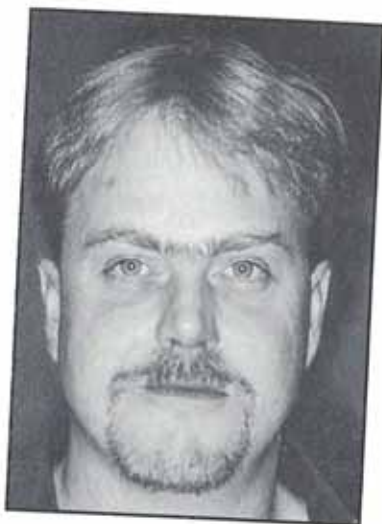


BRIAN POOLE

NCABA's top-ranked bowler in 1998-99 with a 223.957 composite average and 237 high average



BORN: July 27, 1967.

BIRTHPLACE: Riverdale, Md.

RESIDENCE: Forestville, Md.

MARITAL STATUS: Single—unhappily!

EDUCATION: 1985 graduate of DeMatha High; Ikon Technology Services.

EMPLOYMENT: Technical support provider for Palm Pilot customers at Sitel Corporation. Currently finishing courses to enter computer networking field.

BOWLING BEGINNINGS: I started in duckpins at age 13 or 14. My Dad was a bowler, and I basically grew up in a bowling alley.

I STILL BOWL TODAY MAINLY BECAUSE: Nothing else to do, really. I do it better than most people, and I do make money doing it, and that's probably the key. I've really only made enough money in my jobs to pay the bills; the bowling money gets me anything else—clothes, shoes, whatever. I'm really not driven by the money, however. It's more about the thrill of winning, and the money is a welcome bonus. For me, whether it's for a dollar or \$1,000, there's just as much intensity to win.

HIGH GAME/SERIES: 23 perfect games / 804 series.

BEST PART OF MY GAME: My natural timing and the ability to hit my target consistently.

WORST PART OF MY GAME: Probably the lack of ball revolutions has cost me the chance to really play with the big boys. I spin the ball more, which in essence is not really bad, but it's probably cost me the ability to really succeed.

GREATEST BOWLING MOMENT: I won the Bill Rhodman Classic in 1987 at Carolier Lanes in New Jersey. It was the first time I had ever bowled outside of the D.C.-Baltimore area. A good friend, Willie Coleman, took me out of town. There were memories I'll never forget with him, that's for sure. He was probably one of the few in the crowd

who was actually behind me. It was mostly a black tournament, and I was the "white boy," I guess—however you want to write it. I remember him back there pumping his fist. At the time, I really didn't understand what winning or losing was, so it really never hit me to that extent about going out of town and winning. It was a great accomplishment to people, and winning it my first time out was quite exciting.

WORST BOWLING MOMENT: In 1988, 89, or 90 in the six-game pro spot qualifier for the Fair Lanes Open in Edgewood, Md., I was still young, and I always had a dream of bowling with the pros. By the third or fourth game, another left-hander, Irv Roswall, and myself were so far ahead of the field that they were announcing only our scores. Irv must have been averaging 235 or 240, and I had him beat by 10 pins every game. In the last game, I shoot 160, and he beats me by only shooting 200, but I lose the tournament by less than 10 pins. I remember crying on the way home—I remember leaving the bowling center crying and also crying on the way home. It meant so much for me to win. That was probably the second time I felt what losing was like. To actually think I had it won the whole time—I kept beating Irv, beating Irv—and then to lose it.... If I know what I know now, it probably would have been different.

PRO BOWLER I MOST ADMIRE: Parker Bohn III.

IN LOCAL BOWLING CIRCLES, I RATE MYSELF IN THE TOP 50-20-10-5: Top 10, I'd say.

LOCAL BOWLERS I RATE ABOVE MYSELF: It would be hard to decide that, depending what you're basing it upon. There are a lot of good players. Rich Wolfe, of course, is a great player—not just being left-handed. Lee Brosius is a good player; Jim Lewis is another one. Dave Hart—you definitely have to include him. It's hard to pick.

TOUGHEST LOCAL MATCH PLAY OPPONENT: I used to lose to Lee Brosius a lot—especially in the past—but there's no one person who's really dominated me.

THINGS I WOULD CHANGE ABOUT BOWLING: The scoring has gotten outrageous; the lanes are conditioned for high scores. The other thing I'd change is the format for handicap tournaments to demote sandbagging.

BEST BOWLING TIP I EVER RECEIVED: In all honesty, I've never had any formal teaching or anybody ever help me. When I was younger, my Dad explained to me how oil was dressed on lanes and basically how to read lanes. Once I understood what he said, it produced a big advantage to knowing that. I took it to my own and progressed.

ON MY ONE MAJOR TOURNAMENT PRACTICE BALL ON EACH LANE, I MAKE SURE THAT I: Throw the ball with a strong follow-through.

IN BOWLING, I NEED TO: Learn how to bowl. As [instructor] Gary Parsons puts it, "Learn to learn how to bowl." Whatever that exactly means, I don't really know. People would say that I've accomplished a lot or done well. In my eyes, to what dreams that I've had, I've not even come close to accomplishing any of the things that I've wanted to. So while they think I'm great, I still think I'm nothing in honest respects.

INTERESTS OUTSIDE OF BOWLING: Golf. I don't do it enough to get better, and I don't know how to do it. Unfortunately, I don't have natural ability there. I like to do a lot of things. I guess my major problem is that it's really no fun doing those things alone—going to the movies or going out to eat or whatever. Going out of town, going to places like King's Dominion ... I really don't have anybody to go with. So I really don't do too much outside of bowling.

FAVORITE FOOD/DESSERT/BEVERAGE: Mexican food / cheesecake / iced tea

FAVORITE TV SHOWS: "Pokémon" and "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire."

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FAVORITE WEB SITE: www.download.com offers free software

RECENT NON-BOWLING ACCOMPLISHMENT OF WHICH I'M MOST PROUD: Next! I don't really do anything to have really many other accomplishments, especially being single or being alone. There's no family, of course. ... I don't hang around with other bowlers; nobody ever asks me to do anything. That's just bowling, basically. When it's bowling, it's "Let's call Poole." When it's time to do something else, it's "Brian who?" ... I have no idea why that is. ... I'd rather not be alone; I'd rather be around people. I'd rather have something to do or be able to go out. I'm definitely unhappy being alone, for sure.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION I CAN NEVER KEEP: To quit smoking is probably one. I want to be happy, of course, but that has never worked yet. Being out of physical shape—I always want to get into physical shape, but I never seem to have the drive to complete that, for some reason, which hopefully I plan on changing this summer. It's a major goal this summer, for sure. To be honest, if I was in physical shape, and I went out and practiced three or four nights a week, I probably would be better than anybody else in this area. In all honesty, that's the way I feel. Getting in shape would help my endurance in bowling and definitely help make me stronger for golf.

FAMOUS PERSON I'D LIKE TO MEET: Shaquille O'Neal. It would be wild to meet him. He's powerful in his game.

PET PEEVE: I'm always hearing "left-hand" this and "left-hand" that.

ONE THING NOBODY KNOWS ABOUT ME: I'm really a nice person.

BIGGEST REGRET: Not going to college.

I'M STILL AFRAID OF: Being around large groups, for some reason. I get really timid if I don't know people.

MOST IMMEDIATE BOWLING GOAL: I just want to know before I quit that it was all worth it. Whatever that is, whatever it takes, I don't know.

LIFE GOALS: I'd like to have an aspiring career, a family, and probably just to be happy—all around happy. That's the main one.
