
The Best Bowling Tip I've Ever Received

By Ernest W. Spriggs



I received my best tip from two bowlers I greatly admire, Ernest Sevous and Gregory Turner. Back in 1997-98, I joined a "Sport shot" league at AMF Alexandria run by Hollis McMullen, and this was the first time I had ever encountered anything like that. To be honest, I was morally devastated in the beginning.

As most of my fellow bowlers knew, I was a "lofter"—all I knew how to do was loft the ball down the lane. So at the beginning of the league, I lofted balls out to the arrows as usual, and they were continually skidding left of the headpin and at times in the gutter.

Ernest Sevous, who had listened to my agonizing for several weeks, finally said to me, "You need to bring your eyes back to the first set of dots just past the foul line; this will allow you to put the ball down earlier and get more roll."

This was a totally new concept to me, so I tried it. With a change in my thought process and mechanics, I managed to finish the league averaging 194. That was probably the most eye-opening, yet satisfying, experience to date in my bowling career.

Since that time, Gregory Turner has constantly reminded me to "move your eyes up and down the lanes" depending on the lane condition and the coverstock of the ball I'm using. Now, when I begin practicing for league or tournament play, I will shift my eyes from dots to arrows to get a feel of the lane condition.

This tip has elevated my game tremendously. I am now a more competitive and confident bowler, and I'm not afraid to tackle any lane condition.

Washington, D.C. native Ernest W. Spriggs, who last season qualified for the NCABA Official Ranking for the third time in the past years, is a Maryland Masters and Tournament Concepts champion and has several Top 5 finishes in the TNBA Bacardi Classic and Bill Rhodman scratch tournaments. The left-hander has rolled 15 perfect games and six 800 series, with a high of 827. His high average is 227.