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PWBA Rookies To Watch For

ARLINGTON, TX – The rookie class of the relaunched Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour in 2015 should hold a special place in the heart of every PWBA Tour fan, young and old.

Though many of the athletes with rookie status in 2015 already had earned recognition as some of the top bowlers in the sport, seeing the talent and determination of players like Shannon Pluhowsky, Missy Parkin, Danielle McEwan and eventual 2015 PWBA Rookie of the Year Stefanie Johnson, dictated the need to provide them a tour to call their own – so they could continue to inspire young bowlers across the globe.

The young players expected to be part of the rookie class in 2020 had the opportunity to grow up watching and learning from the now-stars of the PWBA Tour, and the inspiration for many of them to advance and find success on the professional level was apparent as we watched them compete during college.

The 2020 PWBA Tour season, and incoming group of young talent was going to be something spe-

cial ... before ... you know ... 2020 happened.

In addition to having to wait to take on their professional aspirations onto the lanes, these athletes also had their collegiate careers prematurely come to an end. It was sad and it sucked and there's really no other way to say it.

The 2021 PWBA Tour season is on the horizon, however, and we should be excited to watch these incoming rookies compete with the best in the world. It's an incredibly talented group of players who have compiled accolades and gold medals around the world. It's now also a group of competitors who have persevered and continued to work through a pandemic to realize their dreams.

It will be hard to argue against the 2015 class ranking as the greatest rookie class of all time, but this upcoming group has the potential to make some noise. A couple of years from now, we may be counting the number of PWBA Tour titles these players have put together and remembering their journey to the tour.

Here's a couple of players to keep an eye out for

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PBA Announces Schedule For Every Major Event In 2021

by Lucas Wiseman

The PBA has revealed its plans for the upcoming months, which includes every major being held between now and April 11.

The season begins with regional qualifying for the PBA Players Championship, which will be broadcast live exclusively on FloBowling. The announced regional stepladders and championship round for the Players will be broadcast weekly starting Jan. 24 through Feb. 21.

One of the crown jewels of the PBA season, the PBA Tournament of Champions, will happen in Jupiter, Florida, with the finals broadcast on Feb. 28.



ter, Florida, with the finals broadcast on Feb. 28.

The World Series of Bowling, which will award five PBA Tour titles includ-

ing the PBA World Championship, will take place in Tampa, Florida, with shows airing from March 13-17.

In addition to the major

title, players will battle for titles in the Mark Roth-Marshall Holman PBA Doubles Championship,

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Coffee Makes Everything Better

by Dave Williams



Every week Charles M. Schulz would provide a newsletter to the children in the L & L Lanes Junior Bowling League. This cover appeared in a 1962 edition of "Ten Pin Tales," and as Bob Johnson wrote in his April 2002 article for *Bowlers Journal Magazine*, it included a rarity for a Schulz cartoon... an adult!

My earliest recollection of coffee was the smell whenever my parents would brew a pot of coffee. Although I enjoyed that smell, my first real introduction to the drinking of coffee was during the years that I spent in college, when just one small cup of joe would keep me up all night while cramming for finals.

After that initial introduction to just one benefit of coffee addiction, I really never got the daily habit until joining the corporate offices of AMF in Westbury, New York. It was hard to avoid, as every couple of hours an attendant with a

coffee cart would come around the aisle near my office and ring a bell. The cart contained coffee and pastries... and it was free!

Needless to say, I was conditioned just like Pavlov's Dogs whenever I would hear that bell, and I've been an aficionado of coffee ever since. That enjoyment was enhanced during my years at American Recreation Centers, when I was introduced to another level of coffee pleasure known as espresso.

It was about this same time that Bob Johnson, editor of *Bowling Industry Magazine* (and now editor

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2021 PBA Power Rankings

by Jef Goodger - FloBowling.com

2021 PBA Power Rankings: Preseason, Ranking the top players on the Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) Tour throughout the 2021 season.

1. Jason Belmonte

With the season beginning with a major, one has to think the most prolific major champion in PBA history will be the favorite. Belmonte has been PBA Player of the Year in six of the past eight seasons and is one away from Walter Ray Williams Jr.'s record of seven. Catching Williams is a goal Belmonte has publicly stated, and if he can do it this season, he'll also join Earl Anthony as the only players to win the Player of the Year award in three consecutive seasons on two separate occasions.

2. Bill O'Neill

O'Neill finished second in 2020 Player of the Year voting and remains second in our preseason power rankings. Just like last year, O'Neill opens the season as the defending champion, this time in the Players Championship. It'll be difficult to have a better season in 2021 than he did in 2020, but it was tough to have a better 2020 than 2019, too, and he did that. It would not be a surprise for O'Neill to win at least two titles for the third straight year.

3. Anthony Simonsen

While it was strange Simonsen didn't win a title in 2020, it would be absurd if the same were true in 2021. Including his four runner-up finishes, Simonsen was in the top five eight times in 14 events, a feat matched only by Player of the Year Jason Belmonte. Simonsen will continue to be in the title match frequently this season, but we can expect him to leave the building with a trophy more than once.

4. Kris Prather

In 2019, Prather won his first (and second) PBA Tour titles. In 2020, he won his first major championship. In 2021, is the next logical step a Player of the Year award? He's proven an affinity for winning six-figure prize checks, claiming \$100,000 in both the 2019 PBA Playoffs and 2020 Tournament of Champions, so one would think the \$250,000 to the winner of the 2021 Players Championship might give Prather a little extra motivation. Obviously, everyone wants to win it, but Prather has an edge in that he has significant experience bowling for – and winning – huge amounts of money.

5. EJ Tackett

Tackett won't go two straight years without a win. He'll want vindication in the season-opening Players Championship, which he lost by a single pin to Bill O'Neill last year, and will be more motivated than ever after so many near misses in 2020. This season, Tackett will undoubtedly be on the list of Player of the Year candidates as he attempts to win the award for the second time in his career.

6. Kyle Troup

Troup might not win three titles again this season – that's very hard to do – but he'll definitely contend regularly. Plus, considering he was able to win three titles in a shortened season, why can't he win three or more if the 2021 season normalizes to some extent? Last season was the first time Troup earned six figures on the PBA Tour. Next season will be the second.

7. Sean Rash

There's no reason to think Rash won't continue to be formidable in the 2021 PBA Tour season. His confidence is high after the late-season win in the Cheetah Championship and his desire to remain one of the top players only grows by the day. Now sitting at 16 career titles, the possibility of joining the exclusive 20-title club seems more plausible than ever, even if it might take more than a single season to get there.

8. Jesper Svensson

Svensson will once again be a threat every time he enters a tournament. Coming from Sweden, he'll be assigned to the south region qualifier for the PBA Players Championship in Tampa and will be one of the favorites to advance. As he's shown many times in his career, he can get a lead and run away with it. If he can do that in the Tampa regional, he'll set himself up nicely for a chance at the overall Players Championship title.



1. Jason Belmonte

9. Francois Lavoie

With four career titles and two majors (both U.S. Opens), Lavoie is a single title away from being performance eligible for the PBA Hall of Fame. The season opens with the Players Championship in which Lavoie finished seventh in 2020. If Lavoie's confidence remains as high as it was during the PBA Playoffs, his fifth career title will come sooner than later.

10. Tom Smallwood

Smallwood ranked 12th in earnings and 14th in points, but he's 10th in our preseason rankings as the 2021 season should start favorably for him. The Players Championship, which he won in 2018, was seventh in 2019 and 15th in 2020, generally rewards tough players, and there aren't many players tougher than Smallwood. The three-time PBA Tour champion showed as much during the PBA Playoffs and will be able to carry that momentum into the 2021 season.

11. Brad Miller

Miller enjoyed his season-ending trip to Centreville, Virginia, more than most. He's still seeking his first PBA Tour title, but as he bowled the PBA League, Chameleon Championship and PBA Playoffs, the increase in Miller's comfort level on TV was palpable. If he can keep putting himself in that position, he might be the first of several contending zero-time winners to become PBA champions in 2021.

12. Darren Tang

Now that Tang is getting himself to the televised finals more often, the next step is to win his first career title. Obviously, that feat is not quite so easy when every other player in the field also wants to win the title, but Tang has to be getting antsy. He opened last season by leading the field into the stepladder finals in Arlington, Texas, and then making it to match play in each of the first three events (no other player did so). Doing the same this year would be very nice, financially and otherwise.

13. Marshall Kent

Opening the season with a major championship gives Kent an edge over a lot of players. Although Kent has yet to win a major, he almost always contends. The west region will be tough to escape but most of the other bowlers in that region will be looking at Kent's name as one of the reasons it'll be so difficult. Kent will look to improve on his fifth-place finish in last year's Players Championship, then carry the strong start through whatever's next.

14. Dom Barrett

Barrett, a two-time major champion, made match play in three of the four majors in 2020. In 2019, he made match play in four of the five majors. The point: he's good in major championships. However, the Players Championship – 2021's season opener – is the only major in which Barrett missed match play in each of the last two seasons. When Barrett is sharp, he's better than most, and if he can get through the Players Championship qualifier, he'll be one of the favorites to win the whole thing.

15. AJ Johnson

Johnson ranked 18th in competition points in 2020, but he's 15th in our rankings due to his growing comfort under the TV lights. A lot of his fellow competitors call him the best player without a title, which is of course a label no player wants, because it means he doesn't have a title. Johnson performs well in majors and the season starts with a major, so perhaps he can shed that label sooner than later.

16. Jakob Butturff

It's hard to imagine a scenario in which Butturff doesn't come out of the west region – where he has dominated for years – as one of the top five bowlers in the Players Championship. In order to start the season with a major victory, Butturff will have to defeat Belmonte (Australian pros are being assigned to the west region as well), which is something Butturff has not been able to do yet on television. Regardless of whether he wins or merely contends in the Players Championship, a quality start to 2021 could mean 2019-like sustained success from Butturff, who generates his own momentum in more ways than one.

17. Tommy Jones

Just like last year, Jones is 17th in our preseason rankings. With a major championship and \$250,000 available to the winner, Jones may find some extra motivation to remind the rest of the Tour how good he is in big moments, particularly when big stakes are involved.

18. Chris Via

Because the timing of 2020's events was so strange, it's hard to judge Via's momentum from 2020 over the course of several months. As the season got into March, when Via finished fifth in back-to-back majors, it was clear he was one of the players to watch. When he returned in September to bowl WSOB match play, PBA League and the PBA Playoffs (where he was narrowly defeated by Marshall Kent in the opening round), he still looked good. That should continue into 2021. Can he make it three straight top-five major finishes in the season-opening Players Championship?

19. Kyle Sherman

A big reason for Sherman's success in 2019 was his performance in majors, which he continued to some extent in 2020 with a 13th-place finish in the Tournament of Champions and 25th in the World Championship. Since he joined the Tour, he's been a threat in the big events and it doesn't get much bigger than the season-opening Players Championship with a quarter of a million dollars on top.

20. Chris Barnes

Barnes gets back in the rankings to start the season because we speculate he's going to be extra motivated by several things. He wants to win his 20th title and catch Tommy Jones. He will want to answer all the inevitable ribbing he'll be taking from his fellow players for the (S) indicating senior by his name on the squad sheets by soundly defeating the ribbers. Plus, perhaps most important, he never enters a tournament without an unending and desperate desire to win it. That's why he's won so many and why he's in the Hall of Fame.

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Coffee

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of BCM Magazine), contacted me about writing articles for him from a food and beverage standpoint. My expertise has always been in the area of bowling promotions, but I understood Mr. Johnson’s request for the food and beverage angle, since Bowling Industry Magazine had a stable of bowling promoters on staff, including Paul Kreins, Don Drooker, Ray Tuttle and others.

One of my first articles involving food and beverage for Bowling Industry Magazine was titled, “There’s BIG Money Brewing With Gourmet Coffee.” The topic was appropriate, because Bob Johnson and I have enjoyed an affection for coffee, and Charles M. Schulz, the famous creator of the Peanuts comic strip, for all of our 45 year friendship.

Schulz also enjoyed a bold cup of java and highlighted an Extra Dark French Roast brew at his own Redwood Empire Ice Arena, an indoor ice rink in Santa Rosa, Calif., that officially opened on April 28, 1969. The building houses Snoopy’s Home Ice, The Warm Puppy Cafe, and a gift shop known as Snoopy’s Gallery.

An Interesting sidelight to the Schulz coffee connection is that when he originally moved to California, Schulz set up shop on a 28 acre property on Coffee Lane in Sebastopol, Calif., the small town where I grew up. The entrance to the property further called attention to Schulz love for coffee with a sign that read, “The Coffee Grounds.”

Although I visited the Coffee Grounds on quite a few occasions, including the annual party each year at the conclusion of the L & L Lanes Junior Bowling League, in which three of the Schulz children participated, I never saw any of Schulz famous friends that reportedly frequented his four hole golf course at the Coffee Grounds. But the pool party and bowling trophy presentation event each year is something that is indelibly etched in my mind.


In the Bowling Industry Magazine article, I highlighted the profitable benefits of flavored gourmet coffee, and for those who dare, the additional benefits of espresso drinks. One quote that editor Bob Johnson called attention to in the feature was the following: “Instead of charging 50 cents for a cup of coffee with free refills, we can now charge more for coffee worth buying.”

It’s interesting that while I don’t really agree with much of the political or cultural beliefs espoused in the state of New Jersey, I have comfortably enjoyed the past 28 years in Edison, N.J., a city of more than 100,000 that is spread across a large swath of land containing many local and regional malls. Within the city limits of Edison there’s another community that’s completely surrounded by Edison that I call home - Metuchen.

Metuchen is highly reminiscent of Sebastopol, with a population of around 15,000 citizens, and more than 20 coffee houses in less than 3 square miles.

My favorite shop, aside from three Starbucks, is *Brewed Awakening*, which has morphed into a breakfast and lunch shop over the years, but still sells a mean cup of coffee. Some of the other local coffee houses that stand out are as follows:

- Cafe Paris
- The Coffee House Cafe
- Joe Coffee
- Hatch 44
- CLO Coffee Company
- Cai’s Coffee House
- Bagel Pantry
- Cafe Amore
- Cafe Zio
- Athena Greek Coffee
- 2 Chicks With Chocolate



Did I mention that Metuchen only has a population of 14,748? And this list does not include corporate coffee shops like Starbucks (3), Dunkin’ Donuts (3), Nordstrom Espresso Bar, Whole Foods Coffee Bar, Panera Bread, Biggby Coffee and Manhattan Bagel. In terms of coffee, my beliefs are completely in touch with New Jersey!

So, raise a cup of coffee America, and make everything better! Times are exceptionally difficult, but there’s really no other place on earth to escape than to particular enclaves within the USA. Florida, Texas and Arizona should continue to lead other states in population increase in the years ahead... that’s just my opinion, and it’s justified by my searches for property on Zillow in those locales.

PWBA Kickoff Classic Series LIVE Next Week on BowITV

The 2021 PWBA season will begin Wednesday, Jan. 20 at 11 a.m. Eastern with the opening round of qualifying at the PWBA Bowlers Journal Classic, which is part of the PWBA Kickoff Classic Series.

BowlITV will be covering every pair in play from the International Training and Research Center in Arlington, Texas, for all three national events (PWBA Bowlers Journal Classic, PWBA ITRC Classic and PWBA Hall of Fame Classic) and the regional competition (PWBA Arlington Regional).

PWBA continued from page 1

while watching the 2021 season on BowlITV.com (subscribe today by [clicking here](#)). The first group of players listed are scheduled to compete at the PWBA Kickoff Classic Series, while the second group includes players who may compete later in the season.

IN THE FIELD – PWBA KICKOFF CLASSIC SERIES



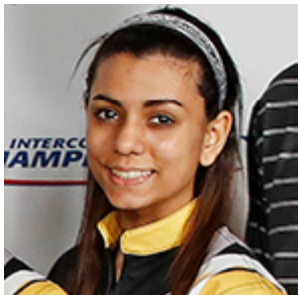
MARIA BULANOVA

Bulanova quickly made a name for herself in the United States as a standout freshman at Vanderbilt in 2017. She was named the National Tenpin Coaches Association (NTCA) Rookie of the Year for Division I and earned the first of three NTCA first-team All-America honors (2019 and 2020).

She was no stranger to international success at that point, however. Bulanova, who originally hails from Moscow, already had captured multiple medals at the European Youth Championships and posted an impressive fourth-place finish for Russia at the 2014 QubicaAMF Bowling World Cup.

That experience showed as she quickly took over the anchor position at Vanderbilt as a freshman, and she helped the Commodores claim the NCAA Bowling Championship in 2018.

Bulanova was named the NTCA Player of the Year for Division I as a junior in 2019, and she was awarded the 2019 Female Amateur Athlete of the Year award by the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame.



ESTEFANIA COBO

Cobo is the only player on this list who didn't finish her collegiate bowling career in 2020. She wrapped up her final season at Wichita State in 2019.

She captured a bronze medal in trios for Puerto Rico at the 2017 Pan American Bowling Confederation (PABCON) Youth Championships and has been consistently delivering in major events since 2018.

Cobo put together a run at the 2018 USBC Queens, winning her first two matches on her way to finishing tied for 17th place (averaging more than 229 in match play). She followed that performance by finishing tied for ninth at the 2018 Junior Gold Championships.

In 2019, Cobo again advanced to the double-elimination bracket at the Queens (finished tied for 49th) and earned a spot in match play at the U.S. Women's Open, finishing the 56-game marathon in 19th place.

She also collected four gold medals for Puerto Rico at the 2019 Campeonato Iberoamericano.



CAITLYN JOHNSON

Johnson has found continued success at each level as she's progressed toward the PWBA Tour, and she let everybody know she means business with her performance at the 2017 U.S. Women's Open.

Johnson entered the final round of match play in sixth place and one spot off the TV show, before some struggles in the last block pushed her to 12th place.

Just prior to her run in Plano, Texas, that year, Johnson helped Webber International to a runner-up finish at the Intercollegiate Team Championships as a freshman and finished second in the 20-and-under division at the Junior Gold Championships.

Johnson's time at Webber included being named a National Collegiate Bowling Coaches Association (NCBCA) first-team All-American as a sophomore, junior and senior. She earned the top honor of Most Valuable Player in the 2017-2018 and 2019-2020 seasons.

Johnson also has two years of Junior Team USA experience under her belt (2018-2019), which included gold-medal performances at the 2018 World Bowling Youth Championships (team) and 2019 PABCON Youth Championships (trios and team).

Learn more about Johnson and her journey by watching her appearance on The PWBA Podcast.



ALEXIS NEUER

Neuer concluded her collegiate career at Delaware State in 2020 by being named an NTCA first-team All-American.

She also earned a spot on the NTCA honorable mention All-America squad in 2018 for the Hornets and has proven she has what it takes to compete at each level on her way to the tour.

She's had strong finishes at the Junior Gold Championships, including a fifth-place finish in 2017, and earned a spot on Junior Team USA in 2018.

Neuer just missed match play at the 2019 U.S. Women's Open, and she will have a great support system to lean on during the season.

Her father, Andy, is a Professional Bowlers Association Tour champion, and her younger brother, Anthony, has found success as a fellow member of Junior Team USA and is a PBA regional champion.

The qualifying and match-play rounds for each event will only require a BowlITV login to view the action, while the stepladder finals at each tournament will require an annual (\$79.95), monthly (\$9.95) or event pass (\$4.95 for each event or \$12.95 for access to all four stepladders) to watch.

Check out the livestream schedule below to know when to tune in. All times are Eastern. To learn more about the PWBA Kickoff Classic Series, [click here](#).

BowITV SCHEDULE	
All Times Eastern	
Wednesday, Jan. 20 - PWBA Bowlers Journal Classic	
11 a.m.:	A Squad qualifying – FREE WITH LOGIN
5 p.m.:	B Squad qualifying – FREE WITH LOGIN
Thursday, Jan. 21 - PWBA Bowlers Journal Classic	
11 a.m.:	Match Play - Round 1 – FREE WITH LOGIN
5 p.m.:	Match Play - Round 2 – FREE WITH LOGIN
9 p.m.:	Stepladder finals – SUBSCRIBERS-ONLY
Friday, Jan. 22 - PWBA ITRC Classic	
11 a.m.:	A Squad qualifying – FREE WITH LOGIN
5 p.m.:	B Squad qualifying – FREE WITH LOGIN
Saturday, Jan. 23 - PWBA ITRC Classic	
11 a.m.:	Match Play - Round 1 – FREE WITH LOGIN
5 p.m.:	Match Play - Round 2 – FREE WITH LOGIN
9 p.m.:	Stepladder finals – SUBSCRIBERS-ONLY
Sunday, Jan. 24 - PWBA Arlington Regional	
3 p.m.:	Qualifying – FREE WITH LOGIN
9 p.m.:	Stepladder finals – SUBSCRIBERS-ONLY
Monday, Jan. 25 - PWBA Hall of Fame Classic	
11 a.m.:	Match Play - Round 1 – FREE WITH LOGIN
5 p.m.:	Match Play - Round 2 – FREE WITH LOGIN
Tuesday, Jan. 26 - PWBA Hall of Fame Classic	
3 p.m.:	Match Play - Round 3 – FREE WITH LOGIN
9 p.m.:	Stepladder finals – SUBSCRIBERS-ONLY



ABBY RAGSDALE

Ragsdale kicked off her collegiate career with NCBCA Rookie of the Year honors for St. Francis-Illinois during the 2016-2017 season.

In 2018, she shined at the Junior Gold Championships, earning a spot in the stepladder finals, before leaving one of the most cruel 8 pins in tournament history (watch it here ... bowling isn't fair sometimes), to finish in third place.

She used the momentum from that performance to put together a phenomenal junior year for St. Francis-Illinois and was named an NCBCA first-team All-American and Most Valuable Player.

Ragsdale finished her collegiate career for the Fighting Saints by earning her second consecutive honor as an NCBCA first-team All-American in 2020.

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR...



TAYLOR BAILEY

Bailey emerged as an up-and-coming star during McKendree's incredible run to both the NCAA Bowling Championship and Intercollegiate Team Championships in 2017.

As a freshman on Shannon O'Keefe's squad that year, Bailey performed like a seasoned veteran in big moments during the postseason. She continued to improve each year, earning third-team (2018), second-team (2019) and first-team (2020) All-America nominations from the NTCA.

She earned a spot on Junior Team USA in 2018 and helped the program earn a gold medal in team competition at the 2018 World Bowling Youth Championships. Bailey also collected a silver medal in doubles at that event.

In recent months, Bailey has had the opportunity to train alongside O'Keefe, the reigning PWBA Player of the Year, in preparation for the next step in her bowling career.



BREANNA CLEMMER

Clemmer first arrived on the national scene in 2012 by winning the 15-and-under division at the Junior Gold Championships. In 2014, she won the 20-and-under title and finished as the runner-up the following year.

The Junior Gold victory in 2014 also led Clemmer to her first stop on Junior Team USA. She earned a spot on the team for five consecutive years before aging out of the program in 2018. During that time, she collected 18 medals in international competition, including a team gold medal at the 2018 World Bowling Youth Championships.

Clemmer joined Bailey at McKendree in 2017, and the accolades quickly began to accumulate under the watchful eye of O'Keefe. She was named the NTCA Player of the Year for Division II/III student-athletes in each of her four years with the Bearcats, won a pair of team titles in 2017 and captured the 2019 Intercollegiate Singles Championships.

Clemmer also joined the adult squad for Team USA in 2019 after winning the U.S. Amateur title at Team USA Trials. She successfully defended that title in 2020.

Want to learn a little more about Clemmer? Check out her appearance on The PWBA Podcast.



RAQUEL OROZCO

Orozco saved her best for last during her collegiate career at Nebraska. In 2020, she was named the NTCA Player of the Year for Division I and recognized as the Nebraska Female Athlete of the Year.

Fans and fellow student-athletes saw the steady progression in her game as a Cornhusker. She was named an NTCA first-team All-American for the first time as a sophomore in 2018, and she earned that distinction again in 2019 and 2020.

She's also found success on the international stage. Orozco has captured multiple medals for Mexico's junior team, highlighted by a win in doubles at the 2018 World Bowling Youth Championships.

BOWLING PROGRAMS AT TWO HIGH SCHOOLS RECEIVE \$2,500 GRANTS

by Matt Cannizzaro

ARLINGTON, Texas - Two high school bowling programs recently were awarded \$2,500 grants through the High School Assistance Grant Program, part of the Youth Education Services (YES) Fund.

The High School Grant Program accepts applications from schools that can show a financial need for their bowling program because of budget cuts or other changes, or schools can request funding to start a new program.

International Bowling Campus Youth Development reviews applications and annually selects up to four high schools to receive a grant.

Each of the following schools received a \$2,500 grant based on submitted applications:

- * Bourbon County High School - Paris, Ky.
- * Hutchinson High School - Hutchinson, Minn.

The bowling program at Bourbon County High School began in 2007 as a club sport and was elevated to varsity status during the 2011-2012 school year. In that time, the program has included as few as eight players and up to nearly 30.

Like all sports at BCHS, the bowling program is self-funded. That means players and coaches are responsible for player fees, fundraising and seeking donations, with much of the money collected being used for lineage fees, match and tournament costs, transportation and uniforms.

An additional challenge for the Colonels is that their home center, Capital Bowl, is more than 40 miles away in Frankfort, Kentucky, so transportation limitations and expenses can influence the number of team members.

The team entered the 2020-2021 school year with a 10-athlete roster and was able to add another player through an October tryout. Since the start of the season has been pushed back due to COVID-19, there's still time to recruit more student-athletes.

As the bowlers and head coach Johnny Yazell prepare to compete in a COVID-19 world, their initial plan was to compete in 8-10 matches against other schools from their region, along with at least two tournaments. So far, their schedule includes three matches and three tournaments, including the event they will host at the end of January.

The Colonels were able to begin practicing on Dec. 14, and their season was scheduled to officially begin after Jan. 4.

"We're a small community (approximately 10,000 in Paris and 20,000 in Bourbon County), so everyone is fundraising for every sport, and that makes things more challenging, even in a normal year," Yazell said. "We just feel so blessed to receive this grant. It's a huge relief for me and my assistant coaches. We have been really worried about raising funds and taking care of the kids and their needs this year. I cannot put into words how grateful we are. It's an amazing gift, and it will go a long way."

Hutchinson also is a small city (approximately 14,000 residents), located just west of Minneapolis. The high school includes more than 900 students, grades 9-12.

At Hutchinson High School, the bowling team is a community effort, funded with help from the local bowling center, Hutch Bowl, and the parents of the bowlers, while traditionally being coached by a volunteer parent.

The team ideally would include 7-8 team members, five of whom would bowl at a time, but head coach Michelle Maki always is hopeful and excited about adding new players into the mix.

Each year, the Tigers traditionally participate in a conference that includes five local schools. They travel weekly to different bowling centers, where they bowl against three other teams in a five-game match. After approximately seven weeks of competition, the teams meet again for a conference tournament. The conference champion and runner-up advance to district play, where teams must finish among the top eight to advance to the state event.

Bowling is not yet recognized as a varsity sport in Minnesota. There is a fall season for co-ed teams and a winter season for girls teams. A successful 2019 co-ed season left Maki and the Tigers motivated for 2020, but the year ended up being anything but traditional.

State and local restrictions due to COVID-19 forced adjustments to the bowling schedule and competition formats, since only so many people are allowed in the bowling centers at once. Instead of five-player teams, the fall season included three-player teams and a modified Baker format. Practicing also was a challenge due to Hutch Bowl being closed or having a limited capacity.

"With the year and struggles and all the kids have gone through, this grant will help so much and give such a glimmer of hope as we work hard to get back to normal," Maki said. "They're all so passionate about bowling and hope to do it in the future, whether it be in college or as adults. They'd spend all day at the bowling center, if they could. This really will help with improvements for the program and to their bowling games, and we truly appreciate it."

The Hutchinson bowling expenses include promotional materials, lineage (for practice and competition), league fees for the season, awards, United States Bowling Congress membership, bowling supplies and uniforms. The grant will allow the team to keep personal costs down, while securing additional coaching and supplies, along with potentially offering scholarship assistance to attract more players.

Though the program is small, the Tigers are very focused on the camaraderie and friendship aspects of team bowling, including spending time with bowlers from other schools and areas. The players also are excited about bowling beyond high school, as they know it is something they can do for a lifetime, and high school bowling is just an early step.

In addition to the High School Assistance Grant Program that benefitted these two deserving schools, IBC Youth also offers S.E.T.S. Equipment Grants, which help provide equipment to high school teams that can't afford it. The Bowling Proprietors' Association of America and USBC, in coordination with IBC Youth Development, are working together with industry suppliers and manufacturers to make this happen.

For more information about the S.E.T.S. program, visit [BOWL.com/HighSchool](https://www.bowl.com/highschool).



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PBA
continued from page 1
PBA Cheetah Championship, PBA Chameleon Championship and PBA Scorpion Championship.

The details around the final two majors of the season, the USBC Masters and U.S. Open, were previously announced by USBC. Those events will take place during a two-week period starting March 29 at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nevada.

All qualifying and match play rounds for the events mentioned above will be broadcast live on [FloBowling](#).

All of the champions from the major events will then take part in the PBA Super Slam event on April 18 in Annadale, Virginia. The PBA said it was a “\$100K special event.”

Additionally, the PBA will wrap up the PBA Jr. National Championship, which held qualifying last year, with the finals to be broadcast March 7. In addition to the title matches, the youth players will be partnered with PBA stars for a competition during the show.

Additional details on PBA Tour events, tournament formats, host bowling centers, and more post-April will be announced at a later date, the PBA said in a release.

Here’s a look at the national broadcast schedule. All of the events listed below will also be broadcast on FloBowling for international subscribers:

DATE	EVENT	NETWORK	TIME (ET)
Sunday, Jan. 24	PBA Players Championship: West	FS1	12:00 PM
Sunday, Jan. 31	PBA Players Championship: Southwest	FS1	2:00 PM
Saturday, Feb. 6	PBA Players Championship: Central	FS1	4:00 PM
Sunday, Feb. 7	PBA Players Championship: East	FS1	2:00 PM
Sunday, Feb. 14	PBA Players Championship: South	FS1	1:00 PM
Sunday, Feb. 21	PBA Players Championship: Finals	FBC	12:30 PM
Sunday, Feb. 28	PBA Tournament of Champions	FBC	1:00 PM
Sunday, March 7	PBA Jr. Finals	FS1	12:00 PM
Saturday, March 13	WSOB PBA World Championship	FBC	2:00 PM
Sunday, March 14	WSOB Roth/Holman PBA Doubles	FS1	3:00 PM
Monday, March 15	WSOB PBA Cheetah Championship	FS1	8:00 PM
Tues, March 16	WSOB PBA Chameleon Championship	FS1	8:00 PM
Wed., March 17	WSOB PBA Scorpion Championship	FS1	8:00 PM
Sunday, April 4	USBC Masters	FS1	2:00 PM
Sunday, April 11	US Open	FS1	2:00 PM
Sunday, April 18	PBA Super Slam	FBC	12:30 PM



Late Dad’s Legacy on Marshall Kent’s Mind

The year 2020 proved to be one of upheaval for all of us, but for four-time PBA Tour champion Marshall Kent, the upheaval was particularly personal.

The death of his dad Jim on Sept. 27 generated an outpouring of gratitude across social media by a multitude of players, coaches and executives who either themselves were beneficiaries of Jim’s help as a coach and ball driller, or were aware of the sizable impact those efforts had on pros and youth bowlers alike.

A few months later, another longstanding relationship in Kent’s life hit a transition point, as Kent made the decision to leave Storm, the ball company he represented for eight years.

His new company? A startup group called Big Bowling, headquartered in Kent’s home state of Washington. On this episode of The Bowlers Journal Podcast, an at times emotional Kent explains why this transition provides unique opportunities for him to carry on his father’s substantial legacy, and much more.

Listen to the conversation [here](#).

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COLLEGIATE TICKER

by Aaron Smith - USBC

The 2020-2021 United States Bowling Congress Collegiate season got underway last weekend in Bowling Green, Kentucky, with the Pikeville women and Marian-Indiana men claiming the top spots at the Bowling Green Baker Bash.

The first Mid-South Conference tournament of the season was held at Southern Lanes and featured 11 women’s teams and 13 men’s teams. The tournament consisted of 25 Baker games, with total pinfall determining the winner in each division.

In the women’s division, Martin Methodist grabbed the early lead after rolling 298 in Game 3, but Pikeville quickly chipped away at the difference to put itself in position to win heading toward the final games.

Pikeville held a 61-pin advantage with two games remaining, but a 158 effort in Game 24 cut the Bears’ lead to just 13 pins over Martin Methodist after the Redhawks rolled 206.

Pikeville was able to maintain its advantage with 181 in the final game, finishing 16 pins ahead of Martin Methodist with a 4,689 total. Martin Methodist (4,673) was followed in the standings by Lindsey Wilson (4,305), Midway (4,272) and Bethel-Tennessee (4,271).

The Marian-Indiana men averaged more than 207 as a team on the way to a 173-pin victory at Southern Lanes, finishing with a 5,185 total.

Tennessee Wesleyan was the only other team to average more than 200 during the competition, taking second with 5,012. Pikeville (4,944), Bethel-Tennessee (4,779) and Life (4,719) rounded out the top five.

The 2020-2021 USBC Collegiate season was postponed until January 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The regular season will run until March 28, with the Intercollegiate Team and Singles Championships scheduled to take place May 2-8.

For more information on USBC Collegiate, visit BOWL.com/Collegiate or CollegiateBowling.Bowl.com.

BOWLING CALENDAR

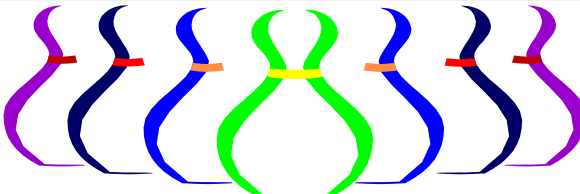
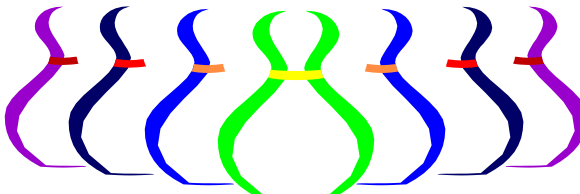
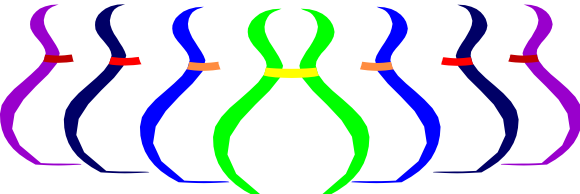
SPECIAL NOTICE: PLEASE CHECK WITH EACH EVENT IF YOU PLAN TO PARTICIPATE TO BE SURE THE CENTER IS OPEN FOR THE EVENT

JANUARY

by Bette Addington

- 16-26 – Military Bowling Championships, SouthPoint, Las Vegas, 800/257-6179, high-roller.com—CANCELLED
- 17-29 – BPAA & Bowling Summit, Nashville, TN, bowlingsummit.com
- 18-26 – PWBA Kickoff Classic Series, ITRC, Arlington, TX, pwba.com
- 19-21 – PWBA Bowlers Journal Classic, ITRC, Arlington, TX, pwba.com
- 21-24 – CBT “Beat the Board,” Bowlero, Scottsdale, AZ, squads – 1/21: 4pm & A squad after league; 1/22: 3/5/A squad after league; 1/23: 12/2/4/6; 1/24: 12/2/4; \$500 guaranteed Scratch series, \$1,000 handicap doubles; \$500 handicap singles, \$35 entry fee (\$5 off for Strike Members), cbtbowling.com, 661/418-8007
- 22-23 – PWBA ITRC Classic, ITRC, Arlington, TX, pwba.com
- 23 – Scratch Singles Event, 12pm & 3pm, Wink’s Silver Strike Lanes, Gardnerville, NV, Michael Blair – 607/287-0855 or FB messenger
- 23-24 – Elite Bowling Club 2 squad 5 Gamer, Canyon Lanes, Cabazon, 951/419-2751
- 24 – San Joaquin Bowling Club Doubles w/crossover option, 11am, Freeway Lanes, Selma, 559/385-8837
- 25-26 – PWBW Hall of Fame Classic, ITRC, Arlington, TX, pwba.com
- 30 – Youth Sports USA Bowling Southwest Regional, Suncoast Bowling Center, Las Vegas, NV, bowl.com—POSTPONED
- 30 – PBA50, Bowlero Glendale, Glendale, AZ, jblanchard@pba.com, 909/908-5713
- 31 – PBA Regular, Bowlero Glendale, Glendale, AZ, jblanchard@pba.com, 909/908-5713

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Email your upcoming events for inclusion to baddington@addington.net

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