



OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS RENO2023

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PROGRAM 2023

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2023 BowITV SCHEDULE

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MARCH

- March 3-5 TNBA HBCU Invitational
- March 6-9 PBA Jackson Classic
- March 11-13 ISC and ITC sectional qualifiers
- March 11-13 UBA Mega Bowl
- March 12-16 PBA Tournament of Champions
- March 17-19 PBA Kokomo Classic
- March 17-19 TNBA Rhodman (Western)
- March 17-19 TNBA Rhodman (Southern)
- March 24-26 SWAC Championship
- March 24-26 TNBA Rhodman (Central)
- March 24-26 TNBA Rhodman (Eastern)
- March 25 PWBA Greater Detroit Regional
- March 26-31 USBC Masters

APRIL

- April 2 USA Bowling Midwest
- April 7-8 NCAA Regional
- April 7-14 PBA World Series of Bowling
- April 9-10 PBA Cheetah Championship
- April 11-12 PBA Scorpion Championship
- April 13-14 PBA Shark Championship
- April 17-18 Intercollegiate Singles Championships
- April 19-22 Intercollegiate Team Championships
- April 22-25 USBC Senior Queens
- April 24-27 USBC Convention
- April 26 USBC Hall of Fame Ceremony
- April 30-May 5 PBA Players Championship

MAY

- May 4-6 PWBA Stockton Open
- May 8-11 Roth/Holman PBA Doubles Championship
- May 11-13 PWBA GoBowling! Spokane Open
- May 14 PWBA Spokane Regional
- May 17-22 USBC Queens
- May 17 PWBA Hall of Fame Ceremony
- May 31-June 2 PWBA Grand Rapids Classic
- May 31-June 4 Super Senior Classic

JUNE

- June 3-4 PWBA BowITV Classic
- June 5-6 PWBA Great Lakes Classic
- June 5-11 USBC Senior Masters
- June 8-10 PWBA Bowlers Journal Cleveland Open
- June 11 PWBA Cleveland Regional
- June 13-19 U.S. Women's Open
- June 14-19 Senior U.S. Open
- June 25 PWBA Aberdeen Regional
- June 25-26 TNBA Reed-Hawthorne

JULY

- July 4-7 PBA60 Tristan's T.A.P.S. Memorial Tournament
- July 10-13 PBA50 South Shore Classic
- July 10-14 Junior Gold Championships (Adult)
- July 12-13 USA Bowling National Championships
- July 15 Junior Gold Championships Trade Show
- July 15-23 PBA50 World Series of Bowling
- July 16 Junior Gold Championships Party
- July 17-22 Junior Gold Championships (Youth)
- July 27-30 PBA/PWBA Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles

Tune in to BowITV and don't miss a moment of the action.



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USBC VISION: Our vision is to continue to be the leading authority to the sport, servicing the needs of bowling.

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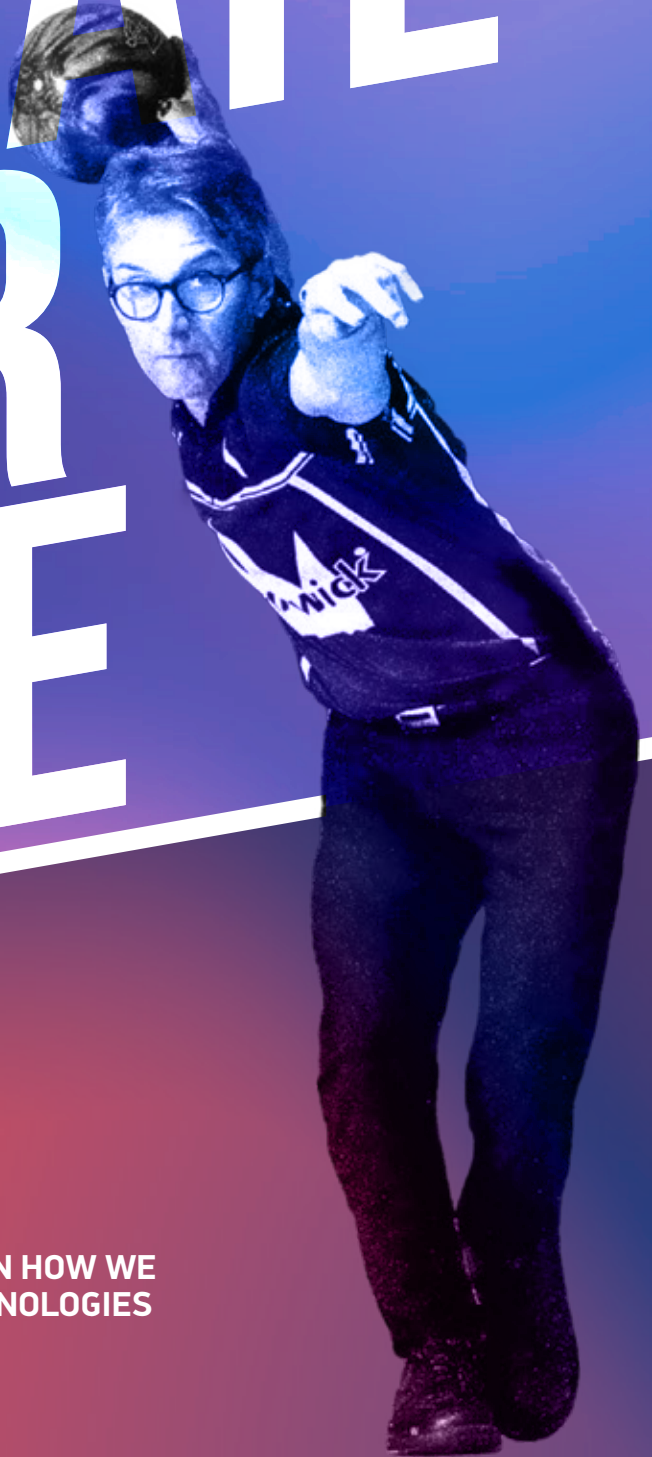
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We're back!

The USBC Open Championships returns to Reno and the National Bowling Stadium.

It's hard to believe it's been nearly seven years since the last ball was rolled in USBC Open Championships competition at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nevada.

More than 2,400 days have passed since the final shot was delivered at the 2016 event, but it's been said that absence makes the heart grow fonder. The anticipation for a return to the recently renovated Taj Mahal of Tenpins has been buzzing throughout the bowling world, and the 2023 Open Championships will mark the tournament's 14th trip to Reno and 11th visit to the National Bowling Stadium.

The tournament had been on a steady course of returning to The Biggest Little City in the World every three years as part of an ongoing partnership with the City of Reno and Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority, and the NBS was slated to host the Open Championships in 2020 prior to its cancellation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For many, the excitement for the 2020 event revolved around a new look and feel to the fourth floor at the NBS, which featured its first extensive round of updates since the venue opened its doors in 1995.

Those enhancements still will be front and center for many of the 9,700-plus teams scheduled to compete at the 2023

event, but that's not the only thing that's new for those who haven't made a trip to Reno in a couple years.

The city has revamped parts of its downtown district, building out more spots alongside its river walk next to the Truckee River and expanding the variety of options in MidTown and beyond.

There's new and exciting things taking place inside THE ROW Reno just across the way from the NBS as well. THE ROW is made up of three familiar downtown resorts – Eldorado Resort Casino, Circus Circus Reno and Silver Legacy Resort Casino – and is the presenting sponsor of the 2023 Open Championships.

While downtown is booming, there's still plenty to check out by taking a short trip around the area. Destinations like Lake Tahoe and Virginia City are less than an hour away from Reno, and Nevada's state capital (Carson City) is nearby, too.

Our friends at VisitRenoTahoe.com have put together an extensive collection of things to experience during your time in town for the Open Championships.



Scan this QR code to check out their page for additional information.

With so much that's new in Reno for the 2023 Open Championships, let's break it down by sections, starting with the famed National Bowling Stadium.

We're back!

NATIONAL BOWLING STADIUM

If your last visit to the NBS was in 2016, you're seeing something much different as you scroll through the pages of this program book in 2023.

While the first floor still is home to a satellite facility for the International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame and the Kingpin Club, you might feel like some things are missing once you get to the fourth floor.

The stadium seating and concession area have been knocked out to create an open floor plan across the concourse from nearly Lane 1 to 78. Don't worry, there's still a spot to grab a quick bite on the fourth floor next to the escalators and by the pro shop area, and there are a couple rows of grandstand seating available from the fifth floor for that one-of-a-kind view.

Whether you're looking down from the fifth floor or walking up to the lanes, you'll quickly notice something else – a ton of space in the settee!

The competition area also has been expanded to make sure there's plenty of room for you, your teammates and your eight bowling balls (a friendly reminder to check out the tournament rules at BOWL.com/OpenChamp) while participating in team, doubles and singles.

After you are settled in and ready to start competition, you'll see your name on the scoreboard being displayed by new projectors across the venue as part of an ongoing commitment to continue renovating the Stadium.

There's more on the way, too. Exterior upgrades are planned, and new lanes are scheduled to be installed by the start of the 2029 Open Championships.



THE ROW RENO

Before getting to the fun and excitement inside the walls of Eldorado Resort Casino, Circus Circus Reno and Silver Legacy Resort Casino, we want to let you know that THE ROW also will serve as the official brackets sponsor of the 2023 Open Championships. This means all same-day brackets payouts will be picked up inside Silver Legacy. Let your teammates know!

While many of the staples that have made THE ROW a favorite among Open Championships competitors over the years remain in place, like award-winning restaurants, exciting bars and lounges and action-packed gaming options, there are plenty of new things to check out since the tournament's last visit in 2016.

THE ROW, which now is part of Caesars Entertainment, has incorporated several new restaurants, so be sure to keep an eye out as you make your way through each venue. Your new favorite restaurant in Reno might be there, so be sure to find a table with enough seats for all your teammates.

Looking for a new way to reset between sets at the Open Championships? Check out the luxury wellness escape at The Spa at Silver Legacy. With an unrivaled relaxation experience awaiting, you'll be sure to forget about any missed single pins from the last squad and get in the right state of mind for strike after strike.

A popular spot for those heading to Reno will be the Topgolf Swing Suite inside Silver Legacy. If you're already a fan of Topgolf, this is the next level with a virtual reality experience offering multiple games in a luxurious atmosphere. The suites will accommodate up to 12 individuals, so this is a perfect pairing for two teams.

Want to learn more about THE ROW? Be sure to visit Caesars.com/the-row-reno.





We're back!



AROUND RENO

We've always encouraged bowlers to see everything our host city has to offer. Reno may be familiar for most, but that shouldn't stop you from exploring some new spots.

While we'll offer a couple of suggestions here, ask the staff for some of their favorite spots around the city! The staff lives in town during the tournament and becomes part of the local community, so they're experiencing all that Reno has to offer, too.

One of the areas booming in the past couple years has been Reno's MidTown District, which starts about a mile south of the NBS on Virginia Street.

More than 150 businesses make up MidTown, including restaurants and bars, boutiques, specialty shops and much more. Many consider it to be the heart of Reno, showcasing the culture, art, music and soul of the local community.

Want to explore more? Check out RenoMidTown.com.

The river walk alongside the Truckee River has continued to grow since the tournament's last visit and still serves as a great spot for a casual stroll or to grab some dinner and drinks.

We wouldn't be surprised to see a few teams make their way down to The Eddy on a nice spring or summer day. The Eddy features an open-air concept with multiple bars, food trucks and the chance to enjoy the outdoors with yard games and live music.

Want to find out what else makes up Reno's Riverwalk District? Visit RenoRiver.org.

If you've been to Reno at least once since 2009, then you've likely already seen or visited Greater Nevada Field, home of the Reno Aces (the Triple-A affiliate of the Arizona Diamondbacks).

The stadium has found its home right behind the NBS (check it out from the squad room) and still has historic spots like Louis' Basque Corner and The Depot just down the way on 4th Street. The surrounding area has seen additional development since the tournament's last visit in 2016, however, so if you're checking out the Aces, see what else is nearby.

Moving outside of downtown and the city limits, you can choose your own adventure depending on which direction you go.

As mentioned before, Lake Tahoe, Virginia City and Carson City all are within an hour by car. Want to head to California? The border is just minutes away, so visits to spots like Sacramento, Napa Valley and San Francisco are perfect for a day trip.

The connection to Reno and the National Bowling Stadium tells a big part of the history of the Open Championships, and we're ready to restart that tradition in 2023. Enjoy your time on the lanes and in the city and surrounding areas, and be sure to share your ultimate bowling experience, too.

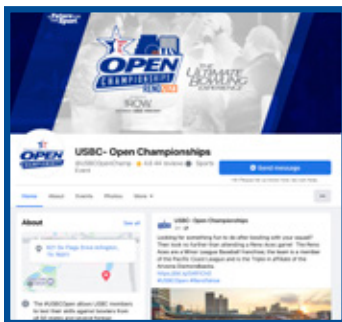
Follow the official USBC Open Championships Facebook page (@USBCOpenChamp) for news and notes about the tournament and things going on in Reno, and use these hashtags (#USBCOpen and #USBCTradition) to share your journey in The Biggest Little City in the World!

LET'S BE FRIENDS

Remember, there's a Facebook page just for the USBC Open Championships. Daily posts help you follow the event, and you can enjoy everything from photos of the day to highlight videos to stories to tips about where to go in Reno, celebrations, recaps, throwback photos, great discussions and much more.

Follow the tournament action at Facebook.com/USBCOpenChamp.

And, if you just love bowling in general and want to keep up with all of the USBC news, find us at BOWL.com and on Facebook (Sport of Bowling – USBC), Twitter (@USBC) and Instagram (@USBCongress) or check out some great video content on BowlTV.com!



STRIKING BIG AT SOUTH POINT

Big scores and record performances highlight the 2022 USBC Open Championships.

The 2022 USBC Open Championships was a striking affair for the more than 46,000 competitors who traveled to Las Vegas and the South Point Bowling Plaza, and the tournament's leaderboard featured several record performances across the 129-day event.

Although the scoring pace at the 60-lane venue may have been a little higher than previous trips to South Point, the 32 Eagle winners in 2022 still experienced the same type of excitement, nerves and anticipation to see whether they had done enough to join the tournament's storied record book.

The 118th edition of the Open Championships also saw several competitors add to their own legacy at the event, highlighted by Matt McNeil winning his fifth Eagle.

Let's look back at Las Vegas and the 2022 Open Championships!

RECORD-BREAKING WIN IN TEAM ALL-EVENTS

The members of DiLaura Brothers 1 of Clinton Township, Michigan, experienced the full roller-coaster of emotions during their trip to Las Vegas in 2022.

The team of Jay Lang, John Buffa, Ryan VanHecke, John Kelley and Ronnie Sparks Jr. were one hit away from taking the lead in Regular Team at South Point, but a stubborn 10 pin from Sparks in his final frame left the team in second place with a 3,468 total.

The group quickly refocused its energy on doubles and singles the next day in hopes of taking a run at the record score set in Team All-Events just five days earlier by Mento Produce of Baldwinsville, New York (10,444).

By the time they finished minors, the team not only held the lead and Team All-Events record, but they had set the new mark by 141 pins with a 10,585 total. Over 45 games, the team averaged more than 235 across the two oil patterns used at the 2022 Open Championships.

Sparks, who collected his second Eagle with the win, led the way with a 2,201 total. Lang, who now owns three wins at the Open Championships, was next with 2,167. Kelley (2,099), VanHecke (2,092) and Buffa (2,026) each earned their first Eagle at the tournament.

Read more about their performance in our featured discussion with the team on Page 15.

BIG START, FINISH HELPS STORM PRODUCTS INC. 1 TO REGULAR TEAM WIN

Sometimes, a big opening game during team competition at the Open Championships means trouble later in the block. The transition may move a little quicker, or the lanes may burn up a little more than planned, forcing teams to scramble to save their strong start.

That wasn't the case for the members of Storm Products Inc. 1 of Alva, Florida. The group, led by Matt McNeil, fired



Storm Products Inc. 1 (from left): Matt McNeil, Jon Rakoski, Justin Veitch, David Langer, Ron Mohr



The victory also allowed Waliczek to join his teammate and recently inducted USBC Hall of Famer Michael Rose Jr. in elite company at the Open Championships. They're now two of 46 bowlers in tournament history with at least four wins at the event.

ALEX GEORGE LIGHTS OFF FIREWORKS IN SINGLES

The show in the sky for the Fourth of July in Las Vegas is pretty cool; there's no doubt about it. The next morning at 7 a.m., though? Fireworks?

At the Open Championships, yes. You never know when that Eagle-winning moment might

take place, and Alex George of Wichita, Kansas, cascaded strikes across the scoreboard during his singles set at South Point as he made a run at one of the tournament's most hallowed numbers – 862.

George stepped up in his final frame with the chance to reach the number, but the right-hander left a 4 pin on his first delivery. He covered the spare, rolled his 32nd strike of the set on his fill shot and walked away with the lead in Regular Singles with 848. A couple weeks later, he got the Eagle to go with it.

The set featured games of 290, 279 and 279 and sits as the sixth-highest series in tournament history. It's fourth overall on the list in singles competition.

George had recorded the first nine strikes in his final game of singles, so he still needed the first two strikes in the 10th to set the new series mark. USBC Hall of Famer Bo Goergen set the record when he rolled games of 299, 299 and 264 to win Regular Singles at the 2009 Open Championships.

LONGTIME FRIENDS RECORD WIN IN REGULAR DOUBLES

The Open Championships is all about spending time with family and friends while competing on bowling's biggest stage. Being able to win together makes the moment even sweeter – just ask Kyle Krol of Tinley Park, Illinois, and Kyle Damon of Orland Park, Illinois.

WALICZEK WINS FOURTH EAGLE IN REGULAR ALL-EVENTS

They've been best friends since elementary school, and now they share a spot in the record book together at the Open Championships after claiming the victory in Regular Doubles in 2022 with a 1,522 total.

Krol led the way at South Point with games of 242, 278 and 267 for a 787 series while Damon added 276, 191 and 268 for a 735 set.

They needed every bit of the big finish to get to the top spot, too, and delivered in the moment. Chasing a leading tally of 1,518, Damon delivered a double in the 10th frame, and Krol rolled the first strike in the final frame and got nine on his second shot to secure their position at the top of the leaderboard.

RECORD NUMBERS IN EACH EVENT HIGHLIGHT STANDARD DIVISION

The 2022 Open Championships marked the fifth edition of the event since the introduction of the Standard Division in 2017, and record scores were tallied across the board to mark the occasion.

In Standard Team, the members of JW's All Stars of Wellington, Florida, set two records on the way to winning the title at South Point. The group closed their set with the highest team game in division history (1,143) to post a record series of 3,132. JW's All Stars started its run to the top of the standings with games of 971 and 1,018.

Keith Bradford paced JW's All Stars with a 716 series, which included 290 in the final game. He was joined by Andrew Lawson (643), last-minute substitute Bryan Jones (615), Russell Weltzien (597) and Edwin Jawdy (561).

The top doubles set in the Standard Division now belongs to Richard Oakes Jr. of Fresno, California, and Joseph Loper of Cottonwood, Arizona, after their performance at South Point in 2022.

Oakes led the pair with games of 206, 279 and 259 for a 744 set, and Loper added 212, 169 and 237 for a 618 series and 1,362 winning total.

Sky Gettys of Thornville, Ohio, put together the top performance in his 36 years of competing at the Open Championships to set the new mark in Standard Singles with a 763 series.

Gettys fired games of 259, 227 and 277 on the way to an emotional win at the Bowling Plaza.

In Standard All-Events, Dustin Sword of Rittman, Ohio, raised the bar as he collected the victory with a 1,994 total.

Sword started his 2022 appearance with a 702 set in team and continued with 672 in doubles and 620 in singles.

THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT IN THE CLASSIFIED DIVISION

The longest and shortest waits for champions in 2022 came from the Classified Division in Las Vegas.

Ronald Hilliard of Lancaster, California, participated during the first week of the 2022 Open Championships, and he was able to hold on to the top spot in Classified Singles for the duration of the event with a 665 series.

Hilliard rolled games of 235, 239 and 191 to take the lead on March 16 at South Point. The 2022 event kicked off its 129-day run March 12.

On the other side of the spectrum, the members of Fantastic Five of Corpus Christi, Texas, bowled on the final team squad of the 2022 event and were able to ascend to the top of the standings and collect the win in Classified Team with a 2,909 total.

Led by Landall Long's 671 series, Fantastic Five made its move to the top with games of 998, 930 and 981. Long was joined in the performance by David Sweeting (633), Mark Rivera (552), Mark Rivera Jr. (535) and Barbara Rivera (518).

The top score in Classified Doubles also took place during the last week of the 2022 event as Miguel Sanchez of Oak Park, Illinois, and Joseph Costa Jr. of Chicago took advantage of a strong start to collect the win with a 1,204 total.

Costa led the way with games of 258, 196 and 162 for a 616 series. Sanchez collected his second win at the Open Championships (2011 Classified All-Events) with games of 232, 159 and 197 for a 588 set.

The Classified All-Events title heads to Florida in 2022 as Safety Harbor's Andrew Hall recorded the win with a 1,857 nine-game total.

Hall put together sets of 643 in team, 617 in doubles and 597 in singles on the way to his first win at the Open Championships.

2022 BY THE NUMBERS

STRIKES AND MORE STRIKES

The 2022 Open Championships featured 52 perfect games, 16 299s and 12 800 sets.

50 IS NIFTY

A total of 30 bowlers celebrated their 50th tournament appearance during the 2022 event. There now are 312 members of the 50-Year Club at the Open Championships.

RARE AIR

As competitors continue to strive toward their participation milestones, hitting 60, 65 and 70 years at the Open Championships truly is an incredible feat. The 2022 event featured bowlers hitting all three numbers at South Point.

60 – Gene Kirkham of Loves Park, Illinois, Michael Schmid of Minneapolis and Bob Martin of San Antonio each made their 60th appearance in 2022. There now are 32 bowlers at the Open Championships with at least 60 years of participation.

65 – Robert Teeters of Lapel, Indiana, was the only bowler in 2022 to celebrate 65 years on the championship lanes. The 65-Year Club features 16 members.

70 – USBC and PBA Hall of Famer Glenn Allison of Corona, California, became the fourth competitor in tournament history to reach 70 years at the Open Championships. Want to learn more about Allison's incredible career? Flip over to Page 27.

100,000 REASONS TO CELEBRATE

Clancy Mueller of St. Charles, Missouri, became the 25th member of the tournament's 100,000-Pin Club during his 61st visit to the Open Championships. He entered the 2022 event needing 845 pins to reach the milestone, and Mueller now has knocked over 100,671 pins for his career.

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THE TOP PERFORMERS FROM THE 2022 OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Take a look at the top five in each division and event from the South Point Bowling Plaza in Las Vegas. The 2022 event kicked off March 12 and ended its 129-day run July 18.

REGULAR DIVISION

Team (combined averages of 876 and above)

1. Storm Products Inc. 1, Alva, Fla., 3,486
2. DiLaura Brothers 1, Clinton Township, Mich., 3,468
3. Ballard's Bowling Academy 3, Keller, Texas, 3,426
4. Higgy's Aquarium, Westerville, Ohio, 3,421
5. Holly Lanes 3, Sanford, Mich., 3,404

Doubles (combined averages of 351 and above)

1. Kyle Krol, Tinley Park, Ill., and Kyle Damon, Orland Park, Ill., 1,522
2. Nick Powanda, San Diego, and Tony Odom, Palm Springs, Calif., 1,518
3. Michael Nape Jr. and Michael Nape Sr., Yorkville, Ill., 1,512
4. David Jecko, Whitesboro, N.Y., and Steven Arehart, Holland Patent, N.Y., 1,485
- T5. Chris Barnes, Denton, Texas, and Billy Rogers, Mesquite, Texas, 1,479
- T5. Gregory Young Jr., East Dundee, Ill., and Aaron Ruiz, Nashville, Tenn., 1,479

Singles (averages of 176 and above)

1. Alex George, Wichita, Kan., 848
- T2. Scott Patke, Lansing, Mich., 835
- T2. Sam Swinford, Ponca City, Okla., 835
4. Nathan Bohr, Round Rock, Texas, 811
- T5. Jeff Nimke, Appleton, Wis., 796
- T5. Brandon Vallone, Clarksburg, Mass., 796

All-Events (averages of 176 and above)

1. Brian Waliczek, Frankenmuth, Mich., 2,241
2. Justin Knowles, Okemos, Mich., 2,222
3. Brett Cunningham, Clay, N.Y., 2,220
4. Lennie Boesch Jr., Kenosha, Wis., 2,219
5. David Jecko, Whitesboro, N.Y., 2,212

Team All-Events (combined all-events totals of all five team members)

1. DiLaura Brothers 1, Clinton Township, Mich., 10,585
2. Team NABR, Fairport, N.Y., 10,538
3. Mento Produce, Baldwinsville, N.Y., 10,444
4. BowlU 1, Kenmore, N.Y., 10,422
5. Bowlers Headquarters, Muskego, Wis., 10,307

STANDARD DIVISION

Team (combined averages of 776-875)

1. JW's All Stars, Wellington, Fla., 3,132
2. Lemont Bandits, Oak Lawn, Ill., 3,097
3. Dale Diamond Team 2, Chatham, Ill., 3,079
4. Cinderella Shoes, Bradley, Ill., 3,005
5. Imperial Lanes, Clinton, Iowa, 2,977

Doubles (combined averages of 311-350)

1. Richard Oakes Jr., Fresno, Calif., and Joe Loper, Cottonwood, Ariz., 1,362
2. Douglas Becht, San Tan Valley, Ariz., and Lee Rottman, Sherrard, Ill., 1,360

3. Michael Schaal, Slinger, Wis., and Wade Bisick, Oconto Falls, Wis., 1,320
4. Michael Steppert, Weston, Wis., and Dan Cherek, Wausau, Wis., 1,312
5. Devin Shepherd, Pylesville, Md., and Ryan Bass, Northfield, Ohio, 1,304

Singles (averages of 156-175)

1. Sky Gettys, Thornville, Ohio, 763
2. Benjamin Brindle, Odessa, Fla., 737
3. Troy Cabbage, Cumberland, Md., 732
4. Joseph Saccente, West Sayville, N.Y., 730
5. Mike Paulsen, Myrtle Beach, S.C., 718

All-Events (averages of 156-175)

1. Dustin Sword, Rittman, Ohio, 1,994
2. Gregory Witt, Phoenix, 1,982
3. William Bradford, Plano, Ill., 1,972
4. Dean Bruinsma, Clear Lake, S.D., 1,959
5. Sky Gettys, Thornville, Ohio, 1,947

CLASSIFIED DIVISION

Team (combined averages of 775 and below)

1. Fantastic Five, Corpus Christi, Texas, 2,909
2. Alamo City PINs, Helotes, Texas, 2,788
3. TP's Pro Shop 10, Cicero, Ill., 2,714
4. Kulshan Brewery, Bellingham, Wash., 2,694
5. Just Luck No Skills, San Diego, 2,690

Doubles (combined averages of 310 and below)

1. Joseph Costa Jr., Chicago, and Miguel Sanchez, Oak Park, Ill., 1,204
2. Melissa Burnham and Dennis Burnham, White River Junction, Vt., 1,188
3. Terri Donahue, Ulster Park, N.Y., and Ronald Jackson, Stone Ridge, N.Y., 1,165
4. Jason Clark and Kenneth Clark, Crowley, Texas, 1,164
5. John Brazzillo, Los Banos, Calif., and Anthony Carvalho, Morgan Hill, Calif., 1,153

Singles (averages of 155 and below)

1. Ronald Hilliard, Lancaster, Calif., 665
2. Hunter Reber, Cedar City, Utah, 657
3. John Lesner, Cave Creek, Ariz., 653
4. Joseph Callas, McHenry, Ill., 648
5. Edwin Humbert, Strasburg, Colo., 644

All-Events (averages of 155 and below)

1. Andrew Hall, Safety Harbor, Fla., 1,857
2. Ronald Hilliard, Lancaster, Calif., 1,824
3. Joseph Costa Jr., Chicago, 1,785
4. Tyler O'Neill, Mount Vernon, Iowa, 1,783
5. Wayne Eaves, Boynton Beach, Fla., 1,774

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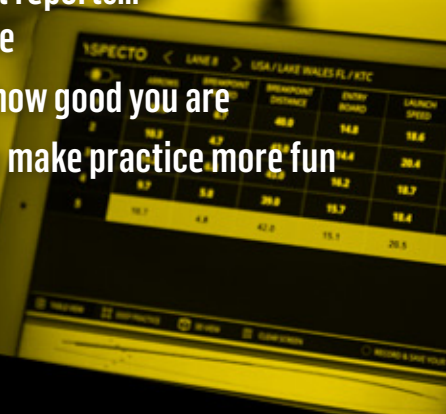
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BEHIND THE SCENES

10,585

The members of DiLaura Brothers 1 look back at their incredible performance in Las Vegas.

Every winning moment has a story behind it.

The tale of the 10,585 score posted in Team All-Events by Jay Lang, John Buffa, Ryan VanHecke, John Kelley and Ronnie Sparks Jr. raised every eyebrow in the world of bowling over a two-day stretch in the middle of April at the South Point Bowling Plaza in Las Vegas.

The performance helped DiLaura Brothers 1 of Clinton Township, Michigan, set a new record at the USBC Open Championships by 141 pins (at the time) and put the close-knit group in position to each forge their path in the tournament's storied history.

The team just missed the lead in Regular Team on April 13, finishing with a 3,468 total to move into second place. The opportunity to take over the top spot was within reach. So was the chance to lament.

Lang, the team's veteran at the top of the lineup, made sure that didn't happen. He pushed the focus toward doubles and singles. The team responded by averaging more than 237 as a unit April 14, improving each set as they made their way to the lead and the record (3,525 in doubles and 3,592 in singles).

With the total locked in, the team still had more than three months to wait and see if the score would be enough. Mento Produce of Baldwinsville, New York, had broken the record set by Pollard's Bowl of Versailles, Indiana, in 1996 (10,425) just days before with a 10,444 total. That mark had stood for more than 25 years. Was any score safe at the Bowling Plaza?

The renowned members of Team NABR of Fairport, New York, challenged the score during their appearance in May and still had a chance to get to the lead entering their final frame of singles. They finished with 10,538 to move into second place.

The defending Team All-Events champion – BowlU 1 of Kenmore, New York – put together a valiant effort to stay in the mix for a repeat performance, ultimately finishing with 10,422.

As the final ball was rolled at the 2022 Open Championships in July, the team gathered to reflect and celebrate the journey. Lang added a third Eagle to his collection after wins in Regular Team in 1997 and Team All-Events in 1999. Sparks was able to share his second victory with his teammates after posting the top score in Regular Singles at the 2015 event. Kelley, VanHecke and Buffa each recorded their first win at the Open Championships.

But ... how were they feeling heading to Las Vegas in April? What was the right thing for them to hear as they closed in on history? What was it like when Team NABR got close? How did it feel when the wait was over?



We wanted to know, so we reached out to all five members of DiLaura Brothers 1 to recap their experience on the way to the top team performance in Open Championships history. Here's what they had to say.

How were you feeling coming into the 2022 Open Championships? What were some of the goals for the team heading into Las Vegas?

JOHN KELLEY: *Coming into this year, I was really looking forward to putting together a better performance than I did last year. Last year, I set my expectations high, wanting to come home on the leaderboard. When I didn't perform well, it didn't make the trip enjoyable. This year, the goal was to enjoy the time with my team and not worry about scores.*

JAY LANG: *We were all feeling pretty good. Expectations for this team are always high. I feel like we've underachieved the last couple years, and we were looking forward to a good year.*

RYAN VANHECKE: *Everybody goes out there with that golden mentality (to win), but it wasn't to live or die by that. I think that may have helped, too. Now that we're getting older, there's less pressure. There's less things you're concerned about. When we were in our early and mid-20s, you went out there trying to smash brackets and make a ton of money. Nowadays, most of us, if not all of us, are focused on the glamour of the tournament and the hardware you can get if you best the field.*

Things started off well during the team event and the strikes kept adding up, but you just missed the lead. How tough was it to come so close? How did the team put the performance in perspective looking ahead to doubles and singles?

JOHN BUFFA: *Jay took us aside right after we finished bowling and said we have to look forward to tomorrow. We can't let what happened affect us. Falling short was a tad bit disappointing, but with the strong heads on everybody, we kept our composure pretty high and moved on.*

JOHN KELLEY: *Team event was so exciting and fun to be a part of. When I got up in the 10th, I told myself to give Ronnie a chance ... just give him a chance. Ronnie threw it great, and there isn't anyone else I would want in that spot. It hurt a little to bowl so well as a team and come up short. You never know when you'll have the opportunity again. Lang pulled our team aside instantly to have a conversation. He said no matter what, there is a bigger picture, and we*



Left to right: Jay Lang, John Buffa, Ryan VanHecke, John Kelley and Ronnie Sparks Jr.

need to focus on that. That night, sitting at the bar playing keno with Buffa and VanHecke, we discussed how awesome the feeling was to have a chance and be in the spotlight. Lang and Sparks are past champions, but for the three of us, this was our best performance at the time.

RONNIE SPARKS JR.: *Honestly, it wasn't tough at all. We had such a hiccup beforehand with trying to switch up the lineup. John (Kelley) was in and out of the tournament office. I remember stopping him before we started the team event. I told him that when stuff like this happens, I usually have to calm myself down because this is when the weird and crazy stories happen. You hear a lot of those stories, and that's where I felt like it was going because it was that crazy of a situation. When we got done, Jay immediately pulled us aside. He said we're not done yet and still have work to do. It sucks to be close to it like that, but at the same time, we were really pumped about our performance.*

JAY LANG: *We got done, and you could tell there were some unhappy faces. I grabbed them and said there's a bigger picture here. We have a nice little start, so let's come out and bowl tomorrow. We can worry about coming in second by a few pins when it's done. Keep your head up, go and keep doing what we're doing.*

John Kelley rolls 270 out of the gates in doubles, and the team is off and running trying to get to the lead. When did you start feeling like the group had a good shot at the lead and record?

RONNIE SPARKS JR.: *That's the cool thing about having such a high number to chase. We were all locked in, but we're also bowling each event. We were focused on just one event at a time. Team All-Events is a cumulative of everything, and the best way to have a good score is to be in the moment for each event. That was our main goal – to stay locked in. It was natural and didn't need to be said. We were all bowling pretty well. It still didn't hit our thoughts until singles.*

RYAN VANHECKE: *I didn't have a good idea about it. I wasn't adding the scores. Jay's dad is a numbers fanatic – he can just look at a pile of numbers and make sense of it. Jay turned around and asked him how we were looking. His response was that we were OK and to just keep going. That was the best response he could have had. It was the best way to say you guys just need to keep it together, but don't add any pressure because that's when you start to squeeze and start making mistakes.*

JAY LANG: *We came out striking, and I thought we were OK, but I kind of lost track of where we were at. My dad was in the stands, and I asked him how we were looking. He said you're fine; keep doing what you're doing. I said that wasn't what I asked. He then said you're killing it and not to worry about it. After that, it was just getting back to it and bowling.*

Tell us something cool that took place during the run that not everybody would know. What made that moment special for you, outside of taking the lead?

JOHN BUFFA: *My parents were by my side and competing in the tournament as well. That made it pretty special. It was my second Open Championships bowling with my dad. John's parents were there, too. They're kind of like my second parents. The only thing missing was my fiancé. She had surgery a week prior to us flying out to Vegas, but she was there in spirit and through text messages.*

JOHN KELLEY: *I had my mom and dad out there competing on the lanes with me. This was the first time my parents have attended this event. There had been years in the past where they wanted to come watch but couldn't make it happen. This year, we had enough family and friends out there with us to put in two additional teams. Having my parents there, along with my girlfriend, made the moment even more special.*

RONNIE SPARKS JR.: *One of the cool things I thought nobody really knew was how John (Buffa) bowled finishing that set. Going into the second game of singles, his sliding knee was pretty much done. He was in a lot of pain, and you could see it in his face. The fact that he pushed through the way he did the last game and fought, I thought that was pretty awesome.*

What made it special was how much family was there. I grew up with all these guys and have known them since I was like 13 or 14 years old. I kept telling them we already won because we were in this moment together. This is the winning moment right now. It was a cool thing to sit back and look at. Going into the 10th frame of our team event, I was able to watch John Buffa's dad pat him on the back before he got up to bowl. That was such a special moment for me to witness and acknowledge because now I'm blessed to be a father. I was able to see it from both sides – a father patting his son on the back with front-row seats to see if his son can take the lead, and a son who gets patted on his back by his dad going into that moment. You hear stories like that, and it's all from bowling. That stuff is just so special.

RYAN VANHECKE: *John Kelley and I have been best friends for just over 20 years. We've bowled everything together for 18 of those 20 years. Every time we go out to nationals, we want to go out there and do great as a team, but he and I know there's a chance our games are going to line up on the same day and we're going to get an Eagle in doubles. That's the only thing that I ever really thought about, but when you have something where you're able to come together as a group and have everybody do what you're trying to do all at the same time, it's that much better. I was able to celebrate it with my best friend and the rest of my close friends.*

It happens – 10,585. It's the lead and record, but now, the waiting game begins. What was the wait like for you?

JOHN KELLEY: *It was long. I was the one watching the scores often after we got home. My girlfriend, Katie, was always trying to encourage me to stop watching. She kept telling me that all I was doing was making it more stressful. My 9-year-old son, Lucas, would see me on my phone and ask, "Dad, are you watching bowling again?"*

RONNIE SPARKS JR.: *The wait was fun. I looked at the scores a little bit, but it was more of getting to play the waiting game with my friends. John (Kelley) would text me and say this team is bowling, so it was a fun way to text him. At the time, yeah, it can seem a little nerve-wracking, but it was cool to know I could text somebody else and know they have that same excitement. With singles, they're excited for you – don't get me wrong – but to be able to text the team and tell them how pumped we were, that was fun.*

JOHN BUFFA: *It was pretty exciting to wait for that final ball to be thrown. Some nights were nerve-wracking. We obviously kept a pretty good watch on teams that were yet to come, with Team NABR being one of them. They're always one of the top teams, and we're good friends with Brian Waliczek. Some nights were pretty late, and others were pretty early.*

JAY LANG: *I had been there before, but it had been 20 some years since I had to wait that long. We won (Regular) Team in 1997, and we took the lead in March. That wait was just forever, but I was a young kid that didn't really know any better. With today's technology, you can follow frame by frame.*

I was fine until (Brian) Waliczek's team bowled. I went to college with Brian, and we're still pretty good friends to this day. With him, Adam Barta, Scott Pohl, Vernon Peterson and Mike Rose Jr., they can strike a lot and play them very similar to how our team plays them. I was lying in bed, and John (Kelley) starts texting me saying we were in trouble. I said what are you talking about because I knew they had to put up a monster score. Then I looked it up and saw we were actually in trouble. Up until that point, I really didn't have a worry. That's a once-in-a-lifetime score. I didn't think anyone could get to it. When they came within 40 pins, I didn't feel too well that night. I didn't sleep very well even though we still had the lead. It was a tough go of it, but after that, nobody really had a huge team set, so there wasn't a lot of worry.

RYAN VANHECKE: *It was humorous. Everyone was stressing and looking every day. I kept saying I don't know why you guys are doing this to yourselves. We already did the hard part, and now, you're making a new part that's even harder. There's no defense. You just sit back and wait, so I went the more blissful route. We did what we could, so let's see if it hangs on. In the end, we'll either be brutally devastated or extremely ecstatic.*

The final ball is rolled, and you're now champions and record holders. What was that moment like when it was finally over?

JAY LANG: *It wasn't official until the phone call comes, and when I saw Arlington, Texas, pop up on my cell phone, I knew it was official. It's fantastic. I sent the guys a text letting them know I got the phone call, and they were all very excited. There's nothing like it. It had been 23 years since my last one, so it's been a lot of years. It's almost hard to describe and put into words. When I found out it was No. 3, I received a couple texts saying I'm now eligible for the (USBC) Hall of Fame. That's a nice thought and been a lifelong goal, but now that it's an actual possibility, it's even more exciting.*

BY THE NUMBERS

How do you average more than 235 as a team? Check out the set-by-set breakdown for DiLaura Brothers 1 in Las Vegas.

	TEAM	DOUBLES	SINGLES	ALL-EVENTS
Ronnie Sparks Jr.	681	749	771	2,201
Jay Lang	773	706	688	2,167
John Kelley	642	753	704	2,099
Ryan VanHecke	661	661	770	2,092
John Buffa	711	656	659	2,026

JOHN KELLEY: *It was incredible. Our team got to watch it end and celebrate together. We all met at a bowling alley (5 Star Lanes in Sterling Heights) in our area. Everyone that was in Las Vegas with us, along with some additional friends and family, came up to celebrate.*

JOHN BUFFA: *It was relieving and exciting, getting to share that moment with the team. We were all watching at our local bowling center that we bowl at on Thursday nights. Once the final ball was thrown, there was a lot of happiness and excitement. Sharing it with friends and family was pretty sweet.*

RONNIE SPARKS JR.: *It was really cool because we shared it together. That exemplifies and shows what our team is about. It was pretty cool to be there with the family and just be able to take that deep breath and now know it's the winning score. The shift of emotions goes from holding back all your energy because you want to stay relaxed. Every time you start to think about all the good stuff and exciting things and cool moments, you have to stop that kind of thinking while the tournament still is going on. It can become draining because you still need that energy for life. To finally be able to let that out and be free was just so nice.*

RYAN VANHECKE: *It was a bit of relief. In those months, you really consider the opportunity you have with what you've already completed. Anything can go right or wrong for someone at any given moment. There were a lot of people out there that could have had the moment go right for them, but ultimately, at the closing of the event, we were still on top. It was sheer happiness – like a kid on Christmas morning. I'll have the hardware to show it. It'll be a beautiful conversation piece and a beautiful reminder of that moment we shared. Almost like "The Sandlot." You look back at a picture, and no matter how old you get, you're always going to remember just how you felt at that time and moment, and I think that's the best part.*

Looking ahead to 2023 and Reno, what are you looking forward to the most? What will it mean to see a championship and record banner with your name on it alongside your teammates?

JOHN BUFFA: *Watching those banners go up in Reno is going to be pretty exciting. I'm sure there will be some happy tears. John (Kelley), Ryan and I will get to experience what Jay and Ronnie have felt a couple times since it's our first Eagle.*

RONNIE SPARKS JR.: *I'm looking forward to hearing from the guys and seeing how it's not easy to throw practice shots after the ceremony. It's all fun and you're excited about it, and then you do that. Good luck getting your emotions under control after that. But, I'm just excited to share this with my friends. I'm ready for the challenge to put the belt down and get back in the ring.*

JOHN KELLEY: *First and foremost, I'm looking forward to getting out on the lanes with my teammates and competing. I look forward to this event every year, and I'm blessed that I'm able to bowl with these guys. To see a championship banner with my name on it, along with my teammates, is something I've always hoped for. When it comes to the record banner, that's just surreal.*

RYAN VANHECKE: *To be called out every year now for the rest of my bowling career is super special. I've never been one who has had to have this or that. I'm more of someone*

who's in the moment. I'm sure I'll have some feelings and emotions when I step out onto the approach that I can't put into words right now, but I look forward to them. Not many guys are criers, and I'm not typically one, but I'm not afraid of it. Sometimes, it just means that level of special is so high that you can't contain it.

JAY LANG: *I cannot wait for that moment. Walk down the aisle, pick the song, get our hardware, but the minute it's done, it's back to business. I would love to repeat. I would love to have a fourth or fifth (title). That's the goal. I'm a little older than most of these guys. I'm going on 50, so the clock is ticking a little faster. It's more urgent for me to win again now than it is to celebrate seeing the banner, but I'm sure there will be time for both out there.*

URETHANE IN DOUBLES? NOT SO FAST.

Every big performance needs a moment to lighten the mood. During the team's six minutes of warmup during doubles and singles, Ryan VanHecke tried out one of his favorite bowling balls – an AMF Cobra from the 1980s. Here's what happened afterward:

JAY LANG: *Something that nobody would know was that during practice for doubles and singles, Ryan was throwing a Black Cobra from like the 1980s. I looked at John (Kelley) and asked if he was messing with me. He really wasn't going to throw that, was he? John said he thought he might want to, so I grabbed Ronnie and said he's not throwing that. We need to get him out of that. We got him out of it, and then all of a sudden, he's struggling in Game 1. We got a different ball in his hand and told him to do what he does best. Ryan has a great swing and is very good at throwing it hard and keeping it online. He made the change, jumped right and started throwing like 22 miles per hour. All he did was strike after that. Every time he threw a shot, Ronnie said just break something, and he had pins going sideways. It was great to watch, and he shot 770 in singles. But the fact that he was going to try and throw urethane in Game 1, I said no. It looked pretty good, but it wasn't our plan.*

RYAN VANHECKE: *I found that ball on the rack at Super Bowl Lanes in Windsor, Ontario. I just put my hand in it goofing around, and I don't know, it was like Cinderella's glass slipper. I threw it, I loved it, I put it in the bag (I asked permission; I knew the owner). The only thing I did was drop my mold into the thumb. I think that was like 16 years ago, so I've had that ball since like 2006. I've won a few local things with it. I've struck a ton with it when everybody else was struggling, so I wanted to see what would happen. The gutter was sparking, so let's throw the dirty old ball. Jay turns around and says you're not really going to throw that, are you? I'm like no, no, no. I just wanted to see what it looked like, that's all. I immediately put my spare ball away and pulled out another piece. All in all, I think it lightened the mood. It's been that ball that's always there – like a Swiss Army knife.*

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Looking ahead to Las Vegas in 2024



Much like the benchmark ball in your arsenal, bowlers around the world are getting more comfortable and feeling right at home with every trip to the incredible South Point Bowling Plaza, and the 60-lane venue again will be the place to be for competitors at the Open Championships in 2024.

The Bowling Plaza, located inside the South Point Hotel, Casino and Spa, will hold the tournament for the fifth time in 2024 and mark the event's seventh visit to Las Vegas.

Located on the south end of the world-famous Las Vegas Boulevard, South Point quickly has become a fan favorite for those making their annual trip to the Open Championships.

The Bowling Plaza speaks for itself. The pristine tournament environment was built for the championship atmosphere found at the Open Championships.



But, there's so much more to explore while on-site at South Point! The Bowling Plaza was the latest addition to a venue that also includes an equestrian facility, a 16-screen movie theater, 11 restaurants (several award-winning establishments, too), a 400-seat showroom, more than 2,200 slot and video poker machines, a spa and salon and ... another 64-lane bowling center. Learn about all of South Point's amenities at SouthPointCasino.com.

In 2022, the South Point Bowling Center was the home for team practice sessions and the Bowlers Journal Championships, allowing for plenty of opportunities to prepare for your time at the Open Championships in just a few quick steps from your hotel room.

You could spend your entire trip at South Point and find new and fun things to do each day, but Las Vegas is one of the top destinations in the world for a reason.

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LOOKING AHEAD TO LAS VEGAS IN 2024

We could spend the next couple paragraphs telling you about the Las Vegas Strip, Fremont Street, the Hoover Dam, Allegiant Stadium (home of the NFL's Las Vegas Raiders) and T-Mobile Arena (home of the NHL's Vegas Golden Knights), the incredible cuisine and nightlife options and so much more, but we're going to leave that to the experts.

Our friends at the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority have built a one-stop shop for everything you need to know about the city at [VisitLasVegas.com](https://www.visitlasvegas.com).



Scan this QR code to check out their page for additional information.

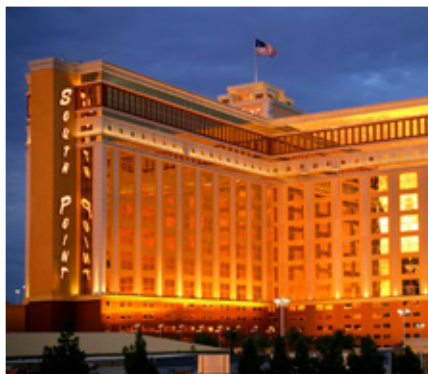
Registration is open for the 2024 Open Championships, so be sure to sign up your team(s) today! You can talk to our on-site staff in Reno about getting squared away for the 2024 event or register online at [BOWL.com/OpenChamp](https://www.bowl.com/openchamp) to find open dates and times.

Looking ahead on the tournament schedule, the Open Championships will return to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, for the third time in 2025.

The Raising Cane's River Center will again serve as the hosting venue and feature the first custom build for the Open Championships since the 2018 event in Syracuse, New York.

The facility is part of Baton Rouge's historic downtown district and rests alongside the Mississippi River, the USS KIDD Veterans Museum and Belle of Baton Rouge Casino and Hotel.

The Open Championships previously visited Baton Rouge for the 2005 and 2012 events, and the capital of Louisiana recently hosted the USBC Women's Championships in 2017.





Andrew Rettig

2022 BOWLERS JOURNAL CHAMPIONSHIPS WINNERS

South Point Bowling Center, Las Vegas

Open Singles Nick Devlin, Scottsdale, Ariz., and Matthew Zitnik, Mayfield Heights, Ohio, 822, \$8,250 each

Senior Singles Andrew Rettig, Hamburg, N.Y., 795, \$4,000

Super Senior Singles Ron Pollard Sr., Versailles, Ind., 765, \$2,000

175 & Under Handicap Singles Matt Kirkham, Rochester, Minn., 724, \$2,000

Open Doubles Nick Devlin, Scottsdale, Ariz., and Dallas Leong, Las Vegas, 1,579, \$7,500

Senior Doubles Rick Hara, Arlington Heights, Ill., and Gregg Zicha, Glen Ellyn, Ill., 1,467, \$2,500

Handicap Doubles Krysta Deleon, Henderson, Nev., and Anthony Rose, Las Vegas, 1,420, \$2,000

Dual Entry Nick Devlin, Scottsdale, Ariz., and Matthew Zitnik, Mayfield Heights, Ohio, 822, \$875 each



**BOWLERS JOURNAL
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Held on the fourth floor at the National Bowling Stadium

Visit BOWL.com/OpenChamp for more
information and tournament standings.

SIDE EVENTS AND MORE

Keep the good times
rolling in Reno!

The National Bowling Stadium will be your one-stop shop for team practice sessions, side events and, of course, the USBC Open Championships in 2023.

The Taj Mahal of Tenpins will be busy on multiple levels of the five-story venue to help you prepare for team, doubles and singles competition ... and potentially take home a little bit of extra prize money, too.

The 76th Bowlers Journal Championships will return to the fourth floor of the NBS in 2023 and once again serve as the premier side event to the Open Championships. As far as convenience goes, it doesn't get much better than this!

The tournament will be staged on the low end of the fourth floor and feature the same oil pattern being used in doubles and singles at the Open Championships.

The Bowlers Journal Championships features three-game sets in singles and doubles competition along with additional average- and age-based options allowing for multiple entries and opportunities to win.

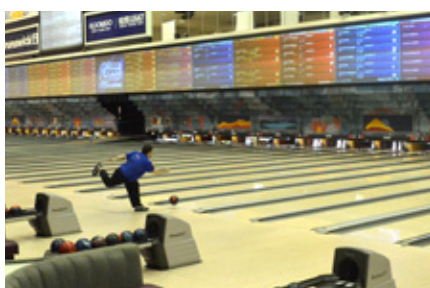
The entry fee to compete at the Bowlers Journal Championships is \$80 per event, and there's an added bonus to your first singles entry – a one-year subscription to Bowlers Journal International magazine!



The look and feel of the magazine was revamped to start 2022, so don't miss out on the opportunity to take home a year's worth of content from the longest-running monthly sports magazine in the nation.

The 2023 Bowlers Journal Championships will be held from March 3-July 23, and squad times will be daily at 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m. and 11 p.m.

Squad sizes are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Registering in advance is recommended.



With all the excitement taking place on the fourth floor and nearly 78 lanes going around the clock, you'll need to check out the first floor and the Kingpin Club for team practice sessions in 2023.

Team practice sessions give groups one hour of practice on the same oil pattern being used for the team event at the Open Championships. This gives competitors a great chance to see how their equipment matches up so that they can fine-tune their game plan prior to their march down Center Aisle.

Just like at the Bowlers Journal Championships, team practice sessions are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Times are available daily at 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Reservations for both the Bowlers Journal Championships and team practice sessions can be made in person at the National Bowling Stadium or online at BOWL.com/OpenChamp.

All USBC policies, procedures and protocols are consistent with those being used at the Open Championships. To learn more about side events and team practice sessions, check out the Side Events page at BOWL.com/OpenChamp.



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ALLISON TO TIE PARTICIPATION RECORD IN RENO

The USBC and PBA Hall of Famer will make his 71st appearance in 2023.

Glenn Allison is one of the most recognizable figures in bowling's long and storied history, and his stat line from the USBC Open Championships certainly supports that claim to be listed among the sport's most elite competitors.

The right-hander from Corona, California, will add another chapter to that legacy when he makes his appearance at the National Bowling Stadium in 2023, becoming just the fourth bowler in the tournament's 119-year history to reach 71 years on the championship lanes.

Allison, a USBC and PBA Hall of Famer, is scheduled to join fellow USBC Hall of Famers Bill Doehrman and Joe Norris, along with Sylvester Thiel, at the top of the participation plateau.

His journey at the Open Championships started at the 1947 event in Los Angeles, and he's made his annual visit to the event each year since 1954. His career at the tournament includes trips to 40 different cities and 23 states to compete.

He has collected four Eagles along the way. His first win came in Classic Doubles in 1962 with fellow USBC Hall of Famer Dick Hoover. Allison fired a 780 set to push the pair to a 1,431 score and the victory.

Allison helped Falstaff Beer of St. Louis to the 1964 Classic Team title, and he again found team success in 1966 as part of Ace Mitchell Shur-Hooks of Akron, Ohio, claiming his third win at the Open Championships.

His fourth Eagle landed at the 1970 event in Knoxville, Tennessee, where he rolled games of 258, 258 and 214 for a 730 series to win Classic Singles.

As Allison continued making his annual trip to the Open Championships, his stops in Reno began to tie in with several of his participation milestones. His 50th (2001), 60th (2011) and 65th (2016) appearances took place inside the 78-lane NBS.

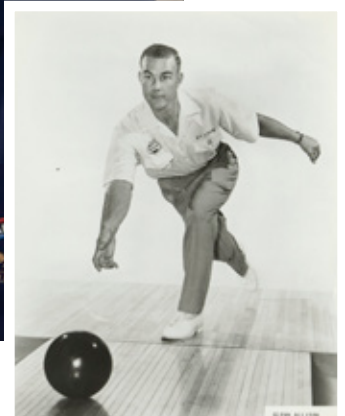
His trip down the venue's famed Center Aisle in 2023 will be a celebration of another participation milestone, but Allison still is working his way toward another mark – the tournament's pinfall record.



Glenn Allison

He'll enter the 2023 event in third place on the list having topped 122,468 pins through his first 70 appearances, which translates to a 192.2 average since 1947. Allison only trails fellow hall of famers Bill Lillard Sr. (124,087) and Joe Norris (123,770) on the all-time list.

Allison became the ninth competitor at the Open Championships to join the 100,000-Pin Club during his 55th appearance in 2006, firing an impressive 1,882 all-events total in Corpus Christi, Texas, to top the occasion. The group now includes 25 members heading into the 2023 tournament.





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ABOUT

SPI+ is a monthly digital magazine crafted for bowling fans who want to learn from the best players, coaches, and minds the game has to offer.

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100,000 PINS IN 2023

The 2023 USBC Open Championships is primed to serve as the most prolific in pinfall with four competitors expected to join the famed 100,000-Pin Club during the year at the National Bowling Stadium.

Through 118 editions of the event, 25 bowlers have eclipsed the legendary mark. USBC Hall of Famer Bill Doehrman of Fort Wayne, Indiana, was the first to reach six digits in career pinfall at the 1971 event, while Clancy Mueller of St. Charles, Missouri, became the most recent member of the club at last year's tournament in Las Vegas.

Between those occasions, there have been six instances of two players reaching 100,000 pins during the same tournament. Having four competitors accomplish the feat in the same year not only will set a new mark at the Open Championships, but it gives all of us 400,000 reasons to celebrate in Reno.

Dedication is an obvious must-have trait to join one of the sport's most exclusive clubs, but the continued effort to fine-tune one's craft as the sport has evolved makes each presentation of the coveted crystal pin one to remember.

Each of these four athletes has proven his merit against challenging lane conditions and the ability to adapt to changes in technology, and they have earned their spot to be mentioned alongside the biggest names at the Open Championships.

Robert Brissette of Petersburg, Michigan, will return to the site of his 50th Open Championships appearance (2013) to make his run at 100,000 pins, and he has the fewest pins to cover to reach the milestone of the four players scheduled to join the club in 2023.

Brissette will make his 59th tournament appearance in 2023 and is just 291 pins away from the mark, entering with 99,709 pins for a lifetime average of 191. He started his journey at the Open Championships in 1961.

Dennis Lane of Kingsport, Tennessee, is 680 pins shy of 100,000 pins after having knocked over 99,320 pins in his first 54 appearances.

Lane has carried a 203.9 average over his career at the Open Championships, and he currently sits at the top of the lifetime average list at the event for competitors with at least 50 years of participation. Lane made his tournament debut at the 1968 event in Cincinnati.

USBC Hall of Famer Bob Chamberlain Sr. of The Villages, Florida, will look to add his name to the list during his doubles and singles set this year in Reno. He'll kick off his 55th appearance with a career pinfall total of 98,938, a 201.5 average, and will need to topple 1,062 pins.

Chamberlain captured an Eagle as part of the 1980 Regular

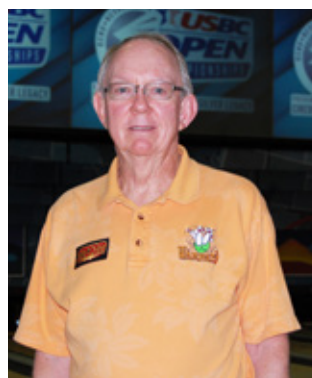
Team champion, and he added to his legacy during the 2011 Open Championships, which also was held at the National Bowling Stadium, by rolling a 300 game during his singles set.

His first appearance came at the 1968 tournament in Cincinnati, and he was inducted into the USBC Hall of Fame in 2005.

Fellow USBC Hall of Famer Bill Spigner of Vernon Hills, Illinois, also will be in position to join the 100,000-Pin Club during doubles and singles competition this year at The Taj Mahal of Tenpins. He'll start his 55th appearance with 98,885 pins (201.3 average) and need 1,115 pins.

Spigner first earned his spot in the record book at the Open Championships by helping Pollard's Bowl of Versailles, Indiana, claim the Team All-Events title at the 1996 Open Championships with a then-record score of 10,425.

He made his debut at the Open Championships during the 1967 event in Miami Beach, Florida, and he was enshrined in the USBC Hall of Fame as part of the 2001 class.



Dennis Lane



Robert Brissette



Bob Chamberlain Sr.



Bill Spigner

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REACHING 50 YEARS

50

Everyone has a reason for making the annual journey to the USBC Open Championships. Some are there for the championship glory and the chance to win prize money, while others simply go for vacation and to spend time with fellow bowlers.

A small group of bowlers can boast of making the journey for more than five decades. Through 118 years of Open Championships history, 312 bowlers have joined the elite 50-Year Club.

The following bowlers are scheduled to reach the milestone this year at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nevada:



GUY BOWLES

HOMETOWN: Orlando, Fla.

FIRST OPEN: 1961 – Detroit

OPEN PINFALL TOTAL: 82,162

OPEN AVERAGE: 188.8

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS MEMORY:

My first Open Championships at the age of 17 in Detroit. I went across the country with five older adults. I bowled 1,621.

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS CITY:

Reno, Nevada. There are a lot of things to do with all the extra activities that are available.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU:

I reached a goal I set for myself. I could see the United States and bowl with my family. My team name is "The Bowles Boys."



PAUL BRATTEN

HOMETOWN: Brunswick, Ga.

FIRST OPEN: 1971 – Detroit

OPEN PINFALL TOTAL: 78,575

OPEN AVERAGE: 178.1

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS MEMORY:

I've had a lot of good times with family and friends.

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS CITY:

Billings, Montana, and Corpus Christi, Texas

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU:

This is a goal in my life and something I think will mean so much to my father. Without his commitment, I may not have went to my first one.



ROBERT CHARETTE

HOMETOWN: Florence, Mass.

FIRST OPEN: 1973 – Syracuse, N.Y.

OPEN PINFALL TOTAL: 68,380

OPEN AVERAGE: 165.1

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS MEMORY:

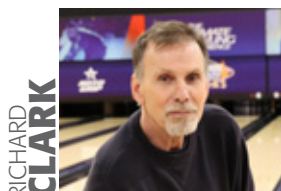
I finished 33rd in the team event in Niagara Falls and then finished 165th in singles the next time in Niagara Falls.

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS CITY:

It should be Niagara Falls, but Reno opened up the chance to go to (Lake) Tahoe and the West Coast. Also, as a retired history teacher, the trip to Billings, Montana, gave me a chance to visit Little Bighorn. The different cities gave us a chance to see things we might not have seen.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU:

Reaching this milestone can only be done with the help of your family and team. It is great to know how much they are willing to do for you.



RICHARD CLARK

HOMETOWN: Okemos, Mich.

FIRST OPEN: 1973 – Syracuse, N.Y.

OPEN PINFALL TOTAL: 83,288

OPEN AVERAGE: 191.4

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS MEMORY:

I made the board in all-events during my second year (Indianapolis – 1974). I also enjoyed watching a squad of bowlers from Lansing do well and take the team lead in 1982 and Frank Gadaletto winning singles in 1977.

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS CITY:

Corpus Christi, Texas, was one of them because I had my highest team score (3,134) and doubles score (1,309). Mobile, Alabama, had a beautiful convention center, friendly people and I bowled well.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU:

I never lost interest in competing every year. However, reaching the 100,000-Pin Club would be much more meaningful to me.



JAMES EPHLIN

HOMETOWN: Rushville, Ind.

FIRST OPEN: 1973 – Syracuse, N.Y.

OPEN PINFALL TOTAL: 78,717

OPEN AVERAGE: 180.9

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS MEMORY:

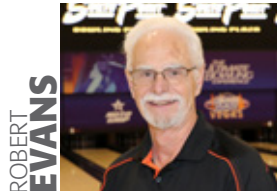
One is that I was bowling during the transformation of scorekeepers at the end of the lane compared to today! That makes me think of the journey it has been. Also, I made the board in Baltimore (1982). Back then, they posted the high games from the night before, and I had a lot of joy seeing my name.

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS CITY:

Probably Corpus Christi, Texas, in 1992. The trip was used as a honeymoon for my wife (Karen) and I. We also were at dinner, and the president of ABC walked in.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU:

I'm glad my father started me so young (17) and put the love of bowling in me. I think of all the teammates I've bowled or traveled with, and it feels like I've joined a club or brotherhood.



ROBERT EVANS

HOMETOWN: Pylesville, Md.

FIRST OPEN: 1973 – Syracuse, N.Y.

OPEN PINFALL TOTAL: 82,153

OPEN AVERAGE: 186.2

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS MEMORY:

1998 in Reno. I finished all-events with 1,999 to finish in 91st place.

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS CITY:

Reno. I like Reno because of the facilities, and it's a great little city.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU:

It reflects what patience and dedication can do.

REACHING 50 YEARS

BOB GOIKE



HOMETOWN: Canton, Mich.
FIRST OPEN: 1973 – Syracuse, N.Y.
OPEN PINFALL TOTAL: 88,177
OPEN AVERAGE: 205.5

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS MEMORY:
 Getting to bowl on the same team with my four children in 2012.

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS CITY:
 Reno. I won Regular All-Events in 1984 with a record score of 2,142, and we won Team All-Events in Reno in 1998.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU:
 It means being part of the history of the tournament. To reach this milestone was one of the goals I wanted to accomplish.

DAVID HURTT



HOMETOWN: Lafayette, Ind.
FIRST OPEN: 1973 – Syracuse, N.Y.
OPEN PINFALL TOTAL: 88,819
OPEN AVERAGE: 201.4

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS MEMORY:
 In 2002, we were able to win the Regular Team title and coveted Eagle in Billings, Montana.

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS CITY:
 Billings, Montana

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU:
 This has been a goal since I reached 25 years. It means I've had a long and successful bowling career and was able to meet so many wonderful people.

MITCHELL JABCZENSKI



HOMETOWN: South Lyon, Mich.
FIRST OPEN: 1973 – Syracuse, N.Y.
OPEN PINFALL TOTAL: 90,002
OPEN AVERAGE: 204

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS MEMORY:
 In 2013, we broke the team record by one pin (3,538). I also had a 298 in 1984. I was able to watch the greatest bowlers in 1997, 1998 and 1999 (Lodge Lanes) perform and win back-to-back Team All-Events titles and finish second in 1999.

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS CITY:
 Las Vegas, Baton Rouge and Reno. I enjoyed those locations, and we broke the team record in Reno.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU:
 It means getting to bowl with Bob Goike.

WOODY JONES



HOMETOWN: North Chesterfield, Va.
FIRST OPEN: 1967 – Miami
OPEN PINFALL TOTAL: 79,705
OPEN AVERAGE: 181.9

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS MEMORY:
 At my first tournament in 1967, I was able to meet Carmen Salvino.

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS CITY:
 Las Vegas for the weather, excitement, entertainment and food.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU:
 It's amazing to think of all the people I've met throughout the years, the memories and the friendships. When I started in 1967, I never thought I would be celebrating 50 years at this great tournament and in the sport of bowling.

BILL KIRSHENBAUM



HOMETOWN: Omaha, Neb.
FIRST OPEN: 1973 – Syracuse, N.Y.
OPEN PINFALL TOTAL: 83,344
OPEN AVERAGE: 192.9

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS MEMORY:
 My first ABC was in 1973, and I was 22 years old. After our league finished on a Friday night, two of my friends and I got in our car at 9:30 at night with a lot of beer and cigarettes and started driving to Syracuse from Omaha, Nebraska. How we made it, I don't know, but we did. I remember being so excited to bowl in a national tournament.

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS CITY:
 I loved Baton Rouge because of the food, and I also learned that my son knew how to change a flat tire while we were there.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU:
 The more I think about it, the more special it is. Not too many people can say they have done what I have. I get to participate in a sport that I love with some of my lifelong friends year after year. I now have some new goals. My next goal is to get to 60 years of participation and 100,000 total pins.

PAUL MCCORDIC



HOMETOWN: Sugar Land, Texas
FIRST OPEN: 1973 – Syracuse, N.Y.
OPEN PINFALL TOTAL: 89,533
OPEN AVERAGE: 203

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS MEMORY:
 Being part of the companion team to Bill Lillard for many years. In particular, when he broke the all-time pinfall record in El Paso, Texas (2015).

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS CITY:
 Corpus Christi, Texas – I bowled well, and it was close to home.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU:
 I'm proud of the achievement with all the memories and accomplishments I've been able to enjoy.

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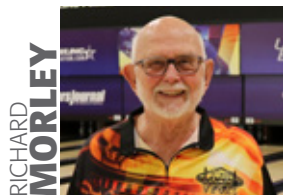


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REACHING 50 YEARS



HOMETOWN: Bradenton, Fla.

FIRST OPEN: 1962 – Des Moines, Iowa

OPEN PINFALL TOTAL: 76,472

OPEN AVERAGE: 177

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS MEMORY:
It was in Dayton, Ohio, when my mother and father were able to watch me bowl.

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS CITY:
It's Reno because of bowling and so many places to see.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU:
It means I was able to bowl with a lot of great team members and in a lot of great cities. I had a lot of fun on the way.



HOMETOWN: Waterloo, Iowa

FIRST OPEN: 1969 – Madison, Wis.

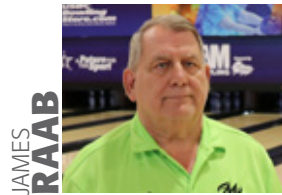
OPEN PINFALL TOTAL: 80,828

OPEN AVERAGE: 183.2

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS MEMORY:
Bowling 2,057 in all-events during the 1993 event in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS CITY:
I can't name just one. Nationals has taken me to so many cities that I never would have visited otherwise.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU:
I am very fortunate. Most of the guys that I bowled with 50 years ago didn't have this opportunity.



HOMETOWN: Aurora, Ill.

FIRST OPEN: 1970 – Knoxville, Tenn.

OPEN PINFALL TOTAL: 73,234

OPEN AVERAGE: 170.7

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS MEMORY:
In the early days, bowling with my father. My family has been in bowling since 1915.

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS CITY:
Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Corpus Christi, Texas. I liked the weather, food and deep-sea fishing.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU:
It's a family milestone. My brothers, Ed and John, will have 44 and 32 years, and my dad, John (Jack) Raab, had 39 years before he could not bowl anymore. I have 49 now and will have 50, so that will be 165 years for our family.



HOMETOWN: Fishers, Ind.

FIRST OPEN: 1970 – Knoxville, Tenn.

OPEN PINFALL TOTAL: 76,760

OPEN AVERAGE: 174

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS MEMORY:
When my daughter switched from being a spectator at each tournament to bowling on my team.

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS CITY:
Reno, Nevada, because of the layout.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU:
I'm pretty proud because not very many bowlers can say that.



HOMETOWN: Rochester, N.Y.

FIRST OPEN: 1966 – Rochester, N.Y.

OPEN PINFALL TOTAL: 78,999

OPEN AVERAGE: 181.6

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS MEMORY:
I have so many. I have been bringing teams and new bowlers for over 40 years and enjoy getting to see the expression on their faces when they march out on the lanes. One I will never forget was back in the late 1970s. My teammate was up, and a ball came flying over onto his lane and went into the gutter. We had a hard time explaining to the officials that he didn't throw it in the gutter.

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS CITY:
All of them. I really enjoyed going to all the different cities back in the day. Las Vegas and Reno are great, but I miss going to new cities, which I probably would never go to.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU:
I fell in love with my first one in my hometown of Rochester, New York, in 1966. I missed a few in the early years but have the last 40 in a row, bringing many new bowlers. I didn't know if I was going to make it since I bowled last year with a fractured back. I don't want to miss No. 50, so hopefully I will be there.



HOMETOWN: Saginaw, Mich.

FIRST OPEN: 1971 – Detroit

OPEN PINFALL TOTAL: 73,534

OPEN AVERAGE: 170.2

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS MEMORY:
Driving the team to Las Vegas from Michigan in a 1972 32-foot motor home. The adventure of that trip was unforgettable.

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS CITY:
Las Vegas because there are a lot of things to do.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU:
It is a permanent accomplishment that will be with me forever. The memories of family and friends will last forever as they see my milestone in history.

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REACHING 50 YEARS



HOMETOWN: Bellevue, Iowa

FIRST OPEN: 1968 – Cincinnati

OPEN PINFALL TOTAL: 81,718

OPEN AVERAGE: 189.1

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS MEMORY:

In 2005, I shot 615 in team, 718 in doubles and 654 in singles (1,987 all-events total).

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS CITY:

Baton Rouge, Louisiana – I bowled well there.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU:

Having a good time with all my friends. Now, I'm watching my boy and grandsons bowl with me.



HOMETOWN: Springfield, Mo.

FIRST OPEN: 1973 – Syracuse, N.Y.

OPEN PINFALL TOTAL: 85,029

OPEN AVERAGE: 192.8

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS MEMORY:

My father (Roger Wiemer) bowling his 50th Open Championships.

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS CITY:

Tulsa, Oklahoma. We had set the Team All-Events record but were beat later in the event.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU:

Getting to 50 tournaments means I get to join my father. My brother, Randy, is just two years behind.



HOMETOWN: Aberdeen, Md.

FIRST OPEN: 1969 – Madison, Wis.

OPEN PINFALL TOTAL: 81,333

OPEN AVERAGE: 186.9

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS MEMORY:

Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1970. I drove all night, only to fall asleep at the wheel and wreck my vehicle. But, I bowled the Masters, which was part of the ABC tournament, the following morning and qualified first at the age of 19.

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS CITY:

Las Vegas – a city that never sleeps. There's always something to do or see.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU:

Love and dedication to the sport of bowling along with longevity and determination.



HOMETOWN: Ellsworth, Ill.

FIRST OPEN: 1969 – Madison, Wis.

OPEN PINFALL TOTAL: 84,374

OPEN AVERAGE: 191.3

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS MEMORY:

When we were in Knoxville, Tennessee, in 2003, I switched to a different ball at the start of singles and bowled 761. I finished in 18th place.

FAVORITE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS CITY:

Las Vegas – there's always a lot to do there.

WHAT DOES REACHING 50 YEARS MEAN TO YOU:

It means a lot. I always tried to make it each year. I had to miss three tournaments due to the birth of my children. It has always been fun bowling at the different locations.



USBC OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS VIDEO POLICY

Please note that video streaming or recording during practice or competition at the USBC Open Championships or Bowlers Journal Championships is prohibited. Anyone found recording the event will be subject to removal from the venue without warning. This rule also applies to spectators in the stands.

We understand competitors may want to record the final frame of a possible 300 game or other noteworthy accomplishment, so short highlight videos will be allowed.

We appreciate your cooperation.



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THANK YOU!

All great performances at the USBC Open Championships rely on teamwork, communication and a dedication to wanting to be part of something bigger than yourself.

The same can be said about putting together an event like the Open Championships. The tournament staff is a collection of USBC employees, members of a traveling staff and a local workforce dedicated to making the tournament experience one to remember for every participant.

A typical day at the Open Championships starts at 7 a.m. and ends at approximately 1 a.m., and the 2023 event will run for 143 consecutive days at the National Bowling Stadium. The team is made up of approximately 50-60 traveling staff members and 50-75 local workers to make sure this near-around-the-clock operation is running as smoothly on Day 1 as when the final ball is rolled on Day 143.

We'd like to take this chance to recognize our traveling staff and just say THANK YOU once again for your dedication to the Open Championships! Let's meet the team!

Danny, Iowa, 29 years
Danny, Pennsylvania, 20 years
Joy, Pennsylvania, 20 years
Pete, New Mexico, 17 years
John, Texas, 16 years
James, Indiana, 14 years
Robin, Nevada, 14 years
Tyrone, Illinois, 14 years
Robert, Nevada, 13 years
Holly, Nevada, 12 years
Robert, Oregon, 11 years
Tyler, Louisiana, 11 years
David, Texas, nine years
Kelli, Nevada, nine years
Russ, Nevada, nine years
Amy, Texas, eight years
Elaine, Texas, eight years
Leo, Texas, eight years
Rick, Montana, eight years
Rick, Nevada, eight years
Jazmin, Texas, six years
Robert, Nevada, six years
Brian, Nevada, five years
Dick, New York, five years
Gary, New York, five years
Lisa, Nevada, five years

Shawn, Nevada, five years
Sheldon, Tennessee, five years
Suzanne, New York, five years
John, Nevada, four years
Katie, Nevada, four years
Ron, New York, four years
Tony, Nevada, four years
Tres, Michigan, four years
Andrew, Nevada, three years
Christian, Nevada, three years
Dawn, Nevada, three years
Liz, New York, three years
Michael, Nevada, three years
Suzanne, Nevada, three years
Taimarius, Nevada, three years
Byron, Nevada, two years
Byron, Nevada, two years
Damian, Nevada, two years
Gordon, Nevada, two years
Grayson, Nevada, two years
Jonathan, Nevada, two years
Joyce, Arizona, two years
Leslie, Nevada, two years
Nick, Nevada, two years
Justin, Indiana, one year
Robert, Florida, one year

USBC staff providing day-to-day support at the Open Championships

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Chip Aki
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Brandy Silva
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