

## The New Face of Bowling

Wanting a new face in the bowling world? Tired of seeing the same PBA stars win every weekend? Looking for the next bowling Prodigy? Look no further than me, Josh Tharp, one of the games new amateur bowlers. I've been around bowling all my life with my dad bowling since I can remember. I was fascinated by it and had my own ball by the time I turned seven. I didn't join a league at that time though. I finally joined a league in the fall of '08. I started with a plastic 8lbs. ball and eventually worked my way up to a 14lbs. ball that was pre-drilled. For my first year I had a very low average only carrying a 107. I drastically improved the following year raising my average 21 pins.

In my first year my father and I were the Parent/Youth division winners of the Narci Trass Memorial Tournament. That same year my father and I qualified for the Missouri State Family Doubles Championship by having some of the top scores in the first and second rounds of that tournament. I also qualified for the Pepsi Youth Championships. Our league went to state that year and I placed 27<sup>th</sup> in the all events category. The following year I went on to have my leagues highest game (191), highest series (516), and highest boy's average (128). I went back to the Pepsi Youth Championships for my performance. My father and I once again teamed up to go back to the Missouri State Family Doubles Championship where I would beat him in the first round of qualifying. Following that tournament my accomplishments only grew. My doubles partner and I claimed victory not only in the Columbia City Tournament but were also crowned the Missouri State Doubles

Champions. I am now the current leader of this year's National Youth Championships in division 4 singles. This was made possible with the support of my coaches that took me there.

All of my accomplishments are stepping stones in my long road to the PBA Hall of Fame. I plan to keep bowling in my local youth league until college and to make my high school's bowling team. Throughout that part of my career I also plan to make the USBC Junior USA Team, win the Junior Gold Championships, and the Teen Masters tournaments. I will then attend college on a bowling scholarship. While there I have my sights set on winning the USBC Intercollegiate Team Championships and the USBC Intercollegiate Singles Championships. After this amazing youth career I will then bowl on the PBA Tour, be Player of the Year, and will eventually be a part of Team Storm and bowl for them at the PBA Team Shootout. I'll be an inspiration to kids all around the world, helping to be a part of involving kids in youth leagues. All this will become possible for me through my determination for excellence, perseverance on the tougher lanes, and hard work on all the weekends that I set aside for practice.