

YOUTH BOWLING

SUMMERTIME WAS GO TIME FOR SCHWARTZ

AS THE DAYS begin to get shorter and the leaves begin to slowly fall to the ground, it can only mean one thing – it's time for school to start again.

And no matter if you're heading back to college, high school or elementary school, one of the most common questions you'll hear is "Hey, what did you do this summer?"



When Stephanie Schwartz of Racine, Wisconsin, returns to the campus of Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Texas, her answer will be simple – bowling. And lots of it.

The 20-year-old, who will be a junior this fall, had a pretty busy schedule on the lanes prior to hitting summer break, and she had no intentions of slowing down.

Schwartz started off 2016 by using her winter break to go to Las Vegas to compete at the United States Bowling Congress Team USA Trials, where she earned her spot on Junior Team USA for the third consecutive year.

Her overall performance as one of the top amateurs after 30 games on five challenging lane patterns also gave her the opportunity to compete in the stepladder finals of the United States National Amateur Bowling Championships. She would defeat Heather Penatzer of Tucson, Arizona, to win the title and earn her spot on the adult team for the first time.



"It's a great feeling," Schwartz said after that victory. "I've never won anything this big, so it's really cool. Being able to be on both Team USA and Junior Team USA is incredible."

But another big moment was just ahead. As the spring semester approached, Schwartz not only hit the books to continue on her path toward earning a degree in the education field, but she also hit the lanes as a member of the Stephen F. Austin women's bowling program.

By the end of the semester, Schwartz had

helped the Ladyjacks to the 2016 NCAA Bowling Championships title, the first in school history. The anchor bowler for the team, she was recognized by the National Tenpin Coaches Association as the Division 1 Player of the Year for the 2015-2016 collegiate season.

Also taking place during the semester was a trip to the semifinals of the 2016 Intercollegiate Singles Championships, which aired on CBS Sports Network in May.

After such a tremendous stretch, Schwartz could have taken it easy and looked at 2016

as an extremely successful year. She knew, however, the summer months provided her with more opportunities to showcase her talent as an up-and-coming star in the sport.

"We started the collegiate season in October, and I really haven't stopped since then," said Schwartz, a two-time NTCA First-Team All-America member. "I had to keep preparing for everything that was coming up this summer."

Her first summer trip came at the end of May at the USBC Queens. She would show her resilience after a rough start to lead the final round of qualifying and make match play against a field of more than 250 of the top female players from across the globe.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TERENCE YAW

That performance was followed by trips to the International Training and Research Center in Arlington, Texas, for two training camps – Junior Team USA camp in June and Team USA camp at the beginning of July. The camps gave her another opportunity to work with Team USA head coach Rod Ross and Team USA assistant head coach Kim Terrell-Kearney.

"I've learned a lot from Rod and Kim," said Schwartz. "I have even gone to see them once in a while on the weekends during the school year since it's so close. They've helped my game so much since I've been on the team, and I don't think I'd be where I am without them."

July also meant it was time for the Junior Gold Championships. As you can probably guess, Schwartz put together another impressive performance against the largest field in

Junior Gold history to record a top-12 finish.

To finish off the summer, she laced up her shoes against the best in the world one more time, representing Junior Team USA at the 2016 World Bowling Youth Championships, which included competitors from nearly 40 countries. She collected a pair of medals (silver in team and bronze in doubles) for the United States over the course of the week-long event.

Joining the Junior Team USA program, which helps build a future for the sport by providing young athletes with the opportunity to represent the United States in international competition, as well as lay the foundation for the next generation to wear

the red, white and blue, was part of the motivation for Schwartz to want to see her summer vacation plans change.

"I found out about Junior Team USA when I first started bowling Junior Gold, which was when I was about 12," Schwartz said. "I saw how they had the chance to compete in different countries, and I thought that was really cool. That pushed me to want to get

better, since I wanted to be like them. Now, I've had the opportunity to represent my country on the lanes for the past three years, and it has been an awesome experience."

She took part in the World Youth Championships in Hong Kong in 2014, earning bronze in the team event. She also went to Panama City, Panama, for the 2015 Pan American Bowling Confederation (PABCON) Youth Championships and earned a silver medal in team and paired with Breanna Clemmer to take bronze in doubles.

After she completes college, Schwartz hopes to keep her summers just as busy by joining the Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour.

"I want to be a teacher, so that would allow me to be out on tour during the summer," Schwartz said. "It would be great to be able to do both."



Frequent flyer miles

Stephanie Schwartz's exciting summer on the lanes meant traveling across the United States. In total, she covered more than 10,000 miles from her home in Racine, Wis.:

Nacogdoches, Texas: 1,015 miles

Las Vegas: 3,575 miles

Arlington, Texas (twice): 4,000 miles

Indianapolis: 260 miles

Indianapolis to Lincoln, Neb.: 640 miles

Lincoln, Neb., to Racine, Wis.: 560 miles

CAPTAINS GET THEIR TROOPS IN SYNC

FROM THE MOMS and dads who run the Girl Scouts' cookie sales to the people who contact you every 5-10 years to remind you it's time to get the high school gang together, we generally wait for someone else to plan things.

In the world of the USBC Open Championships, USBC Women's Championships and the USBC Mixed, these people are called team captains. They are the ones



who pull together the four or five people needed to compete in the national championships, then take care of the details such as paperwork, selecting squad

times, hotels, etc.

While having a great team captain is awesome, there are those who are awesome many times over. People such as Bettie

Vines-Mathis, who brought 28 teams to Las Vegas for the Women's Championships and 30 teams for the Mixed in 2016, or James Costello who had 34 teams for the 2016 Open Championships in Reno, Nevada.

With five-person teams at the Open Championships, and four-person teams for the Women's and Mixed, that means Vines-Mathis and Costello each had to plan for at least 170 bowlers.

That's a lot of planning, and while Vines-Mathis says she does it because "she likes to bring people together," the Captain's Club was designed to reward those who take the time to organize the rest of us.

Coordinators who bring six or more teams to the 2017 Open Championships or any combination of six teams to the Women's Championships and USBC Mixed are eligible to be receive a great benefits package.

In 2017, Captain's Club members will

receive an exclusive track jacket with the Captain's Club logo, a handy two-ball tote, a mini padfolio and stylus pen set, a tournament photo package, Bowling Ball Express discount, a free locker and so much more.

The best part of the Captain's Club? This is one time when the organizer doesn't really have to do anything.

Within a few weeks of submitting, and fully paying, for their teams, coordinators who qualify for the Captain's Club will receive an email to let them

know they have qualified for the club, and a follow-up call will be made to make sure they get the correct size for the track jacket.

The remainder of the Captain's Club

package will be waiting for the team coordinator at the check-in counter of the Open Championships in Las Vegas or the Women's Championships in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Vines-Mathis has been bringing teams for more than 15 years and expects to be in Baton Rouge with an even bigger group.

"I like to bring people together," she said. "I'm the person who likes to talk, so I'll just go up and start talking to you. Getting the teams together is a piece of cake."



PACK YOUR BAGS

Each year, team coordinators bring many teams to compete in the USBC Open Championships, Women's Championships and Mixed. A look at the coordinators who brought in the most teams in 2016.

Open Championships

1. James Costello, Chula Vista, Calif., 34
2. Arman Prescott Conifer, Calif., 26
3. Nick Falkos, Aurora, Ill., 21

Women's/Mixed (total teams)

1. Pat Ward, Mounds View, Minn., 60
2. Bettie Vines-Mathis, Park Forest, Ill., 58
3. Donna Morales, San Jose, Calif., 26

Visit **BOWL.com/CaptainsClub** to learn more about the Captain's Club.

USBC QUICK STRIKES

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE UNITED STATES BOWLING CONGRESS

Brands of Ebonite International are new Junior Gold sponsor

The Brands of Ebonite International – Ebonite, Track, Hammer, and Columbia 300 – are the presenting sponsor of the Junior Gold Championships starting with the 2016-2017 season.

The two-year sponsorship deal has several features, including a scholarship program that will award a total of \$20,000 to Junior Gold bowlers across the country, and the opportunity for four bowlers to receive a special trip to Ebonite's headquarters each year of the agreement.



The 2017 Junior Gold Championships presented by The Brands of Ebonite International will take place in Cleveland in July. There is an option to extend the agreement two additional years, which could push the sponsorship deal to 2020.

IBC Youth awards 28 Bowler's Ed grants

Bowler's Ed grants recently were awarded 28 schools and organizations through International Bowling Campus Youth Development. The grants provide mobile bowling equipment and curriculum to help teach children the sport of bowling.

The Murfreesboro (Tennessee) City Elementary School District received 12 grants, with local bowling center Lanes, Trains, and Automobiles funding four of the



Bowler's Ed kits which cost

\$1,450. New York State USBC also assisted by funding a kit awarded to the Lockport City School District in Lockport, New York.

The Bowler's Ed bowling grants help schools, youth groups and other organizations teach students the lifelong sport of bowling. Go to BOWL.com/Youth-Resource-Center and click on the Bowler's Ed section to learn more about Bowler's Ed.

YES, Bowl4Life partner on seminars

The Youth Education Services (YES) and Chuck Gardner Bowl4Life Scholarship Foundation will team to support additional USA Bowling Coaching seminars throughout the United States.

The YES initiative started in 2010 and USA Bowling was the first program financed by the YES Fund. The USA Bowling Coaching seminars, operated by the IBC Youth Development team, are designed to teach basic bowling coaching skills to youth coaches, volunteers or parents of children involved in the sport. More than 5,700 people attended the 319 seminars conducted between 2011 and 2015.

The Bowl4Life Foundation is a non-profit organization formed in 2013 by Gardner to grow the sport by preparing youth bowlers for collegiate bowling by improving their skill level and knowledge of the game. Starting with youth travel teams and youth tournaments, the foundation has awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships.

Bowling Combine held for sixth year

The 2016 Bowling Combine for College Prospects was held at the International Training and Research Center in August. The Combine sold out for the sixth consecutive year, drawing more than 100 student-athletes who were evaluated by the Team USA staff using the ITRC's state-of-the-art technology.



The Bowling Combine is an objective evaluation of the bowler's skills – not a coaching clinic – and college coaches are invited on-site to watch and talk to the student-athletes. More than 20 collegiate coaches attended the Bowling Combine and coaches in attendance receive data on the bowlers, including the individual and overall skill rankings.

Six Junior Gold bowlers get Sportsmanship Award

Six youth bowlers who competed at the 2016 Junior Gold Championships were selected to receive the David Dahms Sportsmanship Award. The award is given to competitors who best exemplify sportsmanship, leadership, positive attitude and enthusiasm during the event, which was held in Indianapolis in July.

Recipients were selected by the International Bowling Campus Youth Committee based on nominations received from participants. Each of the U12 award recipients receive \$250 scholarships while the U15 and

CALENDAR

Sept. 1-4, 2016
Smithfield PWBA Tour Championship
Uptown Alley
Midlothian, Va.

Sept. 10-24, 2016
PABCON Adult Championships
Bolera Departamental
Cali, Colombia

Oct. 14-23, 2016
QubicaAMF World Cup
Hao's Bowling
Shanghai, China

Nov. 3-9, 2016
U.S. Open
South Point Bowling Plaza
Las Vegas

Dec. 3-11, 2016
World Singles Championships
Qatar Bowling Center
Doha, Qatar

Jan. 3-9, 2017
Team USA Trials
Sunset Station
Las Vegas

Feb. 18-July 10, 2017
USBC Open Championships
South Point Bowling Plaza
Las Vegas

Feb. 19-26, 2017
USBC Masters
Orleans
Las Vegas

April 16-22, 2017
Intercollegiate Team and Singles Championships
Baton Rouge River Center
Baton Rouge, La.

April 23-July 10, 2017
USBC Women's Championships
Baton Rouge River Center
Baton Rouge, La.

April 24-27, 2017
USBC Convention
The Orleans
Las Vegas

April 24-July 9, 2017
USBC Mixed
All Star Lanes
Baton Rouge, La.

May 17-23, 2017
USBC Queens and Senior Queens
Baton Rouge River Center
Baton Rouge, La.

Go to BOWL.com/Tournaments for complete information.

U20 recipients each will receive a \$500 scholarship.

The 2016 David Dahms Sportsmanship Award recipients are Shelby Foster, Tulsa, Okla., and Trevor Kling, Aurora, Colo., in U12; Faith Welch, Savannah, Tenn., and David Painter, Greeneville, Tenn., in U15; and Adrianna Stacy, Sebring, Fla., and Jordan Dawkins, Cibola, Texas, in U20.