FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Wichita State University Rhatigan Student Center Wichita, Kansas 67260-0056

Wichita, Kan. - Last night five Shockers stood above the crowd at the Night of Champions banquet held at the Hawker Beechcraft Event Center in Wichita. The Shocker bowling program grabbed seven awards throughout the Night of Champions award ceremony. The annual ceremony is held the night prior to the USBC Intercollegiate Championships and highlights the accomplishments of the most talented bowlers and coaches in the nation.

The atmosphere rivaled that of any major award show, as all the teams stood in the spotlight in recognition of their championship appearance. After team recognition and dinner the individual awards were announced. Two men and two women from the Shocker Bowling Team earned All-American honors as voted by the National Collegiate Bowling Coaches Association (NCBCA). The top 15 players in the nation were awarded based on a point total from votes received by coaches. On the men's side Steve Elson earned an Honorable Mention while George Lambert was voted on the 2nd All-American team. The Lady Shockers had both Elysia Current and Emily Maier make 1st Team All-America as they both finished in the top five in votes received.

Rounding out the NCBCA awards was the Kerm Helmer Coach of the Year award which was given to the top men's and women's coach in the nation. Claiming the award for the first time was women's Coach Mark Lewis. A consistent finisher in the top five of voting in previous years, Lewis broke the barrier and claimed the award after having the top ranked women's team throughout the season.

In addition to the NCBCA awards the Bowling Writers Association of America (BWAA) handed out their player of the year awards. Once again Current and Maier finished in the top of the voting claiming Player of the Year Runners Up. Although players were excited about their awards, women’s Co-captain Emily Maier kept things in perspective saying, “The best is yet to come.”

As if the Shockers couldn’t have stood out enough the award ceremony was kicked off by guest speaker, WSU alumnus and three time PBA Champion, Sean Rash. Rash spoke about choices, dreams and getting involved. He pointed out how our athletes now are the future of the game.
and to take advantage of all the college bowling opportunities presented to them. Rash will also be doing color commentary on the televised finals on CSTV Saturday afternoon.

While individual success can’t be overlooked the Shockers will remain focused as they begin the qualifying portion of the USBC Intercollegiate Team Championships tomorrow morning at 9 a.m. at Northrock lanes.

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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*