

Memorable achievement on bowling night

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

January 3 became a day of perfection for Austin Greene—at least when it came to his bowling score.

For the second time in his life, Greene achieved a score of 300 in bowling.

During what began as an ordinary night of bowling with the Warm Springs men's league in Madras, Greene accomplished what all bowlers are striving for: 12 strikes in a row.

It takes a bit of prying to get Greene to talk about his successes, however.

But the humble man can recite dates that coincide with his most memorable scores—his first 300 came on Oct. 18, 1992.

"It's not a frequent thing," he said. "That's the challenge that you look forward to."

He originally began bowling in the youth leagues in the 1970s and has been bowling ever since.

While his average score is around 200, he has come close to bowling a score of 300 before.

His first score of 299 occurred on Oct. 12, 1988. After scoring 11 strikes in a row, a single pin left Greene short of a perfect score.

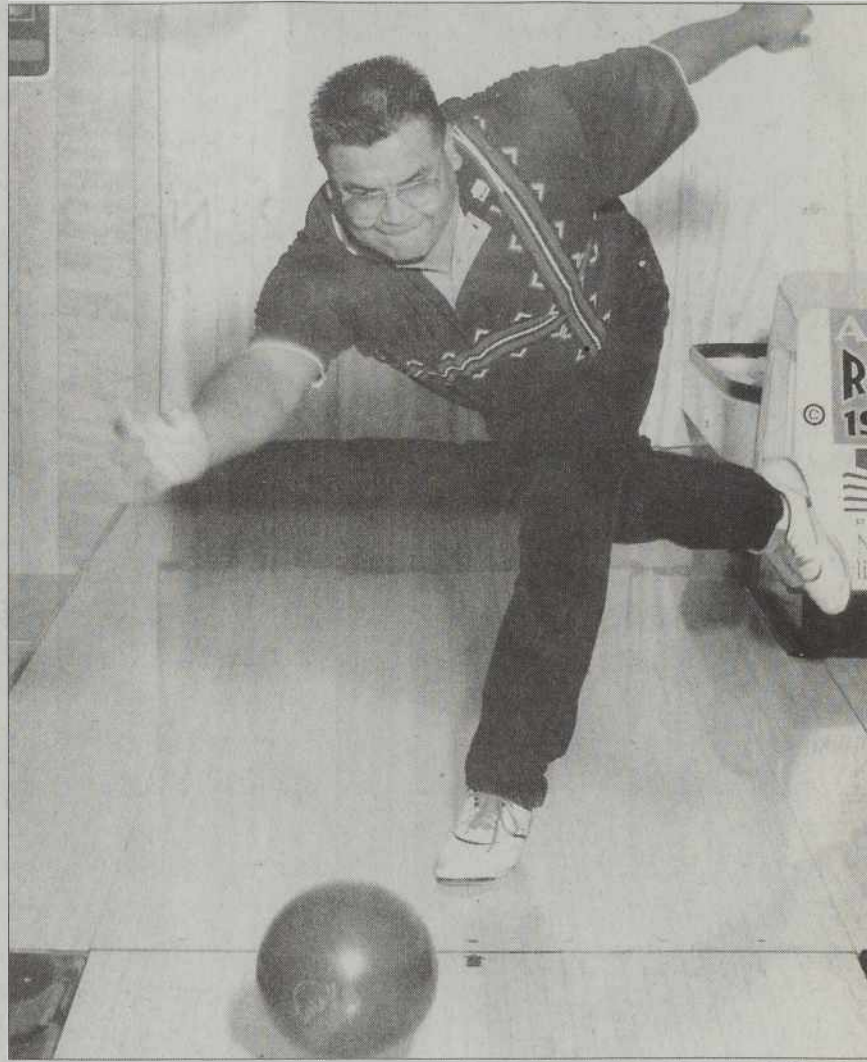
As for the elusive 300, he said, "That's every bowler's dream."

Greene said the best part of the sport is the challenge.

"Along with challenge, it brings travel," he added. "I like to travel to various tournaments."

Besides state and all-Indian tournaments, Greene has had the opportunity to travel to national tournaments in locations such as Wichita, Las Vegas and Reno.

Bowling is something that is



Greene at a tournament in Reno.

submitted photo

a family affair for Greene—his son and daughter have both grown up with bowling.

"I try to share what was taught to me," he said. His family also hosts the annual bowling tournament in Bend.

According to Greene, "I also have 4 competitive sisters that also bowl in local leagues and travel to tournaments."

Family is one reason that his second perfect score meant so much, Greene said. He achieved the perfect score on the third anniversary of his son's death.

In Greene's opinion, "It was a really special thing that night."

"I knew he was with me," he added.

Greene's late father also had an impact on him, he said.

In fact, his father was buried wearing the ring Greene received when he scored 299.

Greene said, "I dedicated that ring to him when I first got it because of his impact on me."

Greene hopes to have a similar influence on youth today—something he strives toward in his position as director of recreation at the Community Center.

He began working at the Community Center nearly 27 years ago. Even then, he had already held a few summer positions there.

"Recreation really had an impact on me," he said.

As a local youth, Greene participated in recreation programs like little league and teen club basketball. "I started coaching the Minor League Braves baseball team for 7 years, and moved to the 'Papooses,'" Greene said—a team he once played baseball for and still coaches today.

Greene began working with the recreation department directly out of high school, and he hasn't left since. What began as an entry-level position slowly grew into an increasing amount of responsibility.

In 1997 Greene was promoted to his current position as the director of recreation.

The best part, in his opinion, is the chance to work with children.

"Before it used to be athletics," he said. "Now I like to teach the cultural activities."

Greene hopes that even taking the time to speak with a young person will benefit them.

"It has to be a good feeling to them that someone can actually talk to them," he said.

As part of his position, Greene hosts basketball tournaments like the upcoming high school tournament for tribal affiliation in April.

During the tournament top teams from reservations around the northwest will compete and represent their tribes.

This will also be Greene's twenty-fifth year coaching baseball.

In fact, he said, some of the youth he once coached are now in the community as young adults.

"Some still greet you as 'coach,'" he said. "That has a very special meaning that you can impact a young athlete in a positive manner, and they will respect you for many years to come."

Baseball season is always something of a challenge, he said, with more than 200 participants.

But in his opinion, it's great for the local youth have something to join.

See BOWLER on 11

Young Achiever TaSheena George Sponsored by Les Schwab

TaSheena George accomplished something extraordinary at Jefferson County Middle School.

She is the only Native American student that achieved a 4.0 grade point average at JCMS this past trimester.

TaSheena received the highest honors out of all the Native American students in grades six through eight.

The 13-year-old seventh grader said she has a passion for one subject in particular: science.

"I like to do experiments," she explained.

TaSheena's favorite experiment thus far involved a project that required her to test her own cheek cells, she said.

According to TaSheena, "It was fun, and it got us really involved."

TaSheena is also very active in the SMILE program. That stands for Science and Math Investigative Learning Experiences.

She joined the program as early as possible—during fourth grade at Warm Springs Elementary School.



The program allows students to participate all the way through high school. At that point, students can potentially earn scholarships to Oregon State University.

That is TaSheena's plan, and she hopes to earn a degree in veterinary science.

It's a program that involves extra experiments and even trips to a camp in earlier years, she said.

During the seventh grade, she hopes to travel with the program to OSU for the annual seventh-grade challenge.

TaSheena credits her mother as her hero in life.

"She teaches me basically everything. She taught me how to cook and how to bead. She just helps me and is there for me," TaSheena explained.

Next deadline to submit items to the Spilyay Tymoo is Friday, Jan 26. Thank you.

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