

My name is Dustin L Bohall and I am a 30 year old avid, somewhat obsessed, bowler. I started bowling in 2001 with my brother and a friend of his in a Midnight Mixed Trio league in Seymour Indiana at Starlite Bowl. It was a lot of fun and we ran away with the league having it wrapped up a little after 2/3rds of the way through. I had not bowled more than 3 times in my whole life prior to the league and used an old Storm house ball with no thumb and averaged a stout 147 that season! That summer of 2001 passed and I probably bowled maybe 1 or 2 times since league had ended. I hadn't given much thought to bowling league again but got the call from the guys in August to do it all over again. I thought to myself, "35 weeks is such a huge commitment!" and I really didn't want to do it again but succumbed to peer pressure and signed us up again. We had a great time once again and dominated the league but my average dropped from the robust 147 to a paltry 139! Little did I know that I was about to catch the "fever" for bowling and that would change my life for good.

Here is the story of how bowling became so much more to me than just the Midnight Mixed Trios league. It all started with a friend of mine asking me to go with her to visit a friend of hers up at a nearby college. So I talked my buddy into going with us and we all headed up to Franklin College to visit a girl we all went to high school with. This girl basically had a locker right next to me since 8th grade but we never really spoke. We hit it off really well that night and have not spent more than a night or two apart since that May night in 2003. She would later become my wife and little did I know that I was going to be marrying into a die-hard bowling family! Both of her grandma's were in the local Hall of Fame and one of which had the first local women's 600 series more than 40 year prior. Her Father is in the local Hall of Fame and was the best around for some stretch of time. That summer I decided to bowl a summer trio league against her and all her family. Bowling had lost its place as something to pass the time at midnight on a Wednesday night to something that would start to consume my every thought, other than the wife of course! Her family talked me into putting my thumb in the ball and learning a controlled hook and bowling got a whole lot more fun and I got a ton more competitive! I finished the summer league at a 169 average and shot myself a 266 game that last night. I was forever a changed man.

The following season I joined my first 2 men's leagues and bowled a mixed league with my future wife and her parents and had a high average of 192. I entered into the 1st Annual Indiana State Mixed tournament and won the All-Events title! I shot my first honor score of a 290 game with my Storm Eraser that season and bought my first real bowling ball. The Storm Triple x and I had found the ball company for me. I won a couple local tournament s that season and was named Seymour Bowler of the Year.

The next season was great as well. I shot two 299's, my first 300 and a -4(296). I finished the year at a 218 average and haven't averaged lower that that since. That was also the last year of the Seymour BA as we had decided to merge with the ladies to form the Seymour USBC. That was the next logical step for me to run for the board. I was voted onto the board that spring as a Director thus beginning my involvement in trying to get bowling back to what it used to be in Seymour.

I have remained heavily involved in trying to grow the sport in our area as well as participating in as many leagues as my life allows. I took on the job of Association Manager in 2009 and I am doing all that I can to get back our bowlers that we have lost over the last several years. I recently bowled in my first Indiana Masters Tournament cashing but just missing the cut. I was pleased with the experience and will surely be back again every year that I am capable. I am a local delegate to the State Indiana meeting and try to lend a hand to the local youth working on improving their bowling game. Last season I finished with my highest average to date of 228. I have currently had 8-300 games and 4-800 series and several 11-in a row games.

Prodigy is defined as follows:

prod·i·gy[próddəjee] ▶

NOUN

- 1. somebody with exceptional talent:** somebody who shows an exceptional talent at an early age.

I may not fit the stereotypical mold for Prodigy but I feel like as long as I attempt to give back to bowling what all it has given to me then I am a great asset to the sport.