

## The 2019-2020 Season in review:

The bowling season this year started off so good with many high scores around Lafayette. Every local City Tournament had an increase in participation. By mid-February, the Indiana State Open Tournament was under way, as well as the Indiana State Youth Tournament. Lafayette was getting ready to host the 2020 Indiana State Women's Bowling Tournament in March, then our lives changed. In January 2020, the media had started reporting about a new virus in China. It was just a matter of time before we all knew it would spread worldwide with airline travel. Cases started appearing in the US by later in January, and into February. During this time, local and national news reports were fixated with the virus and how it was affecting our country. By the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of March, bowling was stopped in Lafayette due to the widespread New Novel Corona Virus (Covid-19). Bowling Centers and many businesses around the US had to cease operations as most all large gatherings of people were deemed unsafe, as the virus spreads from person to person very easily, mostly in crowded areas or large cities. All leagues in Lafayette ended the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of March 2020, so there was no leagues or bowlers that completed their winter seasons. But it was not all doom and gloom as we had a new Association High Average set by Jared Massey at 242 at Mustang Alley. Also, a new High Series for Women was set by Katrina Sharpe at 783 at Mike Aulby's Arrowhead Bowl. The state of Indiana was working under a Phased re-opening plan. (1 thru 5). Bowling was then allowed to re-open in phase 4 on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 per Governor Holcomb's order, with special social distancing guidelines being followed. Six feet between people at all times, most centers using every other lane, plus wearing facemasks. So when reading this yearbook many years from now, this is the reason our bowling lives were turned upside down, a tiny virus wrecked the entire bowling world for several months, caused many job layoffs in all walks of life and there were many bowling center and business closures. Carry out/curbside food orders became more popular, food delivery services like Grub Hub became very busy as well. Restaurants with drive thru's became remarkably busy, even to the point many reported doing better financially without their lobby's open. USBC National Tournaments were cancelled, many local and state tournaments as well. The Lafayette USBC Hall of Fame & Recognition Banquet, along with the Indiana State Hall of Fame Banquets were all cancelled.

A few smaller private tournaments continued, all with different restrictions.

(The Peterson in Chicago, Ten Pin Classic in Evansville, the Derby in Louisville).

**And at the time of this writing, the government and the medical communities are split among themselves on how the virus spreads, and how the best way to combat it is, and this has led to the public being confused on what are the proper procedures to follow, and if it is really as dangerous as the media is portraying it to be. Protective facemasks are mandatory in the state of Indiana as of July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The hope is the virus will slow down spreading by everyone wearing facemasks in public, including at bowling centers. Let's hope by next year when the Lafayette USBC's yearbook is being printed, we can look back and say we all survived, and bowling is back rolling along, back to normal with no personal protective equipment is needed!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**



What bowling looked like after 7/27/2020



**Sincerely,**

**Tom Taylor - Lafayette USBC Association Manager**

