

Like Music and Chess, Bowlers Have Prodigies

I come from a long line of bowlers. My grandparents bowl, my uncles and my mom bowls, as well as my step-father. I guess you could say I was “born with a bowling ball in my hand.” That probably would have been a little painful for my mother. So I like to say that I was born to bowl. Growing up I've looked forward to each school holiday, league days, and the summer for various bowling events.

When I was entering school, I also received my first bowling ball from my uncle. One of my favorite childhood movies at the time was “A Goofy Movie.” This is significant because the bowling ball featured the character Goofy. I remember during the school year, I always looked forward to holidays so I could go to the bowling alley. My grandparents bowled a league on Monday mornings and I would beg them to let me bowl on these rare “bowling days” or holidays. I don't remember them ever letting me use bumpers and this taught me that the gray boards were not friendly to my score. On holidays when my grandparents were not bowling, my grandfather and I would bowl together.

As I grew older, I decided that I wanted to take the first real step in a bowling career. I joined a youth league on Saturday mornings and was excited to hold a double digit average of 67. Before I was ten years old, my grandfather and I finished 2nd place in an Adult/Youth Tournament with my mom and I finishing in 3rd place. Later, my mom decided that I should move to another league where there was more competition and I would bowl with older kids. My average improved steadily each year since then and I currently hold a 194 average after almost 10 years of bowling leagues. With my current abilities, I bowl as well as my step dad and uncles. Although 300-less, my high game is 268 and I have several other 250+ scores.

The ability to bowl weekly has given me even further opportunities. With practice and learning when I made a mistake, and how to correct it, I consistently learn how to improve my bowling game.

Kennon Riley
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As I learn how to be a better bowler, I participate in as many leagues and tournaments as possible. Recently I won a league at my local bowling center, while my grandpa, my mom, my friend Dylan and I won a "Mutt and Jeff" team league. In tournaments I am usually very adept to changing lane conditions. My favorite tournament is the Jena Kay Hutchings Memorial Scholarship Tournament in Plano, Texas. I have only bowled in it twice; yet the first year I barely missed the cut while this past year I finished in the top eight. Despite the fact that I haven't won a tournament, I still consider myself to be a leading competitor.

As I complete my education, I hope that I can maintain a presence in the bowling world. I understand that as a youth I am barely scratching the surface, but I possess the vitality to succeed in the real world. I will graduate distinguished in the classroom and I feel as if I can become a professional bowler in the near future. I have the mentality and the future appears promising to me. With these gifts, I will strive to become the next bowling prodigy along with being a member of the Storm team.