

COLLEGE BOWLING

OFF TO A FAST START

AS A COLLEGIATE bowler, Katie Thornton had the opportunity to be a part of a program that was just starting out. That program would quickly become a force on the collegiate scene and the lessons learned were invaluable, as Thornton now leads a program seeking to accomplish similar goals.

Thornton is the head coach of the bowling program at Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Georgia, and the 2016-2017 season

marked the inaugural season for the Bees. Her path to becoming a

collegiate coach started when she was in college.

"It was about my sophomore year of college when I realized I had a major passion for the coaching side," she said. "I really admired my coach and the impact he had on myself, as well as my teammates, and I wanted to be involved in something that had an impact on younger bowlers."

Her sophomore year of college was 2010-2011, and Thornton was at Webber International. She was part of the Webber bowling program that launched in 2009, and the Warriors quickly showed they had the talent to succeed.



SCAD

Thornton would eventually win three national team titles, including the 2010 and 2012 Intercollegiate Team Championships, and would earn National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Player of the Year honors in 2013.

She then would start to build her coaching credentials as an assistant coach at Web-

ber International. She was a member of the staff when the Warriors won the 2014 NAIA national title.

"I did the Bronze level certification and was even more intrigued and began to find myself wanting to learn more about the game than actually physically bowling," said Thornton, who was selected to Webber athletics' inaugural hall of fame class in 2016. "I really enjoy researching and observ-

ing teams and how to advance as a coach."

She would become involved with the USA Bowling Coaching program, which provides seminars for volunteer coaches to teach them the basic skills needed so they could teach the fundamentals to youth bowlers.

"The USA Bowling Coaching program is one of my favorite things to be involved with," Thornton said. "I truly believe



Back row, from left: Volunteer assistant coach Brigette Coleman, Kerri King, Jamie Gray, Arissa Byrn, Shakaina Querero, head coach Katie Thornton. Front row: Kyra Chambers, Paola Limon, Veronica Cepeda

providing proper coaching for today's youth is a way to help grow in the future. I have always believed that kids aren't going to want to keep bowling if they don't get better, and one way to do that is to provide local coaches with the correct knowledge to help. It's always so great to see volunteers so passionate about helping youth."



Thornton has earned her USBC Silver coaching certification and is

working toward her Gold certification. In September of 2015, she was hired by Savannah College of Art and Design to lead the new bowling program and would have nearly a year to recruit student-athletes.

This past fall, Thornton had her teams in place.

"At the beginning of the year, we set goals for what we wanted to accomplish for the season," Thornton said. "We never really focused on the outcome, but rather the improvements we needed to make to give us the opportunity to achieve them. There were numerous times during tournaments I would let the team fail in order to show them what



we needed to improve upon to succeed later on."

Both the men's and women's teams performed well enough to earn invitations to the Intercollegiate Team Sectionals in March. For the women, it was a stepping stone to the next level.

At the Intercollegiate Team Sectionals in Smyrna, Tennessee, the SCAD-Savannah women's team was eighth after the opening 16 Baker games, but would put together a big block in the next 16 games to jump into second place. The Bees would finish second

to McKendree, a national semifinalist last season, to earn its spot among the 16 national finalists.

"The team has worked so hard day in and day out through the season to be at their best during postseason," Thornton said. "I am beyond proud of what we have been able to accomplish thus far, and look forward to the possibilities for the rest of this season and beyond."

Leading into the ITC, the Bees had their first chance to compete for a national title at the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Women's Championships in April. After 24 games of qualifying, SCAD-Savannah would win its first match but then suffered consecutive losses to be knocked out of the double-elimination bracket.

Now, college bowling fans can see if SCAD-Savannah can make the finals of the Intercollegiate Team Championships. In May, CBS Sports Network will televise the title matches of the Intercollegiate Singles Championships and the Intercollegiate Team Championships as part of its 23-event national television package. Tune in to see who will take home the titles.

PRIMETIME FOR COLLEGE BOWLING

In May, the title matches of the Intercollegiate Team Championships and Intercollegiate Singles Championships will be televised on CBS Sports Network. Check your local listings for CBS Sports Network. The schedule (Eastern time):

Day, date	Competition	Start time	Day, date	Competition	Start time
Tue., May 2	Women's Singles	8 p.m.	Mon., May 15	Women's Team	8 p.m.
Tue., May 9	Men's Singles	8 p.m.	Tue., May 30	Men's Team	8 p.m.

PWBA TOUR

RACE IS UNDERWAY FOR THE PWBA

THE PROFESSIONAL Women's Bowling Association kicked off its third season with the QubicaAMF PWBA Sonoma County Open the last week of April. The event also kicked off the race to determine the field for the Smithfield PWBA Tour Championship.

While NASCAR drivers compete each week for their chance to be one of 16 drivers to make The Chase for the Cup field, PWBA players will compete through early August with the hopes of making the 16-player field for the season finale of its tour.

And the racing comparison is especially appropriate as the Smithfield PWBA Tour Championship will take place Sept. 3-6 at Richmond International Raceway in Richmond, Virginia, during the track's fall NASCAR race week festivities. The finals will be televised live on CBS Sports Network on Sept. 6.

QubicaAMF, based in Richmond, will install four custom bowling lanes in the Old Dominion Building at the Richmond Raceway Complex as part of its sponsorship with PWBA, and Virginia-based Smithfield Foods returns as title sponsor of the event for the third consecutive season.

"Many racing fans are bowling fans and this will be a wonderful opportunity to present our season finale alongside a great race at Richmond," PWBA Tour spokesperson Kelly Kulick said. "Having such a unique setting will give us the chance to showcase our sport and interact with fans. We're excited to have QubicaAMF as a



PWBA sponsor and appreciate the continued support of Smithfield Foods."

QubicaAMF, the world's largest manufacturer of bowling products, will showcase its latest BES X Scoring System at the Pepsi PWBA Lincoln Open in Lincoln, Nebraska, and the U.S. Women's Open in Plano, Texas, as part of its partnership that included title sponsorship of the PWBA season-opening event.

Tickets for the Smithfield PWBA Tour Championship go on sale June 1 through the track's box office, via phone at 866-455-7223 and on rir.com.

The PWBA has a 14-event schedule for 2017 with the stepladder finals for 13 of the 14 events to be televised on CBS Sports Network. Coverage includes live or same-day broadcasts of the tour's four majors – the USBC Queens, Go Bowling PWBA Players Championship, U.S. Women's Open, and the Smithfield PWBA Tour Championship.

Go to PWBA.com to learn more and for complete coverage of the 2017 PWBA Tour season.



THE RACE TO RICHMOND

While 16 players make the Smithfield PWBA Tour Championship field, a look at six players who could be in Richmond:

Liz Johnson – Has won PWBA Player of the Year honors the last two seasons.



Kelly Kulick – Has 10 championship-round appearances over the last two years, including four TV shows in 2016.

Danielle McEwan – Was in the hunt each week, making 12 match-play appearances in last season.

Shannon O'Keefe – Led the tour with three titles, including her first individual titles, and had five TV appearances in 2016.

Shannon Pluhowsky – Made five TV shows and was fourth in points last season.

Rocio Restrepo – Colombian native won two titles and was in the hunt for PWBA Player of the Year.

USBC QUICK STRIKES

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE UNITED STATES BOWLING CONGRESS

Stars of Tomorrow, other Youth awards

Natalie Koprowitz of Girard, Illinois, is the 2017 Alberta E. Crowe Star of Tomorrow and Carson Opela of Rio Rancho, New Mexico, was selected as the Chuck Hall Star of Tomorrow. Both were honored at the USBC Convention in Las Vegas in April and each receives a \$6,000 scholarship.



Natalie Koprowitz and Carson Opela

Mabel Cummins of Elburn, Illinois, and Briley Haugh of Faribault, Minnesota, were named Youth Ambassadors of the Year and each received a \$1,500 scholarship. Taylor Ausec of Colorado Springs, Colorado, Rachel Bamford of Rochester, New Hampshire, Eric Cowan of Rogersville, Missouri, and Courtney Gervais of Staten Island, New York, each received a \$5,000 Earl Anthony Memorial Scholarship.

Connor Jones of Madison, Mississippi, also was an Earl Anthony Scholarship recipient, and he was selected for the Annual Zeb Scholarship, a \$2,500 scholarship, as well.

All scholarship recipients were selected by the IBC Youth Committee based on applications. Go to BOWL.com/ScholarshipsAwards for more information on scholarship opportunities for youth bowlers.

Centers can host pre-qualifiers for U.S. Open

Bowling centers have the opportunity to host a pre-tournament qualifying event for the 2018 U.S. Open starting in November, and centers also can submit applications to serve as host center for the major tournament.

The U.S. Open features a limited field based on the PBA Tour money list and finishes at national and international events. But, for the 2018 tournament, bowlers will have the opportunity to be part of the field through the pre-qualifying events.

Centers can apply to host a pre-qualifying event, provided the center meets certain format requirements, which include having an event with

a minimum of nine qualifying games and paying the cost for one spot in the U.S. Open field. Pre-qualifying events can be held starting Nov. 1, 2017, and no later than May 1, 2018.

The U.S. Open also is seeking applications from centers interested in hosting the 2018 U.S. Open. Tentative dates are Oct. 24-31, 2018. Centers can go to BOWL.com/USOpen for more information.

Deadline approaching for Bowling Combine

The application deadline for student-athletes who want to attend the 2017 Bowling Combine for College Prospects is May 13. This year's event will take place Aug. 8-12 at the International Training and Research Center in Arlington, Texas.

At the Bowling Combine, youth bowlers are evaluated by

the ITRC staff using state-of-the-art technology. This is not a coaching clinic, but an evaluation of bowlers so they can learn their strengths and weaknesses. College coaches also can attend, at no cost, to meet potential student-athletes.

The event has sold out in each of its previous six years. Go to BOWL.com/Combine for additional details.

Seven elite coaches join Team USA staff

Team USA recently added seven coaches, who will join Team USA head coach Rod Ross and Junior Team USA head coach Bryan O'Keefe on the staff.

The new coaches are: Mark Baker of Yorba Linda, California; former USBC Director of Coaching Carolyn Dorin-Ballard of Keller, Texas; Mount Mercy University head coach Andy Diercks, Marion, Iowa; Kelly Kulick of Union, New Jersey; 2017 USBC Hall of Fame inductee Mike Shady of Girard,



Pennsylvania; USBC Hall of Fame member Bill Spigner of Vernon Hills, Illinois; and Del Warren of Lake Wales, Florida, a USBC Gold coach and vice president of Kegels Training Center.

The seven assistant coaches will work with the athletes at training camps and will be available to work with the teams in international competitions, as needed. Each coach is an independent contractor for Team USA and not an employee of USBC.

Team USA roster set for 2017 World Games

The 2017 World Games, an 11-day, multi-sport event, will

CALENDAR

Now-July 9, 2017
USBC Women's Championships
Raising Cane's River Center
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Now-July 16, 2017
USBC Open Championships
South Point Bowling Plaza
Las Vegas

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.

June 1-4, 2017
ITRC Super Senior Classic
Sam's Town Bowling Center
Las Vegas

June 4-11, 2017
USBC Senior Masters
Sam's Town Bowling Center
Las Vegas

June 8-10, 2017
Pepsi PWBA Lincoln Open
Sun Valley Lanes
Lincoln, Neb.

June 15-17, 2017
PWBA Greater Detroit Open
Super Bowl
Canton, Mich.

Go to BOWL.com/Tournaments for complete information.

take place in Wroclaw, Poland, from July 21-24. Team USA bowling will be represented by 13-time Team USA member Kelly Kulick of Union, New Jersey, Danielle McEwan of Stony Point, New York, Tommy Jones of Simpsonville, South Carolina, and Team USA rookie Jakob Butturf of Tempe, Arizona.

The World Games showcase more than 25 sports and will have approximately 4,500 athletes and officials from more than 100 countries.