

Marty Letscher

Superior Performance



Marty Letscher was born on November 6, 1956 in Fort Bragg, North Carolina to Paul and Ann Letscher. Because Marty's dad was enlisted in the Army, they lived in Alaska, New Mexico and Germany before finally settling in Aberdeen, Maryland in 1968. Marty's parents, as well as many of his relatives were very active and outstanding bowlers, and they helped fuel his interest in the sport.

Marty joined his first bowling league at age 11 when he became a member of the Aberdeen Proving Ground Junior Program that was run by his mother. At age 12, Marty won his first State Tournament, and continued to win many more Local and State titles until he moved up to the adult leagues at age 18.

While attending Harford Community College he realized that he really wanted to pursue his dream to become a professional bowler. During this same time he also decided to join the Bill Snavely Scratch League at Harford Lanes, where he was a member from 1974-1995. Marty shot his first 300 game in this league in 1978 at age 21. He was a member of many other leagues over the years at APG Lanes, Bel Air Bowl, Edgewood Lanes, and several leagues in Baltimore.

Through the encouragement of his good friends Ed Davis, Joey Ciufio, and Bob Marshall, Sr., Marty began bowling in PBA Regional Tournaments in 1978 and became a touring member of the PBA and toured full time from 1981 to 1984 when a shoulder injury forced him to cut back on the full-time schedule. He won his first Regional title in 1982 in Schnectady, N.Y., and continued to win 6 more Regional titles in the Eastern Region, Southern Region, and Central Regions, with the last title in Louisville, Kentucky in 1998. He also made the Resident Pro Team for the Eastern Region 4 times. Winning the National Resident Pro title in Corpus Christi, Texas in 1992 earned him a berth to the Firestone Tournament of Champions in Akron, Ohio in 1993, which became the last time that this tournament was to be sponsored by Firestone. Marty was also a 3rd place finalist in the PBA National Championship in Toledo, Ohio in 1991. In

1998, along with friend, Tim Criss, he made the finals in the U.S. Open where Marty finished 3rd. Marty has had numerous top 24 finishes throughout his career. In 2007 he decided to take a shot at the Senior tour shortly after turning 50. He cashed in 5 of the 6 stops where an injury forced him to withdraw and return home. His 29-year PBA career had finally come to an end. In 2001 Marty received the American Bowling Congress National Tournament 25-year participation award. Marty also holds four Maryland titles (team scratch titles -1979 and 1985, and all events scratch -1979 and 1985).

Marty also owned the Pro Shop at Bel Air Bowl from 1986 to 1995 where he developed many friendships with the bowlers from the area and expresses his gratitude to Pres and Mary Coale for the opportunity to run his business in their bowling center.

Sarah Parker and Marty were married in 1994 and have a daughter, Rachel age 25 and a son, Andrew age 21. Marty realized his dream of someday owning a Bowling Center in 1995 when he and his family moved to Niles, Ohio and purchased McKinley Lanes. They successfully remodeled the center and focused on building and retaining a first-class youth program that had over 150 bowlers at one time. They still have close to 100 youth bowlers every Saturday.

Marty and Sarah were very active in bringing High School Bowling to the state of Ohio and sponsored Niles-one of the original teams that included bowling as a sport. Marty coached the boys to the state finals and they were the regional champions. He loved sharing his knowledge of the sport with them. Ohio now has over 350 schools that sponsor high school bowling as a sport and Marty and Sarah have had numerous bowlers continue successfully in collegiate programs throughout the country. They now host 3 schools in their 20-lane center and host the Martin Luther King High School Tournament that is one of the oldest and most successful tournaments in the state with a waiting list to get in every year.

Both Rachael and Andrew were successful high school bowlers with Andrew being named the Ohio Player of the year, and his high school team finishing first in the state his freshman year. While Rachael chose to play soccer at Westminster College, PA where she earned her degree in Environmental Science, and a masters in Environmental Sustainability and an MBA in Business from Chatham University in Pittsburgh, Andrew was one of the top bowling recruits in the country in 2016 ending up his freshman year at the University of Pikeville, Kentucky where he was named the National Collegiate rookie of the year and all American. He recently transferred to McKendree University in Illinois where he studies Musical Theatre and continues to improve and reinvent his game. In 2016, Marty and Andrew paired up to win the Junior Tournament Bowlers Tour doubles event. It was a great time and great memory for both.

Marty now has at least 41 three hundred games and six 800 set with a high series of 835. His highest book average has been a 234 in 1999. Marty has won several Team and Singles titles in the Niles Men's Association and many other local tournaments

Marty feels that the bowling industry has been good to him, and he wants to thank his longtime coach, Bernie Smith for all the help that he has given him with his game and for his friendship. In 2017, Marty and Sarah decided to purchase Harford Lanes in Aberdeen from his friend Bobby Marshall. There have been ongoing renovations and improvements over the last year and they are happy that they were able to keep the center open and continue quality bowling in Harford County. He has made many friends throughout his years of traveling and bowling, but feels that Harford County was the first place that he called home. He is thankful for all the people that he has crossed paths with in his career and personal life and for all the memories.

Therefore, for his overall performance in the sport of ten-pin bowling, the Maryland State USBC Bowling Association welcomes Marty Letcher into its Hall of Fame in the Superior Performance category.