

THE NEXT BOWLING PRODIGY

Hi ! My name is Daniel Nepomuceno and I'm the next bowling prodigy !

I am eleven years old and 6th Grade student in Chester, Virginia. I started bowling at the age of 3 years old. Mr. Pete Weber was the first PBA bowler that I tried to imitate. When I was 6 years old, I was using a 6 pound house ball and throwing two handed as a back-up release. My family and I went to Virginia Beach to meet the professional bowlers and watch them bowl. Norm Duke, Pete Weber, Parker Bohn III and Ryan Shafer were there. This was a very exciting experience for me to meet the professional bowlers in person. At the age of 8, my dad gave me my first bowling ball, which was a plastic ball to fit my span and it was a finger tip drilling. Being a right handed bowler, using a back up release, my ball goes to the left and hits the pocket on the left side. But with the finger tip drilling, I can throw the ball straight and make the ball hook to hit the pocket on the right side. At the age of 9, my dad bought me my first reactive ball, a 10 pound Spit fire by Storm. He chose the Spit Fire because he bowled his first 300 game with it. I was turning 10 years old and the Split Fire seemed too light for me so I switched to a 12 pound ball and got the T-Road solid and the Gravity Shift. It hooked a little harder and I was throwing it a speed of 13 mph. It was getting to the end of league and I ended up with a 127 average and I became the bowler with the second highest average in my age level at Fort Lee. Somehow I still need a ball that hooked harder, so I switched to a 14 pound. I had the Attitude Shift and the Prodigy. Last month, I was qualified to bowl in a youth tournament in Christiansburg, Virginia. The winner will qualify for state tournament. I made it in the first qualifying round but I did not make it on the second cut. If I had just made my spares, I would have probably made it to the 2nd round. Now I realized that making your spares is very important. But during my tournament I should have listened to my dad when he told me to switch back to 12 pound. My dad noticed that I have less revolution using a 14 pound ball. So when we came back to Fort Lee, during practice, I switched back to my 12 pound ball and I have increased my revolution rate and started to bowl in the 200 plus game. I was learning the drilling patterns of the ball. I have learned too that the ball break early when the pin

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is below the fingers and it gives you a longer break point if the pin is above the fingers. When I was 7, my dad told me about Paeng Nepomuceno. I learned that he was the youngest to win the world cup at age 19 and he has a total of 118 titles according to Bowling Digest. Since I have the same last name as Paeng, I'm thinking that I might be related to him.

My dad and I believe that Storm is the best bowling ball. I have noticed in the PBA Tour that there are more bowlers winning with Storm ball like Pete Weber, Norm Duke, Jason Belmonti, Rhino Page, Mike Scroggins, Bill O'Neill and even Paeng Nepomuceno was using a Storm ball when he was competing against the 2 handed bowler, Palamera.

These bowlers gave me so much inspiration that one day I want to win a PBA title and the World Cup Championship.