

Robert B. Marshall III

Superior Performance



Robert B. (Bob) Marshall III, was born on August 12, 1935 in a rural area of Cecil County, Maryland known then as Battle Swamp. He died suddenly of heart failure on November 20th, 1993 at his home in Aberdeen, Maryland.

A multi-sport star at Rising Sun High School in the early 1950s, Bob didn't discover bowling until after graduation in 1953 when his future wife, Isabelle, took him to the Community Bowling Lanes in Elkton on a date with a couple of friends. In spite of an inauspicious beginning he was hooked and returned soon and often to learn the sport.

Within a few years, Bob had joined bowling leagues in Elkton and at the Ideal Lanes in Aberdeen when it opened in 1957. He soon raised his average into the 180's.

By 1960 Bob has started traveling in search of competition. He bowled regularly in the Eastern United States Bowling Association and Showcases, predecessors of the PBA. 1962 marked his first trip to the American Bowling Congress' National Championships. That year in Des Moines, Iowa, Bob and his partner, Tony Moscato, took the lead in doubles with a 1318 score and eventually finished fourth.

In 1963, 27 years old with a wife, three sons ages 6, 3 and 18 months, and a daughter on the way, Bob made a major change in his life. He quit his job at Public Health Services in Perry Point, borrowed \$7,000 for a down payment, and joined with Tony Moscato and Joe Ciufo, Sr. to purchase Ideal Lanes. With no experience in the bowling business Bob became the manager and the name was changed to Harford Lanes. For the next 20 years, Bob had little time for anything but bowling.

His bowling accomplishments include –

Three Maryland State All Stars/US Open qualifiers

Two Delaware All Stars/US Open qualifiers. (1967, '68, '70, '71 and '75).

ABC Tournament

32 consecutive from 1962-1993

Life-time average of 192

Finished 4th in doubles with Tony Moscato in 1962

Finished 8th in singles in 1970
Made match play of Masters in 1968

Maryland State Tournament

Four team titles, one doubles, and one singles.

Cecil-Harford and Greater Baltimore Bowling Association Tournaments

Seven team titles, two doubles titles, three singles titles, and one all-events title.

Bob won several Baltimore 700 Club Tournaments through the 70's. When the Cecil-Harford 700 Club was formed in the mid 80's he had pretty much "retired" from competitive tournaments. However, he bowled in one tournament at Harford Lanes in November 1988, qualified 5th for the stepladder and proceeded to win the tournament. In 1987, at age 52, he finished 2nd in the Maryland State Team USA qualifier and fifth in the regionals.

After four 299 games, Bob bowled his first 300 game on August 1, 1976 in a PBA regional. He has posted two 300's, two 298's hundreds of 700's dating back to the early 60's and many series over 750 with a high of 784.

He was a member of the Professional Bowlers Association through the late 70's. While never having time to try the tour full-time, his best PBA finish was 12th in the 1977 Long Island national tour stop.

Besides bowling in leagues at Harford Lanes, Bob bowled in many classic leagues from Baltimore to Wilmington, winning championships in the Maryland Classic League (1963-64), Baltimore Classic Doubles League (68-69, 69-70), Bowlerama (Wilmington) Majors (68-69, 71-72) as well as several league high average awards, consistently averaging 200+ from the late 60's on.

In 1985, Bob became sole proprietor of Harford Lanes when the last of his partners retired. Bob semi-retired from the day to day operations of Harford Lanes but continued to keep his hand in the business. As a member of the Bowling Proprietors Associations and the Maryland Tenpin Bowling Council for many years, he continued his participation in these organizations. By that time he had cut back on his tournament and competitive league bowling although he continued to bowl two leagues at "home". Bob devoted much time now to his other love, golf, and played in the low 70's. However, with his experience he maintained a bowling average in the 200's as well as winning a few more titles, his last being the Cecil-Harford doubles at age 56. His last yearbook average for 1993-94 was 206.

In almost 40 years of bowling, Bob came into contact with countless bowlers in the northeast Maryland, Baltimore, and northern Delaware bowling communities, and is remembered with

friendship and respect by the many people whose lives he touched. Bob is survived by his former wife Isabelle, to whom he was married from 1955-1984, 3 sons, Robert IV, Cory, Michael, a daughter, Susan, his fiancé Rosalie Singleton and 6 grandchildren.