

A 3D rendered image of a bowling lane. In the foreground, an orange bowling ball is positioned in the center. Behind it, a triangular arrangement of white bowling pins is visible, each with two red rings near the top. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

BALANCE RESTORED

Controlling lane transition by bringing John Davis's vision to life

John Davis, the founder of Kegel, had a vision:

One World - One Game - One Ball

Though Kegel benefited from increased lane oil sales, John believed the escalating volumes applied to lanes threatened to drown the sport he loved. In 1997, the same year Teen Masters began, John declared the sport of bowling to be in crisis.



John defined the Crisis as
**“the destruction of the balance between
bowling balls and lane oil.”**





More aggressive balls require more oil, which in turn, requires more aggressive balls. Matching up and 'whom you follow' became dominant factors in the outcome of competitions.

John's one-word description:

“Chaos”

Competitive bowling is drowning in oil

2022 Junior Gold Final Advancers Round 31.95 mL

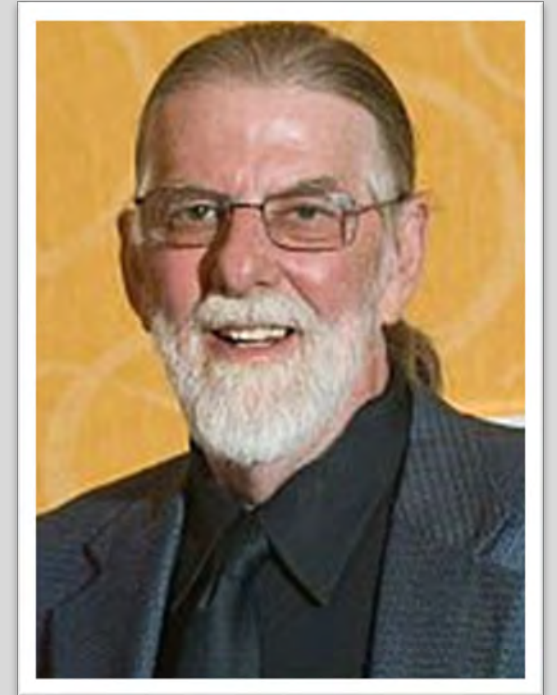
2022 USBC Masters 32.30 mL

2022 US Open 32.35 mL

John's effort to combat the crisis as the Chairman of the World Tenpin Bowling Association's Technical Committee culminated in this 2006 recommendation:

*"We, the committee, understand a change in the bowling environment is required for the sport to grow to its full potential. We believe the first logical step toward this change is a **Regulation Bowling Ball** for top-level competition."*

Industry resistance prevented WTBA from moving forward with a regulation bowling ball; it took another seven years before one became a reality. Sadly, John passed on January 25, 2013, only five months before he would have seen his vision begin to take shape at the 2013 Teen Masters.



John's vision became our vision



We call it **SKILL Bowling**, and its goals are simple:

- Make oil transition gradual and predictable by restoring the balance between bowling balls and lane oil.
- Reduce the importance of variables beyond the control of the participants, such as *“whom you follow.”*
- Offer competition in which *“the hand in the ball is more important than the ball in the hand.”*

John's vision was put to the test at the 2022 Teen Masters

- All competitors were limited to a single **SKILL 3.02** ball.
- Every pair had the **SKILL 46** oil pattern on the left lane and the **SKILL 35** oil pattern on the right lane, each containing approximately **8.5 mL** of oil.
- The lanes were only oiled once daily as bowlers rolled six games on **Fresh, Burn, and Double Burn**.
- Totals for 18 games reduced the field to the top 25% of girls and boys who rolled another six games to determine the 12 girls and 12 boys who advanced to compete in round-robin match-play.



The SKILL 3.02

All bowlers were limited to using a single SKILL 3.02 throughout the five days of the competition.



Specifications as Manufactured (15#)

Material	Pearlized Urethane
Hardness	80-82
Radius of Gyration	2.58
Differential Radius of Gyration	0.010
Surface Roughness - Ra*	50 μ in
Oil Absorption	Little to Zero

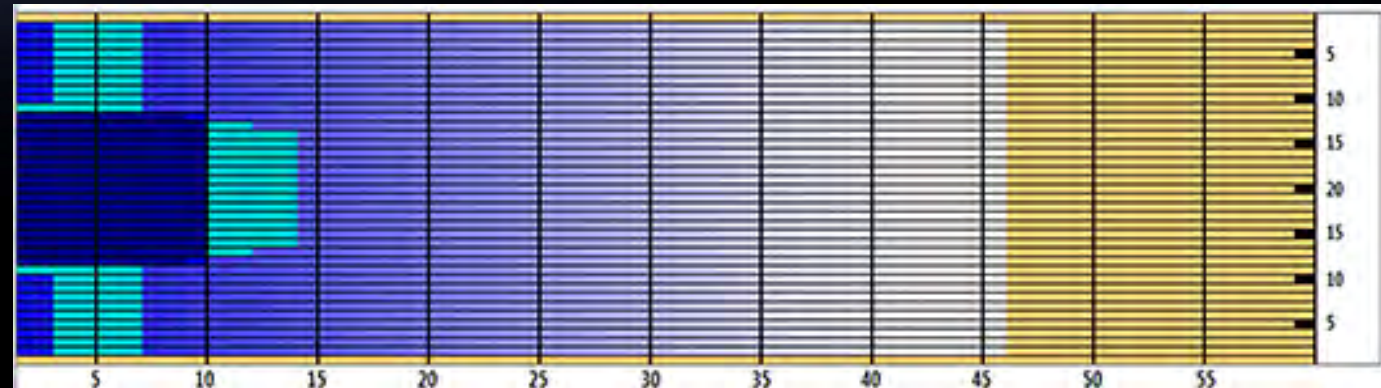
*Measured at a sanding grit level of 500 Abralon by USBC. Shipped at 1500 grit.

SKILL OIL PATTERNS

Every pair was oiled once daily with **SKILL 46** on the left lane and **SKILL 35** on the right lane.

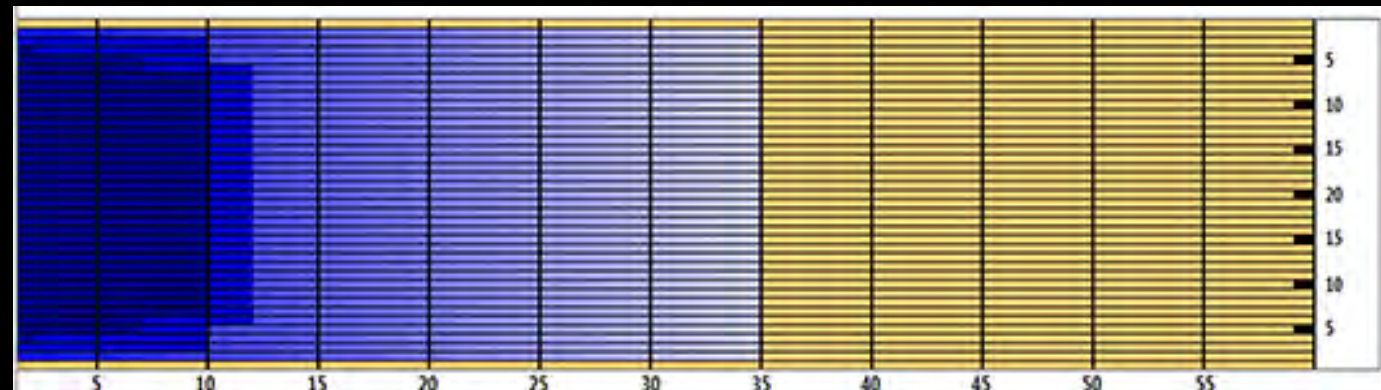
SKILL 46

- ☒ Length - 46'
- ☒ 8.565 mL of Oil



SKILL 35

- ☒ Length - 35'
- ☒ 8.475 mL of Oil



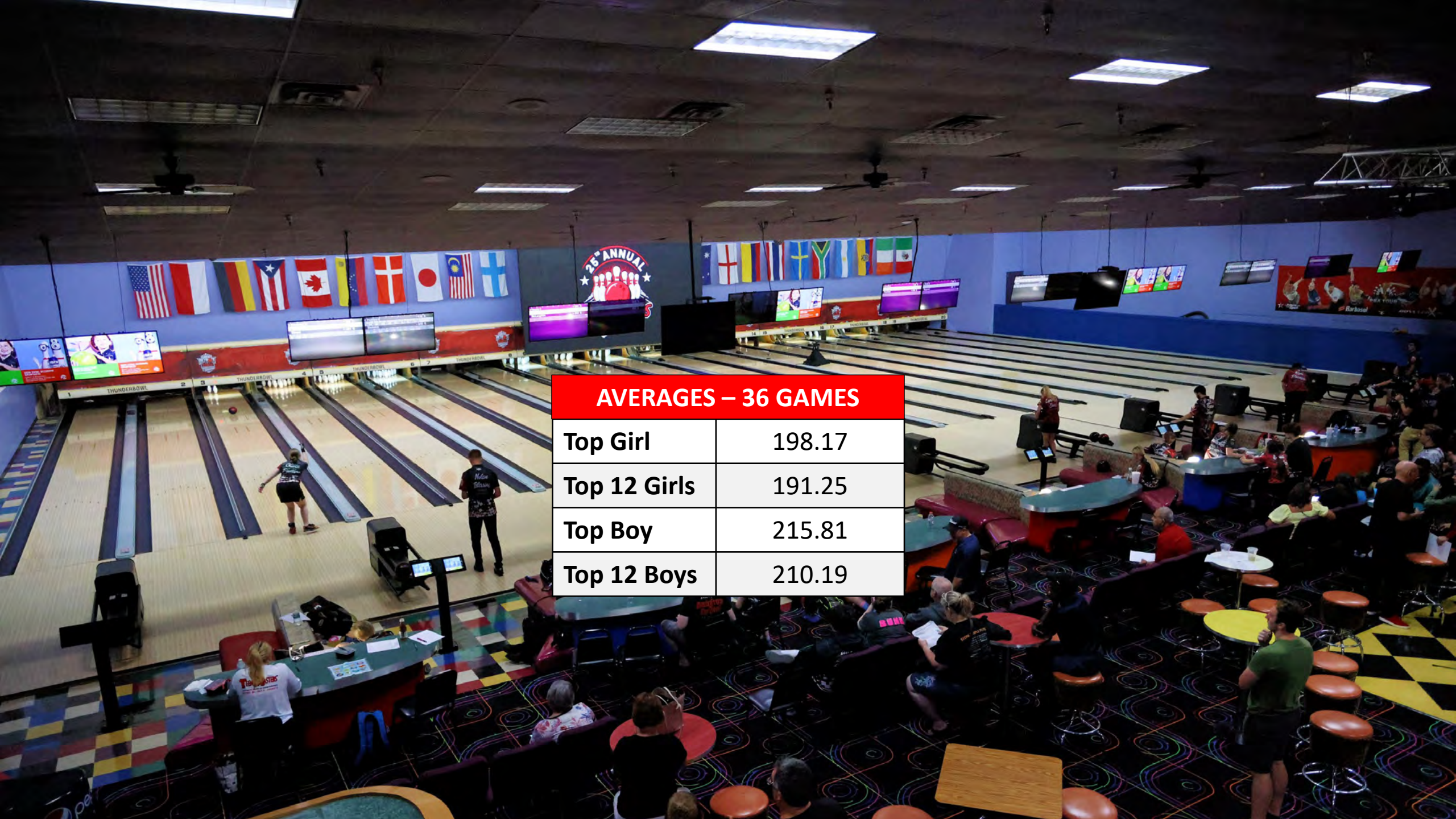
The background of the image is a solid dark red color, densely populated with numerous question marks of varying sizes and opacities, creating a textured, questioning atmosphere.

**How did the 8.5 mL
SKILL patterns hold up?**



2022 Teen Masters Scoring Pace

	Fresh	Burn	2X Burn
Top 25 Girls	185.57	186.14	186.48
Top 25 Boys	206.14	210.48	202.18

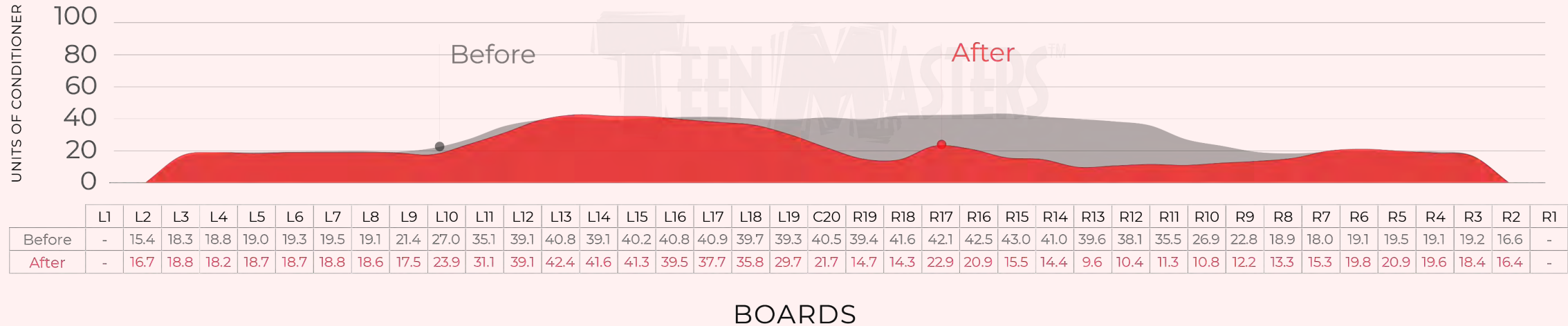


26th ANNUAL

AVERAGES – 36 GAMES	
Top Girl	198.17
Top 12 Girls	191.25
Top Boy	215.81
Top 12 Boys	210.19

2022 Teen Masters Oil Transition

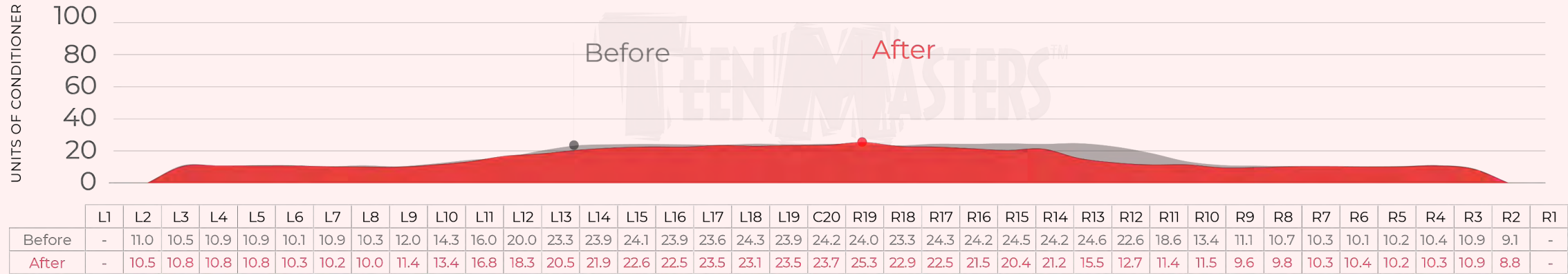
SKILL 46 8' before and after 27 games



2022 Teen Masters Oil Transition

SKILL 46

18' before and after 27 games

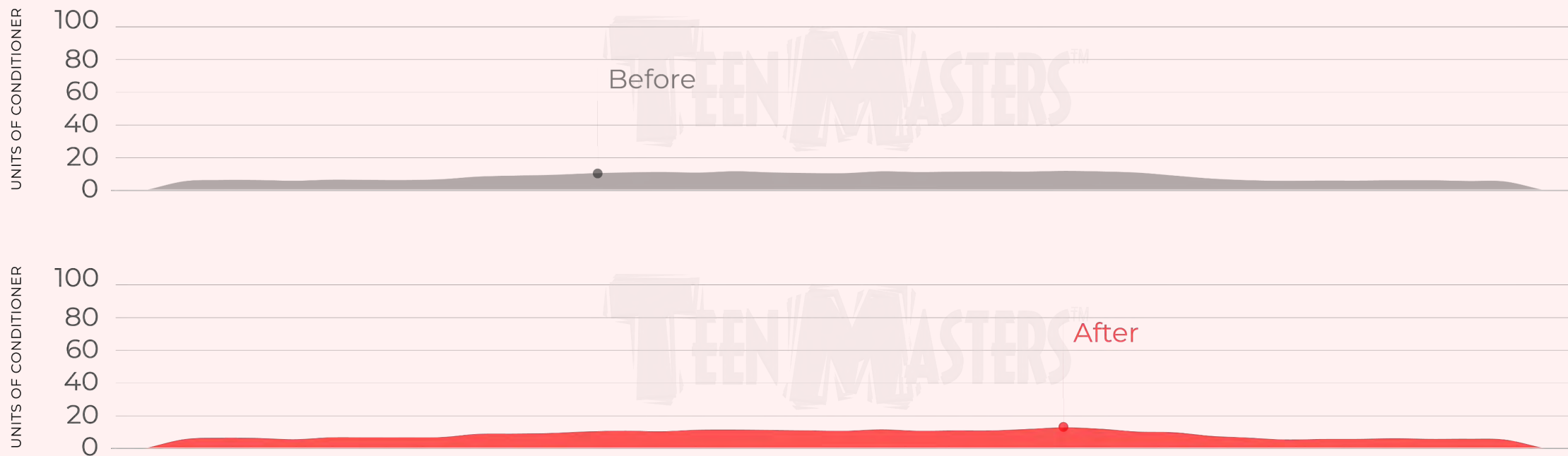


BOARDS

2022 Teen Masters Oil Volumes

SKILL 46

30' before and after 27 games



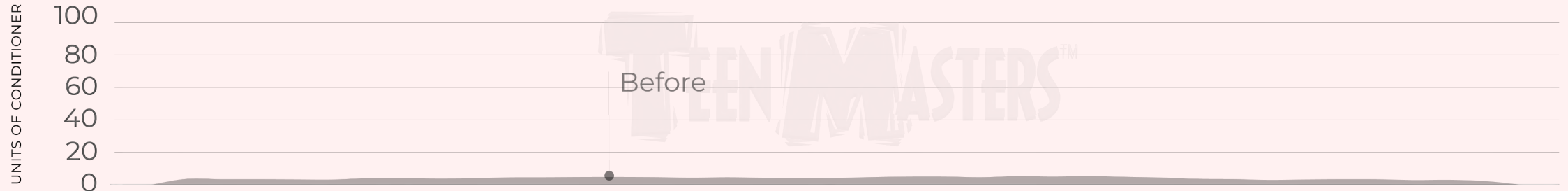
	L1	L2	L3	L4	L5	L6	L7	L8	L9	L10	L11	L12	L13	L14	L15	L16	L17	L18	L19	C20	R19	R18	R17	R16	R15	R14	R13	R12	R11	R10	R9	R8	R7	R6	R5	R4	R3	R2	R1
Before	-	5.2	5.9	5.9	5.4	6.1	5.9	5.9	6.4	8.0	8.6	9.0	9.9	10.5	10.8	10.4	11.2	10.5	10.2	10.1	11.2	10.8	11.0	11.1	11.1	11.5	11.1	10.4	8.6	6.8	5.8	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.7	5.7	5.3	5.0	-
After	-	5.2	6.0	5.9	5.1	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.4	8.4	8.6	8.9	9.9	10.4	10.0	10.9	11.0	10.8	10.5	10.3	11.1	10.3	10.5	10.5	11.4	12.4	11.5	9.8	9.3	7.2	6.1	4.9	5.2	5.3	5.7	5.3	5.4	4.9	-

BOARDS

2022 Teen Masters Oil Volumes

SKILL 46

42' before and after 27 games



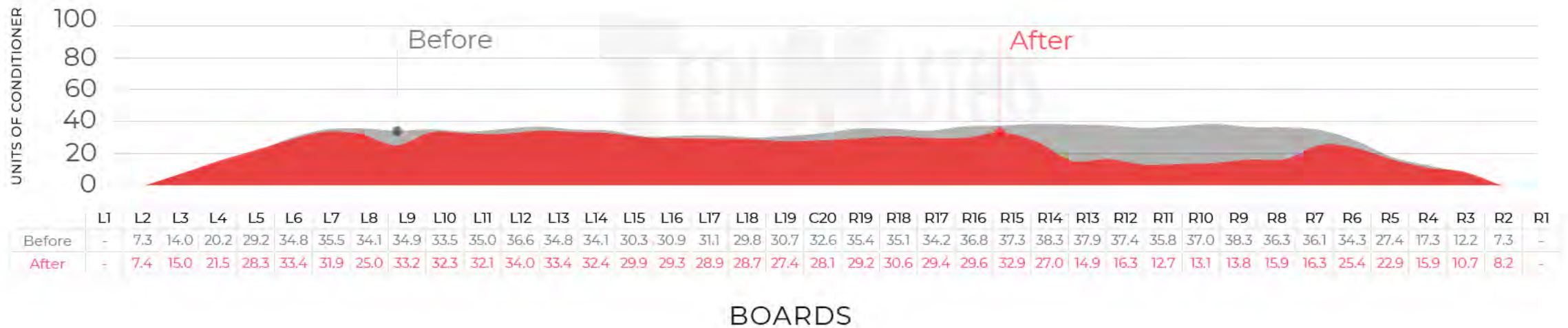
	L1	L2	L3	L4	L5	L6	L7	L8	L9	L10	L11	L12	L13	L14	L15	L16	L17	L18	L19	C20	R19	R18	R17	R16	R15	R14	R13	R12	R11	R10	R9	R8	R7	R6	R5	R4	R3	R2	R1
Before	-	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.2	4.1	4.1	3.9	4.1	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.3	4.6	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.7	5.1	5.1	4.7	5.3	5.1	5.4	4.9	4.4	3.7	3.5	3.0	3.3	3.5	3.4	2.9	3.0	2.3	-
After	-	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.9	4.2	4.4	4.1	4.6	4.8	4.9	5.0	5.4	4.9	4.4	4.9	4.7	4.4	4.9	4.8	4.8	5.3	5.8	6.0	6.4	6.2	5.9	4.9	4.6	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.4	3.7	3.3	2.2	-

BOARDS

2022 Teen Masters Oil Transition

SKILL 34

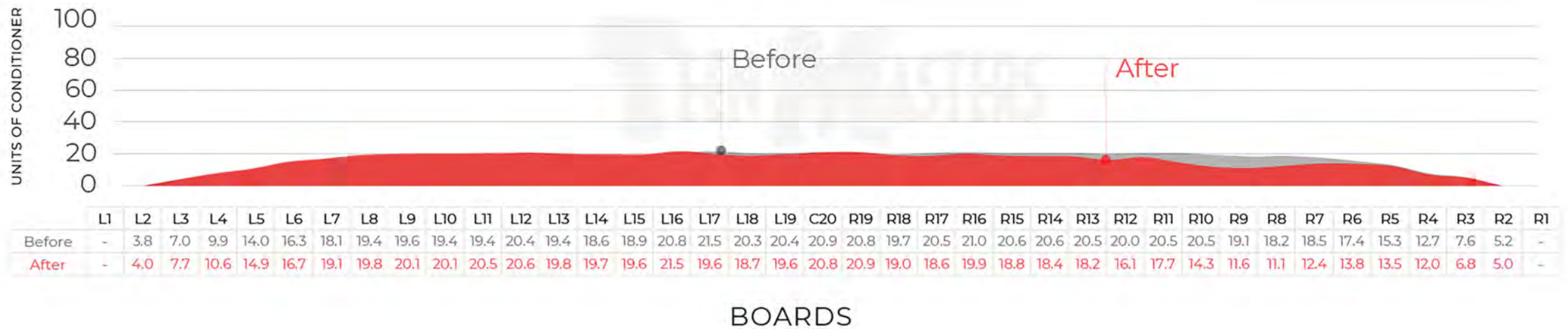
8' before and after 27 games



2022 Teen Masters Oil Transition

SKILL 34

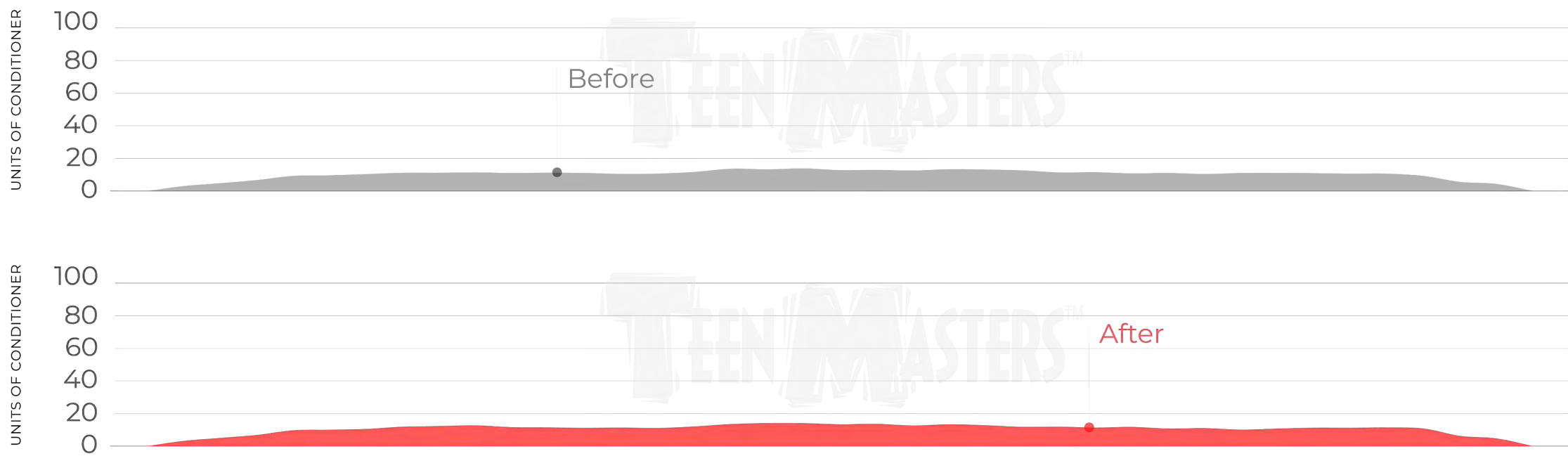
18' before and after 27 games



2022 Teen Masters Oil Volumes

SKILL 34

24' before and after 27 games



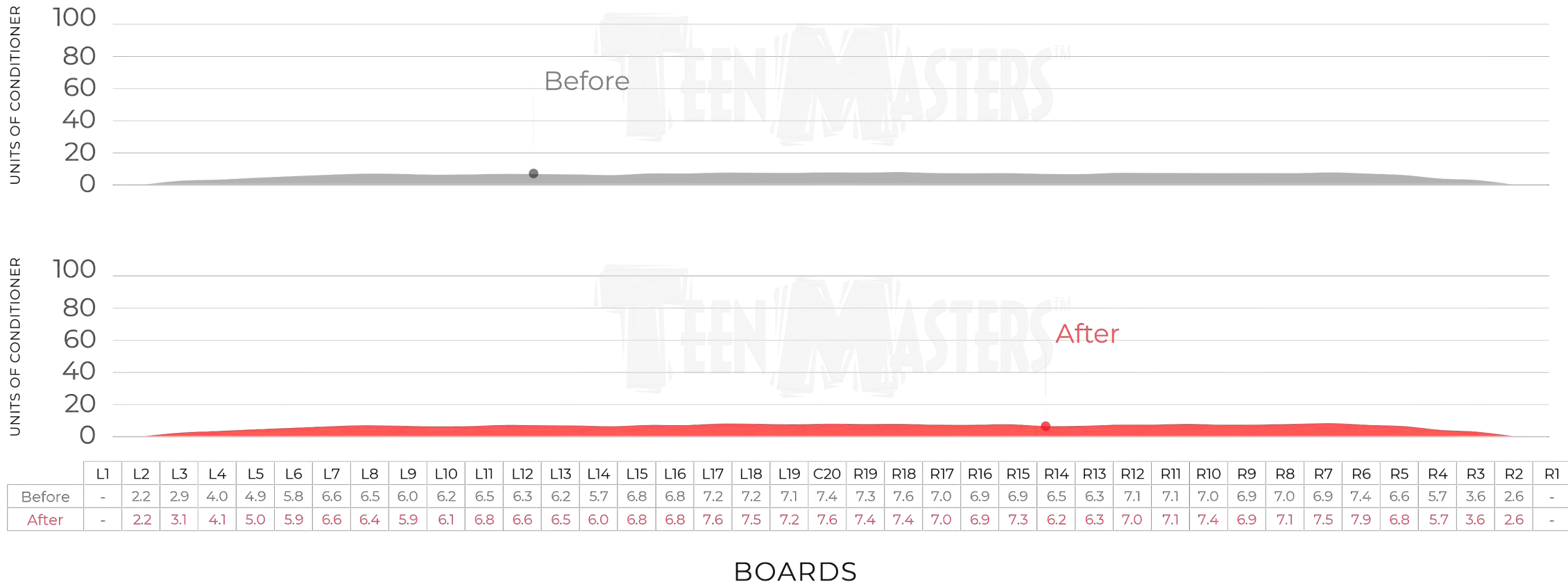
	L1	L2	L3	L4	L5	L6	L7	L8	L9	L10	L11	L12	L13	L14	L15	L16	L17	L18	L19	C20	R19	R18	R17	R16	R15	R14	R13	R12	R11	R10	R9	R8	R7	R6	R5	R4	R3	R2	R1
Before	-	3.0	4.8	6.7	9.2	9.6	10.3	11.1	11.1	11.4	11.0	11.2	11.0	10.4	10.6	11.7	13.6	13.2	13.8	12.7	12.9	12.5	13.3	13.1	12.6	11.4	11.5	10.7	11.0	10.4	11.0	11.1	10.9	10.6	10.6	9.2	5.5	4.3	-
After	-	3.0	4.8	6.7	9.6	10.0	10.5	11.8	12.2	12.6	11.5	11.4	11.1	11.3	11.0	12.0	13.4	14.0	14.0	13.3	13.5	12.6	13.3	12.7	11.7	11.8	11.3	11.7	10.7	10.9	10.0	10.7	11.2	11.1	11.4	10.1	5.5	4.3	-

BOARDS

2022 Teen Masters Oil Volumes

SKILL 34

33' before and after 27 games





Click [HERE](#) for the competitors' thoughts on the experience.



For more information visit
TeenMastersBowling.com



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SINCE 1997