

# The Best Bowling Tip I've Ever Received

By Ira Darden Jr.



When I was younger, all I knew how to do was hook the whole lane, regardless of the condition. That was fine for bowling in youth competition, but as I got older and started playing tournaments, I began to realize that would not be enough. I had no consistency.

One day at a tournament in New Jersey, I was shooting even par, with one good game, two bad games, and one game to go. Then an experienced spectator who was watching me said that I needed to learn how to shoot par based on *solid* games rather than ups and downs. It took me a few weeks to realize what he meant: He was basically telling me that I needed to be more versatile to shoot consistent scores on changing lane conditions.

So I practiced different shots, different releases, and played different parts of the lane at different speeds until I developed a more consistent game. Since that time, I have noticed considerable improvement in my tournament performances. In fact, I've recently won a few local scratch tournaments, and I look forward to continue winning.

*Ira Darden Jr. placed second in NCABA's 2001-2002 official ranking with a 222.172 composite average. His highest league average last season was a 231 in the RTR Classic Mixed at Riverdale.*