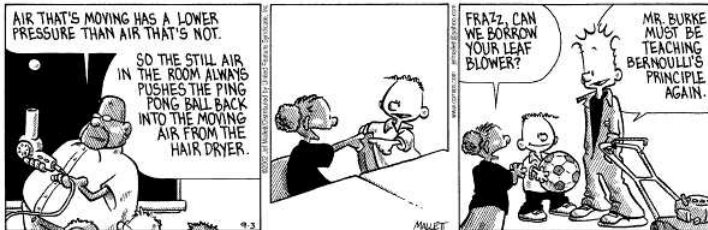


Science and Engineering of Sport



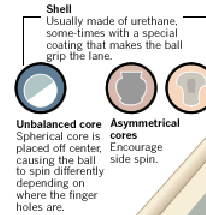
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21st century bowling

Over the past decade, the use of technology has sent bowling scores skyrocketing. Perfect 300 games in league play have gone from 820 in the 1993-94 season to 44,983 last season. Some of the innovations:

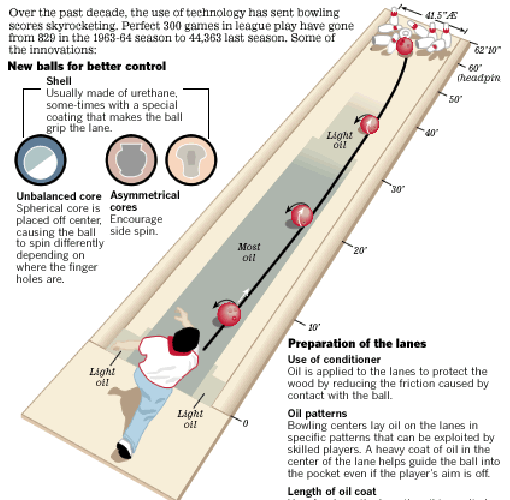
New balls for better control



Unbalanced core
Spherical core is placed off center, causing the ball to spin differently depending on where the finger holes are.

Asymmetrical cores
Encourage side spin.

Shell
Usually made of urethane, some-times with a special coating that makes the ball grip the lane.



Preparation of the lanes

Use of conditioner
Oil is applied to the lanes to protect the wood by reducing the friction caused by contact with the ball.

Oil patterns
Bowling centers lay oil on the lanes in specific patterns that can be exploited by skilled players. A heavy coat of oil in the center of the lane helps guide the ball into the pocket even if the player's aim is off.

Length of oil coat
How far down the lane the oil is applied can affect the ball's rotation and direction.

Sources: Science; Discover; Professional Bowlers Assn.; Researched by Los Angeles Times

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Wednesdays 10:00–11:00 am

Prerequisites: physics of some kind at some time in your life

For more information, call 534–1709