

2003-04 Season in Review

The 2003-04 season was a success for Head Coach Bill Straub and the Nebraska bowling program. The Huskers became the first-ever official NCAA champions in April of 2004 after the varsity sport was elevated to championship level. Nebraska, along with 41 other college bowling programs, competed throughout the season for a bid to nationals.

Junior Shannon Pluhowsky made her way back into the collegiate ranks after taking a redshirt during the 2002-03 season. Pluhowsky wasted no time getting back into the swing of things, as she won three of the first four tournaments the Huskers competed. During the spring session, she went on to win one more tournament title, and finished second at the 2004 NCAA Championships. Pluhowsky was named tournament co-MVP with a 1,634 pinfall and a 233.429 average over seven games. In 2004, Pluhowsky won the U.S. Amateur for the third year in a row, and she received first-team All-America honors from Bowlers Journal International.

The Nebraska lineup was mainly composed of underclassmen in 2003-04, setting up a bright future for Straub and the Huskers. Also returning for NU was senior Christina Perez, junior Melissa Stewart, sophomores Nicole Aleo, Karla Engh, Alice Foley, Jamie Martin and Jennifer Schultz. Straub had also recruited a highly talented group of freshmen, including Amanda Burgoyne, Adrienne Miller, Mindy Pancoast and Patience Price.

On the year, the Huskers won seven tournament titles en route to winning the 2004 NCAA championship. Overall, it was an impressive showing for the young and talented squad.

"Many of the other coaches came up to me and said that they were impressed with not only our girls' bowling abilities, but also in the manner they represented themselves and the program," Straub said. "As a coach, that is one of the highest compliments you can receive because this is a great group to be around."

Straub said the team stayed focused on its goal of winning the first-ever NCAA title throughout the year.

"It is a big relief more than anything. When the championships were announced, we knew we had a job to do, and knew that second place wasn't good enough," Straub said. "It was something that kept Coach (Paul) Klempa and myself up at nights, knowing that our goal was to bring home the national title. We downplayed it in front of the team all year, but it was something that was always in the back of our minds."

NU began its quest for the national title at the Brunswick Southern Classic on Nov. 7, 2003, in Atlanta, Ga. With a team pinfall of 6,855 the Huskers took first place and posted a 5-0 record over the two-day tournament. Pluhowsky



The Huskers won seven tournament titles, including the NCAA championship, during the 2003-04 season.

finished first overall with an average of 214.286 on her way to her seventh career tournament title. It also set the standard for the duration of the fall session.

The next weekend Straub and the Nebraska bowlers headed north to compete in the Whitewater Invitational in Whitewater, Wis. The Huskers went on to claim their second tournament title by dominating the competition. Pluhowsky turned in a record-setting performance, as she bowled a 10-game pinfall total of 2,540, an average of 254, the highest average by a collegiate bowler in tournament history.

Nebraska continued to dominate by winning a third consecutive tournament title at the Triad Women's Classic the following weekend in Greensboro, N.C. Freshman Amanda Burgoyne supplanted Pluhowsky on the winner's platform, earning the prestigious tournament crown by averaging 236.80 in five games for her first career tournament title.

The Huskers showed no sign of stopping, as they looked to extend their tournament winning streak at the 2003 National Team Match Games, the most-anticipated tournament of the fall season. The Huskers rolled through

All-Time Letterwinners and Career Statistics

Bowler	Hometown	Years Lettered	GP	Total Pinfall	Avg.	Events	1st	Top 5	Top 10
Nicole Aleo	Sterling Hts., Mich.	2003-04	31	5,725	184.677	7	0	0	0
Amanda Burgoyne	Newport, Minn.	2004	62	12,514	201.839	9	1	4	5
Kimberly Claus	Mesquite, Texas	1998*-99-2000	163	32,859	201.589	20	2	5	8
Christine Couvillon	Baton Rouge, La.	1999-2000-01-02	196	38,098	194.378	25	0	1	4
Jennifer Daugherty	Bloomington, Ill.	1998*-99	64	13,110	204.884	13	0	6	8
Jennifer Davis	Lincoln, Neb.	1998*	37	7,276	196.648	5	0	3	3
Karla Engh	Sioux Falls, S.D.	2003-04	51	9,787	191.902	7	0	0	1
Kimberly Ferris	Orange, Calif.	1998*	65	13,357	205.492	6	0	2	2
Paola Gomez	Bogota, Colombia	2002-03	103	20,228	196.388	15	1	4	6
Diandra Hyman	Dyer, Ind.	1999-2000-01-02	308	63,065	204.756	34	4	15	20
Jennifer Johnston	Niagara Falls, N.Y.	1999	35	6,512	186.057	5	0	0	0
Jamie Martin	Omaha, Neb.	2003-04	87	17,335	199.253	14	0	3	4
Suzanne Medwell	Victoria, Australia	2001-02	114	23,153	203.096	14	2	4	7
Adrienne Miller	Albuquerque, N.M.	2004	56	11,416	203.857	8	0	3	4
Amanda O'Hayre	Northglen, Colo.	1999-2000	229	45,136	197.100	20	1	3	7
Christina Perez	San Diego, Calif.	2001-02-03-04	133	24,874	187.023	25	0	1	3
Shannon Pluhowsky	Phoenix, Ariz.	2001-02-04	245	53,173	217.033	28	10	21	23
Stacy Rogers	Sioux Falls, S.D.	1998*-1999-2000	150	29,429	196.593	-	0	-	-
Jennifer Schultz	Portland, Ore.	2003-04	47	9,127	194.191	9	0	1	2
Kari Schwager	Montgomery, Ill.	2000-01-02-03	308	61,352	199.195	36	2	8	15
Melissa Stewart	Fort Pierce, Fla.	2003-04	80	15,639	194.191	11	0	2	4

*- complete individual stats not available for 1997-98 season

2003-04 Tournament Results

Date	Tournament	Pins	Result
11/1-2	Southern Classic	6,855	1st/6
11/8-9	Whitewater Invitational	10,548	1st/3
11/15-16	Triad Women's Classic	5,463	1st/5
11/28-29	Team Match Games	10,381	1st/11
1/17-18	Southern Invitational	6,166	3rd/14
1/31-2/1	Bruns. Coca-Cola Classic	10,403	1st/4
3/5-7	NCAA Northeast Challenge	11,840	2nd/5
3/12-13	Holiday Collegiate Classic	8,920	1st/5
4/8-10	NCAA Championships	BKR*	1st/8

Note: BKR* - Baker Format (each bowler rolls two frames of a 10-frame game).

the tournament field with a total pinfall of 11,880, easily topping runner-up Wichita State's total of 11,754 in a field that consisted of the top NCAA and club programs in the nation. With four straight wins, the Huskers were off to their best start in school history. Pluhowsky won her third tournament title of the fall, capping an impressive fall campaign.

After an extended break for the holidays, Nebraska's quest for its fifth consecutive tournament title ended at the Southern Invitational in Baton Rouge, La. The Huskers lost in the final head-to-head matches versus Central Missouri State, snapping their tournament title winning streak at four. Despite the defeat, three Huskers earned top spots on the all-tournament team. Pluhowsky tied for second with freshman Adrienne Miller with an average of 211, while sophomore Jamie Martin finished in fourth with a 207 average.

After a week off, the Nebraska bowlers were victorious, as they placed first in the Brunswick Coca-Cola Classic in Las Vegas, Nev. NU posted a 5-1 record, as Burgoyne posted her second top-five finish with an average of 208.4.

Nebraska returned to action on March 5-7 at the NCAA Northeast Challenge in Elmwood Park, N.J. The Huskers finished second overall at the three-day event. The Huskers were again led by Burgoyne, who averaged a 212 for a second-place individual finish.

The Huskers then traveled to the Collegiate Holiday Classic March 12-13 in Birmingham, Ala. Nebraska cruised to its sixth title of the year, going 10-0 in its final tune up before the NCAA Championships. Pluhowsky won her fourth tournament title of the season, averaging a 242 over 10 games, the third-highest average in school history.

After wrapping up a very successful regular season, the Huskers waited to hear if they had received one of the eight bids to the first NCAA Championships. On March 24, Nebraska received its bid to the NCAA Tournament in Houston, Texas, and were already a part of NCAA history before even winning the national crown.

Nebraska competed against the top seven NCAA teams in the country. After losing to Central Missouri State by one pin in the winner's bracket final, the Huskers were forced to battle back through the loser's bracket and needed to win three matches in one afternoon to claim the NCAA crown.

"The way we lost in the winner's bracket was unfortunate, but we played well and didn't get the breaks. The girls came out and really performed admirably. I'm proud of our performance, having to win three matches today."

After defeating New Jersey City University, 4-3 to earn a spot in the finals, the Huskers had to defeat Central Missouri State twice on the final day. CMSU was the only team to go undefeated in the first day of competition in the Baker format.

The Huskers survived the first match, 4-2, setting up a winner-take-all championship match after Pluhowsky rolled three straight strikes to clinch the win over CMSU.

In the second championship match, Nebraska won the first match 170-131 before dropping the next two games by scores of 160-208 and 185-190. The Huskers continued to battle and come back to win the fourth and fifth games, 239-150, 219-197, putting NU within one game of an NCAA title. The Huskers wrapped up the title with a 215-173 win in game six, as all seven members (Nicole Aleo, Amanda Burgoyne, Karla Engh, Shannon Pluhowsky, Jamie Martin, Adrienne Miller and Jennifer Schultz) contributed to the title run. Pluhowsky finished in second place and earned co-MVP honors.

"You never know how someone is going to perform under pressure until you get to that situation, and we met the challenge head on," Straub said. "In the last game, when push came to shove, our girls showed their true colors."

With its top seven returnees back for the 2004-05 season, the future looks exceptionally bright for the Husker bowling program.

Nicole Aleo

Event	Pinfall	Games	Average	Finish	1	5	10	25
Whitewater Invitational	1,133	6	188.833	14	0	0	0	1
2003-04 Totals	1,133	6	188.833		0	0	0	1

Amanda Burgoyne

Event	Pinfall	Games	Average	Finish	1	5	10	25
Southern Classic	1,221	7	174.429	39	0	0	0	0
Whitewater Invitational	1,176	6	196.000	13	0	0	0	1
Triad Women's Classic	1,814	5	236.800	1	1	1	1	1
Team Match Games	2,038	11	185.273	18	0	0	0	1
Southern Invitational	1,221	6	203.500	6	0	1	1	1
Bruns. Coca-Cola Classic	1,459	7	208.429	2	0	1	1	1
NCAA Northeast Challenge	1,063	5	212.600	2	0	1	1	1
Holiday Collegiate Classic	1,707	8	213.375	7	0	0	1	1
NCAA Championships	1,445	7	206.429	19	0	0	0	1
2003-04 Totals	12,514	62	201.839		1	4	5	8

Karla Engh

Event	Pinfall	Games	Average	Finish	1	5	10	25
Holiday Collegiate Classic	1,723	8	215.375	6	0	0	1	1
NCAA Championships	1,087	5	217.400	34	0	0	0	0
2003-04 Totals	2,810	13	216.154		0	0	1	1

Alice Foley

Event	Pinfall	Games	Average	Finish	1	5	10	25
Southern Classic	1,229	7	175.571	35	0	0	0	0
Triad Women's Classic	1,044	5	208.800	18	0	0	0	1
Team Match Games	1,474	8	184.250	80	0	0	0	0
2003-04 Totals	3,747	20	187.350		0	0	0	1

Jamie Martin

Event	Pinfall	Games	Average	Finish	1	5	10	25
Southern Classic	1,303	6	217.167	18	0	0	0	1
Whitewater Invitational	2,145	10	214.500	3	0	1	1	1
Triad Women's Classic	1,135	5	227.000	3	0	1	1	1
Team Match Games	2,092	11	190.182	11	0	0	0	1
Southern Invitational	1,245	6	207.500	6	0	0	1	1
Bruns. Coca-Cola Classic	1,337	7	191.000	15	0	0	0	1
NCAA Northeast Challenge	1,012	5	202.400	12	0	0	0	1
NCAA Championships	1,081	5	216.200	35	0	0	0	0
2003-04 Totals	11,350	55	206.364		0	2	3	7

Adrienne Miller

Event	Pinfall	Games	Average	Finish	1	5	10	25
Southern Classic	1,453	7	207.571	3	0	1	1	1
Triad Women's Classic	978	5	195.600	37	0	0	0	0
Team Match Games	2,037	11	185.182	19	0	0	0	1
Southern Invitational	1,270	6	211.667	4	0	1	1	1
Bruns. Coca-Cola Classic	1,351	7	193.000	13	0	0	0	1
NCAA Northeast Challenge	980	5	196.000	15	0	0	0	1
Holiday Collegiate Classic	1,802	8	225.25	3	0	1	1	1
NCAA Championships	1,545	7	220.714	9	0	0	1	1
2003-04 Totals	11,416	56	203.857		0	3	4	7

Christina Perez

Event	Pinfall	Games	Average	Finish	1	5	10	25
Southern Classic	149	1	149.000	118	0	0	0	0
Whitewater Invitational	553	3	184.333	19	0	0	0	1
Team Match Games	359	2	179.500	205	0	0	0	0
Southern Invitational	535	3	178.333	NA				
2003-04 Totals	1,596	9	177.333		0	0	0	1

Shannon Pluhowsky

Event	Pinfall	Games	Average	Finish	1	5	10	25
Southern Classic	1,500	7	214.286	1	1	1	1	1
Whitewater Invitational	2,543	10	254.300	1	1	1	1	1
Triad Women's Classic	1,122	5	224.400	4	0	1	1	1
Team Match Games	2,381	11	216.455	1	1	1	1	1
Southern Invitational	1,270	6	211.667	3	0	1	1	1
Bruns. Coca-Cola Classic	1,290	7	184.286	22	0	0	0	1
NCAA Northeast Challenge	955	5	191.000	19	0	0	0	1
Holiday Collegiate Classic	1,943	8	242.875	1	1	1	1	1
NCAA Championships	1,634	7	233.429	2	0	1	1	1
2003-04 Totals	14,638	66	221.788		4	7	7	9

Jennifer Schultz

Event	Pinfall	Games	Average	Finish	1	5	10	25
Whitewater Invitational	1,808	9	200.889	9	0	0	1	1
Southern Invitational	625	3	208.333	10	0	0	1	1
Bruns. Coca-Cola Classic	492	3	164.000	78	0	0	0	0
NCAA Northeast Challenge	760	4	190.000	25	0	0	0	1
Holiday Collegiate Classic	1,729	8	216.125	5	0	1	1	1
NCAA Championships	841	4	210.250	40	0	0	0	0
2003-04 Totals	6,255	31	201.774		0	1	3	4

Melissa Stewart

Event	Pinfall	Games	Average	Finish	1	5	10	25
Whitewater Invitational	1,190	6	198.333	12	0	0	0	1
Bruns. Coca-Cola Classic	866	4	216.500	63	0	0	0	0
NCAA Northeast Challenge	197	1	197.000	35	0	0	0	0
2003-04 Totals	2,253	11	204.818		0	0	0	1