

Christopher Lipnickas

Youth Star of Tomorrow



Chris Lipnickas began league bowling at the age of four. Never one to take the path of least resistance, Chris skipped the bumper leagues and jumped right in with the “big kids.” Like most children, he also participated in other sports, including soccer and baseball. When Chris was 8 years old, a fast ball struck him in the wrist resulting in a small fracture. Sitting in the emergency room, he announced he would no longer play baseball for fear of injuring his bowling hand. Soccer soon went the way of baseball, and despite an amazing talent and arm for football, he passed on that sport as well. Bowling was his passion.

Now at the age of 17, not much has changed! Chris is still passionate for this sport and does his best to spread that passion to others. Not content with participating and competing, Chris also enjoys helping his friends with their game. At the age of 15, Chris became a Level I USBC Certified Coach. In September, 2007, he became USBC’s youngest Bronze Level Certified Coach at the age of 16 years, 4 days. Even at national level tournaments, Chris can often be found coaching and helping his peers – regardless of the fact that they are his competitors. He has participated as a coach in “Learn to Bowl” summer programs, helping younger participants to discover the fun and challenge bowling offers. He also coaches adults at several local centers.

In 2007, Chris, along with a few friends, organized the Central Maryland chapter of the USBC Youth Leaders program and was elected the organization’s first president. During his time with Youth Leaders, he organized and ran the Baker Doubles Youth Tournament, awarding over \$1,500 in scholarship funds. As tournament director, he reached out to community businesses to find a tournament sponsor, filed the necessary paperwork with USBC, handled advertising and entries, worked with a local bowling center to host the tournament, and with a pro shop to offer additional prizes for the participants. He accomplished at the age of 15 what many adult bowlers won’t even attempt – he ran a successful and enjoyable event for his peers.

Chris continued his leadership role as president of several leagues and as a youth representative to the Central Maryland USBC Youth Association. In 2008 he was appointed to serve on the Maryland State Youth Committee. He also volunteers at the State and Local Association tournaments.

Competition is important to Chris as well. He has competed in many leagues in multiple centers, including PBA leagues and the Central Maryland Youth Travel League. He has been a participant in the Local Association tournament since the age of 8, and the State Association

tournament since he was 9, including multiple first places wins in the team events and placements in singles, doubles and all events. Additionally, he has earned scholarships through competition in the Maryland 600 Club Tournaments, the MAYBE tournaments, Pennsylvania Junior Bowlers Tour, and the Maryland Top Ten Invitational tournament.

Chris is actively involved in the USBC's Junior Gold program. Since becoming a Junior Gold member in 2006, he has assisted 17 other Maryland youth bowlers in becoming members as well. He, along with 10 of the youth bowlers he encouraged, competed at the Junior Gold Nationals during the past 3 years. He has also been a National Finalist at the Teen Masters from 2006-2009 as well as the Ebonite Show Down Tournament in 2008. Also in 2008, Chris threw 3 strikes in a clutch 10th frame performance to win the regional qualifier by 4 pins and send his team to the National Finals of the Kegel Team Cup Sport Tournament in Las Vegas.

During the 2008 Junior Gold Nationals in Detroit, MI, Chris was nominated for the National David Dahms Sportsmanship Award. This award recognizes youth bowlers who place an emphasis on sportsmanship and goodwill while competing at the highest levels of the sport.

Always interested in learning more about the sport as well as improving his game, Chris has been a participant in the Wichita State Shockers Bowling camps since the age of 12. He also travels to the Kegel Training Center in Florida to work with top coaches and learn more about how lanes are conditioned and dressed and the impact this has on the game. To further his knowledge of ball dynamics, Chris began working in the Bowler's Discount Pro Shop when he was 16.

Chris currently attends Wichita State University where he is a double-major in Psychology and Anthropology and aspires to be a sport psychologist. He continues to be active in the USBC Youth program, participating in sport leagues and coaching in Kansas.

“Chris is a great mentor to our children, Tanner and Coby. We are very proud to call him our friend. He is a wonderful role model for youth bowlers. We have Chris to thank for many things and for the many opportunities our children have been able to take advantage of in bowling. Chris truly is an Ambassador of Youth Bowling. – David & Mitzi Laughman”

The Maryland State USBC Association proudly recognizes Christopher Lipnickas for his accomplishments on and off the lanes as the 2009 “Youth Star of Tomorrow”.