

COVER STORY

## USBC COACHING EXPANDS TO JAPAN

**COACHING IS** such an important part of any sport. Sure, there are athletes with natural abilities who might excel without instruction, but most athletes need coaches to teach proper technique, help eliminate flaws in performance or just push a player to a higher level.

Just like players, coaches also need to develop their expertise if they want to train athletes, and USBC Coaching is the go-to resource for bowling organizations and bowlers around the world.



More than a few national federations have taken advantage of international certification classes offered by USBC Coaching through its network of coaching ambassadors. Recently, the Japanese Professional Bowling Association (JPBA) invited USBC Director of Coaching Certification and Development Stephen Padilla to conduct the first Level I and Bronze certification coaching classes for the JPBA.

Fifty-seven JPBA members took the three-day education and certification classes that included classroom sessions and on-lane lessons.

Following the classes, USBC Coaching signed an international agreement with the Japan Bowling Congress, the country's major sanctioning body, to host future coaching certification classes.

"Building a new coaching culture in



Japan is exciting," said Padilla, a USBC Gold coach and Team USA assistant coach. "With the JPBA's initial involvement and the Japan Bowling Congress' continuing efforts, we look forward to assisting in the development of bowling's future in Japan."

Japan's interest in developing world-class bowlers has been more determined in recent years. In 2014, the Professional Bowlers Association teamed with Japan Bowling Promotions on a regional tour.

"USBC Coaching's agreement with JBC is a tremendous opportunity," USBC Executive Director Chad Murphy said. "As we continue

to build a future for the sport, it is important to work with all organizations to promote and teach bowling. We are excited to share our coaching programs with JBC and the JPBA."

The JBC announced Kazuhide Shimoji, Japan's current national team head coach,

will be the first instructor for the bowling programs. He has undergone extensive training to begin teaching certification classes, and JBC plans to add more instructors.

Japan joins Australia and New Zealand as countries to adopt USBC Coaching programs on a national scale.

A few years ago, Tenpin Bowling Australia (TBA) spent months reviewing coaching programs and found USBC had the programs to best meet its needs. TBA officials, in their document explaining the transition to USBC programs, stated "we can be assured that all coaching programs will be updated periodically to ensure our teachings and coaching philosophies keep up to date with the modern game."

At the classes in Japan, participants received translated manuals and workbooks, while attending 27 hours of classroom and on-lane sessions. They learned to teach everything from safety and etiquette for first-time bowlers to hand fitting, arsenal selection and lane play for advanced players.

Participants also learned ways to structure a coaching business, including how to communicate effectively with proprietors and pro shop operators.

Go to [BOWL.com/Coaching](http://BOWL.com/Coaching) for more information.



COACHING



COLLEGE BOWLING

# THE LONG, WINDING ROAD TO A NATIONAL TITLE

**THE INTERCOLLEGIATE** Team and Singles Championships will be on CBS Sports Network this month, the 15th consecutive year viewers will witness student-athletes achieving their dreams of hoisting the Helmer Cup on national television.

But before the champions are decided, do you know how the student-athletes and coaches arrived on your TV screen?



You will need to go back about eight months, when the collegiate season kicked off. That was the start of teams from more than 200 schools zipping across the country – in cars, team buses, 15-passenger vans or, if they are lucky, they get to fly – to compete for tournament titles and the important ranking points. During the 2014-2015 regular season, there were 150 tournaments and teams bowled nearly 155,000 games.

Not all events are the same. For example, the Midwest Collegiate Championships, held the first weekend of October, was the first Tier I event on the USBC Collegiate schedule and drew 40 men's and 32 women's teams eager to jumpstart their season.

What exactly is a Tier I event? Well, as teams roll through the season, they accumulate CollegeBowling.com Online Team Power Ranking (OTPR) points



**North Carolina A&T took down defending champion Robert Morris-Illinois to capture its first Intercollegiate Team Championships title in 2015.**

based on their finish at an event, the level of the tournament (Tier I or Tier II) and the amount of teams in the field.

Tier I events award more power points because they are required to be held on Sport-certified lane conditions and have longer formats, compared to Tier II events. There are 10 Tier I events scheduled during the season and these are key events in earning OTPR points.

The OTPR itself is an objective point system that was developed in 1998 by current Michigan State head coach and National Coaches Bowling Coaches Association (NCBCA)

President Karl Nickolai. Nickolai also bowled collegiately at Michigan State and has coached the team for 30 years. Four-time NCBCA All-American and former Professional Bowlers Association Rookie of the Year Joe Ciccone also had some important influential suggestions for OTPR.

Securing OTPR points is key because the point system determines the top 80 men's and top 64 women's teams that advance to the ITC Sectionals. The Wichita State women's team left no doubt they would reach sectionals this season by earning the maximum points at

each event. Yes, they qualified first in all 10 events in which they competed, including five Tier I events.

For most USBC Collegiate teams, the regular season concludes in February with the Hoosier Classic, the final Tier I of the season. Similar to the growth of USBC Collegiate, the Hoosier Classic has experienced rapid growth in recent years. This year's event pulled in 144 men's and women's varsity teams.

The Hoosier Classic holds great value for many reasons. For some, a strong finish could be the final step in securing an

ITC Sectionals selection. For others, it's the chance to compete against potential ITC-bound teams in serious competition prior to the postseason.

Shortly after the Hoo-sier Classic, USBC Collegiate selects and assigns teams to sectional sites. Sectionals consists of four regional qualifiers where teams are placed based on their OTRP ranking and geographical location. The top four teams from each qualifier earn an ITC berth. This season's sectional sites were Addison, Illinois; Las Vegas; Smyrna, Tennessee; and Stratford, New Jersey.

Sectionals also provide the opportunity for student-athletes to shine individually. Similar to the ITC, the Intercollegiate Singles Championships provides 24 men and 16 women a chance to win a national title. Qualifying was conducted prior to team competition at each of the four regional sectionals, with competitors bowling six games to determine advancers.

USBC Collegiate has crowned singles champions for 13 consecutive seasons, with the previous four events viewed by a national television audience.

And while these bowlers are taking long trips to events most weekends during the season, don't forget they also are stu-

dents juggling full course loads. To be eligible to bowl, students must be full-time students and maintain a 2.0 GPA. USBC Collegiate conducts three academic checks during the season – fall

semester, spring semester and prior to postseason competition – along with each respective institution's own mandates, to ensure compliance and eligibility standards are upheld.



For the student-athletes who excel in the classroom and obtain a cumulative 3.5 grade-point average, the NCBCA honors them at the end of the season. During the 2015-2016 season, 720 student-athletes were recognized for their academic achievements.

But everything during the course of the season funnels to the one week when national titles are determined and moments such as the one MacKenzie Robinson experienced last season. Needing to mark with count in the final frame to secure the title for North Carolina

A&T, the sophomore delivered a strike in her first offering, and then sealed the title with a nine count.

"That was amazing," Robinson said afterward. "All of the girls were telling me to give them the first one. I owed it to them and myself. It was the best shot I threw all day. We got to go back with the trophy and showed that we can deliver on a big stage."

When you tune into CBS Sports Network this month to watch the best college teams and individuals compete for a national title, you will understand the long road the teams took to reach the pinnacle of the college bowling world.

## ROLLING TO A TITLE

CBS Sports Network will televise the title matches of the Intercollegiate Team Championships and Intercollegiate Singles Championships starting in May. Check your local listings for CBS Sports Network. The schedule (Eastern times):



Day, date	Competition	Start time
Tue., May 10	Women's Singles	9 p.m.
Tue., May 17	Men's Singles	9 p.m.
Tue., May 24	Women's Team	10 p.m.
Sat., June 4	Men's Team	Noon

# USBC QUICK STRIKES

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE UNITED STATES BOWLING CONGRESS

## IBC Youth Committee names award winners

Gazmine Mason of Cranston, Rhode Island, was named the 2016 Alberta E. Crowe Star of Tomorrow and Jack Cook of Denville, New Jersey, is the 2016 Chuck Hall Star of Tomorrow Award winner. Each will receive a \$6,000 scholarship.



Gazmine Mason



Jack Cook

The IBC Youth Committee also selected Cyan Baker of Chicago, McKenna Collier of Brick, New Jersey, Lauren Douglas of Phoenix, Richard Hochecker IV of Ballwin, Missouri, and Zachary Marlow of Gulfport, Mississippi, to each receive a \$5,000 scholarship as Earl Anthony Memorial Scholarship winners.

Jenna Rose Harrington of Barneveld, New York, and Daniel Bolan of Orlando, Florida, were named the 2016 Youth Ambassadors of the Year and each received a \$1,500 scholarship. Dakota Miller of Potosi, Missouri, received a \$2,500 scholarship as the Annual Zeb Scholarship recipient.

## Sites, dates set for several majors

USBC recently announced the 2017 USBC Masters is set for Feb. 19-26 at The Orleans in Las Vegas. The tournament, a major on the Professional Bowlers Association Tour, once again will be in the same host city as the



USBC Open Championships.

The 2017 USBC Queens and Senior Queens will take place concurrently from May 17-23. The events will be held in the same custom-built facility that will play host to the 2017 USBC Women's Championships, the Baton Rouge River Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

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Anthony Simonsen

## Simonsen joins 2016 Team USA

Anthony Simonsen of Princeton, Texas, who earned a spot on Junior Team USA at the USBC Team USA Trials in January, recently was added to the Team USA roster for 2016. In February, Simonsen, 19, won the 2016 USBC Masters to become the youngest major title winner.

"Getting the call from Coach Rod Ross telling me they would like to have me join the adult team is a call I never imagined to get and definitely won't ever forget," Simonsen said. "It is an honor to represent my country on both teams."

## Deadline for Bowling Combine

The application deadline for student-athletes who want to attend the 2016 Bowling Combine for College Prospects is May 9. The Combine, where young bowlers are evaluated



using state-of-the-art technology, will take place Aug. 9-13 at the International Training and Research Center in Arlington, Texas. Go to [BOWL.com/Combine](http://BOWL.com/Combine) for complete information.

This will be the sixth consecutive year for the Combine. College coaches also can attend, at no cost, to attend to meet potential student-athletes. Coaches will need to register to attend.

## 85-year-old bowler rolls 800 series

William Lautenschlager of Stockton, California, put together games of 226, 279 and 300 for an 805 set Jan. 14 at Stockton's West Lane Bowl. At age 85 years and 9 days old, he became the oldest bowler to roll a USBC-certified 800 series.



William Lautenschlager

It was the third 800 series of Lautenschlager's career, and first since 1996. Lautenschlager bowls in three leagues and also is a part-time car hobbyist. He says the combination keeps him active and feeling young.

## CALENDAR

**May 5-7, 2016**

**Nationwide PWBA Sonoma County Open**  
Double Decker Lanes  
Rohnert Park, Calif.

**May 12-15, 2016**

**PWBA Storm Sacramento Open**  
Steve Cook's Fireside Lanes  
Sacramento, Calif.

**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 2-5, 2016**

**PWBA Wichita Open**  
Northrock Lanes  
Wichita, Kan.

**June 9-12, 2016**

**Pepsi PWBA Lincoln Open**  
Sun Valley Lanes  
Lincoln, Neb.

**June 16-19, 2016**

**PWBA Greater Detroit Open**  
Super Bowl  
Canton, Mich.

**June 16-19, 2016**

**ITRC Super Senior Classic**  
Sam's Town Bowling Center  
Las Vegas

**June 19-25, 2016**

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

**June 23-26, 2016**

**Go Bowling PWBA Players Championship**  
The Ashwaubenon Bowling Alley  
Green Bay, Wis.

**June 30-July 3, 2016**

**PWBA Lexington Open**  
Collins Bowling Center - Eastland  
Lexington, Ky.

**July 7-10, 2016**

**PWBA Rochester Open**  
AMF Gates Lanes  
Rochester, N.Y.

**July 14-17, 2016**

**PWBA St. Petersburg-Clearwater Open**  
Seminole Lanes  
St. Petersburg, Fla.

**July 14-15, 22-25, 29-31, 2016**

**Bowling.com Youth Open**  
Expo Bowl  
Indianapolis

**July 16-23, 2016**

**Junior Gold Championships presented by Storm, Roto Grip and Master**

All Star Bowl, Expo Bowl, Southern Bowl, Western Bowl, Woodland Bowl  
Indianapolis

**July 20-23, 2016**

**USA Bowling National Championships**  
Woodland Bowl, All Star Bowl, Western Bowl  
Indianapolis