

US BOWLER

April 2011



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DONNA ADAMEK



LYNDA BARNES

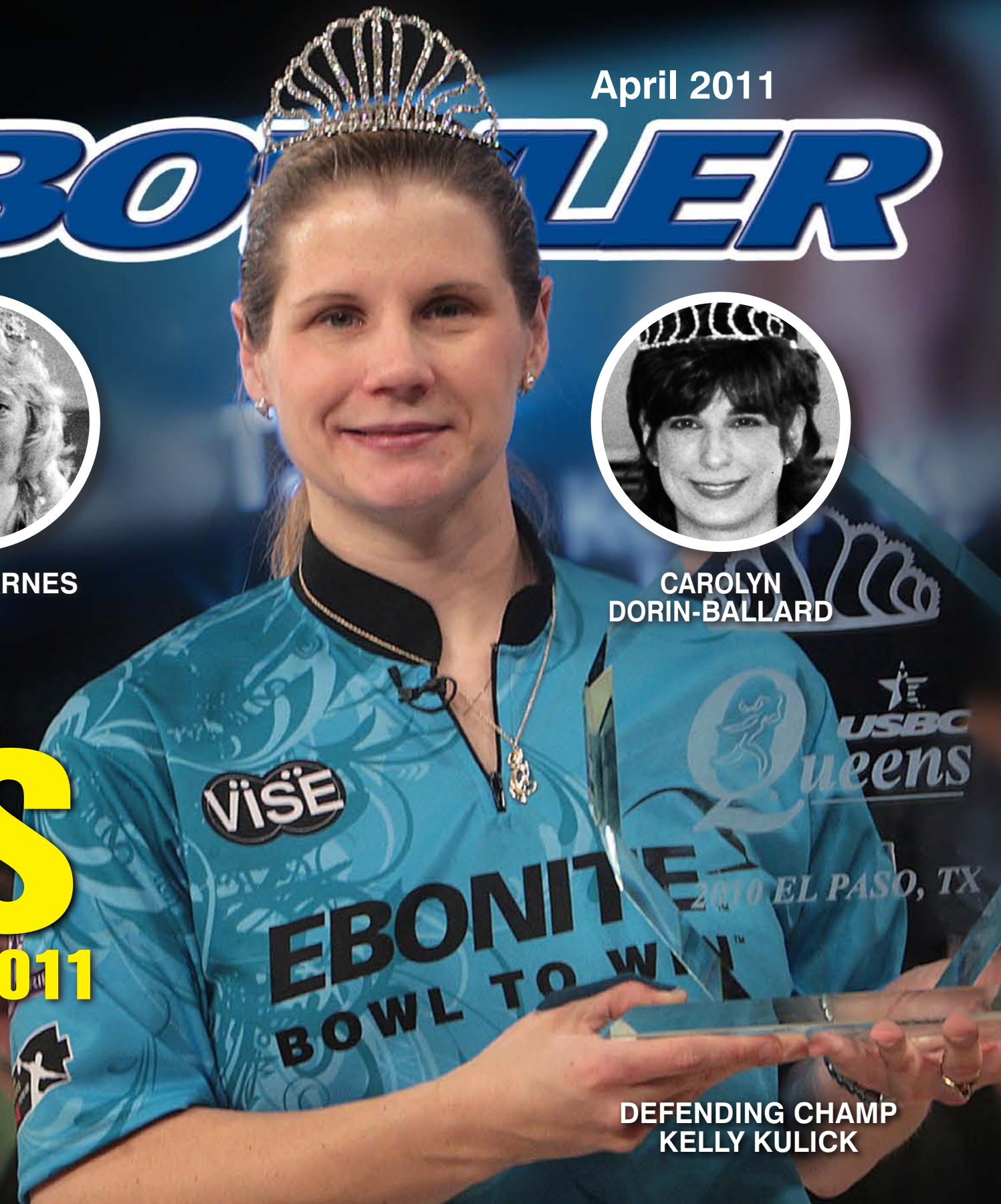


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like two-time
winner Katsuko
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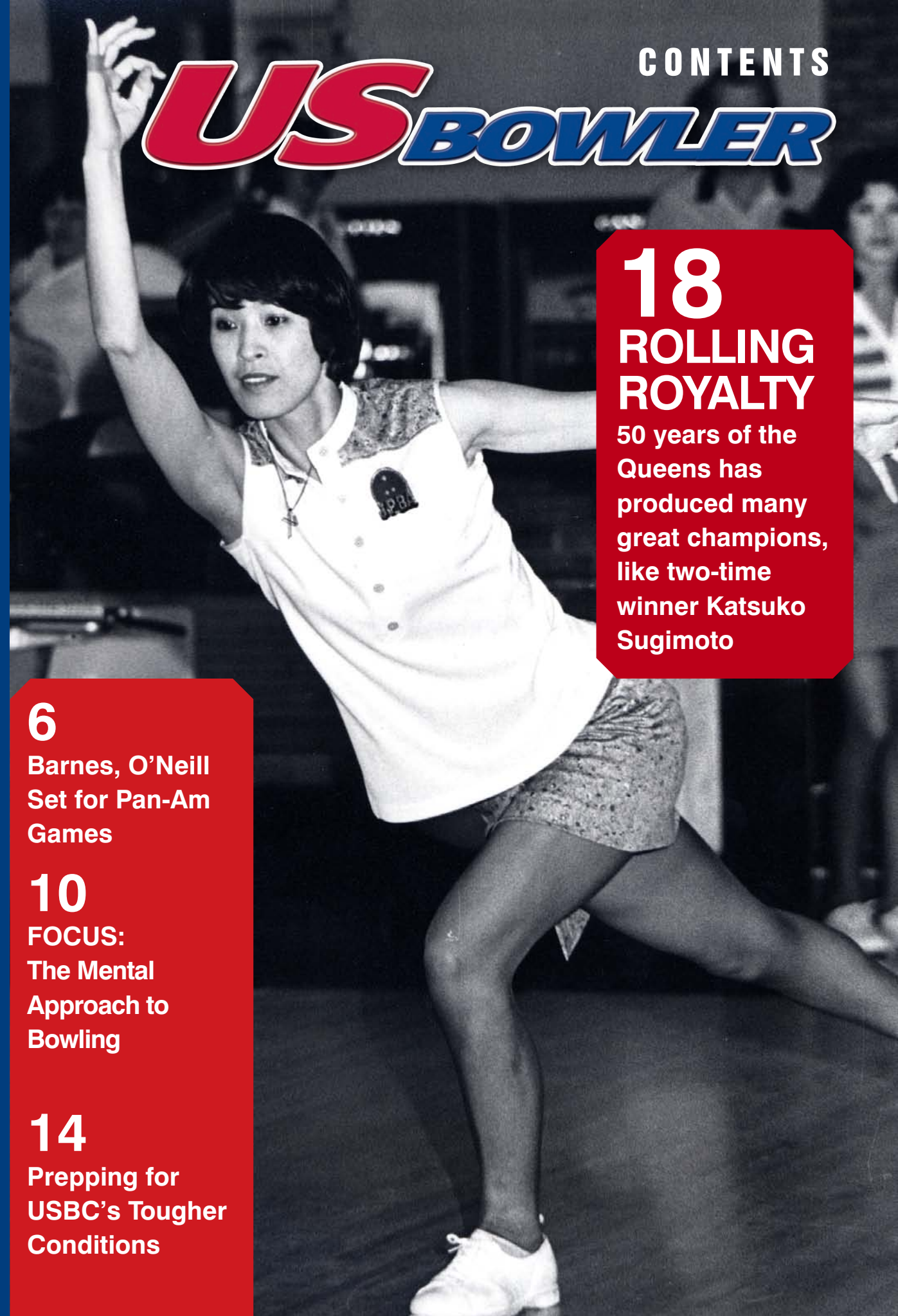
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NATIONAL NEWS

The bleachers at the National Bowling Stadium were packed with bowling fans and dignitaries, as the 2011 USBC Open Championships got underway March 3 in Reno, Nev. More than 650 bowlers paraded into the crowded stadium during opening festivities that also featured welcoming remarks from two mayors, a performance by the cast of "Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story," USBC Hall of Famer Jim Schroeder and, of course, the crowning of Joe Bowler and the tossing of the ceremonial first ball signifying the start of the 108th Open Championships. For updates on the Open Championships, check in at BOWL.com.



And Awaayyyyy We Go!

The 108th Open Championships got a rockin' start in Reno.

CLICK ON THE PLAY BUTTON ABOVE TO WATCH THE OPENING CEREMONY VIDEO.



USBC Womens Championships To Start in Syracuse

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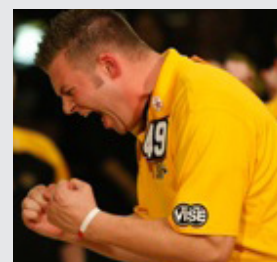
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Field Set For Intercollegiate Singles Championships

Twenty-four men and 16 women advanced from sectional qualifiers and will meet in Euless, Texas.

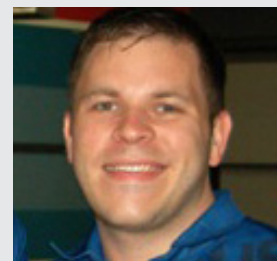
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Candidates Selected For USBC Board of Directors

Five candidates, including incumbent USBC President Darlene Baker, will vie for four board positions.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



O'Neill, Kulick named BWAA Bowlers of the Year

Duo capped impressive years by rolling to Bowler of the Year honors.

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Bowling Foundation Awards Grants

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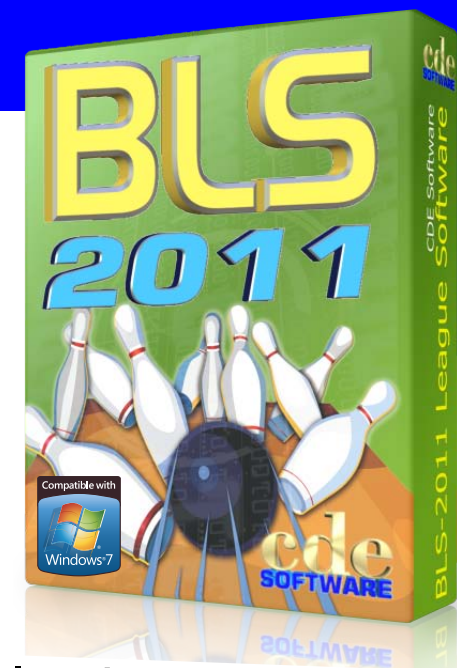
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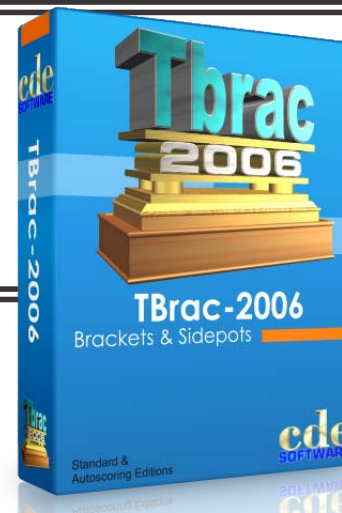
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Bulletin Board

NEWS, NOTES AND HAPPENINGS FROM THE WORLD OF BOWLING /// APRIL 2011

The "A" Team



TEAM USA'S BARNES AND O'NEILL ARE ROLLING INTO THE FALL PAN AM GAMES

After helping themselves to a rather piggish nine medals at the 2010 Men's World Tenpin Championships in Munich, Bill O'Neill and Chris Barnes will be on the hunt for more precious metal as Team USA's representatives to the 2011 Pan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico, Oct. 24-27.

The Professional Bowlers Tour stars earned that opportunity following Team USA's Pan Am Games Trials at the International Training and Research Center in late March. Eleven Team USA members bowled 32 games in eight-game blocks, competing on three International Patterns and the 2010 USBC Masters pattern. Final positions at the Pan Am Trials accounted for 60 percent of the qualifying criteria, which also awarded points based on the bowlers' finishes in the USBC Masters (20 percent) and U.S. Open (20 percent).

O'Neill led the Trials with 7,386, giving him a total of 100 points. Barnes finished third (7,160) at the

Trials, but totaled 94 points, edging out Tommy Jones (92 points) for the second Pan Am Games spot.

"The Pan Am Games is the American Zone version of the Olympics," said Barnes, who also represented

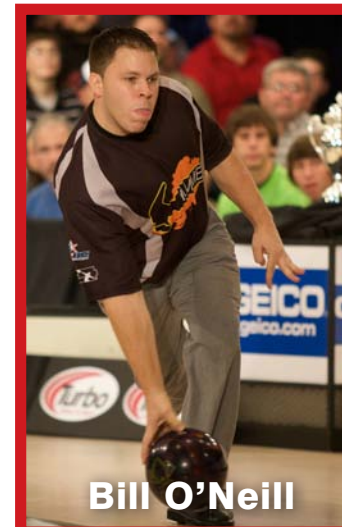
Team USA at the 1995 Pan Am Games in Argentina. "Being around the other athletes is special. It's great to be a part of something that's bigger than just bowling.

"And I'm

looking forward to bowling with Bill again instead of head-to-head, like we do on Tour," added Barnes, who won Masters gold at the World Championships, while O'Neill took gold in All Events.

Forty-two nations will be represented at the 16th edition of the Pan Am Games, with 19 nations sending bowlers to Bowlerama Tapatico for the singles and doubles competition. Bowling will be one of 40 sports represented at the 2011 Pan Am Games.

Team USA's two women representatives to the 2011 Pan Am Games will be determined in May.



Bill O'Neill



Chris Barnes

The Old College Try

LINEUP SET FOR INTERCOLLEGIATE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS IN COLUMBUS, GA

DEFENDING champions Wichita State University and Webber International are among the 32 teams that will meet at AMF Peach Lanes in Columbus, Ga., April 21-23, to face off for the 2011 USBC Intercollegiate Team Championships.

Three-time defending men's national champs Wichita State advanced by winning one of the four sectional qualifiers in mid-March. With each team bowling 64 games of Baker competition over two days, the Shockers won the Eules, Texas, sectional. Newman, Fresno State and Kansas also advanced in Eules.

Morehead State captured the Chattanooga (Tenn.) sectional men's title to move on to Columbus along with Webber International, Lindenwood and Wright State. Calumet College advanced from the Peoria (Ill.) sectional, along with Robert Morris-Illinois, Toledo and Davenport. And the

Allentown (Pa.) sectional produced Rochester Institute of Technology, Purdue, Saginaw Valley State and Pikeville.

Naturally, all eyes in the men's division will be on Wichita State, as it tries to become the first team to win four consecutive national crowns.

"We really don't talk about past years," cautioned Shockers coach Gordon Vadakin, whose men's and women's squads have combined to win 19 national titles.

"The players change. You just want to bowl well. And with more talented teams in



Wichita State headlines the men's field.



SIS BOOM BAH: Webber International will try to defend its title at the 2011 Intercollegiate Team Championships.

both the men's and women's divisions, it gets tougher to win every year."

The Lady Shockers will be one of 16 women's teams trying to unseat 2010 champ Webber International. Wichita State advanced from Eules, along with sectional winner Maryland Eastern Shores, Newman and West Texas A&M.

Meanwhile, the Warriors of Webber claimed the Chattanooga sectional title, and will be joined in Columbus by Florida State, Bel-

larmine and Lindenwood.

"I think we're more prepared this year," said Del Warren, part of Webber's three-headed coaching staff (along with Joe Slowinski and Randy Stoughton). "We learned a lot last year, both from winning the women's title and not winning the men's title. We've paid a little more attention to detail this year. Still, there are so many great teams. It's going to be really competitive."

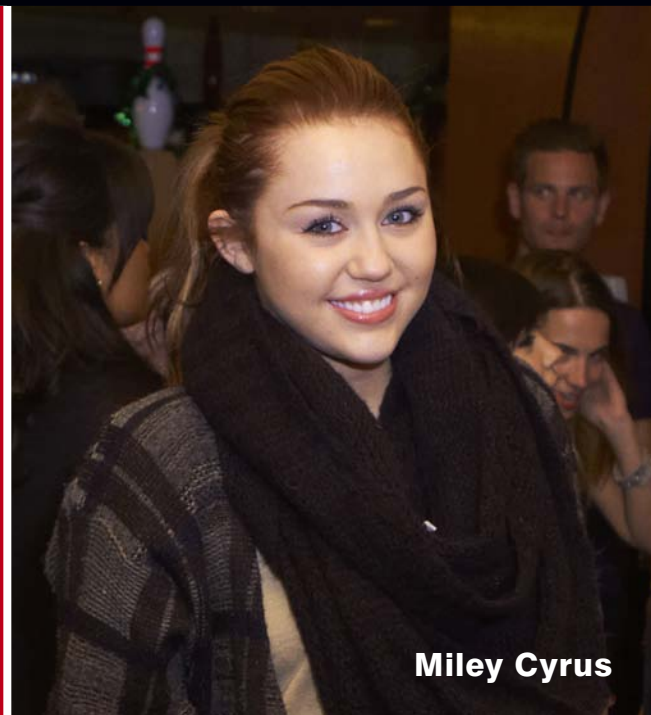
Midland won the Peoria Sectional, with McKendree, Robert Morris-Illinois and Wisconsin-Whitewater also advancing. Central Florida topped the Allentown sectional, which also advanced Pikeville, Kutztown and Adelphi.

RAISING AWARENESS THROUGH BOWLING

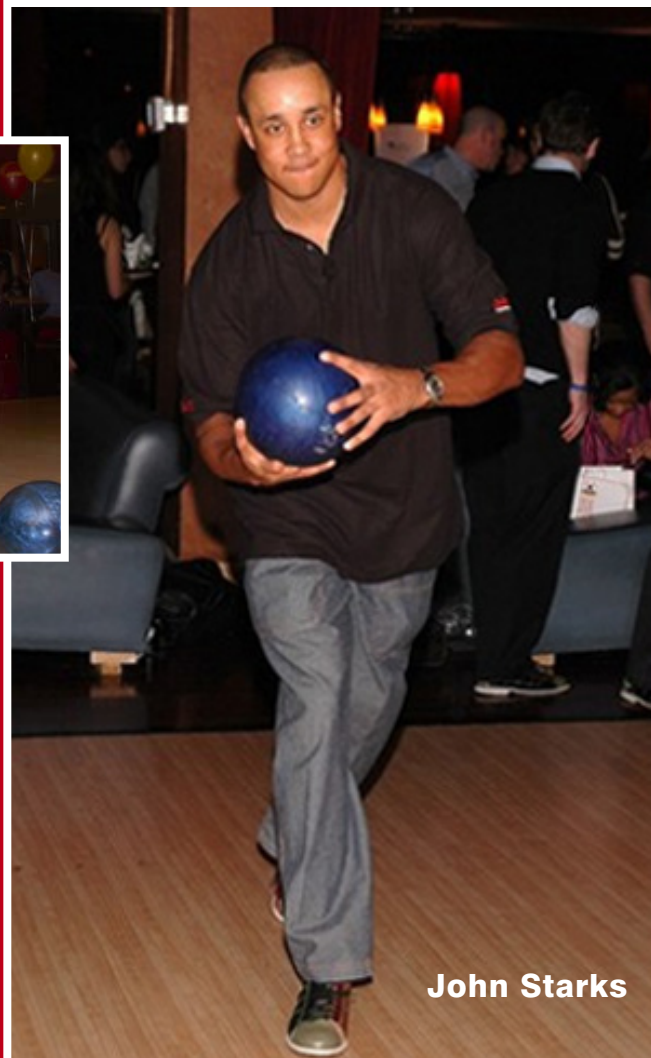
BOWLING CONTINUES to be the vehicle of choice for foundations and associations trying to make a difference in their communities. Both A Place Called Home, a safe haven that provides programs and services for the youth of South Central Los Angeles, and The John Starks Foundation, which provides academic scholarships to high school students in the New York/Tri State area, recently used the fun and excitement of bowling to raise awareness of their efforts in their communities.

Music artists Pete Wentz, Cee-Lo Green and Miley Cyrus, actors Howie Mandel and Chris Tucker, and soccer star Bryan Jordan were among the celebs who joined nearly 500 supporters at Pinz Bowling and Entertainment Center in Studio City. The event raised more than \$100,000 for A Place Called Home.

In New York City, former pro basketball star John Starks welcomed ex-New York Knicks Allan Houston and Charles Smith, and New York Giant Justin Tuck to Lucky Strikes Lanes for the Second Annual John Starks Celebrity Bowl.



Miley Cyrus



John Starks

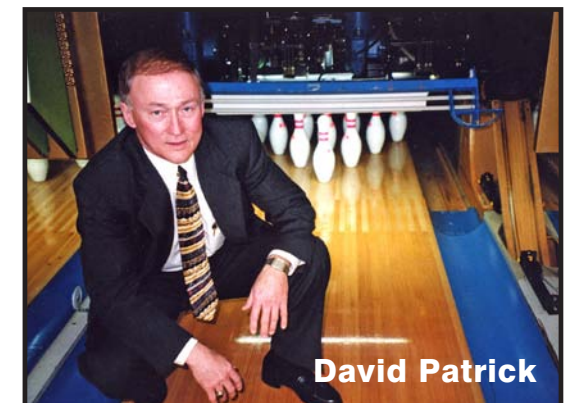
Stand Up And Be Recognized

EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE to the bowling industry doesn't go unnoticed, which is why a state association leader, a bowling center proprietor and an industry executive have been named winners of the 2011 USBC Recognition Awards.

Texas association leader Ellen Goss, Indiana proprietor James Doty and former Bowling Inc. CEO David Patrick will be honored with annual awards at the 2011 USBC Convention in Grapevine, Texas.

Goss, a USBC member for 41 years, will receive the Helen Baker Outstanding Association Service Award for her longtime work as an association volunteer and state delegate. Goss has also been involved in the Texas Bowling Writer's Association, the 600 Club, the state nominating committee and Bowl for the Cure.

The Proprietor of the Year Award will deservedly go to Doty,



David Patrick

General Manager of Royal Pin Leisure Centers in Indianapolis, who has hosted numerous USBC events and welcomes nearly 13,000 league bowlers to his centers. Doty

has also hosted the USBC Junior Gold Championships and Youth Open, and supports local high school teams.

Patrick, who served as CEO for Bowling Inc. in the late '90s, will be honored with the Joyce Deitch Unity Award, in recognition of his contributions to the sport as an association leader. Patrick played an integral role of unifying staff as bowling's membership organizations moved toward the merger that is now USBC.



James Doty

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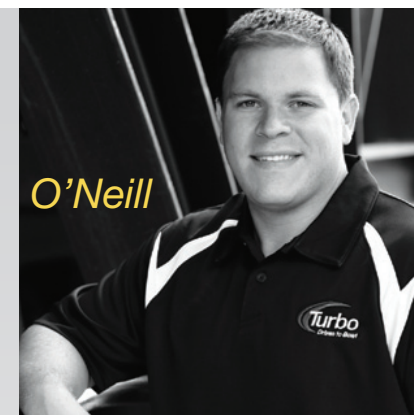
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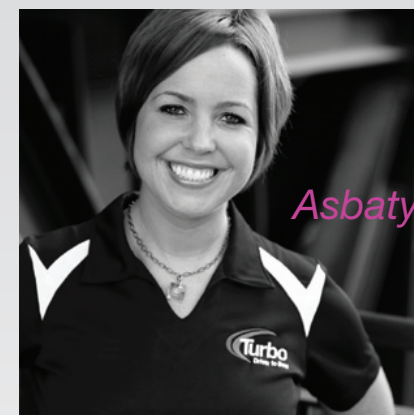
Koivuniemi



O'Neill



Dorin-Ballard



Asbaty

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ZERO IN

At the highest levels in bowling, where stars like Liz Johnson (above) reside, the mental game is even more important.

MIND GAMES

THE MENTAL APPROACH TO BOWLING IS CRITICAL

SPORT IS 100 percent mental. The other 100 percent is physical.

No, that is not a passage from a book of Yogi Berra quotes. Sport is 100 percent physical in that you are moving objects. It's also 100 percent mental because, even at the most basic levels of sport, the physical act requires awareness and focus.

Let's say a person is picking up a bowling ball for the first time. We teach them how to put the ball in their hand and instruct them to get the thumb

out of the ball before the fingers. The act of throwing the ball may look purely physical, but the bowler has been told to be aware of something. It's a mental process that translates into a physical act. Until you can move an object entirely with your mind, you can't separate the physical and the mental.

That said, at the highest levels in bowling the mental game is even more important. Every competitor has the skill-set to make any shot at any time. That's why bowling

fans across the country were so astounded recently when Mika Koivuniemi, one of the game's most accurate bowlers, missed a 10 pin spare in the final frame of the PBA U.S. Open, costing him the title. (See accompanying video.)

How could that possibly happen?

"It was my nerves, I guess," Mika said later. "I was thinking about the wrong things."

Mika has been around awhile and is one of the greatest bowlers of his era. And his assessment of the

By Dr. Dean Hinitz

missed 10 pin is right on. His focus was in the wrong place.

First, we need to make the distinction between focus and concentration. Focus is having a point of attention, like taking your camera and zeroing in. Concentration is maintaining that state for the time it takes to complete the shot.

So, is bowling more focus or concentration? Concentration is important, but it is only helpful if you're focusing on the right thing. If you focus on the crowd noise, your concentration may be perfect, but it's on the wrong thing. In Mika's case, I would speculate that he wasn't present for his shot. His mind

was elsewhere for a split second. You only miss if you're thinking about something else.

Focus

There are areas of focus. To make a tennis analogy, "court awareness" is a key area. What's the surface? What are the crowd conditions? What's the atmosphere?

Once you've made yourself aware of everything that's going on around you, you need to make sure you stay present throughout the match. It's so easy too get lost in past frames or in future frames. That only takes you away from the stillness of the moment that you are in. There is a part in all of us that wants to be

Once you've made yourself aware of everything that's going on around you, you need to make sure you stay present.



OUT OF FOCUS: Click on the Play button above to see how Mika Koivuniemi's momentary lapse in focus cost him the PBA U.S. Open title.

praised and wants to avoid being punished or embarrassed. We carry the audience's job inside of us, and when we don't do well we don't have to wait for the fans or family to say anything. We beat them to it by de-

livering our own negative message ... "You blew it." We deliver our own cheers and boos and it keeps us from the appropriate focus that's required to compete well.

How does someone lose their focus?

By definition, loss of focus stems from one of three things: a lazy mental attitude, fear or distraction.

A lazy mental approach, or "coasting," is easily trainable. Part of your mental game warm-up has to

be, "I'm not going to begin until I sense a readiness and know I'm prepared."

Fear, or a focus on the consequences, is a more common problem. Worrying about the consequences is the wrong place to focus. The truth is, your subconscious doesn't care about the titles or money. Your point of focus needs to shift to the little kid enthusiasm that simply embraces the opportunity to do something greatly.

The cure for distraction is the realization that you can't make that distraction go away. You simply have to bring your focus back to the place you really want it to be. It's like walking through a blizzard; you know you're going to be fine as long as you concentrate on the sidewalk. When snowflakes hit you in the

WARMING UP YOUR MENTAL GAME

WHILE A strong mental game is critical at the highest levels in bowling, it's still very important to the average bowler. Recognition of how the lanes are playing, how your ball is reacting, or how your mechanics are means you're aware, present and responding.

Even the act of receiving coaching is a mental game quality.

Still, too many bowlers wait until they are on the approach before getting their mental game rolling. Your mental game is equally as important as your physical game, and you should treat it that way.

All athletes know that pre-game stretching is a good idea. Likewise, athletes should warm up their mental game, too. Few bowlers will sit quietly before bowling and prepare themselves mentally. Take the time to tell yourself, "Top to bottom, for

10 frames I'm going to be present and focused, and I'm going to concentrate through the entire frame."

How are you going to play the



lanes? What are you going to do when you make an error? Few people shoot 900 series, so it's likely that you're going to have an open frame here or there, or a bad break. That's when focus and concentration are so important.

How are you going to recover when you miss a spare or suffer a lapse in concentration? You should be prepared to answer those questions before you get on the lanes for your first frame.

face you don't get flustered, you just focus harder on the sidewalk at that moment.

There are a few things you can do to maintain your focus. You can demand of yourself to be present, to be here right now. That demand can be a verbal command like, "I'm going over the second arrow." Or, "Keep your elbow in." Having something to do is important. As soon as people try to not do something, then they're off their horse. All of your actions are intentional. When you try to make your mind not think about something, your mind is going to go directly to that thing. Accordingly, when you try to make your body not do something, your body does the thing you're trying to avoid because it becomes the focus of your attention.

There are a few things you can do to maintain your focus. You can demand of yourself to be present, to be here right now.

Think, play, learn

Does maintaining your focus mean you'll always be successful with your shot? Of course not. That's where flexibility becomes important. Focus is just one part of the equation. In the progression of the shot, there is a think zone, a play zone and a learn zone.

The think zone, in which you plan and incorporate what's going to happen, is where you determine what you're going to focus on. The play zone, in which you have a single point of focus, is the physical act of completing the shot. Then you have the learning zone, which is what hap-

pens after the ball gets delivered. That's when you decide where your point of focus is going to be on the next shot. If, for instance, the ball skidded a little longer than desired on the first shot, your focus on the second shot is going to be to slow down your release or be softer with the ball.

Bowling, like all sports, is a feel experience. The mental approach – awareness and focus – has to work hand-in-hand with your physical game if you want to excel.

Dr. Dean Hinitz is a sports psychologist and works with Team USA and Junior Team USA.

Definition of a Perfect Storm?

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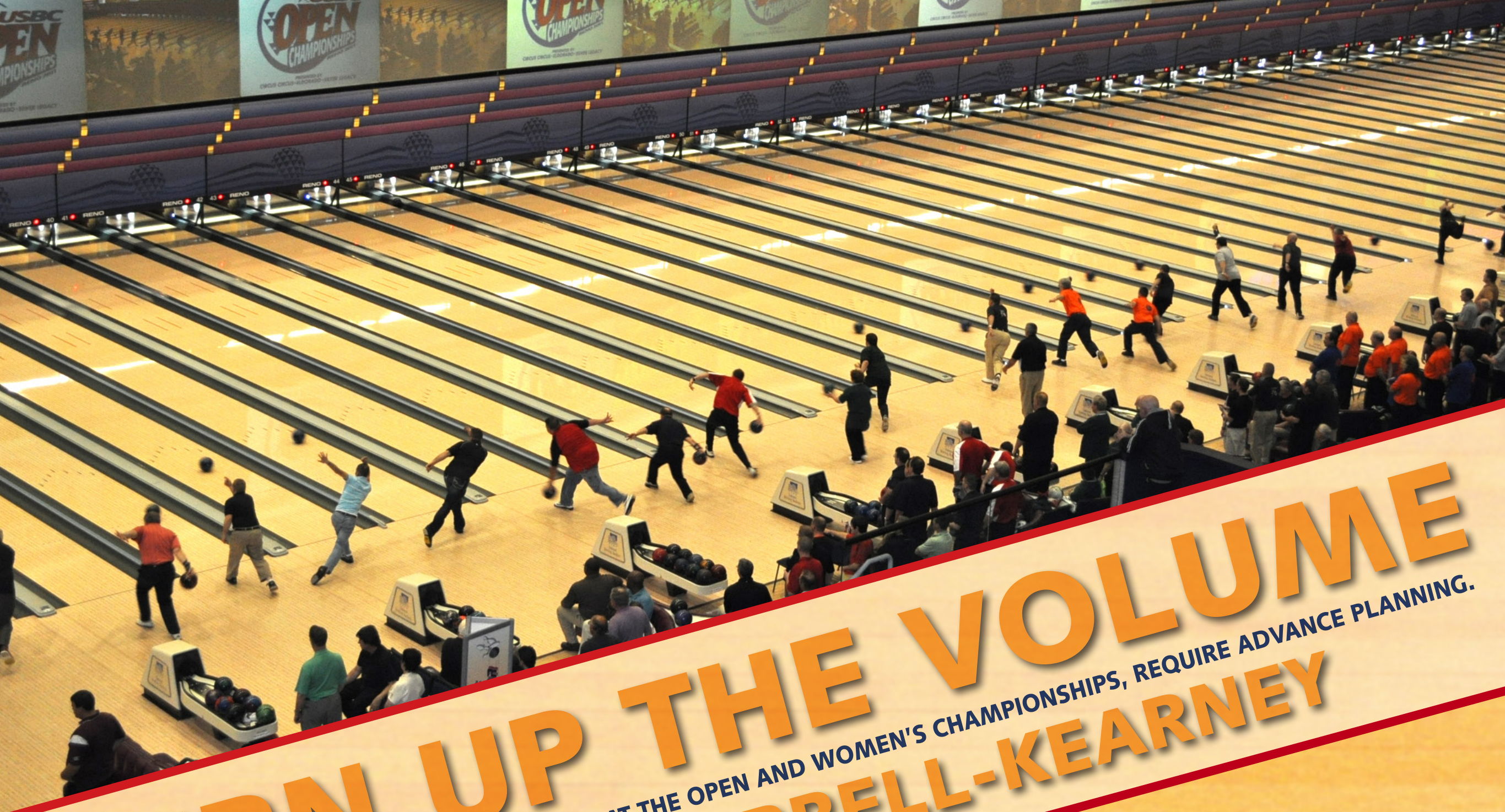
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TURN UP THE VOLUME

MORE CHALLENGING PATTERNS, LIKE THOSE AT THE OPEN AND WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS, REQUIRE ADVANCE PLANNING.
BY KIM TERRELL-KEARNEY

With the USBC Open Championships already underway in Reno, Nev., and the USBC Women's Championships set to begin in Syracuse, N.Y., on April 7, tens of thousands of league bowlers will pack up their equipment and head off to a USBC national tournament in the coming months.

But many will make a critical mistake before they leave home – deciding what equipment they will use and how they plan to attack the lanes without any knowledge of what they will face. They will grab that nice, shiny bowling ball that produces a respectable 200 average in league play, stick it in their bag and set sail for Reno or Syracuse. Once on the lanes, they'll line up in the same spot they do during league sessions and will look on incredulously when their ball hits the 3 pin flush in the face, time after time.

It doesn't have to be that way. Bowlers can gain a huge advantage by simply familiarizing themselves with the oil pattern used in the Open and Women's Championships. The pattern information is released on the Championships website at BOWL.com, and even a cursory look can improve your chances for success.

I'll admit I never used to pay much attention to the pattern, either. I just know that conditions at the Championships would be more difficult, and that always meant more oil. My preparation consisted of which bowling balls to take with me. But today, it is much more difficult to fly with a lot of equipment. I've learned that by checking the length of the pattern and the volume of oil ahead of time, I will have a pretty good idea of what kind of equipment to bring and it also will help me prepare mentally for the changes I'll possibly need to make on the lanes.

So, exactly what does that pattern information on BOWL.com tell me?

For starters, bowlers can assume the shape of the pattern at the Championships is going to be pretty different than what they are accustomed to at their home center. On a "house pattern," the concentration of oil tends to be in the middle of the lane, with less oil (and, consequently, more friction) toward the outer edges of the lane. A bowler often can use a shiny-surfaced ball and expect it to change direction at the end of a house pattern. But use that approach on the pattern at the Open or Women's Championships, where the oil extends across the entire lane, and the under-reaction of the ball will be obvious (see accompanying video)

The distance of the pattern is my first indication of where I want to play on the lane. It is natural to play in the same area on the lane that we play at home, and it isn't a bad idea to start



MAKING ADJUSTMENTS: Click on the video above to hear Kim Terrell-Kearney explain why adjusting where you play on the lane is critical when you run up against more challenging patterns, like those at the Open and Women's Championships.

there in practice to see the type of reaction. But if you are seeing a bad reaction, you must be open to making some adjustments.

I use a general formula developed by the USBC research team to narrow down where my break should be on the lane. The team of engineers at USBC determined that subtracting 31 from the total distance of the pattern should tell you at what board the breakpoint should be. For instance, if the length of the pattern is 41 feet, subtracting 31 will suggest that the desired breakpoint should be approximately the 10th board. That's the point at which the ball should change direction toward the pocket. Your specific ball roll will dictate how you get

to that breakpoint. If you are a straighter player, you might roll the ball right up the 10th board. If you have a higher rev rate and hook the ball more, you might cross the 15th board and swing it out to the 10th board.

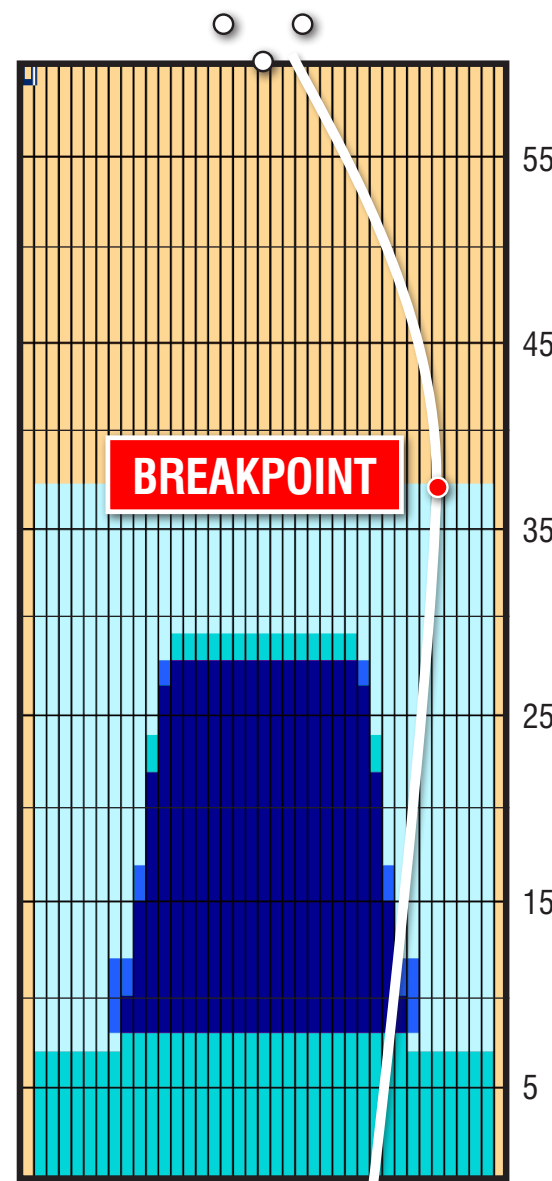
To simplify things further, let's say I'm bowling with Carolyn Dorin-Ballard and Jason Belmonte. Carolyn and I would be playing similar angles through the front part of the lane and our breakpoint is going to be around 10. Jason, who has a much higher rev rate, may be 15 boards to the left of us through the front part of the lane, but his breakpoint will still be around 10. We get there differently, but we're attacking the pocket from the same spot.

When you're bowling, watch who's striking the most and make note of where their ball is changing direction down lane. Then determine how you can get your ball to that spot. Be careful about trying to emulate someone else's line through the front if that isn't your normal game. There are multiple variables at work – rev rate, speed, ball choice. But generally speaking, using the formula described above will give you a pretty good head start toward finding the proper place to play.

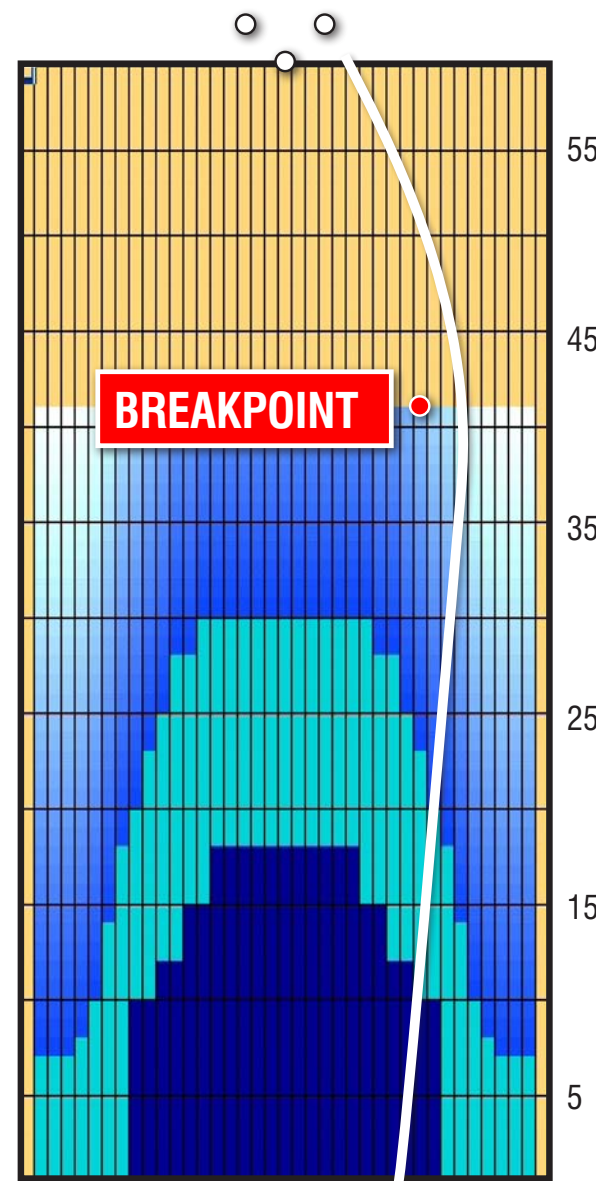
The second piece of information I take from the pattern description is the volume of oil. That will tell me how much surface – what the cover of the ball is made of and how smooth or rough it is – to use. Our engineers at USBC found the No. 1 factor in ball motion is the surface of the ball.

If it's a lower volume pattern (19 mL or below), I'm going to use a shinier surface. If the pattern has a higher volume of oil (23 mL and above) then I'll use a duller surfaced bowling ball. If you can properly match the surface of your ball to the lane pattern, you are halfway to success.

Today, the top tool in changing the surface of your ball is a flexible abrasive pad called Abralon. Its grit ranges from 360-4,000 and these pads provide a much more even finish and less mess than the sandpaper and Scotch-Brite pads of the past. Proper usage of these pads can give one ball the versatility of two or three.



House Pattern



Championships Pattern

The Rule of 31 The USBC research team determined that subtracting 31 from the total distance of a pattern should give a good indication of where the break point will be on the lane. The break point on a 37-foot House Pattern (left) is around the sixth board at 37 feet. On the 41-foot Open Championships Pattern (right), the break point will be around the 10th arrow at 41 feet. The longer pattern, combined with heavier oil volume, suggests that a typical strike shot on the House Pattern would likely slide well past the break point on the Open Championships Pattern and miss the pocket.

Now, if you're still having trouble finding the pocket after narrowing down the area of the lane to play and ball choice, you can opt for another tool out of your bag of tricks – speed control. If you can get a little softer with your speed, it might give the ball a chance to get into a roll sooner. That can mean moving up on the approach, which will slow down your footwork and most likely slow down your ball speed. Another way would be to move your target closer to the foul line. Instead of looking at the arrows, look at the dots. This will typically get you to lay the ball down sooner on the lane.

These are general guidelines to help get you prepared for the Championships. Of course, various factors will impact how the lanes will play. As other squads bowl ahead of you, conditions change over the course of the day.

Keep your approach to the Championships simple. Know the distance and know the volume. Those two facts will help you determine where to play on the lane and what equipment to use. Additional ways to fine-tune your reaction can be done by altering your ball surface or changing ball speed.

Most importantly, watch your own ball reaction. It will be the best indicator of where to play on the lanes.

Kim Terrell-Kearney is Assistant Head Coach of Team USA and the International Training and Research Center in Arlington, Texas.

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Queens of the Lane

Throughout its 50-year history, the United States Bowling Congress Queens tournament has tended to bring out the best in women's bowling.

A career-defining title can have that effect.

"The fact that you own a Queens crown and hold that title is so important," history-making Kelly Kulick conceded.

By Mike Panozzo





CROWNING MOMENT: Click on the Play button above to see Kelly Kulick cement her second Queens title by topping Tennelle Milligan in the 2010 finale. Kulick, who also won in 2007, is one of eight women to win multiple Queens crowns.

Kulick, the first woman to win a Professional Bowlers Association championship (the 2010 Tournament of Champions), as well as a pair of U.S. Women's Open titles, still lists her first Queens crown in 2007 as the most critical of her career.

"At the end of my career," she said, "being in the Hall of Fame would be incredibly important and special to me. I've still yet to win a USBC event in team, singles or doubles, so the Queens is what puts me into consideration down the road."

Kulick certainly increased her

chances of someday entering the national Hall of Fame by winning the Queens title again in 2010, and will look for a third gem-encrusted tiara as the defending champion when the 2011 USBC Queens gets underway at The Oncenter in Syracuse, N.Y., on April 22. The Union Township, N.J., native hopes to be standing front and center when ESPN2 carries the finals live in high definition, Wednesday, April 27, at 7 p.m. Eastern.

"I need that third tiara," Kulick recently joked, "because I have three nieces."

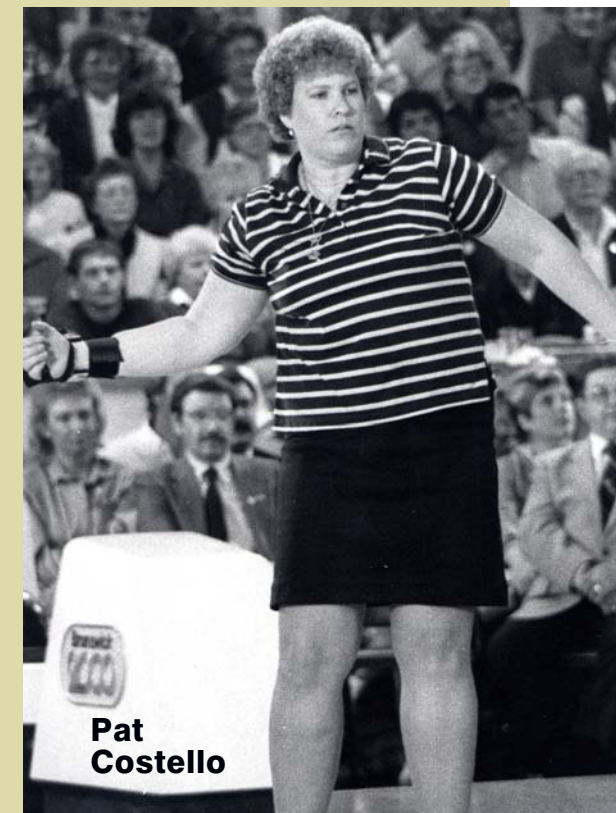
The competitiveness that the

MEMORABLE QUEENS

1983 A month prior to her marriage to David Sill, 20-year-old Aleta Rzepecki defeated Dana Miller, 214-188, at Showboat Lanes in Las Vegas to win her first Queens title. After going 7-1 in preliminary match play, Rzepecki outshot Patty Costello and Virginia Norton before topping Miller in the finale. The title match was billed as a grudge match between the Ladies Professional Bowlers Tour lefties, who had met in the title match of the Women's U.S. Open a month earlier. Miller bested Rzepecki for the U.S. Open title. Sill went on to win a second Queens title in 1985, and became the women's tour's first million-dollar earner.

1993 Retiring Hall of Famer Pat Costello, bowling in her final Ladies Professional Bowlers Tour event, averaged 217 in three step-ladder finals matches against Linda Kelly, Wendy Macpherson and Jeanne Naccaratto to reach the title match at the 1993 Queens at Don Carter Lanes in Baton Rouge, La. In the finale, Costello lost to Jan Schmidt, 201-163, preventing her from winning the only major missing from her 13-title resume.

2003 Fifteen years after winning her first Queens title, Wendy Macpherson defeated Kendra Gaines, 218-193, at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev., to capture her third diamond tiara. (Macpherson won in 2000.) The win also was the 20th pro title for Macpherson, making her only the sixth woman bowler to hit the 20-title mark. Ironically, Macpherson failed to win a Queens crown in the '90s, yet was named Bowler of the Decade.



AND SO IT BEGINS . . .

THE FIRST Women's International Bowling Congress Queens championship, staged at Northcrest Lanes in Fort Wayne, Ind., in May, 1961, was not only the springboard to the longest-running women's major event, it proved to be the springboard for Janet Harman's Hall of Fame career.

Harman, then 31, had placed near the top of several major events prior to the Queens, including a fourth-place finish in WIBC singles in 1959 and second in all-events a year later, but lamented her failure to win a major championship.

"I kept wondering and wondering if I'd ever win a big title," she said at the time.

Her time had come. Harman, who was raised in Walla Walla, Wash., but moved to Cerritos, Calif., in '59 to bowl in the rugged Los Angeles Traveling League, was one of 122 entrants in that inaugural Queens. She finished 15th in the eight-game qualifying round, then rolled through six straight opponents to complete the match-play portion of the event with an unblemished record. In the final match, Harman defeated Eula Touchette of East St. Louis, Ill., 794-776 (4 game total), to garner the \$1,240 top prize (\$1,000 for the title and \$200 for each of her six match-play wins) and the first rhinestone tiara, still symbolic of the Queens crown.

Harman went on to win numerous regional and national titles, including the BPAA Women's National Doubles title (with Donna Zimmerman) in 1956. She also posted a then-record 792 three-game series in 1964. Harman was inducted into the WIBC Hall of Fame in 1985. She passed away in 1991.



Janet Harman (left) beat Eula Touchette (right) to win the first Queens crown in 1961.

Queens brings out in the top women bowlers is, of course, no joke. In addition to the historic magnitude of the event, the format puts bowlers on edge from the opening frame. The Queens opens with three qualifying blocks of five games each to determine 63 spots in the match-game field. As defending champion, Kulick receives an automatic bid to complete the 64-player match-play field, but will be seeded according to her qualifying blocks score.

But, like the USBC Masters, once the qualifying blocks have been completed and players are seeded into match play, pin-count disappears and each match starts with a clean scoresheet. Each match consists of three games, total pinfall.

"It's unlike any other tournament," said Kim Terrell-Kearney, 2002 Queens champ and the assistant head coach of Team USA and the International Training and Research Center in Arlington, Texas. "In match play, you can shoot 700 and lose while someone bowls 550 on the next pair and wins. It's crazy, but that's also what makes it so exciting. I absolutely love it. It's the idea that if you don't play well at this moment, you could be eliminated. In longer-format tournaments you can struggle and still ride it out. The Queens is black and white, life and death."

"You have to be prepared to bowl well immediately," concurred USBC Director of Coaching Certification

and Development, Carolyn Dorin-Ballard, who won the Queens at the start of her record-setting 2001 season. "Mentally, you have to adjust quicker. You need to have a game plan from the start, but you also have to be ready to change quickly."

The unpredictability and suddenness of the event, along with the size and quality of the field, are elements that add to the marquee value that comes with the Queens crown.



SETTING HER SIGHTS: For defending champion Kulick, Hall of Fame aspirations is one of the motivating factors that make the Queens such a competitive tournament.

“It’s such a difficult tournament to win,” said Terrell-Kearney. “When we were touring, making it through that field was not easy. You have to have an absolute will to win. You can be down by 80 pins with one game left, bowl 280 and win the match. I love that.”

“Today, as a woman bowler, there aren’t many opportunities to bowl for a top prize like the Queens,” said Kulick, citing the Queens’ \$20,000 first-place payout. “So all of the top women, like Carolyn, Liz Johnson, Lynda Barnes and others, really come after it. The same is true for all the younger girls who never had the chance to bowl on the ladies’ tour.

“It doesn’t matter who you’re bowling, the competition is so fierce that

anything can happen. In match play, you have to look at every match as a new tournament.”

Still, “history” and “prestige” are the most common words in any discussion surrounding the Queens.

“It’s just a prestigious event,” said Kulick. “You feel extra pressure because you only get one shot a year, it’s a difficult format and it’s the biggest field you’ll see all year.”

Nearly 300 bowlers compete annually.

“The Queens has such history,” added Terrell-Kearney. “No event has its longevity, so it’s important to have your name on that list of champions. It’s a title that helped validate my career and increased my chances of being a Hall of Famer, which is what I’ve always hoped for.

“Every woman bowler wants to own one of those tiaras.”



Katsuko Sugimoto



Donna Adamek



Aleta (Rzepecki) Sill



HAIL TO THE QUEENS

Defending champion Kelly Kulick is one of eight women to hold multiple Queens crowns. Kulick won her first Queens title in 2007. Wendy Macpherson (1988, 2000, 2003) and Millie Martorella (1967, '70, '71) are the only three-time winners.

TITLES

3	Millie (Ignizio) Martorella	1967, '70, '71
3	Wendy Macpherson	1988, 2000, '03
2	Donna Adamek	1979, '80
2	Lynda (Norry) Barnes	1998, 2008
2	Dotty Fothergill	1972, '73
2	Kelly Kulick	2007, '10
2	Aleta (Rzepecki) Sill	1983, '85
2	Katsuko Sugimoto	1981, '82

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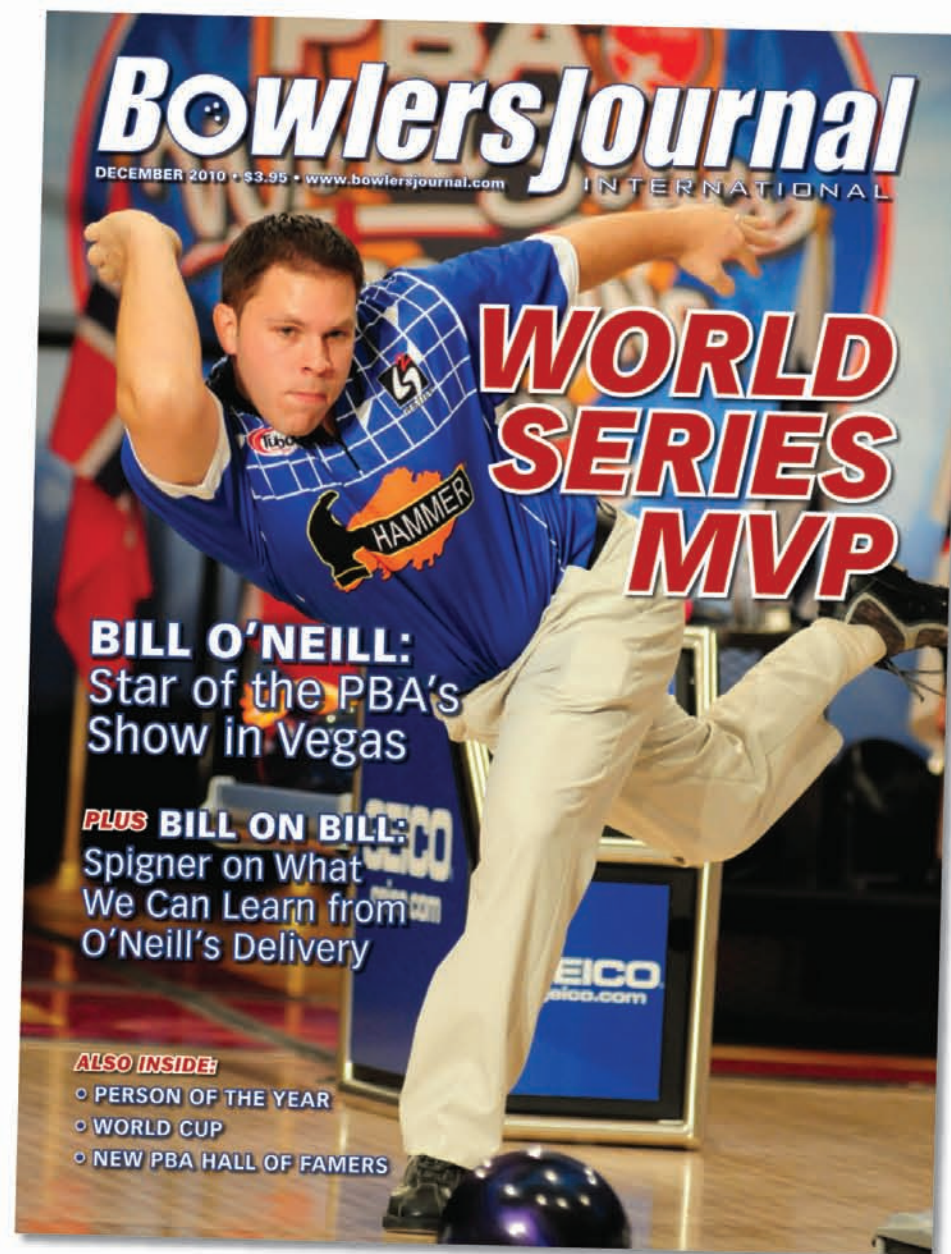
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AT 50, THE QUEENS
IS STILL THE CROWN JEWEL
OF WOMEN'S BOWLING



DEFENDING CHAMP
KELLY KULICK