

# CALIFORNIA BOWLING NEWS

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## Junior Team USA's Jillian Martin Featured on Cleveland TV Following Success at 2021 PWBA Kickoff Classic Series

by Camryn Justice – Bowlers Journal International

A 16-year-old bowler from Stow, Ohio, is making a name for herself after competing in—and excelling in—a national bowling series.

**Jillian Martin** found a passion for bowling at the age of 5 after her uncle, who had a background in bowling, asked if she wanted to learn and began coaching her.

Over the years Martin

dabbled in dance and gymnastics but she couldn't stay away from the lanes.

*"I just loved bowling so much,"* Martin said. *"I just fell in love with it and I've stuck with it ever since."*

Now a junior at Stow-Munroe Falls High School, Martin not only is a member of the Junior Team USA bowling squad, she's competing with the best in the world. [Full story here.](#)

## Dick Allen Wins South Region Advances to PBA Players Championship Finals

by Jef Goodger

JUPITER, Fla.—Fifth seed Dick Allen climbed the stepladder and defeated #1 seed Jesper Svensson in the final match to win the South Region Finals. With four victories and a 270 average, Allen became the first and only player to advance to the PBA Players Championship Finals from anywhere other than the top seed.

While Allen averaged 270, his opponents averaged 258. Every match led to Allen needing a clutch performance in the 10th frame to secure victory.

"This is what we're out here to do," said Allen of bowling under pressure. "This is why we play the game. You have to control the heart rate, the blood rushing through the veins, the emotions. You get the



job done and then you can celebrate. To be able to do that on this stage just feels good."

With a strike and spare to finish the opening match, Allen defeated Tom Daugherty, who started his game with the front eight, by a single pin. Allen then doubled in the 10th to get past Ryan Ciminelli by five

pins. Needing a strike and six pins to win the semifinal match against Cristian Azcona, Allen rolled all three strikes for the win. In the final match, Allen needed to fill 17 pins in the 10th to defeat Jesper Svensson, then filled 28 to win the South Region.

"I knew the lanes were going to be high-scoring," said Allen. "I just did whatever I could. As the middle started to hook and the back ends started to hook some more, my point of origin stayed the same but the destination down lane changed. I tried to keep moving my eyes left, keep my speed up and stay ag-

gressive."

Allen, who owns seven PBA Tour titles and will be looking to win his first major, joins Anthony Simonsen (West), François Lavoie (Southwest), Tom Smallwood (Central) and Kyle Troup (East) in next week's PBA Players Championship Finals, when the five players will compete for a top prize of \$250,000.

"I'm going to try to stay in every match and hope I get a chance to step up in the 10th and do what I like to do," said Allen.

The PBA Players Championship Finals will air live on FOX Broadcast Channel Feb. 21.

### SOUTH REGION STEPLADDER FINALS RESULTS

Bowlero Jupiter – Jupiter, Fla.

#### DICK ALLEN Advances to PBA Players Championship Finals

Jesper Svensson, earns \$15,000, Cristian Azcona, \$13,000 Ryan Ciminelli, \$11,000, Tom Daugherty, \$10,000

#### Match Play Scores

Match 1 – No. 5 Allen def. No. 4 Daugherty, 269-268

Match 2 – No. 5 Allen def. No. 3 Ciminelli, 258-253

Match 3 – No. 5 Allen def. No. 2 Azcona, 278-258

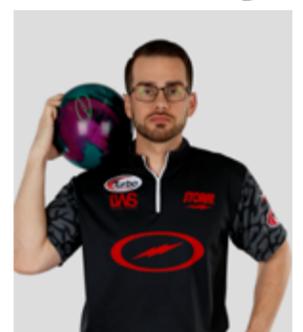
Match 4 – No. 5 Allen def. No. 1 Svensson, 277-255

## Chris Via on Blasting the 30th Televised 300 in PBA History

If you have been watching the PBA Players Championship Regional Finals telecasts in recent weeks, you know the strikes have been flying and the scores have been tremendous.

No player on those shows thus far has exemplified that more than Team USA veteran Chris Via, who blasted a 300 in the opening match of the East Region Finals show.

After the show, he spoke with Bowlers Journal about shooting the 30th televised 300 in PBA history, how



Chris Via

his Team USA experience helped him develop poise under pressure, and much more.

Watch the full interview [here.](#)

## PBA Hall of Fame to Welcome Three New Members for Meritorious Service

by Jill Laufer - PBA Public Relations

NEW YORK, NY – The PBA Hall of Fame will have three new members this year – and for the first time in the history of the sport, a married couple has been elected together.

The PBA Hall of Fame committee unanimously elected Kirk and Mary von Krueger and Gary Mage for meritorious service.

Together, the von Kruegers served in vital tournament management roles for the PBA's national tour and Mage served as a Regional Director, amongst other roles in the industry for over 40 years.

"On behalf of the PBA Hall of Fame committee, it is a tremendous opportunity to recognize the efforts of these three icons, who built and sustained the PBA through different eras of growth," said PBA Commissioner Tom Clark. "Gary, Kirk and Mary were an essential part of the organization up until their retirements last year, and everyone who has come in contact with them knows the PBA would not be the



(L-R) Kirk Von Krueger, Mary Von Krueger and Gary Mage

same without their contributions."

**Kirk von Krueger**, who joined the PBA as a regional competitor in 1982, became the fourth national tournament director in PBA history in 1996. He succeeded Johnny Campos and continued in that role until his retirement 24 years later. Only the late Harry Golden, who served as national tournament director for 29 years, held the position longer. Von Krueger also held the position of Deputy Commissioner from 2011 until his retirement in 2020.

"My sincerest thanks to those who encouraged me to pursue my dream of becoming a professional bowler," said Kirk von Krueger. "At that time, I had no idea it would open a door that would allow me to experience the most fulfilling and extraordinary 25 years of my life. To all who shared my journey, I say without hesitation that it truly would not have been possible without each and every one of you. I am humbled and honored to share this with you all. Thank you."

**Mary von Krueger**,

who served alongside her husband as his clerical right hand, became Membership and Statistics Manager.

"The PBA was and still is my heart," said Mary von Krueger. "The incredible staff, fierce competitors, the gracious hosts, and the exuberant volunteers and fans made my tenure a dream come true. It is incredibly humbling and overwhelming to know that my heart forever more will have a home among my heroes."

The couple met when both were serving in the continued on page 5



SMYRNA, Tennessee – The Pikeville women and Marian-Indiana men highlighted a busy weekend of college bowling by collecting wins at the Brandon Burns Memorial.

The tournament was held at Smyrna Bowling Center and featured 14 varsity women's teams and 15 men's teams. Programs competed in six traditional games Saturday and 16 Baker games Sunday, with total pinfall determining the winner in the Mid-South Conference event. Pikeville cruised to a big win in the women's division, building a 334-pin advantage over the field after Saturday's traditional block. The Bears continued to roll during Baker competition to capture a 571-pin victory with a 9,012 total.

Martin Methodist was second with 8,441, and University of the Cumberland was third with 8,317.

Pikeville's Kristina Catoe was the top individual performer in the women's division, averaging more than 220 for her six games on the way to a 1,325 total. Martin Methodist's Lindsay Brown was the only other competitor in the women's field to average more than 200 for the six-game block, and she finished in second place with 1,220. Campbellsville's Ashley Moch (1,185), Marian's Rebekah Dearing (1,181) and University of the Cumberland's Allysen Coryell (1,152) also finished in the top five.

The team competition was tighter in the men's division, as Marian-Indiana surged into the lead after a 1,143 effort in Game 2 on Saturday, which helped the team finish the day with a 51-pin advantage on the field. The Knights maintained their advantage as one of two teams to average more than 200 during Sunday's Baker block, taking the win with a 9,513 total.

Pikeville was second with 9,356, and Tennessee Wesleyan was third with 9,156.

Pikeville's Parker Spencer led the way in the men's individual standings, recording a six-game block of 1,364, a 227.33 average. A pair of Marian-Indiana teammates also finished in the top five, with Jeffery Mann (1,354) and Nicholas Graveel (1,317) finishing second and fourth, respectively.

Tennessee Wesleyan's Briton Helton and Martin Methodist's Keith Davis each rolled 300 games during Game 2 of Saturday's block to also make the all-tournament team. Helton finished third in the standings with 1,322, and Davis was fifth with 1,314.

#### In other collegiate action:

- [At the Mid States Championships in Wichita, Kansas, the Wichita State men and women swept the top spots by 480 and 533 pins, respectively.](#)

- At the Railsplitter Baker Classic and Railsplitter Challenge in Harrogate, Tennessee, the Lincoln Memorial women led the way in total pinfall at each event, powered by Cassidy Anschutz's 300 game during the Railsplitter Challenge.

- At the Southwestern Athletic Conference East Round-Up in D'Iberville, Mississippi, the Prairie View A&M women claimed the title.

- At the Northeast Invite I and II in Stratford, New Jersey, the North Carolina A&T women posted the top score at each event.

- At the Muskie Mash in Lancaster, Ohio, the Robert Morris-Pennsylvania men and Northwestern Ohio women rolled to victory in their respective divisions.

- At the McKendree Baker Challenge in Fairview Heights and Belleville, Illinois, the McKendree women claimed a 3-1 victory in the best-of-five bracket finals over Mount Mercy. In the men's division, Mount Mercy swept McKendree, 3-0, to record the win.

- At the American Heartland Bowling Association I in Canton, Michigan, the Bowling Green State men edged Trine by four pins for the win, while Alma collected the women's title.

For more information on USBC Collegiate, visit [BOWL.com/Collegiate](http://BOWL.com/Collegiate) or [CollegeBowling.Bowl.com](http://CollegeBowling.Bowl.com).

# There Really Was A Bowling Ball With GPS!

by Dave Williams

A recent cartoon in [thebowlingnews.net](http://thebowlingnews.net) caught my attention when it showed a bowler with his bowling ball, complete with antenna, and the quote: "This GPS has improved my average by 10 points!" Although the image was done in jest - perhaps acknowledging the advancement of high scores to the ease of a global positioning system within the new high tech bowling balls - the concept really was advanced at the 2005 Bowling Proprietors Association of America (BPAA) Convention in Orlando, Florida.

Yes, it really was! I know because I was there, as a representative of both the New Jersey Bowling Proprietors, where I was serving a term as their president, and also for my company, Nationwide Bowling Corporation, who footed the bill for my trip to "The City Beautiful."

The trip was an opportunity for me to return to Central Florida, where I had made so many trips about twenty years before, when AMF was in a race with Bowl America and Fairlanes, to see how many new bowling centers could be constructed in the rapidly growing metropolis of Orlando, containing DisneyWorld and other worldwide attractions.

AMF's first opening in greater Orlando was Altamonte Lanes, just to the north along Interstate 4 in Altamonte Springs, Florida. It was a beautiful 40 lane center with incredible year-round business that didn't fluctuate by more than a couple of games per lane in any month. Business at Altamonte was so good that General Manager Bob Robison and the executives at AMF actually entertained the idea of two 25 week league seasons, rather than the customary 35 week winter season, and whatever you could get in the summer!

Based upon the success of Altamonte, the AMF hierarchy elected to open AMF Kissimmee Lanes, near DisneyWorld, in 1977. I remember that my first few visits to the site, which was probably about ten years ahead of time, included a five mile ride to the nearest hotel, Larson's Lodge, where we always received free accommodations because of the perceived value that would be generated by bowling tournaments.

The ride from the hotel to the lanes was completely void of any development, with only an alligator farm along the way. The bowling center was constructed at the rear of the property, because the general feeling at the time was that "bowling is a destination sport," and didn't require street visibility. To assist in the promotion of the lanes, AMF elected to host the 1978 AMF MagicScore Open, a stop on the PBA Winter Tour, at Kissimmee.

The humorous part to this story is that the land in front of Kissimmee Lanes had not yet been devel-



*Bubba Flint provided this artwork that originally appeared in the January 28, 2021 edition of [thebowlingnews.net](http://thebowlingnews.net)*

oped at the time of the PBA stop, and the land was still being leased back to the farmer that had sold the property to AMF, complete with grazing cattle. For those of you old enough to remember the golden voice of Chris Schenkel, as he welcomed everyone to the weekly telecast with those legendary words... "Live, from Kissimmee Lanes in Florida, it's the 1978 AMF MagicScore Open." As a row of cars turned off of Highway 192, the camera followed them through the cow pasture, and eventually to the bowling lanes!

The 2005 BPAA Convention highlighted the GPS Bowling Ball that was being introduced at Aloma Bowl in nearby Winter Park, Florida. Ray Koehler, veteran PBA member and GM at Aloma Bowl, was on hand to welcome everyone to the exhibition. Although I had not rolled a ball in over ten years, I could not resist putting on a pair of rental shoes to try this unique product.

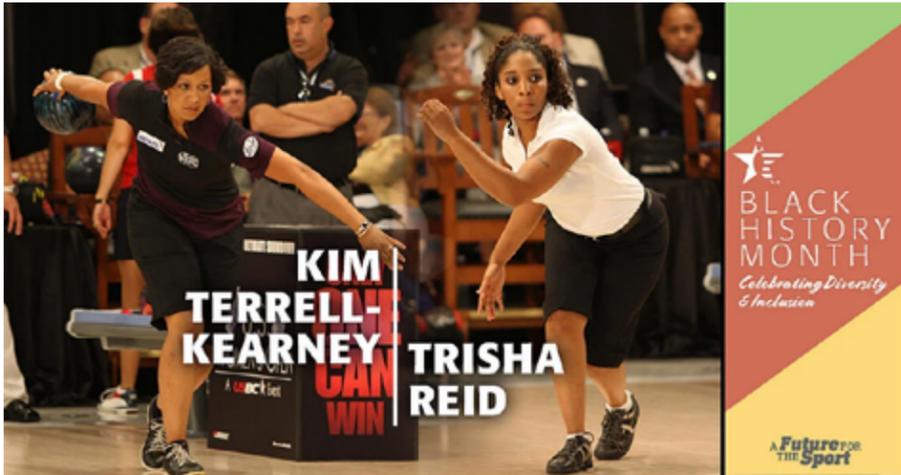
What I learned almost immediately was that the tracking device was not conducive to a 3/4 roll, popular among professionals and most high average bowlers, but almost exclusively relevant for a full-roller track. The balls were obviously never approved by USBC, but were marketed as something fun for kids, or for individuals with physical limitations. At a retail price of \$1,500 per ball, the product did not last for very long.

For those of you that are still doubting the efficacy of this product, an entertaining two minute video is available at [bowl.com](http://bowl.com). Enjoy!

([https://www.bowl.com/Source/Source\\_Home/Remote-Controlled\\_Bowling\\_Balls/](https://www.bowl.com/Source/Source_Home/Remote-Controlled_Bowling_Balls/))

## Hoping Everyone Had A

# Happy Valentine's Day



## Historic Title Match Forever Connects Kim Terrell-Kearney and Trisha Reid

By the summer of 2008, Kim Terrell-Kearney of Greensboro, North Carolina, was putting the finishing touches on a professional bowling career that earned her a place in the United States Bowling Congress Hall of Fame two years later.

Her appearance at the U.S. Women's Open in Romeoville, Illinois, was part of a limited competition schedule, and her performance was memorable and historic for many reasons, including the fact that her title-match meeting with Trisha Reid of Columbus, Ohio, marked the first matchup of two Black athletes for a professional bowling title.

Read the full write up on BOWL.com [here](#).



## THE ROW RENO NAMED PRESENTING SPONSOR FOR 2021 USBC WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS

ARLINGTON, Texas - The United States Bowling Congress announced Tuesday that longtime partner - THE ROW Reno - will be the presenting sponsor of the 2021 USBC Women's Championships in Reno, Nevada.

THE ROW Reno, which includes three of the Biggest Little City's most iconic downtown resorts - the Eldorado Resort Casino, Circus Circus Reno and Silver Legacy Resort Casino - also will serve as the official host hotels and brackets sponsors of the 2021 event.

The three resorts feature award-winning restaurants, exciting bars and lounges, a luxury wellness escape at The Spa at Silver Legacy, Ruth's Chris Steak House, Ichiban Japanese Steak House and action-packed gaming, including slots, table games, sports betting and Caesars Rewards promotions.

All same-day brackets payouts will be picked up inside Silver Legacy at THE ROW.

The 2021 Women's Championships will be held at the famed National Bowling Stadium from April 23 to July 3 (last team date). The 2021 event will mark the tournament's 12th visit to Reno and ninth trip to the recently renovated NBS.

"We're thrilled for the opportunity to be the presenting sponsor of the 2021 USBC Women's Championships," said Glenn Carano, Regional President and General Manager of THE ROW Reno. "We've had a great relationship with USBC throughout the years and are eager to show the bowlers the family-style hospitality we pride ourselves on at THE ROW Reno."

As the presenting sponsor, official host hotels and official brackets sponsors of the 2021 Women's Championships, THE ROW Reno will provide USBC members with special offers throughout the tournament and will be prominently featured at the National Bowling Stadium, on BOWL.com, through USBC's social media channels and at MyBowlingVacation.com, the official travel partner of USBC.

"We're excited to once again be partnering with THE ROW Reno to provide the bowlers of the USBC Women's Championships an amazing tournament experience," said Roger Noordhoek, Managing Director of Marketing for USBC. "These resorts always have welcomed our bowlers through their incredible service and accommodations, and we look forward to working together with THE ROW Reno to continue to enhance our partnership."

The Women's Championships last appearance at the NBS in Reno was in 2018, which welcomed 4,334 four-player teams.

Registration for the 2021 Women's Championships is open.

The squad times and capacities for the 2021 event are structured to accommodate for social distancing, including reducing the number of teams competing per squad and having only one team per pair of lanes.



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**PBA TOUR**

**2021 SCHEDULE**

DATE	TIME (ET)	TOURNAMENT	CHANNEL
<b>PBA PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP</b>			
February 21	9:30 AM	Players Championship Finals	FOX
February 28	10:00 AM	Tournament of Champions	FOX
March 7	9:00 AM	PBA Jr. Finals	FS1

SAT. FEBRUARY 6 4:00PM PBA PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP - CENTRAL

**VIEW THE FIRST HALF OF THE 2021 SCHEDULE »**



**Carol's Corner**  
by Carol Mancini  
E-mail: CarolMancini83@icloud.com

My granddaughter Katie and her husband Reza are living in London right now. Their 15-year-old German Shepherd recently passed. They have found a new puppy (German Shepherd) that will join them soon.

I've never had a dog or cat, so I'm the natural person to name the pup!

Check my list of maybes... What do you think of Barkley, Pawl, Woofgang, Furnando, Tailor, or Diego??? Katie and Reza both born and raised in San Diego!

I haven't set my list to them yet, so if you have a catchy name, send it to me at CarolMancini83@icloud.com.

.....

The name Harry Golden came to mind. Dave Williams knew him I'm sure!

Harry was the "Front Man" for the PBA, his job was to go to the site of a PBA event (30 days in advance) and make sure all aspects were in line.

- Check parking lot of Center. Big enough for trucks, cars, vans, motorhomes?
- Enough electrical outlets?
- Meet with local ABC, WIBC, and proprietors.
- How many pros needed for Pro-Am?
- What are gifts for Am's?
- Are lanes certified?
- Was the center clean? He checked daily!
- Right booze and bimbos in bar?
- What was on the snack bar menu?
- Advertising on radio, TV, paper?
- Who are the major sponsors? Meet with them.
- Was the bowler equipment storage room safe and clean?
- Close motels and laundromat, pro shop, etc..

Harry was a character! His toupee kept his hand busy! If you could hold back a smile after meeting him great! I couldn't.

Anyone out there that has a Harry story please share it. When Harry retired, the tall gentleman Bud Fisher took over. Those were the days my friends!

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EDITORIAL OFFICE: 11459 Imperial Hwy. Norwalk, CA 90650

TEMP. OFFICE NUMBER: 626-252-2985  
24-HOUR FAX NUMBER:

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**PBA Hall of Fame** continued from page 1

U.S. Navy as air traffic controllers. Von Krueger won the All-Navy Bowling Championship in 1975, and when he was based in Seattle, became a PBA Northwest Region competitor. He won six titles and was named Northwest Region Player of the Year in the 1980's. The couple, who married without ever going on a date, also served tours in Iceland and Pensacola, Fla., where they eventually settled and raised their four children.

After 20 years of service in the Navy, von Krueger retired and bowled on the PBA Tour for four years with a best finish of third. Von Krueger was encouraged by his wife to compete on the Tour in 1992.

"It was a great luxury having Kirk as deputy commissioner and tournament director, and Mary in the tournament office helping the players year-round," said PBA Commissioner Tom Clark. "The von Kruegers became family to me and everyone on Tour. It was an honor working alongside them for 12 years and I appreciate everything they have done for the PBA."

In addition to the von Kruegers, the PBA Hall of Fame committee also unanimously elected **Gary Mage** into the Class of 2021. Mage, who founded the PBA Northwest region in 1979 and added the role of PBA West Regional Director in 2004, served the PBA for over 40 years.

Mage, who similarly retired in 2020, hosted more tournaments than any other regional director in the history of the PBA with his wife Toni by his side, every step of the way.

"Gary and Toni treated all PBA players and host bowling center's staff as family," added Clark. "Gary was not only a skilled tournament director, but he was respected by the industry as a whole for his experience in all aspects of bowling. Myself and I PBA Hall of Fame are thankful for his lifelong contributions to the game."

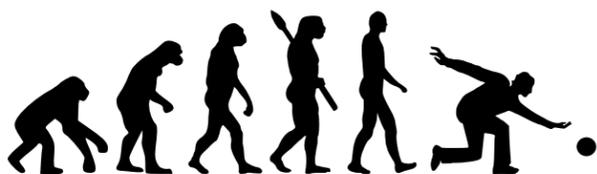
Mage joined the PBA in the 1970s and began his career as a full-time touring pro. In 1972, he won a PBA Tour national title at the Seattle Open.

Off the lanes, Mage served on the PBA executive board, was a bowling center proprietor, pro-shop owner, and a mentor to many.

"To be inducted in the PBA Hall of Fame is the greatest honor I could ever receive in the bowling world," said Gary Mage. To have my name with the greats both bowling and promoting the sport is an honor beyond my wildest dreams."

The PBA recognized the 2020 PBA Player of the Year, Jason Belmonte of Australia, PBA Steve Nagy Sportsmanship Award winner Brad Miller of Lee's Summitt, Mo., and PBA Tony Reyes Memorial Community Service Award recipient Danny Wiseman late last year.

The Player Award winners and the newest members of the PBA Hall of Fame will be celebrated at an induction ceremony to be announced at a later date due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.



# The Return Of The PWBA Brings Back MEMORIES OF THE LPBT (LADIES PRO BOWLERS TOUR)

by Frank Weiler

"Those were the days my friend, those were the days when we were young". Those were the days we wish we could live forever. Those were the days when the LPBT was born. So many fond memories of tournaments and players from the glory days of the past. A time when Paula Carter, Nikki "G" Gianulias, Tish Johnson, Lisa Rathgeber (Wagner), Robin Romeo, Aleta Rzepecki (Sill) and many more were "ROOKIES".

Helen Reddy had it right when she sang: "We (Women) are strong, we are one, we are invincible". I believe that women are strong and invincible. I believe that female bowlers are all of that and I was thrilled years ago when the LPBT was young and those "ROOKIES" proved every word Helen Reddy sang was true. I look forward to sharing my memories and thoughts regarding those early days and those rising superstars.

When I was a youngster stationed at Homestead Air Force Base near Miami, I was privileged to witness the birth of the LPBT. I was in Florida from 1978 to 1986 and have fond memories of the world's best female bowlers coming each January to kick off their new season on Tour.

Those were the days when some of the greatest female bowlers of all-time were rookies and some others were ending glorious careers. It was a privilege to be there during those wonderful years, a privilege to watch these ladies in their prime. Lucky me.

The LPBT was founded by JOHN SOMMER JR. and JOHN FALZONE in time to keep our female professionals on tour and on a national stage for all Americans to see. Without their vision, leadership and commitment a generation of female bowlers would have been lost. These men were generational heroes for those of us alive during those times and may they forever be remembered and honored in the annals of Bowling History. I know that they sacrificed the best years of their life's and their treasure to the cause of women's professional bowling.

The LPBT was headquartered in Rockford, Illinois and staffed by a pantheon of Bowling industry greats:

- President & Commissioner.....John Falzone\*
- Chairman of Board .....John Sommer Jr.\*
- Secretary Treasurer.....Dave Lonsway
- Tournament Director .....Wyatt Slaughter
- Sales & Public Relations.....Mike Hennessy\*
- Director Television Programming ....Jerry Gross
- Director of Marketing.....Bill Vint\*
- Historian.....Fran Wolf\*

\*Legendary personages in the Bowling Industry and Inductees of many Bowling Halls of Fame.

My first memory of a LPBT Tournament was probably in January of 1981 or 1982 in Cutler Ridge, Florida. It was the Tour's first stop of the season and the host Center was walking distance from my home. I went every day to watch the ladies compete. It was my first time seeing professional women competing. I had seen many PBA Tournaments by then but never a women's professional tournament.

The women were outstanding bowlers and I was hooked. My mother had never bowled in her life but after watching these lady pros she was hooked. From that point she began bowling for the rest of her life. The LPBT was responsible for recruiting my mother as my best teammate ever. I still cherish my memories of bowling with my mom. Thank you LPBT.

I don't remember anything historically significant about that specific tournament but do remember that all of the above mentioned "ROOKIES" were there. Today they are considered among the greatest bowlers of all-time. As a young single guy, I do remember liking those mini skirts the young ladies wore.

Among my favorites were Donna Adamek, Paula Carter and Robin Romeo. Paula was a tall statuesque blonde with STRIKING FORM. Donna and Robin were shorter but seemed the type of woman that would be fun to cuddle with. Lisa Rathgeber's curly hair also caught my eye. Best of all these women could bowl.

Over a period of several years in the early 1980s I would attend LPBT Tournaments throughout Florida. I drove from Miami to Jacksonville to the Tampa area and to the state's Gold Coast following the Tour. Usually there were four tournaments each January in Florida. Those tournaments were usually in small bowling centers with about 24 lanes. It was easy to follow several bowlers at a time because the houses were small, and the women weren't separated by many lanes. I never sat but stood watching all day so that I could bounce back and forth between bowlers and lanes. When you're young you can stand for hours without notice.

One of my favorite moments was meeting CONWAY TWITTY JR. at one of the tournaments. He was dating Leila Wagner at the time and was the featured entertainer in the bowling center lounge during the tournament. He was a "spit-tin" image of his famous dad and had a twang in his tune.

Most of the bowlers were very friendly in those days and I had plenty of conversations with them and with some of their parents. In some following articles I will try to recall some of those conversations with those bowling superstars.

W  
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## IBC YOUTH CANCELS 2020-2021 USA BOWLING REGIONAL TOURNAMENT EVENTS

by Aaron Smith

ARLINGTON, Texas - The International Bowling Campus Youth Development team has canceled the events on the 2020-2021 [USA Bowling Regional Tournament](#) schedule due to ongoing public health concerns and local regulations surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

IBC Youth Development already had postponed the first five tournaments on the 16-event schedule, and continuing to postpone additional events was not a viable option, due to local restrictions and the availability of bowling centers.

The 2021 USA Bowling National Championships, which was scheduled to take place July 7-8 and 11 in Indianapolis, also will be canceled.

The cancellation of the USA Bowling Regional Tournament events and USA Bowling National Championships does not affect the 2021 Junior Gold Championships or Bowling.com Youth Open Championships. Both events still are scheduled to take place from July 5-25 in Indianapolis.

Refunds for entries for 2020-2021 USA Bowling Regional Tournament events will be processed by the end of February.

The 2021-2022 USA Bowling Regional Tournament schedule will get underway in October 2021, and more information concerning the dates and locations in each of the regions will be available at a later date.

"The safety and well-being of the athletes, coaches and staff is our top priority, and we felt this was the best decision looking ahead at the rest of the USA Bowling schedule for the 2020-2021 events," IBC Youth Development Managing Director Gary Brown said. "We are disappointed to not be able to see these young athletes compete this season, but we are looking forward to the launch of the 2021-2022 USA Bowling Regional season."

USA Bowling Regional Tournament events started in 2013, building the foundation that would lead to the inaugural USA Bowling National Championships in 2016. The national event grew from the USA Bowling program, designed as a team-based youth program to introduce the sport to children.

USA Bowling Leagues share a team-based structure, similar to all youth sports, where young athletes receive instruction, have regular practices with a coach and compete against other teams during an eight- to 12-week season.

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

[USA Bowling Regional cancellation FAQ](#)

## Bowler's Ed SEVEN SCHOOLS AWARDED BOWLER'S ED KITS TO START 2021

by Matt Cannizzaro

ARLINGTON, Texas - Seven schools have been selected by the [International Bowling Campus Youth Development](#) team to receive Bowler's Ed kits and curriculum information through the [Bowler's Ed](#) Grant Program.

Through the program, schools, youth groups and other organizations are able to teach students and young athletes about bowling, from the fun to the fundamentals.

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

The schools selected to receive Bowler's Ed kits were determined based on applications that were submitted by a December 2020 deadline. The schools and organizations receiving the kits are:

- North Barrington Elementary, N. Barrington, Ill.
- Bartlesville Public Schools, Bartlesville, Okla.
- Bartlesville Gymnastics Club, Bartlesville, Okla.
- Highland Elementary, Camp Hill, Pa.
- Hillside Elementary, New Cumberland, Pa.
- Sandlapper Elementary, Columbia, S.C.
- Skyland Elementary School, Greer, S.C.

Each kit includes a carpeted mobile bowling lane, rubber bowling ball, plastic pins, step-by-step curriculum and an instructional video on the fundamentals of bowling, etiquette, safety, scoring and fitness activities.

Along with the chance to introduce children in grades K-8 to a sport they can play for a lifetime, bowling in any setting is great exercise and a fun way to build endurance and hand-eye coordination.

The curriculum also includes lessons that put a new spin on math, language arts, social studies, problem solving, geography, computer skills and more.

"The Bowler's Ed kits and curriculum are so valuable and useful because they can turn almost any space into a convenient and affordable bowling center to give a true bowling experience to groups of any size," said Chrissie Kent, chair of the IBC Youth Committee. "Beyond just the health and educational benefits, the program gives students the chance to participate in something that is fun, safe and perfect for social distancing."

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 \$1,450.

The initiative is supported by the bowling industry and aims to bring bowling centers and associations together with schools in their communities, so physical education teachers can make bowling one of the sports they teach to their students.

Since 2009, the Bowler's Ed Grant Program has awarded more than \$500,000 in the form of Bowler's Ed kits to schools and organizations.

For schools, facilities or organizations interested in applying for a Bowler's Ed grant, the application portal is open once again. The submission deadline for this round is in June, so there's still time. The application can be found at [BOWL.com/BowlersEd](#).

IBC Youth Development is supported by the Bowling Proprietors' Association of America and USBC.

## 'Go Bowling America' League Program Is Extended

by BJI Webmaster

In 2020, the Bowling Proprietors' Association of America created the "Go Bowling America" program to provide its member centers with a proven "have-a-ball" league program to attract bowlers back and help unite the country around the fun, family-friendly experience bowling provides. With much of the country still under restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the BPAA has decided to extend the program through the end of 2021.

"We talk to bowlers and proprietors every day, and we've heard loud and clear how much everyone is greatly anticipating the return of leagues and regular play," said BPAA President Jim Decker, the owner of Double Decker Lanes in Rohnert Park, California. "Even with the country under the grip of a nationwide pandemic, over 400 of our BPAA members have ordered the 'Go Bowling America' program and floored hundreds of new bowlers since its launch last fall."

Decker added that the program "not only helps bring more people back to bowling, which benefits our members, it also provides an incentive to casual and regular bowlers to reconnect in a safe, fun and comforting environment for people of all ages."

"Go Bowling America" provides proprietors with an easy-to-run "have-a-ball" league program that rewards those that complete the league with an entry-level reactive bowling ball for less than \$40, including freight. The flexibility of the program enables them to set their own format, pricing and the number of weeks for the league.

The comprehensive marketing kit comes with all the professionally designed marketing materials needed to target families, young adults or youth bowlers. The program not only encourages casual and regular bowlers alike to join league play, but also helps to build awareness that bowling centers nationwide are focused, trained and ready to provide a healthy and fun experience for all.

To find out more about the "Go Bowling America" league program and how to order a marketing kit, proprietors may visit [STEMarketing.com/America](#).

## Drive Underway To Help Save California Bowling Centers

CALIFORNIA - The Southern California Junior Bowling Foundation was founded with the goal of growing and supporting youth bowling in Southern California. The group has found a new emergency goal- trying to raise funds to help bowling centers reopen in California.

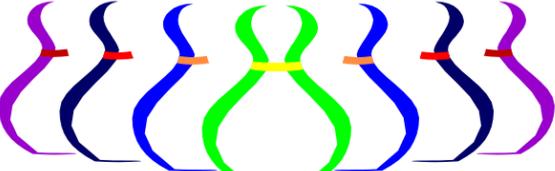
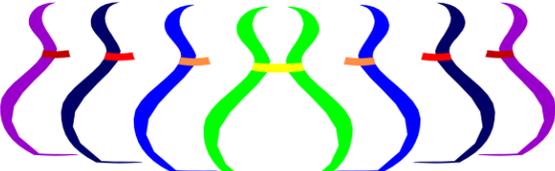
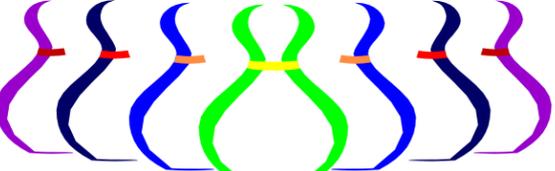
Bowlers, including many prominent nationally recognized youth bowlers, have been unable to participate in the game they love due to the overbearing restrictions placed on bowling centers by the State of California. While other businesses have been permitted to open, bowling proprietors have seen their doors closed and lights off since mid-March. The frustration was escalated when bowling centers in 49 of 50 states were permitted to open while Californians lanes sat dormant in the dark.

Bowling is a big part of many people's daily lives. Seniors are suffering from missing their weekly exercise and social activity. Many junior bowlers are missing their opportunity to earn college scholarships due to their inability to practice. The SCJBF has recognized that it has become essential to help open bowling centers immediately.

The SCJBF has started a Go Fund Me campaign to help raise money for the fight to open bowling centers in California. At a time when many proprietors are struggling and centers are on the brink of closing forever, you can help with the fight.

We would appreciate any donation big or small to help with the cause. Log on to [www.gofundme.com/helpbowling](#) and help today!

# BOWLING NEWS DIRECTORY

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