

## LARRY BROWN

Our first inductee into the Tuscaloosa Bowling Hall of Fame is Mr. Larry Brown.

Larry has been bowling for 42 years now, having started when he was a senior in high school. He started league bowling in 1977 at Leland Lanes on Thursday mornings, and has been a league bowler ever since then. As a league bowler, Larry has bowled in as many as four leagues per season, and he bowled that often for many years. For a number of years he was fortunate enough to also bowl with his beautiful wife, Gwen Brown, in a mixed league, until she was forced to give up bowling due to back problems. However she is still active in the bowling community, and serves as the secretary for two of the leagues that Larry presently bowls in, the Bud All-Star League and the Spotter's Mixed League. Larry also subs on the Wednesday Night Mixers League.

Larry's enjoyment of bowling has become infectious to all of those around him, and he has become a great ambassador for the sport of bowling. He is constantly bringing in new bowlers to the sport, and not only brings in new bowlers to his teams and his leagues, but is always helping to teach those bowlers to bowl and helping all of those around him to become better bowlers. Not only has Larry helped as a teacher to new bowlers, but it has been known for many years that Larry gives of his time to coordinate and recruit Tuscaloosa bowlers to attend bowling tournaments throughout the area. He has done this for over 10 years, and can always be counted on to devote his time and energy to the sport of bowling.

Somebody also told me that you if anyone mentions setting up some brackets during league play, Larry will be the first one to come forward to set up the brackets.

All of this bowling of course has seen Larry become a better and better bowler, until he has reached his present status as one of the best bowlers in this State. In 1993 Larry finally bowled a 298 game and in 1994 he bowled two 299 games. His wife says that some bowlers labeled him a "choker" for missing his 300 game on these three occasions, but Larry did not let the names and comments deter him in his effort to improve his game, and although it took him another 9 long years, he finally scored his first 300 game on APRIL FOOLS DAY, 2003. That 300 game was the third game of the night, after having posted a 280 in the second game and choking again. But as I said, he prevailed with that 300 in the third game, and ended with a 765 series. The following year, 2004, Larry was determined to prove that his 300 game was not a fluke, and almost a year after his first 300 game, on March 22, 2004, he posted his second 300 game, and raised his high series score to a 771.

Larry was now out to prove that he could get more than one 300 game in a year, and right before the end of that same year, on December 28, 2004, on the last game of the year, in the third game of the series he again bowled a 300.

Determined not to wait as long to secure his next 300, on January 18, 2005, about 2 and a half weeks later, Larry again scored 300 in the last game of his series, and increased his career high series to 785. Less than 2 months later, on March 14, 2005 Larry bowled the first of his 11 strikes in a row games without achieving a 300, and he bowled a 290.

Although 2004 and 2005 proved to be great bowling years for Larry, 2006 proved to be his best. One year to the day after scoring his 11 strikes in a row game, on MARCH 14, 2006 Larry scored his next 300 game, and then again proceeded to wait until the end of the year, on December 12, 2006, to have his best night of bowling ever. He started off with a 237 game, followed by a hefty 270, and ended the night with a 300 game, giving him a series total of 807, the best series of his career to this date.

Larry's bowling highlights have certainly not ended. In 2007 he again bowled 11 strikes in a row without getting a 300, and in 2008 bowled another 300 game. Larry is still bowling well, and on January the 5th of this year, 2010, he again bowled 11 strikes in a row without getting a 300, when he bowled a 297.

All in all, Larry has bowled seven 300 games, one 800 series, and three 11 strikes in a row games.

Larry also received the Tuscaloosa USBC Association's High Series Merit Award for the 2008-2009 season for posting a 795 series.

Larry has also been a team captain and league officer, and has won numerous other league and tournament awards.

Would you please join me in congratulating one of Tuscaloosa's best bowlers, and a great role model for this association, Mr. Larry Brown.