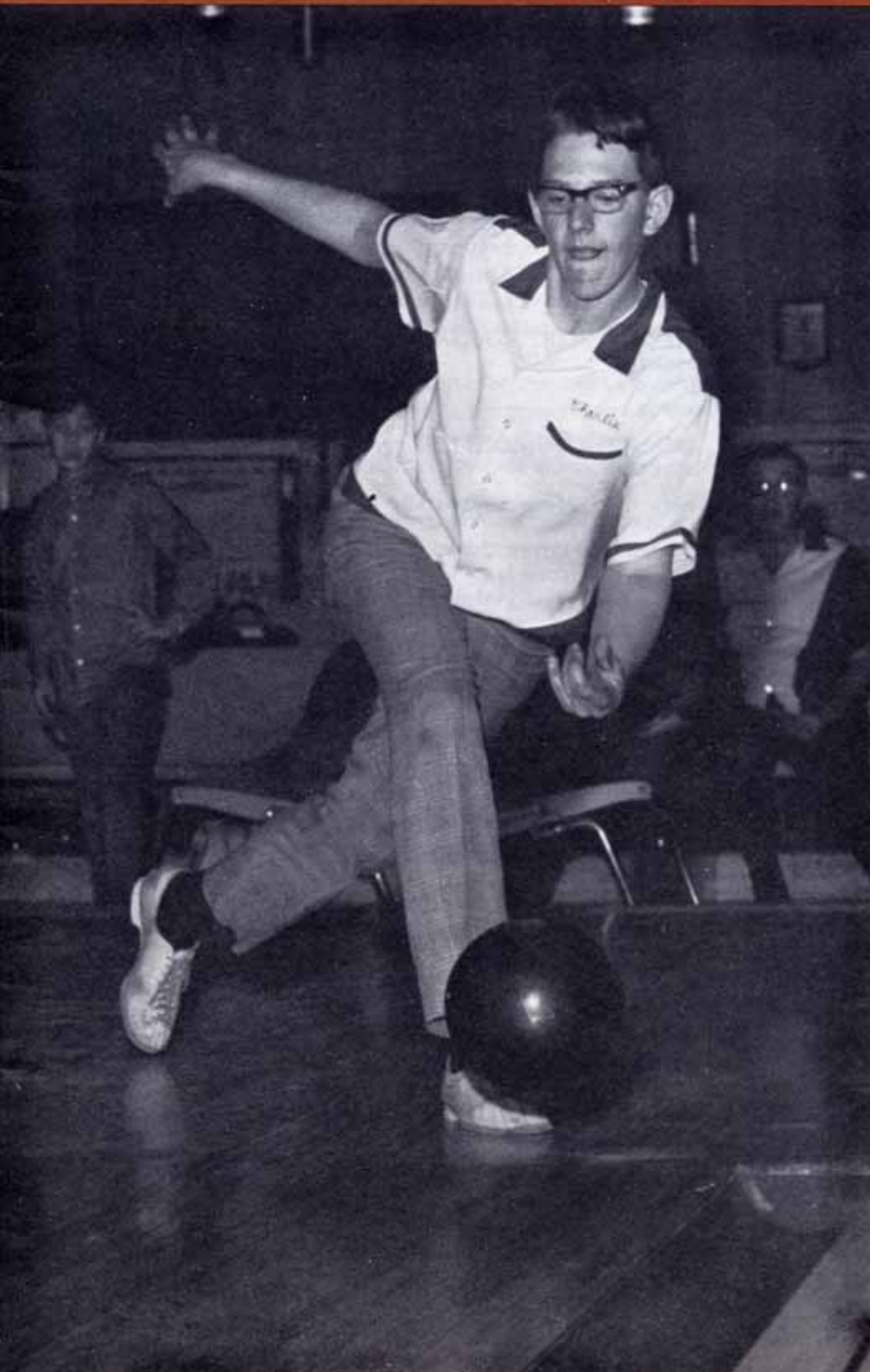


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CHARLIE SCHUELLER MAKES HISTORY

The Smiles and Tears
of a Perfect Game

By Henry Frankhauser
Wash., D.C. Daily News

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The Smiles and Tears of a Perfect Game

BY HENRY FANKHAUSER

Washington, D. C. Daily News

A memorable moment in bowling brought both smiles and tears to young Charlie Schueller, but yet it still couldn't completely console him from experiencing the saddest Christmas season in his life.

It happened the day after Christmas — December 26, 1969.

Charlie's Mom had died of cancer just four days earlier. She was buried on the 23d. Charlie and his dad had previously scheduled a makeup bowling match for Dec. 26. They bowl as a team in the Parent and Child League at Fair Lanes Wheaton Plaza.

"We thought of postponing the match," said Mr. Schueller, "and I'm still not sure we did the right thing so close after her funeral, but we both felt Mom would have wanted us to bowl that match anyway."

After all, Mrs. Schueller was the one who had encouraged Charlie and his dad to take up the game. "I had never bowled



Charlie's dad and late mother participated in awards ceremonies earlier in the season which Charlie rolled a 676 series. This was the last photo taken of the three together.

in my life until she persuaded me to try it several years ago," explained Mr. Schueller, who came to the U.S. from Vienna, Austria in the 1930's. "Then we got Charlie interested, and he and I have been bowling as a team ever since. That was four years ago. No, we've never won a championship, but we're currently in second place," added Mr. Schueller, hopefully.

Mrs. Schueller, who was originally from St. Paul, Minnesota, carried about a 145 average and frequently subbed for her husband as Charlie's partner. Mr. Schueller averages around 160.

Charlie and his dad didn't feel particularly up to it on that Dec. 26. Charlie opened with a 150. His average was 177.

But Charlie's glum expression brightened a bit when he started stringing strikes in the second game. The strikes kept coming, and Charlie's face kept glowing.

"I don't think I really realized the full extend of what I was doing until that first extra ball in the tenth frame," he smiled. "Then I started thinking about everything and shaking all over. I don't know how I did it, but those last three strikes were really perfect," the elated lefty beamed.

Charlie Schueller, 16, had just bowled the first perfect 300 game by a junior bowler in the Metropolitan Washington area.

"No, I didn't say much to him during the game," related his dad. "I didn't want to disturb him. But I did try to calm him down a couple of times," he laughed.

"Yes, tears began to fill his eyes — and mine, too," he added.

The 48-lane center was practically deserted when Charlie pitched his performance because it was during the Christmas holiday lull, and because they were all by themselves bowling in a doubles team makeup match.

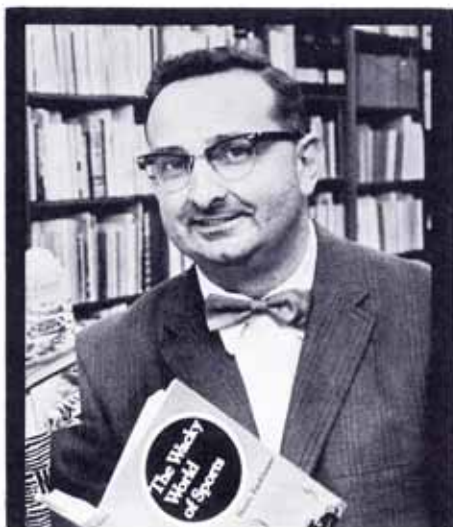
"We were rolling way down on lanes 45 and 46, too, and I don't think the management knew what was actually going on," said the Northwood High junior. "But, you know, I'm not sure I could have done it if the place had been crowded and the rest of my league was crowded around watching."

Charlie couldn't quite regain his composure in the third game, mustering only a 141 for a 591 series. He'd done better. Take for instance the opening night of the season (September 9, 1969) when he blistered a 676 which established a house record for junior bowlers at Wheaton Plaza.

The management awarded him a plaque for that performance. His mom and dad joined in on the presentation. In fact, that occasion was the last time the three had their picture taken together.

Charlie will be well rewarded for his historic 300 game, too. Fair Lanes will honor him with a \$500 college scholarship for the highest boys game of the season in its youth bowling program.

"I sure would have liked Mom to have seen me bowl that game," said Charlie. "But, somehow, I feel she knows about it," he added.



HENRY FANKHAUSER is the former bowling editor of the Washington Daily News. Although he no longer covers bowling it's still in his blood and when a good story comes along he can't resist the urge that made him one of the finest bowling writers in the country. A member of the BWAA he has written a number of prize winning articles for national bowling publications.