

*The area's highest scoring
centers and leagues
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BOWL MAGAZINE

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATION'S CAPITAL AREA USBC ASSOCIATION

*NCAUSBCA Hall of Fame
to welcome*

**SUSAN M.
RYAN**



898!

ZO ISAAC

*Association's new
record series scorer
answers "20 Questions"*

20 QUESTIONS

Zo Isaac

Zo Isaac, a 38-year-old right-hander from Landover, established a new NCAUSBCA series record when he tallied 898 on games of 299-299-300 August 5 in the Top Dollar Trios summer league at AMF Capital Plaza. His 34-strike performance with his 15-pound, five-ounce Ebonite Game Plan topped the association's previous high mark of 887 by Erv Raines III at Bowl America Bull Run on February 9, 2009.

Nearly a month after his special evening, Isaac, a sales associate for Goodyear who started his bowling career in 1990 with his mother in a commercial league at Capital Plaza, spoke about his accomplishment and other topics with editor Bob Cosgrove.

What had been your previous bowling highlight?

Using a bowling ball that was 20 years old [during] the last winter league to shoot two 300s and two 299s with it. It was a Sun Storm.

How many 300s and 800s had you earlier rolled?

I think this was [perfect game] number seven. This was my fifth or sixth 800.

Have you ever participated in a Sport Bowling league or in PBA regional competition?

No. I do a lot of scratch tournaments, and I've done some Sport shot tournaments before.

Did you sense anything during practice that August 5 could be a special evening?

Actually, leading up to that evening, we were coming in fighting for second place because the first-place team had locked up the league. In practice, every ball I threw was [in the] pocket and struck.

What were your thoughts after the first 299 game?

I was happy because I won the pot, of course! But I was frustrated because

Capital Plaza has always been a house that I've struggled in; I've always wanted to shoot 300 in there. I left a 7-pin—a solid 7-pin. What made me push harder was that the anchorman on the other team and I both had the front eight. He tapped and went [2]79, and my team only wins by five pins by me striking out. It was close, but they were fighting for second place, too.

So the second game, I look up, and it's the big game pot, and I'm looking around, and I see a couple of people had already posted [2]60-something, and one guy had posted [2]69. I look up and I didn't even realize what I was doing, I was that much locked in. And before you know it, I'm on the front eight again. And when I get up there [for the final shot], I leave a

Honestly, shooting 898 really hit me like a few weeks ago when they presented me the banner at Capital Plaza. It really hit me then.

10-pin with a messenger, and now I was kinda like going off, I'm like, *Who shoots [2]99 back-to-back?*

So people were like, "Hey man, great game again, man." I had one guy, I don't even recall who it was, "You shoot anything over 200, you have 800." I'm like, *I already had 800, I just want to shoot 300 at [Capital Plaza].*

So my teammate, Warren Wiggins, told me to stay focused and that I was throwing the ball very well. And I told him, "If I get a start like this, I'm gonna finish."

And I finished! And when I finished, I yelled, "I finally shot 300!"

Stefanie Dyson had been giving play-by-play on Facebook: *He's got the front three, front four, front five....* I didn't know at the time, but when I said, "I finally

shot 300!" she said, "Zo, you just shot 898!" And it hadn't even really clicked what I had done.

And to this day, to be honest, every time I walk in [Capital Plaza] and see the [898 banner] and think about it, it's phenomenal. I've had people tell me, "I thank you for letting me be allowed to witness that." Now that's not something you're going to see everyday.

Did you feel pressure during the final game?

I did ... I did a little bit. But I tried to maintain my composure. I sat down and didn't talk to nobody. I did the same routine: I got up, threw my ball, shook hands, and sat down. That was it. I just took deep breaths and tried to stay focused.

Did everyone around you stop bowling?

I kind of realized it, but Poo [Taylor], who worked in the [World Class] pro shop, just kept coming down every frame, and by the sixth frame, he just so happened to tell me he was on a 290 pace, and I recall telling him to keep it going. And at this time, that's when I really realized that half the league was behind my lanes watching, along with Gary Parsons.

He was commenting to someone else—I don't recall the guy's name—but he was talking, and you could hear every comment—"Great shot!" "Smash the hole!" He was giving me good confidence on the shots, so at that point, that's when I could really realize what I was doing. And it really kicked in in the tenth frame, my first ball.

When I got up there, I was like, *Okay, I've got to finish this time because already I've shot two 299s.* It was a crazy feeling—crazy feeling.

I really felt it because this time I had people saying things to me, but I can't remember what they were saying—people were just talking. But I'm so locked in to what I'm doing.

Honestly, shooting 898 really hit me like a few weeks ago when they pre-

sented me the banner at Capital Plaza. It really hit me then. I was bowling Summer Tour finals, and I throw the first two balls and I look up, and everybody's behind my lanes watching.

It's a good feeling when people come up to you and take a picture with me and get an autograph. It feels good that you've got that type of support because, like I said, you might see somebody shoot 300 or 800, but to shoot that type of number....

A guy called me because I left off my ring size on my award [application] form, and he said, "What impressed you most?" And I said, "Thinking that I shot the 300 the last game. Looks like I never gave up!"

Has anything interesting happened to you as a result of the series?

Ebonite has contacted me, and they're supposed to send me some equipment. Gary Parsons has really been supportive, petitioning Ebonite for me. AMF gave me a couple of gift cards and free game passes.

I think just putting that banner on the wall, just seeing my name up there, means a lot to me, knowing that I'm going to bowl in that [Bottomliners] league for 36 weeks, and every Thursday I'm going to look up and see my name—just knowing that's history.

How has this performance changed your own view of yourself as a bowler?

My confidence level is back totally. I was at the point where I felt like I just didn't have it no more—I was just bowling just to bowl. Right now, every ball I throw, I have that killer instinct in me, like I refuse to go down.

What is the strongest part of your game?

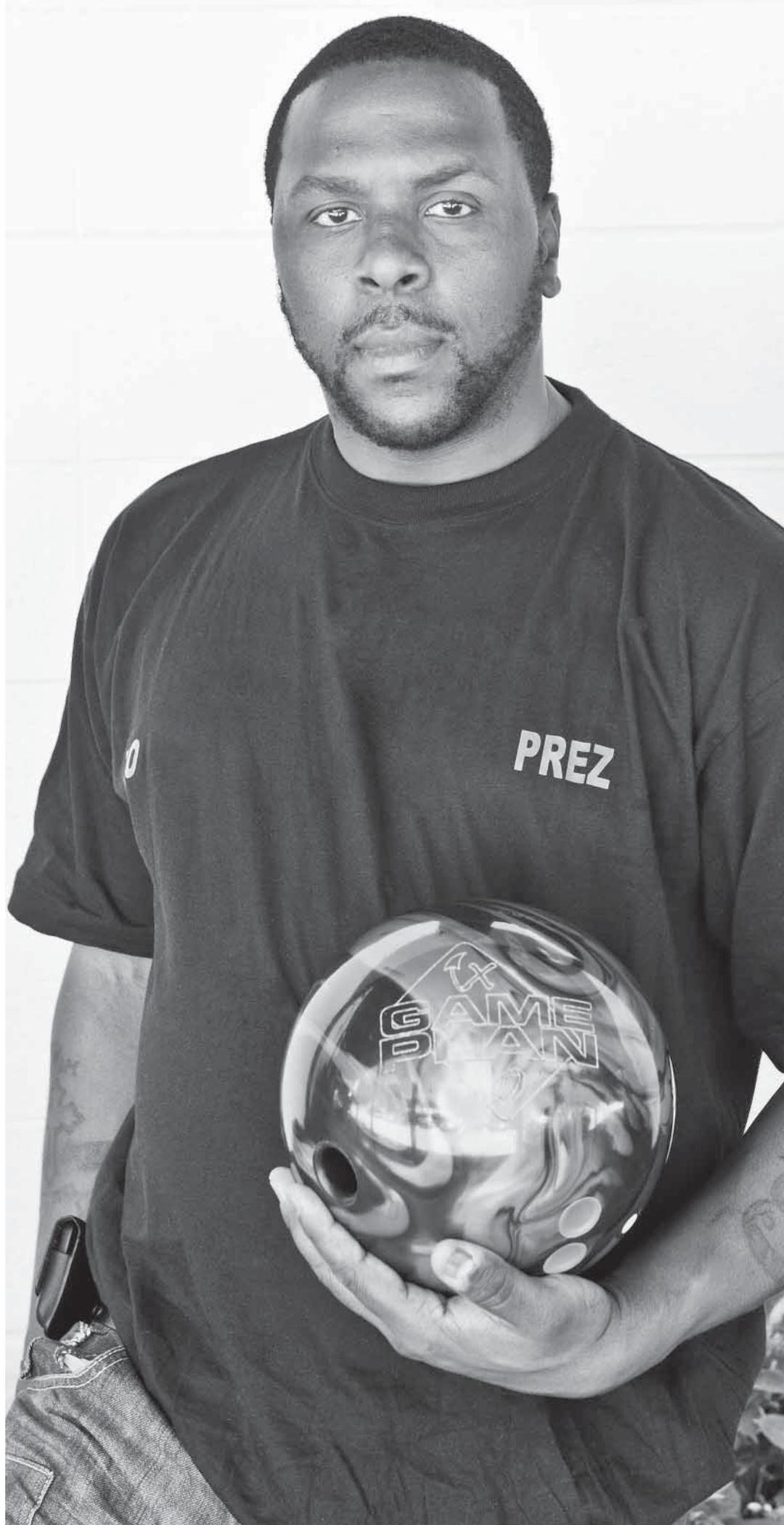
Bowling on dry lanes because my ball speed is anywhere from 19 to 21 miles per hour.

What do you need to work on the most?

Bowling on challenging conditions, especially heavy oil because my ball speed kills me sometimes.

Has anyone helped you with your game?

Warren Wiggins. This year, I bowled with



him for the first time, and Warren gave me a great tip, telling me about getting to the line: *If I could stay down, get down lower, and throw the ball hard at the line, I could project my shot better.* And doing that, my game has really improved. So that's one tip I've taken and used to my advantage.

How do you rate yourself among bowlers in the area?

My confidence level is back totally. I was at the point where I felt like I just didn't have it no more—I was just bowling just to bowl.

Right now, every ball I throw, I have that killer instinct in me, like I refuse to go down.

I put myself up there with the elite.

What do you say to those who might question your putting yourself among the elite players when you say you struggle with oily lane conditions?

I put myself with the elite for the reason that I'm never completely out of a tournament. I might in the beginning struggle slowly, but by the first game I catch on.

Now when I say struggle on oil with my ball speed, a lot of times, the conditions that we play on, they're not really *heavily* oiled. So I make a quick adjustment, but I don't completely lock myself out.

Now I may fail at a tournament because of bad spare shooting, but my ball speed ... that's my game. I can never take that away from my game because my ball speed has been with me for 20 years, and I don't think that's ever gonna change.

So I've been successful with it, just as well as I've been unsuccessful with it. But I've been more successful than unsuccessful.

What area players do you admire the most?

Greg Turner. Of course, Bobby Hall [II]; I'm really proud of what he did, making the PBA [Exempt] Tour.

Greg Turner, to me, I say, I exclude Bobby because of what he has done, I put Greg Turner ... I think Greg Turner is like, to me, one of the best bowlers in the area—that's to me, personally.

Also, Ricky Henderson, a new up-and-comer, a strong bowler, and Howard Ball [Jr.], for one of the young kids.

How important would you say bowling is in your overall life?

[I'd rate it a] "7"—next to my kids, a daughter, soon to turn 17, and a son, 11.

What gives you pleasure in bowling?

Being competitive to myself, knowing

that I gave it my all, and I'm looking forward to the next night of league—to go in there and do better than what I did before.

Do you set goals every time?

I set my standards very high; I'm very hard on myself. Like when I shot the second 299, I was really hard on myself because I left a 10-pin and a 7-pin [before]. Everybody else was trying to keep me calm, but I was hard on myself because of that. But I was in control.

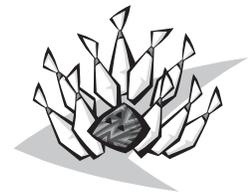
What do you do besides bowl?

I love working on cars. I have a 19-month-old Cane Corso; I put a lot of time in with him—that's my dog. Other than that, there's my kids.

What is your next bowling goal?

Shoot 900! But I really am satisfied.

Zo Isaac answers some additional questions on ncausbca.org.



Congratulations ZO ISAAC for your 898 series!

from the staffs of World Class Pro Shop and Red Nelson's Bowlers World

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