

COVER STORY

A YEARLY ENDEAVOR

MAKING THE FINAL event of the season is the goal of every college sports team, no matter the sport.

The road to the championships for bowling teams started in late September and, as in every sport, the regular season will play a major part in the teams that will compete for a national title. The first step is to earn enough points to make an Intercollegiate Team Championships sectional field or place high enough in the standings to make the conference tournament.

Along the way, teams will compete in a handful of tournaments that have been around long before this year's participants ever rolled their first bowling ball.

Gloria Behr oversees the Midwest Collegiate Championships, which recently was held for the 49th time at Bowlero in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. She became involved in bowling more than five decades ago.

"I started becoming involved in bowling in 1967 – working at Bowlero as a counter person," Behr said. "I remember the conversation well. I mentioned to Leo Pack, the famous Bowlero manager for many years, that I would be interested in a job. He called me and told me to come in on Saturday morning and when I walked in there that

day, I was greeted by 72 lanes filled with junior bowlers and a waiting list of 72 people wanting to open bowl!"

Behr said she has been involved with the Midwest Collegiate Championships for 44 years, explaining that June Schmidt started the tournament, with about 12 to 15 teams each year, as "college bowling was a small part of the scene at the time."

Now a Tier I event on the schedule, the tournament has 72 teams fill Bowlero each year and running the event has be-

come a family affair, as Gloria's assistants are her daughter, Dawn Mariscal, and granddaughter, Montana Mariscal.

At age 85, Gloria said she's proud to still be able to be a part of the event. She's a member of the Milwaukee Area USBC Hall of Fame (1994) and the Wisconsin State USBC Hall of Fame (2014), and was honored with the 2012 Gordon Teigen Service Award winner for her work in college bowling.

The growth of college bowling, and the numbers of schools involved, has been the

biggest change she has seen over the years.

"This all starts at the beginning, when the young bowlers come in to bowl in the junior programs that are run expertly by many dedicated people," Behr said. "They are encouraged to join the middle school bowling program, on to the high school program and then on to college. What a great way to have funds added to their SMART program so they can become a part of the college scene."

Patrick Polash, 46, has been part of the college bowling scene for more than two decades, first as a competitor and now as a tournament director for two collegiate events in Pennsylvania.

The Keystone Quaker Classic in Allentown, Pennsylvania, kicked off in 1994, started by his father, Fred. Polash, who won three national titles (two team, one doubles) at Vincennes, returned home in 1994 to finish his degree at Kutztown University, and joined his father to run the event, which only had a men's division and drew 13 teams.

In the early 2000s, the tournament took a late December timeslot, moving from October, and became a Tier I event with Roto Grip signing on as tournament sponsor a few years later. It now draws about 50-60 teams each year, 34-36 men's teams and 14-18 women's teams.



Gloria Behr, center, runs the Midwest Collegiate Championships with help from her granddaughter, Montana Mariscal, and her daughter, Dawn Mariscal.



Patrick Polash won three national titles as a competitor and remains involved in college bowling as a tournament director.

"Being a student and graduate of the Vincennes University Bowling Management program, I always thought I would end up in bowling center management/ownership somehow," said Polash, who owns and operates the Our Family's Pro Shops at Haja Rose Bowl and Jordan Lanes. "My career and life moved out of the bowling center side into the telecom industry after I completed my bachelor's degree in 1996, so tournament management was a way for me to stay involved with the collegiate game."

But the Roto Grip Keystone Quaker Classic is not the only collegiate event Polash oversees, as he also runs the Lehigh Valley Collegiate Classic.

He explained the Lehigh Valley Collegiate Classic, which started in 2012 and also runs

in late December, was a continuation of the Penn State Kegler Classic that had been operated by the Penn State Bowling Club for many years. Polash convinced the tournament to move to Allentown to give teams the chance to compete in two events with one trip.

When the person who ran the Penn State Kegler decided to retire two years later, Polash decided to take on the second event, "and with that the Lehigh Valley Collegiate Classic was born."

He said the goal with both events is to be fair in all decisions, from lane conditions – "always a hot-button issue" – to scholarships to the local hotels and restaurants they work with, to give the teams the best experience.

"Let's face it, coming to

eastern Pennsylvania at the end of December can sometimes be a tad dicey, weather-wise," Polash said. "Fortunately, we have been lucky to only have weather impact us a couple of times and never have we had to cancel any events (knock on wood)."

Polash was honored with the Gordon Teigen Service Award for his work in collegiate bowling in 2014, with his father, Fred, taking home the award three years later. The younger Polash said between the two tournaments, the ITC sectional events in Allentown and Stratford, New Jersey, the national ITC and Intercollegiate Singles events, and countless local events, he's been involved with close to 100 tournaments from a management standpoint.

From his time as a collegiate bowler to today, he said the level of competition and coaching has been raised so much higher.

"When I was competing in the early 1990s, it usually was a group of guys/girls getting together to go bowl," he said. "Now the regimens that some of the teams have and the regulations that are in place make it a much more aligned

with other sports on the collegiate level. For the most part, I believe most of the changes have definitely been positive. The collegiate game has been a HUGE bright spot for the bowling industry."

Another tournament that has been part of the collegiate bowling schedule for more than three decades is the Collegiate Shoot-out in Las Vegas.

Frank Barnhart, the 1988 Gordon Teigen Service Award winner and a St. Louis USBC and Missouri USBC Hall of Fame member, started the event that ran at different centers in Las Vegas and before moving to Gold Coast last season.

"I was approached by two college bowling coaches who asked me to start a new tournament to be run in conjunction (i.e., before or after) the existing Las Vegas Invitational tournament at Showboat," Barnhart said.

The Collegiate Shoot-out, which moves to a total-pins format in 2019, celebrates its 33rd year this season and will have 65 to 68 teams. It will take place Dec. 20-21, immediately after the Glenn Carlson Las Vegas Invitational (Dec. 18-19).

KEY DATES

The Intercollegiate Team Championships (ITC) and Intercollegiate Singles Championships (ISC) are the premier events of the college bowling season. The key dates:

Feb. 19 – ITC Sectional assignments announced

Feb. 21 – ISC Sectionals registration opens

March 13 – ISC Sectionals

March 14-15 – ITC Sectionals

April 13-18 – ISC, Spectrum Lanes, Wyoming, Mich.

April 15-18 – ITC, Spectrum Lanes, Wyoming, Mich.

Visit **BOWL.com/Collegiate** to learn more about college bowling and check out the Collegiate Ticker on **BOWL.com** for a recap of the previous weekend's tournaments.

BOWLTV

COAST-TO-COAST COVERAGE

THE 2019-2020 SEASON

marks the start of the second decade of BowlTV bringing livestream coverage of collegiate events to bowling fans and what better way to start the second decade than with expanded coverage.

BowlTV's collegiate livestream schedule, which kicked off with two events in October, will feature 11 more regular-season events leading into the postseason.

The schedule includes all 10 Tier 1 competitions on the USBC Collegiate schedule plus a pair of National Collegiate

Athletic Association (NCAA) events.

College bowling has seen tremendous growth over the last decade or so, and while the 2020 Intercollegiate Team Championships will be held for the 45th time in April, there also will be other post-season championships.

The NCAA made bowling a women's championship sport in 2004 and the 2019 season saw 83 schools battle for the title. BowlTV will

showcase NCAA women's bowling with three events – the Hawk Classic Invitational in Millsboro, Del., and the Prairie View A&M Invitational and the Southwest Athletic

Conference (SWAC) Women's Bowling Championship from Arlington, Texas.

BowlTV also will carry the Collegiate Club Championships that will take place in Anderson, Indiana, on March 28-29, 2020. The tournament, first held in 2014 to provide a championship-level event for club bowling teams, features pool play to set the double-elimination bracket.

But, of course, the goal for collegiate teams is to be among the top 80 men's teams or top 64 women's teams at the end of the season to qualify for one of the four sectionals of the Intercollegiate Team Championships that will take place in March.

BowlTV will have live coverage from each of the four sectionals, including coverage of the Intercollegiate Singles Championships in March, and from April 13-18 will carry all qualifying portions of the Intercollegiate Team and Singles Championships.



COLLEGIATE BOWLING ON BOWLTV

With date, event, and site:

Nov. 2-3 – **Brunswick Southern Collegiate Classic**, Marietta, Ga.

Nov. 9-10 – **Leatherneck Classic**, Moline, Ill., and Davenport, Iowa

Nov. 22-24 – **Hawk Classic Invitational**, Millsboro, Del.

Nov. 30-Dec. 1 – **National Collegiate Team Match Games**, Fairview Heights, Ill.

Dec. 18-19 – **Glenn Carlson Las Vegas Invitational**, Las Vegas

Dec. 20-21 – **Collegiate Shoot-Out**, Las Vegas

Dec. 27-30 – **Roto Grip Keystone Quaker Classic**, Allentown, Pa.

Dec. 27-30 – **Lehigh Valley Collegiate Classic**, Whitehall, Pa.

Jan. 18-19 – **Kegel/ISBPA Midwest Collegiate Classic**, Addison, Ill.

Jan. 31-Feb. 2 – **Prairie View A&M Invitational**, Arlington, Texas

Feb. 15-16 – **Columbia 300 Hoosier Classic**, Indianapolis

March 13-15 – **ITC and ISC sectional qualifiers**, Addison, Ill.; Dallas; Smyrna, Tenn.; Stratford, N.J.

March 20-22 – **SWAC Women's Bowling Championship**, Arlington, Texas

March 28-29 – **Collegiate Club Championships**, Anderson, Ind.

April 13-18 – **Intercollegiate Team and Singles Championships**, Wyoming, Mich.

Visit **BOWL.com/Collegiate** to learn more about the collegiate bowling season, including the season schedule and results, and check out **BowlTV.com** to learn how you can watch the action during the college bowling season.

USBC QUICK STRIKES

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE UNITED STATES BOWLING CONGRESS

USBC, Kegel extend longstanding partnership

Kegel and USBC extended their partnership agreement to have Kegel as the official lane maintenance provider for USBC championships events.

Since 2006, Kegel has provided lane maintenance equipment and supplies, along with technical and on-site support, for USBC events from the youth to professional level. Kegel also handles lane maintenance for the Professional Women's Bowling Association, which is supported by the Bowling Proprietors' Association of America (BPAA) and USBC.



E.A.R.L. featured in WIRED video series

As part of it's Almost Impossible series, the team from WIRED visited the International Training and Research Center to take a look at why it's almost impossible to make the 7-10 split in bowling and also looked at the Greek Church split.

The series looks at the science behind remarkable feats of strength, agility and performance and series host Robbie Gonzalez discussed splits with pro bowler Wes Malott and watched E.A.R.L., the state-of-the-art ball-throwing robot, take aim at the 7-10 and Greek Church splits.

You can see the video at WIRED.com/video/series.



IBC Youth award 14 Bowler's Ed kits

Fourteen schools recently were selected to receive

Bowler's Ed kits through the International Bowling Campus Youth Development's equipment grant program.

Through the program, educators and youth organizers are provided the tools needed to engage children in a true bowling experience by bringing a bowling-center atmosphere inside a classroom or gymnasium. Kits include a step-by-step curriculum and an instructional video on the fundamentals of bowling, etiquette, safety, scoring and fitness activities.

Visit BOWL.com/BowlersEd to learn more.

Dexter Bowling to continue to sponsor All-American Team

Dexter Bowling will remain the title sponsor of the annual Dexter High School All-American Team through the 2022 season after renewing its partnership agreement with IBC Youth Development.

Since the 2005-2006 season, Dexter has worked with IBC Youth each season to select five male and five female student-athletes for the prestigious award. Selections are determined from a nationwide pool of applicants and are based on the student-athlete's high school bowling accomplishments, academic achievement, recommendations, extracurricular and community involvement, and submitted essays.

Visit BOWL.com/HighSchool to learn more about the Dexter High School All-American Team, including past team members.

Dahms Sportsmanship Awards given to eight youth bowlers

Eight bowlers who participated

in the 2019 Junior Gold Championships presented by the Brands of Ebonite International were selected to receive the David Dahms Sportsmanship Award.

The 2019 winners were Connor Reaney of Mount Vernon, Illinois, and Pilar Swinson of Lilburn, Georgia, in U12, Seth Colling of Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Mya Williams of Brighton, Colorado, in U15, Ryan Toffoli of Miami and Taylor McBride of White Lake, Michigan, in U17 and Dalton Kilner of Louisville, Kentucky, and Kiara Abanto of Rock Hill, South Carolina, in U20.

Each U12 award winner received a 50-point scholarship while the U15, U17 and U20 recipients each received a 100-point scholarship. Visit BOWL.com/JuniorGold for more information about the Junior Gold program.

Museum launches new online archive

The International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame is providing fans of bowling – and history – a way to experience the sport from anywhere in the world through an online collection of the many great items in the museum's vast inventory.

BowlingHeritage.com is the gateway to the Bowling Virtual Vault, which features many of the historic items on display at the museum in Arlington, plus additional collections the museum is not able to display year-round because of space constraints.

Some of the collections include bowling fashion, featuring an assortment of vintage bowling balls, bags, shoes and shirts, plus bowling toys and games, bowling stars in the 20th century, and bowling collectables.

CALENDAR

Nov. 16-24, 2019
QubicaAMF Bowling World Cup
Jakabaring Sport City
Palembang, Indonesia

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 13-15, 2020
Intercollegiate Team and Singles Championships Sectionals
Addison, Ill.; Dallas; Smyrna, Tenn.; Stratford, N.J.

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.

May 7-9, 2020
PWBA Sacramento Open
Steve Cook's Fireside Lanes
Sacramento, Calif.

May 13-19, 2020
USBC Queens
South Point Bowling Plaza
Las Vegas

May 27-31, 2020
Super Senior Classic
Sam's Town Bowling Center
Las Vegas

May 28-30, 2020
PWBA Greater Cleveland Open
Yorktown Lanes
Parma Heights, Ohio

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