

Nichele M. McConnell Superior Performance



Nichele M. McConnell, affectionately known by family and friends, as “Nicky,” was born on November 5, 1968, in Baltimore, Maryland. She was raised by her late parents Johnnie and Martha McConnell. She has a brother, Daren McConnell, Sr.; a nephew, Daren McConnell, Jr.; and a great-nephew, Corey McConnell. As a proud graduate of the Class of 1986 from Milford Mill High School, Nicky has an ongoing passion for academics and sports. She graduated as a member of the National Honor Society in the top 10% of her class, while playing Junior Varsity and Varsity sports year-round for three years in volleyball, basketball, and softball. After graduating high school, Nicky attended the University of Maryland, College Park, where she studied Business Administration. She currently works for the Department of State with more than 25 years of government service. In Nicky’s religious pursuit, she was ordained a deaconess in 1993 and currently is a member of the Greater Bethlehem Temple Church, “The Tabernacle at GBT,” under the pastorship of Bishop Jason A. Nelson.

Nicky’s bowling career spans for more than 40 years. Her parents were avid league and tournament bowlers. Their passion for the sport of bowling was passed down to Nicky, her brother, and her nephew. She began ten-pin bowling at the age of five at Fair Lanes Woodlawn. She grew up in the youth and junior bowling program, coached by Brenda Scott, Merrilyn Mallette, the late Bob Mallette and the late Kenneth Murray. In 1985, Nicky represented Maryland in the Youth Games held in New York, winning a silver medal in singles. The bowling team was coached by Mr. and Mrs. Mallette. The Youth Games were most memorable for Nicky as the participants were afforded the opportunity to reside on a college campus, dorm with their teammates, as well as meet and fellowship with some of the greatest youth athletes on the east coast ranging from track and field, to basketball, tennis, and bowling. The Youth Games opened great doors for Nicky, allowing her to compete in a very competitive youth travel league, representing Fair Lanes Woodlawn. The travel league showcased the best youth talents in the Baltimore area, and the league competed every week in a different bowling center.

As Nicky progressed in her bowling career, she was afforded membership into the University of Maryland, College Park, Ladies Bowling Team in 1987, which was coached by former PWBA member Berlin Myers. The highlight of her collegiate experience was competing in the 1987 NCAA National Collegiate Women’s Bowling Championship in St. Louis, Missouri, where she bowled against some of today’s top female bowlers in the world, namely, Kim Terrell-Kearney and Carolyn Dorin-Ballard.

Nicky’s bowling career catapulted to a higher level under the mentorship and coaching of Berlin Myers. Ms. Myers was instrumental in molding and structuring Nicky’s physical and mental game, making her one of the most elite and competitive females in her state.

Nicky's adult bowling career began in 1987. At 18 years old, she won her first scratch tournament, the Maryland State Team USA Women's Championship. This was only the beginning as she became a well-respected female bowler, dubbed "The Truth," for her shot-making abilities. She continued to make a name for herself by winning numerous Maryland State Bowling Association sponsored tournaments, including the 1992 Maryland State U.S. Women Open qualifier, representing Maryland in the 1993 BPAA U.S. Women's Open in Garland, Texas. In 2003, she won the Maryland State USBC Queens Scratch Championship and went on to compete as an amateur in five USBC Queens tournaments, earning two top-100 finishes and one top-64 match play finishes. In 2007, she teamed up with three of the most dynamic players in this region, Terri Franklin, Crystal Shaw-Wesby, and Tiffany Bell to form "Fire Power." These dynamic women formed a close sisterhood, and together won numerous local, state, and national tournaments. These ladies are not just beautiful and talented, but are ambassadors, in their own right, in the sport of bowling. Fire Power currently holds the Baltimore USBC WBA Championship Scratch Team Record (2745) and the Maryland State USBC Women's Championship Scratch Team Record (2824). Fire Power has won five consecutive Maryland State USBC Women's Scratch Team Championships (2012-2016). Nicky has also won numerous titles with her doubles partner, Crystal Shaw-Wesby. They are the first female duet to win the Maryland State USBC Open Scratch Doubles Championship. In 2014, Nicky and Crystal bowled a 300 while competing in a Singles/Doubles event during the Maryland State USBC Women's Championship.

One of the most memorable highlights in Nicky's bowling career occurred during a league competition against her nephew, Daren McConnell, Jr., in his rookie season as an adult bowler. They were bowling on opposite teams, lined up across one another in the third position, when a truly historic occasion occurred; they bowled a 300 against each other, which was a tremendous feat. This good fortune was extra special for Nicky because not only was this an "Aunt-n-Nephew" act, but it was her nephew's first sanctioned 300 in an adult league. This monumental moment proved that bowling is not only in the McConnell lineage, but it is a testament to the bowling foundation laid by her beloved parents – a legacy that has and will continue for generations to come!

Today, Nicky continues to bowl in league competition, and still competes in local, state, and national tournaments. Her Career High Achievements include: 222 league average, two 800 series and seven 300 games. She remains a competitor and a student of the game, despite having an extremely challenging work schedule and limited practice time. She also willingly offers advice to anyone who seeks to improve their game, especially youth bowlers, beginners, and aspiring students of the sport.

Therefore, for her overall performance in the sport of ten-pin bowling, the Maryland State USBC Bowling Association welcomes Nichele M. McConnell into its Hall of Fame in the Superior Performance category.

Maryland State USBC Association Awards:

- 1 - Maryland State Team USA Women's Championship Tournament - State Amateur Scratch Champion: 1987
- 1 - Maryland State Women's U.S. Open Tournament - Scratch Champion: 1992
- 1 - Maryland State USBC Queens Tournament - Scratch Champion: 2003
- 5 - Maryland State USBC Women's Championship Tournament - Team Scratch Champion: 1992, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016
 - 2014 Maryland State Women's Championship Tournament: 300 Game, 776 Series*
 - 2015 Women's Team State Record – 2824*
 - (Terri Franklin, Nichele McConnell, Crystal Shaw-Wesby, and Tiffany Bell)*
- 5 - Maryland State USBC Women's Championship Tournament - Doubles Scratch Champion: 2011, 2013, 2014, 2016
- 1 - Maryland State USBC Open Championship Tournament - Doubles Scratch Champion: 2012

Baltimore USBC Women's Bowling Association Awards:

- 1 – BWBA Championship Tournament - Doubles Scratch Champion: 2002
- 1 – BWBA Championship Tournament - Doubles Handicap Champion: 2002
- 1 – BWBA Championship Tournament - Singles Scratch Champion: 2002
- 1 – BWBA Championship Tournament - Singles Handicap Champion: 2002
- 1 – BWBA Championship Tournament - All Events Scratch Champion: 2002
- 1 – BWBA Championship Tournament - All Events Handicap Champion: 2002
- 2 – BUSBCWBA Championship Tournament - Team Scratch Champion: 2012, 2015
- 1 – BUSBCWBA Championship Tournament - Team Handicap Champion: 2012
 - 2012 Women's Team City Record – 2745*
 - (Terri Franklin, Nichele McConnell, Crystal Shaw-Wesby, Tiffany Bell)*

Other Tournament Titles:

- 1 – TNBA Nationals Championship Tournament - Women's Team Scratch Champion: 2015
- 6 – TNBA Eastern Regional Tournament - Women's Team Scratch Champion: 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015
- 2 – TNBA Eastern Regional Tournament - Women's Doubles Scratch Champion: 2014, 2015
- 1 – NCAUSBCA Women's Championship Tournament - Team Scratch Champion: 2016
- 4 – NCAUSBCA Women's Championship Tournament - Doubles Scratch Champion: 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016
- 1 – Virginia State USBC Women's Championship Tournament - Team Scratch Champion: 2015
- 1 – Virginia State USBC Women's Championship Tournament - Doubles Scratch

Champion: 2015

1 – Virginia State USBC Women’s Championship Tournament - All Events Scratch
Champion: 2015

Outstanding Achievements:

1985 Competed in the Youth Games held in New York, won silver medal in Singles

1987 Member of the University of Maryland, College Park, Ladies Collegiate Team
(*Team Coach: Ms. Berlin Meyers*)

1987 Competed in the NCAA National Collegiate Bowling Championship in
St. Louis, Missouri

1993 Represented Maryland in the BPAA U.S. Women Open, Garland, Texas

2004-2008 Competed in the USBC Queens (2-Top 100 Finishes; 1-Top 64 Finish)

2013-2015 Competed in the USBC Open Championships

USBC Open Championships Statistics:

Scratch Average: 195 # Games: 27 Sport Adjusted Average: 219

2014 USBC Open Championships - 3x Bronze Medal Winner:

High Game (255), High Set (699), and High Series (1983)

2005-2016 Competed in 12 consecutive USBC Women Championships

USBC Women Championships Statistics:

Scratch Average: 197 # Games: 117 Sport Adjusted Average: 221

3 - Triple Crown Award Winner:

2003-04 (207); 2004-05 (215, 299, 804); 2005-06 (214)

Career High Achievements: Average: 222 High Set: 804 High Game: 300

Maintained a 200 average for 15 years

7 – 300 games

2 – 800 series

5 – 11 Strikes in a Row