

# The Best Bowling Tip I've Ever Had

by

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One of the strongest points of my game is my approach. Yet, it was regarding this phase of my game that I received the best bowling tip I've ever had.

I was in a slump, and for some reason I couldn't reach, with any consistency, "the point of leverage," a point in the swing when it's easiest to release an effective shot. One day while practicing, my friend Chuck Gannon noticed that my beginning steps were too long. Now if you know Gannon, you know that out came the slide rule, plus his wristwatch calculator, and soon I was given a precise report on how far each step should be.

Four weeks later, I rolled my fourth consecutive 700 series while subbing for—you guessed it—Chuck Gannon. However, not to be outdone, he returned from his injury the following week and bowled a series over 750.

Here's how my problem started and how Gannon's

tip corrected it: Bowling at some house where the French fries were the only things that ever got any oil, I began to over-stride. When I returned to a house with oil on the lanes, I needed to stick a broom handle through my ball to get the five pin out. Over-striding had thrown everything out of whack, and it impaired my ability to get leverage in the release. By shortening the first few steps of my approach, I regained control of my body. This allowed me to relax the arm swing and set up what I feel is the most important step in bowling, the next-to-last one. For me, this creates a precise moment in the swing when you just *know* you're going to make a good shot. I call this moment "the point of leverage."

Thanks to Gannon's tip, it was once again part of my approach.