

PWBA TOUR

## SUPPORT STRUCTURE

**DANIELLE MCEWAN** doesn't mince words when she discusses the role her family has had on her young bowling career.

"I wouldn't be able to do this without them," said McEwan, a four-time Team USA member who was a collegiate standout at Fairleigh Dickinson. "I just came out of college and started bowling against the guys for three years, which really didn't allow me

to earn enough money to support myself. So they really just said, 'Go chase your dreams, and whatever you need along the way we are here for you.'"

McEwan, of Stony Point, New York, was one of the top rookies on the Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour this season. Seemingly in the hunt at each PWBA event, her first title would not come until the PWBA Tour Championship. She would beat PWBA Player of the Year Liz Johnson in the semifinals and PWBA Rookie of the Year Stefanie Johnson in the title match.

McEwan's mother, Susan Varano, was on hand to see that first title. And that strong family support also was evident the week before at the Bowlmor AMF U.S. Women's Open where McEwan's brother, Nick, sisters Victoria and Gianna, as well as her boyfriend, Professional Bowlers Association champion Marshall Kent, were on hand when she competed at Brunswick Zone Carolier in North Brunswick, New Jersey.

"I feel when you've made it to this level, you deserve to be supported," Varano said. "She's worked so hard, and I'm sure all the ladies out here work equally as hard, but I don't witness that on a daily basis. Just the

practice, the workouts, the eating right and the books she reads to keep her mind where it should be. A lot goes into it."

Varano said that hard work is a trait that has led to McEwan to achieve the best possible results, regardless of the sport or activity.

"Since she was little, Danielle has always been the type that when she decided to do



Danielle McEwan with her mom, Susan Varano

something, there was no halfway," Varano said. "When she played tennis or did Irish step dancing, every single thing she put her mind to, she took it as far as it could go. I have no doubt she will take bowling as far as it can go as well."

McEwan's passion, commitment and determination inspired her brother to find success on the lanes. Nick finished fifth at this year's Junior Gold Championships in the U12 division.

"Right before Junior Gold, I told him he had such an advantage to be able to go and practice with me and Marshall because we are familiar with the patterns and can give him so much information," McEwan said during the U.S. Women's Open. "You can tell this week he's paying more attention. He's not just here clapping when I strike; he's more into it with watching what's going on with ball changes."

Though it may seem easy to be a spectator when McEwan is bowling, Varano said it's not easy.

"It's very stressful for me," Varano said. "A lot of times I'm texting my husband about how she's doing, he tells me to stop worrying. You want to see your child do well, that's the ultimate goal."



2015 PWBA TOUR

# A LEAGUE (AND TOUR) OF THEIR OWN

**A LITTLE** more than a year ago, the announcement was made that the Professional Women's Bowling Association (PWBA) Tour would re-launch in 2015.

Women's bowling has seen tremendous growth in the last decade at the high school and collegiate levels, and the boards of USBC and the Bowling Proprietors' Association of America (BPAA) committed to funding a women's pro tour for three years.



The first of those three years is in the books and what a year

it was. From the opening event, the USBC Queens in Green Bay, Wisconsin, through the PWBA Tour Championship, the 2015 season provided great competition and an opportunity for many bowlers to fulfill a dream.

A quick look at highlights from the PWBA season:

**The young guns** – Anyone who has watched college bowling in the last few years, such as the Intercollegiate Team and Singles Championships or the NCAA Women's Bowling Championships, has seen many of the talented bowlers who would take part in the PWBA Tour. For more than a decade, the USBC Queens and the U.S. Women's Open were the only events to look forward to each year for women who had com-



## 2015 PWBA TOUR TITLE WINNERS

**USBC Queens** – Liz Johnson

**PWBA Storm Sacramento Open** – Elysia Current

**PWBA Lubbock Sports Open** – Jazreel Tan

**PWBA Wichita Open** – Stefanie Johnson

**PBA/PWBA Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles** – Shannon O'Keefe and Bill O'Neill

**PWBA Topeka Open presented by Prairie Band Casino & Resort** – Liz Kuhlkin

**PWBA Lincoln Open** – Amanda Greene

**PWBA Minnesota Open** – Diana Zavjalova

**PWBA Detroit Open** – Liz Johnson

**Bowlmor AMF U.S. Women's Open** – Liz Johnson

**The Smithfield PWBA Tour Championship promoted by GoBowling.com** – Danielle McEwan



pleted their college eligibility.

But with an opportunity to compete as a pro, more than a few former student-athletes were ready to step on the lanes. And they did not disappoint.

Elysia Current, Jazreel Tan, Stefanie Johnson, Liz Kuhlkin, Amanda Greene and Diana Zavjalova each won a title and Danielle McEwan won the final event, the PWBA Tour Championship. What do they all have in common? The oldest of the group is 31 and five of the seven are age 26 or younger.

"For the most part, I think the bulk of our tour are people around my age, people I bowled against or watched bowl through college," McEwan said. "So it's pretty cool we get to share this experience and help it grow."

**Not so fast** – While the youngsters were impressive, Liz Johnson showed she still was a "major" force. She won the season-opening USBC Queens, the PWBA Detroit Open and U.S. Women's Open. She also made it to the final four of the PWBA Tour Championship.

"It's a huge surprise for me," said Johnson, who led the PWBA in earnings, points and average on her way to winning PWBA Player of the Year honors for the first time in her career. "I never thought it was going to be as big as it was for me. The Queens, obviously, was a great start."

Johnson would miss the first PWBA standard event while taking part in the Bowling World Open in Japan. She said she was

"mentally treading water" before making the show in Detroit, which gave her confidence heading into the U.S. Women's Open. That event, with its longer format and tougher conditions, is what Johnson prefers and she was able to edge Shannon O'Keefe for the title.

Johnson admits she has to stay on top of her game to fight through the fatigue factor that can hit toward the end of the season.

"These young girls are really strong, physically and mentally," Johnson said. "They are hungry to win. You see a lot of great talent out there and you just got to hopefully keep up with them."

**Fillin' lanes** – The PWBA had nearly 100 members and the tour started with a bang as the PWBA Storm Sacramento Open quickly sold out, necessitating the addition of more spots in the field. The fields for other events also were increased but quickly filled, too. The Thursday-Sunday format meant most standard events were limited to fields of 80 to 120 bowlers.

**Industry support** – Bowling fans were not the only ones excited to see the PWBA Tour return. The bowling industry showed its support as companies such as 900 Global, Brunswick, Columbia 300, Hammer, Roto Grip and Storm registered their products and logos for competition. Kegel, PBA and GoBowling.com also were supporters of the tour and several



Liz Johnson and  
Stefanie Johnson

## BY THE NUMBERS

**\$92,700** Earned by PWBA Player of the Year Liz Johnson as she won three titles, including two majors

**214** Average for Liz Johnson and Danielle McEwan. Going a little deeper, Johnson finished ahead of McEwan by .54

**10** match-play appearances by Stefanie Johnson, who earned PWBA Rookie of the Year honors

**6** championship-round appearances by PWBA spokesperson Kelly Kulick, the most on tour

BPA member centers quickly jumped on the opportunity to submit applications to possibly host events. Later in the season, Smithfield Foods came aboard as the sponsor of the PWBA Tour Championship.

**And the best part ...** The first year of the newly launched PWBA provided drama, excitement, great competition and a lot of fun for players and fans

alike. But the best part might be that 2015 was just the start. Building a tour is an ongoing process, learning from mistakes and building on the successes, and plans already are underway for Season 2. Information on the 2016 PWBA Tour season will be announced soon, so make sure to follow the tour at PWBA.com and on Twitter at Twitter.com/PWBATour.

# USBC QUICK STRIKES

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE UNITED STATES BOWLING CONGRESS

## New schedule highlights Junior Gold improvements

The Junior Gold Championships has made several improvements for the 2016 event to provide a better experience for both competitors and attendees, and to prepare for continued growth of the event.

The 2016 Junior Gold Championships presented by Storm, Roto Grip and Master will take place July 15-23 at five



bowling centers on each pair making the centers more accessible for family and friends, and will set up the tournament for additional growth.

Other changes were made to mirror collegiate rules, since Junior Gold is considered a steppingstone to collegiate competition. Bowlers will

be limited to five bowling balls and the event has adopted the collegiate dress code, allowing females to wear skirts, skorts and shorts. Also, lane patterns will not be released until after competition but will remain Sport compliant.

To learn more about the Junior Gold program and the Junior Gold Championships, go to [BOWL.com/JuniorGold](http://BOWL.com/JuniorGold).

Applications and requirements for the Star of Tomorrow Awards, Earl Anthony Memorial Scholarships, Annual Zeb Scholarship, USBC Youth Ambassadors and Gift for Life Scholarship applications can be found at [BOWL.com/ScholarshipsAwards](http://BOWL.com/ScholarshipsAwards).

USBC also recognizes youth bowling leaders with three national awards – the David Dahms Coach of the Year, Kerm Helmer Horizon Award and USBC Youth Volunteer of the Year Award. To learn more about each of these awards and for applications, please visit [BOWL.com/ScholarshipsAwards](http://BOWL.com/ScholarshipsAwards).

## USA Bowling regionals continue through January

With 11 of the 16 events scheduled to take place over the next three months, youth teams still have the opportunity to take part in a USA Bowling regional event.

The USA Bowling regionals, two-day events which have Baker matches and double-elimination match play, will determine the teams that will advance to the first USA Bowling national tournament scheduled for 2016 in Indianapolis with the finals on TV.

Each regional has an Under 12 (born Aug. 1, 2003 or later) and Under 15 (born between Aug. 1, 2000 and

July 31, 2003) division and teams do not have to be members of a USA

Bowling league to participate. The events cost \$110 per team.

Go to [BOWL.com/USABowling](http://BOWL.com/USABowling) for more information and for a registration form.



2015 Junior Gold Championships

bowling centers in the Indianapolis area: Western Bowl, Expo Bowl, Woodland Bowl, All Star Bowl and Southern Bowl.

After two practice days (July 16-17), competitors in all divisions – Under 12, Under 15 and Under 20 boys and girls divisions – will take part in qualifying, bowling four games each day over four days for a total of 16 qualifying games before the first cut is made. Previously, qualifying took place over three days and with the extra day of qualifying the TV finals for the event will take place on Saturday, July 23.

The new schedule allows the tournament to have additional squads, which will mean fewer

## Youth scholarships applications due Dec. 1

One of the benefits of becoming a USBC Youth member is the opportunity to earn college scholarships and each year USBC awards several scholarships. While some of the scholarships are based on bowling ability, such as the Alberta E. Crowe and Chuck

Hall Star of Tomorrow awards, other scholarships are for USBC Youth bowlers who are active in their communities or might need financial assistance to attend college.



## CALENDAR

**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 Bowling Center  
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

**February 7-14, 2016**

**USBC Masters**  
Woodland Bowl  
Indianapolis

**March 5-July 11, 2016**

**USBC Open Championships**  
National Bowling Stadium  
Reno, Nev.

**March 12-13, 2016**

**Intercollegiate Team and Singles Sectionals**  
Addison, Ill.; Las Vegas;  
Smyrna, Tenn.; Stratford, N.J.

**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

**April 19-23, 2016**

**Intercollegiate Team and Singles Championships**  
Northrock Lanes  
Wichita, Kansas

**May 16-20, 2016**

**USBC Senior Queens**  
The Orleans Hotel & Casino  
Las Vegas

**May 20-26, 2016**

**USBC Queens**  
The Orleans Hotel & Casino  
Las Vegas

**June 19-25, 2016**

**USBC Senior Masters**  
Sam's Town Bowling Center  
Las Vegas

Go to [BOWL.com/Tournaments](http://BOWL.com/Tournaments) for complete information.