

## Charles W. Tillman III

### Superior Performance



Charles W. Tillman III was born in Baltimore, MD on August 12, 1960. As he is better known, Chuck resides with his family at his childhood home in White Hall, MD. There he shares his life with Laurie and together they have 5 children between them. There are her two children Kaitlyn (21) and Samantha (19) and his three children Katherine (18), Emma (15) and Chaz (13). He is the son of Pete and Nancy Tillman and also has two brothers, Chris and Michael.

Chuck's initial recollection of bowling was that of rolling a bowling ball when he was 4 or 5 years old when he had come to watch his father bowl. After the league was over his dad let him come up on the approach and roll the ball between his legs down the lane. He recalls the feeling that pins seemed to be as tall as he was. Little did he know that the experience that evening would far

be his last with the sport of tenpin bowling.

A few years later, he started bowling but not in youth leagues like normal kids. Living out in the country it was too far to the nearest bowling center and there was only one family car which was used by his parents for work. So, he never got involved in youth leagues but instead he and his brothers created hall-bowling. Using wooden pins carved as different soldiers and other pins made out of plastic, they would bowl matches against each other. Most of their hall bowling occurred during Saturdays while the PBA was on the television. Hours were spent trying to emulate the pros both left and right handed alike.

It wasn't until his junior year in college when he took a bowling class did Chuck finally get the real feeling for bowling as more than just a game. During high school he went to bowl recreationally but it was the college class that allowed him to bring out his hidden desire and passion for the game. After the class was over he joined a league the next semester. Using his Aunt's bowling ball, he ended the league with a 163 average which was good enough to be high

for the league winning his first award. That Christmas, Santa brought him his own bowling ball and he has been completing his collection of new and used bowling balls ever since.

Chuck continued bowling after college at Fair Lanes Timonium. During the summers he bowled with his high school friends but that just was not enough so he started bowling the winter season first joining the Spouse and Mouse League. It was in that league where he shot his first 700 series and perhaps luckily having his ability noticed enough as he was asked to join the prestigious Fair Lanes Classic League in Towson the following season. His first season there he finished with a 201 average. In his 27+ years of competitive bowling, he has had only one season where he had any league average below 200 (not including sport leagues).

He continued to bowl more and more, bowling 4 leagues a week and practicing on Saturdays. Although talent is always an integral necessity, he understood that to progress and become a better bowler he needed more help. So, after asking at the center, he found just the man and that was Bernie Smith. He credits Bernie for a great deal of his success as he taught him not only about what to do on the lanes but what to do off the lanes as well. How to stay focused and keep the emotions in check. This was illustrated during one of his most memorable bowling experiences when he made the match play portion of the TEAM USA competition. During the second round he found himself climbing up in the standings with two (2) games to go in the block and had to face Chris Barnes. After falling behind early and an unfortunate clothing malfunction, he needed three strikes in the 10<sup>th</sup> to tie. He took what Bernie had told him and tied Barnes for the match and finished the round in eighth place.

Along with Bernie's help, Chuck has had and continues to have the opportunity to bowl with and against other bowlers who would become teammates and friends. Individuals such as Larry Detweiler, Brian Bever, Tom Jackson, Chele Schirmer and Mike Pitts have been around to be a part of many great wins and a few not-so great. They have made him better and pushed him to always do his best on the lanes. Having a number of titles with each of these bowlers, as well as the amount of time they spend together, their friendship has become more like a family than just teammates.

**His accomplishments are as follows:**

- Team USA Finalist -1996
- World Team Challenge Champion - Second Chance Tournament - 1999
- Maryland Open Champion - 2003
- Maryland Amateur Champion - 1999, 2000, 2003...
  - Runner-Up - 1996, 2001
- Maryland State Champion - 1996, 2002 (all events), 2005 (team), 2007 (team)
- 13 Greater Baltimore Bowling Association Tournament Titles

- 3 Greater Baltimore Bowling Association 700 Club Titles
- 5 Cecil-Harford Counties Bowling Association Tournament Titles
- 8 Cecil-Harford Counties Bowling Association 700 Club Titles - Life Member
- 4 Glenn E. Bair Tournament Titles
- Various other Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania tournament wins
- ABC High Score Award Recipient - Team - Single Game Score - 1991
- USBC High Score Award Recipient - Team - Single Game Score - 2006
- Former GBBA record holder - Team
- First bowler in GBBA history to roll 4 300's in 4 different centers in one season
- Inducted Greater Baltimore BA Hall of Fame - 2005 - Superior Performance

#### **46 - Career 300's 14 - Career 800's**

Since beginning bowling, Chuck has participated in various singles, doubles and team tournaments statewide including the Maryland State B.A., Greater Baltimore B.A. and the Cecil-Harford USBC. Additionally he has bowled in other tournaments across the country and recently completed competition in the United States Bowling Congress' National Tournament for his 21<sup>st</sup> consecutive year.

When not on the lanes, he enjoys playing golf and watching NASCAR. His greatest pride has been his ability to be an integral part of his children's lives as not only a father but as a coach.

Therefore, for his overall performance in the sport of tenpin bowling, the Maryland State Bowling Association welcomes Charles W. Tillman III into its Hall of Fame in the Superior Performance category.