

## 20 QUESTIONS

# Dan Rideout

*Dan Rideout had a most unusual experience following his appearance at the recent NCAUSBCA Open Championship Tournament at Bowl America Chantilly. He had just rolled 845, the highest series in the history of the tournament—in the Singles event, no less—only to find out moments later that another bowler in the same squad closed with two perfect games to score the same exact series.*

*When all was said and done, Rideout tied Para Limtrakul of Gaithersburg for top honors in the tournament's Scratch Singles event.*

*Rideout, who served a 20-year, six-day stint in the Air Force beginning in 1984, expressed an interest in being stationed on the West Coast, so of course he was sent to Maryland in 1996. A year earlier, he wanted to retrain into a field that would lead to a "future low-effort career," and computer programming was available.*

*"I've always been a little nerdy, so getting paid for it works out pretty well," he said of his current position as a software engineer with Henggeler Consulting.*

*Rideout, who resides in Severn, Md., and is married with a 23-year-old son, has bowled approximately 25 perfect games and has a top series of 854, which he considers his greatest accomplishment on the lanes.*

*He recently answered 20 questions posed by editor Bob Cosgrove.*

### **What was your first involvement with bowling?**

I was five years old, and my Mom put me in a league; I used to go to the bowling alley with [my parents]. I grew up in Pleasanton, Calif., just over the freeway from Earl Anthony's Dublin 40 Bowl, where I did most of my youth bowling.

### **How many bowling balls do you bring to your league?**

I have a locker at Fort Meade, where I have three plus a spare ball.

I probably buy maybe two balls a year. Mike Sinek tells me what I need, and I follow through.

### **What is the strongest part of your game?**

Making foul line adjustments because I'm not very accurate, but I know how to ... I know when I'm going to be inaccurate, and I can make usually a pretty good fix at the foul line.

That shot was almost tailor-made for me. I was telling the guys I was bowling with that someone was going to beat this [score] because it was pretty wide open, and the fact that a guy tied it was pretty amazing.

### **What part of your game do you find yourself working on the most?**

Let me think about that .... Bowling on lanes with dry heads—that just tears me up!

### **Does the 845 series and association Scratch Singles co-title change your perception of yourself as a bowler?**

It's the highest I've ever shot in a tournament, and it could validate myself because I bowl at Fort Meade a lot. But I do bowl other houses, too, so it's nice to bowl well in other houses. I can't say that it really changed me.

### **Since you bowled the 845 on the opening weekend of the association tournament, did you have any doubt that you were *not* going to win the Scratch Singles title?**

That shot was almost tailor-made for me. I was telling the guys I was bowling with that someone was going to beat this [score] because it was pretty wide

open, and the fact that a guy tied it was pretty amazing.

### **What were your thoughts after you started off with those two big games?**

My thoughts ... I thought I had a chance to put up a good number, and I was told after sticking a 9-pin in the 10th frame of the 3rd game that a 300 would have tied the house record.

When we were done, I saw that [Pera Limtrakul] tied me, and I thought that I shouldn't have missed that 9-pin I left—I stuck—in the 11th frame of the *first* game 'cause that cost me first place.

I should have had 289 and 846!

### **Was there a reason for the error?**

Lazy ... lazy!

### **Do you ever think of joining the PBA and/or bowling in PBA regionals?**

I've done one regional, but joining

the PBA ... that's not something for me. Bowling's still just a hobby for me. I love it, but I sure wouldn't want to do it for a living. So my hat's off for those guys; you know, they're passionate about it, but it's just not for me.

### **Is that a reason why you don't bowl in the Sport Bowling leagues at Fort Meade?**

Oh, I used to bowl with them, and I sub quite often. But that's almost ... torture! It's fun, and it's good for you—it's really good for you. I just don't have the patience. I do pretty well in it, but ... it's good for a summer league.

### **Which area bowlers do you most admire?**

Well, Mike Sinek for his knowledge of the game and skills, and I'd say his passion for the game is pretty admirable, too.

Joy Esterson is another. She almost always beats me, and it's very cool that she's on tour.

Also, my hat's off to the guys who

routinely crown me “High Out Of The Money” when it comes to tournaments—guys like [Mike] Wittington, [Brian] Cavey, [Bobby] Hall [II], [NCAUSBCA Hall of Famer] Lee Brosius, and the rest. Thanks a lot.

**Do you watch bowling on television a lot?**

If there's nothing else on! I always pull for the underdogs, so there's no one person I really root for. I like to watch the new guys win—the same reason I watch golf. I like to watch first-time winners; that's always really cool. But there's no single person I really like. Back in the day, it was Earl Anthony, but I was really young!

**What part does bowling play in your life?**

For better or worse, it comprises the majority of my social life. It's definitely a social thing for me. I can't imagine not bowling on a Friday night. It's a social life for me—a majority of it.

**Do you have any activities outside of bowling?**

I'm either playing my drums or playing golf—those are the things I do. I've played drums since I was in the sixth grade. My heroes are John Bonham and Neil Peart.

I'm in a band now that plays classic and modern rock, and we're still in the formation stage. I've been in a few bands. In fact, I occasionally fill in for a band named “Til September.”

**Does today's bowling environment help or hinder your game?**

It's definitely to my benefit because I could never get the rotation I get on the ball now with a [Columbia 300] White Dot or a Yellow Dot. I never was able to put as much hook on as I do now compared to what I used to do.

**Do you primarily use products from one company?**

Up until about a year ago, I was just about exclusively Roto Grip. But then I tried the two—the Storm Dimension and the Second Dimension. Those are great balls. So I guess I'm a two-company guy now.

**How do you normally handle pressure situations?**

I try to slow my breathing down and tell myself to do what I've been doing all along to get to this point—try not to change anything.

**What changes would you make in bowling today?**

I wouldn't change anything. I don't have an answer to that because as long as we're all playing by the same rules and have the same opportunity to get the same equipment, I think it's fair.

I have a non-answer—sorry!

**What are your future bowling goals?**

I would like to shoot a good number at the USBC Tournament in July, someday shoot two 300s in the same set, and I'd like to cash in a [PBA] regional.

**Is that something you're looking forward to, to bowl in another regional?**

Oh, yeah. Actually, I'm looking forward to turning 50 [in three and a half years] so I can do some of the senior stuff, too. •

