

"Superior Performance"



William Stephen Finley was born on March 23rd, 1956 in Havre de Grace, MD. to William F. and Blanche H. Finley. He grew up on Gienville Rd. in Churchville, across from Churchville Elementary School, and has lived and worked in Harford County all his life.

Steve's interest in bowling began in 1970 when, at age 14, he saw the Firestone Tournament of Champions on ABC's Wide World of Sports. The final match that day was Don Johnson defeating Dick Ritger, 299-268, in one

of the most famous broadcasts in bowling history. A few weeks later Steve was introduced to bowling for the first time when Rose Poole (a family friend of Steve's) invited him to bowl with her children at Harford Junior College. They were all amazed with Steve's natural ability to hook the ball into the pocket with a smooth release. Their enthusiastic endorsement of his skill was a boost to his confidence and he has been hooked on the sport ever since.

Steve has been a member of the Cecil-Harford Counties Bowling Assn. since 1971 when, at age 15, he joined his first league, the Free State league at Harford Lanes. Since then he has been a prolific league bowler, many seasons booking four or more averages. He has won 8 league high average awards and over 20 league championships. Consistently averaging over 200 since 1978, Steve's high average was 223 in 1996-97 and in 1997-98. He currently carries a 217 average in the Bill Snavely Scratch league at Harford Lanes.

Steve has made the most of his ABC membership, earning practically every ABC award at one time or another, the most notable of these being:

- 4- 800 series High of 847 earned the 1997-98 CHCBA Merit Award;
- 834 at Silverside Lanes (Wilmington), 1985 was one of all-time top 10 in Delaware
- 9- 300 games
- 5- 299 games
- 5- 298 games
- 12+ 1 1 in a row awards
- Hundreds of 700 series

Steve has held membership in the Professional Bowlers Assn. since 1978 and has bowled in 7 national tournaments, cashing in 3 PTQ's; and 8 regionals, cashing 3

times. In 1981 Steve won the Maryland Open and represented our state at the U.S. Open in Houston, Texas in 1982. He finished 2nd in the 1986 Maryland Open and represented Maryland at that years U.S. Open in Venice, FL. when the champion could not attend. Three other times Steve finished in the top 10 of the Maryland Open. In 1975 he bowled in his first ABC Championships in Dayton, Ohio. He has competed in 7 national events as well as 3 ABC Master's Tournaments.

Other bowling accomplishments:

MSBA Championship Tournaments-

- First place Scratch Team: 1979 & 1985

- First place Scratch Mixed Team: 97-98 & 98-99

CHCBA Championship Tournaments-

- First place Scratch Team: 1983,1993,1996,2001

(1993 team set 3 game CHCBA tournament record, 1996 team broke same and currently holds the record: 3577;1996 team holds CHCBA single game record of 1317)

- First place Scratch Doubles:

1978 with Marty Letscher

2002 with Alex Abraham

- First place Handicap Singles: 1974

GBBA Championship Tournaments-

- First place Scratch Doubles:

1985 with Bobby Marshall

- First place Scratch All-Events:

1985 The Invitational-

- First place 1978, 9 other top 10 finishes

Budweiser Scratch Sweepers (Harford Lanes)

- 3 first places 1985

Double-Elimination (Harford Lanes)

- First place 1997

Pike Creek (Newark, DE) Scratch Sweeper

- First place 1985

Colonial Williamsburg Tournament

- First place Scratch Doubles: 2001 with Eddie Davis

Voted 1985 Baltimore Bowling News IGBBA "Bowler of the Year" and Captain of the 1985 BBNIGBBA All-Metro First Team Steve has given back to bowling in service, support and loyalty. Since 1974 he has held the office of President in several leagues, a post he currently serves in the Bill Snavely Scratch league at Harford Lanes. He has organized and sponsored many teams in league and tournament play. In 1984 he participated in the original organizational meeting whose purpose was the formation of the Cecil-Harford 700 Club. And in 1997 Steve showed his commitment to the sport he loves by purchasing a lifetime membership into the ABC and the CHCBA.

In honor and recognition of his outstanding achievements in tenpin bowling, the Cecil-

Harford Counties Bowling Assn. is proud to induct W. Stephen Finley.