



NEBRASKA WOMEN'S BOWLING

NCAA PREVIEW



NEBOWLING



HUSKERBOWLING



NEBOWLING

2022-23 SCHEDULE

Date	Tournament	Result
Oct. 14-16	at MOTIV Penguin Classic	1st/14
Oct. 21-23	at Bearcat Roto Grip Open	4th/11
Nov. 4-6	at Track Kat Klash	7th/20
Nov. 11-13	at MOTIV Ladyjack Classic	5th/14
Jan. 8-10	at Stormin' Blue & White Vegas Classic	3rd/14
Jan. 20-22	at Northeast Classic	1st/33
Jan. 27-29	at Prairie View A&M Invite	3rd/12
Feb. 17-19	at Mid-Winter Invitational	3rd/17
Mar. 3-5	Big Red Invitational	1st/10
April 7-8	at NCAA Regionals	1st/4
April 7	vs. Mercyhurst	W, 2-0
April 7	vs. Duquesne	W, 2-0
April 8	vs. Stephen F Austin	W, 2-1
April 14-15	at NCAA Championships	
	vs. McKendree	11 a.m. (CT)
	vs. Vanderbilt/Arkansas State	5 p.m. (CT)
	vs. TBA	11 a.m. (CT)
	NCAA Title Match	8 p.m. (CT)

NCAA FINISHES

Year	NCAA Finish	Year	NCAA Finish
2004	1st	2017	2nd
2005	1st	2018	4th
2006	3rd	2019	3rd
2007	t-3rd	2020	No NCAA (Covid-19)
2008	t-7th	2021	1st
2009	1st	2022	Regional Runner-Up
2010	2nd		
2011	t-3rd		
2012	3rd		
2013	1st		
2014	2nd		
2015	1st		
2016	2nd		

HUSKERS LOOK FOR NCAA TITLE THIS WEEKEND IN LAS VEGAS

The Nebraska bowling team dominated the Pittsburgh Regional last weekend to punch its ticket and advance to this weekend's National Collegiate Women's Bowling Championship in Las Vegas.

The Huskers will face McKendree in the first round on Friday morning at 11 a.m. (central) at the South Point Bowling Plaza in a matchup of the past two NCAA Champions. The other first-round match will feature Arkansas State and Vanderbilt, and all matches prior to the championship finals will be in the Mega Match Format and available online at NCAA.com. The championship match will be carried live on ESPNU on Saturday, April 15, at 8 p.m. (central) and will be a best-of-seven Baker match play format.

The Huskers are familiar with the South Point Bowling Plaza, having competed at the Stormin' Blue & Gold Vegas Classic back in January. The team finished third out of 14 teams while Crystal Elliott took first place with a total pinfall of 1,209 and an average of 241.80.

The Huskers are looking for their seventh NCAA Championship and first since 2021. NU returns a pair of starters from that team in Elliott, who was the MVP of the 2021 event, and fifth-year senior Kendyl Hofmeister. In addition, Gwen Maeha and Amara Smith-Speights saw significant action that season for the Huskers.

The semifinals will have a distinct Nebraska flavor, with three of the four teams featuring coaches who competed for the Nebraska men's club program. The group includes Husker Head Coach Paul Klempa, Arkansas State's Head Coach Justin Kostick, and McKendree's Director of Bowling and Associate Head Coach Bryan O'Keefe. The four programs in action this weekend have accounted for five of the past seven NCAA championships dating back to 2015.

Nebraska went 3-0 in the NCAA Pittsburgh Regional, posting wins over Mercyhurst (2-0), Duquesne (2-0) and Stephen F. Austin (2-1).

In the finals against SFA, NU fell to the Ladyjacks (932-890) in the traditional match to fall behind 1-0. Freshman Jillian Martin led the Huskers with 232. Elliott sported a 188 followed by Kendyl Hofmeister with a 161. The Huskers bounced back in the mega match format by defeating SFA, 1,034-930, in the five-game baker format, sealing the match with a team score of 222 in game five. The lineup of Hofmeister, Verstraete, Callan, Martin and Elliott posted four scores of 200+ to even the match at one apiece to force a decisive third match.

This victory tied up the overall series at 1-1 leading to a tiebreaker between the two teams which would be a best-of-seven baker style matchup.

NU took an early lead in the best-of-seven baker style matchup, opening with three straight wins (199-148; 190-166; 172-168). SFA won the next two matches (172-186; 156-206) to pull within 3-2. The Huskers clinched its NCAA bid with a 205-168 victory to win the match 4-2.

Stay up to date with the action by following the Nebraska Women's Bowling Twitter (@NEBowling) for live updates and action shots as well as on Instagram (@huskerbowling) and Facebook (@NEBowling).

2022-23 NEBRASKA BOWLING ROSTER

No.	Name	Yr.	Hometown	Previous School	Pronunciation
4	Alexis Buchert	R-So.	San Antonio, Texas	Taft	Alexis BUE-kurt
8	Marissa Cosentini	R-So.	Wayne, N.J.	Wayne Valley	CAW-sin-TEEN-ee
10	Amara Smith Speights	Sr.	Woodbridge, Va.	Freedom	uh-MAR-uh Smith SPATES
11	Kendyl Hofmeister	R-Sr.	Essexville, Mich.	Garber	
13	Kayla Verstraete	R-Jr.	Loves Park, Ill.	M.P. Harlem	ver-STRAIGHT-ee
15	Crystal Elliott	Sr.	Palm Bay, Fla.	Duquesne	
19	Jillian Martin	Fr.	Stow, Ohio	Stow-Monroe Falls	
21	Gwen Maeha	R-Sr.	Wahiawa, Hawaii	Leilehua	Muh-eh-ha
23	Kathryn Bowman	Fr.	Peru, N.Y.	Peru	Bo-man
26	Anna Callan	R-Fr.	La Crosse, Wis.	Holmen	AN-uh CAL-in

2022-23 NEBRASKA BOWLING ROSTER FOR NCAAS

**Alexis Buchert | Redshirt Sophomore | San Antonio, Texas | Alexis BUE-kurt**

Buchert Texas is in her third season at Nebraska. She has competed in three tournaments this season with a high game of 233 and an average of 202.67. Buchert holds an overall fill percentage of 82.3% with a 19.28 Avg/Frame. She is in her third season at Nebraska and was a redshirt on NU's 2021 title team.

***Anna Callan | Redshirt Freshman | La Crosse, Wis. | AN-uh CAL-in**

Callan is in her second season at Nebraska. Callan redshirted her first season with the Huskers, but broke into the lineup this year. Callan competed in eight of the nine regular-season tournaments this season with a high of 268 and an average of 199.67. Callan has an overall fill percentage of 84.2% and a 20.04 Avg/Frame. Callan also received her first top 10 career finish this season at the Stormin' Blue and White Vegas Classic, finishing seventh with a total pinfall of 1,096 including her season high of 268. This is Callan's first appearance at the NCAA Championships. In June of 2022 Callan captured the 2022 Junior Gold Championship title, earning her an automatic spot on the 2023 Junior Team USA through the United States Bowling Congress.

***Crystal Elliott | Senior | Palm Bay, Fla.**

A senior who competed in all nine regular season tournaments this season. Elliott served as anchor for the first half of the season until the Northeast Classic and moved back into that role for the NCAA Regional title match against SFA. Elliott finished the nine regular-season tournaments with an overall individual pinfall of 10,619 and a season average of 211.57. Elliott is currently ranked No. 4 nationally in individual scoring average with 21.157 Avg/Frame and No. 3 in overall strike percentage of 56.8%. Elliott posted three top-five finishes this season. Previously this season, Elliott earned a first-place finish at the Stormin Blue and White Vegas Classic, the host location of the 2023 National Championships, with a total pinfall of 1,209 and an average of 241.80. She also earned runner-up honors at the Motiv Penguin Classic with 1,737 (217.13 average) and the Big Red Invite with 1,153 (230.60). In her first year competing for Nebraska, Elliott was named to Central All-Region Team First Team and earned a season high placement of third place at the Mid-Winter Invitational with a 1,370 total pinfall and 228.33 (average). In 2021 Elliott was voted the NTCA Bowler of the year and was awarded the MVP award of the 2021 NCAA Championship.

***Kendyl Hofmeister | Redshirt Senior | Essexville, Mich. | Co-Captain**

Hofmeister, the team's leadoff bowler, has competed in all nine regular-season tournaments. Hofmeister has a season high of 267 and an average of 208.66 in 50 games. Hofmeister has a total fill percentage of 86.8% with a 20.45 Avg/Frame. Hofmeister has received two top-10 finishes this season as well as four additional top-25 showings. She placed sixth at the Bearcat Roto Grip Open and 10th at the Motiv Penguin Classic. A native of Essexville, Mich., Hofmeister earned honorable-mention All-American honors in 2022, averaging a 207.7 in 43 games and posting four top-10 finishes. She competed in every tournament for the Huskers during their 2021 National Championship season.

**Gwen Maeha | Redshirt Senior | Wahiawa, Hawaii | Co-Captain | Muh-eh-ha**

Gwen Maeha is in her fifth season at Nebraska. She serves as one of three co-captains for the team. Maeha has competed in five of the nine regular-season tournaments this season with a high game of 223 and an average of 186.00. Maeha holds a fill percentage of 75.5% with a 18.41 Avg/Frame. As a member of the 2021 National Championship team, Maeha is competing for her second national title in her five years at Nebraska. This will mark her third NCAA Championship appearance, as she was a true freshman in 2019 and played a key role on NU's 2021 national title team.

***Jillian Martin | Freshman | Stow, Ohio**

Martin is a true freshman who has competed in all nine regular-season tournaments this year. She moved into the anchor position midseason at the Northeast Classic and held the position for the three remaining regular-season tournaments until splitting the position with Crystal Elliott at the Pittsburgh regional last weekend. Martin was the No. 1 recruit in the 2022 class and has posted three top-five individual finishes this year. Martin is currently ranked No. 2 nationally in scoring average with 21.568 Avg/Frame and No. 1 in the country in overall strike percentage (57.9%). Martin was the MVP of the Motiv Penguin Classic with an average of 218.13 and a total pinfall of 1,745. She also placed second at the Bearcat Roto Grip Open with a pinfall of 1,317 (219.50 average) and fifth at the Motiv Ladyjack Classic with 1,336 (227.20 average). In all, she posted five top-10 finishes in 2022-23. Martin won the 2021 PWBA BowlTV Classic, becoming the youngest bowler to ever win on the PWBA Tour at age 17 during her high school career. She is a two-time PBA Junior National Champion (2021-2022) and was the U18 Junior Gold Top Qualifier in both 2021 and 2022, bowling a 300 game at the 2021 event. Martin is also the 2023 National Amateur Bowling Champion and a member of Team USA for 2023.

**Amara Smith Speights | Senior | Woodbridge, Va. | Co-Captain | uh-MAR-uh Smith SPATES**

Smith Speights is in her fourth season at Nebraska and is one of three co-captains. Smith Speights competed in four of nine regular-season tournaments this year with a season high game of 226 and an average of 212.04. She has a fill percentage of 80.8% with a 19.49 average per frame. A member of the 2021 National Championship team, Smith Speights will be competing for her second national title in her four years at Nebraska.

***Kayla Verstraete | Redshirt Junior | Loves Park, Ill. | ver-STRAIGHT-ee**

Verstraete is in her fourth season at Nebraska. She bowled in eight of the nine regular-season tournaments this season, posting an average of 197.32 with a high of 278 at the Mid-Winter Invitational. Verstraete has a fill percentage of 80.8% and a 19.71 Avg/Frame. She posted back to back top-10 finishes at the Prairie View A&M Classic (207.17 Average) and the Mid-Winter Invitational (218.80). In 2021-22, Verstraete was one of the nation's top bowlers, earning All-American honors for the second straight season. A third-team selection, she averaged a team-best 212.04 in traditional play and posted five top-10 finishes in nine tournaments. As a member of the 2021 National Championship team, Verstraete is competing for her second national title in her four years at Nebraska.

*Denotes a starting lineup member

HEAD COACH PAUL KLEMPA



Paul Klempa | Fourth Season as Head Coach | 26th Season at Nebraska

In his fourth season leading the Nebraska Bowling program, Paul Klempa is seeking his second national title as head coach, and Nebraska's seventh NCAA title since 2004.

Klempa, who has been a part of the Husker program since it was elevated to varsity status in 1997, spent 22 seasons as an assistant, serving a majority of the 2013-14 season as NU's interim head coach, before taking over prior to the 2019-20 season. In his first four seasons as head coach, Klempa has put his own stamp on the program, coaching a pair of NTCA Bowlers of the Year and five All-Americans who have combined for eight All-America certificates. This is NU's third postseason appearance, including the 2021 national title.

During his tenure at Nebraska, Klempa has helped guide the Huskers to eight national championships - including back-to-back NCAA titles in 2004 and 2005, and NCAA championships in 2009, 2013, 2015 and 2021. In the 20 years that the NCAA has sponsored bowling, Nebraska is the only program to have qualified for the NCAA Championship in every season. He has tutored eight National Collegiate Bowlers of the Year, 35 bowlers who have combined for 74 NTCA All-America awards and 15 student-athletes who went on to represent various national teams.

ASSISTANT COACH JULIA BOND



Julia Bond | Second Season at Nebraska

In her second season assisting the Husker bowling program, former Husker great Julia Bond joined the Nebraska bowling coaching staff as an assistant coach in September of 2021. Bond recently served as an assistant coach at Judson University (2020-21).

Bond, a four-time All-American as a collegian, returned to her alma mater after winning a pair of events on the Professional Women's Bowling Association in 2021, highlighted by United States Bowling Congress Queens in May of 2021. She has also been a member of Team USA since 2017.

Before turning professional, she won the 2017 U.S. Amateur and was the runner-up the following year. As a Husker, Bond enjoyed one of the most decorated careers in program history. She finished her career third in career average (210.092), won six events and posted 21 top-five finishes. In 2015, she was named the Most Outstanding Bowler at the NCAA Championships, helping the Huskers to an NCAA title. She was a two-time NCAA All-Tournament selection, helping the Huskers to a national title and two NCAA runner-up finishes.

HUSKER BOWLING NOTES

- The Nebraska bowling team has won eight national championships, which is the most of any program (men's or women's) at the University of Nebraska.
- The Huskers will be looking for their 30th all-time national championship across all sports.
- NU is the only bowling program to qualify for NCAA postseason play every year since the NCAA Bowling Championships began in 2004.
- The team sported an 83-37 team record for the 2022-23 season, including three regular-season tournament titles. The Huskers placed first at the Motiv Penguin Classic (17 teams), Northeast Classic (33 teams) and Big Red Invitational (10 teams).
- The Cornhuskers lineup features 10 student athletes, including three returning All-Americans (Crystal Elliott, Kendyl Hofmeister and Kayla Verstraete).
- Elliott was the 2021 NTCA Bowler of the Year and MVP of the 2021 NCAA Championship and is averaging a 212.3 this season.
- Hofmeister is averaging a 208.66 with a high game of 267 and Verstrate is averaging a 197.32 with a season high of 278.
- The Huskers' lineup is anchored by freshman Jillian Martin, the top recruit of the 2022 class. She has five top-10 finishes in nine regular-season tournaments and averages a team-high 215 during the regular season.
- Nebraska has a team-best score of 1,219 in traditional format, the highest score in the nation this season.
- The Husker program has two current members of Team USA for 2023 (Jillian Martin and Julia Bond).

NTCA MARCH POLL

No.	School (1st Place Votes)	Points
1	McKendree (33)	1,428
2	Vanderbilt (3)	1,324
3	Nebraska (1)	1,256
4	Arkansas State	1,146
5	Stephen F. Austin	1,112
6	Youngstown State	1,032
7	North Carolina A&T	982
8	Maryville University	864
9	Sam Houston	828
10	Maryland Eastern Shore	683
11	Duquesne	676
12	Louisiana Tech	616
13	Newman University	537
14	Mercyhurst	489
15	Fairleigh Dickinson	381
16	Mount St. Mary's	289
17	Central Missouri	276
18	Medaille	257
19	Lincoln Memorial	249
20	Wisconsin-Whitewater	240
21	Delaware State	227
22	Tulane	148
23	Merrimack	132
24	Morgan State	99
25	Sacred Heart	50

NEBRASKA BOWLING HISTORY

Program History	
Season of Bowling (First Season)	26th (1997)
Total National Championships	8 (Last, 2021)
Total NCAA Championships	6 (Last, 2021)
NCAA Championship Appearances	19 (Last, 2023)
Total Team Tournament Titles	119 (3 in 2023)
Total Individual Tournament Titles	77 (2 in 2023)
National Collegiate Bowlers of the Year	11
National Collegiate Rookies of the Year	4
National Collegiate Coaches of the Year	5
NTCA All-Americans	80
NTCA All-Academic Bowlers	86

Team Information	
2021-22 National Finish	NCAA Regionals
All-Americans Returning/Lost	3/1
Letterwinners Returning/Lost	5/2
Newcomers	2
Head Coach	Paul Klempa
Assistant Coach	Julia Bond

General Information	
Location	Lincoln, Neb.
Population	293,905
Founded	1869
Enrollment	24,431
Facility	Husker Training Center
Nickname	Cornhuskers, Huskers
Colors	Scarlet and Cream
President	Walter "Ted" Carter, Jr.
Chancellor	Ronnie D. Green
Vice Chancellor, Director of Athletics	Trev Alberts

Communications Information	
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