

The Legend

The summer of 1977 changed the sport of bowling in Bowling Green forever. Varsity Lanes was purchased by Toledo bowlers Daryl Ducat and his friend Dean Moosman. Dean was the managing partner (later Dean and Arlene bought Daryl's interest and owned Varsity outright) and ran the day to day operations of the center. Many local bowlers, at first, considered Dean "a Toledo Hot Shot" and not really a part of the local bowling community. Dean was a little shy at first and many of the locals took this as his being aloof or maybe thinking he was too good to mingle with the locals. It really didn't take long for most of us to realize that Dean was just Dean and really never cared about impressing anyone.

I had watched Dean bowl in the Blade Classic many times and was very aware of his bowling accomplishments but had never spent any time with him until one night that first year that he was in BG, someone had stolen my bowling shoes from my bag. It was a Monday night and The Lorraine Oil Classic League was ready to start and I didn't have any shoes. After unsuccessfully trying to warm up with house shoes, I was ready to call it quits for the night and just watch when Dean approached me, and asked what size shoes I needed, he called Varsity and had someone bring me a pair of his extras so I could bowl that night. Little did I know that this would lead to a friendship that would last over 25 years.

Later that season Dean asked me to sub on his team in the Wednesday Classic League at Varsity where he lined me up and coached me to my first 700 series ever. The following year Dean asked me to bowl with him in the City Tournament where we won the Team Event for my first City Association Title. I have bowled in Bowling Green for many years with many great bowlers, but, I have never bowled with a better TEAM bowler than Dean Moosman. Dean had the ability to bring everyone's game up a notch and as he was a great bowler I think that his presence made everyone with him better as well. Dean was always very proud of his many bowling accomplishments, but rarely did he talk about himself, it was always his team. Many of the top bowlers in the area today owe much of their success to the tutoring of Dean Moosman.

Dean was a great athlete, besides his bowling he was a great golfer and baseball player (played at Perrysburg HS and Defiance College). One of his proudest feats was the fact that he had recorded a "hole in one", a "no hitter", and a "300 game", the LEGEND was BORN. He may not be the only one to ever accomplish such a feat but I would wager that it is a very small club. Dean originally enrolled at BGSU and walked on the basketball team before transferring to Defiance the next year to play baseball.

As our friendship grew Dean and I spent more and more time, bowling tournaments and leagues together and although we had some great times and great success's bowling, I think our best times were away from bowling. Being in the bowling

business, and spending as many hours a season in the bowling center as we thought we needed, we found ways to get away from the daily grind. When I purchased Al-Mar, Dean was the first to congratulate me and offer any help that he could provide. That turned into a great relationship for Dean and I, but more so I think for the bowlers in Bowling Green.

BGSU sporting events were a great getaway and we traveled all over the area to games. Dean loved the Falcons and rarely missed an opportunity to let an official know when they missed a call that hurt his team. "YOU'RE TERRIBLE" will probably not be missed by any of the MAC officials next year, but, if they listen, they may hear it from above. Dean wouldn't tolerate anyone talking negatively about BG players or coaches. I remember leaving a Western Michigan Basketball game a few years ago, nearly having to restrain Dean from a Western fan that had made a comment about Coach Dakich.

Probably the thing that I will miss most is the sense of humor. Dean wasn't one of those guy's that retold jokes that he had heard (and everyone else had listened to) but he was one of the greatest pranksters ever. He was always did something to lighten up the situation. I remember once I was running a little late to pick Dean up at Varsity for Travel League on a Sunday and he was sitting out on the curb, on his bowling bag holding up a sign that said "Will Bowl for Food". He always had something to say to get our team a little more relaxed. If you have ever bowled with Dick Lambert (or even in the same building), you know how loud he talks. Every Tuesday night Dean would wait until Dick arrived, and without saying a word, would make an ordeal of taking out his hearing aids and placing them on the table. One night after throwing a strike that was part of a long string, one of our opponents jokingly said "you're not that good", without even a second's hesitation, Dean's reply was "where have you been the past 40 years". One season Dean walked up to our bartender and handed him \$2.00 telling him that he couldn't believe how lucky he was to win that bet. This went on for several weeks and when I finally asked Dean what the bet was he said "Oh there was never any bet, but it's driving Dave nuts trying to figure out what he bet me". Dean loved telling stories about his high school and army day's and Alvie Perkins was often a big part of these stories as Dean and Alvie have remained very close for over 60 years. I won't try to repeat any of these old stories but I'm sure that if asked, Alvie would love to tell his versions. I remember when I found a new polish called "Control-it", Dean wanted to try it so instead of using it on his ball, he put it on Jay Young's plastic spare ball. After the 2nd or 3rd time Jay missed a 10 pin due to the ball skidding in the gutter half way down the lane, he spotted Dean behind him with that **** eating grin, he knew what was wrong with his ball. Even in his last weeks Dean was constantly joking with the nurses at the hospital and quickly became their favorite patient.

Dean was always the first one to try anything new that might get him even one more pin a night. I spent many nights until 4 or 5 am in the pro shop re drilling balls with different thumb pitches, trying to get a little different roll to carry one more ten pin. I would guess that Turbo Grip Company may have to lay someone off as I'm sure

that the sale of thumb slugs will be going down drastically. We tried the bowling glasses, the bionic elbow brace (to eliminate the chicken wing), every grip and layout ever mentioned by anyone, and any new bowling product on the market.

The side that probably was unnoticed by many was Dean's compassion and the fact that he helped so many people with their lives, asking for nothing in return but friendship. Dean was always the first one in his pocket when someone was in need. It would amaze most to know how many employees, teammates and friends were helped through a personal crisis without hesitation or thought of personal gain.

I could write several pages about Deans bowling accomplishments. He was a member of the bowling hall of fames for Ohio (92), Toledo (78), and BG (92). His tournament and league titles are so numerous that it would be nearly impossible to list. His year's with the nationally known Reeb Team were the subject of many long discussions, always about the team, it's accomplishments, and the bowlers and their stories on and off the lanes. Dean started bowling in 1949 at Timbers Lanes in Maumee, joining the Classic in the early 60's. He held many Toledo Bowling Assn Titles, Team (64 & 68) Singles (76), All Events (73), Masters (73 & 76). Ohio Majors (70 & 72), Ohio State Match Game Singles (76). Ohio State Team Match Game Championship (75). Blade Classic All time pin fall Leader, and many League Championships (74, 76, 77, 82, 86, 87, 92, 93, 94, 95). Two Elks National Team Titles, 7 - BGBA Team Championships, 3 - Doubles (most recent only 2 years ago at nearly 70 years of age, 1 - singles, 1 - all events. BGBA City records for both Team Game (1212) and series (3501). Dean bowled in PBA events throughout his career finishing in the top 20 in Toledo three times and in the top 10 twice. At 72 years old Dean was still very competitive. Competing at the ABC Tournament in February this year, bowling a team with myself, Denny Torgerson (PBA National Champion, and Steve Jakubowski (Toledo HOF) we moved into the top 20 in the team event and Dean shot nearly 670 in singles to move into the top 50 in singles.

For the past several years Dean and I had both suggested to Denny and Steve that we step down and let them pick up a couple of young guns to make their team stronger. Both Steve and Denny expressed that the reason they bowled was to bowl with us and they didn't want to change our team. Dean had told me, every year, for the past several years, while bowling at the ABC, that this would be his last tournament, only to later in the year ask me when we were going next year. This year in Baton Rouge he was honored for his 39th ABC and shocked us all when he announced that next year would be his 40th and last ABC. I really think his goal was to catch Dick Weber (57).

I feel like I have only skimmed over the memories that I will have eternally and I could go on writing forever but I am going to end now with this final thought. A good friend, a great teammate, a LEGEND to us all, gone for now, but never forgotten.

“OLD GUY'S RULE”

Bill Wammes