



South Point Bowling Plaza

USBC WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS

ROLL THE DICE, AND THE BALL, IN VEGAS

THE 2016 USBC Women's Championships is headed to Las Vegas and what could be more fun than bowling with friends in a city that offers so much ... well, fun?



It has been more than 30 years since the Women's Championships was held in Las Vegas. This time around, competitors will be in the South Point Bowling Plaza, a \$35 million facility built just for tournament bowlers at South Point Hotel, Casino and Spa.

The Women's Championships truly is an event built for every bowler. With four team divisions and six divisions for doubles, singles and all-events, you never know who might walk away with a national title.

LaDeena Gray of Eureka, California, for

example, started bowling in a league with friends just a couple of years ago. She had always enjoyed bowling, but once she started to learn more about the sport – how different balls react, lane conditions, etc. – her interest in the game began to grow.

In May, she made her second appearance at the Women's Championships in Reno, Nevada, and when the 2015 event concluded she was the proud owner of a team and an individual title.

Gray had a career-high 554 series as the Harbor Ladies won the Sapphire Team title with a 1,942 total. She was joined by Carrie

Hagedorn (505), Stacy Rafferty (495) and Deborah Smith (388) on the team. Gray would finish the tournament with a 1,474 all-events total to win the Topaz division while Hagedorn, also competing in the tournament for just the second time, would finish second in all-events in the Amethyst division.

The Sapphire division is for four-member teams with a combined average of 574 and below. The Topaz is for bowlers with entering averages of 129 and under, while Amethyst is for bowlers with averages between 130 and 144.

"I was in complete shock! I was ecstatic!" said Gray, who had a 129 average in a mixed league during the 2013-2014 season.

"I was so happy I was able to put nine good games together – which I've never been able to do! – to earn me these fabulous titles!"

She was one of several relative newcomers to earn titles in 2015. First-time participants Michelle Brownell of Spearfish, South Dakota, in Sapphire Singles (145-159 averages) and Ashley Bonebright of Lincoln,

Nebraska, in Ruby All-Events (175-189 average) won titles.

And now Gray and the rest of the Harbor Ladies plan to be in Las Vegas for the

2016 event. The still-improving Gray probably won't get the chance to defend her title as she likely will move

into a slightly higher division.

"It's always going to be an event I look forward to each year," Gray said. "I'm super excited because I love the girls on my team. They make each year fun. And we will be having a blast in Las Vegas!"



LaDeena Gray

2016 USBC WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS

April 9 – July 11
South Point
Bowling Plaza
Las Vegas



Go to **BOWL.com/WomensChamp** to learn more about the USBC Women's Championships.

USBC JUNIOR GOLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

TOUGH ROAD TO JUNIOR GOLD

IT'S EASY for a face to get lost in the crowd at an event like the Junior Gold Championships presented by Storm, Roto Grip and Master. The 2015 tournament welcomed nearly 3,200 competitors, along with family and friends, to five Chicagoland centers over the course of a week in July.

The premier youth event in the country continues to grow and set participation records but the smile illuminating from Jack Vander Meulen of Madison,



New Jersey, could not be missed.

The 19-year-old was making his second appearance at Junior Gold, but the journey from his first visit in 2013 to his trip to DuPage County, Illinois, in 2015 proved to be one of determination.

Vander Meulen originally planned to make his second appearance at the 2014 tournament in Buffalo, New York, before being diagnosed with diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, a type of blood cancer, in March 2014. He immediately began chemotherapy with hopes of competing in Buffalo in July, but several setbacks, including two major surgeries in May, made him set a new goal.

"My goal was to make it to the 2015 event," Vander Meulen said. "It's the atmosphere. More than 3,100 bowlers from around the world coming to bowl is just amazing. Everybody you meet



Jack Vander Meulen

here is friendly. It makes you feel like a professional for a week. It's what draws me here, and that's why I love it."

The comeback trail also threw several challenges Vander Meulen's way. Some of the side

effects from the chemotherapy included neuropathy in his feet, which made it difficult for him to even walk. As he slowly began to build his strength back, Vander Meulen also began to work his way back to the lanes.

"It was a slow process," Vander Meulen said. "I had a lot of trouble with my feet. I could barely walk. For the first couple of months back, I used a one-step approach. Somebody told me to try a four-step approach, and I tried it, and it kind of kicked things off. It definitely was a long road to get back to where I was."

As Vander Meulen embarked on the 2015 event, he felt prepared to make his run in the 20-and-under division, but finished the week in the middle of the pack. Although there was some disappointment in his overall performance, he appreciated the opportunity to compete on youth bowling's biggest stage.

As it turned out, he was saving his best performance for last. While the Advancers' Rounds were taking place at Stardust Bowl, Vander Meulen made his way to Brunswick Zone River Grove for the Storm Survivor presented by XBowling, a five-game total-pinfall event.

After starting with games of 236 and 206, Vander Meulen found the right look and delivered the first perfect game of his young career. He would finish the block with a 1,128 total, which placed him in 35th out of more than 630 competitors.

"The third game started off weird because I stuck on the approach and nearly fell down on the first shot," Vander Meulen said. "But I ended up throwing all 10 back. The rest of the game went so quick until the ninth

JUNIOR GOLD CHAMPIONS

The Junior Gold program shattered its all-time membership mark with more than 6,200 members for the 2014-2015 season and a record 3,191 bowlers took part in the 2015 Junior Gold Championships presented by Storm, Roto Grip and Master. The event awarded \$275,000 in total scholarships. The champions in each division:



Chicago, IL • July 2015

PRESENTED BY



20-and-under

Sierra Kanemoto
Dayton, Ohio

Zachary Doty
Nassau, New York



15-and-under

Danielle Jedlicki

Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Tom Hankey

Great Barrington, Massachusetts



12-and-under

Amanda Naujokas

Lake Ronkonkoma, New York

Spencer Robarge

Springfield, Missouri

frame. Everything was surreal after that. Normally, in a ninth or 10th frame like that, I'd always be so nervous, but I was excited to get up there and it just felt different from every other time I've been in that situation.

"I don't think I saw the last ball go down the lane. It just felt good off my hand, and all of a sudden I heard the strike and saw all 10 pins down. It was crazy. I knew it was a strike right off of my hand."

As the crowd erupted after the final strike, the loudest cheers could be heard from Jack's biggest supporters, his parents, Bob and Cathy. Jack's unmistakable smile once again emerged as the family shared a moment that made his long road back to Junior Gold even more incredible.

"It was awesome to share that moment with them," Vander Meulen said. "Right after I finished my treatment, my mom would ask me, 'When are you

going to start bowling again?'

They were by my side the whole time. I wouldn't have been able to do it without them."

Vander Meulen, who is attending Fairleigh Dickinson University and studying hotel and restaurant management, has been cancer-free since finishing his treatment, but has battled swollen lymph nodes and low platelet counts as he prepares for his next semester at college and final run at Junior Gold.

He'll continue on with the same determination and support that led him back to the tournament in 2015, and already is setting goals as he looks ahead to the 2016 event in Indianapolis.

"I have one more year of Junior Gold," Vander Meulen said. "My ultimate goal is to make the first cut. This year, I came out here and my goal was just to bowl. I didn't bowl up to par, but I had fun all week. That was the most important part."

USBC QUICK STRIKES

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE UNITED STATES BOWLING CONGRESS

USBC receives national award

USBC President Frank Wilkinson and USBC Executive Director Chad Murphy were presented the National Council of Youth Sports S.T.R.I.V.E.

Organization of the Year Award by NCYS and AIG as part of NCYS Youth Sports Day in Washington, D.C.

The S.T.R.I.V.E Award presented by AIG recognizes organizations that embrace a "kids' first" approach based on implementation of recognized best practices and policies that protect children by promoting responsible health, wellness and safety within their organization while showcasing the positive benefits of youth sports.

Along with the award, USBC received a \$5,000 donation that went to the Youth Education Services (YES) Fund, which has provided such programs as the High School Grant Assistance Program and USA Bowling.



(Iowa) Community School District, Madison (Kansas) Elementary School, Mannford (Oklahoma) Elementary, and the Obion County USBC Association in Troy, Tennessee, by International Bowling Campus Youth Development.

The four mobile bowling kits, valued at \$2,200 each, include



six carpeted bowling lanes, rubberized

balls and pins, and instructional DVDs to assist coaches and teachers in introducing and instructing the game. For information on the program, BOWL.com/YouthResourceCenter and click on the Bowler's Ed icon.

Three juniors named to Dexter All-American Team

Jerod Hromek of Towanda, Kansas, a two-time state title winner, was one of three high school juniors selected to the 2014-2015 Dexter/United States Bowling Congress High School All-American Team, the 10th year the team has been selected.

Also named to the Dexter/USBC High School All-American team were: Samantha Gainor, Chesterfield Township, Michigan; Keri Molloy, Sandusky, Michigan; Jordan Newham, Aurora, Illinois; Casey Smith, Chittenango, New York; Amanda Wengryn, Ringoes, New Jersey; Jonathan Bowman, Peru, New York; Joe Kleven, Edina, Minnesota; Bradley Solomon, O'Fallon, Illinois; and Gregory Tack, Port Murray, New Jersey.

Open Championships donates materials

When the USBC Open Championships came to a close in El Paso, the 62-lane venue in the convention center was

Queens, Senior Queens headed to Vegas in 2016

The USBC Queens and Senior Queens will be in Las Vegas in 2016, allowing participants to also compete in the 2016 USBC Women's Championships in just one trip.

The tournaments will be held at The Orleans Hotel and Casino with the Senior Queens kicking off the action May 15-20 followed by the Queens on May 20-26. The USBC Women's Championships will be at the South Point Bowling Plaza from April 9-July 11.

The Queens and Senior Queens feature a 15-game qualifying format before the field is cut for the double-elimination match-play bracket.

Cooley receives laneman award

Bill Cooley was selected as the recipient of the 2015 Jim Jaryszak Laneman Award.

Cooley, who was presented the award during Bowl Expo in Las Vegas, has been the head mechanic and lane maintenance supervisor at Earl Anthony's Dublin Bowl for the last 35 years.

Hired by bowling legend Earl Anthony in 1980, Cooley worked on lane conditions for the PBA tournaments and TV finals at Dublin Bowl. He currently handles lane conditions for the center's league bowlers, including PBA Experience leagues and monthly scratch tournaments using mostly PBA oil patterns.

The Jim Jaryszak Laneman Award is named in honor of the late USBC Research Manager instrumental in setting up the USBC Sport Bowling program.



Four organizations receive mobile kits

Bowler's Ed grants, in the form of mobile bowling kits, were awarded to Dubuque

CALENDAR

Now-Sept. 6, 2015

Bowlmor AMF U.S. Women's Open
Brunswick Zone Carolier
North Brunswick, N.J.

Sept. 10-13, 2015

Smithfield PWBA Tour Championship presented by GoBowling.com
International Training and Research Center
Arlington, Texas

Sept. 14-21, 2015

PABCON Men's Championships
AMF Bolera Paradise Lanes
Puerto Nuevo, Puerto Rico

Nov. 2-8, 2015

Bowlmor AMF U.S. Open
AMF Garland Lanes
Garland, Texas

Nov. 13-20, 2015

QubicaAMF Bowling World Cup
Sam's Town
Las Vegas

Dec. 5-14, 2015

World Bowling Women's Championships
Khalifa International Bowling Centre
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Jan. 2-7, 2016

Team USA Trials and U.S. Amateur
Gold Coast Hotel and Casino
Las Vegas

March 5-July 11, 2016

USBC Open Championships
National Bowling Stadium
Reno, Nev.

April 9-July 11, 2016

USBC Women's Championships
South Point Bowling Plaza
Las Vegas

April 10-July 11, 2016

USBC Mixed Championships
South Point Bowling Plaza
Las Vegas

Go to BOWL.com/Tournaments for complete information.

dismantled and the salvageable materials were given to Habitat for Humanity - El Paso. The facility provided enough lumber and materials that the organization estimates it will be able to build six residences locally.

Habitat for Humanity - El Paso Development Manager Patsy Terrazas-Hermosillo said they were working with the city to acquire a parcel of land large enough to build three duplexes and some of the materials will go to a local VFW post that needs to do some remodeling to its hall.