

## **The Next Bowling Prodigy**

“It’s not getting a strike, but rather if you can pick up the spare that defines you as a bowler.” This is a quote that I have thought of on my own. It explains how I feel about bowling, what bowling means to me, and what I think it means to be a bowler. Moreover, hidden in this quote is the definition of the Bowling Prodigy.

I believe that bowling is a learning process. Not many people pick up a bowling ball for the first time and bowl exceptionally well. The very few who do bowl well the first time are just lucky, and they certainly don’t bowl as well the second time. Even someone with a natural inclination for the sport will not bowl exceptionally well from the start. To become a great bowler, one must work hard to improve their skills, learn from their mistakes and experiences, and be willing to adapt to and rise above all of the challenges that bowlers have to face. Actually, when put together, these elements explain who the Bowling Prodigy really is.

I believe that I am the next Bowling Prodigy. I believe this not because I think that I am or will be the best bowler, but because I know I am and always will be a combination of the elements that are stated above. I consider myself to be a great bowler, however, I was not always a great bowler. I worked hard from the ground up to become the bowler that I am today. This is what I believe to be the true Bowling Prodigy. The Bowling Prodigy is someone that has started from the true roots of bowling and works hard to become the best he can be in bowling.

I started bowling when I was five years old, an age where I was too small and weak to roll a six pound ball with two hands. But I pushed through, worked hard, and improved my skills. Now ten years later, I lift a fifteen pound ball over my head during my back-swing. This is an example of what it means to start from the roots of bowling.

The Bowling Prodigy is someone that can accept loss and learn from that loss. This is the meaning of the quote that is at the beginning of this essay. Bowling is a sport that always gives you a second chance. Even the best bowler does not get a strike every frame; it is impossible. The second shot, the chance to make the spare, is what determines the type of bowler you are. A great bowler will not become discouraged. A great bowler will settle for the spare, knowing that strikes will soon come. The Bowling Prodigy will realize why they did not get a strike, adapt to the lanes, and learn from their mistake. This is the mark of the next Bowling Prodigy.

Likewise, as the next Bowling Prodigy, I view a loss as a second chance and an opportunity to improve myself as a bowler. Through my experiences, I have had many crushing and devastating defeats. On the other hand, I have learned from what I did wrong and have come back stronger and more determined after each loss. I focus on little victories rather than on big ones, because I realize that the little victories are stepping stones to the big ones. The true

measure of a bowler is whether or not he still has the confidence and will to correct his mistakes and step onto the approach once more after a loss.

A misconception is that the next Bowling Prodigy is the best bowler to ever roll a bowling ball. This is far from the truth. The Bowling Prodigy is not invincible and he is not the best. On the contrary, the Bowling Prodigy strives to be the best of himself. As the next Bowling Prodigy, I do not accept falling short of my efforts to become the best of myself. I know and understand that no matter how good I become, there will always be a better bowler than me out there somewhere. I know I will be beaten and I am ready to accept the loss. However, knowing that I tried my best is enough of a victory for me to continue bowling. This factor of endurance is another thing that makes me the next Bowling Prodigy.

This attitude has led me to many victories throughout my bowling career. In addition, it is always useful to have a great company on your side in order to give you an extra edge. For me, this company has been Storm. With Storm by my side I will continue to define myself as a bowler by always trying to pick up the spare and always coming back for a second shot. And above all, the factors mentioned in this essay have made me the best bowler I can be and they have made me the next Bowling Prodigy.

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan LaCovara". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

**Jonathan LaCovara**