

Roy L. Harris III

Superior Performance



Roy L. Harris III was born in Baltimore, MD on November 23, 1954, and resides in Perry Hall, MD with his wife Karen of 38 years. Roy and Karen are proud parents of Katie (30) and Emily (23).

In 1959, at the age of five, Roy began his bowling career in a youth duckpin league. In 1961, Roy moved to tenpins when the Johnny Unitas Colt lanes opened near his childhood home. As a youth, Roy walked to the bowling center and kept score for the men's GBBA city tournaments and various "pot games" on the weekends. Without any formal coaching, watching and learning from the area's top bowlers is how he modeled his own game. Competing until he was 17 years old as a YABA bowler, Roy bowled a high game of 280 and a high series of 681. It was in 1971 and at the end of Roy's "youth career" that he won the Maryland State Junior All Events title.

In 1976, Roy returned to bowling after a hiatus with a personal goal to achieve a 200 average. He dedicated himself to the game and practiced as much as work and his personal life would allow. Five years later, Roy surpassed his goal and averaged 214; the second highest in the GBBA for the 1981/1982 season. This was a remarkable season in Roy's career as he also won a GBBA Triple Crown Award in the Friday Night Mixed League at Fair Lanes Dundalk for his 203 average, 290 high game, and 743 high series. Roy bowled a 299 game, had 28 series over 700, and earned a PBA Tournament entry by averaging 226 for a 6-game block. He closed this trailblazing season by finishing 5th in the GBBA Masters Tournament where he threw an amazing 8-game block of 2033 for a 254 average.

In addition to the numerous tournament wins and honors listed below, Roy has also won three trips to the Masters, one which included being the 1988 Maryland State representative. He was inducted into the GBBA Hall of Fame in 1990 for Superior Performance.

A demanding 39 year career as an Ironworker, often working a 24/7 schedule and weekends, at the former Bethlehem Steel Sparrows Point complex took a great deal of his time away from the lanes. These 50-60 hour work weeks combined with raising 2 daughters, coaching softball

teams, and attending band and dance recitals only allowed Roy to concentrate on his bowling “career” on a part-time basis. Most notable is what Roy was able to accomplish with such limited free time.

Roy wanted to mentor youth bowlers in a way he wished he would have had rising up through the leagues. Roy dedicated himself to coaching the Saturday morning Classic Majors at Brunswick Perry Hall for 28 years. Still bowling recreationally with friends, Roy enjoys “competing” against his past youth bowlers and maintaining contact as they begin their careers and have families of their own.

State / Local Tournament Titles:

- 1982 PBA Pro Spot Qualifier Scratch
- 1984 GBBA Masters Tournament Scratch
- 1986 GBBA City Tournament Team Scratch
- 1987 Delaware Saturday Scratch Tournament
- 1988 GBBA City Tournament Team Scratch
- 1988 Maryland State Singles Scratch
- 1988 Maryland State All Events Scratch
- 1989 GBBA City Tournament Team Scratch- New Record Set
- 1989 GBBA City Tournament All Events Scratch
- 1991 GBBA City Tournament Doubles Scratch – New Record Set
- 1993 US Open Scratch
- 1994 CHBA Tournament All Events Scratch
- 1998 Maryland State Team Scratch

Other Honors:

- 1986 GBBA Bowler of the Year, Runner-Up
- Holder of Five (5) GBBA 700 Club Titles
- Numerous 290 games
- 15 - 299 games
- 10 - 300 games
- 2 - 800 sets

Therefore, for his outstanding achievements in the game of American Tenpins, the Maryland State USBC Association is proud to induct Roy L. Harris III into its Hall of Fame in the Superior Performance Category.