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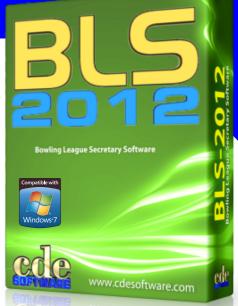
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Street Cred Bowling took to the

streets of Reno for the finale of the U.S. Women's Open Championship.



Paper Chase Tracking your accuracy is easy.

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The Y In The Road Strength and balance go hand in hand.

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Balancing Act Proper balance is critical to success.

KELLY KULICK



NATIONAL NEWS

The 2011-12 season at the United States Bowling Congress and the International Bowling Campus was full of highlights and surprises. The International Training and Research Center unveiled more cutting-edge technology and was a bevy of activity, hosting numerous high school, college and international squads. Team USA men's and women's squads enjoyed unprecedented success, with the women winning team gold at the World Women's Championships for the first time in 24 years, while the men captured a dozen gold medals in international competition. BowITV offered more than 80 days of live streaming coverage, while both the Intercollegiate teams and singles championships were televised nationally. At the pro level, Diandra Asbaty won with USBC Queens, while Mike Fagan captured the USBC Masters. All in all, it was a banner year for bowling.



A SEASON TO REMEMBER: Great things happened during the 2011-12 bowling season. **CLICK ON THE PLAY BUTTON ABOVE FOR A REVIEW OF THE 2011-12 SEASON**



Baca Receives Laneman Award

Lane maintenance pioneer Sam Baca, the first Director of Lane Maintenance for the Professional Bowlers Association, was named the Jim Jaryszak Laneman Award recipient.

CLICK HERE TO READ MORE



Bowling Stadium Renovations Highlight New Deal

The National Bowling Stadium will undergo \$15 million in upgrades as part of a new agreement between the USBC and the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority.

CLICK HERE TO READ MORE



Cast Your Vote For Best Bowler ESPY Award

Professional Bowlers Association Tour stars Jason Belmonte, Mike Fagan and Sean Rash are finalist for the coveted ESPY Awards, honoring top competitors in all major sports.

CLICK HERE TO READ MORE



Junior Team USA Sweeps Team Titles

For the first time in the history of the World Youth Championships, Junior Team USA boys and girls swept the gold medals in the team event in Bangkok, Thailand.

CLICK HERE TO READ MORE



Romeo Wins Senior U.S. Women's Open

USBC Hall of Famer Robin Romeo becomes the first female bowler to win both the U.S. Women's Open and Senior U.S. Women's Open.

CLICK HERE TO READ MORE



High School All-American Team Named

Ten high school bowlers were named to the Dexter/ USBC High School All-American Team., including repeat selection Zachary Fylling of Bay City, Mich.

CLICK HERE TO READ MORE

4 **USBOWLER** JULY 2012





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NEWS, NOTES AND HAPPENINGS FROM THE WORLD OF BOWLING /// JULY 2012



STREET CRED

Hundreds of bowling fans packed Virginia Street, while more looked on from the windows of surrounding hotels. The objects of intrigue were the makeshift four-lane bowling arena perched beneath the famed Reno Arch and the televised Bowling's U.S. Women's Open finals that were about to commence.

Before the first ball was thrown, however,

downtown Reno was treated to a flyover from a pair of Nevada Air National Guard C-130s and retired Gulf War veteran Matt Peters' 160-foot rock wall climb carrying the American flag. The tournament concluded with a spectacular fireworks display from the rooftop of the Eldorado Hotel.

In between, the five finalists battled the heat, a setting sun, 20-mph winds and challenging lane

conditions. And when the dust literally settled, topseeded Kelly Kulick of Union, N.J., emerged with her third U.S. Women's Open title. Kulick defeated Missy Parkin of Lake Forest, Calif., 170-160, to grab the \$40,000 top prize.

The finals, which also featured Stephanie Nation, Shannon O'Keefe and Lynda Barnes, was scheduled to air Tues., July 3, at 8:00 p.m. Eastern on ESPN2.

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LEADING ROLL

Kulick Stars in Bridgestone Campaign

hey say exposure creates opportunities, an axiom that translated both literally and figuratively for Kelly Kulick earlier this year.

NEWS, NOTES AND HAPPENINGS FROM THE WORLD OF BOWLING

Following an appearance in the Body Issue of ESPN The Magazine in 2011, in which she was photographed nude in a bowling pose, Kulick landed a spot in a national advertising campaign for Bridgestone Tires.

The Bridgestone campaign, in which the company (tongue-incheek, of course) announces its plans to bring its tire technology into the world of sports, used pro athletes in basketball, football,

hockey and bowling. The company's agency, having seen Kulick in ESPN The Magazine, contacted the Professional Bowlers Association offices in December in search of the 2010 Tournament of Champions winner.

"They were using bowling and I was the person they wanted," said Kulick. "Between the photo shoot and my accomplishments in the past few years, I think I was what they were looking for."

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Bulletin Board

NEWS, NOTES AND HAPPENINGS FROM THE WORLD OF BOWLING

"I was eating in a restaurant the other day and [the commercial] came on. It's pretty cool. They even have posters of me in some of the Bridgestone dealerships."

The commercial, in which Kulick rolls a road-gripping rubber Bridgestone bowling ball through three sets of pins in a single shot, was filmed in Irvine, Calif., on an 80-foot lane constructed by L.A.based Murrey International.

"They had two balls," Kulick said. "One was the ball made from tire rubber. It was really cool, but it weighed less than a pound. I was tossing it in the air. You could have played volleyball with it.

"The other ball was a 15-pound bowling ball that they decaled to look identical to the tire ball. It looked 3D."



WHERE THE RUBBER HITS THE ROAD: Click above to view the new Bridgestone tire commercial, featuring recent Women's U.S. Open champion Kelly Kulick.

And that blazing strike she threw that mowed down all three sets of pins?

"My best shot made it through the first set and into the second set," she admitted. "Deflection kept it from going further. I would have had to throw the ball 25 miles an hour, and that wasn't happening! The rest was computer-generated imagery."

Originally planned to run during the Super Bowl, Bridgestone's bowling commercial began running in late March and will continue to air for two years, according to Kulick.

"They've aired it a ton already, on cable and network television," she said. "I was eating in a restaurant the other day and it came on while I was sitting there. It's pretty cool. They even have posters of me in some of the Bridgestone dealerships.

"All in all, it was a great experience and great to be involved in."



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GUTS. Same core. Same defiance.

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the unique elliptical shape of my Paragon™ core defines predictability of axis migration and allows you to perfectly match up your ball reaction to the conditions at hand. The pins won't even know what hit 'em.



GRIT.

THE BITE GETS A SHINE. You may have never associated pearls with destruction before, but I'm about to change all that. My MicroBite™ pearl reactive coverstock uses extremely small structured additives to help smooth the transitions while maintaining entry angle at the pocket. This helps you create better pin action while reducing oil sensitivity that can send your ball through the break point. Powerful and smooth, like a beefed up Don Juan.



GRIME.

LESS OIL DOESN'T MEAN LESS POWER. Confident. Cocky. Call it what you want, but I'm telling you right now, I am the ideal complement to the original Defiant. I provide the perfect combination of skid-hook-roll, even on medium-heavy oil. Separate, we're still the baddest to ever hit the lanes. But together, we're unstoppable.



LIFESTYLE AND BOWLING TECHNIQUES TO MAKE YOU A BETTER BOWLER /// JULY 2012

Technique



HOW DOYOU **MEASURE UP?** Try this skills assessment program to find out.

By Bryan O'Keefe

o you have a decent average but you're not sure what Parts of your game need improvement and what parts are functioning efficiently and effectively. You are not alone.

Players are always looking for direction as to where their game can be improved. For many players, though, coaching isn't always an option and high-tech systems like those at the International Training and Research Center aren't readily available.

Not a problem. There are several skills assessment programs that can be done at your local center with nothing more than permission from the proprietor to put a piece of paper on the lane.

Most bowlers have heard of CATS, the Computer-Aided Tracking System that analyzes a ball's path all the way down the lane. But if your local center doesn't have CATS, try PATS, a makeshift paperaided tracking system that can still give you a decent assessment of your accuracy skills.

All you need is a piece of index cardstock paper or, better yet, a small two-sheet carbonless paper. First, mark the center of the paper from top to bottom with a 1-inch wide stripe. An inch is approximately the width of a board. If your center will give you permission, use painters tape to secure all four corners of

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Technique

BOWLING TECHNIQUES TO MAKE YOU A BETTER BOWLER

the paper to the lane where you will be playing at the arrows. (Painters tape comes up very easily without leaving any tape residue.)

The mark on the paper is your target.

Roll 10 shots, attempting to roll your ball directly over the 1-inch wide mark each time. The paper will record where the ball went over it on each of the 10 shots. The ball will give you a nice twoto three-inch track on the paper, which will allow you to calculate the range from left to right of how close your ball came to hitting that mark.

Measure the track, going from the edge of the farthest left track to the edge of the farthest right track. The total width of the measurement will tell you how accurately you repeated your 10 shots.

If the total width is four inches, you are within four boards of your target arrow. The narrower the total width, the more accurate you are targeting.

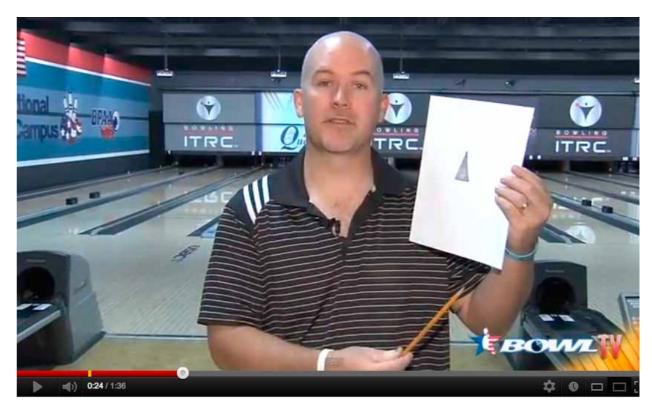
TRACKING YOUR TRACKING

BOARD
VARIANCE
2 boards
3 boards
4 boards
4.5 boards

To give some measurables to this test, the elite level bowler's target mark is less than 1.5 inches wide. A 220-plus average bowler stays within two board widths. A 200-plus is three boards. A 180 bowler has a range of four boards, left to right, and a 160plus bowler is 4.5 inches.

You can do this as often as you'd like. Start with 10 shots, then change out the paper and throw another 10 shots. It is a good way to practice your accuracy hitting the target, keeping the range from left to right as narrow as possible. Your results allow you to see how your accuracy

How does this assessment help? If you are a 220-plus average bowler but your range is 3.5 inches, clearly improvement on hitting your target will add pins to your average.



GET IT DOWN ON PAPER: Click the video above as Bryan O'Keefe demonstrates an easy-to-do tracking system that will help assess your accuracy.

measures relative to your bowling average.

How does this assessment help? If you are a 220-plus average bowler but your range is 3.5 inches, clearly improvement on hitting your target will add pins to your average. It also tells you that you are stronger in other areas of your game, like speed control and release, and those areas are compensating for your lack of accuracy.

By the same token, if you have a 180-plus average but your targeting is within three boards, it shows that your targeting is above average and other areas of your game are in need of improvement. Your ability to hit your target is performing at a higher standard than your average indicates.

In future issues we'll show you a few more at-home assessment programs, including measuring changes in ball speed and changes in your release. All are easy to do and allow you to track your strengths and weaknesses.

— Bryan O'Keefe is Assistant Coach and Facility Manager at the International Training and Research Center in Arlington, Texas.



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Health and Wellness

FITNESS, HEALTH AND NUTRITION TIPS TO MAKE YOU A BETTER BOWLER

FITNESS

SPEND TIME AT THE Y

Test your strength and balance at home.

By Nick Bohanan

o much of bowling is about proper balance. If you are not balanced at any point of your approach, delivery and finish, chances are you are not going to be a consistent performer.

We've discussed numerous exercises to strengthen core, leg, wrist and back muscles. We've also discussed exercises to improve flexibility.

But how do you know if the exercises are doing their job? There are ways to measure your strength and agility, and the Y Balance Test will give you a good indication about your leg strength and balance, particularly at the finish.

This test is easily done at home. Start by using tape to create an inverted "Y" on the floor. Two pieces of the tape should be perpendicular to each other, creating a 90-degree angle, with a third line in front that bisects that angle. (See diagram)

Stand on one foot in the center of the three pieces of tape. Put a cup or

cone on the floor six inches in front of your foot. Maintaining a single-leg stance, push the object with the toe of your other foot as far as you can along the strip of tape leading out in front of you. Your reaching foot must never touch the ground. This will require you to balance on your standing leg, squatting lower and lower to fully extend your reaching leg. Make three attempts, recording the best result.

Measure the distance you push the object. The equation (see chart on pg 14) gives you a percentage that judges your reach relative to the length of your leg. Measure your leg (in centimeters) from the beltline to the bottom of your ankle. If your leg is 100 cm and your reach is 95 cm, your percentage is 95.

Standing in the same spot, place the object on one of the lines behind you. Using the same foot, push the object along that line as far as possible. Again, record your best result.

Finally, place the object on the third line of tape and repeat the process.



BOWLER	Balance	Grade	Number of Imbalances	Grade	Total
Carolyn Dorin-Ballard	90.65	7	0	10	17
Shannon O'Keefe	103.295	9	1	6	15
Bill O'Neill	97.755	8	1	6	14
Wes Malott	85.895	6	0.5	8	14
Tommy Jones	102.93	9	1.5	4	13
Michael Fagan	94.145	7	1	6	13
Kelly Kulick	89.495	6	1	6	12
Diandra Asbaty	88.315	6	1	6	12
Stefanie Nation	88.11	6	1	6	12
Walter Ray Williams, Jr.	86.765	6	1	6	12
Liz Johnson	87.88	6	1	6	12
Chris Barnes	99.83	8	2	2	10
Shannon Pluhowsky	97.38	8	2	2	10
Patrick Allen	88.2	6	2	2	8
Average	92.90	7.00	1.14	5.43	12.43

Health and Wellness

FITNESS, HEALTH AND NUTRITION TIPS TO MAKE YOU A BETTER BOWLER

30	ore Sheet for Y Bala		engin
Athlete Name:		Date:	
HT Limb Length:			
Ante Stance Posterolateral		Ante Stance Posteromedial	
Antonion	Left	Right	Difference
Anterior			
Posteromedial			
Posterolateral			

composite Score =	(Anterior + Posteriomedial + Posterolateral)	v 100
	(3 x Limb Length)	X 100

Composite	
Right	
Left	

BALANCE: Touch the graphic above to download a PDF of this balance test scoresheet and chart your own strength and balance.



BALANCE: USBC Sports Performance Specialist Nick Bohanan demonstrates the Y Balance Test, one of the tests administered to Team USA players.

Repeat the test using the opposite leg.

This test measures strength, but balance is part of that. You need a strong core and strong legs to do this well. Ankle, hip and knee flexibility also play roles in the level of your success with this test.

Watch for imbalances from one leg to the other. Typically, the slide leg will be stronger, but if it is markedly dominant you could encounter knee and lower-back problems.

Check the chart on the previous page to see how your

scores measure up. If you are below average, improve your lower-body strength by doing squats, lunges and single-leg balance exercises. To improve hip and calf flexibility, try kneeling strides and hip rotation stretches.

Balance through the shot, and particularly the finish, has a great impact on shot repeatability. Not surprisingly, players with excellent shot repeatability do well on these balance tests. — Nick Bohanan is Performance Specialist for the United States Bowling Congress.

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UNITED STATES BOWLING CONGRESS EAGLE TEE









TATES

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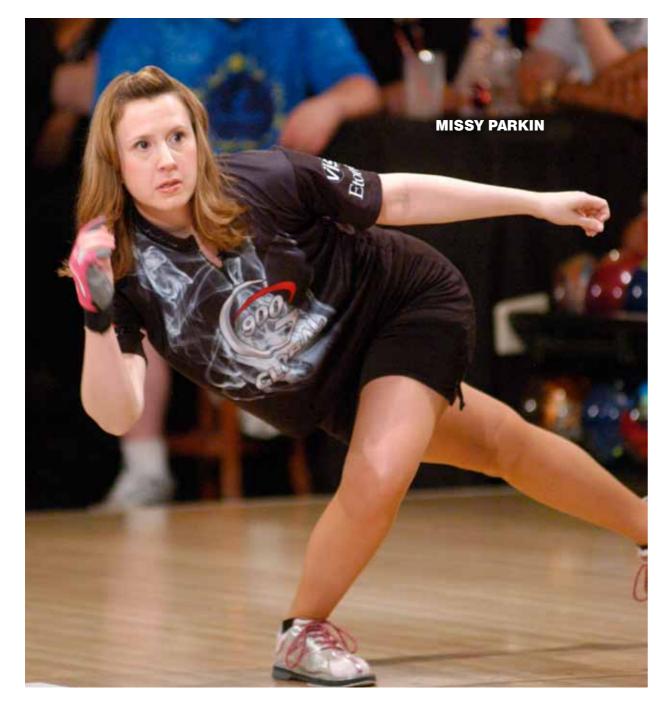
UNITED

PATRICK Allen

FINDING BALANCE IS CRITICAL TO YOUR GAME

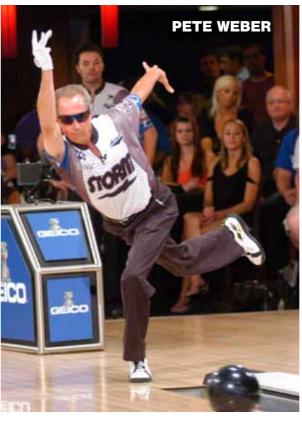
ver lose your balance when you arrive at the foul line after delivering your shot and wonder how that happened? Bowlers fall off the shot all the time, but rarely know why or how their shot was affected. They often rationalize that the ball is already gone, so their lack of balance didn't affect the path of the ball. Not so. Something has affected your balance leading up to the shot, and that will also affect the shot itself.

By Teresa Ross



Bowlers fall off the shot all the time, but rarely know why or how their shot was affected. They often rationalize that the ball is already gone, so their lack of balance didn't affect the path of the ball. Not so. Something has affected your balance leading up to the shot, and that will also affect the shot itself. Balance is critical in bowling.

Without it you will never enjoy consistency in shot accuracy or shot repeatability. Repeatability is much more difficult if you lack balance because repeating the same mistake isn't easy, particularly if you don't even know what mistake caused the imbalance! Many of the symptoms that can lead to loss of balance are difficult to self-diagnose. You may never realize



STAYING ON BALANCE: Power players tend to finish with their trail leg in the air. That's fine, so long as the trail leg is providing proper balance at that point.

you're leaning too far forward, but if you were shown a video verifying the error, you'd probably be surprised.

Likewise, it's hard to feel where your trail leg is at the finish, or where your non-throwing arm is during the release. Either could be flailing all over the place, but it's unlikely that you would be aware.

If something is throwing off your balance, it needs to be diagnosed so that it can be corrected.

That's why it's so important to have a second set of eyes watching you bowl. Consult a certified coach (bowl.com), or a house pro. At the very least, find some-

one knowledgeable who is willing to watch you bowl for a while.

Here's what your second set of eyes should watch for:

STANCE

To have balance at the finish, it would be wise to have balance in your stance. Make sure your feet are comfortably apart. You should be relaxed with the ball between your chin and shoulder. Your upper body posture should be slightly forward, and your knees should be slightly bent with your ball-side foot slightly behind your lead foot. Strive for balance and comfort.

POSTURE Check your upper body posture. If you start to lean forward with the pushaway it will create imbalance and your body will try to correct itself to maintain that balance. The result is you fall off your shot. Your upper body posture should remain constant through the shot, which helps keep your body weight centered and allows for a steadier finish position.

TIMING Timing is another culprit. Timing is unique to almost every bowler, but you should be aware that you might have to slightly alter your timing to achieve proper balance. Timing also varies from step to step. You can have textbook timing in the first two steps and then suddenly launch into your backswing or come down too fast. There are numerous variables with timing, which is why a coach and/or second set of eyes is

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The trail leg can be a great asset in helping you maintain balance. It can act like a kickstand or a balancing rod, like tightrope walkers use.

helpful. You may think pushing the ball too early is causing the ball to get into the swing faster when in fact your forward posture is the culprit.

Based on a four-step approach with the ball being pushed out on the first step, early timing (or what is now being called Roller Timing) would put the ball ahead of the feet. The result is the weight of the ball can pull the upper body forward, creating an imbalance. Delaying the ball's start will help you retain good posture and balance. Conversely, late timing (now referred to as Leverage Timing) means the ball swing comes after the feet are already moving. This can cause the upper body to lean back, forcing you to stagger to maintain balance. Moving the ball sooner will help the upper body remain still and slightly forward, keeping the body centered throughout the approach.



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TRAIL LEG The trail leg can be a great asset in helping you maintain balance. It can act like a kickstand or a balancing rod, like tightrope walkers use. Power bowlers tend to finish with their trail leg in the air. That's okay, as long as they maintain good balance at that point. If you are off balance at the finish, correction might be as simple as lowering the leg a bit to create better balance.

OPPOSITE ARM Likewise, your non-bowling arm is a great source of leverage when properly combined with the trail leg. Your opposite arm keeps you steady. Power players with the high leg kick normally need to open their right shoulder, so the opposite arm will often be slightly in front of them to create balance. Regardless, the opposite arm should be moving away from the ball and off to the side in a smooth motion. Don't allow it to get higher than your shoulder. The arm needs to come back to your side when going into the slide, which creates a natural counter balance.

EYES Remember, whether you like to target the foul line dots or arrows with your eyes, use your eyes only. Your head needs to remain steady throughout the approach.

— Teresa Ross is Coaching Specialist and E-Learning Specialist for the United States Bowling Congress.

Monthly issues of Bowlers Journal International

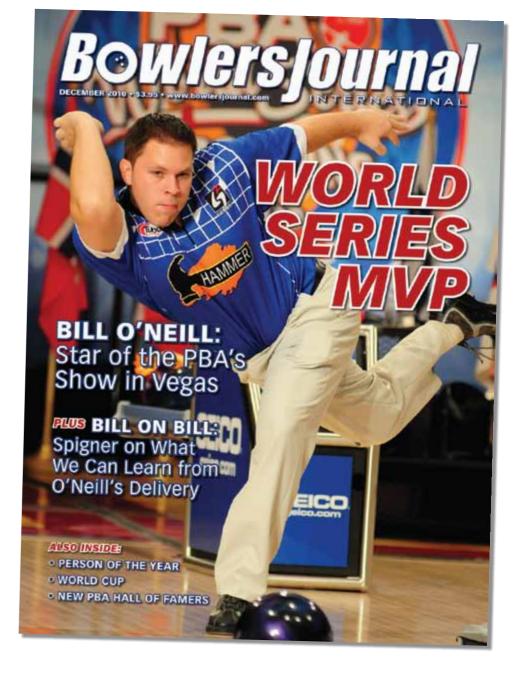




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