

USA BOWLING READY TO TAKE NATIONAL STEP

USA BOWLING will have its inaugural national championship event this summer, and a youth program from Tennessee will be well represented in the competition.

The road to the USA Bowling National Championships started last October, when the first regional events were held in Indiana



and Colorado. A total of 16 regionals would take place over the next four months to find the top U12 and U15 youth teams in the United States.

Those teams now will converge in Indianapolis on July 20-23 to see who can claim a national title. CBS Sports Network will air the national title matches of the first USA Bowling National Championships on Aug. 16 and Aug. 22.

Smyrna Bowling Center in Smyrna, Tennessee, qualified four teams for the competition. Kelly Marlin, the center's youth director, started sending his teams to regional events in 2014, when USA Bowling first started its regional program.

"We have many scratch bowlers in our youth programs and the USA Bowling Regionals provide an excellent venue for their development for the future," Marlin said. "We have participated

since the inception, and our bowlers have gone on to great successes in high school team competition. It is an exceptional training tool for future high school and collegiate competition."

International Bowling Campus Youth Development started USA Bowling as a team-based youth program to introduce youngsters to bowling. USA Bowling follows the same structure as other youth sports by placing children on a team, providing a coach for each team and having regular practices along



Marlin has been the youth director at Smyrna Bowling Center since the center's opening

in 1996. He is predominately involved in the marketing and coaching of the youth programs.

"Our program varies in size based on the season," Marlin said.

"Having said that, we typically certify about 400

bowlers per year."

But Smyrna's youth bowlers won't be in Indianapolis this summer just for the USA Bowling National Championships. Many also will take part in the Junior Gold Championships presented by Storm, Roto Grip and Master.

"Our youth are very involved in the Junior Gold program," Marlin said. "One of our bowlers, Danielle Jedlicki, won the U15 girls division last year. Some of our kids are just bowling the Junior Gold Championships while others are bowling both Junior Gold and the USA Bowling National Championships. I believe we are at 40 attendees to Junior Gold from our center."

Visit BOWL.com/USABowling to learn more about the USA Bowling National Championships, and see BOWL.com/Junior-Gold to learn more about the Junior Gold Championships.

USA BOWLING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS SCHEDULE

(At Indianapolis)

• **U15 at Woodland Bowl**

Wednesday, July 20 – Qualifying (15 games), 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, July 21 – Double-elimination bracket, 8 p.m.

• **U12 at All Star Bowl**

Friday, July 22 – Qualifying (15 games), 7 a.m.

Friday, July 22 – Double-elimination bracket, 7 p.m.

• **National finals at Western Bowl**

Saturday, July 23 – TV Finals, 9 a.m.

with weekly competitions.

The Smyrna teams attended regional tournaments in Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio and Alabama, this year. In the U15 division, Smyrna Elite Red won the Indiana regional, Smyrna Elite Blue won in Kentucky, and Tennessee Elite won at Ohio. In the U12 division, Smyrna Elite Gold won the Alabama regional to reach the national event.

THE POWER OF POSITIVE THINKING AS A COACH AND A COMPETITOR

SMILE. BE KIND. STAY TRUE.

For Kayla Bandy of Salisbury, Maryland, those words are a meaningful part of messages the University of Maryland Eastern Shore coach shares with her athletes and on social media. But to better understand the message, you have to look at the background of the bowler who spends her summers competing on the Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour.



A standout youth bowler, Bandy was a two-time member of Junior Team USA. She said her years on the team not only allowed her to compete internationally, but the training with Team USA coaches helped in her development physically. Failing to make the team a third consecutive year, her last year at Junior Gold, left her in tears but also proved to be a learning experience.

"I can carry that forward to my student-athletes now, that you may be picked over or someone may be selected for a job over you," Bandy said. "That doesn't matter. It's how you get back up."

She attended the University of Pikeville in Kentucky starting in 2004 and was a scholarship athlete in volleyball. Ron Damron, who built the bowling program into an annual championship contender during his 15 seasons, convinced Bandy to also bowl for Pikeville. She said Damron taught her more than just how to be a better bowler.

"Ron really taught us how to be a



better person, while also bowling," Bandy said. "We won a lot of matches, and we probably weren't the most talented team, but because we worked together as a team, to be efficient as a team. It left a lasting impression on us. A lot of us have careers and have been successful at what we do, not just in bowling. He taught us a lot of life lessons – how to be a good co-worker, a good friend, how to genuinely care about people. Ron really left a lasting impression on us."

Bandy might be underplaying the talent part, at least in her case. During her collegiate career, she was named Rookie of the Year by the National Collegiate Bowling Coaches Association (NCBCA) in 2005, selected NCBCA Most Valuable Player in 2007 and 2008 and was named first-team



PHOTO BY MEGAN RAYMOND

All-America three times. She was inducted into Pikeville's Hall of Fame in 2014.

After completing her undergraduate degree, she began working on her master's and serving as an assistant coach under Damron. She then received an interesting call from one of Pikeville's biggest rivals, Maryland Eastern Shore.

Bandy was a member of the Pikeville team that beat UMES in the semifinals of the 2008 Intercollegiate Team Championships, and Pikeville went on to claim the title. Then, she was on the Bears' coaching staff in 2013 when UMES turned the tables, beating Pikeville on its way to the ITC title.

Now, UMES wanted to talk to Bandy about leading its women's bowling program.

"They were one of our biggest rivals, and I was taken aback a little by the offer, but I went to visit and loved it," Bandy said. "They have a great facility there. The staff that I work with is incredible. Just getting to work with the youth has been an incredible venture in itself. You get to watch girls do what they love to do while furthering their education and now, with the professional tour, I'm kind of getting them warmed up for what's to come."

The opportunity to coach youth bowlers has been a blessing for her, Bandy said. She is helping to build a future for the sport and believes it's important to affect positive change. She explained that while people will promote, market and brand themselves in a positive way, until they truly buy into it then it doesn't mean anything.

Which comes back to the "Smile-Be kind-Stay true" message she shares in her social media posts. It's a reminder, even for her, to be positive and genuinely care about people.

"It's about being bigger than the negative thought that's immediately in your brain," Bandy said. "It's about getting past that. If I can affect change even in just my athletes ..."

She also will have another way to help her athletes. Competing on the PWBA Tour during the summer not only will help her



PHOTO BY NICK SUTTON

become better as a player, she said it also should help her become better as a coach.

"As a coach, you are looking for tons and tons of knowledge so you can become better," she said. "There are seminars, you can work with individual coaches – but being out here on tour, watching the best and learning from the best, it's where it's

at. Taking that back to my team is pretty awesome."

So, as a player and as a coach, what is the one piece of advice Bandy would give any bowler?

"It's bigger than bowling. What you are learning in the sport of bowling carries over to life – to never give up, to keep fighting."

SUMMER VACATION

Kayla Bandy isn't the only player on the PWBA Tour who leads a women's collegiate bowling team. A look at the PWBA Tour players who also are college coaches:

Kayla Bandy
Maryland Eastern Shore head coach

Brandi Branka
Maryville head coach

Elysia Current
Delaware State head coach



Josie Earnest
Vanderbilt assistant coach

Gabriella Mayfield
Valparaiso assistant coach

Shannon O'Keefe
McKendree head coach

USBC QUICK STRIKES

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE UNITED STATES BOWLING CONGRESS

Junior Gold break records, Opening Ceremony set

The Junior Gold program had another record-setting year for membership and tournament entries. Junior Gold membership reached an all-time high for the sixth consecutive year, with nearly 6,500 members. The Junior Gold Championships presented



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by Storm, Roto Grip and Master, set for July 16-23 in Indianapolis, also hit a record high with more than 3,700 spots sold. The Junior Gold program is overseen by the International Bowling Campus Youth Development team.

IBC Youth Development also

announced the athlete registration and the trade show that annually open the Junior Gold Championships will take place at the 73,000-square-foot Elements Blue Ribbon Pavilion at the Indiana State Fairgrounds on Saturday, July 16, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. There also will be seminars from Storm.

Storm also will host the Storm Day in The Park on Sunday, July 17, from 2:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., a free event that will take place at White River State Park.

Also on Sunday, July 17, the Junior Gold Championships Opening Ceremony will be held at Victory Field from 7 p.m.-10 p.m. Visit BOWL.com/JuniorGold and go to the Competitor's Guide for the complete schedule.

Open Championships participation icon dies

Sylvester Thiel of Lake City, Minnesota, who had competed in 71 USBC Open Championships, died at his home May 31. He was 93.

He had tied the participation record of USBC Hall of Famers Bill Doehrmann and Joe Norris on March 16, 2016, at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nevada. Thiel made his first USBC Open Championships appearance at the 1940 event in Detroit.



Sylvester Thiel

USBC events, to set lane patterns for competitions.

In addition to signature events such as the USBC Masters and USBC Queens, USBC handles tournament operations for the PWBA Tour, U.S.

Open and U.S.

Women's Open events, and the Junior Gold Championships and the USA Bowling National Championship, which are supported by the Bowling Proprietors' Association of America (BPAA) and USBC.

Hoagland worked for the PBA from 2001-2005 as Manager of Consumer Programs and has been involved in directing the annual Hoosier Classic, a major collegiate event.



Nicholas Hoagland

Hoagland to lead lane pattern development

Nicholas Hoagland of Indianapolis will lead the lane pattern development program for USBC, working with USBC tournament directors and Kegel, the official lane maintenance provider for

Clay, Teeters join 100,000-Pin Club

Frank Clay of Crystal Lake, Illinois, joined the 100,000-Pin Club at the USBC Open Championships on April 30 at the National Bowling Stadium. He is the 18th bowler in 113 years of the tournament's history to reach the milestone.

Clay, who was competing in his 62nd Open Championships, is one of only 23 bowlers in tournament history who have competed 60 or more times.

Robert Teeters of Lapel, Indiana, celebrated a dual milestone at the NBS as he made his 60th tournament appearance and became the 19th bowler to eclipse the 100,000-pin mark. Teeters competed May 7-8.

Wilkinson re-elected USBC president

Frank Wilkinson of Staten Island, New York, was re-elected USBC president and Cathy DeSocio of Wichita, Kansas, will continue to serve as vice president of USBC. Wilkinson and DeSocio were re-elected as officers for the 2016-2017 season by the USBC Board of Directors, following the USBC Convention.

Wilkinson, 29, will begin his second term as president on Aug. 1. At the 2016 USBC Convention, he was elected to the board by delegates. DeSocio also will be serving her second term as vice president.

Site set for Smithfield PWBA Tour Championship

The 2016 Smithfield PWBA Tour Championship, the final event of the PWBA Tour season, will be held Sept. 1-4 at Uptown Alley in Midlothian, Virginia. CBS

CALENDAR

Now-July 11, 2016

USBC Open Championships
National Bowling Stadium
Reno, Nev.

Now-July 11, 2016

USBC Women's Championships
South Point Bowling Plaza
Las Vegas

Now-July 10, 2016

USBC Mixed Championships
South Point Bowling Plaza
Las Vegas

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

July 24-Aug. 3, 2016

World Bowling World Youth Championships
Sun Valley Lanes
Lincoln, Neb.

July 25-Aug. 2, 2016

Lee Evans Tournament of the Americas
Strikers Lanes
Sunrise, Fla.

July 29-31, 2016

PBA/PWBA Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles
Bowl on Bellaire
Houston

Go to BOWL.com/Tournaments for complete information.

Sports Network will televise the event's semifinals and championship matches.

Smithfield, a major PWBA Tour sponsor, is headquartered in nearby Smithfield, Virginia, and the opportunity to have the pinnacle event of the PWBA season nearby was a perfect fit. The PWBA Tour is collaboratively funded by BPAA and USBC.