

Mark F. Bowers

Superior Performance



Mark F. Bowers has always been involved in many sports. Growing up in Aberdeen he played baseball, soccer, and tennis. After graduating from Aberdeen High School, Mark attended West Virginia University on a tennis scholarship. As a freshman at WVU he was the Eastern 8 Athletic Conference Singles Champion. Mark's tennis career was ended by a wrist injury. It was this injury that got Mark into competitive bowling. Tennis' loss became bowling's gain.

Mark had participated in youth leagues at Harford Lanes prior to high school. After returning to Aberdeen he substituted for his brother Scott's team in the APG League. Mark also started to bowl on the Aberdeen Jaycees team in the Wednesday Night Fellowship League with his brother Mike.

Mark's average climbed quickly over 200. At this time he was bowling in many local and regional tournaments. Mark's initial tournament success came when he won the Dutch Country Bowling Classic and the \$1,500 first prize. For many years Mark, has been known throughout the area for his powerful hook ball, much like PBA Hall of Famer Mark Roth.

In 1988 Mark won the Pennsylvania Masters Tournament. This is a match play tournament which attracts many national Pro Bowlers Association members. In winning the \$25,000 first place prize Mark defeated Wayne Webb, ABC Champion, Mike Neuman and Tom Baker twice.

Winning the Pennsylvania Masters gave Mark the impetus to bowl on the PBA Tour. Mark made several National TV shows including the Showboat Open in Las Vegas. He has won eight Regional PBA titles including the Greater Harrisburg Open in back to back years in televised finals. ABC Hall of Famer, Gary Bower described Mark's performance as "Wow what a ball."

Mark has excelled at the ABC National Tournament. He has a lifetime 206 average, and is currently in the top five bowlers on the ten year average list at 217 plus. Mark is also among the

lifetime leaders in the ABC Masters match play list and is the ABC Master all-time 300 game leader with three. Mark has finished 4th, 6th, and 8th in the Masters. For his career Mark has amassed an incredible fifty one 300 games, fourteen 800 series and numerous 298 and 299 games.

He has also won numerous Cecil Harford Association titles and swept the scratch awards in 1990 at APG Lanes winning the Singles, Doubles with Tim Moor, the team title with the Maryland Home Furnishings Team, and scratch all-events. Mark was also a key member of the Smoove Five team which won five consecutive Maryland State Bowling Association Team Titles. Mark was the Maryland State Bowling Association Singles, Team and All Events Scratch Champion in 1987.

Mark's career was cut short by a series of knee operations and he last competed in the 2004 ABC Tournament in Reno.

In recognition of his accomplishments in tenpin bowling, the Maryland State USBC Association is proud to induct Mark F. Bowers into its Hall of Fame on this 8th day of September 2007, as a member in its Superior Performance Category.