

The Next Bowling Prodigy

My name is Mary Kate Schmidt and I want to tell you why I am the next bowling Prodigy. I am an eleven year old girl who now has a 115 average. My best game so far is 215. I have been bowling since I was about 4 years old, but have been bowling in a league for two years now. I think I am continuing to get better every time I roll a ball. My average improved over 30 pins since I started league bowling. I won a trophy in the regional Pepsi tournament in 2009. It was my first tournament and I was 9 years old. In 2010, I also started bowling in the Junior Bowlers Scholarship Tour. I placed third in my first tournament and in first place in three more. I beat my 17 year old brother in the finals TWICE!! I even won the end of the year championship in ladder finals coming from fourth place. I am usually one of the youngest bowlers, but love bowling against the older kids. My nickname is "Shorty" but I bowl BIG! I have bowled in the USBC Youth Open in Indianapolis, Indiana for the last two years. In 2009, I won scholarship money in two events. In 2010, it looks like I will earn some more. I can't wait to go to Las Vegas next year!

I bowl because it is fun, but am dedicated to becoming the best bowler I can be. I have a 10 pound STORM AGENT bowling ball that I love to use. Tom Zernia is my awesome coach at Lighthouse Lanes in West Bend, Wisconsin. He does not yell at me when I do something wrong, but encourages me to do better and congratulates me when I get a strike or pick up a spare. He is a great coach and helps a lot of kids be great bowlers. He is a prodigy maker! I bowl at a wonderful bowling center and have a great team of friends who help each other to improve and become the best bowlers we can. I have two older brothers who bowl and most of my cousins bowl, too. I bowl all year, even during my volleyball, basketball and fast-pitch softball seasons.

I feel that I am the next bowling prodigy because I practice like it is a competition. I like to bowl because it is fun, it is rewarding, and the scholarship money will help me in the future. Bowling challenges me not only physically, but mentally too. Strikes are great, but figuring out how to pick up a hard spare is a challenge I love to tackle. To help me get better, I think I should look at things with a better attitude and not get mad when things don't go the way I think they should. I am dedicated to become better, not just for myself but for the other people I bowl with, too. I want to win, I want my partner to win, and I want my team to win. I want to learn everything that can help me be a better bowler. The Storm Team can definitely help me do that. To win this contest and have my friends get to learn from the Storm Team, too, would be unbelievable. My goals are: to keep improving, qualify for Junior Gold, win Junior Gold, win a USBC Youth Championship, make Team USA, bowl in high school and college and on the PBA tour, and bowl a 300 game or two, or three or more, Look out Kelly Kulick, here comes MaryKate Schmidt! I know with practice and focus I can keep moving closer to those goals. I can reach them faster with the help of the Storm Team!

Mary Kate Schmidt