

14 QUESTIONS

Mark Glover

Mark Glover's ranking as the association's No. 1 bowler for the 2006-2007 season is the eighth time the lanky right-hander from Woodbridge has appeared in the top spot. Last year, upon turning 50, he joined the Professional Bowlers Association and this summer had his highest finish, placing second to Tom Baker in the PBA Senior Northern California Classic in Brentwood. Glover recently took time to answer 14 questions from editor Bob Cosgrove.

Where and when did you learn to bowl?

I started in the junior leagues. I was about 10 years old, and that was at the old Bowl America Woodbridge on Route 1.

What brought you to bowling?

I guess it was just something to do on Saturdays. I had been down to the bowling alley before, and Joe Clark was man-

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ager then, and I guess he said to come back and bowl in my league on Saturday morning.

When did you begin to take bowling seriously?

It was pretty much around [age] 16 or maybe 17 when I got my driver's license, and I was able to get around. Back then, we had \$3 pot games late at night all over the place—[Bowl America] Falls Church and Rinaldi's [Shirley Park]. So on the weekends or whatever, I'd get together with a couple of my friends and wherever the \$3 pot games were, we would go bowl all night long.

And your average was getting higher at the time?

Yes, it seemed to go up 10 pins every year. This was way back when we had

our plastic ball. I think the top bowler around when I was 17 was probably Jim Robinette at 200 or 205. A real good bowler was 190, and I was about 180 then.

How do you describe your approach—the short length and steps, etc.?

I always rolled the ball fast—that was just a natural for my height and strength. As the technology grew, you had to get the ball reaction, and I threw the ball too fast to use the technology the way it should be used. It was my attempt to throw the ball at the proper speed.

Once I actually moved up on the approach, I still gave myself enough room to do everything properly without it messing me up, and I actually had a little better rhythm and better leverage. Sometimes the approaches can be a little sticky or slippery, and they would

actually bother me *less* because I would have a shorter approach.

What have you learned about your game since joining the PBA Senior Tour in 2006?

I think I'm able to compete pretty well out there. We have different patterns, and since I've always thrown the ball on the fast side, I've always preferred lanes a little bit on the dry side. When I hit the medium-to-drier patterns, I seem to do quite well out there. Ability-wise, I'm holding my own pretty well against the other bowlers.

I know *myself*, and I guess others too, that I'm still getting better every year. Last year, I noticed that two bowlers in their mid-60s won tournaments. I wasn't sure how long I'd be able to bowl competitively once I got out there, but I can

see now that since we are getting better that if you don't get an "old guy" injury—body aches and pains—you can really be competitive for a long time.

How do you deal with the different patterns on the PBA Senior Tour?

A lot of times, I like playing a little further inside, but this year on the Tour shot since they oil [the lanes] between each squad, we don't get the dry second squad like we did last year. We would have an "A" squad and a "B" squad. Last year, I did very well on that dry second squad.

This year, most squads were the same, so we never got too far inside. I think they made the patterns a little bit easier, since they [oiled] them between each squad. And since they *were* easier, everybody, including myself, was able to hit them pretty good.

Last year, sometimes, the shot was so kind of even across that it was hard to get the exact place to play. If you're not sure where to line up or what ball to use, it's hard to repeat a shot if you're in the wrong place. Since they were a little easier this year, once you find the shot, then you could start repeating 'em.

What shot do you prefer to play the most?

I think I'm at my best nowadays someplace around probably the 8 to 10 board. We get these league shots nowadays that are over-blocked, and I notice where my weaknesses are on them because you have to shoot the lights out on 'em a lot of times, and sometimes you just can't do it.

What I've noticed about my armswing, for example, if I close my eyes and just release the ball, usually my most consistent roll is probably about a five-to-six board projectory from where my feet are. Say I standing on 15 board, if I close my eyes, my most comfortable armswing is probably going to be about five-to-six boards right, so I'm going to hit around the 9 board.

Then when I notice I have to stand 15 board and hit out to 4 board, then I have to open my shoulder and really try hard to project the ball in a certain angle that's not my most consistent armswing. So that's why I think when the track's around 9 board or whatever that's my best shot because I just stand on 15

NCAUSBCA 2006-2007 Official Ranking

	League Pins/Games	Tournament Pins/Games	Total Pins/Games	COMPOSITE AVERAGE
1. Mark R. Glover	101,506/444	4,140/18	105,646/462	228.671
2. Charles A. Campbell	74,781/336	1,921/9	76,702/345	222.325
3. Michael P. Herman	65,473/294	1,721/9	67,194/303	221.762
4. Joshua J. Keller	63,135/285	2,061/9	65,196/294	221.755
5. Chhoeun To	61,099/275	1,791/9	62,890/284	221.444
6. Michael J. Boyd	61,115/276	1,693/9	62,808/285	220.379
7. Ira J. Darden Jr.	79,998/364	1,797/9	81,795/373	219.290
8. Derek M. Payne	90,536/412	1,732/9	92,268/421	219.164
9. E. Anthony Meadows	95,066/435	1,650/9	96,716/444	217.829
10. Gregory L. Turner	95,184/436	3,627/18	98,811/454	217.645

The above ranking was calculated using the following criteria:

- ✓ The bowler must participate in at least three NCAUSBCA-certified leagues, with a minimum of 66 games in each league.
- ✓ The bowler must have a qualifying average as defined above in at least two different bowling centers.
- ✓ The bowler must have a total of at least 200 games in qualifying leagues as defined above.
- ✓ The bowler must participate in all events (team, singles, and doubles) of the current bowling season's NCAUSBCA Open Championship Tournament.
- ✓ All scores bowled in the NCAUSBCA Open Championship Tournament will be used in calculating the composite average.
- ✓ Once qualified, a bowler's composite average will be calculated by totaling all pins in NCAUSBCA-certified leagues (21 games or more) and all pins from the Open Championship Tournament and dividing the total by the sum of all the games.



board and my armswing automatically goes through at about six boards right of where I'm standing.

Is it accurate to say that the oily condition challenges you more than others?

Yeah. Probably the most important thing is to be able to repeat the shot, so if I can bowl at the speed that I like to bowl at and the angle I like to bowl at, it's the easiest way to repeat the shot. When the lanes get a little slicker, I have to get the ball a little bit slower. Even though I can make good shots, it's a little bit harder to repeat each one.

What do you consider the strongest part of game?

I think I'm very consistent, and one thing is that I try to stay motivated when I bowl a tournament because every ball you throw, every frame you throw, you have to put out enough effort to be consistent and repeat shots from the frame before. That's why I don't bowl every day, every tournament, and travel to places all the time because you can't keep the motivation. Being motivated and trying hard is quite important.

What do you still work on the most?

The grip on the thumb. If there's anything that's a little bit of my weakness, my thumb changes sizes when I bowl. It will go up, it will go down, and I like a reasonably tight grip. If I had my thumb to where it would never change size, and I could always get a good thumb feel, that would be when I'm at my strongest.

What are your plans this season for the PBA Senior Tour?

Hopefully, it will be back at [Bowl America] Manassas—that has been the first tournament of the season recently. I'd like to hit at least two [tournaments] in the spring when the bowling leagues are about over. Then when it goes out west, there's five tournaments including the two majors, and I would like to hit all five of those because that's like a nice summer vacation and one's in Las Vegas—last year, one was in Reno. It's nice to have a vacation when you bowl.

Then, there are four [stops] left. Last year, after we were out west, it was like Iowa and back to Illinois again. After I bowled all those tournaments out west and had a vacation and got back home, I just wasn't motivated to go to Iowa—that's what it came down to. It's a long trip, and there wouldn't be much to do. That's part of the things about bowling out there; you kind to have to have something to do so it's not too boring.

Do you have a roommate or travel alone?

A friend of mine, Kerry Painter, retired last year, and he's been very successful in the amateur tournaments and wanted to bowl more, so he went ahead and joined the PBA. I've known him since we were teenagers, and I bowled leagues with his brothers, so we're pretty good friends. We each bowled seven tournaments this past year and travelled together.

How many leagues are you bowling this year?

I'm bowling six leagues over five days—[Bowl America] Woodbridge is Monday, a double-shift on Tuesday and then Thursday. I usually like to bowl two days in a row and then take a day off. Friday is Edsall Road [Bowl America Shirley].

My sixth league is [Bowl America] Manassas on Sunday morning, which I'm probably going to bowl three-fourths of the season—we kind of got a rotation thing going. I like Manassas, and I just feel like doing something on Sunday morning, so I'm just getting out with the boys.