

DAVID OZIO: Rising PBA Star

Part II

(Conducted by Editor Bob Cosgrove)

Do you consider yourself a religious man?

Ozio: I think so. I have my goals set in life. There are things that I believe in and nobody's going to change those beliefs. I was raised a Catholic and we went to church from day one and all through grade school. I think it was a mistake in a way that Catholic schools bring you up. They just beat it into your head: religion, religion, religion. You have to go to church like six days a week. After I got out of grade school, it was something like, I don't want to see this again!

I kinda shied away from it for a while, but then when you get a little bit older and start learning the meaning of what life is and start learning a few more things of what the Bible is really about and if you even just search back the reason why we're really here to start with, we're just not here by a fluke—there's a reason for it. If you do a little research into it, you'll find that it's very interesting. There are laws set down for us to follow out here, and they were put here for a reason. I find that a life revolves around those laws. I've noticed that when you do a lot of things bad, it always seems to come back on you. But things that you do good, you always seem to eventually get rewarded for them. You may not get rewarded for them immediately, but somewhere down the road you will, and I've noticed it with people out here. I've noticed it on both sides: good people, bad people—how their lives have revolved and things that have happened to them.

Sometimes it makes me kind of wonder. I got caught up a couple of years ago in really trying to walk the straight and narrow too straight, in which no human can be that perfect. I finally woke up to the fact that, more or less, spiritually I could never be as perfect as I wanted to be. As long as you believe that you're going to go to heaven, that you're saved, that's all you have to do. And then just try to treat everyone as an equal and don't put anybody down. The main thing is don't judge others and life can work pretty smooth.

Are you at peace with your life?

Ozio: I don't think that anybody can say that their life is at peace because there's

always something wrong, whether it be financially, something wrong at home...there's always a bug comes up that pushes things into a rut and makes you really get down about something. In our case, my father is in real bad health, and I constantly think about that. Even though I have made \$55,000 this year, I'm still not in the greatest of shape because I was so far behind last year. All I've done is catch up.

You can never really bank on this life out here because there are a lot of players who have made a ton of money one year and make no money the next. So you can't just say all of a sudden, 'Now I'm winning money and it is going to be that way forever.' I'm the first to say that ain't gonna happen! So I just do it week by week and try to perform the best I can and never stop learning. Bowling is a game that you can never be too good at.



There is no one person who is actually too good. If you can trim down your mistake factor and have a ninety percent accomplishment factor, then you start doing well out here week after week after week.

I think this year, maybe I have learned a little more. I'm still not the smartest person; I still do make a lot of dumb mistakes. I tend to overthink when I bowl. I try to get one step ahead of myself to make sure that things are taken care of. What it amounts to is that I'll overthink myself too much, and I get all tense and then it ends up throwing me into the pit. I'm

trying to learn; I'm by far not anywhere near to being the bowler that I want to be. I'm not nearly satisfied with my game right now.

You stop and think, what could you really accomplish if you had your head on straight and you were actually bowling good? Just how far can you go? How fast can a race car go? What's the limit? That's the same thing with a human being. What can the human mind accomplish if you really put it to the test? That's my goal, just to work out the bugs and have a week that just goes totally perfect, where I can look back and say that not one thing went wrong.

I've been living on tour out here for so many years and every tournament some disaster happens—something goes wrong, a streak of bad breaks, a small streak of good breaks, but more bad breaks. You kinda just look at yourself and say, 'Why me?' I had a lot of guys say, 'You make your own breaks,' and so I just sit back and hopefully I can wait out the bad ones and live with the good ones.

What things in life annoy/bother you?

Ozio: Pushy people. People who try to be what they aren't—that probably provokes me more than anything. People that think that they are better than you, regardless of what happens. That's probably the biggest thing that bothers me.

I think everybody is an equal; I don't look at anybody as being better or worse. There's a lot of people who are smarter than others. It's one thing that bothers me out here on tour is that a lot of guys put themselves so much higher on a pedestal than everybody else because they think it's a me-me-me type of thing. I don't like that.

When I won, I didn't change one bit. I know a lot of guys out here who, as soon as they win their first title, they walk around with their heads in the clouds—'Look at me! Get on your knees and bow to me!' Boy, I can't stand that! I never changed. I still talk to everybody and give them the time of day. I go out of my way to be the same type of person. If a lot of other people would do that and treat others as equals instead of servants, it would be a lot better life out here.