

I always knew bowling would be there for me. Growing up with a bowling pin set at home, I had my own alley set up in the kitchen. My mom had to put the stickers on the kitchen floor and teach me how to set up the pins for myself. The alley we set up ran the length of the kitchen and ended at the step down area leaving the kitchen. I would spend hours smashing the pins into the pit. I found myself watching bowling every week on television as I grew up. I would envision myself competing against the best in the world while bowling on my alley in the kitchen. I would compete against them simultaneously when it was my turn. I kept score and would try to beat their scores while watching them on TV. Over the years I found myself being naturally talented, motivated, with an unrelenting drive to excel.

Once I purchased my first bowling ball and started bowling, I was hooked. I had success early and often. I found my natural talent put my average in the 178-185 range. It wasn't long before I was knocking on the 200 average door. I entered many local handicap tournaments and found myself doing well and winning matches. At these tournaments I learned that I needed practice picking up spares more consistently. Having been mostly self taught and an advocate to reading books and watching what the pros do consistently. I found my hard work and vastly improving game advantageous. Through this hard work I ended up winning the year end championship tournament in 2000. I'm a very motivated bowler and will try anything to improve my game. I first noticed that I've been succeeding when week in and week out at leagues, fellow teammates and bowlers would boast when they beat me for the night.

So far my talent has landed me 3 local tournament championships. I've had 6 perfect games, as well as a 299 and 297. My highest series is a 790 twice. I won the Illinois state bowling tournament in scratch and handicap while competing in doubles. I have finished 3rd in scratch all events twice as well in this tournament. I am proud to have been a part of 8 league championship teams. One of the championships was in a scratch league.

My future desires relating to bowling would lead me towards competing at a higher level. I would love to try bowling in the regional program, but have not had the opportunity to learn the intricacies of the game. Unfortunately I did not get an opportunity to bowl in high school or college. Without a coach or mentor for the most part, I have had good success. Winning this contest would allow me to get some pointers and learn more about the parts of the game that I'm lacking. This contest means allot to me because I would get a chance to meet a professional bowler, get guidance, and put the right equipment in my hands to compete at a higher level. I'm looking forward to learning more about drilling, layout, lane play strategies, practice exercises, along with general tips.

I would also love to give back to the sport and teach others the game that I love by getting involved in coaching to help younger kids succeed as I have. To this day I can still envision the alley I started on and hear the pins crashing back into the pit.