

USA BOWLING

RETURN ENGAGEMENT

WHEN THE USA Bowling National Championships presented by Sixlets takes place this summer in Cleveland, quite a few participants from last year's inaugural event return for another shot at a national title.

The Clams were one of 16 U15 teams to advance to the national tournament in 2016. As the Upper Great Lakes champion, the Clams, from Mankato, Minnesota, were sixth after qualifying but won their side of the bracket to reach the title match. Though they fell, 3-1, in the best-of-five televised final, there was never a doubt they would return in 2017.



"Even before we were done (last year), we were planning out a team for this year," coach Kurt Balbach said. "We looked at the tournament bowlers from our area and made

a list of kids with three qualities – talented bowlers with good personalities who would be committed to a tournament team. We wanted a team of individuals that would be good ambassadors for Minnesota youth bowling."

The Clams will return two of the four players from last season's team – Korey Balbach and Nolan Bianchi, who will be joined by Jordan Pelant, Caden Reichl and Justin Prenot – but the team had to take a slightly different route to the national event. After coming up short in the Upper Great Lakes Region event, they traveled to Colorado Springs, Colorado, where they won the Mountain Region.

Kurt Balbach said the exposure the Clams received from last year's national event created more interest in the region this year. The team members were announced at tournaments to make youth bowlers and parents aware of the USA Bowling regional tournament.

"We took it to the final game of the tournament in the Upper Great Lakes Region this year and came up short," he said. "The team that won is made up of very close friends to the Clams team. We traveled to Colorado Springs the week after our regional tournament and won our spot. When we walked in, we were instantly recognized because of our jerseys. We made new friends that we plan on seeing in Cleveland this July."



The 2017 USA Bowling National Championships presented by Sixlets will take place July 19-22 in Cleveland. A total of 32 teams – 16 U12 team and 16 U15 teams – advanced to the national event by winning a regional event. The finals of the tournament will be televised on CBS Sports Network.

"Last year was magical, like it was meant to be," Balbach said. "It taught us what it takes to be the best, and we learned what it means to represent bowling as a team sport. This year, we want to enjoy it more. The experience of knowing what it takes to reach the finals, and knowing that we are returning as a known team, have made the kids more focused on improving their game. Knowing that it is a long battle to make the finals, they are preparing to give their all."

Visit BOWL.com/USABowling to learn more about the USA Bowling program and the regional and national championships.

YOUTH BOWLING ON CBS SPORTS NETWORK

The 2017 USA Bowling National Championships presented by Sixlets will take place in Cleveland in July along with the Junior Gold Championships presented by the Brands of Ebonite International and the Bowling.com Youth Open Championships. The Junior Gold and USA Bowling title matches will be taped and broadcast on CBS Sports Network (all times Eastern):

Day	Date	Event	Time
Tue., July 25	Junior Gold Championships	U12	8 p.m.
Tue., Aug. 1	Junior Gold Championships	U15	8 p.m.
Tue., Aug. 8	Junior Gold Championships	U20	8 p.m.
Tue., Aug. 15	USA Bowling National Championships	U12	7 p.m.
Tue., Aug. 22	USA Bowling National Championships	U15	7 p.m.

COLLEGE BOWLING

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: COLLEGE BOWLING'S MVPs

COLLEGIATE BOWLING IS ALL ABOUT THE TEAM.

You practice as a team, compete as team, and win/lose as a team. But every team has that bowler who excels, the bowler who just has that special something that allows them to deliver in clutch situations.

At the end of the college bowling season, Midland senior Nick Pate and Wichita State junior Sydney Brummett were selected as the 2016-2017 Most Valuable Players by the National Collegiate Bowling Coaches Association (NCBCA) and the International Bowling Media Association (IBMA).

It's easy to see why each was selected. Pate, the Most Valuable Player at the 2015 Intercollegiate Team Championships,



captured individual titles in three consecutive events and had three other top-five finishes as he averaged 217.5 in Tier 1 competition. Brummett won two individual titles as she helped the Shockers to five Tier 1 victories during the season. She led the nation in average (208.96) and average differential (35.02) during Tier 1 competition.

Both have come through the ranks, competing as youth bowlers in the Junior Gold Championships for many years, and both currently are 2017



Sydney Brummett and Nick Pate

Team USA members.

After receiving their MVP honors, each went out and won their respective titles at the Intercollegiate Singles Championships. Each also took some time to discuss the collegiate season, along with a few other questions.

What does it mean to be selected as the best collegiate player?

BRUMMETT: It means a lot but it's for my teammates. We go to practice every day hoping to win the Helmer Cup. We don't go to practice to win player of the year or to make the ISC show. For me, being player of the year means my whole team is player of the year. It's very much a team thing.

PATE: First, I want to thank my teammates for believing in me because without them that wouldn't have been possible. They have supported me throughout the whole

year, through our ups and our downs. I'm truly grateful for them and it's their award as much as mine because they've believed in me all year.

What is the biggest victory in your career, so far?

BRUMMETT: As a team, probably making the (ITC) show last year. The match against Maryland Eastern Shore ... One, Maryland Eastern Shore bowled great but we just happened to all be in the zone together. We get goosebumps talking about it because it was the coolest match we'd ever had. That victory was by far the coolest.

Individually, I won the Hoosier my freshman year. I didn't really understand what the Hoosier was about and then I was like, 'That's really cool!'

PATE: The one that will always stand out to me as a team is the Hoosier. It's truly what

college bowling is all about. It's about the team effort. That will be forever remembered in college history. For me, that's a tough one. I'd probably have to say winning the Warhawk (Classic) where I averaged 256, shot 300 and almost had another one.

Not a lot of victories, but I am proud of making Team USA. I take pride in that because I worked day in and day out to make the team, and when they called my name, it was nice hearing that.

Who has influenced you the most and why?

BRUMMETT: I have a sister who's 15 years older than me and I think it would be her. When I grew up, it was kind of like having two moms in a way. She is very much my key role model. A lot of people say their parents, and I love my parents. They're great people but my sister is very much herself and she's not afraid to be all that she is. I definitely want to be like her both on the lanes and off the lanes. I never want to go against who I am.

PATE: It's no single person, I'd probably have to say both of my parents. They worked their tails off when I was younger to let me bowl and compete when I wanted to. I love them for what they have done and forever grateful for them.

If not bowling, what sport you would like to play?

BRUMMETT: Softball. I played growing up and I loved it. But I got

hurt once during my freshman year of high school, when a girl slid into my left knee and I got really scared because I wanted to bowl. So, I quit softball.



PATE: I played baseball in high school. I found out I was a little better at bowling so I decided to not play baseball and focus more on bowling. I'm glad I did because it's paid off.

Who is your favorite current bowler?

BRUMMETT: I love Kelly Kulick. I like

how she's feisty and beats up the guys. That makes my heart happy.

PATE: I have to give my roommate Erin McCarthy a shout-out. I like her work ethic, I like how she balances her life. She's my roommate so I know what she goes through. Not many people realize how hard she works at the game and I respect her for that because it takes a lot. She's prepared for the PWBA Tour this year and she wants it bad. She would be my favorite player on the women's side.

On the men's side, I've always loved Norm Duke as a youth. I even got to bowl against him at the (USBC) Masters this year. It was fun. It's starting to become more reality that I'm competing with them and not watching them knowing that I'm good enough to compete with them.

Who was the toughest opponent you faced this past season?

BRUMMETT: That's a hard one. We see a lot of different teams. I would say McKendree. They have really great team-play skills and they come out when they need to win a match. They're definitely our toughest opponent and we like to bowl them. We like to be challenged



and they're great.

Individually, I bowled Sandra Andersson last year at the Queens. She's very stoic in her being and 100 percent committed to what she is doing.

PATE: One is Lindenwood-Belleville. They're our friends, but on the lanes we like to keep it strictly to bowling and they had our number this year. They're an extremely talented team that will sneak up on you because they just feed off each other's momentum. Another team that's always had our number is Webber. The program down there is outstanding and I have nothing but respect for Del and the crew because they're a top team every single year.

Individually, probably Jalen Mosely. He put a whooping on me at the Masters. I will remember that in the future. We're both young so when we both start bowling more individual events, I'll remember the first time he beat me. I'll hold that against him and have more motivation. (Editor's note: Pate's response was said jokingly.)

In five years, I will be ...?

BRUMMETT: In five years, I will be a multi-time PWBA Tour titlist.

PATE: In five years, I hope I'm financially stable. Hopefully I have a decent job that allows me to bowl but I understand in today's world you might have to make some sacrifices and bowling might be on pause so I can establish a career.

A Decade of Excellence

USBC Collegiate passed the 200-school mark in 2015-2016 and set a record with more than 3,500 student-athletes this season. A look at the program over the last decade:

Season	Schools	Members	Season	Schools	Members
2007-2008	149	2,487	2012-2013	196	3,269-b
2008-2009	152	2,551	2013-2014	199	3,403
2009-2010	177	3,131	2014-2015	199	3,417
2010-2011	192	3,390	2015-2016	203	3,396
2011-2012	192	3,281-a	2016-2017	210	3,589

a-Roster limits reduced from 45 to 35; b-roster limits reduced from 35-25.

USBC QUICK STRIKES

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE UNITED STATES BOWLING CONGRESS

CALENDAR

Now-July 16, 2017

USBC Open Championships
South Point Bowling Plaza
Las Vegas

Now-July 9, 2017

USBC Women's Championships
Raising Cane's River Center
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

July 6-8, 2017

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

July 13-15, 2017

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

July 13-14, 21-24, 29-30, 2017

Bowling.com Youth Open Championships
Game of Mentor
Mentor, Ohio

July 15-22, 2017

Junior Gold Championships presented by The Brands of Ebonite International
AMF Brookgate Lanes, Freeway Lanes of Parma, Game of Mentor, Game of Wickliffe, Roseland Lanes, Wickliffe Lanes, Yorktown Lanes
Cleveland

July 19-22, 2017

USA Bowling National Championships
Yorktown Lanes, Freeway Lanes of Parma, Game of Wickliffe
Cleveland

July 21-24, 2017

World Games
Sky Bowling
Wroclaw, Poland

July 23-29, 2017

Lee Evans Tournament of the Americas Strikers Lanes
Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

July 27-30, 2017

PBA/PWBA Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles
Copperfield Bowl
Houston

July 31-Aug. 6

U.S. Women's Open
Plano Super Bowl
Plano, Texas

Go to BOWL.com/Tournaments for complete information.

Wilkinson, DeSocio elected to third terms



Frank Wilkinson and Cathy DeSocio

The USBC Board of Directors re-elected Frank Wilkinson of Staten Island, New York, as USBC president and Cathy DeSocio of Wichita, Kansas, as vice president for the 2017-2018 season.

The election of officers for the USBC Board took place following the USBC Convention, held in April in Las Vegas. Because of terms limits, the 2017-2018 season will mark both Wilkinson's and DeSocio's final terms as president and vice president, respectively.

At the 2017 USBC Convention, delegates re-elected Jo Dimond of Columbus, Ohio, and Karl Kielich of El Paso, Texas, to the board along with Adam Mitchell of Reston, Virginia. They will begin their three-year board terms starting Aug. 1, 2017.

Go to BOWL.com/About to learn more about the USBC Board of Directors.

Sites, dates set for 2018 senior events

Las Vegas will be the destination for three USBC senior events in 2018 starting with the USBC Senior Queens on March 15-18 at Gold Coast



Hotel and Casino. The Senior Queens, for USBC members age 50 and older,

was moved to an earlier date so it can immediately follow the National Golden Ladies tournament.

The 2018 USBC Senior Masters will be the second of back-to-back senior events at Sam's Town Bowling Center in Las Vegas. The Super Senior Classic, for bowlers age 60 and over, kicks off the competitions starting May 31 with the Senior Masters, for USBC members age 50 and older, taking over Sam's Town from June 4-10.

The 2018 USBC Senior Championships, a national event for bowlers who have qualified through their state's senior tournament, will be held Aug. 7-9 at the National Bowling Stadium, Reno, Nevada. Visit BOWL.com/Tournaments to learn more about USBC senior tournaments.

SMART makes distribution of \$1 million to providers' funds

The Scholarship Management and Account Reporting for Tenpins (SMART) Corporation Board of Directors made an income earnings distribution of \$1 million to providers'

Hall of Famers picked for World Senior team

Eight bowlers, including six USBC Hall of Fame members, will represent the United States at the 2017 World Senior Championships on Aug. 13-20 in Munich.

USBC Hall of Famers Parker Bohn III of Jackson, New Jersey, and Lennie Boesch Jr. of Kenosha, Wisconsin, will be joined on the men's team by fellow PBA50 Tour standouts Bob Learn Jr. of Erie, Pennsylvania, and Ron Mohr of North Las Vegas, Nevada.

The women's team will consist of a quartet of USBC Hall of Famers — Lynda Barnes of Double Oak, Texas, Carolyn Dorin-Ballard of Keller, Texas, Leanne Hulsberg of Pleasant View, Utah, and Tish Johnson of Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The United States swept the men's and women's team gold medals at the 2015 World Senior Championships in Las Vegas. The event is held every two years.

New league designation for 2017-2018 season

USBC has established a new Challenge designation for leagues competing on lane conditions that fall between Standard and Sport conditions. The Challenge lane condition designation and conversion chart was determined based



on research of leagues conducted under a Sport/Challenge designation, as well as leagues competing on Blue lane conditions.

Starting with the 2017-2018 season, the league secretary must choose one, and only one, of three lane condition options — Standard, Challenge or Sport — when submitting the league application.

Visit BOWL.com/SportBowl for more information about the new Challenge league designation.