NCAUSBCA Youth 2017 Invitational Scratch Singles Tournament finalists mini-bios



JARRETT DeFALCO A Division

JAYDON WHITEHEAD B Division

CHAMPIONS

SAMANTHA DIXON C Division

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A DIVISION (185+ average)



1. JARRETT DeFALCO, 20, Leesburg, Va. ... 237 entering average ... 15 perfect games and a certified high series of 836 ... Saturday Morning Youth at Bowl America Woodbridge ... enjoys working and being with friends ... future plans include attending and bowling for Robert Morris University ... in my life, bowling rates a 10 ... first bowled at age 2 ... strongest part of my game: "shot making, mental game" ... part of my game I must improve: "spare game" ... first ball out of my bag: 15-pound Storm IQ Tour



2. TYLER GRAY, 17, Winchester, Va. ... 205 average ... rolled Sport and youth sweeper 300 games and a 783 high series ... Sport Challenge league at Bowl America Bull Run ... junior at James Wood High School ... hobbies and other interests include baseball, basketball, and video games ... first degree black belt in MMA ... plans to bowl in college and join the PBA ... bowling rates a 10 ... first bowled at age 12 ... strongest aspects of game include consistency, diversity, knowing how to adapt ... must improve on "short patterns" ... 15-pound Storm Alpha Crux



3. JAKE HATFIELD, 18, Spotssylvania, Va. ... 194 average ... 290/743 ... Sport Challenge Tour, (AMF) Fredericksburg Strikers ... freshman at Germanna Community College ... "plan to get business degree; open my own bowling alley" ... bowling rates a 10 ... first bowled at age 4 ... strongest part of game: "rebounding from bad games" ... must improve spare shooting ... 15-pound Hammer Rebel Solid



4. TYRIQ BUTLER, 18, Temple Hills, Md. ... 213 average ... 279/743 ... Potomac Youth at Potomac Lanes ... freshman at Prince George's Community College ... enjoys playing FIFA and soccer and watching Netflix ... plans to be a Spanish teacher or Spanish translator ... bowling rates an 8.5 ... first bowled at age 5 ... "physical" is strongest part of my bowling game ... must improve mental aspects ... 15-pound Storm Frantic



5. A J SIMPSON, 16, Woodbridge, Va. ... 214 average ... 300/752 ... Saturday Youth at Bowl America Woodbridge ... sophomore at Hylton High School ... interests include shoes ... future plans include college ... bowling rates a 5 ... first bowled at age 10 ... speed is strongest part of my game ... must improve spares ... 16-pound Storm Fusion



6. DAVID "ZIGGY" ZWEIBAN, 18, Manassas, Va. ... 222 average ... 300 (3)/825 ... Strike Force at Bowl America Woodbridge ... freshman at Northern Virginia Community College ... interests include competitive dog grooming ... plans to become a real estate agent ... bowling rates a 10 ... first bowled at age 9 ... spares is strongest part of game ... must improve mental game ... 15-pound Motiv Chronic Paranoia



7. ANTHONY DANIELS II, 15, Alexandria, Va. ... 216 average ... 300/797 ... Saturday Youth at Bowl America Woodbridge ... ninthgrader at Mount Vernon High School ... enjoys racing, playing band instruments ... plans to bowl in college ... bowling rates a 10 ... first bowled at age 6 ... versatility is strongest part of my game ... must improve my footwork – stop drifting when I bowl ... 15pound Storm Hy-Road



8. JOSH SOURS, 17, Berryville, Va. ... 204 average ... 300/789 ... Sport Challenge Tour, Northside (Lanes) Youth ... junior at Clarke County High School ... enjoys Xbox ... plans to be a pro bowler ... bowling rates a 10 ... first bowled at age 3, first 200 game at age 6, 600 series (7), 700 (12), 300 (14) ... consistency is strongest part of my game ... must improve attitude ... 15.5-pound Motiv Venom Cobra

B DIVISION (165-184 average)



1. JAYDON WHITEHEAD, 15, Upper Marlboro, Md. ... 184 average ... 268/640 ... Teenpinners at AMF Capital Plaza ... sophomore at Charles H. Flowers High School ... enjoys baseball, track ... plans to become an engineer ... bowling rates a 7 ... first bowled at age 3 ... strongest part of my game: "good or bad consistency" ... must improve spares ... 14-pound Storm Hy-Road



2. D'ANDRE ALLEN-DICKENS, 15, Capitol Heights, Md. ... 183 average ... 278/708 ... Silver Hill Strikers at AMF Marlow Heights, Teenpinners at AMF Capital Plaza ... sophomore at Grace Brethren Christian School ... enjoys basketball and working under Keni Lowe Jr. and Darnell Bell at Str8bizness Pro Shop ... future plans: "beating Keni Lowe Jr., and owning pro shops" ... bowling rates a 10 ... strongest part of first year bowling game: "versatile player" ... must improve ball selection and staying calm ... 15-pound 900 Global Black Ops



3. RICHARD PETERSON, 14, Upper Marlboro, Md. ... 178 average ... 268/662 ... Teenpinners at AMF Capital Plaza ... freshman at Frederick Douglass High School ... enjoys working on cars ... future plans: "trade school – mechanic" ... bowling rates a 9 ... first bowled at age 5 ... strikes are strongest part of my game ... must improve making spares ... 14-pound Brunswick Scooby Doo Plastic



4. TAVERA JOHNSON, 14, Glen Burnie, Md. ... 178 average ... 266/612 ... Monday Youth Sport at The Lanes Fort Meade, Maryland Youth Challenge Travel ... eighth-grader at Old Mill MiddleSouth ... enjoys going to the mall ... future plans include college ... bowling rates a 10 ... first bowled at age 9 ... strongest part of bowling is my physical game ... must improve timing ... 14-pound Roto Grip No Rules



5. LEONARD FARLOW JR., 15, Columbia, Md. ... 182 average ... 279/709 ... Fort Meade Jr/Sr at The Lanes Fort Meade, Maryland Travel ... sophomore at Wilde Lake High School ... enjoys playing sports, modeling, poetry, art ... graphic engineering or comedian ... bowling rates an 8 ... first bowled at age 5 ... strongest part of game is "maintaining focus" ... must improve "my approach" ... 15-pound Roto Grip Shooting Star



6. MARTINEZ HOLLINS, 14, Washington, D.C. ... 164 average ... 246/618 ... Teenpinners at AMF Capital Plaza ... eighth-grader at Cesar Chavez Parkside Middle School ... enjoys working out, football ... future plans include college ... bowling rates an 8 ... first bowled at age 7 ... spare shooting is strongest part of my game ... must improve "reading the lanes" ... 14-pound Brunswick Slingshot



7. KAYLA DURBALA, 18, Gaithersburg, Md. ... 170 average ... 255/660 ... Sport Challenge Tour, Stars & Strikes and Red, White & Blue at Bowl America Manassas, Monday Youth Sport at The Lanes Fort Meade ... interests include makeup ... hoping to attend fouryear college and continue bowling ... bowling rates a 10 ... first bowled at age 11 ... strongest part of game: follow-through and slide ... must improve pushaway and drift ... 15-pound Storm Crux Pearl



8. RILEY ISAKOWER, 17, Bethesda, Md. ... 177 average ... 256/650 ... Bethesda All Stars at Bethesda Naval Medical Center ... senior at Lab School of Washington ... playing guitar, video gaming, sleeping ... going to college for sports management ... bowling rates an 8 ... first bowled at age 9 ... bowling under pressure is strongest part of my game ... must improve "my terrible form" ... 15-pound Motiv QZ2 Quadfire

C DIVISION (150-164 average)



1. SAMANTHA DIXON, 16, Fort Meade, Md. ...163 average ... 232/602 ... Fort Meade Youth and Junior Gold Adult/Youth at The Lanes Fort Meade, Maryland Youth Challenge Travel ... sophomore at Richard Montgomery High School ... enjoys volleyball, dancing, singing, art ... becoming a veterinarian / going to Purdue ... bowling rates an 8 ... first bowled at age 10 ... "my form" is the strongest part of my game ... must improve on hitting my mark ... 15-pound Roto Grip Eternal Cell



2. ANDRU BLANEY, 11, Indian Head, Md. ... 162 average ... 277/620 ... Stars and Strikes at Bowl America Manassas ... sixthgrader at General Smallwood Middle School ... enjoys basketball, baseball, PS4 ... future plans: basketball and bowling pro ... bowling rates an 8 ... first bowled at age 4 ... strongest part of game: "desire to win and consistency and no fear on the lanes" ... must improve mental game ... 12-pound Roto Grip Uproar



3. JACK KELZ, 16, Reston, Va. ... 162 average ... 233/575 ... Leesburg Youth at Village Lanes ... sophomore at South Lakes High School ... playing saxophone and marching band ... future plans include college ... bowling rates a 9 ... first bowled at age 5 ... strongest part of my game: strikes ... must improve mindset during tournaments ... 13-pound Storm Hy-Road Pearl



4. CALEB MATTICE, 15, Fredericksburg, Va. ... 164 average ... 255/598 ... Sport Challenge Tour, Fred City Strikers at AMF Fredericksburg ... sophomore at Riverbend High ... interests include computer gaming ... go to college and join the military ... bowling rates a 10 ... first bowled at age 11 ... spare game is my strongest part of bowling ... must listen to parents and coaches ... 15-pound Track Paradox



5. THOMAS SMOOT, 15, Bowie, Md. ... 163 average ... 289/664 ... Fort Meade Youth at The Lanes Fort Meade ... sophomore at Bowie High School ... playing video games, lifting weights, playing football ... future plans: "play in the NFL" ... bowling rates a 6 ... first bowled at age 10 ... striking is strongest part of my game ... must improve spare shooting ... 15-pound 900 Global Special Ops



6. REBECCA GOODWIN, 15, Gaithersburg, Md. ... 164 average ... 259/598 ... Saturday Morning Youth at Bowl America Gaithersburg ... Sport Challenge Tour ... sophomore at Gaithersburg High School ... enjoys music, singing ... go to college ... bowling rates an 8 ... first bowled at age 2 ... strongest part of game: spares ... must improve consistency ... 14-pound Storm IQ



7. THOMAS MARINARI JR., 13, Fredericksburg, Va. ... 164 average ... 255/625 ... Sport Challenge Tour, Fred City Strikers at AMF Fredericksburg ... eighth-grader at Thornburg Middle School ... enjoys basketball, video games ... college, continue playing basketball and bowling ... bowling rates a 7 ... first bowled at age 4 ... consistency is strongest part of my bowling game ... must improve knowing how to adjust with the lane conditions ... 13pound Storm



8. COLLIN BLANCHARD, 16, Manassas, Va. ... 158 average ... 277/632 ... Saturday Morning Youth at Bowl America Manassas, Sport Challenge Tour ... junior at Colgan High School ... interests include baseball ... go to college; work in sports media industry ... bowling rates a 10 ... first bowled at age 8 ... strongest part of my game is picking up spares ... must improve "hitting the headpin consistently" ... 15-pound Motiv Primal Fear

Invitational Photo Gallery



Rick Ketchie, Tom Dale, and center manager David DeBat prepare before the start of Round 1 at Bowl America Manassas.



Scott Riddle collects scores at AMF Laurel.



In his last send-off as manager of the Invitational, Kenny Robinson gets the final round started at Bowl America Chantilly. He retired after leading this event for 24 years.



Anthony Daniels II



Quincy Johnson



Jarrett DeFalco and Ziggy Zweiban



Tyriq Butler



Sam Anderson





Rick Ketchie



Thomas Rush (right, with Kenny Robinson) along with Jarrett DeFalco and Deborah Epps were the 2017 recipients of the NCAUSBCA Ted Gruszkowski Jr. Youth Star Award.

Joey Hansen (left) converses with Conner Kolessides, who last season completed his youth career with his third Invitational title.



Tyler Gray



Amara Speights



Deborah Epps



Jervon Webster



Thomas Rush



Joey Hansen



Andru Blaney



Ziggy Zweiban



Thomas Marinari Jr.



Josh Sours

The challenge of the Invitational tests the mettle of every participant.



A J Simpson







In Round 4 at AMF Laurel, A Division leader Jarrett DeFalco tallied only 594 for his first three and watched Tyler Gray move into first after scoring 243. With agonizing second-place finishes in 2014 and 2015 and a disappointing fifth last year, was yet more Invitational frustration in store for DeFalco? Not this time: He got lined up and took control, blasting a 278 (above) and turning a 21-pin deficit into a 61-pin lead that he would not relinquish.



A confident DeFalco averaged over 227 in the final round at Bowl America Chantilly and was never really challenged, winning his first Invitational title by 153 pins in his final year of eligibility.