

**Record 3,870 series
scored at Crofton**

**Major changes in Open
Championship Tournament**

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**HALL OF FAME
HIGHLIGHTS**

**SENIOR & MIXED
TOURNAMENT
CHAMPIONS**

CHRIS JOHNSON

Men's No. 1-ranked bowler

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NCAUSBCA No. 1-ranked men's bowler for 2012-2013 season

Chris Johnson earned the top spot for the men in NCAUSBCA's 2012-2013 rankings; it was his second consecutive year and third time in his career as the No. 1-ranked bowler. He recently answered several questions posed by editor Bob Cosgrove.

In today's environment, do left-handers really have advantages over right-handed bowlers?

It depends on the situation and what you're bowling on. In league, over the long haul, if the left [side of the lane] starts off well, most likely it's going to be well all evening. If the left is not very well, and there's nothing else left to break it down, it's not going to get any better.

Do you ever feel any anxiety knowing that you essentially need to score a 700 series merely to maintain your average?

I really don't think about my averages in leagues. I'm mostly thinking about what I need to do for my team to

win whatever points and if I'm in brackets or pots and side stuff whatever I'm trying to do to score and try to make a couple of dollars. So scores are irrelevant.

What aspect of your game are you most proud – the strongest?

I think I'm a little mentally tougher and don't let a bad shot, a bad break, or whatever early on kill me for the rest of the tournament or league.

What do you find yourself thinking about and/or working on the most in your game?

Depending on what I'm bowling ... in a lot of league settings, my mind just wanders – a lot of stuff going on, and I don't think I'm as focused as I probably could be. I don't want to just sit there by myself and just focus like I do in tournaments. In leagues, you try to have fun. I think my focus in leagues is not as great. The reason is most league conditions are soft, and that's probably why my average is higher.

Speaking of environments, what lane condition do you find most challenging?

For league, because I have a heavy ball speed, I tend to struggle on longer oil patterns.

How do you keep up with all the equipment changes today?

Fortunately, I'm signed with one of the greatest ball companies, Storm, since 2003. We have a great staff, and I'm lucky to have a local representative, Mike Sinek, so I can go by him for suggestions and stuff like that – about what ball is what. Also, I've had great people over the years drill my stuff who have really taken care of me, lately Gee Lopez and Norbert Taylor.

What three local players do you most admire?

I'd say Keni Lowe [Jr.] is one. I've known Keni since youth leagues, so over 25 years. If I was on a team and I wanted someone to throw three [strikes] in the 10th frame, it would probably be him. If I couldn't throw it in the 10th frame, I'd want him to throw it for me. He's probably one of the best clutch bowlers I know. Off the top of my head, I'd say Keni, [Hall of Famer] Greg Turner just because I love how he carries himself. He and I have been friends a long time and bowled dou-



NCAUSBCA 2012-2013 Official Men's Ranking

	League Pins/Gms	Tournament Pins/Gms	Total Pins/Gms	COMPOSITE AVERAGE
1. Chris M. Johnson	51,312/220	2,085/9	53,397/229	233.1747
2. Allen Windsor	67,268/291	1,960/9	69,228/300	230.7600
3. Marcus D. Nelson	87,796/381	2,161/9	89,957/390	230.6590
4. Ernest W. Spriggs	98,861/432	2,024/9	100,885/441	228.7642
5. John R. Fillis	79,426/348	4,881/21	84,307/369	228.4743
6. Gregory L. Turner	141,093/618	2,130/9	143,223/627	228.4258
7. Terry A. Wiley	51,682/227	2,111/9	53,793/236	227.9364
8. Roger L. Campbell Jr.	50,742/224	2,034/9	52,776/233	226.5064
9. Andrew R. Blackmore	57,224/252	1,857/9	59,081/261	226.3640
10. Craig S. Mason	42,959/190	1,993/9	44,952/199	225.8894

bles forever. He's a good bowler and everything, but more importantly, just his stuff outside of the lanes and how he does it, I like that. Brian Cavey, who bowls at [The Lanes] Fort Meade is always in the hunt and always gives himself a chance to win.

How do you wish to be viewed by your fellow players?

I would hope maybe if I've come across to a few of them the wrong way, particularly when I was younger, I probably came up a little bit arrogant, a little cocky, although my friends around me really know me know that I'm not like that—how I act on the lanes is a lot different than how I act off the lanes. But I think because of some of the ways I act, whatever, it probably does come off as cocky. I'm not as bad as I used to be. As I've gotten older and had kids, my kids at tournaments are usually in the bowling center with me, and 70 to 80 percent of the time I just tone it down for them because I don't want to act on some of the dumb stuff I do. I want to set a good example.

In reviewing your career thus far, what's been your No. 1 bowling accomplishment?

Fortunately, I've been able to do a lot of good things—winning a PBA regional in Raleigh, N.C., in 1995, the first year I joined, that was pretty awesome. It financially probably wasn't the biggest one, but I wanted to win a PBA tournament from the time I started bowling.

What do you like to do when you're not bowling?

Hang out with my kids—watch them bowl, watch them play basketball, watch them play football, play video

games with them, go over their homework. I'm for the most part a homebody.

How has your family affected your bowling career?

It originally slowed it down some, but at that point, it gave me more of a balance because bowling was just bowling, and there are more important things.

What bowling goals remain for you?

I just want to stay competitive. If I can still win one or two tournaments a year or at least give myself a chance to win.... When I turn 50, if health and everything is good, I probably would like to compete in at least a few PBA Senior tournaments but still be able to compete with the young guys.

Ranking Guidelines

ADULTS

- Bowl in at least two NCAUSBCA-certified leagues (NCAUSBCA-certified travel leagues included) in two different bowling centers. (Sport league averages will not be considered for the rankings.)
- Bowl a minimum of 66 games in each qualifying league.
- Bowl in each event (team, doubles, and singles) for the current season in an NCAUSBCA Championship Tournament (Women's and/or Open tournaments). Women must bowl in the Women's Championship Tournament.