

Three honored with Ted Gruzzkowski Jr. Youth Star Award

Jason Eman, Brandon Lowe, and Kayla Meadows are 2011 recipients

The NCAUSBCA Ted Gruzzkowski Jr. Youth Star Award recognizes youth bowlers for bowling achievement and/or service to youth bowling. The award is named after the late association director and Hall of Fame member who strongly supported youth bowling in this area.

Three bowlers—Jason Eman, Brandon Lowe, and Kayla Meadows—each received a plaque commemorating the honor and \$100 in scholarship funds through the SMART program in a ceremony January 22 at Bowl America Gaithersburg prior to Round 1 of the Youth Scratch Invitational Tournament.

JASON EMAN

Jason Eman was introduced to the sport of bowling on his sixth birthday by his father. Ever since that moment, bowling has been a passion and a life motivation for him, and it has given him a lot of things: hope, motivation, and something to love for the



rest of his life. The older he gets, the more his family and friends are there to support him on his journey to become the greatest bowler ever.

Big dreams require big sacrifices and a big vision to the future. Any opportunity he gets to join a tournament or league, he jumps on it. He never backs down from a challenge, even one in which he knows he may not succeed. Perseverance is always a key to success and a great way to feel good about one's self after a win or loss. To know that he stood up to the challenge and conquered his fears is always a great feeling.

Throughout his entire journey, Jason has made many accomplishments that

have given him a tremendous momentum boost to life. His first major accomplishment was his being the Youth of the Year a number of years back. Ever since that moment, he's realized that he can accomplish something on his own.

When he first heard about the NCAUSBCA Youth 600 Club, he thought it was a great club to be in. He has attended many 600 Club tournaments and has won a couple of them.

Even that doesn't compare to his greatest accomplishment: He placed first in the "A" Division of the 2010 NCAUSBCA Youth Scratch Invitational the first year he bowled in that division. He left the bowling center that day a champion and still feels that way.

Around a month later, he was victorious at the 600 Club Tournament of Champions held at his home center, Bowl America Shirley. He was extremely thrilled that he couldn't even believe this was happening to him. He thought that 2010 was the best year ever in his bowling life.

Outside of bowling, Jason played lacrosse for three years for Annandale High School, where he has taken chorus since the fifth grade—another of his passions he has loved to do in his spare time. He's also in DECA, a marketing program in many schools across the world for future businessmen.

His father has always told him to stay focused in school and in bowling, and his life will be the way he wants it to be. All he has to do is always keep his head up and persevere, and he can accomplish almost everything he chooses to do.

Past Gruzzkowski Youth Star honorees

2008 – Eric Helmrich, Adam Mitchell, Allen Windsor

2009 – Alonso "A.J." Kinney Jr.

2010 – Malcolm James

BRANDON LOWE

Brandon Charles-Alexander Lowe's life mostly consists of two things: bowling and singing.



He is a singer who has been singing since he was three years old. However, he started bowling first; he pretty much grew up in the bowling alley. He has achieved ex-

cellence in both fields, a story that will always be with him. Today, he builds upon excellence and trying to get to the line of success.

Bowling has had such a big impact on his life. He has had so much success in bowling. Even as a young child, he always had high average, high game, and high series. He has had success in the bowling alleys and stages. If you want excitement, put him on your team; if you want him to steal the show, just pass him the microphone. He has just as much versatility in his voice as he does on the lanes. There is no lane condition that he can't bowl on, and there is no song that he can't make his own, and like his pastor said, "When there's a will, there's a way."

Brandon, who has received many certificates, awards, and trophies for singing, bowling, and just being an all-around good person, was the 2009 Eastern Regional bowling champion. His team, which traveled to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., to compete in nationals, came in second place and was featured in *BOWL Magazine*. That same year, his team was the winner of the Silver Hill Strikers league.

He was selected the young man of the year in his church in 2007 and 2009. He was the science fair winner of Maya Angelou Public Charter School of 2010. During the summer of 2010, he was nom-

inated and later won the best male vocalist award of 2010 Hands on the Future records. He was the D.C. Cap Gala finalist of 2010. He competed against over 100 students in the D.C. area and was one of the top 10 finalists who got a chance to perform at the Kennedy Center.

Out in the world, they know he can sing and bowl, but in school he is a math wiz. He loves mathematics and trying to figure out problems. If music doesn't go well, his back-up plan is to become a math teacher.

KAYLA MEADOWS

At the age of four, Kayla Meadows started bowling at AMF Annandale and moved to Bowl America Falls Church a few years later. She stopped using the bumpers when many others her age still needed them. In a couple of years, she was moved up an age group, even though she was not old enough. She attained high aver-



age for the girls and kept it throughout the time she was at Falls Church. She bowled her first ever 600 series, 625, at age 12.

At the same age, she qualified for the Junior Gold National Championships for the first time. She has gone to the Junior Gold Nationals three times and has placed higher every year, placing 229th out of 521 girls in 2010.

Since age 12, she has qualified for the NCAUSBCA Youth Scratch Invitational, starting in B Division and working her way up to A Division. In this tournament, she shot her high series of 747.

Kayla scored her high game of 279 at Bowl America Shirley, her current center, when she was 15. She achieved her high average in the 2009-2010 season with a 203 in the Senior Stars league.

Kayla also is a member of the NCAUSBCA 600 Club and has twice qualified for the Tournament of Champions.

She is coached by her family and friends and strives to achieve perfection every time she steps onto the lanes.

Now a high school junior, Kayla is starting to look at colleges that have both a bowling program as well as a nursing program. Throughout high school, she has been an active member in sports such as volleyball, which she made JV as a freshman, sophomore, and junior, and softball, where she made JV in her freshman and sophomore years.

She is involved in choir and clubs like the Annandale Medical Association and the Atoms Red Cross.

She hopes to receive partial or full-ride scholarships to college for bowling, and is thinking of applying to Delaware State University and Norfolk State University next year. She has done community service at a local day care several times to get an MYP certificate for school, which helps kids get into college. She has maintained a 3.0 GPA in school while balancing sports and other activities.

Kayla also steps in where needed when a younger bowler is struggling and needs help in understanding what might work better for him/her when the coaches are having trouble explaining the solutions. Many times she has helped her younger brother improve his mechanics so he can better himself and strive to be a better bowler.

Kayla would rather bowl than do anything else.

