

BOWL

Magazine

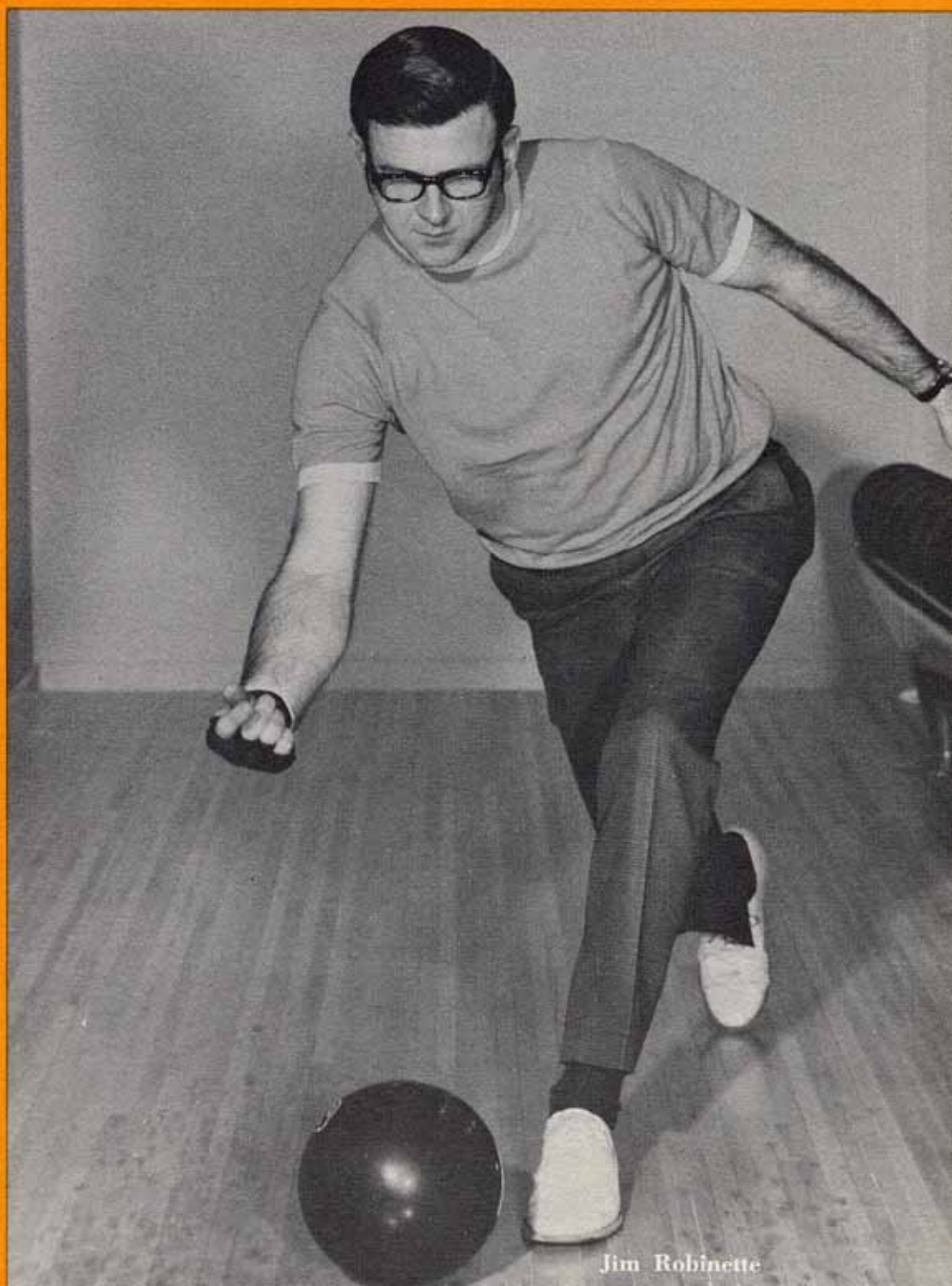
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SERVING 70,000 BOWLERS IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL



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The Area's
Top Bowler
Reveals . . .
The Five
Most Common
Mistakes
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Jim Robinette

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Jim Robinette Tells How To Improve Your Game

Of the area's 70,000 bowlers, no one does it better than the quiet, soft-spoken owner of Carmen Don's Pro shop in Alexandria.

The top local bowler since rankings were started in 1966-67, Jim Robinette's 201.9 average is the highest in the nation's Capital. He has been averaging over 195 since he was 16. Actually, he began bowling at the age of 10 in his father's center at Beckley, West Virginia. After setting pins for about seven cents a line he thought he could do better than some of his customers, and set out to prove it.

Although a 300-game has eluded him, he has fired a 299, and about 20 700 series, including a 780.

Some of his tournament accomplishments: two third place PBA finishes, two time City All Events Champion; two single city championships. In 1970 he finished third in the ABC singles. In 1971 he was Virginia All-Star Champ, with a 218 average. He averaged 217 for 22 games in the regional PBA tournament at Staunton, and won that. His area average was 207 for the 1969-70 season. He also won the MWBPA Singles Championship in 1969.

Asked to name the five most common mistakes he has observed among bowlers, Jim lists these:

- *Forcing the ball and throwing it too hard.*
- *Lack of concentration.*
- *Dropping the ball behind the foul line.* (Jim releases his ball eight to 10-inches ahead of the line.)
- *Failure to follow through when releasing the ball.*
- *Failure to develop an individual style.* (Don't imitate others,

says Jim, although its a fine idea to observe good and bad points of pros.)

Jim considers the number of steps in the approach to be unimportant. Although he uses a *finger-tip* Don Carter Ebonite ball, he does not recommend it to anyone with less than a 180 average. He considers Dick Weber the best all-time bowler, with Mike Hahn and Elmer Breeden, the area's best.

He agrees with most bowlers that there is often a large difference among lanes, and the good bowler must learn to adjust to them. For those who miss the 10-pin most, his advice is to not fear losing the ball in the gutter. "Most people usually over compensate," says Jim, "so they miss it."

Some other Robinette tips: *Timing:* Know when your footwork is in rhythm with your arm swing.

Release: Know your best hand position to release ball for maximum roll and action on ball.

Balance: Know the point of release so that your shoulders are parallel with the line for proper follow through at release.

Lanes: Know how to read lanes and what angle to play and type of approach to use for different angles.

Approach: Keep your arm swing as simple as possible.

Jim is married to the former Linda Irle of Beckley, West Virginia. They have two children, Shelley, 7, and Steve, 9, who carries a respectable average of 90, using a 10-pound ball.

Mrs. Robinette leaves the bowling to Jim.

Paul Sarokin