



**ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY
BOBCAT BOWLING TEAM**

2025 - 2026

YEAR IN REVIEW

SEASON REVIEW

This past season marked the exciting first year for our combined men's and women's bowling team. It was a year filled with growth, teamwork, and unforgettable moments. This was also the year that St. Thomas University opened our new on-campus, high-technology, eight-lane Bobcat Strikes Bowling Center in South Hall.

This inaugural season laid a strong foundation for the future and set the tone for continued success. They faced the challenges of learning to compete together while building chemistry both on and off the lanes. Through practice and determination, the team steadily improved their skills and developed a strong sense of camaraderie.



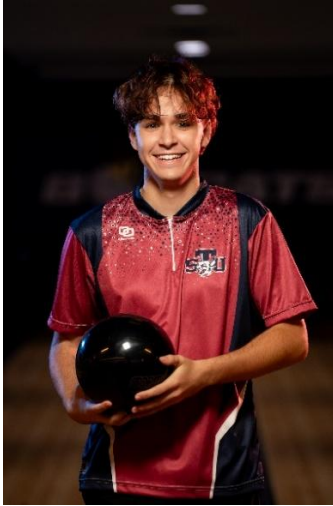
President David A. Armstrong, J.D. hosted the grand opening of Bobcat Strikes, our new on-campus bowling center. The center has quickly become the home of our program, where athletes spend countless hours improving their technique, building confidence, and strengthening team bonds. With a high-quality facility right on campus, our bowlers are able to train consistently to compete at their highest level. The opening of the bowling center has created excitement and support for the future of bowling within our STU community and beyond.



Grand Opening with President David A. Armstrong, J.D. (November 15, 2025)

2025 - 2026

TEAM MEMBERS



Anthony Marin Arzola
Junior



Landan Creighton
Sophomore



Giana Garafolo
Junior



Lucas Gonzalez
Freshman



Michael Ferreira
Sophomore



Veronica Kania
Senior



Layne Meister
Freshman



Christopher Romano
Freshman

COACHING STAFF



John Michalenko became the Bobcats director of bowling operations in February 2025 after serving in the same role at Robert Morris University, PA. Over his tenure at RMU the men's and women's team grew to 46 student-athletes. RMU's men have advanced to the Intercollegiate Team Championship (ITC) Sectionals eight straight years. Michalenko competed as an undergraduate at Western New England University. He began his coaching career at Carnegie Mellon University. With over 30 years' experience in collegiate bowling, he is building a nationally ranked program at STU. John also has over 35 years experience in higher education administration and serves as STU's Vice President of Student Achievement.



Legendary bowling icon, Jim Porter, is the Bobcat's Head Coach. Jim has decades of elite competitive and coaching experience. Coach Jim competed at the highest levels of the sport—winning championships for Washington State University, competing on the Professional Tour, and spending much of the 1980s in Miami competing and coaching. Jim represented the Puerto Rican Olympic Committee as an Olympic athlete from 1990 through 1997, earning Athlete of the Year honors in 1993 and 1994, and winning three American Zone titles. His international experience includes extensive competition and coaching throughout Malaysia, Thailand, Ecuador, Hong Kong, India, Curaçao, Chile, El Salvador, and Aruba. From 1999 to 2015, Jim served with the International Bowling Federation (IBF) on the Technical, Rules, and Coaching Committees, contributing to athlete standards, rule development, and global coaching education initiatives. Jim holds coaching certifications from USBC, Asian, and American federations, and has certified coaches across Asia, Europe, and the American Zone. His coaching philosophy emphasizes sound fundamentals, modern lane play, mental performance, and long-term athlete development.

SEASON OVERVIEW

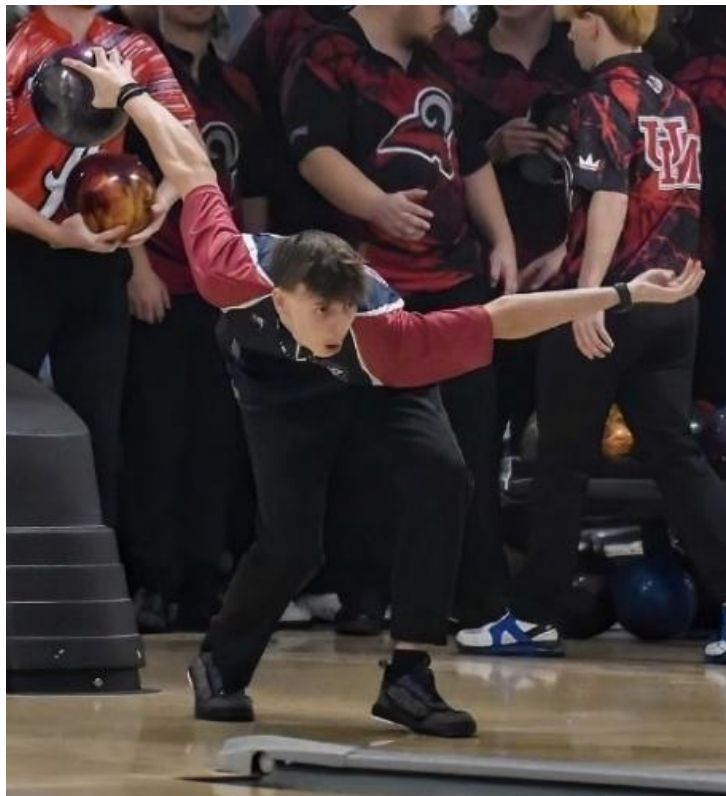
Throughout the season, Bobcat bowlers demonstrated improved performance and confidence under pressure during competitive play. Several tournaments came down to the final frames where the young team's focus and composure helped to secure good finishes. Here are the season's tournament highlights.

SCAD Bee Bash # 1 – Lawrenceville, GA – October 18, 2025

- 9th Place/10 Teams (98 Bowlers)
- Lucas Gonzalez – 183 Average (19th Place)

SCAD Bee Bash # 2 – Baker – Lawrenceville, GA – October 19, 2025

- 9th Place/10 Teams



Freshman Layne Meister

**Bowlero Southern Collegiate Classic (Tier I) – Marietta, GA –
November 1 – 2 , 2025**

- 21st Place/23 Teams (190 Bowlers)
- Christopher Romano – 185 Average (64th Place)
- Layne Meister – 180 Average (74th Place)
- Lucas Gonzalez – 175 Average (79th Place)



Junior Giana Garafolo

Spring Hill Fall Classic # 1 – Pensacola, FL – November 8, 2025

- 8th Place/11 Teams (99 Bowlers)
- Christopher Romano – 183 Average (28th Place)
- Anthony Marin Arzola – 177 Average (65th Place – 4 games)
- Layne Meister – 176 Average (38th Place)
- Lucas Gonzalez – 175 Average (40th Place)
- Giana Garafolo – 171 Average (43rd Place)



Freshman Christopher Romano

Spring Hill Fall Classic # 2 – Baker – Pensacola, FL – November 9, 2025

- 7th Place/11 Teams



Senior Veronica Kania

M. Fine Seminole Classic # 1 – Tallahassee, FL – January 10, 2026

- 4th Place/7 Teams (62 Bowlers)
- Lucas Gonzalez – 213 Average (2nd Place)
- Christopher Romano – 193 Average (13th Place)
- Landan Creighton – 187 Average (18th Place)
- Layne Meister – 182 Average (25th Place)



Freshman Lucas Gonzalez – 2nd Place

M. Fine Seminole Classic # 2 – Baker Tournament – Tallahassee, FL – January 11, 2026

- 5th Place/11 Teams

ISBPA Collegiate Classic (Tier I) – Addison, IL – January 17 – 18, 2026

- 39th Place/68 Teams (472 Bowlers)
- Christopher Romano – 216 Average (35th Place)
- Lucas Gonzalez – 205 Average (85th Place)
- Michael Ferreira – 196 Average (116th Place)
- Layne Meister – 182 Average (168th Place)
- Landan Creighton – 178 Average (178th Place)



Chicago, IL – Michael Ferreira, Landan Creighton, Lucas Gonzalez, Christopher Romano, Layne Meister, Anthony Marin Arzola



**Celebrating Snow! – Chicago, IL
Michael Ferreira, Lucas Gonzalez, Christopher Romano, Layne Meister, Anthony Marin Arzola**

NAIA Southeast Open # 1 – Savannah, GA – February 7, 2026

- 8th Place/11 Teams (94 Bowlers)
- Christopher Romano – 186 Average (27th Place)
- Lucas Gonzalez – 186 Average (27th Place)
- Layne Meister – 178 Average (36th Place)

NAIA Southeast Open # 2 – Baker – Savannah, GA – February 8, 2026

- 8th Place/10 Teams



Junior Anthony Marin Arzola

SEASON TEAM AVERAGES

- Lucas Gonzalez – 189 (31 Games)
- Christopher Romano – 188 (31 Games)
- Landan Creighton – 178 (15 Games)
- Layne Meister – 175 (31 Games)
- Michael Ferreira – 169 (20 Games)
- Anthony Marin Arzola – 163 (14 Games)
- Giana Garofolo – 158 (11 Games)
- Veronica Kania – 133 (2 Games)

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

BOWLING CLINICS – During the academic year, the STU Bowling Team hosted four high and middle school bowling clinics at the Bobcat Strikes Bowling Center. Over 35 high school and middle school students with their parents attended from across the region.



BOWLING FOR KIDS - On Sunday, May 3, 2026, the STU Bowling Team sponsored a lane (\$500) and participated in the Boys and Girls Clubs of Broward County “Bowling for Kids” event in Tamarac, Florida. The Bowling for Kids event raised over \$100,000.



Jorge Torres, Christopher Romano, Lucas Gonzalez, Layne Meister, Alexis Aiello, John Michalenko



Michael Mominey, Jorge Torres, Layne Meister, Alexis Aiello, Lucas Gonzalez, John Michalenko, Christopher Romano

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS



STU Male Scholar Athlete of the Year

Anthony Marin Arzola

Team MVP Award

Lucas Gonzalez

Team Character Award

Landan Creighton

LOOKING FORWARD

19 new bowling recruits have signed on to the 2026-2027 STU Bowling Team. The bowlers come from six states and two countries. They bring a depth of talent that will undoubtedly make STU bowling a force in NAIA and USBC-Collegiate competition.



Junior Michael Ferreira

RECRUITING CLASS 2027

Women's Team

Alexis Aiello – Deltona, Florida

Deondra Bostic – Homestead, Florida

Naomi Denmark Thompson – St. Petersburg, Florida

Cristina Dixon – Tamarac, Florida

Krystal Fernandez – Hialeah, Florida

Tiffany Molinaro – Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania

Camila Richards – Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Catherine Taylor – St. Petersburg, Florida

Men's Team

Christian Cancio – Miami, Florida

Matthew Costanzo – Bayonne, New Jersey

Juan Miguel Hernandez – Bogata, Colombia

Joshua Hickman – South Chesterfield, Virginia

Immanuel Josma – Miami, Florida

Ryan Lang – Laurel, Delaware

Daniel “Trey” Lemus – Cape Coral, Florida

Nathan Mondo – Fort Pierce, Florida

Alex Porter – Cocoa, Florida

Savun Raparelli – Bayonne, New Jersey

Jorge Torres – Davie, Florida

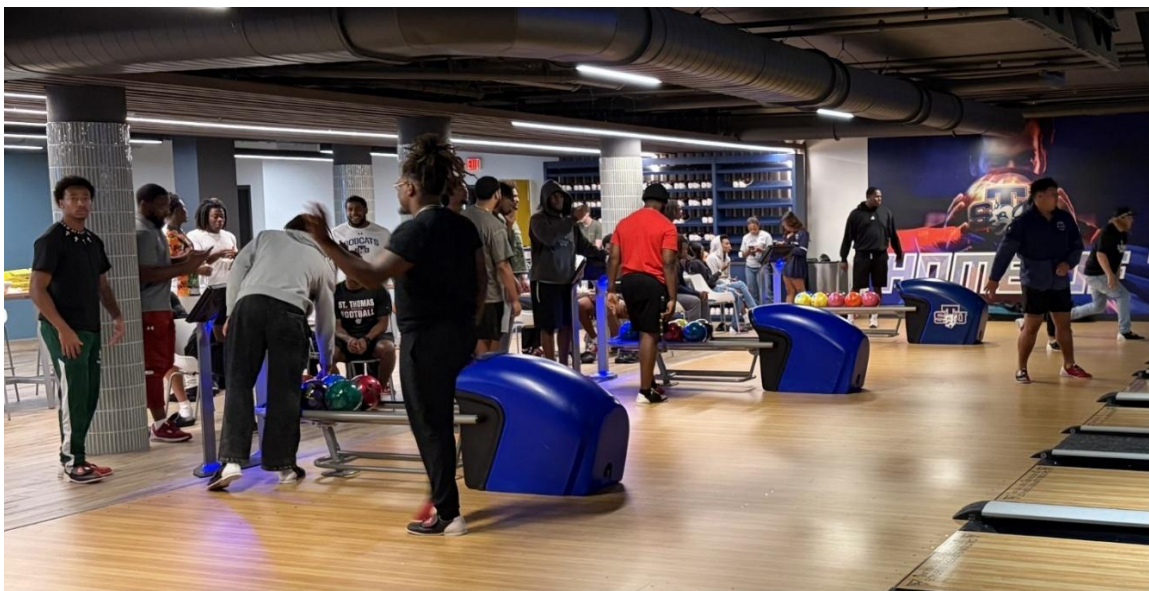


BOBCAT STRIKES BOWLING CENTER



The STU Bobcat Strikes Bowling Center is an 8-lane, state-of-the-art QubicaAMF bowling facility designed to enhance the student-athlete and campus experience at STU. The Center opened in November 2025 for team practices and expanded to the entire STU community in January 2026. It has quickly become a vibrant hub for recreation, competition, and celebration. When hosting team practices, department events, student activities, or recreational outings, the STU Bobcat Strikes Bowling Center stands as a premier destination for fun, wellness, and community-building at STU.





Football Recruiting Social Event



College of Science & Technology



STU Faculty Senate

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The St. Thomas University Bowling Program is grateful to President, David A. Armstrong, J.D., Senior Vice President of Athletics, Bill Rychel, Assistant Athletic Director, Candace Walker, Executive Director of Facilities, Christopher Tarrant, Treasurer, Linda Wagner and Associate Vice President of Student Life, John Jackson, for their unwavering support and commitment to the growth of our bowling program and the creation of the Bobcat Strikes Bowling Center. Their leadership and dedication have helped to create opportunities for our student-athletes to succeed both on and off the lanes. Their support and contributions played a vital role in enhancing the experience for the bowling team and the entire STU community. We are truly grateful for their support. An acknowledgement also goes out to the team's graduate assistants, Milorad Rajovic and Raul Alfonso Ferrandez, for supporting the team, keeping the statistics, assisting with the team's travel, and managing the bowling center.

