



Prodigy

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Let's lay the foundation by stating what a Prodigy is: a person having an extraordinary talent or ability. Now does this extraordinary talent or ability have to come naturally? Or can it come from ones sheer will and desire to work at something so he/she can become the best they can be? Can striving to learn every aspect of ones game inside and out be a talent? Is wanting feedback in order to take ones game up to the next level an ability? If so, then I am the next bowling Prodigy.

I got back into this sport a little over 2 years ago after not doing it competitively for 15 years. Between academics, college life, being an Assistant Store Manager, and getting married, I had no time to bowl competitively. One day, I decided that 15 years was enough, so I found a local pro shop, got fitted, bought 3 new balls, and away I went. When I was there, I met Dustin Casteel, a local bowler, who needed someone to bowl on his Thursday night team. That meant I had about 3 months to get decent.

Now, I didn't know anyone in the bowling scene, besides Dustin, but the more I practiced and was at local alleys, the more people I got to know. Antonio Medina, who is a Hammer Staffer, and Jeff Rausch are just a few local bowlers that really helped me with my game. Antonio really took me under his wing for quite some time. We practiced 3 to 4 nights a week and he really gave me some great one-on-one coaching. From doing one-steps, to showing me how to stay behind the ball, and just answering my questions he really got me going in the right direction. With his help I was able to earn my first average title and a league championship.

The next summer is when Rausch really made me realize that my spare game was killing my average. For weeks, we just worked on spares and the fundamentals of my spare game. I never realized how much my drift affected my spare game. So we corrected that and not over night I might add. Next we worked on a release that put an effective roll on the ball for my speed yet was easy to repeat. I took what I learned from practicing spares, for weeks on end, into my strike game and the difference it made was phenomenal. My 200-210 games went to 220-240 all because I took 2 months and worked on one aspect of my game. That year I went from averaging 210 to 222 and that was also the year I received my first honor score of 290. That same day, Matt McLaughin and I won the City Doubles Division for Davenport, IA. A little over 2 months later, I got another 290 in a Sunday tournament.

Through practice and determination nothing will ever be out of reach.

I'm Chris Parker...and I'm the next Prodigy.