

The Best Bowling Tip I've Ever Had

by

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"In 1969 I was watching some of the more successful guys on the pro tour and noticed that they were all rolling a ball that tracked outside of the thumb hole — a "three-quarters" roll — instead of a "full roller" like I used, where the ball tracked between the thumb and finger holes.

"I was thus encouraged to experiment with this different roll, and after some practice, I noticed two things had happened: (1) my pin carry increased greatly, even though I sacrificed a little accuracy in shooting spares; however, (2) my armswing actually became straighter and made my game more consistent. This gave me two of the 4 C's—concentration, consistency, confidence and carry—that I consider necessary for a good bowling game.

"You see, with my full roller, I would turn my thumb in during the backswing and it would tend to cause a loop in my swing. The three-quarters roll eliminated this problem since my hand would stay behind the ball throughout the entire swing and its basic position would not move.

"Because of this successful change, I've always studied the techniques of top bowlers to see if there is anything they do that I might try to apply to my game."