

## CENTER OF ATTENTION

**THE CORE** made its debut a few months ago, and the USBC initiative offers bowling fans some pretty cool products when they join – a plaque to recognize their achievements over a five-year period, a padfolio journal, bag tag, bowling towel and a collectible coin.

The products provide tangible benefits, but The Core is about building an online community of bowling superfans, those who

live and breathe the sport, want to be involved and simply love to learn more about bowling.

What bowling fan doesn't want behind-the-scenes access to key areas of the bowling industry, the opportunity to attend major events, and the chance to receive exclusive content about the sport?

Douglas Coday and John Struckman were among the first bowling superfans to purchase The Core and quickly saw its value when they were presented the opportunity to attend the U.S. Open, held in November at South Point Bowling Plaza in Las Vegas.

Besides the chance to meet and talk to players, The Core subscribers also toured the PBA Players Services Truck and the facility, and had the chance to witness Francois Lavoie's perfect game on his way to winning the title.



"I think watching that 300 on TV, being in the front row ... I mean, I don't know anyone who had that opportunity to be where I was and it's all due to The Core, USBC and my determination to be a bowling superfan," Struckman said after the event. "That's something I'll cherish for a long time."

Coday said his trip to the U.S. Open, his first time to

watch a pro event live, was very informative.

"To watch the team guys, the ball company team guys, to watch them give insights to the bowlers about where to play, what balls to use, play the oil, play the friction – it's pretty interesting," Coday said. "I think it's neat just seeing the truck and everybody's layout in the truck. But, I had no idea the

guys could just go to them and that they drill 400 balls a week. Are you kidding me?"

The Core is a yearly subscription and each year will bring new collectables and products, plus the opportunity to win USBC Event Experiences, like Coday and Struckman, at pro tournaments including the Masters, Queens and other major events. There also is social engagement for The Core subscribers, who will receive surprise gifts, messages, and recognition from top athletes and bowling personalities via social media.

The Core subscribers also will receive exclusive content, such as breaking industry news, behind-the-scenes videos and highlights from major events, and much more.

To learn more about everything The Core has to offer, please visit [BOWL.com/TheCore](http://BOWL.com/TheCore)

### The Core

**What:** An exciting new community for bowling's super fans, it includes a selection of premium merchandise items, access to exclusive content, the opportunity for access to special events and offers, and much more.

**Cost:** \$129.99 for a yearly subscription. Each year will bring new collectables and products, plus access to all content and experiences that come with The Core.

**Where:** Go to [BOWL.com/TheCore](http://BOWL.com/TheCore) for more details and to join.

USBC OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

# VEGAS IS THE PLACE FOR HIGH ROLLERS

**IF YOU BELIEVE** in quality over quantity, you likely would agree the two previous times the USBC Open Championships made its way to Las Vegas provided memorable moments and had a significant impact in the annals of the storied event.

While the 2017 event will mark just the third appearance for the Open Championships in Las Vegas, and its first visit to the South Point Bowling Plaza, the tournament's Las Vegas debut in 1986 came in the

middle of a very exciting year in sports.

Sure, it might not have garnered as much attention as the New York Mets winning baseball's World Series or Bobby Rahal taking the Indianapolis 500, but the Open Championships has a

longer history than either event.

The 1986 Open Championships saw tournament participation top the 10,000-team plateau for the first time, as a then-record 10,019 five-player teams made their way to Cashman Center, near downtown Las Vegas. It also saw a prize fund that surpassed \$2 million for the first time.

When the tournament returned to Vegas in 2009, the glittery skyline had changed, but so did the look and feel of the custom tournament venue.

The second visit to Cashman Center included the debut of the world's largest mobile scoreboard, the first change in the



Lennie Boresch Jr.

scoring display since automatic scoring was introduced to the event in 1979. The venue also featured 60 lanes for the first time outside of the famed, and permanent, National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nevada.

And, the event did not disappoint, drawing the second-largest field in Open Championships history with 17,200 teams, just 85 short of the record set in 1995 when the NBS in Reno opened

its doors. The 2009 Open Championships also would break records with a 154-day schedule and a prize fund of \$7,457,566.

Among the many who cashed in at Cashman Center, eventual USBC Hall of Famer Lennie Boresch Jr. of Kenosha, Wisconsin, earned the second and third titles of his long career (Regular Team and Team All-Events) on the way to a record payday of \$18,642.

While Boresch's haul didn't quite reach the bar set by Nick Papagiorgio while on his *Vegas Vacation*, it's still a noteworthy mark and one that helped Boresch earn entry into the USBC Hall of Fame in the Outstanding USBC Performance category in 2012.

"Battling a team a few pairs away for the lead, and eventually the team title, was unbelievable, and it didn't stop there as we all picked up right where we left off the next night for minors," Boresch said. "It was dream come true and probably punched our tickets into the USBC Hall of Fame. That ranks as tops in my bowling career. When you win as a team, there is no better feeling. I've had a lot of great wins and moments in my career, but man, that was one special weekend. Not only the history that comes with it, but we also got paid really well!"



Series or Bobby Rahal taking the Indianapolis 500, but the Open Championships has a



Bo Goergen





Stephen and Brenda Padilla

Much like Siegfried and Roy, the popular Las Vegas magicians known for their work with white lions and tigers, a handful of bowlers worked some serious magic on the lanes in 2009, setting records in singles, doubles and all-events, with the singles and doubles marks still standing heading into the 2017 event.

Longtime tournament participant Ron Vokes of Racine, Wisconsin, was relatively unknown on the national stage before tossing 30 consecutive strikes on the way to a singles set of 857 and then-record all-events total of 2,321. Scores of that nature were rare, and there immediately was eagle talk, despite it only being the end of April.

Vokes did hold on for the Regular All-Events title, but a little more than a month after his big day, Michigan's Bo Goergen flirted with perfection on the biggest stage in bowling.

After back-to-back 299 games to start

singles, Goergen added a 264 effort to cap the highest three-game series in Open Championships history, 862, to steal the Regular Singles title.

"Being a part of the record-setting year in 2009 has meant so much to me in that I was fortunate to accomplish a lifelong goal in my bowling career, and to bowl a record score in the process – priceless," said Goergen, who will make his 39th consecutive Open Championships appearance in Las Vegas in 2017. "Most competitive bowlers are looking to have that accomplishment on their bowling resumes to earn the respect of other elite bowlers. That record score certainly provided that for me, and I'm humbled by the recognition I get when I walk into a center. I do understand that records are meant to be broken, and I'm fine with that. What I will have forever, is the eagle and banner from that year, of which I am very proud."

## 2017 USBC OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

**When:** Feb. 18 - July 10

**Where:** Las Vegas at the South Point Bowling Plaza, a \$35-million tournament bowling facility

**Notable:** The Standard Division for bowlers with entering averages of 181-209 debuts in 2017. The Regular Division now will be for bowlers with averages of 210 and above, while the Classified Division remains for bowlers who have averages of 180 and below.



Finally, as the longest Open Championships in history wound down, Brenda and Stephen Padilla of Mansfield, Texas, solidified their relationship, not only by their eventual marriage, but by winning doubles together at the OC.

The duo did it in record fashion, posting a 1,566 total (790 for Stephen and 776 for Brenda), while Brenda kept striking in singles, becoming the sixth woman to roll a perfect game on the championship lanes. The 300 helped her to a 2,132 all-events total, still the highest by a woman at the Open Championships.

The 2017 Open Championships will begin a new era with improvements to the divisional structure and with its debut at the new South Point Bowling Plaza. The event kicks off a decade of regular visits to Las Vegas as the tournament will return in 2019, 2021, 2024 and 2027, creating the potential for more fireworks, magic and memories.

# USBC QUICK STRIKES

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE UNITED STATES BOWLING CONGRESS

## Bowl.com website goes responsive

USBC's website, BOWL.com, recently underwent a redesign that also was aimed at improving the functionality for users. As part of its redesign, the site now "responds" to the device of the user by shrinking or rearranging the display on tablets and smartphones.

With more than 400,000 visitors each month, BOWL.com remains a popular destination for those seeking news and information about the sport of bowling.



## Mike Shady elected to USBC Hall of Fame

The USBC Hall of Fame will welcome Mike Shady of Fairview, Pennsylvania, in 2017 after his election by the USBC Hall of



Mike Shady

Fame Committee. Shady, 51, was elected in the Outstanding USBC Performance category for an unprecedented run at the USBC Open Championships, which includes two titles.

The USBC Hall of Fame committee also slated eight bowlers for the Superior Performance national ballot that will be voted on by a panel of USBC Hall of Fame members, USBC Board members and veteran bowling writers. The men's ballot includes Dave Ferraro, David Ozio, Randy Pedersen, Mike Scroggins, Mark Williams, and Danny Wiseman. On the women's ballot are Marianne DiRupo and Tammy Turner.

The 2017 USBC Hall of Fame induction ceremony will take place April 26 at the 2017 USBC Convention in Las Vegas.

## Logo Infusion to provide Junior Gold jerseys

Logo Infusion is the official jersey manufacturer of the Junior

Gold Championships after reaching a two-year agreement with International Bowling Campus Youth Development. As the official jersey, Logo Infusion holds exclusive rights to produce jerseys featuring the Junior Gold Championships mark.

The agreement includes providing team uniforms for the USA Bowling National Championships and Junior Gold participants for the televised finals, and IBC Youth staff uniforms for the Intercollegiate Team Championships, Youth Open, Junior Gold and USA Bowling events.

Jerseys produced by Logo Infusion for the Junior Gold Championships will be available on-site at the USBC Bowling Store, the official store of USBC, during the event, and throughout the year at Logo Infusion's website, [Logoinfusion.com](http://Logoinfusion.com).



## Nevada school receives Grant through YES Fund

The Douglas High School Bowling Club in Minden, Nevada, is the latest recipient of a \$2,500 High School Grant distributed through the Youth Education Services (YES) Fund. The grant

program is managed by IBC Youth Development and annually provides up to four grants to high school programs that show financial need because of budget cuts or other changes. Grants also are provided to schools starting a new program.

During the 2016-2017 school year, Douglas High School is fielding a bowling team for the first time and is competing in the High Desert Interscholastic Bowling Program (HDIBP).

## 2017 Senior Queens moves to May 23-26

The 2017 USBC Senior Queens will take place May 23-26 at Circle Bowl in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and \$20,000 has been added to the prize fund. The 32 bowlers advancing to match play will cash at the event.

The event also will feature a new Super Senior element with the top eight non-cashing Super Seniors (age 60 and older) to bowl in a bracket for a special prize fund.

## O'Neill selected for USBC Board

Bill O'Neill of Langhorne, Pennsylvania, has joined the USBC Board of Directors as an athlete representative. He fills the spot opened when Mike Fagan chose not to seek re-election; O'Neill's term will run through the 2018-2019 season.



Bill O'Neill

A seven-time member of Team USA, O'Neill captured 24 medals in international competition, including 15 golds. He retired from Team USA earlier this year but continues to compete on the Professional Bowlers Association Tour.

## CALENDAR

**Jan. 3-8, 2017**

**Team USA Trials/U.S. Amateur**  
Sunset Station  
Las Vegas

**Feb. 18-July 10, 2017**

**USBC Open Championships**  
South Point Bowling Plaza  
Las Vegas

**Feb. 19-26, 2017**

**USBC Masters**  
The Orleans  
Las Vegas

**March 10-12, 2017**

**Intercollegiate Singles and Team Sectionals**  
AMF Parkway Lanes, Allentown, Pa.  
Smyrna Bowl, Smyrna, Tenn.  
Stardust Bowl, Addison, Ill.  
USA Bowl, Dallas

**April 17-22, 2017**

**Intercollegiate Singles and Team Championships**  
Raising Cane's River Center  
Baton Rouge, La.

**April 23-July 10, 2017**

**USBC Women's Championships**  
Raising Cane's River Center  
Baton Rouge, La.

**April 24-27, 2017**

**USBC Convention**  
The Orleans  
Las Vegas

**April 27-29, 2017**

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

**May 4-6, 2017**

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

**May 11-13, 2017**

**PWBA Fountain Valley Open**  
Fountain Bowl  
Fountain Valley, Calif.

**May 17-23, 2017**

**USBC Queens**  
Raising Cane's River Center  
Baton Rouge, La.

**May 23-26, 2017**

**USBC Senior Queens**  
Circle Bowl  
Baton Rouge, La.

**June 1-3, 2017**

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