The Best Bowling Tip I've Ever Received

By Sharon Wanczyk



Over the years, I believe I've made unconscious adjustments to my game based on input from bowling people I have respected. If I have to pick the "best tip," it would be one that [NCABA Hall of Famer] Greg Goetz gives me when necessary.

In tournament situations, you don't have time to make a lot of mistakes. If I can't find a shot, my swing sometimes freezes up, and I find myself guiding the ball. Greg reminds me to get back to the basics, and free up my swing. Once I focus on my swing and make a good shot—one good, quality shot—I no longer manipulate the ball down the lanes and thus I get a better look at the lane conditions so I can go on to make the right adjustments with other aspects of my game, my equipment, etc.

Sharon Wanczyk (pronounced "WINE-check"), who recently placed second in the WIBC Senior Queens Tournament in Tulsa (and third in the 2004 event), lived in Utah before moving to Crofton seven years ago. She represented Utah in Team USA qualifying several times and is a member of the Ogden, Utah and Utah State Halls of Fame.

A frequent participant in Women's All Star Association (WASA) events, she won her first senior WASA title last year. In February of this year, she competed against women from around the country in the Golden Ladies Tournament in Las Vegas. Sharon qualified for the stepladder finals and placed fifth. She also cashed in both of her previous appearances in this event.

Her family and a career as a program analyst for the Internal Revenue Service kept her from competing full-time on the pro circuit. However, during a brief outing on the Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour, she once finished fifth at a stop in Las Vegas.

Her high series is 792, and she has rolled eight perfect games, including two in the same day in tournaments held in Salt Lake City and Ogden, Utah. Her 299 game at the 1997 WIBC Tournament in Reno was the highest bowled among all participants that year. She has maintained a 200-plus average for over 25 years, with a high of 217.

She was the first woman to compete in a Professional Bowlers Association Senior Tour event, placing "in the middle of the pack." The men treated her well, and thus she doesn't rule out bowling in future tournaments, including the PBA (Bowl America) Manassas Senior Open in late July.