



# ROCKFORD AREA

## Bowling Community is among the best in Nation!

### Strong Youth League Programs

Well established and quality Youth Bowling League Programs are offered at many Rockford area centers with certified coaches and youth directors that take great pride in making sure the youth bowlers in the Rockford area are given every opportunity to have FUN and increase their skill level.



### Rockford Area High School teams have

### Achieved Incredible Results!

### IHSA Team State Trophies 1st Place (11)

#### Girl's Team Championships

East (1997), Harlem(2000,01,02,05,11,17,18)  
Winnebago (2007), Jefferson (2008)

#### Boy's Team Championships

Jefferson(2003), Freeport (2008), Guilford (2011 & 2014)  
Hononegah (2015 & 2018) Harlem (2017 & 2019)

### IHSA State Runner-Up Teams - (12)

Girls: East (96), Freeport (99), Harlem (04), Guilford (09)  
Jefferson(10), Freeport (16), Harlem (19)  
Boys: Freeport (03 & 18), Harlem (15), Hononegah (16 & 17)

### IHSA Individual State Champions

Sue Williams (93) Jefferson  
Liz Berg (98 & 99) - East  
Ellen Morrison - Winnebago  
(05 & 07)  
Jacob Nimitz - Harlem (15)  
Nick Sommer - Hononegah (18)  
Rebecca Hagerman - Harlem (18 & 19)



## Elementary, Middle School & High School Programs



The Elementary, Middle School & High School bowling programs in the Rockford area are top notch programs that provide hundreds of local athletes each year the opportunity to represent their school and compete in the sport they love. High School Bowling is the fastest growing high school sport in America. The Rockford high school program has been modeled nationally to help get programs started all over the country. Many of our local high school bowlers go on to bowl collegiately



2018/19 NCJAA National Runner-ups  
2019/2020 NCJAA National Champions

Rock Valley College offers Bowling as an Official Colligate Sport. This was made possible by bowling community as a whole and other community partners working together to help fund the teams. While lots of people worked to make this a reality a special thanks goes to Jim Sibatroth for working to get this done. This program now allows local high school bowlers to continue onto an affordable and quality college where they can compete in the sport they love.

## Scholarship \$\$\$\$\$\$ (Over 1.7 Million) Awarded

The Youth of Northern Illinois Bowling Foundation has awarded over 1.7 million dollars to local youth bowlers since it's inception in 1983. Every year at the end of season High School Bowling banquet the scholarship recipients are recognized and awarded their scholarships. The success of the Foundation has been a result of league bowlers, local bowling associations and bowling proprietors all working together to achieve this incredible feat. No where else in the country has a local foundation raised more money for it's local youth bowlers. GREAT JOB ROCKFORD BOWLING COMMUNITY!

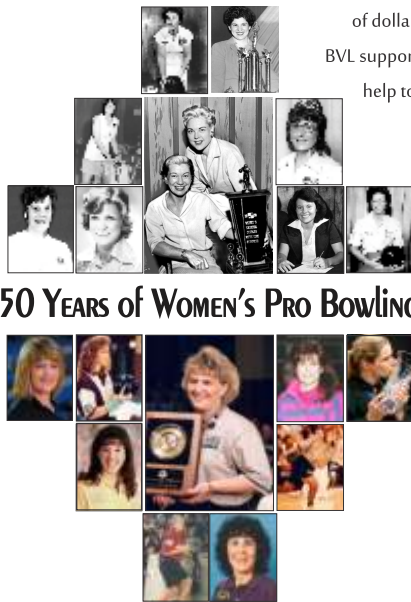
## Rockford Bowling Community Supports the Troops!



Don Carter Lanes has facilitated the production and transportation of more than 600 Deluxe Care Packages that include a portable bowling lane set to our troops all over the world. These portable bowling sets have given our courageous service men & women a recreation outlet as they defend the freedoms we all enjoy as Americans.



Rockford bowling centers and bowlers have also supported BVL with thousands of dollars in direct contributions. (Over \$150,000 to date) BVL supports veterans through many programs. These programs help to boost the veterans spirits & speed recuperation



### 50 YEARS OF WOMEN'S PRO BOWLING

## Rockford's Support for Women's Pro Bowling

Recognizing the lack of growth in women's professional bowling, John Sommer (Don Carter Lanes, Proprietor) with Dave Lonsway and John Falzone (fellow Rockford bowling leaders) created the Ladies Pro Bowlers Tour (later the PWBA) in 1980, headquartered in Rockford until 2003. Without this great financial commitment, our countries top women bowlers would have had no avenue to show case their skills. Summer of 2011 marked the opening of the new state of the art "50 Years of Women's Pro Bowling" exhibit inside the International Bowling Museum & Hall of Fame located in Arlington TX.

## Rockford Area Home to Many Talented Adult Bowlers

The Rockford area also has it's share of outstanding adult bowlers as well. Each year during the league season over 300 Rockford USBC members demonstrate their bowling talent by averaging over 200 in leagues all across the Rockford area.

### National Bowling Championships & Records

**Dan Winter** - rolled games of 268,279, 278 for an 825 series to capture the 1999 ABC (Now the USBC Championships) Singles Division Title. The "Eagle Award" Dan secured in winning this prestigious tournament is one of the most coveted awards a bowler may wish to obtain.

**Aaron Buss** - set the USBC ALL-TIME National record for the highest (6) games series with games of 300,289,279,258,279 & 300 for a 1705 Series (284.17 average) Aaron accomplished this amazing feat on 7/30/2008 while bowling in the DW Singles Match Play league at Don Carter Lanes, Rockford, IL

**Nick Sommer** - Set the National High School regular season average record with a 252.11 mark for the 2016 /17 season as a Sophomore bowling for the Hononegah Indians. 686 vs Freeport., 743 vs. Rockford East, 701 vs. Boylan 749. vs. Belvidere North, 816 vs. Belvidere H.S. 758 vs. Auburn H.S. 791 vs. Jefferson, 824 vs Harlem, 739 Rockford Guilford

**Harlem High School Girls Team** - Won Back to Back National High School Championships in 2017 & 2018

**Kayla Verstraete** - As a Junior on the Harlem Team was crowned the 2018 Individual High School National Champion.

**Noah Mandujano** - As a Senior on the Harlem Team was crowned the 2019 Individual High School National Champion.



The Greater Rockford Hall of Fame is a well run and prestigious HOF that Honors Top Bowler Performance and Service.



### Strong USBC Certified Adult Leagues

Each year thousands of Rockford area bowlers enjoy participating in one of the many recreational and competitive bowling leagues that are offered.

*No need to be a good bowler to enjoy a league. Most leagues use a handicap scoring system to allow for bowlers of all ability levels to enjoy the comradere and FUN of league bowling.*