Ebonite Releases Portable Wonder

by Joe Slowinski

Ebonite’s DigiTrax is a portable alternative to the Computer Aided Tracking System (CATS). DigiTrax is a software package that uses 30 frames a second of digital video to calculate a bowler’s ball path with a complex analysis of 16 individual data points including: laydown board, left distance, launch angle, launch boards covered, board at the arrows, launch speed, launch boards covered, midlane speed, entry speed, breakpoint board, entry board, backend boards covered, total boards covered, hook power and more.

With DigiTrax, users can review the amount of skid, shape of the shot trajectory as well as the backend reaction strength of individual shots. And, the user has access to all of the raw data. This allows for a complex analysis in tournament preparation such as comparison of bowling ball layouts, releases and lane conditions.

As illustrated in Graphic #1, the data is presented both graphically and numerically. So, users get the value of seeing the shape of the shot with the ability to analyze the raw data. One of the most useful features of DigiTrax is the statistical data of the average and range for all shots for the session. And, with the range data, DigiTrax identifies a bowler’s inconsistencies by displaying a red arrow when the range is too high. The data is also color coded by individual shot.

When you scroll over one of the columns of data, the shot is displayed graphically on the left with a thick blue line making it easy to see the visual match of the shot with the data. In addition, placing the cursor on any part of the graphic trajectory line will display both the board information and the actual distance that point on the ball path line for the user.

DigiTrax Category View of Data Analysis

DigiTrax provides an array of analysis opportunities by offering the user the ability to input different bowling balls as well as different lane conditions. So, analysis can include a review of ball reaction and repeatability with different bowlers and their releases, equipment layouts and lane conditions. This makes DigiTrax a very powerful analysis tool to measure ball paths as well as bowler consistency.

DigiTrax includes a data comparison feature with the ability to put different bowlers or multiple sessions of individual bowlers, side by side (see Graphic #2). With this feature, DigiTrax presents the average ball path and associated data from each session to allow for individual sessions of multiple bowlers or many sessions of individuals to be compared over time.
View of Analysis Comparison of Three Sessions of a Bowler

Since DigiTrax utilizes digital video, it is a perfect companion tool for coaches and athletes who have access to Bowlers MAP. Specifically, individual shots can be analyzed using both Bowlers MAP tools and DigiTrax. This provides a coach or player with the ability to diagnose the connection between a physical game issue identified in Bowlers MAP and the corresponding ball reaction in DigiTrax. The visual component of both software packages paired with the raw data has a powerful effect on the impact of analysis and the ability to improve bowlers.

In addition to the complex analysis tools, DigiTrax provides users with a well designed help page, including both video and hardcopy document support. From setting-up your tripod to calibrating your video camera for input, each of the important steps needed for DigiTrax are included in the help section with a how-to video which is easy to follow and easy to understand.

DigiTrax Help Page

DigiTrax is a must have for the serious program concerned with developing elite bowlers. And, to use DigiTrax, a user only needs a computer, digital video camera and a tripod. Specifically, for the coach of a national team or an elite athlete, DigiTrax is a cost-effective tool that provides data unavailable to the coach's naked eye. At approximately one-fifth of the cost of CATS, DigiTrax will provide coaching staff, pro shops or elite individual players with an inexpensive data analysis tool. And, as a software package, users can capture data anywhere due to the portability.

For more information contact Ebonite's customer service at customersvc@ebonite.com. DigiTrax's cost is US$1,995 for individuals or pro shops with a discounted price of US$1,795 for coaches or those with an active IBPSIA membership.