

The Next Prodigy

In my mind, being a prodigy means to excel in a certain field after just beginning at a young age. When I first started bowling I was 15, a bit older than I would think would qualify for the title of a prodigy. Then I started thinking and after three short years I had already gotten more achievements than I had ever expected. In my very first year bowling I had placed 7th in my singles division during a cities tournament in Taunton MA, an alley I had never bowled at. At that point I knew what I wanted and it was to become a better bowler. I practiced hard over the summer months, and after leaving my competitive league with a 141 average, I returned the next season with a 173 average. This made mine one of the top five averages on my league. I was so proud of what I had accomplished but I knew I could still do better, so I practiced more, and at this years cities I placed 4th in singles competition in New Bedford, MA besting my own personal goals. That same year I qualified for the All-Stars tournament in which the top five players in each league compete to see who is the better team. For my first year ever qualifying for that tournament, I had to bowl first for the team, and with their help we all got to a second place victory.

Winning patches is another great achievement to me, because it shows that you worked hard and achieved your goals to get that patch. I currently hold 13 different patches including a 225 game patch, a 600 series patch, and 140 pins over my average series patch. One of my greatest achievements would have to be bowling three consecutive 191's during league play, even if they stopped considering that an achievement. I still think of it as one because it's a very rare accomplishment to see done during league play, or any time for that matter. My father and I also won the Somerset Suburban League parent and child tournament.

Some people may not think this is the material of a next prodigy, but when I tell people that I've only been bowling now for three years they have some trouble believing it for themselves. Both my parents bowled on a league before I was born, so I suppose bowling is simply in my blood. My competitive side is thanks to my dad, who gives me the friendly competition I needed to improve my own game, and scores to overcome him, and move onto the next challenges. I wouldn't have improved my game if not for the members of the league I currently signed up with for the third season this year. They pushed me to become a better bowler by simply being great bowlers and competitors. Watching them bowl in the 200's made me want to improve so that I could surpass them and become the best bowler I could be.

I truly hope to surpass my teammates this year, who are some very great bowlers, competitors, and friends. Achieving all this in such a short amount of time, and after months of hard practice and perseverance, I am proud to say that I could become the next prodigy, so long as there is someone better than myself. I will try to improve my scores and also myself so that I can meet the challenge of my competitors and friends. I hope that everyone who reads this will think the same way I do. Even if there is someone better than you, you can always improve and reach higher standards, and maybe then you can become a prodigy yourself.

Thank you for this opportunity,

Nathaniel Chamberland