

## Bruce Hollen Jr

### Superior Performance



Bruce Hollen Jr was born and raised in the Baltimore area and now resides in Upper Falls MD with his wife of 18 years, Donna, and their three children Ryan 11, Abby 8, and Robby 6.

Bruce started his bowling career in 1963 at age 3 when his father, Bruce Sr, had a duckpin ball drilled for him. Looking back, he realized his father must have been a patient man to sit and watch so many balls goes down the channel. Eventually, the teaching started to pay off with most balls staying on the lane. Bruce's parents were both surprised and excited with the progress, so they entered him in a duckpin tournament at Bowl America Dundalk where he bowled against the 5-year-olds. He won that tournament with a score of 43, but cried at the presentation of the award because he hadn't bowled any strikes.

As he became old enough Bruce started bowling in tenpin leagues at Brunswick Crown lanes, where his Mother and Father both bowled. They, being active tournament winners in their own right, were there to help guide him along.

In 1972 at the age of 12, his Father decided it was time to move to a fingertip ball. His first fingertip ball was a used Brunswick Fireball, and with that the teaching began all over again. As his average and confidence climbed, he decided to enter some youth tournaments to test his skill against bowlers outside of Crown lanes. Just 1 year later he entered the American Youth Bowling Championship. He won the house and state qualifier and represented Maryland in Detroit in the 12 - 14 scratch division. He continued to develop his skills in the youth leagues and in 1978 won the State qualifier of the AAYBC tournament and represented Maryland in Louisville in the scratch division. Finishing 2nd in the finals there, but winning the \$1000 scholarship in the process, Bruce began to think perhaps bowling might warrant more serious time and effort on his part.

After joining the ABC and bowling in leagues with his friends and teammates to this day, Mike Wheeler and Rich McFadden, they decided they would test the waters in the GBBA City tournament. The first of these they bowled together was in 1986. They won that team event and decided why not try the State tournament as well. Their team won that team event as well, and has gone on to win the state tournament team event 8 more times in the 20 year period, including the State tournament team record of 3656 shot at Forrest Hills when Roger Barnes and Bill Barlow were added to the mix. Added to the 9 GBBA team victories that threesome has

certainly done well together. To go with the team titles Bruce has 2 singles titles, 3 all events titles, and a doubles title with Mike Wheeler with a score of 1599 scratch, still the doubles record today. Bruce has 12 GBBA 700 club wins 7 CHCBA 700 club wins, 2 PBA eastern region wins, and is the 1990 National Resident Pro champion earning him a berth in the Firestone Tournament of Champions in 1991.

Bruce has numerous tournament wins here in Maryland and the surrounding area, along with 23 300 games and 12 800 sets.

Therefore, in recognition of his outstanding achievements, the Maryland State USBC is proud and honored to welcome Bruce Hollen Jr to its Hall of Fame in the Achievement category.