

YOUTH

## A PERFECT RUN

FOR ANYONE WHO FOLLOWS the USBC Facebook page, especially to keep up with what's happening during a tournament, there was a déjà vu moment during the final day of USBC Team USA Trials.

A post about a 300 game, with an accompanying video, started with "This is not a re-post. Mabel Cummins just rolled ANOTHER 300 game."

A perfect game in a tournament always is special but to roll two during the same block

on some of the toughest tournament conditions is remarkable, to say the



least. Especially for a bowler in her junior year of high school.

"I was actually very comfortable with the pattern by the second game of the squad," said Mabel, who was born on Anchorage, Alaska, and moved to Elburn, Illinois, about nine years ago. "All week, I had struggled to identify an 'A' game and I had a few recurring bouts with inconsistency, but in the last squad I found a good line and finally started repeating shots. I've bowled 300s in other tournaments and experienced nerve-wracking tension in the final frames, but strangely I wasn't nervous this time around. I just focused on making one good shot at a time."

The 300 games helped Ma-



bel climb the standings on the final day of competition. While she finished No. 13 overall among amateur bowlers based on the points system used for the event (No. 23 for all women), she had the fourth-highest points total for youth women bowlers. She also had the third-highest pinfall among amateur women, with only Jordan Richard (6,451) and Madison Janack (6,321) knocking down more pins than Mabel's 6,307.

Most importantly, Mabel earned her first appearance on Junior Team USA.

"I knew I needed to score well to gain an automatic spot, but I wasn't really worried about not making the team," Mabel said. "I just focused

on trying to execute good shots, so I would have a chance to finish the event strong and demonstrate my abilities for the Team USA coaches."

Mabel already made herself visible to Team USA coaches over the past year. As the U15 division champion at the 2016 Junior Gold Championships, Mabel earned a spot on the U15 Developmental Team in 2017 and had the opportunity to go through a training camp with the coaches at the International Training and Research Center in Arlington, Texas.

"The technology is cutting

edge and the coaches are the best in the world – plus they promote ultra-high performance, so you are held to a very challenging standard," Mabel said. "I most enjoyed the focus on team play because it taught me the critical need for versatility and how individual bowlers can best work together to perform well as a group."

She made her first appearance for the Team USA program at the 2017 Tournament of the Americas, competing in



the Junior B Division. She took home gold medals in doubles, mixed doubles, team, all-events and national all-events, and earned silver in singles.

"It was truly an honor to represent America and the competition was exciting because I was bowling against elite athletes who were the best from their respective countries," Mabel said. "I genuinely loved being an ambassador of the sport and I learned some new ways to improve my outreach



River Rand Bowl. She said Diandra Asbaty taught her to always demonstrate sportsmanship, ambassadorship and leadership, and Gregg Zicha helped her when she stepped up to a more competitive level. She also has worked with Del Warren, a Gold level coach and a member of the Team USA coaching staff, along

with Ruben Ghiragossian at the Kegel Training Center.

Mabel plans to bowl in college and desires to go through a pre-med program that will

allow her to pursue a degree in forensic pathology.

And while her resume includes winning both Junior Gold and Teen Masters in 2016 and rolling the pair of 300 games at the Team USA Trials that helped her make Junior Team USA, she says her most memorable moment in the last year didn't occur in a tournament.

"I am personally very proud of my performance at the ITRC College Combine in 2017," Mabel said. "During that I event, I achieved the highest all-time performance score among women who have participated in the bowling skills evaluation and that really validated all the work I have done to become an elite-level bowler and, hopefully, a long-time member of Team USA."



being named Youth Ambassador of the Year by the International Bowling Campus (IBC) Youth Committee in 2017. She has served as tournament coordinator for the Strike for Vets Chicago event, chaired the Elite Youth Tour Outreach board and has been honored by the Greater Aurora USBC with its Star of Tomorrow award.

On the lanes, she has won multiple USBC Illinois State Pepsi titles and took home the U20 boys/girls scratch overall singles title at the 2017 Illinois State USBC Youth tournament. But she said her goals are not based on outcomes; she simply wants to continue to improve and become more knowledgeable about all facets of the sport, so she can become the best

and become a more effective representative of youth bowling in the U.S."

Mabel's role as an ambassador in bowling led her to

bowler she can be.

She credits several coaches she has worked with throughout the years, including her full-time coach Will Clark at

## ON A ROLL

**A quick look at some of Mabel Cummins' notable accomplishments:**

- **2018** Junior Team USA member
- **2017** Youth Ambassador of the Year
- **2017** U15 Developmental Team member
- Won six medals, including five gold, at **2017** Tournament of the Americas
- **2017** U20 Boys/Girls Scratch Overall singles champion at Illinois State USBC Youth Tournament
- **2016** Junior Gold Championships U15 champion
- **Four-time** USBC Illinois State Pepsi champion





YOUTH

# HERE'S TO YOU, KID

## THE JUNIOR GOLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

is all grown up, if you judge milestones by age.

The 2018 Junior Gold Championships presented by The Brands of Ebonite International, set for July 14-21 in the Dallas area, will be the 21st edition of the annual national tournament for the top male and female youth bowlers in the United States.

Just more than 500 youth bowlers took part in the first Junior Gold, which was held in 1998 in Reno, Nevada, and called the Junior Olympic Gold tournament. Among the notable performers were Melissa Bellinder (Parkin), who won the girls title, and Diandra Hyman (Asbaty), who placed ninth. Sean Rash of Anchorage, Alaska, took ninth in the boys division that year and Andrew Cain was 10th (Rash would win the boys title in 2002).

Fast-forward to 2017, and the tournament is about seven times bigger, with more than 3,500 entries. It featured a scholarship fund of \$320,000 and seven bowling centers in the Cleveland area were used for competition.

It's obvious the event has grown tremendously, and that's because the tournament didn't stand pat. The evolution continues with the International Bowling Campus Youth Development team's recent announcement that, starting this year, each division will conclude with stepladder finals to determine a champion.

The double-elimination match-play bracket, consisting of two games with the highest pinfall advancing, was introduced to the Junior Gold Championships in 2012. It will continue to be used to determine the top three bowlers for

the stepladder finals.

Gary Brown, Managing Director of IBC Youth Development, said one reason for the change was that the stepladder format simply is more familiar to fans, especially the casual fan. It also doesn't hurt that with titles being determined in six divisions – boys and girls divisions for 12-and-under, 15-and-under and 20-and-under competitors – the televised finals will showcase more bowlers.

The number of divisions soon will change, too, with the addition of a 17-and-under division for next season. For the 2019 event, Junior Gold will start the qualifying process on May 1, 2018, and youth bowlers will have until May 15, 2019, to earn their way to the national event in one of the four divisions.

The U17 division is the next step in a process to ensure peer-to-peer competition and to bridge the gap between U15 and U20 bowlers. In 2017, about half of the qualifiers in both the boys and girls divisions – 745 of the 1,600 boys and 457 of the 937 girls qualifying – would have been eligible for a U17 division.

Before 2012, Junior Gold didn't have age divisions, just divisions for boys and girls. The U15 division was added for the 2012 Junior Gold Championships and the U12 division followed two years later. Both changes helped spur the tournament's growth.

The tournament would go from about 1,600 bowlers in 2011 to clear the 2,000-competitors mark in 2013. The U12 division helped push the number to almost 3,200 bowlers in 2015. Junior Gold membership also has set a record each of the last seven years

and broke the 7,000-member mark last season.

Television exposure also might be a factor in Junior Gold's growth. CBS Sports Network is set to televise all

division finals for the fourth consecutive year in 2018.

Go to [BOWL.com/JuniorGold](http://BOWL.com/JuniorGold) to learn more about the Junior Gold Championships.

## Junior Champions

### A look at some notable champions in Junior Gold history:

**1998** – Melissa Bellinder (Parkin)

**1999** – Scott Norton

**1999-2001** – Shannon Pluhowsky

**2000** – Nathan Bohr

**2002** – Sean Rash

**2003-2005** – Stefanie Nation (Johnson)

**2008** – Geoffrey Young

**2010** – Brittni Hamilton

**2010** – Marshall Kent

**2011** – Gary Faulkner

**2012** – AJ Johnson



**Dallas, TX • July, 2018**



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# USBC QUICK STRIKES

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE UNITED STATES BOWLING CONGRESS

## PWBA Tour Championship returns to Richmond Raceway



Richmond Raceway will be the site of the season-ending PWBA Tour Championship for the second consecutive year. The event is set for Sept. 16-19 and again will take place in the Old Dominion Building at the

Richmond Raceway Complex in Richmond, Virginia.

CBS Sports Network will have live coverage of the semifinals and title match on Sept. 19. The 16-player field for the PWBA Tour Championship will be comprised of PWBA members who win an event in 2018 and will be completed by point earners for the season.

Bowling will have a major presence during Richmond Raceway's fall race week as Go Bowling will be the entitlement sponsor for the NASCAR Xfinity Series (NXS) race. The Go Bowling 250, set for Sept. 21, marks the start of the 2018 NXS Playoffs.

The 2018 PWBA Tour season kicks off April 26 with the PWBA Las Vegas Open at the South Point Bowling Plaza in Las Vegas.

## Applications open for Bowling Combine

Student-athletes who want to attend the 2018 Bowling Combine for College Prospects have until May 19 to apply. The event, which has sold out each of its seven years, will take place July 31-Aug. 4 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. Go to [BOWL.com/Combine](http://BOWL.com/Combine) for additional details.

## ITC, ISC sites set through 2022

Host centers for the Intercollegiate Team Championships

(ITC) and Intercollegiate Singles Championships (ISC) are set through 2022. USBC Collegiate, part of IBC Youth Development, which oversees



the national collegiate championships events, awarded the sites based on submitted proposals.

Poelking Lanes South in Dayton, Ohio, worked with the Dayton/Montgomery County Convention and Visitors Bureau and will host the ITC and ISC national events in 2019. The Western Michigan Sports Commission teamed with Spectrum Lanes in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to get the 2020 events.

Stardust Bowl in Addison, Illinois, will serve as host in 2021 and the National Bowling Stadium in Reno,

Nevada, will be the host venue in 2022. Both venues also will host the USBC Women's Championships in those years.

## Bowler's Ed kits go to 24 groups



IBC Youth Development recently

awarded Bowler's Ed kits to 24 schools and organizations. The kits provide educators with the tools needed to engage children in a true bowling experience by providing a bowling-center atmosphere inside a classroom or gymnasium.

Since 2009, the Bowler's Ed Grant Program, with assistance from the New York State USBC and BPAA member centers, has subsidized more than \$450,000 in costs for more than 200 in-school bowling equipment grants to support schools and organizations in 41 states.

## Four high schools receive \$2,500 grants

The bowling programs at four high schools recently were awarded \$2,500 grants through the High School Grant Program, part of the Youth Education Services (YES) Fund.

The High School Grant Program accepts applications from schools that can show a financial need for their bowling program because of budget cuts or other changes, or schools can request funding to start a new program.

Alcorn Central High School in Glen, Mississippi, Borah High School in Boise, Idaho, Buckhorn High School in New Market, Alabama, and Middle College High School in Memphis, Tennessee, each received a \$2,500 grant. Go to [BOWL.com](http://BOWL.com)

## CALENDAR

**March 9-11, 2018**  
**Intercollegiate Team and Singles Sectionals**  
Dallas; Fairview Heights, Ill.; Smyrna, Tenn.; Stratford N.J.

**March 15-18, 2018**  
**USBC Senior Queens**  
Gold Coast Hotel and Casino  
Las Vegas

**March 24-July 8, 2018**  
**USBC Open Championships**  
Oncenter Convention Center  
Syracuse, N.Y.

**April 8-15, 2018**  
**USBC Masters**  
Oncenter Convention Center  
Syracuse, N.Y.

**April 17-21, 2018**  
**Intercollegiate Team and Singles Championships**  
Sun Valley Lanes  
Lincoln, Neb.

**April 19-July 1, 2018**  
**USBC Women's Championships**  
National Bowling Stadium  
Reno, Nev.

**April 23-26, 2018**  
**USBC Convention**  
Grand Sierra Resort  
Reno, Nev.

**April 26-28, 2018**  
**PWBA Las Vegas Open**  
South Point Bowling Plaza  
Las Vegas

**May 3-5, 2018**  
**PWBA Sonoma County Open**  
Double Decker Lanes  
Rohnert Park, Calif.

**May 10-12, 2018**  
**PWBA Fountain Valley Open**  
Fountain Bowl  
Fountain Valley, Calif.

**May 16-22, 2018**  
**USBC Queens**  
National Bowling Stadium  
Reno, Nev.

**May 31-June 2, 2018**  
**PWBA East Hartford Open**  
Silver Lanes  
East Hartford, Conn.

**May 31-June 3, 2018**  
**Super Senior Classic**  
Sam's Town Bowling Center  
Las Vegas

**June 4-10, 2018**  
**USBC Senior Masters**  
Sam's Town Bowling Center  
Las Vegas

**June 7-9, 2018**  
**PWBA Louisville Open**  
Fern Valley Strike and Spares  
Louisville, Ky.

Go to [BOWL.com/Tournaments](http://BOWL.com/Tournaments) for complete information.