

The Best Bowling Tip I've Ever Received

By Dave Kneas



In the late 1980s, I bowled in one of my first PBA regional events. I was very green, still a little unsure of my abilities, and I owned only three bowling balls—all strike balls.

One of the bowlers on my pair of lanes was a senior member (like me now) whose idea of bowling was so simple as to be laughable: No turn, no hand—just set the ball on the lane and sort of push it toward your target. After warm-ups were completed that day, I was thoroughly convinced that this was one guy I would just cruise past.

There is an old saying in sports, and it goes something like, *It is only through defeat that one can truly learn to win.*

Needless to say, this senior bowled eight games with only one open frame. Even though I threw 30 percent more strikes, my nine open frames left me almost 70 pins behind him.

I don't remember this guy's name or even what he looked like, but on this day, this gracious winner approached me in the paddock and showed me his \$40 conventionally drilled plastic spare ball and demonstrated the finer nuances of a straight spare shot.

It took two months of practice to learn how to throw what is basically a house ball, but I have since become one of the finest spare shooters anywhere. My league average skyrocketed 10 pins that year, and my tournament cashes rose to 80 percent.

While bowling on the PBA Senior Tour last year, two bowlers were asked about shooting spares. Both bowlers immediately pointed to me and said, "That's the guy you wanna talk to." That made my year!

Dave Kneas is a PBA member currently bowling the Senior Tour who finished his rookie year with three Top 16 finishes in four events. He has three Nation's Capital Area Masters titles, one Virginia Maryland Scratch Bowlers Tour victory, and nine Sport shot wins. He is a consistent casher in scratch tournaments and has maintained a 220 league average for the past 10 years.