



Gloria Davis (right) receives local and national awards for her 816 series at Laurel from Director Pallie Berry.

Davis sets local record while missing top goal

"It wasn't my goal to shoot 816," said Gloria Davis of Laurel of her WDCAWBA record series tossed earlier this year at AMF/Fair Lanes Laurel.

Her No. 1 goal has been to bowl a 300 game, but the 7-pin in the opening frame of both the first and second games had other ideas. More importantly, her main concern last April 2 was to beat her "male" opponent, Ernest Reese, and that night, Davis bowled 290, 290, and 236, which was quite an accomplishment. However, after bowling, her first thought was, "I beat Ernie, and I broke another house record [her 762 was the previous high series at Laurel]."

When Davis, a left-hander, started bowling 10 years ago, she threw a backup ball. The only professional instruction received was through a video taping by local instructor Pete Hudson about five years ago, which showed that her ball speed was too slow. Davis generally practices anywhere from two to six games when her schedule permits, especially "with the guys" at any center where lanes are available. She normally keeps a record of her practice and league sessions that include such information as center, scores, pins remaining, single pins, conversions, and misses.

Davis, a former youth coach, finished the 1995-96 season with a 200 average for 102 games in the Tuesday Mixed Fours league. Her first 700 (a 704) was bowled in the Eastern Majors Travel League at Bowlarama Lanes in Delaware on November 25, 1992. The series included a 278 game — but she didn't even win a pot!

— Nora King