

Wichita State Bowling

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Shocker Men Start Season with Win at Mid States Championships

Wichita, Kan. – The Shocker bowling teams opened their season at the 52nd Mid States Championships held at Northrock Lanes in Wichita on Oct. 15-16. The tournament format consisted of 10 individual games and 16 baker games.

Due to a change in USBC–Collegiate rules, only one team per school in each division is allowed to compete for prize money; this team is designated as the varsity (V) team; all other teams entered for that school are designated as junior varsity (JV) teams. A maximum of three teams per school in each division can compete in the tournament.

A total of 17 men's teams and ten women's teams rounded out the varsity field. The junior varsity field consisted of 11 men's teams and eight women's teams.

The Shocker men got off to a slow start, but gained momentum to take the lead after day one. They never looked back as they cruised to a 438 pin victory over second place Midland University. The men continued their dominance at Mid States winning a seventh straight title, bringing them to a ninth victory out of the last ten years of competing in the event.

The men's varsity team was led by senior Geoffrey Young (Denton, Texas) who averaged 212.1 for ten games and finished second overall to make the all-tournament team. Another notable performance was made by Sophomore Devin Bidwell (Simi Valley, Calif.) who bowled 7 games and averaged 223.4.

“It was an encouraging start to the season,” said head coach Gordon Vadakin
“Certainly an enormous amount of things to do and we’re anxious to get to work.”

The men’s JV-A team finished second, following Midland University by 74 pins.
The men’s JV-B team finished fourth.

The Lady Shockers got off to a hot start Saturday, firing their first two games over 1,000. After the first three games of qualifying, the women were leading both the men’s and women’s varsity fields. However, as the transition set in, the women found themselves 26 pins behind NCAA University of Central Missouri (UCM). The gap widened on Sunday and the women finished second to UCM. Due to NCAA rules, UCM was unable to accept prize money so WSU took home the top monetary prize.

The women were led by reigning Collegiate Player of the Year Jazreel Tan (Singapore). The junior averaged 201 for ten games and finished second overall to make the all-tournament team. Also making the all-tournament team was sophomore Allie Ijams (Flagstaff, Ariz.) with a 198.3 average over ten games and a third place finish overall. This was Tan’s third appearance on the Mid States Championships all-tournament team.

“It was a good starting point for the season,” said assistant coach Mark Lewis. “It was a chance for our new players to gain some experience.”

The women’s JV-A team won their division by a staggering 1011 pins over Midland University’s JV team while WSU’s JV-B team finished in seventh place.

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The Rhatigan Student Center has been the major financial and administrative supporter of the Wichita State University bowling program since 1959.