

Larry Walker - Superior Performance

Larry Walker's journey to the Michigan State USBC Hall of Fame had a pretty traditional start. As a kid, he watched the Pro Bowlers Tour on Saturday afternoons. His parents were league bowlers and he joined youth leagues at Town – n- Country Lanes. However, Larry would take his game to the next level when he went to work for Randy Pierce at his pro shop located inside Super Bowl in Canton.

Larry credits Randy with teaching him how to read the lanes. This knowledge helped him excel in the sport he had grown to love. His average improved, and he went on to bowl in prestigious local leagues and obtain his PBA card.

At age twenty-five, Larry was asked to join the Tuesday Night All-Stars at Thunderbowl. This league is nationally famous for the national titles and USBC Hall of Fame members produced from its rosters. Larry would bowl as a regular for many different teams in this league and claim league titles several times. He would also bowl on a part-time basis in the Thursday All-Star Travel League. In this period, Larry and his teammates bowled in the state BA tournament, and Larry would claim state titles. In the 1988 tournament, Larry and the team had a good showing as did he and his partner in the doubles event. Larry, however, would excel in every event for that tournament in Ann Arbor. He captured the singles title and bowled a record-breaking score for all events. This all-events record of 2239 would stand for a few years. In this same timeframe, Larry bowled in regional PBA events and won two of them.

The next chapter of Larry's bowling story would find him stepping away from PBA competition so he could reestablish amateur status. In 1992, after a three-year hiatus from professional competition, Larry made Team USA. 1992 was an Olympic year, and that meant no FIQ events for the year. Team USA would instead participate in some exhibition games. As a recognized United States Olympic sport, the team would compete in an exhibition in Atlanta (the Olympic site) and Akron against teams from Ireland and Israel, among others. They trained in Colorado Springs with the United States Olympic Athletes. The highlight of Larry's Team USA career would be at the 1993 Olympic Festival in South Africa. The team travelled to the three biggest cities in South Africa for an exhibition competition. Larry would receive 2 Olympic Festival Gold Medals – one in singles match play and one for team events.

When his Team USA days were over, Larry returned to a more local bowling scene. He won 11 Michigan Major Titles, bowled 75 – 300 games and 60 – 800 series, and maintains an average of 239 to date. He stays competitive by bowling in senior events. He has captured 11 National Senior Bowling Association titles, 12 North American Super Senior Bowling Tour titles, and 13 Senior Singles Open titles. Larry is a member of five Halls of Fame for Superior Performance. Larry accomplished all of his bowling feats while maintaining a 36-year career in the computer services as a project manager for companies like IDS and Hewlett-Packard. This summer, he will be golfing three times a week, but in the fall, Larry will return to the lanes for more league and tournament competition.

For all your accomplishments in Michigan and beyond, welcome to the Michigan State USBC Hall of Fame, Larry.

