

The Best Bowling Tip I Ever Received

By John Morgan Jr.

The Best Bowling Tip I Ever Received came from Bryant Mehio of Filipino Strength Bowling Concepts, who has been like a big brother to me for 30 years.



Bryant and I had a coaching session shortly before my 300 game and 805 series on February 19, 2015 in the Mixed-Signals.org League at Bowl America Chantilly and another, more intense practice in late March. During that session, he constantly reminded me to keep my shoulders quiet through the swing and not try to do too much to the ball and just to trust it—and also to maintain good spine tilt.

Everything seemed to come together the evening of April 2 in my league at Chantilly. That night was sort of a “perfect storm” for me and my family. April 2 was, first of all, my 44th birthday, and my parents were up from Florida visiting since my brother had his baby boy two days earlier. My dad, who was at the center that night, had as a kid in 1966 set a house record of 736 at the old Skor-Mor Lanes in Arlington.

About halfway through the first game, my thumb starting hanging up, so I kept going, and my fill ball hung up and left me a 3-pin for a 299. I immediately went and took some out of the thumb hole of my 15-pound Storm Nano and smashed the next 11 again and juiced the fill ball a little, leaving the 2-4-5 for a 297. I started the third game with the first six, and at this point I relaxed, knowing I had an 800 locked up, so I keep going nice and loose in frames 7, 8, and 9. After the 9th frame, I knew a mark would get me the house record. I buried the first and second balls and then wrapped a 10-pin on the fill ball.

I had no idea that my 895 series was the new state record until after I finished. It was a great feeling to turn around and see so many people watching and cheering, most of all my wife, my father, and longtime best friend Shane Cleveland. What was funny was Shane started cheering when I left the 10-pin on the last ball because he knew I had the state record while everyone else was going, “Awwwwwww.”

I ultimately have to thank my dad, John Morgan Sr., for getting me into bowling; my wife, Tammy Morgan, for getting me to start bowling again; my ball driller, [Jim Lewis](#) of Sports Plus/Carmen Don Pro Shop, who didn't go with my layout suggestion on the Nano; and, of course, my coach, Bryant Mehio, who completely retooled my game.
