

COLLEGE BOWLING

A BALANCING ACT

CLASS, STUDY, practice, compete. Repeat.

With the 2018-2019 college bowling season kicking into full gear, student-athletes once again must juggle the tasks of attending classes, studying, practicing and competing, all hoping to help their teams reach the

Intercollegiate Team Championships in April. It can be a gruel-



ing trek during the five or so months, but it also can be a very rewarding journey, both on and off the lanes. So, exactly, what is it like to compete on a college bowling team?

Several Junior Team USA members, who competed in the World Youth Championships this summer, shared their thoughts about college bowling. The bowlers are McKendree teammates Taylor Bailey and Breanna Clemmer, both juniors; Caitlyn Johnson, a junior at Webber International; Bryan Hahlen, a junior at McKendree; Wichita State senior Wesley Low Jr.; and Jeffery Mann, a sophomore at Marian University.

What's the most rewarding, and most difficult, part of competing on a collegiate team?

Breanna: The most rewarding is being able to win and lose together. I think that being on a team is a special thing, and not many get to experi-



Bryan Hahlen helped the McKendree men's team hoist the Helmer Cup at the 2018 Intercollegiate Team Championships.

ence something that has a close bond like that. The most difficult part is understanding that no matter what happens, your team has your back, and, when the ball leaves your hand, you did all you could do for you and your team.

Bryan: The most rewarding is the connection you have with your teammates, on and off the lanes. The most difficult – the mental preparation for tournaments.

Taylor: The most rewarding part is the bond you create with your teammates and the friendships you create. The most difficult part is knowing that when

you bowl, it's not just for you, it is for the team.

Caitlyn: The most rewarding part is knowing all the practices, workouts and early mornings have paid off with a win or qualifying for the ITC or ISC. The most difficult is trying to understand what your teammates needs are and that you can't control outcomes, no matter how much you really want to.

Jeffery: I find the most rewarding part is the relationships you build with your teammates. You will never have better friends/family as those you compete alongside with in college. The most difficult I feel is the work

you put in. The countless hours of time in the classroom and the hours on the lanes.

What's the one piece of advice you would give to a youth bowler who wants to bowl in college?

Taylor: I would tell them to not let the cost of tuition discourage them as they choose a college. It is a very important factor, yes, but if you truly know that you want to go to a school and you love it, then go to it. You don't want to have any regrets in the future.

Wesley: Trust the process. Every coach goes about their work differently, but the end result can be rewarding.

Caitlyn: Work hard and put in 110 percent. You only get four years of college, and, being as busy as you will be as a collegiate athlete, it will go by sooo fast. Take your time, enjoy it and pick the school YOU want to go to, not anyone else.

Jeffery: Be open to change. College bowling is a whole new animal, and your coaches are going to push you to your limits to get you to be the bowler you have always dreamed of being. Be ready for long days on the lanes, countless spare attempts in practice and the hours of studying for exams to make sure you stay on the lanes.

What is your major, and why did you choose it?

Breanna: Elementary Educa-

tion. I chose it because I want to make a change within the school system, and I want to be able to shape children's minds and help them grow mentally and emotionally.

Bryan: Business/Marketing. I chose these two majors



because I want to possibly open up my own business one day.

Taylor: Health and Wellness – the clinical track. I eventually want to go to graduate school and become a nurse practitioner. I love helping people and making them feel better.

Wesley: Business Management. I chose this because I wanted to learn all aspects of business. A business degree would allow me to pursue a job in the bowling industry.

Caitlyn: Marketing. I knew a business degree would only help me. Turns out I absolutely love marketing and sports business management, so now I plan on pursuing a career in the field.

Jeffery: I am a business marketing major, and I chose it because I love having the chance to interact with people and make an impact on the surrounding communities.

College bowling grows each year. How difficult is it to win a tournament, much less a national title?

Breanna: Extremely difficult. The up-and-coming bowlers are getting better and better, therefore making some teams hard to beat.

Bryan: It is very difficult because the tournaments are so long and grueling, and you are competing on some of the toughest oil patterns put out there.

Caitlyn: It is really hard to do

when that is your focus. But, when you focus on your team and just making good shots and staying in the moment, it becomes a lot easier to handle. The pressure seems to go away, and the moments are more enjoyable.

What will you take away from bowling with Junior Team USA that can help you or your team in college?

Breanna: Being one, and working together as one, can really help the success of the team. Being able to be open and honest with each other



Caitlyn Johnson of Webber International, Mabel Cummins, who is still in high school, and McKendree's Taylor Bailey and Breanna Clemmer won the team gold medal at the World Youth Championships this summer.

about how the lanes are playing, if you are nervous or not, or simply how you are feeling, helps create an environment for the team.

Bryan: Stay in the present, keep fighting all the way to the end and stay connected.

Taylor: I learned so much more about how to control your mental game and how to bowl freely with no pressure on yourself. Worlds was very humbling, and I learned that it is important to live in the moment.

Wesley: I learned through Team USA that with our short time together, we should become a cohesive unit as quickly as possible.

Caitlyn: Leadership and respect. I now have more respect for bowlers all across the globe because

I understand their lives and their passion for bowling. I learned leadership on a whole new level with Team USA, and I think that will help me with future endeavors and my college team.

Jeffery: To be completely honest, everything. Both years I have been on, I have brought back and applied to myself, my teammates and even parts to coaches. The mental aspect is the biggest part that I learn from and bring back each time.

Visit BOWL.com for complete coverage of college bowling, including the Collegiate Ticker, a weekly recap of tournaments.



Bryan Hahlen, who competes for McKendree, and Wichita State's Wesley Low Jr. were part of the Junior Team USA contingent at this summer's World Youth Championships.

THE ROAD TO OHIO

College bowling's national titles will be determined in Ohio in April 2019, as the Intercollegiate Team Championships will be held in Dayton, and the NCAA Bowling Championship (women only) will take place near Cleveland in Wickliffe.

The other major tournaments for 2018-2019:

Nov. 3-4 – Brunswick Southern Collegiate Classic, Brunswick Zone Austell and Bowlero Marietta, Marietta, Ga.

Nov. 24-25 – National Collegiate Team Match Games, St. Clair Bowl, Fairview Heights, Ill.

Dec. 17-18 – Glenn Carlson Las Vegas Invitational, South Point Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas

Dec. 19-20 – Collegiate Shoot-Out, Gold Coast Bowling Center, Las Vegas

Dec. 27-30 – Lehigh Valley Classic, Jordan Lanes, Whitehall, Pa.

Dec. 27-30 – Roto Grip Keystone Quaker Classic, Haja Rose Bowl, Allentown, Pa.

Jan. 19-20 – Kegel/ISBPA Midwest Collegiate Classic, Stardust Bowl, Addison, Ill.

Feb. 15-17 – 50th Annual Columbia 300 Hoosier Classic, Western Bowl, Indianapolis

March 8-10 – Intercollegiate Singles and Team Sectionals, Addison, Ill.; Dallas; Smyrna, Tenn.; Stratford, N.J.

April 11-13 – NCAA Championships, Wickliffe, Ohio

April 15-20 – Intercollegiate Singles and Team Championships, Poelging Lanes South, Dayton, Ohio

ASSOCIATIONS

SETTING THE COURSE

THE MISSION of USBC is to provide services, resources and the standards for the sport. With more than 1.4 million members spread throughout the country, it takes a strong network of local and state associations to ensure the mission is successful.

USBC's Association Leadership Academy, launched in



2017 and continuing this year, was designed to provide

USBC association leaders the tools to make their associations more effective in delivering USBC programs and services to their members, and increase their engagement.

More than 450 association leaders have taken the opportunity to attend these events at the International Bowling Campus in Arlington, Texas, and off-site. The USBC Association Development team took the academy on the road for two events last year and will be on the road for three events this fall.

So, what does the two-day Academy cover? Basically, everything an association needs to ensure it provides required services to the bowlers and also outlines ways to improve the association.

It delves into topics such as how to grow and best utilize association revenue and discussing the roles of board members and how to make sure new board members are properly trained. It looks at how to communicate and



More than 450 association leaders have taken part in an Association Leadership Academy at the International Bowling Campus in Arlington, Texas, including this group in August.

market to members through email, and how to develop youth leaders.

The response of the program has been extremely positive.

Evaluation responses from association leaders

who have attended gave the academy high marks for content, presentation and overall effectiveness.

"It goes to show how bowling really is a big family," said Dave Bryant, president of the Washington State USBC who attend an academy in September. "One of the best times ever for learning from USBC staff and all the other attendees about how to move our sport forward. Can't wait to

discuss some of these items at our board retreat."

Janet Moro, a director for the New York State USBC who also attended a September academy, said the opportunity to

network with other associations was invaluable.

"It was immensely helpful to hear what other associations have implemented to support our bowling communities and increase participation in our sport," Moro said. "I met so many fantastic people!"

Among the other topics discussed, and one every association hears about from bowlers, is why a bowler should certify. This year's attendees also dis-

cussed the recent specification changes following the Bowling Technology Study and the revamped center certification process.

"Providing education and training is such an important part of our Association Development Team's outreach to local and state associations," USBC Executive Director Chad Murphy said. "We appreciate the association leaders who took the initiative to attend an Association Leadership Academy and we look forward to providing more opportunities in the future."

Visit BOWL.com/Associations to learn more about the programs and resources USBC provides to local and state associations.



USBC QUICK STRIKES

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE UNITED STATES BOWLING CONGRESS

USBC board adds Joe Spain Jr.

Joe Spain Jr. of Alpharetta, Georgia, was selected to serve on the USBC Board of Direc-



tors as an at-large director for the 2018-2019 season. The at-large director position, which

was not filled last season, is a one-year appointment.

Spain, who already was serving on the USBC audit committee, has been the association manager for the Greater Atlanta USBC for more than 20 years, and for the Georgia State USBC. He served as a managing partner in a certified public accounting firm, which recently combined with a large Atlanta-based firm, for more than a decade.

Spain was the 2015 recipient of the USBC Helen Baker Award for Outstanding Association Service. He is a member of the Greater Atlanta USBC, Georgia State USBC, Georgia State Youth USBC, and Southeast Bowling Association Halls of Fame.

USA Bowling regionals are underway

USA Bowling has kicked off its regional schedule and 14 events are scheduled through next spring. Regional events give teams the opportunity to earn spots in the 2019 USA Bowling National Championships.

Each USA Bowling Regional event has a 12-and-under and a 15-and-under division, and the division champions at each regional advance to the national tournament, which will take place in the



Detroit area in July 2019.

Visit BOWL.com/USABowling for the complete schedule and to register for a USA Bowling Regional event.

Sites set for 2019, 2020 USBC Senior Championships

The 2019 USBC Senior Championships will take place at Western Bowl in Cincinnati from Aug. 6-9, and Executive Strike and Spare in Louisville will host the event in 2020 from July 28-31, as part of a two-year agreement with S&S Family Entertainment.

Senior bowlers interested in competing in the Senior Championships should contact their state association managers, as bowlers must qualify through their state's senior tournament. There are Open or Women's divisions in six age classifications – 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75 and above. Visit BOWL.com/SeniorChamp to learn more.

IBC Youth Development awards 21 Bowler's Ed kits

Bowler's Ed kits, containing curriculum and equipment designed to introduce students to the lifetime sport of bowling, recently were awarded to 15 schools and organizations based on submitted applications to IBC Youth Development.

The Bowler's Ed 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.

A total of 21 kits were awarded to the 15 schools and organizations. The Bowler's Ed Grant Program has awarded approximately \$500,000 to schools and organizations in the form of Bowler's Ed kits since 2009. Visit BOWL.com/BowlersEd to learn more about the program.

TNBA Youth members spend weekend at ITRC

Eight youth bowlers had the opportunity to learn from the Team USA coaching staff and found out their strengths and weaknesses using the International Training and Research Center's cutting-edge technology, during the 2018 The National Bowling Association Youth Week.

Participants were selected by TNBA based on submitted applications, resumes and videos.

Joining the bowlers at the ITRC were TNBA/ITRC Weekend Project Coordinator Barbara Armstead, a former USBC regional manager, coaches Don Armstead, Jesse Barron, Sandra Moore and Trevor Silcott, and TNBA officials Veronica Green and Dewann Clark.

In addition to the on-lane training and drills and classroom sessions, the youth bowlers also had the opportunity to tour the International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame and received insight from guest speakers about making the transition from high school to college bowling.

Visit TNBAInc.org for more information on TNBA.

PWBA Tour crowns 12 champions in 2018

The 2018 Professional Women's Bowling Association season wrapped up in September with Colombia's Maria Jose Rodriguez winning the PWBA Tour Championship. The season saw 12 players win titles



CALENDAR

Nov. 4-11, 2018
QubicaAMF World Cup
Sam's Town Bowling Center
Las Vegas

Nov. 23-Dec. 5, 2018
World Bowling Men's Championships
South China Athletic Association
Bowling Centre
Hong Kong

Jan. 2-7, 2019
USBC Team USA Trials
Gold Coast Bowling Center
Las Vegas

March 8-10, 2019
Intercollegiate Team and Singles Sectionals
Addison, Ill.; Dallas; Smyrna, Tenn.; Stratford, N.J.

March 9-June 30, 2019
USBC Open Championships
South Point Bowling Plaza
Las Vegas

March 15-19, 2019
USBC Senior Queens
Gold Coast Bowling Center
Las Vegas

March 26-April 1, 2019
USBC Masters
Gold Coast Bowling Center
Las Vegas

April 15-20, 2019
Intercollegiate Team and Singles Championships
Poelking Lanes South
Dayton, Ohio

April 20-June 30, 2019
USBC Women's Championships
Northrock Lanes
Wichita, Kan.

April 25-27, 2019
PWBA Greater Cleveland Open
Yorktown Lanes
Cleveland

April 29-May 2, 2019
USBC Convention
The Orleans
Las Vegas

Go to BOWL.com/Tournaments for complete information.

in the 14 events with Shannon O'Keefe earning PWBA Player of the Year honors and Jordan Richard taking home the PWBA Rookie of the Year award.

Seven events were televised live on CBS Sports Network, including all four majors, with six finals livestreamed on BowITV.

The 2019 PWBA Tour will kick off April 25-27 with the PWBA Greater Cleveland Open at Yorktown Lanes. Visit PWBA.com for more details.