

"Superior Performance"



Joseph James Ciufu was born November 6, 1952 in Ham de Grace, Maryland to Joseph L. Ciufu and Joan M. Ciufu. He lived the first couple of years of his life on Wilson Street in Havre de Grace before moving across the Susquehanna River to Perry Point, Maryland.

After moving back to Harford County in 1967, Joe graduated from Aberdeen High School in 1970. After high school he attended Towson State College and received B.S. in Music Education in 1974.

In the early 60's Joe Ciufu, Jr., Bob Marshall, III, and Tony Moscato

purchased Ideal Lanes and renamed it Harford Lanes, thus starting Joe's involvement in the game of Bowling. Joe, or Joey as he came to be called, started bowling at the age of twelve and averaged a whopping 102 his first season in the junior program at Harford Lanes. Having fun bowling, he soon began spending most of the day on Saturdays at "The Lanes" practicing and making friends with the other kids in the league. It wasn't long before his average started creeping up and passed the 150 mark. There was always great competition after the morning leagues with the Wilson boys (Dennis and Doug), Bobby Marshall, Mark Moscato, Eddie Davis and many others as they would bowl against each other for bragging rights. Sometimes there would even be team matches against youths from other bowling centers. In one such match in 1970, Joe bowled a 70 1 set in his Saturday league, the first in Harford County by a youth bowler, and turned around and did it again the next day in a match against youth bowlers from Cecil Lanes. As a high school senior Joe's average was in the mid 180s and was the top average for bowlers in the junior program at Harford Lanes.

While in college Joe's musical performance and academic demands made it impossible for him to participate in leagues. While league bowling was not possible, he did win the first Towson State College Bowling Tournament Scratch Singles Title in 1973.

In 1974, while in his last semester of college Bob Marshall helped Joe put together some bowlers to replace a team that had dropped out of the Bill Snavely Scratch League at Harford Lanes. Thus began his return to the game he loved.

Career-wise, after graduating from Towson in 1974, Joe went to work teaching music in several private schools in the Greater Baltimore area.

Joe applied for and was hired as an elementary school band teacher for Harford County Public Schools in September of 1975. Joe worked in several elementary schools before joining Father Joseph Martin to help with the distribution of materials on alcoholism to treatment centers.

In 1981, Joe went back to teaching music, landing a job at Fallston High School. Joe's first child, Alyson was born in 1983, soon followed by Michael in 1986. Joe attended Towson State University for his Master's degree and received his M. Ed. in 1988. As the demands of his family and career grew, he gradually withdrew from leagues and competition, bowling as a substitute when possible. He has been in education since 1981 and has served as music department chair, assistant principal, and as band director at several Harford County Middle and High Schools during his tenure with Harford County Public Schools. Additionally, Joe served as Regional President of the Maryland Music Educator's Association for two years, 1990 and 1991.

In 1996, Joe's third child, Joseph A. Ciufu, was born. Joe was into running and was not bowling at all. For recreation he would run short and medium distances ranging from 2 to 26.2 miles. In 2001, with the encouragement of his wife, Mary Jane, he decided to get back into bowling and bowled in the Bill Snavely Scratch League once again. Meeting old friends and making new ones reminded Joe that bowling is truly one of the great sports in our society, one that a person can play for a lifetime.

Some highlights of Joe's bowling career include:

- 1973, Towson State College Bowling Tournament Singles Scratch Title
- 1974, Harford Lanes Summer Doubles Tournament: Scratch and Handicap Titles
- 1974, CHCBA Men's Team Scratch Title

- 1977, BPAA Maryland Open Champion, represented Maryland at the 1977 U.S. Open
- 1977, MSBA Men's Team Scratch

- 1978, GBBA 700 Club Champion, Dundalk Bowl America
- 1986, CHCBA Men's Team Scratch Title
- 2003, 1st place with son Joey in Maryland Youth Tournament, tied for 7th in the International Finals
- 2003, ABC National Championship Tournament 5th Place Singles Event, 783 series
- 2003, CHCBA Mix Team Handicap Champion of Champions

- 2004, MSBA Doubles Scratch Title
- 2004, CHCBA/HCWBA Mixed Team Handicap Title

- Numerous 1st place titles as youth bowler

- 804 series in 1974 (across 6 lanes, 1st 800 series in CHCBA history, 2nd in MSBA history)

- 801 (25727925)

- 5 300 games (Most notable in 2003 ABC National Championship Tournament)
- Well over-700 series
- Member of Professional Bowling Association (1976-1982), with numerous cashes
- Member of team that defeated the Stroh's National Team out of Detroit, MI in exhibition match held at Towson State University in late 1970's

For achievement in the sport of bowling, the CHCBA inducts Joseph J. Ciufu into its Hall of Fame for Superior Performance.