

# Farley, 81, follows heart surgery with perfect game

By Bob Cosgrove

Although admitting he has yet to regain all of his strength following a hospital stay this summer that turned into a three-week “complete overhaul,” including heart bypass surgery and the installation of a pacemaker, 81-year-old Ken Farley recently demonstrated he was strong enough when he entered the final frame of a game that began with nine strikes.

Farley, a resident of McLean, Va., used his 14-pound Raw Hammer Jacked ball to come through with three more X’s to record his first career perfect game No-

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vember 1 during his First Niters league session at Bowl America Falls Church. The right-hander earlier tallied 181 and ended with 178 to close the night with a 658 series.

“I figured I was one of these people who was always going to be the bridesmaid,” said Farley, who previously scored 290 three times but added that scoring 300 was never on his mind.

In fact, he was surprised to start a game with nine strikes—“Usually I taper off at about six, even when I’m on a roll”—but he kept his cool throughout.

“I don’t really get nervous in bowling,”

said Farley, a participant in the Berlin Airlift who later served in the Korean War. “I’ve been many places where my experiences were a little more frightening than whether or not I get the next strike. I don’t get too excited as long as people aren’t shooting at me!

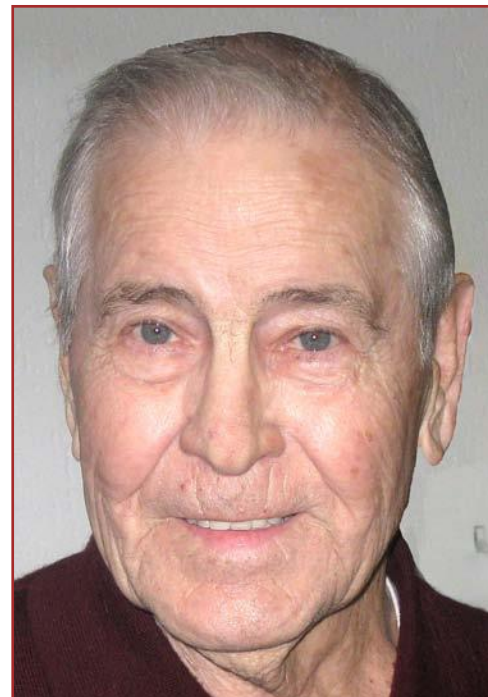
“I get nervous in golf. Three-foot putts make me nervous!”

Since the June operations, he’s averaging around 180 but hopes as his strength improves that he’ll return to his pace of last season when he had three league averages of 188 plus a 190.

“Going back to the 1970s, I don’t con-

sider [those averages] that high,” he said. “I guess when you take my age into consideration, it’s pretty high. Actually, I play a lot of golf, and I’m in relatively good shape for my age, and I have good concentration. That’s basically, I think, what it is.”

In the 1970s, Farley competed in the prestigious MWBPA Travel League and rolled on a team that once placed second in the NCABA Championship Tournament. However, he left the game from 1976 to 1989 when his new 12:30 to 9 p.m. work schedule at the Government



Ken Farley

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Printing Office did not allow him to schedule any league time.

Farley has been back on the lanes now for 21 years, and he has no plans to stop, but he’s not aiming to topple any target, even the 779 series he rolled in the late 1990s.

“Actually, I don’t really set goals,” he said. “I find it easier and there are less distractions to treat each frame one at a time.”