One thing I think it is important to stress each year we run our much-anticipated 100 Top Coaches list is that it features just that — 100 top coaches, not the top 100 coaches. That is more than a semantic distinction; it means that the names listed below rank among the best coaches in the world today; they are not to be perceived as the best 100 coaches. That said, this year, as is the case every year, our selection panel took as its primary objective the desire to assemble a list that reflects the finest talent a given year's field of 100 Top Coaches applicants contains.

Which brings to mind the different approach we took to presenting this year’s selections. Every year that our panel reviews applications they come across the many impassioned statements applicants send in with their information. No one else ever gets to see these statements; they stay in-house. This year, however, I thought it might be time to give our readers a glimpse of the tremendous passion our 100 Top Coaches possess.

Mark Baker, for instance, has worked with plenty of the greatest bowlers who ever took to the lanes — Chris Barnes, most notably. That is why the “top achievement” he describes below is such an endearing expression of the love he has for what he does. PBA50 champion and Gold coach, Mike Dias, explains why he feels that the status of Gold coach comes with an enhanced sense of responsibility, while Matt McNiel, making his debut on this list, offers his vision for what makes a “great coach.”

The other comments you see below, from the likes of Team Canada’s Tyrel Rose and Webber International’s Del Warren, come from the outstanding presentations they each gave at the World Bowling Coach Conference, which was held in May at the International Training and Research Center in Arlington, Texas. Bowling coaches who have not yet attended that event are depriving themselves of a galvanizing, instructive and inspiring experience. I heartily recommend that all bowling coaches attend that conference in the years to come, just as I eagerly welcome them to please apply for our 2017 100 Top Coaches list. The application form will be available on our website, bowlersjournal.com, early next year.

— Gianmarc Manzione

**Note:** Aleta Sill and Bob Learn Jr., legends both, are 2016 *BJI* Top Coaches. Their omission from this list in the October issue of *BJI* was due to a regrettable clerical error. So, for this year, call it “102 Top Coaches.”
“AT WEBBER, we call the settee area the ‘thinking box’ and the approach the ‘playing box.’ We’re one of the fastest teams in the country because our players prepare earlier in the shot process and they trust their training, so they can just bowl. Most of the time, we’re three frames ahead of everyone. This helps us stay completely oblivious to the other team; the worst thing we can do is get into a ‘match’ with the other team. Then it becomes about a testosterone match rather than who is going to knock down the most pins.”

— Del Warren

TOM BLASCO  
Satellite Beach, FL  
Coach, Shore Lanes Palm Bay

PARKER BOHN III  
Jackson, NJ  
Member, PBA and USBC Halls of Fame  
35-time PBA Champion

DAVID BOLT  
Champaign, IL  
President, IBPSIA

HANK BOOMERSHINE  
Perry, UT  
Former Storm PBA Tour Representative  
International Coach (Korea)

FRED BORDEN  
Akron, OH  
Former Head Coach, Team USA  
Instrumental in establishment of USOC coaching curriculum

FRANK BUFFA  
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

CHRIS BURNETT  
Scappoose, OR  
Coach, Sunset Lanes

TOM CARTER  
Columbus, OH  
Coach, Hilliard Bradley High School

RYAN CIMINELLI  
Cheektowaga, NY  
Worldwide coach, Brunswick Clinics  
2015 U.S. Open Champion

JACK CLEMENTE  
Flushing, NY Coach, Whitestone Lanes, Jib Lanes, Astoria Bowl

DONNA CONNERS  
Houston, TX  
Member, Houston and TX State Halls of Fame

PAT COSTELLO  
Orlando, FL

ELYSIA CURRENT  
Ephrata, PA  
Head Coach, Delaware State University  
2015 DSU Coach of the Year

MIKE DIAS  
Lafayette, CO  
2-time PBA50 Champion

JEFF DREYFUS  
Fort Wayne, IN  
Assistant Coach, Indiana Tech  
Has coached Junior Team USA star, Sydney Brummett

JAMES EBELS  
Stanton, MI

CHUCK GARDNER  
Charlotte, NC  
Brunswick PBA Tour Representative

JERI EDWARDS  
Akron, OH  
Former Head Coach, Team USA  
Head Coach, Team Puerto Rico

RUBEN GHIRAGOSSIAN  
Lake Wales, FL  
International Coach (England, Indonesia, Latvia, Singapore, Venezuela)

ONDER GURKAN  
Ankara, Turkey  
Chairman, ETBF  
Education Committee  
Head Coach, Trianka Bowling Academy

“MY TOP achievement as a coach: The many bowlers who come to me for a lesson before they quit the game. They’re all still bowling today!”

— Mark Baker

“My TOP achievement as a coach: The many bowlers who come to me for a lesson before they quit the game. They’re all still bowling today!”

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— Mark Baker

“MY TOP achievement as a coach: The many bowlers who come to me for a lesson before they quit the game. They’re all still bowling today!”

— Mark Baker
**Clinic**  
Pro Tips And Ball Reviews

**100**  
**TOP COACHES**

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**ALEXANDER GURKOV**  
Moscow, Russia  
Head Coach, Russian National Youth Team  
► Silver Coach

**BRAD HAGEN**  
Huntsville, TX  
Head Coach, Sam Houston State  
► Silver Coach

**RON HATFIELD**  
Pataskala, OH  
International Coach (Ukraine; Scotland; Lithuania)  
Head Coach, RKH Coaching Group  
► Gold Coach

**AL HENDERSON**  
Jacksonville, FL  
Coach, Jax Lanes  
► Silver Coach

**RON HOPPE**  
Marysville, WA  
► Gold Coach

**DEREK JAMES**  
Wyandanch, NY  
Head Coach, Stony Brook University  
► Silver Coach

**MIKE JASNAU**  
Liberty, UT  
Coach, National Bowling Stadium  
Students include Marshall Kent, Ryan Ciminelli, Danielle McEwan  
► Silver Coach

**KIM KEARNEY**  
Former Assistant Coach, Team USA  
Head Coach, North Carolina A&T  
► Silver Coach

**DENNIS KNEPPER**  
Belleville, IL  
Men's Head Coach, McKendree University  
2016 USBC ITC Champions  
► Silver Coach

**CORY KNOP**  
Tuscon, AZ  
Coach, Brunswick Camino Seco Bowl  
IBPSIA-certified Technician  
► Silver Coach

**CHRISTOS KONSTANTAKOPOULOS**  
Skövde, Sweden  
Head Coach, Västergötlands Bowling Federation  
► Silver Coach

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**MICHAEL KUBACKI**  
Griffith, IN  
Head Coach, Calumet College of St. Joseph  
2013 NAIABCA Coach of the Year  
2013 NCBBCA Coach of the Year  
► Silver Coach

**TOM LASKOW**  
Dover, NJ  
International Coach (Cyprus)  
2015 Bill Bunetta Lighthouse Award  
► Silver Coach

**BOB LEARN JR.**  
West Palm Beach, FL  
Co-founder, Revolutions Coaching  
► Silver Coach

**AVORY ROLLINS LEITCH**  
Jensen Beach, FL  
Former PWBA standout  
Coach, Superplay USA  
► Bronze Coach

**MARK LEWIS**  
Wichita, KS  
Assistant Coach, Wichita State University  
International Coach (United Arab Emirates)  
Three-time NCBCA Women’s Coach of the Year  
► Silver Coach

**TIM MACK**  
Indianapolis, IN  
Storm PBA Tour Representative  
International Coach  
70+ International Titles

**JUHA MAJA**  
Kuortane, Finland  
Lead Instructor, ETBF  
Coaching Programs

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**“WHAT MAKES a coach truly great? I believe a great coach stays in touch with the sport as it evolves. I love to learn new things. I learn something from every lesson I give, every athlete I work with, at every camp I attend, and in every conversation I have. The opportunity to better yourself and broaden your horizon always is there.”**  
— Matt McNiel

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**LOU MARQUEZ**  
Coach, Metro Detroit Bowling & Resource Center  
Former President, IBPSIA  
► Gold Coach

**MATT McNIEL**  
Minneapolis, MN  
Has coached Scott Pohl, Kayla Bandy  
► Silver Coach

**MARYFRAN MILBANK**  
Winter Haven, FL  
Coach, Kegel Training Center  
► Silver Coach

**PEDRO MERANI**  
Doha, Qatar  
World Bowling Ambassador  
Head Coach, Qatar Bowling Federation

**JIM MERRELL**  
Florence, KY  
Coach, Northwest Lanes  
IBPSIA Advanced Technician  
► Silver Coach

**SUSIE MINSHEW**  
Alvarado, TX  
Two-time USOC Bowling  
Coach of the Year  
BowliU Skill Development Coach  
Bronze and Silver Instructor  
► Gold Coach

**COSTAS MITSINGAS**  
Aradippou, Cyprus  
Director, Bowl to Win Training Center  
► Gold Coach
"ASK YOURSELF, what is your MVP — Mission, Values, Philosophy? Your mission should not include winning in general, or winning this year. That is not a mission; that is a goal for one year. My mission is to create sustained excellence at an internal level through a holistic athletic approach, coach development and long-term athlete development. Values: What are the principles that guide you as a person and as a coach? These must be reflected in your culture and will influence your coaching style. Philosophy: This is not about what you want, but about who you are. As a coach, I seek to master all elements of coaching to help my athletes achieve their potential and their goals, whatever they may be."

— Tyrel Rose
“AS A GOLD coach, I feel a responsibility to ‘give back’ to the coaching community. In 2015, I was able to do that by teaching my first Bronze certification course. I feel that I can teach other coaches the art of coaching, to really listen to each student and meet their needs. There is nothing as sweet as being on the lanes with a student at any skill level who makes an improvement that puts a smile on their face and creates that joy and love for this great sport. I still feel I learn something from every student I work with.”
— Mike Dias

JACK SCHMID
The Villages, FL
Coach, Spanish Springs Lanes
Silver Coach

CHUCK SCHOMMER
Columbia, SC
Coach, Royal Z Lanes
Silver Coach

MIKE SHADY
Girard, PA
Coach, Turbo Tech Collegiate Expo
Coach, Peak Performance Camps
Silver Coach

ALETA SILL
Farmington Hills, MI
USBC Hall of Famer
MI State Sports Hall of Famer
Coach, Aleta Sill’s Bowling World

DAVE SILL
Titusville, FL
Coach, Shore Lanes

RICHARD SHOCKLEY
Loves Park, IL
Coach, BowlersMart
Former Team USA coach
Former Kegel coach
Gold Coach

BRENT SIMS
Lake Wales, FL
Coach, Kegel Training Center
International Coach
(Dominican Republic)

JOE SLOWINSKI
Budapest, Hungary
International Coach (Brazil; Egypt)
Gold Coach

BRAD SNELL
Mt. Prospect, IL
Silver Coach

PETER SOMOFF
Tacoma, WA
Storm Global Technician Director
International Coach
Gold Coach

BRET SPANGLER
Niles, OH
Motiv PBA Tour Representative

GARY SPARKS
Vincennes, IN
Head Coach, Vincennes University
NJCAA Bowling Coaches Hall of Fame

BILL SPIGNER
Vernon Hills, IL
Head Coach, Vernon Hills H.S.
Coach, IAB
USA Bowling Instructor
Gold Coach

DEBBIE STEIN
South River, NJ
Coach, Brunswick Zone Carolier
Silver Coach

RANDY STOUTGTON
Lake Wales, FL
Women’s Head Coach, Webber International University
Coach, Kegel Training Center
Gold Coach

HARRY SULLINS
Chesterfield, MI
Top metro Detroit-area coach for more than 25 years

DANIEL TRISKE JR.
Minnetonka, MN
USA Bowling Coach
Head Coach, Minnesota High School Bowling

JIM UBNOWER
Broken Arrow, OK
Coach, Coffee Creek Lanes, Sheridan Lanes
Silver Coach

GORDON VADAKIN
Wichita, KS
Head Coach, Wichita State University
Member, USBC Hall of Fame
Member, National Bowling Coaches Hall of Fame

JORDAN VANOVER
Auburn Hills, MI
Silver Instructor
IBPSIA Instructor
BowlU-certified Coach
Silver Coach

DEL WARREN
Coach and VP, Kegel Training Center
Men’s Head Coach, Webber International
Gold Coach

RICHARD WILTSE
Lake Wales, FL
Coach, Kegel Training Center
Assistant Coach, Webber International University
Silver Coach

SHAWN WOCHNER
Head Coach, University of Wisconsin Whitewater
2014 Men’s Kerm Helmer Coach of the Year

KEN YOKOBOSKY
Rockaway, NJ
Head Women’s Coach, Caldwell College
Former Team USA Assistant Coach
Gold Coach

JOHN YORK
New Egypt, NJ
Head Coach, Wilmington University
Silver Coach

BILL ZUBEN
Largo, FL
Gold Coach