

Bowling...The "X" Generation

B is for the balls revving at 450 rpm...

O is for the specialty oil pattern striking fear in all who roll...

W is for winning and overcoming the obstacles before me...

L is for listening to the crack of the ball striking the pins...

I is for intelligent choices made for challenging conditions...

N is for never giving up, even when the "10-pin" stands on a perfect shot...

G is for God, making all things possible.

My name is Max Slevcove, I'm 19 years old and would like you to consider me as the next 'bowling prodigy'. I've been bowling since I was 12...actually since I was in my mother's womb. She finished her league exactly one month before I was born. And I did have a bowling birthday party when I was 4, but really didn't fall in love with the sport until 12 when I joined a youth league at Westminster Lanes. My first game, a whopping 85; my second game an 88.

It's been a triumphant uphill from there. After a few weeks I got my own ball and shoes and started getting into the 100s. After about a year, my youth director told me about a JAT Tournament that was being hosted by Westminster Lanes that Sunday and thought I might like to try it. I did and have been hitting the tournament circuit ever since. One of the best parts, I'm earning scholarship monies to help pay for my education. I was even fortunate enough to earn the title "2008 Bowler of the Year" in JATFC as well as being named to the "All Stars". An honor I hold dear to my heart. My first 300 game and my first 800 series will stay with me forever. I was shaking from the nerves, but also from the excitement of achieving a goal many don't accomplish in a lifetime.

Believe me, it has not been an easy task but with the help of some great coaches like Virginia Norton...she still keeps me on the straight and narrow, as well as Mark Baker to keep my head screwed on straight, I've been able to improve my game to a season average for 2009-2010 of 207. My goal now is to increase my "sport" shot average to hit the 200s, currently I'm holding at 189. But I feel the

extra practice sessions and tournaments are helping me and I should get there in no time. Bowling has given me so much that I look forward to the time when I can give back, like Virginia and Mark have given me, the abilities, strength and self-confidence to another young bowler; that time may be just around the corner as a kid I know has asked if I could help him bowl like me. I'm honored to give it a try.

This past year I started college and had the opportunity to bowl for CSU-Long Beach in the college tournaments. What a blast! Don't get me wrong, I get frustrated with the difficult shot patterns laid down, but I very much enjoy the camaraderie amongst the teams and the good friends I've made throughout the season.

Bowling is a sport I can continue throughout my life, but more importantly, I will carry the friends I've made while doing it forever with me. Bowling is not only about setting and achieving goals, making the strikes and spares, but also about the friends, family and smiles created along the way. Let's go bowling!!!

