



## The area's best bowlers

In past articles, letters to the editor, etc., I have stated there are roughly only 20 true players in this association. This month I will recognize those players and other top NCABA bowlers.

A "player" is a scratch bowler who participates in scratch tournaments, has some degree of talent, some degree of skill development, and is also willing to increase his/her skill development. Merely averaging 200-plus in a league and *not* participating in scratch tournaments indicates only "good bowler" status.

A player bowls on different conditions at several centers, puts the money up, and competes against his/her peers on a scratch level. I hope there is no confusion between good bowler and player.

The rankings and listings are subjective. My apologies to those whom I inadvertently missed or overlooked.

The top 50 players (plus one) as I see it:

1. **Rich Wolfe** — Is there any doubt?
2. **David Reed** — When he is lined up and has a positive ball reaction, he is really tough to beat. First-rate cash record. The greatest pure talent ever to come from this association. If he ever learns *how* to bowl and becomes a skilled player, he will become a national star.
3. **Jim Lewis** — Over the past six years, who has performed any better?
4. **Tony Chapman** — The national amateur champion. Always cashes. Very bright future.
5. **Tony Walton** — Star on the rise. Two recent PBA regional titles indicate a solid future. Needs to "cross the bridge" more often to gain greater respect among his Virginia peers.
6. **Brian Poole** — Gets through the shot really well. As a "player," he should get more respect than he does. Solid cash record.
7. **Ron Holt** — NCABA's best-kept secret. Excellent cash record. Future Hall of Famer. Needs to "cross the bridge" more often.
8. **Hollis McMullen** — Not pretty, not powerful. He just knocks over the pins for the \$\$\$.
9. **Lee Brosius** — A "hooker" he's not. A "player" he is.
10. **Richard Dodge** — Hall of Famer who always seems to be cashing. Has *great* potential if he really applies himself.
11. **Rod Cahow** — Open the lanes up to the right and Mr. Cahow knocks down more pins than anyone.
12. **Brian Dematte** — A solid game with a

solid future if he wants it.

13. **Bill Kaelin** — Always around the cash spot. If he could bowl more, he would have more publicity. Really "gets all of it."
14. **Larry O'Neill** — Still, after all these years, plays the game very, very well.
15. **Russell Rose** — Doesn't throw the "big ball," just big scores.
16. **Mike Hahn** — In his prime, this future Hall of Famer was *the* premier player for the \$\$\$.
17. **Wilson Rowe** — Still, after all these years, one of the best.
18. **Greg Wilson** — Another quiet winner and casher. Say it isn't so, Greg: You have not retired, have you?
19. **John Tragert** — When will the *real* John Tragert emerge?
20. **Jim Einhorn** — When the "left" is favored, Jim is always there.
21. **Russ Sawyers** — Quietly goes around and cashes in most tournaments. He has quietly won as well.
22. **Kendra Cameron** — She is proving she can compete successfully with the men. Outstanding cash record. If she develops a strong analytical mind for the game, she will become one of the best woman players in the world.
23. **Lewis Twine** — Bowl, Lewis, bowl. Let the other players get to know who you are and how good you are.
24. **Ken Szymanski** — Impressed me at a recent Syd Jones scratch tournament.
25. **Jim Robinette** — Are you still playing, Jim? Former No. 1-ranked bowler has a great "feel" for the game.
26. **Bobby Hall** — Another "old timer" who doesn't look pretty but knocks them down for the \$\$\$.
27. **Ron Steele** — A very underrated/under-recognized bowler who knows the color of bowling is green.
28. **Magic Gray** — Former PBA eastern region player of the year is always a threat in any tournament.
29. **Dave Hart** — Solid player who, when he plays, can hold his own with most players.
30. **Nick Serino** — Long-time Maryland bowler who can play. Should "cross the bridge" more often.
31. **Ricky Wallace** — With some maturity and discipline, Larry's son will be part of cream

that rises to the top.

32. **Todd Larson** — Has graduated from handicap wins to scratch tournament cashes. If he overcomes a couple of flaws, Todd has top bowler potential.
33. **Brad Tolson** — Solid game. Always a threat to cash.
34. **Chuck Gadbois** — A senior player who is solid. Plays very well when he plays.
35. **Chuck Gannon** — "Mr. Alternate." Always a threat to cash because of his skill development and intensity. A *great* clutch player.
36. **Jerry Francomano** — This "master technician" and Hall of Famer doesn't bowl too often—he is always running the tournament for the bowlers.
37. **Jane Timmons** — Hall of Famer who should compete against the men more often. The result would be a lot of embarrassed male egos.
38. **Gary Harris** — A talented lefty who's starting to play the game more often.
39. **Doug Knoth** — Give him room left and Doug knocks them down. The talent is there, but is the discipline to learn to play the game to achieve a higher skill level? Needs to go beyond leagues/tournaments that have overly-easy lane conditions.
40. **Roger Painter** — A very fine player who should play more often. Solid game.
41. **Graham Aylor** — "Cracker": Leave Shirley for a weekend and come play again. This former record-holder has the ball to bowl with anyone.
42. **Mark Glover** — Hasn't done much "serious" bowling of late, but when and if he comes back, this six-time PBA regional champion is a threat in any tournament with a short oil pattern.
43. **Jack Bogan** — Learning and appreciating what it is to be a player. Has potential.
44. **Jim Troutman** — A solid player who has always been around the cash spot.
45. **Jim Wolfe** — NCABA's "Mr. Revs."
46. **Allan Kitaguchi** — An "all or nothing" player. When this lefty is "on," he is really tough. Will play for the \$\$\$.
47. **Charles Velasquez** — The Navy keeps this NCABA record-holder (868 series) a mystery to other players. Needs to find a backer so we can see how good he can become.
48. **Brian Donati** — With room right, Brian can play with anyone.
49. **Ken Shaw** — Bowling's Mickey Mantle. Only bowler I know who has 300s and 800s from both the left and right sides. This association's and one of the world's best "switch hitters."
50. **Greg Goetz** — I had to keep the final spot open for him just in case he unretires.
51. **Gary Parsons** — Hey, it's *my* list!

## Honorable Mention:

- **J.C. Arbogast** — When “on,” J.C. can knock them down. Talent is there—is the desire and dedication?
- **Ron Asbury** — Good bowler who seemingly always has been around and doing a fine job.
- **Connie Bailey** — Scott’s dad.
- **Scott Bailey** — Connie’s son.
- **Bob Bean** — Very fine “down and in” player. Solid.
- **Pat Blackmore** — “Mr. Dedication.”
- **Hersel Bowen** — Can play the game for the \$\$\$  
An underrecognized player.
- **Garry Breeden** — Over the years, always a good league bowler.
- **Curtis Brooks** — “Mr. Roll.” A bowler can’t get any more roll than this.
- **Eric Burden** — A much better player than he gives himself credit for.
- **Jason Butler** — This top-notch junior bowler has the most potential. The tour awaits him after his possible pro football career. If he did not play other sports (football, baseball, wrestling) on an all-state level, this high school student would be ready to give the tour a serious attempt after graduation.
- **Pedro Carrasco** — A very good handicap tournament player. Needs to “graduate” to a higher level.
- **Tim Colley** — Has the release—will he learn the game?
- **Jerry Czwowitz** — Will play for the \$\$\$ and deserves to be recognized.
- **Bill Davis** — Future Hall of Famer who still plays the game extremely well. An underrecognized “forgotten” player who shouldn’t be.
- **David Ferguson** — One of the area’s finest instructors on an advanced level. Quietly becoming a top player.
- **Damon Fisher** — Collegiate who’s always near the top at tournaments.
- **Al Franceschetti** — If I could get Al to take a confidence pill, he would be one of the best.
- **Frank Gallo Jr.** — A good, solid player who does his fair share of cashing.
- **John Green** — Great talent. Come out of retirement.

- **Chip Hamilton** — Not textbook but can knock them down.
- **Joanne Harris** — Top woman player who can play.
- **Steve Harter** — Good teacher, good ball driller, good player. Should play more than he does—give those thousands a chance to cheer.
- **Barry Hartman** — A developing college player who will surprise some people after graduation.
- **Joey Havens** — A talented “young lion” who, with proper development, can create some waves in this game.
- **Steve Hill** — If he ever gets serious again, this big man can knock down some serious pins.
- **Bob Hilliard** — A fine Manassas player who should travel north more often.
- **Phil Hiob** — “Old school” stroker. A fine teacher and player.
- **Preston Hollis** — Solid credentials. Come out and play more often.
- **Bobby Holmes** — “The Greatest.”
- **Richard Holmes** — A solid player with a conventional game who cashes when he plays.
- **Willie Jelks** — Good instructor who is always a threat to produce a good score.
- **Kenny Jones** — Kenny is good and should play more often.
- **Vince Jozwiak** — Very fine league bowler who should play with the players—the younger players might be surprised.
- **Susan Keesecker** — Should compete with the men. Solid player.
- **Kelly Lemnah** — This senior is starting to play this game very well.
- **Mike Lindsey** — Should play more often. Good “swing” bowler.
- **Jim Long** — Crofton’s contribution to the PBA Senior Tour who apparently is doing well.
- **Eric Michael** — Another fine bowler who got off the bowling train. (See Mike Whorton.)
- **June Miller** — She should compete with the men and see how good she could be.
- **Cal Moore** — Good bowler who should bowl scratch events more often to see how good he really is.
- **John Moore** — Has a lot of potential. Should play the game instead of playing during the game.

- **Berlin Myers** — She can play—period.
- **Debbie Myers** — With coming maturity, Berlin’s daughter may become *really, really* good.
- **Nick Newman** — A senior who should have “thousands” cheering him.
- **Roxy Nicholson** — Larry O’Neill’s step-daughter is quietly becoming very good.
- **Howard Parker** — Will play for the \$\$\$  
Could become really good after correcting his balance problem.
- **John Parks** — Talent is there—is the desire to learn and apply himself?
- **John Perry** — Solid game, solid player.
- **Lisa Rand** — Good, solid “outside” player.
- **Charles Raynor** — Big man, big talent, big ball.
- **Eric Richardson** — When this college player graduates, look out NCABA.
- **Darryl Roberson** — Solid league player.
- **Bob Robertson** — Do not retire.
- **Buddy Sain** — Talented lefty.
- **Scott Sekely** — Is starting to practice and is looking really good. This could spell trouble for his competitors.
- **Ray Shackelford** — This Hall of Famer, PBA TV finalist, and record-holder is coming back. Look out.
- **John Sims** — A talented lefty. Does he have the “right stuff” to go to a higher level?
- **Jim Smiley** — Underrecognized and talented league player.
- **C.W. Spiess** — Solid player.
- **Jim Theuer** — Always cashes when in bowling shape.
- **Steve Trimble** — Good game. Should play more often.
- **David Wadel** — Good league bowler.
- **Larry Wallace** — Former No. 1-ranked player should play again.
- **Mike Warboy** — Talented lefty who, for some reason, has an aversion to bowl local scratch events.
- **Mike Warner** — This four-game record-holder is talented and a threat when serious.
- **Willie Williams** — Perhaps the NCABA’s best league bowler.
- **Mike Whorton** — When the bowling train stopped at Manassas, Mike got off for a rest and never reboarded. Should travel north more often.

**FINALLY:** Since I, along with Larry O’Neill, Chuck Gannon, Bobby Holmes, Bobby Hall, Greg Goetz, and Jim Robinette (sorry for the oversight last month, Jim) are the “old men” of local scratch bowling, I believe I have insight to a history of the NCABA. Thus, I would like to offer the following “rankings” as one historian remembers.

### NCABA all-time top dozen for the \$\$\$:

1. Mike Hahn
2. Larry O’Neill
3. Jim Robinette
4. Elmer Breeden
5. Wilson Rowe
6. Patty Costello
7. Bobby Hall

8. Mark Glover
9. Steve Sipe
10. Rich Wolfe
11. Joel Decker
12. John Doyle

### Current top 10 for the \$\$\$:

1. Mike Hahn
2. Rich Wolfe
3. Tony Chapman
4. Tony Walton
5. Ron Holt
6. David Reed
7. Hollis McMullen
8. Lee Brosius
9. Larry O’Neill
10. Bill Kaelin

### All-time players with the highest skill development (*skill development does not necessarily equal or mean talent*):

1. Mike Hahn
2. Jim Lewis
3. Chuck Gannon
4. Larry O’Neill
5. Jerry Francomano
6. Greg Goetz
7. Jim Robinette
8. Lee Brosius
9. Wilson Rowe
10. Steve Sipe
11. Bobby Holmes
12. Greg Wilson
13. Bill Kaelin
14. David Ferguson
15. Willie Jelks

16. Gary Parsons
17. Rich Wolfe
18. Patty Costello
19. Ken Shaw
20. Paul Nagel

These lists, like the others, primarily were done to recognize the better bowlers in our association. I hope you enjoyed them (the comments, too) and also hope I didn’t ruffle too many egos.

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