

**Record 3,870 series
scored at Crofton**

**Major changes in Open
Championship Tournament**

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**HALL OF FAME
HIGHLIGHTS**

**SENIOR & MIXED
TOURNAMENT
CHAMPIONS**

MARINA AKERS-EPPS

Women's No. 1-ranked bowler

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NCAUSBCA No. 1-ranked women's bowler for the 2012-2013 season

Marina Akers-Epps finished last season as the association's top-ranked woman bowler for the first time in her career. The 20-year veteran of the Bureau of Labor Statistics at the Department of Labor recently answered questions presented by editor Bob Cosgrove.

Do you ever feel any anxiety knowing that you need to score above a 650 series just to maintain your average?

I have anxiety every time I bowl! Most of the times when other teams see me, depending on who they are, they're like, *Oh, okay, I'm bowling Coach Mo*, so they're out to try to bowl me and beat me. So if I don't have 650, I have to like, bowl my average all the time because anytime somebody beats me, it's like they beat the "professional bowler" or they beat Walter Ray Williams Jr., or what have you. So I *always* have pressure anytime I bowl.

What part of your game are you most proud of -- the strongest?

My spare game. I've really worked on my spare game, actually, because I leave a lot of 10-pins—and I leave a lot of 7-pins lately. It's just to keep the frustration down. I'll be frustrated, but at least I if I make the spare, it won't hurt as much.

What part of your game do you work on or feel you need to work on the most?

I actually drift to the right, so I've been working the last two years on not drifting or walking straighter. I'm even able to stop in my approach when I know that I'm drifting.

What lane condition do you find most challenging?

Anytime there's oil on the outside [boards] – a reverse block – anytime there's really a lot of oil outside [the] 10 [board].

Which three local women bowlers do you admire the most?

The first one has to be [Hall of Famer] A. Jane Hassell, Yvette Ford, and I'd have to say [Hall of Famer] Lynn Elmore.

How do you wish to be viewed by your fellow players?

A competitor at heart but willing to help out my teammates.

How do you keep up with all the equipment changes today?

I talk to Royal [Howard] at Jay's Pro Shop. I talk to him a lot about my balls. For the last couple of years, he's been my only ball driller. Most of the time, I'll just tell him, "I need help with ... XYZ," and he'll just punch me up a ball, and it will more likely work.

What's been your No. 1 bowling accomplishment?

My bowling an 800 [series] – 808 [rolled April 11, 2012 at AMF Marlow Heights in the Fun Inc. League on games of 277-242-289].



NCAUSBCA 2012-2013 Official Women's Ranking

	League Pins/Gms	Tournament Pins/Gms	Total Pins/Gms	COMPOSITE AVERAGE
1. Marina L. Akers-Epps	69,036/315	1,666/9	70,702/324	218.2160
2. Shirlynn R. Palmer	71,886/332	1,633/9	73,519/341	215.5982
3. Kisha C. Hightower	62,372/288	1,489/9	63,861/297	215.0202
4. Quintina R. Jefferson	43,534/204	1,775/9	45,309/213	212.7183
5. Catrina T. Snowden	42,926/203	1,716/9	44,642/212	210.5755
6. Michelle K. Mullally	96,742/462	1,763/9	98,505/471	209.1401
7. Cynthia R. Johnson	53,897/260	1,517/9	55,414/269	206.0000
8. A. Jane Hassell	41,501/201	3,519/18	45,020/219	205.5708
9. Brittany M. Dean	45,115/219	1,735/9	46,850/228	205.4825
10. Terri A. Franklin	46,305/224	2,081/12	48,386/236	205.0254

How did you get involved with youth bowling?

I've been bowling since I was four, and my parents were league coaches, and so I bowled everything. My father was in the Air Force, so it was all over—I first started in California, then it was overseas, then Arizona, then South Carolina, and then here.

Why did you recently join the NCAUSBCA board as a youth director? What would you like to accomplish?

I felt as though [AMF] Marlow Heights wasn't getting a lot of the information that was needed for the youth bowlers. A lot of youth bowlers had left the Silver Hill Strikers [League], so I wanted to get a foot in the door to see how I can make a difference to keep the kids bowling, for one, and then get enough information for kids to go to college.

What do you like to do when you're not bowling?

I sew and I hang out with my grandbaby—she's 14 months.

How has your family affected your bowling career?

My father taught me how to bowl since I was four, and I've bowled ever since. They travelled everywhere. In South Carolina, they had a youth scratch tournament every quarter, at least four times a year, and they would drive me all over South Carolina so I can play there. Every person in my family bowls, and then I have my daughter now. Well, I actually have two daughters who went to school for bowling on scholarships and then my youngest one, she bowls. So everybody just bowls, and they just keep me interrupted and back and forth and vice versa. It's been a major part of my entire life.

What bowling goals remain?

I hope to get as many girls as possible into college on bowling scholarships.