

STEVE HARTER



BIRTHPLACE: Lewisburg, Pa. (Yes, it's where the federal prison is, but I wasn't born there!)

CURRENT RESIDENCE: Fairfax, Va.

MARITAL STATUS: Married to Janine 24 years this April.

EMPLOYMENT: Pro shop operator at Bowl America Shirley and Bowl America Burke. I also introduce children to the sport of bowling via Bowl America's "Rolling Bowling" program.

EDUCATION: I graduated from Northern Virginia Community College with an accounting degree. I continued at George Mason but currently don't have enough credits to get a four-year degree. I'm close, but I haven't been there for a few years. I like accounting; I'm a numbers guy. Before I graduated from NOVA, Virginia changed the law whereby you needed a four-year degree instead of a degree for two years to become a certified public accountant.

HIGH GAME / SERIES: Six 300s / 788.

CURRENT LEAGUE: Thursday Night Mixed Classic at Chantilly.

I STARTED BOWLING...: In 1958, I watched "Championship Bowling" with Fred Wolf on TV. A bowling center had been built in Middletown, Pa., where we then lived, and my Mom and I went to open bowl on a Saturday morning. They were signing up kids then; I signed up and have been bowling ever since. This is my 40th winter season—*sanctioned* league season.

BOWLING ROLE MODELS: Steve Nagy and Ray Bluth. I just thought that Nagy was a character on the lanes, and I kinda liked the way Bluth held the ball and looked over it.

GREATEST BOWLING MOMENT: It was probably finishing third in a PBA regional tournament in Chattanooga, Tenn., in 1986. Rod Pasteur won, Joe Viscomi finished second, and I was the leading right-hander in the group.

MOST FORGETTABLE BOWLING MOMENT: In a junior doubles tournament at the old Lynwood Lanes, I needed a seven count to win, and I threw a four count. I hit the 2-pin, but instead of getting seven, it just took out four pins. I haven't had too many bad moments; bowling's been good.

ONE THING I'D CHANGE IN BOWLING: I would probably try to make the game more realistic in terms of the par score, which used to be 200.

MOST COMMON PROBLEM OF BEGINNER BOWLERS: I look at their finish position, and for the most part, people who are struggling are not in balance at the foul line. They're usually falling off to the side. Usually that's a result of rushing the foul line and using too much force in the swing—trying to throw the ball too hard. When you're off balance at the foul line, you can't tell where the ball's going—it's going *some* place. I like saying that because that's one of Dick Ritger's favorite sayings at his bowling camp: *You don't want the ball just to go some place.*

LOCAL BOWLER I MOST ADMIRE: Rich Wolfe, without a doubt. I would watch him bowl as a teen-ager, and he would just spank it and watch it hook. Now, he's become a *bowler*.

INTERESTS OUTSIDE OF BOWLING: I like going to the horse races. I've played golf in the past but not much lately, even though I do enjoy the game. More than anything, I've got a computer, and I enjoy playing fantasy sports on the Internet.

FAVORITE FOOD / DESSERT / BEVERAGE: Spaghetti / chocolate ice cream / Coca-Cola.

FAVORITE TV SHOW: "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?"

FAVORITE MOVIE: The "Naked Gun" series.

FAVORITE MUSICAL GROUP OR SINGER: Petula Clark from the 1960s and Phil Collins.

FAMOUS LIVING PERSON I'D LIKE TO MEET: Bill Cosby. He seems to be an average guy with a lot of smarts who can be down to earth. Plus, he's a funny guy.

PRODUCTS I'D HAVE NO PROBLEM ENDORSING: Columbia 300 equipment and Coca-Cola.

ONE WORD THAT BEST DESCRIBES ME: *Honest.*

PET PEEVES: People whining about bowling things that they shouldn't be whining about—stupid little things such as getting nicks in bowling balls and getting worried about it. Let's get real about some of the stuff that's going on with bowling: Bowling is a game; it's not something that they're going to quit their day job over. You're supposed to have fun and not get so serious about it. ... I also don't like the way the people drive in this area. They're bad drivers!

BEST BOWLING TIP I'VE EVER RECEIVED: It's probably the one I give out more than anything else. When somebody's talking about having a problem, I tell them to *slow down* and stay behind the ball. That's the best tip I ever got.

IMMEDIATE BOWLING GOAL: In August, I'll be 50, and the PBA Senior Tour is in the back of my mind. I haven't really made up my mind if I want to gear up for it.

MOTTO I LIVE BY: I try to treat everyone as fairly as I can. I used to be very judgmental, and I'm trying to get away from that. I'm doing a pretty good job: I'm trying to look at whomever and take 'em for what they are, and then go from there. My wife made me realize how judgmental I was, and I'm a much better person because I'm married to her.