have been selected to receive the David Dahms Sportsmanship Award.

The winners were determined by the International Bowling Campus Youth Committee based on nominations received from participants at this year's Junior Gold Championships, which was held across eight bowling centers in the Detroit area.

The David Dahms Sportsmanship Award is given to competitors who best exemplify sportsmanship, leadership, positive attitude and enthusiasm during the Junior Gold Championships. The honor is awarded to one male and one female participant in each division.

Each winner in the 12-and-under (U12), U15 and U18 divisions receives a 100-point SMART scholarship. The 2024 winners are:

### 12-and-under division

- Girls: Cadence Oakes, Martinsville, Va.
- Boys: Chase Rudy, Prince George, Va.

### 15-and-under division

- Girls: Anna Antony, Farmington, Conn.
- Boys: Callen Cabral, Somerset, Mass.

### 18-and-under division

- Girls: Savannah Swiatocha, Scotia, N.Y.
- Boys: Ryan Prendergast, Croydon, Pa.

The award is named for David Dahms, who was instrumental in the development and launch of the Junior Gold program.

## BOWLER'S ED GRANT WINNERS ANNOUNCED FOR FIRST HALF OF 2024

ARLINGTON, Texas – Ten schools and three school districts will have the opportunity to incorporate bowling into their educational plans during the 2024-2025 school year.

Thirteen recipients have been chosen by the International Bowling Campus Youth Development team to receive Bowler's Ed kits and curriculum information through the Bowler's Ed Grant Program, directly impacting over 30,000 students.

As a curriculum- and equipment-based physical education program, Bowler's Ed is designed to introduce students to the lifetime sport of bowling. IBC Youth sponsored 12 grants while one is sponsored by the New York State Bowling Proprietors Association.

Each Bowler's Ed kit brings a bowling-center-like atmosphere into classrooms, gyms and recreational spaces, providing teachers and supporting staff with the equipment and tools needed to enjoy the sport in the most convenient way.

The schools and school districts selected to receive Bowler's Ed kits for the 2024-2025 school year were determined based on applications submitted by the June 30, 2024, deadline. The kits will be received by the following schools and districts:

- Albion Central School District – Albion, N.Y.
- Antelope Valley Union High School District – Lancaster, Calif.
- Beechwood Independent School District – Fort Mitchell, Ky.
- Delmar Elementary School – Delmar, Md.
- Kaneland Blackberry Creek Elementary School – Elburn, Ill.
- Mount Bethel Elementary School – Marietta, Ga.
- Orchard Avenue Elementary School – Grand Junction, Colo.
- Peace Lutheran School – Sun Prairie, Wis.
- P.S. 154 Jonathan D. Hyatt Elementary School – Bronx, N.Y.
- Taggart Elementary School – Philadelphia
- Thiells Elementary School – Thiells, N.Y.
- Unity Preparatory Charter School – Brooklyn, N.Y.
- Western Avenue Elementary School – Geneva, Ill.

The curriculum includes lessons that put a new twist on subjects that students are already learning about such as math, language arts, social studies, problem solving, computer skills and more. It also introduces the students to a sport that they can play for a lifetime while providing great exercise, building endurance and developing hand-eye coordination in a fun way.

Schools and organizations are able to teach students and young athletes about bowling in an educational and fun setting through the grant program. Each kit provides six sets of a carpeted mobile bowling lane, rubber bowling ball and plastic pins. A step-by-step curriculum and an instructional video on the fundamentals of bowling, which includes etiquette, safety, scoring and fitness activities, is also provided in each kit.

IBC Youth Development works with local associations, schools and bowling centers throughout the country to deliver the In-School Bowler's Ed kits.

The initiative is supported by the bowling industry and aims to bring bowling centers and associations together with schools and non-profit organizations in their communities, allowing physical education teachers and other instructors the opportunity to make bowling one of the sports they teach to their students.

Since 2010, the Bowler's Ed Grant Program has awarded 354 grants, impacting more than 4.7 million students from 46 states and provinces across the United States and Canada.

## CHAMPIONS CROWNED AT 2024 BOWLING.COM YOUTH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

ARLINGTON, Texas – The winners in each of the four age-based divisions at the 2024 Bowling.com Youth Open Championships have been determined by the International Bowling Campus Youth Development team.

The 2024 Youth Open Championships, a non-qualifying tournament open to all United States Bowling Congress Youth members, was contested at Sterling Lanes in Sterling Heights, Michigan, from July 10-28.

Bowlers in the four age-based divisions (10-and-under, 12-and-under, 15-and-under and 18-and-under) earned more than \$95,000 in scholarship prizes and won national titles in team, doubles, singles and all-events.

Each event featured a scratch and optional handicap division with 186 teams and 897 bowlers participating in this year's tournament.

The roster of 2024 winners included the following teams and individuals:

### 18-and-under division

Team – Scratch: We Forgot How to Bowl (Tavaris Pierson, Harcourt Husbands, Bruno Brandao, James Drehoble III), Fla., 2,701. Team – Handicap – Strikeforce 9 (Stephen Shaw III, Maura Turpin, Nora Smith, Zack Selman), Mich., 2,743. Doubles – Scratch – Willam Jacobs and Cephus Beatty III, Conn., 1,406. Doubles – Handicap – Jersei Geile and Hunter Elder, Mo., 1,427. Girls' Doubles – Scratch – Leyna Kratzer and Eliana Occhino, Pa., 1,299. Girls' Doubles – Handicap – Jalissa Ator and Macy Smedley, Iowa, 1,445. Boys' Singles – Scratch – Elijah S. Strunk, Lake Orion, Mich., 735. Boys' Singles – Handicap – Ayden J. Barnhouse, Homosassa, Fla., 743. Girls' Singles – Scratch – Annika Svedvik, Allen, Texas, 727. Girls' Singles – Handicap – Haley Swindle, Newnan, Ga., 723. Boys' All-Events – Scratch – Keaton Ostrowski, Rochester, N.Y., 2,114. Boys' All-Events – Handicap – Ryland Prokopec, Columbus, Neb., 2,049. Girls' All-Events – Scratch – Eliana Occhino, Fulton, N.Y., 1,996. Girls' All-Events – Handicap – Adalae Wilamosky, Cleveland, 2,103.

### 15-and-under division

Team – Scratch: Emmanuel's Minions (Anthony Swanson, Rush Steen, Emmanuel Guevara, Dawson Kohl), Iowa, 2,537. Team – Handicap – Motown Muscle (Gavin Tank, Emiliano Contreras-Salazar, Landin Watkins, Liam Pfeiffer), Mich., 2,890. Doubles – Scratch – Elliott Gordon and Miles Gordon, Ohio, 1,378. Doubles – Handicap – Liam Pfeiffer and Landin Watkins, Mich., 1,437. Girls' Doubles – Scratch – Sara Augustitus and Sofia DeLuccia, Mich., 1,227. Girls' Doubles – Handicap – Haylie Sloniker and Alison Sloniker, Ill., 1,418. Boys' Singles – Scratch

– Do Hoon Kwan, Vancouver, Wash., 730. Boys' Singles – Handicap – Jacob N. Vasquez, Chandler, Ariz., 796. Girls' Singles – Scratch – Savannah Portillo, Bellevue, Mich., 671. Girls' Singles – Handicap – Chloe Craighead, Hedgesville, W. Va., 754. Boys' All-Events – Scratch – Miles Gordon, Columbus, Ohio, 2,005. Boys' All-Events – Handicap – Jacob N. Vasquez, Chandler, Ariz., 2,351. Girls' All-Events – Scratch – Lindsay Greim, Poway, Calif., 1,895. Girls' All-Events – Handicap – Alia Sharif, Jerome, Ariz., 2,138.

### 12-and-under division

Team – Scratch: We BEAT the Lanes (Eason Taylor, Treavor Mason, Brennan Brandel, Alexander Eby), Ill., 2,321. Team – Handicap – Tifton Girls Rule! (Lillian Lovett, Jade Campbell, Nyla Lewis, Kate Luke), Ga., 2,792. Doubles – Scratch – Treavor Mason and Brennan Brandel, Texas, 1,287. Doubles – Handicap – Christian Forry and Christopher Sim, N.J., 1,434. Girls' Doubles – Scratch – Abigail Kowalsky and Kalyne Wood, Mich., 991. Girls' Doubles – Handicap – Nyla Lewis and Kate Luke, Ga., 1,445. Boys' Singles – Scratch – Colton M. Takas, Port Saint Lucie, Fla., 619. Boys' Singles – Handicap – Lawson McFalls, Pataskala, Ohio, 753. Girls' Singles – Scratch – Olivia Titus, St. Charles, Mo., 622. Girls' Singles – Handicap – Olivia Titus, St. Charles, Mo., 823. Boys' All-Events – Scratch – Brennan Brandel, Saginaw, Mich., 1,886. Boys' All-Events – Handicap – Lawson McFalls, Pataskala, Ohio, 2,165. Girls' All-Events – Scratch – Olivia Titus, St. Charles, Mo., 1,695. Girls' All-Events – Handicap – Olivia Titus, St. Charles, Mo., 2,298.

### 10-and-under division

Team – Scratch: Tiny But Dangerous (Taylor Morgan, Ellie Kate Murray, Josh Worley, Nolan Randisi), N.J., 1,727. Team – Handicap – Chi-Town Rollers (Ryan Reyes-Louie, Cameron Whitten, Layla Garcia, Alexander Santeliz), Ill., 2,561. Doubles – Scratch – Josh Worley and Nolan Randisi, N.J., 1,002. Doubles – Handicap – Whitley Gliko and Keylee Gliko, Mont., 1,382. Girls' Doubles – Scratch – Taylor Morgan and Ellie Kate Murray, N.J., 876. Girls' Doubles – Handicap – Jade Campbell and Lillian Lovett, Ga., 1,370. Boys' Singles – Scratch – Aaron Cabiness, Columbus, Ohio, 536. Boys' Singles – Handicap – Alexander Boukis, Gates Mills, Ohio, 760. Girls' Singles – Scratch – Taylor Morgan, Murfreesboro, Tenn., 457. Girls' Singles – Handicap – Stevie Newton, Honolulu, 729. Boys' All-Events – Scratch – Aaron Cabiness, Columbus, Ohio, 1,642. Boys' All-Events – Handicap – Christian L. Forry, Fairfield, Conn., 2,105. Girls' All-Events – Scratch – Taylor Morgan, Murfreesboro, Tenn., 1,296. Girls' All-Events – Handicap – Layla Garcia, Oak Lawn, Ill., 2,104.



## EIGHT TNBA YOUTH MEMBERS ENJOY WEEKEND OF INSTRUCTION AT ITRC

ARLINGTON, Texas – The National Bowling Association Youth Weekend returned to the International Training and Research Center, providing eight student-athletes with the unique opportunity to receive instruction and train at the world-class facility.

The event was created through a partnership between the United States Bowling Congress and TNBA more than a decade ago.

Over the course of the three-day program, players received on-lane training and participated in drills and classroom sessions with the ITRC staff. Participants also had the opportunity to hear from guest speakers and tour the ITRC and the International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame.

TNBA and USBC have worked together on a concept called the TNBA/Team USA Youth Bowling Program, and this year marked the 13th time the TNBA Youth Weekend event has taken place since its inception in 2010. The event ran consecutively for 10 years before being paused due to the pandemic in 2020 and 2021, then picked back up in 2022.

Applications were sent to TNBA youth members between the ages of 15-18. As part of the application process, players were asked to submit a video, showing their bowling style from different angles, along with a resume of their accomplishments. This year's eight participants were selected from that pool of TNBA youth program applicants and included three girls and five boys:

Ezra Bentkowski, Aiea, Hawaii

Daveon Bickcom, Chicago

Olivia Cameron, Westchester, Ill.

Gregory Daniels II, Detroit

Michael Jones, Laurel, Md.

Sydney Smoot, Glen Burnie, Md.

Clayton Washington, Midlothian, Va.

Neveah Williams, Cincinnati

The participants were joined by TNBA Junior Directors Anthony Mitchell and Pamela Sterling and TNBA Assistant Junior Director Dominique Walker.

Providing instruction to the student-athletes were USBC Director of Coaching Development Stephen Padilla and ITRC Coach Lou Marquez, with assistance from Tom Nassar of USBC's Equipment and Specs team, and the Wicks Pro Shop.

Professional Bowlers Association champion and Team USA member AJ Johnson was a guest speaker, and the attendees hung on every word as Johnson provided advice and direction to them.

During the weekend, an emphasis was placed on individual instruction to develop both the physical and mental game. The instruction included the use of the ITRC's advanced video analysis systems, analysis using Specto technology and additional statistical analysis. There were sessions covering the bowler's release and an assessment of each player's spare shooting.

In addition to on-lane instruction, the participants took part in classroom sessions on topics that included the physical game, bowling ball dynamics, ball motion dynamics and understanding the science of lane conditions and lane play.

The classroom and on-lane instruction was complemented by tours of the facility, including the International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame at the conclusion of the first day.

Visiting the IBMHOF wasn't the only tour provided to the participants. The participants also enjoyed the tour of USBC's Equipment Specifications Department, which included a demonstration by E.A.R.L. (Enhanced Automated Robotic Launcher), USBC's ball-throwing robot.



