

PRODIGY (OR PERHAPS PROTEGE)

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Quentin Mamer a.k.a. Protege. Why am I called Protege you ask? One day at a bowling tournament, my friend Gannon Williams just started calling me Prodigy. Actually, he called me Protege. Gannon likes to do things his own way, so he put a twist on Prodigy and called me Protege. The name has stuck ever since. I do love it when I walk into a bowling alley and hear Gannon or another friend shout, "Protege!". When I saw this Prodigy contest I knew I, Protege, had to enter.

We moved to Columbia, Missouri when I was seven years old, and my parents signed me up for a bowling league hoping I would make friends. The first day of league Mother tried to put me in the bumper division. Humiliating! Apparently, Mom did not see me as a bowling prodigy. I prevailed and joined the bantam preps! I was hooked on bowling from that first day of league. When league was over that morning my new youth director asked me if I had ever watched the PBA on television. I had not, but by the following Sunday I was a diehard PBA fan. I knew what I wanted to do when I grew up!

I ended that first season of bowling with a respectable 98 average. My average has improved over the years. I now average in the 220's on house shot, and I just averaged 199 in a sport shot league.

I had been bowling a couple seasons when we found out about the Kansas City Open Tournament held in the Kansas City, Missouri area. I had to go and give it a try! I was ten years old and in Division 4 at my first tournament. I made it to the stepladder finals and took 4th place. I quickly moved up through the divisions. I made it up to Division 1 briefly when I was eleven years old and then permanently from the age of twelve. My first stepladder finals in Division 1 was at the age of thirteen. I ended up taking 3rd. I captured my first victory in Division 1 at the age of 14!

My father later switched jobs, and we moved to Kansas City, Missouri. We heard about the Heart of America Junior Classic Tournament. I began bowling this tournament regularly when I was thirteen years old. I started out in the Classic Division my first season. I made five out of five cuts to day two and took 1st place once that year. The next season I moved up to the Master Division, winning once and getting High Qualifier twice. Fast forward to this season. I made all seven out of seven cuts including a 1st place finish, a 2nd place, and two High Qualifiers. I received the Bowler of the Year Award for the Master Division.

I began competing in the Masters Division of the Junior Bowling Club Gateway Tournament in the St. Louis, Missouri area this last season. I attended seven tournaments, making six cuts. I was High Qualifier once, got 2nd place once, and took 1st place at the end of the year invitational tournament.

The Jim Beleele Memorial Junior/Collegiate Regional Tournament is an event I have bowled in the past three years, each time in the Open Division. In 2008 I got 3rd place in All Events, and in 2009 I took 1st place in All Events. This year I placed 1st in the scratch division of the scholarship tournament.

I have attended the USBC Junior Gold Championship Tournament three times. I made the cut to the top 150 this year and ended up 116th. There is definitely room for improvement, but I am proud of myself.

My first 800 series was an 814 when I was fourteen years old. I have also bowled an 813 series. I have two 300 games and four 11 in a rows.

In 2009 I was presented the Star of Tomorrow Award by the Greater Kansas City, Missouri USBC Association. This year I had the distinct honor of being the inaugural inductee into the new Youth Hall of Fame for our association. My award was presented by Norm Duke, which made it all the more special.

I had an operation in July of 2008 and had to take several months off from all physical activity. This was difficult for me. When I got the okay to begin to gradually do things again, I started off bowling just one game at a time twice a week. Then I tried two games at a time. Then three games and so on. My first tournament back after surgery was rough. I think my biggest fear was injury. I got the nerves out of my system, and after that Protege was back! The time off made me realize how much bowling truly was my passion and how much harder I was willing to work to achieve my goals.

I begin my last year of high school this fall. After that I plan to attend a college with a men's bowling program. Wichita State University, Newman University, and Lindenwood University are schools I am interested in. I am hoping these universities will consider me an asset to their programs.

I hope to learn a great deal and bowl well in college, graduate, and move on to my ultimate dream of becoming an exempt bowler on the PBA tour.