

Michael M. Lastowski

Superior Performance



Michael M. (Mike) Lastowski was born in Baltimore, Maryland on September 16, 1944. He moved to Harford County in 1967 and currently resides with his wife Marilyn in Aberdeen. Mike started bowling in 1958 in the Junior Bowling program at Fair Lanes Richie.

He progressed into the adult leagues and at the age of 21 paired with MSBA Hall of Famer Jim Podowski to capture the 1965 Maryland State Doubles Scratch Title setting the doubles scoring record in the process. He was also a member of the 1965 scratch team champions as well. These two wins were the first of nine titles spanning four decades. Along the way he and longtime partner Don Connors re-set the State Doubles record in 1988.

In addition to his State Titles, Mike also holds eleven titles in the Cecil-Harford Counties Association Annual Tournaments, with at least one in each event. Other titles include eight from the Greater Baltimore Association Tournament, three in the Maryland BPAA, five from the GBBA 700 Club and five in the CHCBA 700 Club. Seventeen other titles from various tournaments bring the total to 59 tournament wins over four decades.

Mike's most impressive accomplishment on the lanes came in 1983 during the ABC Masters Tournament in Niagara Falls, New York. After defeating Earl Anthony to climb out of the loser's bracket, he went head to head with Pete Weber. He needed to strike out to win \$40,500 and the 1983 ABC Masters Title. Legend has it he threw the strikes with his eyes closed.

The victory changed Mike's life. He gave up his career as a Social Studies teacher and accepted Fair Lanes offer to sponsor him on tour. He maintained his PBA status until 1995. After six months on tour, an opening in the Technical Services Department of Fairlanes became available and he accepted the position. In 1990, ABC offered Mike the position of Mid Atlantic Field Representative and he remains in that capacity today in the East Central area.

Some of Mike's other accomplishments on the lanes include a career high average of 234. He also bowled a high series of 835, which stood as the CHCBA record for twelve years and a high game of 300.

In addition to his on lane performances Michael has given much back to the sport. He has been a member of the CHCBA Board of Directors for fourteen years. He served on the Bowling Ball Sub-Committee of the Equipment and Specification Committee of ABC. He also was a contributing writer for the Bowlers Journal Magazine for a number of years.

Michael has always been a devoted student of the game. His tournament team for many years was named the "Bowling Research Group". To watch them communicate during competition one understood the meaning of the name. One of Michael's unique developments was the "Dual-Grip" which allowed one bowling ball to have two different grips for two totally different ball reactions. In recent years Michael has shared his vast knowledge of the game with the members of "Team USA". He was an assistant coach with the program for four years from 1994 through 1997.

Following the induction into the GBBA Hall of Fame in 1981 and the CHCBA Hall of Fame in 1989, the Maryland State Bowling Association is proud to induct Michael M. Lastowski into its Hall of Fame in the Superior Performance Category.