

YOUTH BOWLING

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIANS STRIKE GOLD

Competitors from six

states – California, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, New York, North Carolina – took home a title from the 2019 Junior Gold Championships presented by the Brands of Ebonite International, but a couple of the competitors left Detroit with two national titles.



Just shortly after Katelyn Abigania and Elias O'Hollaren won the USA Bowling National Championships presented by Sixlets U12 title as members of the SDLV Strikers, they were quickly back under the CBS Sports Network television lights, capturing U12 Junior Gold Championships titles. Both were the No. 3 seed and won two matches on the TV show.

Three of the USA Bowling team's four members – Abigania, O'Hollaren and Avery Domaguin – are from San Diego. Sebastian Huffman, the LV part of the SDLV team, is from Las Vegas. All were equally successful individually at Junior Gold.

Domaguin was the Junior Gold U12 girls top qualifier, ahead of Abigania, and finished fifth. Huffman was seventh in Junior Gold.

But it's the Southern Californians success that is worth noting, as the area has produced more than a few recent Junior Gold winners.

Abigania, in winning back-to-back U12 titles, joins Solomon Salama (U15 in 2016, 2017)

and Wesley Low Jr. (U20 in 2013 and 2017) as Southern California bowlers to have won multiple Junior Gold titles. Natalie Jimenez, who won in 2011, also was from the area.

"It's a point of pride to know that my area has produced two more Junior Gold national champions," said Salama, 16, a member of Junior Team USA and Team USA in 2019. "Between the Junior Amateur Tour

and the Junior Bowlers Tour Southwest, bowlers in Southern California have the opportunity to compete week after week on difficult conditions. The ability for younger bowlers like Elias and Katelyn to compete against older competitors on both tours has given them both mental maturity and experience beyond their years."

The JAT was one of the first youth scratch tours in the nation to provide premier events for youth bowlers in Southern California. The JBT runs weekly scratch and handicap scholarship bowling tournaments.

"San Diego has a lot of amazing bowlers," Abigania said. "Bowling against them definitely makes me better, both mentally and physically. I dealt with situations better this year than last year. I thank San Diego for prepping me for this tournament and every single other tournament I go into."

She referenced two-time winner Salama after winning her second title, saying he's doing "big stuff and I can't wait to see what's in my future."

O'Hollaren also ref-



Katelyn Abigania, left, and Elias O'Hollaren, right, won the U12 Junior Gold titles and also were teammates on the U12 team coached by Gary Oatis, center, that won the USA Bowling National Championships title.



Katelyn Abigania, Avery Domaguin, Sebastian Huffman, and Elias O'Hollaren, with coach Gary Oatis, after winning the USA Bowling Nationals Championships U12 title.

erenced the Southern California youth bowling scene and, specifically, Salama.

"In the area that I bowl in, we have a bunch of really good bowlers," O'Hollaren said. "I bowl with Solomon like once a month and have to compete with him."

The bowlers have competed in dozens of tournaments in the last year, and Salama said the 12-year-olds not only have a level of maturity but have "a passion for the sport that pushes them forward."

Salama faced O'Hollaren on three separate occasions, and though Salama won each encounter, a best-of-three match went to a deciding third game, which he won, 267-256, and another match was decided by a single pin.

Salama said he has provided advice and encouragement over the last year or so,

telling each to stay humble and to keep working harder on their games than anyone else is willing to work.

"At 12 years old, Elias is already giving me a run for my money and pushing me to the limit in matches," Salama said. "Both Elias and Katelyn are way past where I was at their age, in terms of bowling and maturity. They both are fantastic

athletes. In time they will grow, both physically and mentally."

Gary Oatis, the coach of the USA Bowling National Championships winner, said watching the competition at both events, and the number of games competitors have to bowl to reach the title matches, was impressive.

He also was impressed by the way his team handled

the pressure of bowling on national television. His goal was to provide encouragement along the way.

"The more relaxed they are, the more they don't think about the score," Oatis said. "They're really thinking about their shots, and that's what you want as a coach — to get them to not be so serious about it, but at the same time to focus on what they are doing. You have to make sure they are having fun."

The 2019 Junior Gold Championships had a record field of more than 4,000 participants competing for national titles and spots on Junior Team USA.

The 2020 Junior Gold Championships will take place July 11-18 in Las Vegas. The Orleans will have registration and the trade show, and the Junior Gold Championships Opening Ceremony, which will include the live televised finals of the Professional Women's Bowling Association (PWBA) Tour Las Vegas Open, at The Orleans Arena. The South Point Bowling Plaza will be the host center for the finals in all divisions.

GOLDEN MOMENT

The winners of each division at the 2019 Junior Gold Championships presented by the Brands of Ebonite International, with division and girls and boys winners:

U12 – **Katelyn Abigania**, San Diego; **Elias O'Hollaren**, San Diego

U15 – **Annalise OBryant**, Ball Ground, Ga.; **John Nunn**, Jacksonville, Fla.

U17 – **Caroline Thesier**, Mooresville, N.C.; **Cameron Hurwitz**, Rochester, N.Y.

U20 – **Patricia Rosales**, Orlando, Fla.; **Alec Keplinger**, Coldwater, Mich.

Visit BOWL.com/Youth to learn more about youth bowling national tournaments, including the Junior Gold Championships and USA Bowling events.

YOUTH

A NEW AGE FOR BOWLING

USBC recently announced

it will lower the maximum age for USBC Youth membership to 18 starting with the 2020-2021 season, a decision to align bowling with other youth sports. The Bowling Proprietors' Association of America and the International Bowling Campus Youth Committee agreed with the move to lower the age of youth bowlers from 20 to 18.

Bowling has been unique in the fact it has allowed competitors up to the age of 20 to compete in youth leagues. Before lowering the age limit, from 22 to 20, in 2009, a 22-year-old was allowed to compete in youth leagues.

Yet even after lowering it to age 20, the question always has been: Is it appropriate to have a 19-or 20-year-old competing in the same competition as a 14-year-old?

IBC Youth has taken steps to try to ensure youth bowlers are competing in peer-to-peer competition. Did you know as of 2011 that the Junior Gold Championships was simply two divisions – boys and girls? Now there are multiple age-based divisions, starting with U12, for that event and the Youth Open Championships and Pepsi Championships.

But, of course, the key questions for a youth bowler is how this change will impact their participation in the Junior Gold Championships and other events, or how this will affect competing on their high school bowling team.



The answer on Junior Gold Championships is simply this – if you were going to be eligible to bowl in the Junior Gold Championships in 2021, you still will be able to do so.

The Junior Gold Championships will make format changes with proposed divisions for U12, U15, U18 and U20 competitors, with the U20 division to have a separate timeframe for competition. More information on the 2021 event will be available by May 1, 2020, the start of the Junior Gold qualifying season for the 2021 Junior Gold Championships.

Now, the Pepsi Youth Championships and Youth Open Championships will see a change, as a U18 division will become the

top age division starting with the 2020-2021 season.

As for the high school bowlers, most high school athletic associations do not require USBC Youth membership. High school sports are governed by the state athletic associations for varsity competition and most clubs sports also have a governing organization that deal with eligibility, including age limitations. Check out a few state high school athletic associations, and you most likely will find that any athlete must be less than 19 years of age on Sept. 1 of the school year.

The answer to the question as to whether the youth age change was related to the U.S. Center for SafeSport is no,

as there is no mandate from SafeSport. But what many do not understand is that SafeSport guidelines already in place – and effective this season – state that anyone who is competing in a youth league and turns 18 during the course of a season must go through the online SafeSport training if they plan to continue to bowl in the league.

Of course, you might have more questions about the youth age change and how it impacts you, either as a bowler or someone involved in youth leagues or tournaments. The IBC Youth Development team has developed Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) documents to address questions it has received about the change.

Visit BOWL.com/YouthAgeChange for more information, including the FAQ's.

USBC QUICK STRIKES

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE UNITED STATES BOWLING CONGRESS



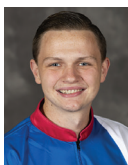
PWBA announces 2020 schedule

The PWBA recently announced its 2020 schedule and among the highlights are that the finals of the PWBA Las Vegas Open will be televised live as part of the Junior Gold Opening Ceremony in July. The 2020 PWBA Tour season will start April 23 with the PWBA Tucson Open at Lucky Strike Bowl in Tucson, Arizona.

The 2019 PWBA Tour season still has two events remaining – the QubicaAMF PWBA Players Championships (Sept. 3-8) and the PWBA Tour Championship (Sept. 15-18). Both are majors with the finals on CBS Sports Network. Visit PWBA.com for more information.

Andrew Anderson joins USBC board of directors

Andrew Anderson of Holly, Michigan, a two-time and current



member of Team USA, was elected by Team USA athletes to serve on the USBC Board of Directors. Ander-

son, 24, fills an athlete vacancy on the board after Chris Barnes of Double Oak, Texas, decided to decline the position after his election by Team USA athletes.

Anderson's three-year term on the USBC board starts with the 2019-2020 season.

In 2018, Anderson won the USBC Masters and the Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) Xtra Frame Greater Jonesboro Open on his way to earning 2018 Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year honors. He joined the PBA Tour in 2017.



Pate captures two medals at 2019 Pan American Games

Nick Pate of Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, claimed the singles gold medal and teamed with Jakob Butturff of Tempe, Arizona, for gold in doubles at the 2019 Pan American Games in Lima, Peru. Butturff took bronze in singles, losing to Pate in the semifinals.

Stefanie Johnson of McKinney, Texas, and Shannon O'Keefe of Shiloh, Illinois, who have been Team USA teammates since 2005 and competed in the Pan American Games for the first time, captured the gold medal in women's doubles.

Dexter high school team includes four juniors

The 2018-2019 Dexter High School All-American Team has four juniors among its 10 selections. The team was selected by Dexter Bowling in consultation with the IBC Youth Development staff.

Named to the girls' team were Kalei Bass of New Lenox, Illinois, Katie Fraser of Elkhart, Indiana, Linda Himes of Texarkana, Arkansas, Alyssa Johnson of Lancaster, New York, and Cassie White of Quincy, Michigan. Fraser was the lone junior on the girls' team.

Juniors Tanner Ausec, of Colorado Springs, Colorado, Alex Kobus of Crown Point, Indiana, and Peyton Montgomery of Wichita, Kansas, were selected with seniors Matthew Ruff of Milan, Michigan, and Kai Sakamoto of Honolulu.

Each team member received a \$1,000 scholarship and Bass



also received the Bud Clapsaddle Award as team captain during the presentation of the team at the Junior Gold Championships Opening Ceremony in Detroit in July. Visit BOWL.com/HighSchool for more information on the team, grant initiatives to assist high school programs and more.

USBC, THE ROW have sponsorship deal

USBC has reached a sponsorship deal with Eldorado Resort Casino, Circus Circus



Reno and Silver Legacy Resort Casino – collectively branded as THE ROW –

as the presenting sponsor, official host hotels and official brackets sponsor for the 2020 USBC Open Championships.

The longtime sponsors and supporters of the event are in the midst of a multi-year master renovation plan at a cost of more than \$100 million. The 2020 Open Championships will take place March 21 through July 5 at the newly renovated National Bowling Stadium. Visit BOWL.com/OpenChamp for information.

Ohio laneman receives Jim Jaryszak Award

Randy Hart of Sandusky, Ohio, was named the recipient of the 2019 Jim Jaryszak Laneman Award. The award was presented by USBC President Karl Kielich during Bowl Expo, held in Las Vegas.

The award recognizes a person for their behind-the-scenes work as a laneman and is selected by the USBC Equipment Specifications and Certifications team from submitted nominations. Visit BOWL.com/EquipAndSpecs to learn more about the Jim Jaryszak Laneman Award.

CALENDAR

Sept. 2-10, 2019

World Bowling Senior Championships
South Point Bowling Plaza
Las Vegas

Sept. 3-8, 2019

QubicaAMF PWBA Players Championship
Buffaloe Lanes North
Raleigh, N.C.

Sept. 15-18, 2019

PWBA Tour Championship
Old Dominion Building,
Richmond Raceway
Richmond, Va.

Oct. 23-30, 2019

U.S. Open
Victory Lanes
Mooresville, N.C.

Jan. 2-7, 2020

USBC Team USA Trials
Gold Coast Bowling Center
Las Vegas

Feb. 16-23, 2020

U.S. Open
Sun Valley Lanes
Lincoln, Neb.

March 21-July 5, 2020

USBC Open Championships
National Bowling Stadium
Reno, Nev.

March 20-23, 2020

USBC Senior Queens
Gold Coast Hotel and Casino
Las Vegas

March 23-29, 2020

USBC Masters
Grand Sierra Resort
Reno, Nev.

April 13-18, 2020

Intercollegiate Team and Singles Championships
Spectrum Lanes
Grand Rapids, Mich.

April 18-July 6, 2020

USBC Women's Championships
South Point Bowling Plaza
Las Vegas

April 23-25, 2020

PWBA Tucson Open
Lucky Strike Bowl
Tucson, Ariz.

April 27-30, 2020

USBC Convention
The Orleans
Las Vegas

April 30-May 2, 2020

PWBA Spokane Open
Lilac Lanes At Cedar Creek
Spokane, Wash.

Go to BOWL.com or PWBA.com for complete information.