



STARS & STRIKES
AMERICA'S BOWLING NEWSMAGAZINE



OZIO

Voted Into USBC Hall of Fame



71 Year Old John Buchanan Rolls 900 Series

Tackett Takes Japan Cup



USBC Boss

RECAP 2016 Preview 2017



BOWL • • PINION

by Jim Goodwin

Any editorial opinions expressed here are offered to provoke thought on important and sometimes controversial issues.

Agree or disagree, we'd like to hear from you:
starsandstrikes@sbcglobal.net

Trying to Keep Up

Every week, I get a copy of Genie and Tony Franklin's Bowling News on my computer, and they do a wonderful job of sharing the latest national and world news, and recognizing the local bowlers in their Dallas/Fort Worth market.

I took notice of a few items in their 2-2-17 issue which I got on January 31 . . .

The first thing that caught my eye was the front page story about Jamie Brooks and Butch Warren taking ownership of Allen Bowl and dubbing it JB's Allen Bowl. Allen is a thriving suburb just north of Dallas that caught national attention a few years ago for building a \$60 million high school football stadium that had to be closed for a year to fix structural problems . . . If only bowling could be as popular as football in Texas. I would describe Brooks as the dean of bowling proprietors. He has owned 47 centers during his six decades in the business, and at 82 is still in love with the business and the sport. In addition to Allen, he currently owns Plano Super Bowl and Cowtown Bowling Palace in Fort Worth.

The Plano center is one of the busiest in the nation, and it just underwent a \$2+million remodel to turn it into a hybrid center. Butch Warren is I believe the elder of the locally famous Warren brothers. The beautiful and gracious Mary Warren's six sons have had quite an impact in bowling and business. Son Chris is best known because of his five PBA titles, but Jamie tells me that Butch has had a very successful career in business, mostly in the oil business.

CJ and I had an open house in our Rockwall home during the Christmas season, and we were honored that Jamie and Peggy Brooks stopped by one day. We talked a lot about Allen, and we were also happy to learn that Chris Johnson has been named general manager of the Allen center. We first met Chris when we did a story about him and his buddy Ted Pritts when he was a teenager. He went on to become a PBA Rookie of the Year, and is married to PWBA star Stefanie Johnson (formerly

Nation) We wish everyone involved in the new JB's Allen Bowl much succes.

On the other side of the front page of the paper I read that our friend Phil Prieto won another title – something called the Age Bracket Tournament. Phil was representing the 70+ bracket. What a class act he is, and



we are happy to see he is still going strong.

Skipping over to Tony Franklin's column, I read that 26 year old twins Sean and Anthony Lavery Spahr have rolled 170 perfect games – Sean with 90 and Anthony 80. But don't feel bad for Anthony – he is catching up fast with 15 perfectos in leagues in the past month alone, and he averaged 243 for 99 games in one league. Actually, that sounds a little low to me – I was expecting maybe a 273 average, or close to it based on all those 300 games.

Is it just me, and not to take anything away from these accomplishments, but doesn't this just seem a little ridiculous?! Where is the challenge? On the other hand, maybe one of these kids will be the first to have three hundred 300's – or why not a thousand?

These days, it is not easy to stay on top of all of the trends in bowling, but it looks to me like the only way to make a good living in bowling is to own a bowling center. If money is the measure of success in the

professional ranks, it is certainly not looking good for future pros.

When I look at the final stats for the PBA Tour for 2016, I see E. J. Tackett on top with four titles and a total of \$168,290 in prize money . . . doesn't seem like much when you consider all of the expense it took for him to get to all those tournaments and pay for all those hotel rooms.

Another name that stood out was the guy who many said would dominate the next decade of the PBA Tour – Jason Belmonte had a good year finishing 7th on the list with \$95k, but he won no titles.

If you go down the list, you see only five guys over \$100k, and six players in the top 20 are senior bowlers, including Pete Weber in 5th with \$105k. 20th place is a mere \$57k. I almost hate to remind people that Walter Ray Williams won over \$400k in 2003. Mike Aulby won \$298k in 1989.

On the same Bowling News page with the PBA Stats is their neat little feature called "Looking Back" which highlights items from 10, 20 and 30 years past.

The item that caught my eye in this one was the 1997 Mini Eliminator won by Brian Kretzer at Sam's Town in Las Vegas 20 years ago. A couple of Wichita State guys, Lonnie Waliczek and David Garber, finished 2nd and 4th. Kretzer won \$100,000 back when these event were true 'megabuck tournaments.'

I was the press director for this event. (see photo we took of the top five) Not long after, Steve Sanders moved this event to The Orleans where we began a very successful run that lasted over a decade. One of the events drew an astonishing 4,500 entries and several of them paid out more than a million dollars in prize money. The rival High Roller events were also very popular for many years, keeping most of the top amateurs – guys like Chris Barnes, Tim Mack, Robert Smith and many others - out of the PBA simply because they were making more money than most of the pros at the time. **XXX**

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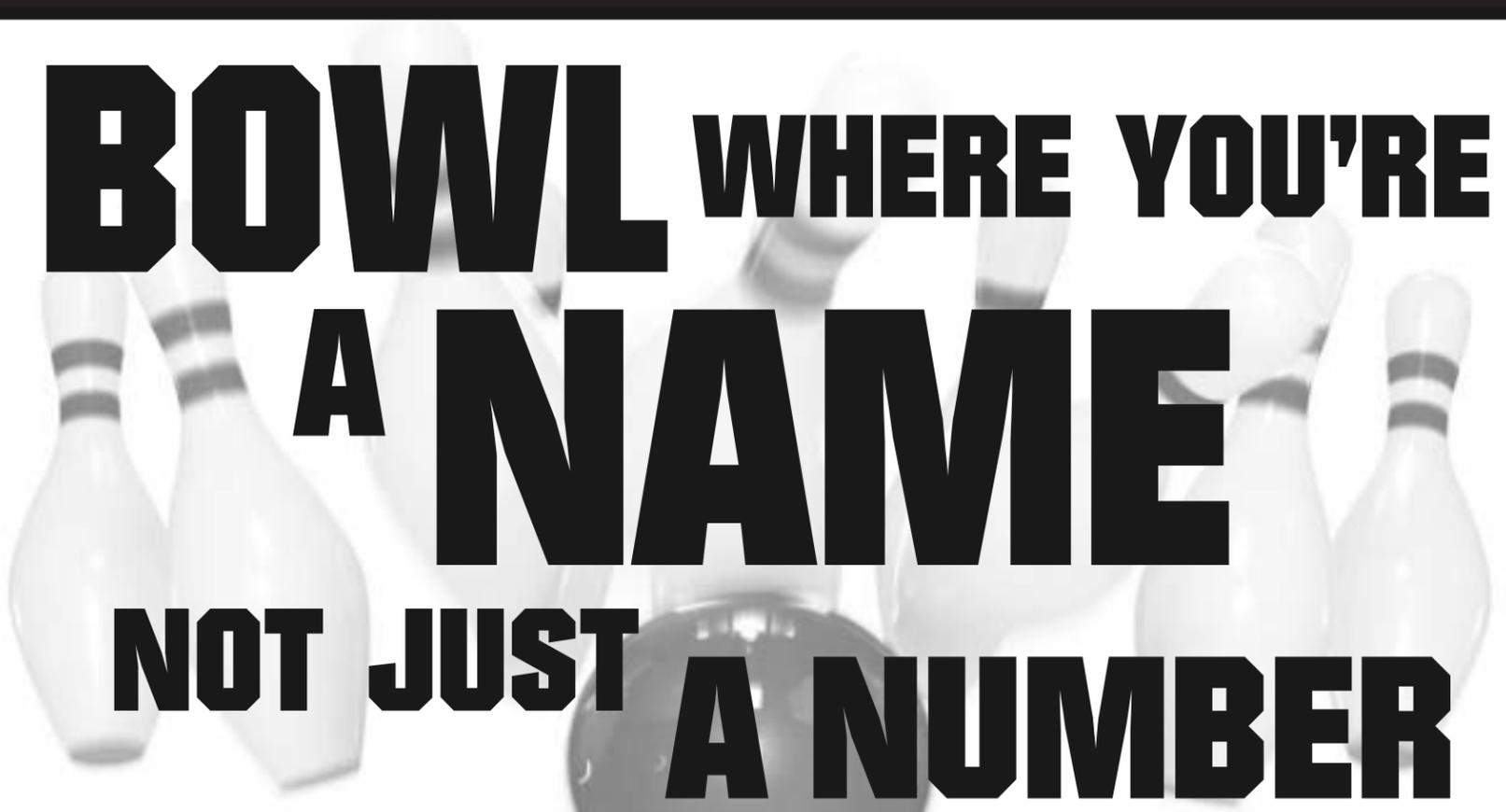
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Photos: PBA, USBC, BPAA. Randy Gulley, Markus Hegnelius

CHAMPIONS DETERMINED AT 2017 USBC TEAM USA TRIALS, U.S. AMATEUR

HENDERSON, Nev. – Erin McCarthy of Omaha, Nebraska, and Jakob Butturff of Tempe, Arizona, captured the 2017 United States Bowling Congress Team USA Trials titles, while Julia Bond of Aurora, Illinois, and Matt Russo of Millstone Township, New Jersey, closed the weekend with wins at the United States National Amateur Bowling Championships.

McCarthy finished the event at Sunset Station's Strike Zone Bowling Center with a 241 game, giving her a fifth-place finish in the final round and moving her into the top spot in the women's standings with 46 total ranking points. Butturff

had built a lead during the week's first four rounds and used a 14th-place finish Sunday on the 39-foot Seoul oil pattern to collect the win with 59 ranking points.

The players earned points based on their finishing positions in each qualifying round. The top bowler of the block earned one ranking point, second place earned two points, etc., with the lowest total of ranking points after the five six-game blocks determining the 2017 USBC Team USA Trials champions.

Shannon Pluhowsky of Dayton, Ohio, led Sunday's final round, firing a 1,465 six-game block. Chris Via of Springfield, Ohio, paced the men's field in the final round with a 1,478 total.

The women's title came down to the final frame as McCarthy delivered a strike to move ahead of Shannon O'Keefe of O'Fallon, Illinois, and hold off a late run by Kelly Kulick of Union, New Jersey.

"I tried my best to not look at the scoreboard all week, so I didn't know how close it was, which probably helped take the nerves away," said McCarthy, who made Team USA for the third consecutive year. "I went into that game focused on making good shots and the team. I've been battling some things with my swing since the U.S. Women's Open and really worked hard the past two or three months trying to get it fixed. It really paid off this week, and I'm on cloud nine. Making the team again is a dream in itself, but I don't know if this win will sink in for a couple of weeks."

The victories also earned McCarthy and Butturff the opportunity to represent the United States at the 2017 QubicaAMF World Cup in Hermosillo, Mexico.

Also earning automatic spots on Team USA 2017 based on their overall performances at the Team USA Trials were O'Keefe, Kulick, Bond and Stephanie Zavala of Downey, California.

Missy Parkin of Laguna Hill, California, Sydney Brummett of Fort Wayne, Indiana, Kayla Johnson of Washington, Illinois, and Stephanie Schwartz of Racine, Wisconsin, were selected by the National Selection Committee based on their performances this week.

Pluhowsky, Danielle McEwan of Stony Point, New York, Bryanna Coté of Red Rock, Arizona, Josie Earnest of Nashville, Tennessee, and Stefanie Johnson of Grand Prairie, Texas, were selected by the National Selection Committee based on submitted resumes.

The red hot Butturff, who won two Professional Bowlers Association Tour titles and a record nine PBA regional titles in 2016, carried that momentum into the new year.



Erin McCarthy, USBC Executive Director Chad Murphy, Jakob Butturff

"Knowing you can handle the grind and deal with the pressure of winning this event against a very talented field of bowlers is a great feeling," said Butturff, who is making his first appearance on Team USA. "It's amazing to be one of the few who gets the chance to represent this country and the sport of bowling."

Joining Butturff with automatic spots on Team USA 2017 are Russo, Marshall Kent of Yakima, Washington, Steven Badovinac of Monument, Colorado, and Andrew Cain of Phoenix.

AJ Johnson of Oswego, Illinois, Nick Pate of Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, Kyle King of Glendale, Arizona, and Chris Barnes of Double Oak, Texas, were selected by the National Selection Committee based on their performances at the Team USA Trials this week.

Via, AJ Chapman of Wichita, Kansas, Ronnie Russell of Marion, Indiana, Tommy Jones of Simpsonville, South Carolina, and Sean Rash of Montgomery, Illinois, were selected by the National Selection Committee based on submitted resumes.

Making Team USA and winning the U.S. Amateur marked the next big steps for Bond, a Junior Team USA member and collegiate standout at Nebraska.

She put together a clean game in the women's U.S. Amateur final, but left an opening for Zavala to double in the 10th frame and capture the title. Zavala left the 2-4-10 split on her first offering as Bond collected the win, 229-204.

"It's hard to put into words what all of this means," said Bond, who

also joined Junior Team USA for the fourth consecutive year. "It's an honor to be a part of both teams, and winning the U.S. Amateur makes it even better. It was an amazing week."

Zavala earned her spot in the title match by defeating Brummett in the opening match, 220-210.

Russo grabbed an early lead in the men's U.S. Amateur final against Badovinac with strikes in five of the first seven frames. Badovinac was unable to strike on the left lane until the 10th frame, and Russo delivered an eight count on the first ball of his final frame

to secure the victory, 212-197.

"All of the hard work really paid off this week, and I'm going home as a member of Team USA, Junior Team USA and as the U.S.

Amateur champion," said Russo, who earned a spot on Junior Team USA for the second consecutive year. "It hasn't fully sunken in yet, but I know it will when I wake up tomorrow morning. I can't even describe the feeling now."

Badovinac advanced to the championship match after defeating Cortez Schenck of Phoenix in the semifinal,

266-190.

Many of the nation's top young bowlers also found success at Sunset Station this week, earning spots on Junior Team USA 2017.

Automatic spots for the girls went to Zavala, Schwartz, Breanna Clemmer of Clover, South Carolina, and Rebecca Gotterbarn of Garden City, New York.

Lauren Pate of Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, and Jessica Mellott of Lauderhill, Florida, were selected by the National Selection Committee based on performance.

Bond, Brummett, Heather Penatzer of Tucson, Arizona, Sierra Kanemoto of Riverside, Ohio, Adrianna Stacy of Sebring, Florida, and Haley Cummings of Huber Heights, Ohio, already earned their spots on Junior Team USA 2017 based on their performances at the 2016 Junior Gold Championships in Indianapolis.

Earning automatic spots on the boys' side was Russo, Schenck, Brandon Biondo of Carpentersville, Illinois, and Bryan Hahlen of Greenwood, South Carolina.

Richard Paul III of Winton, California, and Briley Haugh of Faribault, Minnesota, were selected by the National Selection Committee based on performance.

Jared Armstrong of Louisville, Kentucky, Pete Vergos of Apopka, Florida, Thomas McNeal of Seattle, Jeffery Mann of West Lafayette, Indiana, Dustin Zehner of South Bend, Indiana, and Kennon McFalls of Gastonia, North Carolina, already earned their spots on Junior Team USA 2017 based on their performances at the 2016 Junior Gold



Matt Russo and Julia Bond

Championships in Indianapolis. To be eligible for the U.S. Amateur, a bowler must not hold or have held a professional membership (PBA or Professional Women's Bowling Association) in the preceding year. Also, anyone who has won a professional title (regional, national or senior) as a professional is not eligible to compete as an amateur.

Bowlers age 20 or younger as of Jan. 1, 2017 were eligible for spots on Junior Team USA.

For more information on the USBC Team USA Trials and U.S. Amateur, visit BOWL.com/TeamUSATrials.

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by Chad Murphy
USBC Executive Director

2016 RECAP, 2017 PREVIEW



Looking back on 2016, USBC saw a transformational year for the organization thanks to two very important decisions made by our delegates at convention. The membership approving a dues increase, and the mandatory association mergers are game changers for the future of USBC. The financial outlook of the association is now secure for the next decade, allowing for optimism, investment and forward thinking. This will be a sharp contrast to the previous decade at USBC, which saw constant cuts in services, staff and resources leading to insecurity and uncertainty throughout the organization at the national and local level. With the merger issue finally settled, the original vision of USBC as one unified organization now will be realized. A new book now will begin to be written. One of inclusion for all. One of an organization moving forward with pride and purpose.

There is much to celebrate across the entire organization. As we start 2017, I want to share some of the progress we have made together on USBC's organizational priorities.

Youth Development

The IBC Youth Development team is doing a wonderful job focused daily on two key disciplines – Recruitment and Retention.

Retention programming through high school bowling, USBC Collegiate and youth tournaments are at all-time highs. USBC Collegiate surpassed 200 schools in membership for the first time in history, and the Intercollegiate Singles Championships had a record of 1,215 entries in 2016. High school bowling continues to grow with the states of Alabama and Nebraska newly reaching varsity status. We now have 21 states and the District of Columbia recognized by their state high school athletic associations along with 27 club-level states. An effort toward middle school bowling is next on our roadmap.

On the tournament side, the 2016 Junior Gold Championships broke all records for the fifth consecutive year. The event saw 3,292 competitors on the lanes and the USA Bowling mainstream sports model held its first national championships complete with finals televised on CBS Sports Network. Sixteen regional USA Bowling teams qualified throughout the country to earn spots in Indianapolis as part of Junior Gold week with champions crowned in the U15 and U12 divisions.

Recruitment programs such as Bowlers Ed continue to offer bowling into the physical education classroom and the IBC Youth marketing collaborates with groups such as School Family Media to

place bowling with PTA/PTO groups throughout the country. These are examples of the organized effort in support of the motto – “Get a few more kids to go bowling more often”. 2016 marked a record for Bowlers Ed grant applications with a 211% increase over 2015 and the program awarding 44 grants. Inside the schools themselves, 175,000 new kids were introduced to bowling through the classroom in 29 different states! WOW!

A new social media campaign has been launched to call more attention to youth bowling over the next several years. With all of these programs, we are proactively attacking the market where the kids and parents live rather than waiting for them to walk through the bowling center door.

One of the things I'm most proud of over the last six years is our dedication to separating the sport from the recreation at the youth level. The sport takes place through leagues that use tougher patterns, and our tournaments, with scratch competition in a peer-to-peer environment. Recreational youth bowling is standard handicap-based league play as well as handicap local and regional competition. For years, handicap scoring was the norm with some scratch competition only introduced when an athlete got to high school. With the introduction of the new age-based divisions (U15 and U12), scratch competitions for younger age groups are becoming more standard and seeing increased acceptance. In addition to the Junior Gold Championships, the Pepsi Championships, Youth Open Championships and the new USA Bowling National Championships all feature scratch competition. All of the above also feature kids bowling in age divisions, in peer-to-peer environments, which is essential when developing an affinity for anything competitive – including the sport of bowling! The recreation of bowling will always be around and a percentage of those participants will feed the sport. Both are important parts of the ecosystem and will be supported moving forward instead of one, or the other.

I want to give some special thanks to our friends at the Bowling Proprietors' Association of America for their partnership, and Gary Brown, Roger Noordhoek and Kristy Ventre for their staff leadership in this area.

Competitive Bowling/ Championship Tournaments

Simply put, our tournaments had a great year. The USBC Open and Women's Championships showed growth year-over-year for the first time in quite a while. The PWBA followed its comeback season by exceeding all expectations in Year 2. The USBC Masters sold out again and the U.S. Open closed out the year with an incredible TV show including Francois Lavoie rolling a 300 in the semifinal match before going on to claim the title. Youth was served this year as we had five new PWBA champions, a 19-year-old win the Masters and a 23-year-old win the U.S. Open.

Team USA continued its dominance with the Junior Team USA boys team winning the gold

medal in team event at the World Bowling Youth Championships. Team USA's men's team brought home the gold medal this summer at the PABCON Championships in Cali, Columbia, while Kelly Kulick closed out the year with a gold medal at the World Bowling Singles Championships in Doha, Qatar, this past December. In total, Team USA earned a total of 84 medals in 2016. INCREDIBLE!

Marketing

USBC produced 23 televised events in collaboration with partner CBS Sports Network in 2016. The USBC Masters was televised on ESPN as part of a partnership with PBA. Our social media reach expanded to 67-million impressions on Facebook with nearly half a million user engagements, while BOWL.com provided information to 3.9 million unique visitors.

We also saw some of the best mainstream media coverage in years during 2016. The success of PWBA and competitive bowling was featured on national news outlets including the Today Show, Fox and Friends, USA Today, HLN Network and Sports Business Journal. It has all been a part of the public relations and marketing message designed to expand the reach of bowling, the sport, USBC, and the PWBA to a new generation of consumers and it's working.

Technology

In 2016, we released a modernized redesign of BOWL.com to meet the needs of our customers who use the site on mobile devices. The launch came and went with no hiccups and shows we have invested in the right team and the right people to lead our technology strategy. A new tournament management system was launched as part of the 2016 women's championships. The program includes a modern backend system allowing tournament staff to be more efficient serving the needs of the customer and streamlines the process to better ensure data accuracy. Technology improvements also made it possible to deliver prize checks from our tournaments to individuals instead of the team captain for the first time. The tournament management software project has proven to be so successful that we have moved up phase two, which includes a custom registration solution that will make registration smoother for team captains and squad organizers starting with the 2018 Open and Women's championships. That's a full year ahead of schedule!

All the above is in addition to the WinLABS 12 project that is being tested and offered to associations throughout the country. About 200 local associations have requested the new WinLABS 12 as soon as possible and our staff will be working to have that group up and running by convention. Our commitment in the WinLABS 12 rollout is quality customer service and we will work closely with local association managers to schedule installations at convenient times outside their tournament dates. This summer, the rollout will speed up with about 100 associations a month moving to WinLABS 12 and all associations will be on the new

platform by August 1, 2018. Technology is a huge commitment for USBC. About 30 percent of our staff overhead is allocated to IT. It is an investment for the future and one that is beginning to pay off for our members and associations.

Membership Value

What do I get for my twenty bucks? We hear it all the time and we will continue to preach a simple answer to that question – “A Future For The Sport”.

In a world where “what do I get” reigns supreme, it's tough these days for people to want to be a part of something that is bigger than ourselves. That being said, USBC delivers on its promise daily. The national office supports local and state associations delivering service to the members. Hundreds of associations now offer an awards program. All associations offer membership processing, tournaments (which support retention), philanthropy efforts, recognition of their members, and in many cases, a Hall of Fame. USBC associations also provide an often overlooked benefit of networking, friendship, camaraderie and the social aspect that comes from working together and serving others.

At the national office, we too, offer many direct services for bowling. The biggest is that we are the National Governing Body. We enforce the rules. This year, examples included addressing leagues that were manipulating the rules of sport league designation to give themselves an advantage in tournaments by competing in divisions they otherwise would not be allowed or gaining more handicap than deserved. Some of those involved knew what was going on while others did not. Regardless, it is our job as the NGB to enforce the rules and so we do. Another example this year took place at our national tournaments where disqualifications were handed out as a result of average manipulation. USBC oversees ball specifications to ensure all bowling balls meet the standards laid out in the manual. In 2016, there were 345 new balls approved for use.

Headquarters added a compliance officer to the SMART program this year. He's spending his days looking for tournament providers who are not following SMART policies to ensure that when kids are ready for college, the scholarships they earned have been deposited as promised.

USBC always will provide central benefits such as league bonding, recognition of achievements and a Hall of Fame to honor the greatest contributors to the sport. Still, the truest and most important benefit USBC can provide is to ensure the standards of the game are being met and serve bowling as the regulator when offenses occur and rules are broken. The USBC Rules team processed 285 suspensions in 2016 while reinstating 185. The rules department itself serviced 20,406 questions over the phone and another 5,032 through email, all in a timely manner. In 2016, it was demonstrated more than any recent year that without USBC, scholarships would be lost, rules would go unchecked and chaos in the sport would ensue.

I'd like to thank the USBC Board of Directors, the Equipment Specifications Committee and our entire staff at USBC for servicing bowling the way we do. 2016 was certainly a challenging year in this area, but it also was extremely productive.

2017 and beyond

In 2017, our priorities will evolve for USBC. All five current priorities remain with business plans in place to support them. Tactics in each of these five areas also will evolve over the next year as the services mature and, in some cases, grow. USBC also will add some new areas of focus to the top of the list and I am excited to share some details.

Education and Training

USBC recently hired a new Director of Training and Education. It may seem odd that we didn't have this role already, but the simple reality is we didn't. The regional managers on the association development team have done an admirable job the last few years picking up the effort, but it's time for an experienced expert in this space to come in and help us improve bowling with smarter and better activation. Richard Stewart has joined the staff and will be working directly with the associations team to deliver quality education to our grass roots association leaders. Richard holds a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Houston and a master's degree from Indiana University.

The execution of this new initiative will come in three parts. The first will be through our standard channels. USBC local and state grass-roots activations such as annual meetings and state jamborees. We really want to visit anyone who will invite our staff to participate and has an interest in the programming. The second is through the USBC national convention. Education always has been a feature at convention, but moving forward it will be the focus. Convention attendees can expect to be offered a variety of new topics. Yes, there still will be a rules seminar and some of the other traditional updates, but also look for new educational opportunities where our volunteers can learn more about leadership, activation, fundraising and marketing the sport to members locally in their markets. Finally, at convention we will announce a new training and education program that will take place here at the USBC headquarters in the International Bowling Campus. We are building a two-day course where association leaders will join our staff here for training, education, networking and collaboration. There will be three to six of these sessions taking place in 2017, with around 60 people in each class. The courses will be offered at no charge for the attendees. Again, more specifics will be released soon, but we know that some attendees will be selected based on need, others will come from associations that didn't perform well through the performance standards tests, while some will be selected from a pool of people who have a passion to do better for our sport and want the education. It is very exciting stuff as we continue to work together as one

cont. on pg 9

OZIO ELECTED TO 2017 USBC HALL OF FAME CLASS

David Ozio of Beaumont, Texas, has been elected to the United States Bowling Congress Hall of Fame in the Superior Performance category.

The 62-year-old right-hander was among eight bowlers (six men and two women) on the national ballot and was elected to the 2017 USBC Hall of Fame class by a USBC panel of veteran bowling writers, hall of famers and board members.

"When you spend your whole life practicing, bowling 200 games a week and living in bowling centers, recognition like this means a lot," said Ozio, a 1995 inductee into the PBA Hall of Fame. "After all these years, I wondered if it was going to happen, and if it did, it would be great. It was a welcomed phone call and a sigh of relief."

The 2017 USBC Hall of Fame induction ceremony will take place April 26 at the 2017

USBC Convention in Las Vegas.

Ozio joins Mike Shady of Fairview, Pennsylvania, who was elected in the Outstanding USBC Performance category in November by the USBC Hall of Fame Committee, in this year's USBC Hall of Fame class.

Ozio is an 11-time Professional Bowlers Association Tour titlist, including the 1991 PBA Tournament of Champions, part of a four-win year that ended with PBA Player of the Year honors.

He went on to find success on the PBA50 Tour, earning two victories, the first of which was the 2004 Senior U.S. Open on the way to being named PBA50 Rookie of the Year.



Ranked 34th on the PBA's list of the 50 Greatest Players in PBA History (2009), Ozio

was slowed by wrist surgery in 2008. Two years later, he walked away from the game when he decided he could not be as competitive on the lanes as he wanted to be.

The decision simply was a change of direction for Ozio, also a competitive fisherman throughout his time on the PBA Tour. While on tour competing in more than 30 PBA events a year, he also

fished in more than two dozen tournaments annually.

Ozio now spends more than 300 days each year on the water at Texas' Lake Fork, where he offers guided fishing tours and instruction.

Also on the Superior Performance ballot were Dave Ferraro of Kingston, New York; Mark Williams of Beaumont, Texas; Randy Pedersen of Clermont, Florida; Mike Scroggins of Amarillo, Texas; and Danny Wiseman of Baltimore.

The two competitors on the women's ballot were Marianne DiRupo of Succasunna, New Jersey, and Tammy Turner of West Palm Beach, Florida.

Through 2016, there are 417 members of the USBC Hall of Fame - 217 in Superior Performance, 117 in Meritorious Service, 50 in Veterans, 20 in Pioneers and 13 in Outstanding USBC Performance.

The USBC Hall of Fame was created in 2005 by merging the former American Bowling Congress and Women's International Bowling Congress Halls of Fame.

USA Beats "The World" in GEICO PBA World Series of Bowling VIII Team Finale

Dick Allen's strike in one-ball sudden-death roll-off clinches victory for American stars

RENO, Nev. -- In a five-player team showdown involving top U.S. performers vs. a team of the best international performers during the GEICO PBA World Series of Bowling VIII presented by Silver Legacy Resort and Casino, the American players claimed bragging rights by beating a talented international squad in the USA vs. The World challenge match to conclude WSOB VIII at the National Bowling Stadium. The team finale aired on ESPN.

In the non-title special event which concluded the eighth annual World Series, all 10 players earned their way onto their respective teams after a combined 32 games of qualifying in the four animal pattern championships (Cheetah, Chameleon, Scorpion and Shark) that led into the PBA World Championship. The top five U.S. qualifiers represented the USA while the top five international players from the 169-player field earned berths on The World team.

Competing on the 41-foot PBA World Championship lane condition pattern in a best-of-two-game Baker format team match, the USA team of Dick Allen, Columbia, S.C.; Matt O'Grady, South Amboy, N.J.; 2016 Chameleon Championship presented by HotelPlanner.com winner Mitch Beasley, Clarksville, Tenn.; BJ Moore III, Greensburg,

Pa., and 2016 PBA World Championship winner EJ Tackett of Huntington, Ind., took the early lead by defeating The World team,



Mitch Beasley, BJ Moore, Matt O'Grady, Ill Dick Allen, EJ Tackett & Mgr Tommy Jones

253-224, in game one.

Undaunted, The World team, with Australia's Sam Cooley, England's Dom Barrett, 2016 PBA Shark Championship winner Francois Lavoie of Canada, Mexico's Arturo Quintero and Sweden's Martin Larsen came back to win the second game, 223-210, which set up a one-ball sudden-death roll-off to decide the outcome.

The team managers, 18-time PBA

champion Tommy Jones for the USA and five-time tour winner Osku Palermaa for the World team, were tasked with choosing the

representatives for the roll-off, selecting Allen for the U.S. and Barrett for the World team to go first. The U.S. ended the suspense quickly, however, when Allen struck on the first ball and Barrett countered with a seven-count, leaving the 3-6-10.

"This was basically a team that runs itself," said Jones. "You have to consider yourself fortunate to have a group of guys like this who have the good chemistry right out of the box."

The USA team shared in a \$40,000 first prize while the World team earned \$20,000.

You couldn't really handpick a better team."

As leadoff bowler bowling the first and sixth frames of each game in addition to the first sudden-death attempt, Allen struck in every frame he bowled.

"That's the name of the game, right?," said Allen, a four-time PBA Tour champion. "I like the team concept because it's up to you to make the best of every frame you're called on to bowl in the Baker format. Fortunately, I made the right decisions with my equipment and that enabled me to maximize my contribution to the team effort."

The USA team notched its first win in the series after losing to World teams in two previous contests in 2013 and 2011.

The USA team shared in a \$40,000 first prize while the World team earned \$20,000.

The USA team notched its first win in the series after losing to World teams in two previous contests in 2013 and 2011.

USA VS. THE WORLD TEAM CHALLENGE
National Bowling Stadium, Reno, NV
Best-of-Two-Game Baker Team Format
Match One:

USA (Dick Allen, Matt O'Grady, Mitch Beasley, BJ Moore III, EJ Tackett) def. The World (Sam Cooley, Dom Barrett, Francois Lavoie, Arturo Quintero, Martin Larsen), 253-224.

Match Two:

The World def. USA, 223-210.

One-Ball Sudden-Death Roll-Off:

Dick Allen (USA) def. Dom Barrett (The World), 10-7.

Winners Selected in Bowl For The Cure Fabulous Four Essay Contest

ARLINGTON, Texas -- The four women who will experience an outstanding bowling adventure through the Bowl for the Cure® Fabulous Four essay contest

have been determined.

Donna Angstead of Longmont, Colorado, Jackie Cluxton of Manchester, Ohio, Regina Owens of Jacksonville, Florida, and Dawn Paolillo of Staten Island, New York, were selected as the Fabulous Four winners based on their submitted essays.

The Fabulous Four essay contest is part of Bowl for the Cure®, a year-round fundraising initiative sponsored by the United States Bowling Congress in partnership with Susan G. Komen®. The contest was started three years ago to raise awareness about breast cancer and to honor four women who either have gone through a

breast cancer diagnosis or have been instrumental in helping support the cause and finding a cure.



"We are thrilled to honor these four women who not only have had to face harrowing battles against breast cancer, but have gone above and beyond to give back to others who have been affected by the disease," said Christina Alford, senior vice president of development at Komen. "Our longstanding

partnership with Bowl for the Cure has enabled us to reach survivors and supporters across the country, and we are so thankful for

their dedication to our cause over the past 16 years."

Winners of the fourth installment of the Fabulous Four essay contest were determined by a special selection panel that included previous Fabulous Four winners, along with Susan G. Komen® and USBC staff.

The Fabulous Four winners receive a five-day trip that will start in the Dallas area with a special day at Komen headquarters. The

group then will head to the International Bowling Campus in Arlington, Texas, to tour the International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame before receiving lessons from the Team USA coaching staff and PWBA stars at the International Training and Research Center.

The Fabulous Four will complete their trip in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where they will help kick off and compete in the 2017 USBC Women's Championships.

Please visit BOWL.com/FabulousFour to learn more about the Fabulous Four essay contest.

Indiana's E.J. Tackett Wins DHC PBA Japan Invitational Title

OSAKA, Japan – E.J. Tackett of Huntington, Ind., went on a strike binge early Saturday at Bentecho Grandbowl, sweeping his four

The entire tournament was covered live on PBA's video streaming service, Xtra Frame. Tackett, who won four titles in 2016



stepladder matches including a 259-216 victory over top qualifier Shota Kawazoe of Japan, to win his sixth career Professional Bowlers Association Tour title in the DHC PBA Japan Invitational.

Tackett, who is currently a leading contender for 2016 GEICO Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year, entered the finals as the no. 5 qualifier and defeated Chris Barnes of Double Oak, Texas, 257-205; Sean Rash of Montgomery, Ill., 259-256, and Jason Sterner of Cocoa, Fla., 235-191, to advance to the title match.

including his first major in the end-of-season PBA World Championship, bowled his third 300 game of the tournament on Friday to sneak into the stepladder finals by 10 pins. He began his march to the title on Saturday by throwing a string of six strikes in eliminating Barnes, the 2015 DHC PBA Japan Invitational winner.

In the second match, Rash started with six strikes before converting three consecutive single-pin spares. Tackett, after converting two 10 pins early in the match, reeled off seven consecutive strikes to overtake Rash. His

seventh strike on his first shot in the 10th frame locked up the win.

A pair of three-strike strings were enough to dispatch Sterner, who didn't throw back-to-back strikes until the 10th frame, and a string of seven strikes against Kawazoe was more than enough to hold off the Japan PBA star who led the field by 401 pins heading into the championship round.

Along with his title in the PBA's first tournament of 2017, Tackett earned \$43,800.

Next up for the PBA is the State Farm Chris Paul PBA Celebrity Invitational at Lucky Strike LA Live in Los Angeles, where Tackett, Barnes, Rash, Tommy Jones and Pete Weber will join the host and Los Angeles Clippers and Boston Red Sox star Mookie Betts among others in a special event to benefit the Chris Paul Family Foundation. The show will air on

ESPN on Friday, Feb. 17 at 9 p.m. ET as part of the NBA All-Star weekend, followed by the PBA Super Clash presented by Main Event in Katy, Texas, live on ESPN on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 5, at 2 p.m. ET.

PBA Tour competition resumes with a "Super February" lineup of back-to-back-to-back major championships, all of which will air live on ESPN. The series includes the Barbasol PBA Players Championship from Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl, Feb. 7-12; the FireLake PBA Tournament of Champions from FireLake Bowling Center and FireLake Arena, Feb. 14-19, and the United States Bowling Congress Masters from The Orleans Bowling Center, Feb. 21-26. All three finals air on Sundays at 1 p.m. ET, and preliminary rounds of all three will be live streamed on Xtra Frame.

DHC PBA JAPAN INVITATIONAL

Bentecho Grandbowl, Osaka, Japan - Jan. 14, 2017

Final Standings

- 1, E.J. Tackett, Huntington, Ind., \$43,800.
- 2, Shota Kawazoe, Japan, \$21,750.
- 3, Jason Sterner, Cocoa, Fla., \$11,410.
- 4, Sean Rash, Montgomery, Ill., \$8,700.
- 5, Chris Barnes, Double Oak, Texas, \$7,830.

Stepladder Results

- Match One – Tackett def. Barnes, 257-205.
 Match Two – Tackett def. Rash, 259-256.
 Semifinal Match – Tackett def. Sterner, 235-191.
 Championship – Tackett def. Kawazoe, 259-216.

Other Cashers

- 6, Jesper Svensson, Sweden, 20-11-1, 8,128, \$5,220; 7, Tommy Jones, Simpsonville, S.C., 16-16, 8,085, \$4,885; 8, Dom Barrett, England, 17-14-1, 8,021, \$4,350; 9, Rhino Page, Orlando, Fla., 21-11, 8,012, \$3,915; 10, Jason Belmonte, Australia, 19-12-1, 7,979, \$3,655; 11, Tom Daugherty, Tampa, Fla., 14-15-3, 7,954, \$3,305; 12, Josh Blanchard, Gilbert, Ariz., 18-14, 7,890, \$3,130; 13, Takahiro Sato, Japan, 20-11-1, 7,865, \$2,960; 14, w-Hiromi Matsunaga, Japan, 17-15, 7,845, \$2,785; 15, Choi Won Young, Korea, 18-13-1, 7,833, \$2,710; 16, Amleto Monacelli, Venezuela, 15-17, 7,800, \$2,435; 17, Wes Malott, Pflugerville, Texas, 16-14-2, 7,780, \$2,390; 18, Makoto Endo, Japan, 16-15-1, 7,776, \$2,350; 19, Kristopher Prather, Milton, Fla., 19-12-1, 7,751, \$2,305; 20, Isao Yamamoto, Japan, 15-17, 7,746, \$2,260; 21, Masaki Noda, Japan, 16-15-1, 7,642, \$2,220; 22, w-Urara Himeji, Japan, 17-14-1, 7,552, \$2,175; 23, Shuichi Heki, Japan, 12-19-1, 7,505, \$2,130; 24, w-Hiroko Shimizu, Japan, 14-18, 7,458, \$2,090; 25, Yuki Mizumoto, Japan, 12-18-2, 7,448, \$2,045; 26, w-Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., 12-20, 7,429, \$2,000; 27, w-Yuki Akiyoshi, Japan, 12-20, 7,387, \$1,960; 28, Ryogo Tsurumi, Japan, 14-18, 7,257, \$1,915; 29, w-Mari Kimura, Japan, 12-20, 7,223, \$1,870; 30, Masato Sakakibara, Japan, 8-24, 6,933, \$1,830; 31, w-Manae Kameshima, Japan, 5-27, 6,459, \$1,785; 32, Junichi Uesaka, Japan, 4-28, 6,333, \$1,740.

ADAM ZIMMERMAN WINS TEEN MASTERS GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP

In a hard-fought best-of-two-game match that required a sudden-death roll-off, Adam Zimmerman of Deer Park, N.Y. defeated three-time Junior Team USA member Breanna Clemmer of Clover, S.C., to win the 2016 Teen Masters Grand Championship presented by

down six pins on her first shot.

Both players earned their trip to the Grand Championship after winning their respective divisions in the Teen Masters National Championships in July in Tamarac, Fla., where each won a \$6,000 scholarship.



Adam Zimmerman and Breanna Clemmer

Ebonite. The finals, conducted during the GEICO PBA World Series of Bowling VIII in Reno, aired on ESPNU.

Zimmerman, a two-hander who will be attending Webber International University as a freshman this fall defeated Clemmer, who will be attending McKendree University, in the opening match at the National Bowling Stadium, 184-173, in the first match but Clemmer came back to win match two, 179-176, setting up the roll-off. Zimmerman then won with a strike while Clemmer knocked

The unique Teen Masters competition requires that players use only two PBA Skill balls (one plastic and one urethane) designed to place the focus on player execution rather than equipment selection.

"Even though the lanes were tough I was confident I could get the ball close to the pocket," Zimmerman said. "It was awesome. I've bowled in the Teen Masters all four years and to end my last year with a win was just a great experience."

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JESPER SVENSSON WINS 2016 GEORGE YOUNG PBA HIGH AVERAGE HONORS

Sweden's Jesper Svensson continued to add to his portfolio of accomplishments after being confirmed as PBA's George Young Memorial High Average award winner for the 2016 season after scoring at a 226.07 pace for 324 games.

Svensson, a 21-year-old two-handed left-hander, won the high average race by a fairly impressive 1.32-pin margin over fellow two-handed player Jason Belmonte of Australia, who averaged 225.75 for 364 games. Belmonte won high-average honors in 2013, when he set the PBA record with a 228.81 average, and in 2014 when he scored at a

226.71 pace.

Behind Svensson and Belmonte were E.J. Tackett of Huntington, Ind. (224.49 for 490 games); England's Dom Barrett (222.80 for 372 games) and Canada's Francois Lavoie (222.79 for 330 games).

The PBA also confirmed that Tackett was the organization's overall 2016 earnings leader with \$168,290, followed by Anthony Simonsen of Austin, Texas, at \$143,278; Svensson at \$138,380; Barrett at \$116,890 and PBA Hall of Famer Pete Weber of St. Ann, Mo., at \$105,130.

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ASK BOB

by Bob Korth

To ask a question of Bob write to askbobk@gmail.com

Bob Korth is a Pro shop owner and USA Bronze Level Coach

Q. I am having trouble with the continuation of my follow through. I seem to be cutting off my follow through too early. Do you have any ideas on how I can correct this flaw in my game?

A. Yes, I have a great exercise you can do to help the follow through and help other flaws as well.

This takes a little practice to get a feel for it and some faith. Close your eyes in the slide step. Now I know this sounds crazy but it works very well. Just do this in practice at least for now. You get set up on the approach as normal, take your approach as usual but as you go into your slide close your eyes. You will not get them back open till the ball is about 45 feet down the lane. This will freak you out at first but you will get used to it. Here is what happens to your game. First you will begin to concentrate better as your ball will go in the direction of the last thing you are looking at. So this teaches you to keep your eyes on your target all the way through your approach.

Second your follow through will be longer and smoother than it has ever been before because it takes away the urge to cut it short. Third you will post at the line better than you ever have, because you don't get your eyes open till the ball is down the lane and you can't see you tend to hold your finish position till your eyes open. This keeps you from pulling up and out of the shot.

You will also find that you will not pull the ball as often. Now as I said do it in practice to begin with, but as you gain confidence you may want to try it in competition and yes it is possible. I did it for a couple of years. I averaged 226 and had a 300 and 800 series while closing my eyes. I stopped it for a few

years but have been struggling this season so I made the decision to close my eyes again. It is like having a coach with you because you gain a great feel of your swing and follow through. You can tell when you turn too early in the downswing among other things. It keeps you relaxed and it is fun. Give it a try you will be amazed.

One more thing to bring up about closing your eyes in the slide step. You might ask how will I know when and where to move. You will get your eyes open as I said when the ball is at about the the break point. Watch that part of the balls position and the amount of hook you get going into the pocket and move accordingly just as you always have. You will quickly catch on from that down lane information how much of a move you need to make and when you need to make it.

Q. I have been leaving more seven-ten splits on good shots than I can ever remember in past years. Can you tell me what is going on with all these pocket splits?

A. Just because the ball hits the pocket does not mean it is a good shot. I see the pocket seven-ten as a bad shot most of the time. It is caused by either missing your mark out side and finishing too late.

A shot like this will usually end up as a weak ten pin but if the ball has rolled out it can end up in a seven-ten split. You can also leave it by pulling the ball inside and it stays in the oil too long and and results in a weak hit. It can also happen if you have turned the ball too early which can cause a weak reaction at the pins. So as you can see many things can cause a seven-ten split and it is nearly always because of something we did wrong at release.

BOWLING INDUSTRY TAPS LINK STRATEGY GROUP AS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AGENCY

ARLINGTON, Texas – Bowling's major entities – the United States Bowling Congress (USBC), Bowling Proprietors' Association of America (BPAA) and Strike Ten Entertainment (STE) – have contracted with Link Strategy Group to develop sponsorship partners for the industry.

Combined, the USBC, BPAA and STE provide access to the more than 67 million consumers who bowl each year and more than 5,000 bowling centers across the U.S. Link Strategy Group will serve as the strategic partnership agency to introduce the bowling platform to potential non-endemic corporations interested in access to the sport of bowling.

"After an in-depth search for a partner in this area, the consensus was that Link Strategy Group was a great fit for bowling," said John Harbuck, President of Strike Ten Entertainment, the marketing arm of the bowling industry. "They immediately grasped the significant power that our organizations collectively offer and have the contacts to get bowling front-and-center with potential sponsors.

"Bowling is the number one participatory sport in the U.S. and, to date, is really untapped when it comes to non-endemic partnerships," he added.

In addition to providing companies with access to consumers through bowling centers, Link Strategy Group will be able to offer exclusive naming rights for the recently relaunched Professional Women's Bowling Association (PWBA) Tour and tour events. Current PWBA sponsors include Pepsi, Nationwide, Smithfield and Go Bowling.

Link Strategy Group will also be able to provide partners with unparalleled access to the USBC membership, which is larger than

the combined memberships of similar organizations in golf and tennis. Opportunities also exist around the USBC's national events, which draw participation from thousands of bowlers around the country. These include the Open Championships, Women's Championships, USBC Masters, USBC Queens, U.S. Open, U.S. Women's Open, Junior Gold Championships, Team USA and others.

"Bowling is the original social network. It's a game that's been enjoyed by people of all ages and skill levels for literally centuries," said Jeff Benton, CEO of Link Strategy Group. "We are excited that for the first time a company can own the sport of bowling through the collective assets of the major bowling organizations. We can deliver this platform, truly unique in the world of sports, to companies who want to reach a very loyal, expansive audience. And, with the PWBA, we have a new platform and women's sports property that is perfectly suited for companies wanting to connect with the female consumer."

For more information on how to partner with the bowling industry, contact Stephen Grecsek at sgrecsek@linkstrategygroup.com.

About Link Strategy Group

Link Strategy Group (LSG) is comprised of industry veterans that focus on securing naming rights and high profile sponsorships for stadiums, arenas, franchises and other major sports & entertainment properties. LSG also represents innovative companies that are changing the music and entertainment landscape. The LSG team has worked on the forefront of industry-changing sponsorship deals and strategies for some of the world's premier sports organizations including the PGA TOUR, USTA, AEG, Octagon, Major League Soccer and NHL.

LOU MARQUEZ TO MANAGE PRO SHOP AT ITRC

ARLINGTON, Texas – Lou Marquez has joined the International Training and Research Center staff as manager of the pro shop for the facility located at the International Bowling Campus.

Marquez, the former president of the International Bowling Pro Shop and Instructors Association, was Director of Training at the Metro Detroit Bowling and Resource Center the last three years. While president for IBPSIA, he created training-course curriculum and certification programs for the bowling industry.

"The ITRC is a state-of-the-art training facility, and I'm excited to join the staff," Marquez said. "I've worked with bowlers and coaches from throughout the world, and this is a great opportunity for me."

A United States Bowling Congress Gold coach, Marquez's role at the ITRC will include training and lessons in addition to management of the pro shop. The ITRC offers individual



and group lessons, as well as training for high school, collegiate and national teams/federations.

Marquez earned Gold status, the highest level of coaching certification from USBC, in

2007. He served as a Team USA coaching specialist in 2007-2008, assisting with Junior Team USA.

He worked at Turbo 2-N-1 Grips from 2005-2013 as head coach. There, he created the

training and fitness curriculum for Turbo Tech. In 2011, he started the Turbo Tech Collegiate Expo, an educational and recruiting platform for high school students.

"Lou knows how to run a successful pro shop and has a great deal of experience training players and coaches," said ITRC Head Coach Rod Ross. "He's worked with national teams, including his work with the Team USA program, and is a great addition to the ITRC team."

Before joining Turbo, Marquez was a coach and pro shop manager at the Kegel Training Center, working with professional and elite amateur bowlers and training national, collegiate and high school coaches. He then worked for the Hong Kong Bowling Federation, where he implemented the adult and youth training curriculum for the national teams.

The ITRC is the home of Team USA. To learn more, visit BowlingITRC.com

Four Candidates Slated For USBC Board Election, 15 Amendments Proposed

Delegates will vote on three open positions on the United States Bowling Congress Board of Directors and will decide 15 proposed amendments during the 2017 USBC Convention and Annual Meeting, set for April 24-27 at The Orleans in Las Vegas.

Incumbents Jo Dimond of Columbus, Ohio, and Karl Kielich of El Paso, Texas, are among the four candidates slated by the USBC Nominating Committee for the three open board positions. Both Dimond and Kielich will be seeking their third and final terms on the board.

Also slated are Glenda Beckett of Palmetto Bay, Florida, and Adam Mitchell of Reston, Virginia. The USBC Nominating Committee can slate up to two candidates for each open board position.

Marci Williams of Wichita, Kansas, is completing her final term on the board, as she has served the maximum three terms, while Robert Spigner of San Francisco, who joined the board in October 2012, chose not to seek re-election.

Of the 15 proposed amendments, two proposals are for league rules, eight proposals

for tournament rules and there are five bylaws proposals. Changes to league and tournament rules will require a majority of the votes cast to pass; bylaws proposals require two-thirds votes for adoption.

Among the notable proposals for league and tournament rules is to allow leagues and tournament directors the option to cap a handicap game at 300 and to cap a handicap series at 900. A notable bylaw proposal is to change the formula that determines the number of delegates each association can send to the USBC Convention.

The board elections will take place Thursday, April 27, during the USBC Annual Meeting at The Orleans. Additional candidates may run from the floor if they provide notice of their candidacy to the committee by March 27. Go to BOWL.com/Convention for the Nomination from the Floor form. Biographies of the slated candidates soon will be available at BOWL.com/Convention.

For the complete list of proposed amendments and more information about the USBC Convention and Annual Meeting, go to BOWL.com/Convention.

IBC YOUTH PARTNERS WITH PARTY DIRECT ON BOWLOPOLIS PRODUCTS

Party Direct Inc. will oversee wholesale distribution of Bowlopolis products to bowling centers, United States Bowling Congress associations, and other interested parties through a new partnership with



International Bowling Campus Youth Development. Party Direct immediately assumes control of distribution. "The partnership will allow us to focus on the

recruitment aspects of Bowlopolis while Party Direct, an industry expert on birthday party supplies, will take charge of distribution of the Bowlopolis products," said Gary Brown, Managing Director of IBC Youth Development. By moving the distribution to Party Direct, IBC Youth Development shifts its focus to servicing centers who wish to utilize the Bowlopolis

recruitment tools and services. IBC Youth, which offers free graphic design services for its youth flyers and other print and digital materials, will focus on providing better ways to help centers turn birthday party customers into participants in learn-to-bowl classes and youth leagues. Party Direct is an original Smart Buy partner of the Bowling Proprietors' Association of America, and offers a wide variety of products. Bowlopolis will be another great addition to Party Direct's large portfolio of quality products.

Kuepper, President of Party Direct. "Party Direct has been meeting our customers' party needs for many years, and we look forward to continuing to do so by offering the Bowlopolis brand to our product line. We, at Party Direct, are happy to help support IBC Youth in their effort to reach out to young people and develop interest in a fun and family-oriented sport." Party Direct is accepting orders for Bowlopolis products. Customers can go to the PartyDirect.com website or call Party Direct at 800-548-7868, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Eastern. Bowlopolis products no longer will be available through the BPAA access store.

Turbo Announces Multi-Year Sponsorship Agreement with Kegel

Turbo has announced a multiyear contract extension of its sponsorship agreement with Kegel. The agreement will position Kegel as the title sponsor of the Turbo Tech Collegiate Expo Collegiate Coaches Dinner Reception through 2020.

"Turbo and Kegel have been great friends and allies for many years," said Turbo President Lori Mraz. "We are delighted to solidify a long-term partnership agreement with Kegel."

The Turbo Tech Collegiate Expo debuted in 2011, and has become one of the premier events for prospective collegiate bowlers and coaches. Growing in both size and scope in each successive year, the event will attract more than 200 bowlers, high school and collegiate coaches. This year's Collegiate Expo is scheduled for July 11-13 at Game of Wickliffe in suburban Cleveland.

"The synergy between Kegel and Turbo is a perfect fit," said Chris Chartrand, President and CEO of Kegel. "We've been strategically aligned with Turbo since our existence.

Kegel is extremely focused on competitive bowling and our interests are very much aligned with Turbo's." As with previous agreements between Turbo and Kegel, the partnership will incorporate a number of other elements. Turbo will provide product support to Webber International University, both men's and women's programs, and to special events hosted by Kegel Connection Pro Shops.

The sponsorship agreement will also see the Turbo Tech Training Facility in Chesterfield, MI become one of the first to install Kegel's new Specto Bowling System. Specto was unveiled at International Bowl Expo in 2016, and will be utilized at Turbo Tech as a coaching tool to measure all phases on ball motion on the lane.

"Specto uses Lidar technology, which is the same technology used in self-driving vehicles," said Chartrand. "Specto's sensors are measuring a bowler's delivery every six inches. So not only can we measure where the ball is from the foul line to the pin deck, but also how the ball is moving through

the pins." Bowlers will be able to see their performance evaluation from up to 35 different types of information with precision accuracy from one single shot. Users can see their performance evaluation and focus on their weak points with online tips from our coaches.

"You can compare your speed, rev rate and accuracy against the top bowlers in the world," said Chartrand. "With Turbo Tech installing the system, we'll be able to bring more bowlers closer to our game through instruction and innovation."

Mraz says that with this sponsorship, Turbo and Kegel will continue together to promote bowling as a competitive and lifetime sport.

"The positive collaboration between both organizations allowed us to be comfortable expanding our sponsorship," said Mraz. "We share similar sentiments in regards to education, improvement, and a simple passion for the sport. Kegel's presence is a true asset to the Collegiate Expo."

RECAP & REVIEW cont. from pg 5 organization toward a better USBC and a brighter future for the sport.

Equipment Specs

A new lane inspection study should be released sometime this year. USBC went into the field and collected data from over 1,000 lane beds in 20 different states. We have been studying the effects on lane topography from seasonal changes along with wear and tear. Soon, we will share that information with the industry. There is cause for concern in this area, and we will need to continue to look carefully at the topography of the lane and the impact it has on our competitions and the sport directly. How we ask proprietors to maintain synthetic lanes will become a topic of discussion for the future and we look forward to that conversation.

The certs and specifications team also has spent time over the last two years researching the bowling ball. Should bowling continue to support newer and newer technology? Should new limits be placed to prevent advances, or even, should a reduction take place? These questions are important. They need to be asked and answered and so, we will. Research is ongoing and should be finished sometime in early 2018. In 2017, we will open some dialogue with our friends who own the centers, the manufacturers who make the balls, and the consumers themselves, who use the balls, to really figure out what bowling collectively wants and needs. As the regulator (NGB), we have been working to collect the technical data and now we will begin to collect the consumer data. Both, combined, will

in theory lead us to longer-term strategies. To be clear, I'm not saying that any decisions have been made, I'm saying we will be considering it; and a direction will come through thoughtful planning, discussion and open dialogue with our stakeholders. After we listen to everyone, we will make some decisions in the best interest of the sport.

Average Research

Building a level playing field for our tournaments has never been more important. In 2016, we saw a few disqualifications at our national tournament and several leagues were adjusted in our database from a standard league to a sport/challenge league. This begins the work that will now become a priority for the organization.

A team was assembled to look at this issue to see if there is a better way. Every center who has ever certified their lanes holds a footprint within our data. Every league and every bowler also has a footprint inside our data. We now are combing the data, looking for commonalities, looking for outliers and I believe within the next few years we might be able to rank centers, rank bowlers and definitively put leagues in the proper classifications per the data. Over 400 leagues are now marked sport/challenge in the system and are subject to the sport conversion chart and that's a good thing. There is though, a larger piece to the puzzle and that's how one center, one league, and all bowlers compare to one another. Comparative data ranking of these groups should allow us to build our competitions in a more uniform manner and execute

our tournaments in a fairer environment.

Summary

Your (our) National Governing Body is hard at work. Know that, and know that this is the true value of your membership.

USBC is one organization that includes local associations, state associations, bowling centers, as well as our members dedicated to building a Future for the Sport servicing bowling for everyone. There always is much to celebrate and 2016 was no different. What will 2017 bring? A continued effort in support of our priorities through thoughtful planning and dedicated execution.

I want to thank President Frank Wilkinson, the USBC Board of Directors, our staff here at the bowling campus as well as the more than 25,000 volunteers that deliver bowling every day.

With pride and purpose, I'll close with a friendly reminder as to the mission and promise of USBC. It's certainly an honor and privilege to serve as your Executive Director, and I am very much looking forward to 2017 and beyond.

USBC is the National Governing Body for the sport.

Our mission is to provide benefits and services, resources and standards for the sport.

Our promise is to celebrate the past, be mindful of the present and ensure bowling's future through thoughtful research, planning and delivery. We will protect and nurture the sport with a mutual admiration and respect for all who enjoy bowling.

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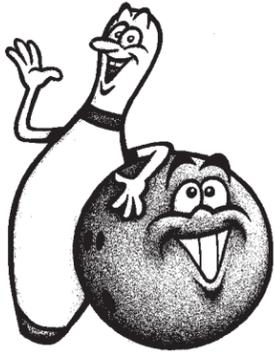
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THE FUNNY PAGE

hip shot

by Andy White

I saw a poster today, somebody was asking "Have you seen my cat?" So I called the number and said that I didn't. I like to help where I can.

XXX

Important note from a car manual:
Backing rapidly at a tree significantly reduces your trunk space.

XXX

"All you need is love, but a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt" -- Charles Schultz

XXX

A woman caught her husband on the weight scale, sucking in his stomach.

"That won't help you, Joe, you know?"

"Oh it helps a lot," says the man, "it's the only way I can see the numbers!"



"Oh, no! It's Pete Weber! And he's been encased in Ebonite™!"

WALT'S WORLD

BY WALT STEINSIEK



DON, YOU'RE LATE AGAIN. YOU BETTER HAVE A GOOD EXCUSE OR YOU ARE OFF THE TEAM!

If I got 50 cents for every failed math exam, I'd have \$ 6.30 now.

XXX

"Cauliflower is nothing but cabbage with a college education."

-- Mark Twain

XXX

Last night a Chinese guy came to my favorite bar.

I asked him if he knew kung fu or some other martial art.

He said, "Why do you ask me that? Is it just because I'm Chinese?!"

"No it's because you're drinking MY beer!"

XXX

Fantastic exercise that really helps you to lose weight: Turn your head to the left. Good. Now turn your head to the right. Very good. Repeat this exercise whenever you are offered any food.

An elderly man was on the operating table, about to be operated on by his son, a famous surgeon. Just before they put him under, he asked to speak to his son:
"Don't be nervous, boy, just do your best and just remember, if it doesn't go well, if something happens to me... your mother is going to come and live with you and your family."

XXX

Wife: I have a doctor's appointment today but I really don't want to go...
Husband: Just call in sick then.

BOWL-A-RAMA®

by Maurice 'MOE' LaRoche



LOOK EVERYBODY! IT'S THE NEW KID!!
HELLO! OH' ROUND ONE HA HA HA
HEY! WHERE YA GOIN. CHUBBY?
HEY. NERD! WHO DRESSES YOU? YA MOTHER HA HA HA!

"THE BIRTH OF BOWLING"

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb 18-July 9	USBC Open Championships, South Point Bowling Plaza, Las Vegas, NV
Feb 19-26	USBC Masters, The Orleans, Las Vegas, NV
Mar 13-16	National Golden Ladies Classic, The Orleans, Las Vegas, NV
Apr 15-17	PBA60 Killer 'B' Open, Lane Glo Bowl, New Port Richey, FL
Apr 17-20	PBA50 Pasco County Open, Lane Glo Bowl, New Port Richey, FL
Apr 22-25	PBA50 Sun Bowl In The Villages, Spanish Springs Lanes, The Villages, FL
Apr 23-July 9	USBC Women's Championships, Baton Rouge River Center, Baton Rouge, LA
Apr 27-29	PWBA Sonoma County Open, Double Decker Lanes, Rohnert Park, CA
Apr 30-May 3	PBA50 Miller High Life Classic, George Pappas' Victory Lanes, Mooresville, NC
May 4-6	PWBA Storm Sacramento Open, Steve Cook's Fireside Lanes, Sacramento, CA
May 6-9	PBA50 Johnny Petraglia BVL Open, Farmingdale Lanes, Farmingdale, NY
May 11-13	PWBA Fountain Valley Open, Fountain Bowl, Fountain Valley, CA
May 13-16	PBA50 Tour Players Championship, Woodland Bowl, Indianapolis, IN
May 17-23	USBC Queens, Raising Cane's River Center, Baton Rouge, LA
May 23-26	USBC Senior Queens, Circle Bowl, Baton Rouge, LA
May 28-31	PBA50 Northern Claifornia Classic, Harvest Park Bowl, Brentwood, CA
June 1-3	USBC Super Senior Classic, Sam's Town, Las Vegas, NV
June 1-3	PWBA Wichita Open, Northrock Lanes, Wichita, KS
June 1-3	Xtravaganza Doubles Bowling Tournament, Red Rock Lanes, Las Vegas, NV
June 4-11	USBC Senior Masters, Sam's Town, Las Vegas, NV
June 8-10	PWBA Pepsi Lincoln Open, Sun Valley Lanes, Lincoln, NE
June 11-16	Suncoast PBA Senior U.S. Open, Suncoast BOWling Center, Las Vegas, NV
June 15-17	PWBA Greater Detroit Open, Super Bowl, Canton, MI
June 18-22	Int'l Bowl Expo, Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center, Nashville, TN
June 21-25	PWBA Players Championship, The Ashwaubenon Bowling Alley, Green Bay, WI
June 29-July 1	PWBA Orlando Open, Boardwalk Bowl, Orlando, FL
July 5-7	High Roller for Ladies Only, Gold Coast Bowling Center, Las Vegas, NV
July 6-8	PWBA, Seminole Lanes, St. Petersburg, FL
July 9-15	Lee Evans Tournament of the Americas, Fort Lauderdale, FL
July 13-15	PWBA, AMF Gates Lanes, Rochester, NY
July 24-27	PBA50 South Shore Open, Olympia Lanes, Hammond, IN
July 27-30	PWBA Luci Bonneau Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles, Copperfield Bowl
July 29-Aug 1	PBA50 Dave Small's Championship Lanes Classic, Anderson, IN
July 31-Aug. 6	U.S. Women's Open, Plano, Texas, Plano Super Bowl
Aug 5-8	PBA50 Pro Bowl West Championship, Pro Bowl West, Fort Wayne, IN
Aug 7-16	Military Team Classic, South Point Bowling Plaza, Las Vegas, NV
Aug 10-12	PBA60 Dick Weber Championship, Pro Bowl West, Fort Wayne, IN
Aug. 31-Sept. 3	PWBA Tour Championship, TBD
Oct 9-12	Senior High Roller, The Orleans Bowling Center, Las Vegas, NV

IBC LAUNCHES NEW LEARN-TO-BOWL YOUTH PROGRAM

ARLINGTON, Texas – The International Bowling Campus has launched the USA Bowling Learn the Sport program designed to help develop the next generation of bowlers.

USA Bowling Learn the Sport is a new four-week program that will provide bowling centers, pro shops, and United States Bowling Congress associations the tools to provide basic instruction to new youth bowlers. By teaching the sport, these newcomers not only will learn basic skills while having fun but quickly will see more success on the lanes and will want to continue to bowl.

The learn-to-bowl program is a partnership between the Bowling Proprietors' Association of America (BPAA), USBC, International Bowling Campus Youth Development (IBC Youth), Strike Ten Entertainment and the International Bowling Pro Shop and Instructions Association (IBPSIA).

The program was introduced to bowling centers at the BPAA Summit in Charleston, South Carolina.

"This program is unique in that it provides video lessons which allows proprietors to execute the program, even if the center isn't fortunate enough to have a certified coach," said Bart Burger, BPAA Managing Director of Membership and Education Services. "We have developed a comprehensive kit so bowling centers can easily start forming

classes for new bowlers through in-center marketing and online with our digital resources."

Bowling is the largest participatory sport for youth in the United States with more than 17 million youth taking to the lanes each year, according to Simmons Research.

The USA Bowling Learn the Sport program is designed to have four one-hour sessions each week. Each session will start with a short classroom meeting before the youth bowlers take to the lanes to put what they have learned into practice. Sessions cover lane safety, equipment, how to swing the ball, footwork, shooting spares and so much more.

"Many youth bowlers first experience bowling through birthday parties and in-school bowling through P.E. classes, then become excited about the sport and want to learn more," said IBC Youth Managing Director Gary Brown. "This program will get them started and hopefully ignite a passion to continue to pursue the sport."

A special USA Bowling Learn the Sport kit has been developed for centers to promote the program and contains everything a center needs to teach the classes, including a coach's guide, proprietor's guide, DVD with weekly lessons and much more.

To learn more, please visit BPAA.com/USABowling.



IN MEMORIAM



Peggy Elias, the wife of the Professional Bowlers Association founder Eddie Elias, died January 24, 2017 in Akron, Ohio. She was 72.

Eddie and the former Margaret (Peggy) Emerson both were Akron natives. She was not only renowned for her beauty, but had a wonderful singing voice that attracted a talent scout after she represented Ohio in the 1964 Miss America pageant. She eventually landed a spot with the singing group, the Pennsylvanians.

In an article by the late hall of fame bowling writer Dick Evans in 2008, Evans wrote that Peggy called Eddie, who had already established a reputation as one of the nation's leading personal representation agents and career managers for several well-known athletes and show business personalities, to see if he could help her jump start her career in New York.

Eddie arranged a meeting with the William Morris Agency which led Peggy to a successful career in modeling and commercials. What started as a professional relationship soon turned into a romance and the couple soon began dating. They were married on Nov. 21, 1968, in New York City, and they reigned as one of Akron's most celebrated couples for nearly 30 years until Eddie's death in November 1995, six months after he suffered a major stroke.

After returning to her hometown, Peggy started her second career as a devoted mother of the couple's two daughters, Rainy Margaret (born in 1971) and Annie Marlo (born in 1974), and as a community volunteer.

Peggy was a tireless supporter of The University of Akron, which named her an honorary alumna in 1997 in recognition of her outstanding service and dedication. She served UA as president of the Buchtelles, raising money for student scholarships, and was featured as a guest soloist on the University's 1979 Christmas album, considered to be one of the best albums of the season. She also served as a member of the Stewardship Committee of The University of Akron Foundation, was a generous donor to the College of Business Administration, and was instrumental in creating the Edward G. Elias Bowling Center in the Student Union, which houses important memorabilia from Eddie's years with the PBA and Peggy's career as a spokeswoman and model. Most recently, she was deeply committed to helping UA students through the annual Edward G. Elias Bowling Tournament.

She also served as a longtime member of Witan (Women in Touch with Akron's Needs), volunteered with the Surgery Department at Akron Children's Hospital, Mobile Meals, the Tuesday Musical Association and she taught Sunday school.

She is survived by her daughters, Rainy (Chris Staniszewski) of West Palm Beach, Fla., and Annie (Adrian Garcia) of Columbus, Ohio; grandchildren Edie Staniszewski, and Emerson and Alec Garcia; aunt Mary Lou Conn and sister Linda Williams, both of Terra Alta, W.Va.; and numerous other relatives and friends.

In Eddie's absence, Peggy made occasional appearances at important PBA events, including the organization's 50th Gala celebration in Las Vegas and the 2013 PBA League Elias Cup finals in Indianapolis where she presented the trophy named in her husband's honor to Billie Jean King and her GEICO New York City WTT KingPins team.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Edward G. Elias Bowling Tournament or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Gifts to the tournament can be made at www.uakron.edu/donate or mail a check (payable to the UA Foundation) to The University of Akron, Department of Development, Akron, OH 44325-2603. Gifts to St. Jude can be made at www.stjude.org/give or mail a check to 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

SIXLETS® CHOCOLATEY CANDIES TO SPONSOR 2017 USA BOWLING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

ARLINGTON, Texas – Sixlets® Brand Chocolatey Candies is proud to become the presenting sponsor of the 2017 USA Bowling National Championships, the youth event conducted by International Bowling Campus Youth Development.

The USA Bowling National Championships presented by the Sixlets® Brand is the premier event of the USA Bowling program. The 2017 national event will take place July 19-22 in Cleveland, and the title matches will be televised on CBS Sports Network.

"Sixlets is excited to be part of the USA Bowling National Championships and for the opportunity to support youth bowling," Sixlets® Senior Brand Manager Joe Annunziato said. "USA Bowling is all about teamwork, and the Sixlets® Brand looks forward to being a great teammate of IBC Youth in presenting this outstanding event."

The Sixlets® Brand partnership extends to regional events that determine the 32 teams for the USA Bowling National Championships. Participants at regional events will receive some of the new products offered by Sixlets®, Fruity Sixlets® and Sixlets® Jawbreakers, as well as Original Sixlets®.

Sixlets® also will provide teams reaching the national championships field with Logo Infusion jerseys featuring the Sixlets® logo, and will provide Sixlets® candy for participants' gift bags at the Junior Gold Championships presented by The Brands of Ebonite. The USA Bowling National

Championships and Junior Gold Championships will run concurrently in Cleveland.

"We appreciate having Sixlets® join us as presenting sponsor of the USA Bowling National Championships," said IBC Youth Managing Director Gary Brown. "The support of a nationally recognized brand such as Sixlets® can only help to broaden the exposure of our event and showcase the great opportunities provided by youth bowling."

In addition to its support of the USA Bowling National Championships, Sixlets® will continue to utilize the larger bowling platform to reach consumers. Its partnership with bowling through Strike Ten Entertainment, the marketing arm for the sport, extends to in-store and in-center promotions, which include free bowling offers and prize promotions throughout the year.

USA Bowling is a product of the Youth Education Services (YES) Fund, a joint initiative of the Bowling Proprietors' Association of America and United States Bowling Congress supported by top bowling brands including Bowling.com, Brunswick, Columbia 300, Ebonite, Hammer, QubicaAMF, Roto Grip, Storm and Track.

Learn more about the USA Bowling program and the USA Bowling National Tournament at BOWLING.com/USABowling.



JOHN BUCHANAN BECOMES OLDEST TO ROLL 900 SERIES

ARLINGTON, Texas – Less than three weeks from his 71st birthday, John Buchanan III of Evansville, Indiana, gave himself an early gift as he connected on 36 consecutive strikes to become the oldest bowler in United States Bowling Congress history to record a 900 series.

The right-hander fired three consecutive 300 games during the Woodward Commercial Seniors league at Evansville's Franklin Lanes to become the 30th bowler to achieve the feat, surpassing Dale Gerhard of Mill Hall, Pennsylvania, as the oldest to reach the score. Gerhard was 59 years old when he rolled his 900 series last January.

Buchanan became the second bowler from Indiana to accomplish the score, joining Bob Kammer Jr. of Crown Point, Indiana, who recorded his perfect set in January 2011.

Buchanan laced up on his favorite pair of lanes at the 20-lane facility Wednesday, but he did not find the ball reaction he was looking for early in practice.

"We were on 17 and 18, which is my favorite



pair in the house," Buchanan said. "The ball I usually use wasn't reacting quite as well as I wanted it to, so I switched to a stronger ball and played a completely different line. I hardly had to change throughout the set – maybe a board through all three games – since I was alone playing where I was on (the fifth board)."

As the strikes continued to add up and Buchanan approached the final frame, his first goal was to reclaim the Greater Evansville USBC series record, which he previously held after rolling an 858 series during a tournament at Franklin Lanes in May 2003.

"Stepping up in the 10th, I was thinking about the city record," Buchanan said. "I had held the record before at 858, but it has been broken four or five times since then, and I was hoping to get it back. After that, I just tried to stay as calm as possible and make good shots, which I was able to do.

"Holding the record is pretty special," Buchanan said. "A 900 series is an

achievement all bowlers strive for, but only a few are able to attain. I feel privileged to be in that group."

Buchanan's achievement is pending approval from USBC and would be the 31st USBC-

approved 900.

The first USBC-approved 900 occurred Feb. 2, 1997 when Jeremy Sonnenfeld rolled three consecutive perfect games in Lincoln, Nebraska.

USBC-Approved 900 Series (31)

Jeremy Sonnenfeld (R), Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 2, 1997
 Tony Roventini (L), Greenfield, Wis., Nov. 9, 1998
 Vince Wood (R), Moreno Valley, Calif., Sept. 29, 1999
 Robby Portalatin (L), Jackson, Mich., Dec. 28, 2000
 James Hylton (R), Salem, Ore., May 2, 2001
 Jeff Campbell II (R), New Castle, Pa., June 12, 2004
 Darin Pomije (R), New Prague, Minn., Dec. 9, 2004
 Robert Mushtare (R), Fort Drum, N.Y., Dec. 5, 2005 and Feb. 19, 2006
 Lonnie Billiter Jr. (R), Fairfield, Ohio, Feb. 13, 2006
 Mark Wukoman (R), Greenfield, Wis., April 22, 2006
 P.J. Giesfeldt (R), Milwaukee, Dec. 23, 2006
 Rich Jerome Jr. (R), Baltimore, Dec. 22, 2008
 Chris Aker (L), Winnemucca, Nev., Oct. 30, 2009
 Andrew Teall (R), Medford, N.J., Nov. 2, 2009
 Andrew Mank (R), Belleville, Ill., March 18, 2010
 William Howell III (L), Middletown, N.Y., Oct. 21, 2010
 Matt Latarski (R), Medina, Ohio, Nov. 28, 2010
 Bob Kammer Jr. (R), Crown Point, Ind., Jan. 8, 2011
 John Martorella Sr. (R), Greece, N.Y., April 12, 2012
 Jimmy Schmitzer (R), Riverside, Calif., April 20, 2012
 James Williams (R), Pawcatuck, Conn., (bowled in Wakefield, R.I.), April 16, 2013
 Joe Scarborough (R), Charlotte, N.C., (bowled in The Villages, Fla.), April 21, 2013
 Todd James (R), East New Market, Md., (bowled in Laurel, Del.), March 18, 2014
 Amos Gordon (R), Colorado Springs, Colo., April 11, 2014
 Earon Vollmar (R), Toledo, Ohio, Jan. 19, 2015
 Hakim Emmanuel (R), Stoughton, Mass., Feb. 19, 2015
 David Sewesky (L), Dearborn, Mich., Jan. 10, 2016
 Dale Gerhard (R), Mill Hall, Pa., Jan. 12, 2016
 Sean Osbourn (R), Houston, Nov. 21, 2016
 John Buchanan III (R), Evansville, Ind., Jan. 11, 2017**
 ** Pending formal approval by the United States Bowling Congress.

BRYAN O'KEEFE NAMED JUNIOR TEAM USA HEAD COACH

ARLINGTON, Texas – Bryan O'Keefe, the director of bowling for McKendree University and a former assistant coach with the Team USA program operated by the United States Bowling Congress, has been named head coach of the Junior Team USA program.

O'Keefe, who will continue in his current role with McKendree, will oversee the selection of athletes and the training camps for the boys' and girls' teams, in addition to serving as coach for the teams at international competitions.

His first assignment will be to attend the USBC Team USA Trials and United States Amateur Bowling Championships, starting Jan. 4 in Henderson, Nevada, where several spots on 2017 Junior Team USA will be determined.

"Having worked with the Team USA and Junior Team programs, I understand what a tremendous opportunity and responsibility it is to oversee teams that represent the United States," O'Keefe, 42, said. "It's hard to express what a great feeling it is to be able work with Junior Team USA while continuing my work

at McKendree."

O'Keefe and his wife, Shannon, joined



McKendree in the summer of 2014, with Bryan taking over as director of bowling and Shannon

being selected head coach of the women's team. The Bearcats' men's team, coached by Dennis Knepper, captured the Intercollegiate Team Championships title in 2016, while the women's team reached the semifinals.

"Bryan O'Keefe is recognized as one of the top coaches in the country, and we're excited to have him back with the Junior Team USA program," USBC Executive Director Chad Murphy said. "He's a great teacher and understands how to get the best performances out of talented athletes."

O'Keefe became a Team USA assistant coach in 2010. His first opportunity to coach Junior Team USA in a world event came in 2012 at the 12th World Bowling Youth Championships in Bangkok, where he led girls' squad to the team title. During his time with the Team USA program, athletes earned more than 100 medals, including more than 20 gold medals.

He served as facility manager of the International Training and Research Center in Arlington, where he taught bowlers and oversaw the pro shop, in addition to working

with Team USA and Junior Team USA players.

O'Keefe earned Gold coach status from USBC Coaching Certification and Development in 2014. USBC Gold is the highest certification level a bowling coach can achieve.

As a collegiate bowler, O'Keefe earned first-team All-America honors while helping Nebraska to a national title in 1996.

The 2017 USBC Team USA Trials will determine the final 12 spots on 2017 Junior Team USA, which will consist of 12 boys and 12 girls. The top four boys and top four girls at the 2017 Team USA Trials, based on ranking points, will earn automatic spots, while two additional boys and two additional girls from either the 2017 Team USA Trials or 2016 Junior Gold Championships, will be selected by the National Selection Committee.

Six boys and six girls earned spots on 2017 Junior Team USA through qualifying at the 2016 Junior Gold Championships, which were held in July in Indianapolis.

To learn more about Junior Team USA, go to BOWL.com/JuniorTeamUSA.

JESPER SVENSSON NAMED SWEDEN'S "ROOKIE SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR"



A year after earning PBA Rookie of the Year honors, Sweden's Jesper Svensson received one of his home country's most prestigious awards when he was recognized as Sweden's Rookie Sportsman of the Year at the annual Swedish Sports Gala.

Sharing the stage with Olympic gold medal winners from other sports, the 21-year-old two-handed player took center stage during a live nationally-televised black-tie gala to accept the award in front of millions of television viewers. After winning three of his five career PBA titles in 2016, including the 51st PBA FireLake Tournament of Champions, Svensson was chosen by a jury from the Swedish newspaper Svenska Dagbladet over football (soccer) player Victor Nilsson Lindelöf, world champion

Thai-boxer Patricia Axling and talented skier Ebba Andersson.

The award is presented to a young and upcoming athlete. According to Swedish Bowling Federation reporter Markus Hegnelius, it marked the first time a bowler has received an award at the biggest stage of Swedish sports, bringing tenpin bowling onto the front pages of the newspapers.



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In memory of one of bowling's greatest writers, an academic scholarship has been created to honor Chuck Pezzano. If you are a student who is likely to pursue full or part time employment writing about bowling, visit our website to see how you can earn up to \$5,000 in scholarships.

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