

Could I Be the Next Bowling Prodigy?

By Matthew Cherney

Hello, I'm Matthew Cherney, I'm fourteen years old and I believe that I am the next bowling prodigy. Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary defines prodigy as "a highly talented child". I don't know about being a prodigy but I do know that I really enjoy bowling and that I am getting very good at it.

Last September my mom signed me up for a bowling league with my friends because she thought I might enjoy it and because she wanted me to spend less time with my electronic games. Boy am I glad she did! I found out that I love to bowl and my scores have really improved in the short period of time that I have been bowling competitively.

I think one of the reasons I like bowling so much and why I am becoming so good at it is because it's "in my blood"; it's genetic. My dad has always been a good bowler. He bowled in a league with me this summer and he ended the season with an average of 182 even though he hasn't bowled in almost twenty years. My dad's brother and my dad's father – my grandpa Cherney – are also very good bowlers. The Cherney family holds an annual "Cherney Tourney" bowling tournament each spring because the Cherney's love to bowl. Last spring I bowled on a team with my dad and my grandpa and we each had at least one game over 200. My grandpa on my mom's side of the family also loves to bowl and has been bowling in leagues for over 50 years. My grandpa Schenian is 80 years old and he still bowls in his league every week.

Prior to starting in my bowling league last September, I had only bowled a couple of times. I began the season with an average of 110. With a little help from my coaches, my bowling scores quickly improved and I ended the season in March with an average of 160. At the awards banquet I received trophies for Most Improved Average and a trophy for coming in first place in the 9 pin tournament. My team also received a trophy for taking 2nd place.

The highest game I have bowled so far is a 248 but I am working hard to improve my game so I can bowl my first 300 game. So far I have had over twenty 200+ games. My highest series that I have bowled was a 589. I also have had a 588 series. My name has been in the Sports section of our local newspaper several times for games where I bowled a 200+ game.

I like to bowl because it's relaxing, fun and it's challenging. I like bowling against myself to improve each week. It helps me feel proud of myself because I'm becoming really good at something. I think the most challenging part about bowling is picking up splits and trying to be consistent. So far the best bowling moment I've had was when I bowled seven strikes in a row when I bowled my 248 game.

My goals for the future include bowling my first 300 game and my first 600 series during the next year. I will strive to continue to improve my average and I will compete in a variety of bowling tournaments. I also plan to bowl in leagues for the rest of my life, just like my grandpa.

Am I the next bowling prodigy? Only time and my bowling scores will tell.

