

After rolling area's first PBA Experience 800 series, Everett Hamilton feels need to perform

Everett Hamilton of Gambrills, Md., became the first NCAUSBCA member to record an 800 series in PBA Experience Sport Bowling competition when he scored games of 258-268-278 for an 804 series June 29 in the Bud Scratch Trios summer league at The Lanes Fort Meade. He finished the evening with a 233 game for a 1,037 total.

"I bowled well during the summer," said Hamilton, a systems engineer at Northrop Grumman. "Overall, I averaged 200 on the PBA conditions, so I was happy, but it was just one of those evenings."

After the first two games, the 38-year-old right-hander hoped he could hold it together for the third game. An 800 se-

ries definitely was on his mind, but he knew he'd have to be nearly perfect to have a chance.

"I was like, *Well, just throw good shots, and if it happens, it happens,*" he said. "Anytime I know I have 500 after two games, I know there's a potential to get there. I've always thought that way."

Hamilton admits he got away with a couple of shots with his Global 900 The Break S75 ball that night, but he didn't throw anything that poorly.

"The lanes broke down and kind of opened up," he said, "so towards the last game, I had a little bit of area because Joy [Esterson] and I were playing the same part of the lane. That definitely helped out tons."

After scoring 278 to break the 800 barrier, Hamilton said he wasn't aware of the significance of his accomplishment until fellow league member Mike Sinek came by and wondered if the PBA Experience 800 series was the first ever recorded in the association.

The 804 was Hamilton's fourth career 800 series to go along with "seven or eight" perfect games. His highest three-gamer, an 824, was bowled in 1996, but he claimed that his performance this past summer was his proudest bowling achievement.

"To bowl that well and shoot an 800 on a PBA condition...." he mused.

Hamilton added he now feels pressure to accomplishment even more on the lanes, but the challenge of the PBA lane conditions has made him especially realize the importance of spares.

"I think minimal open frames, staying clean," he said in what determines a satisfying league session.

The series also made him think that perhaps he could make it as a regional professional bowler if he were willing to put in the time and the effort, but his job and his hopes of raising a family with his wife, Sarah, in the not-too-distant future has his pro bowling hopes instead focused on life as a PBA senior member in about a dozen years.

"That would be a more realistic goal," he said.

— Bob Cosgrove

Everett Hamilton displays the distinctive Sport Bowling Crystal Pin award he received from USBC for his 804 series in the Bud Scratch Trios, a PBA Experience summer league at The Lanes Fort Meade.

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