

Rod McLean

Superior Performance



Rod McLean was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1948 and raised by his adoptive parents, Dr. & Mrs. Gordon D. McLean. He is currently living with his wife of 50 years, Charmaine, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Their daughter, Leigh, passed away at the age of 37 from kidney issues. Rod is now retired after spending over 40+ years in the commercial insurance business as a safety specialist.

As with many Baltimore bowlers he began his career bowling duckpins at Harford Lanes at age 8. At fourteen, his parents moved to Perry Hall where he was able to walk to Perry Hall Lanes and take up tenpins. Assistant Manager Andy Rydock was instrumental in getting Rod to put a spin on the ball instead of rolling it down the middle as in duckpins. Within a year, he rolled his first honor series, a 714. Andy continued to work with him, getting him odd jobs to do around the center in exchange for free games and more lessons.

Growing up, his nights were filled with keeping score for, as he considered, the best teams in town. Scorekeepers were commonplace in those days, and Rod watched intently at the top bowlers' styles. The one he emulated, though, was Joe Doonan, whose smooth style resonated with a level of consistency that matched a level of success, which appealed to Rod.

In 1968, Rod received his military draft notice. It was not unexpected in those days. He and a buddy of his from high school decided to enlist. Rod was ultimately honorably discharged as a Sgt. E-5 Military Policeman in 1971.

Getting back to Baltimore and re-starting his scratch bowling career took a couple years. But by the mid 1970's things turned around. Tournament wins came back.

In his career, Rod was able to achieve the following:

State Titles - Maryland

- 1968 State All-Star Match Play Champion. Represented Md. @ Nationals.
- 1974 State Team Champions – Scratch
- 1977 State All-Events Champion – Scratch
- 1997 State Doubles – Scratch
- 1984 State record team series - 3704 - National high for the year. Baltimore Bowling News Team.

Local Association Titles: Greater Baltimore Bowling Association

- 1973 Scratch Doubles Champions
- 1974 Scratch Doubles Champions
Scratch Singles Champion
Scratch All-Events Champion
- 1976 GBBA Bowler of the Year
- 1977 GBBA Bowler of the Year
Scratch Doubles Champion
Scratch All-Events Champion
Scratch Masters Champion
- 1978 GBBA Hall of Fame Inductee — Performance Category
- 1980 Scratch Team Champion
- 1981 Scratch Doubles Champions
- 1986 Scratch Doubles Champions

Team USA/ USBC -Tournament Accomplishments

- 1983 United States Team member- FIQ, Caracas, VZ -Silver Medal, Team
- 1986 Team USA State Champion – Maryland
- 1987 Team USA State Champion - Maryland.
- 1987 State Team USA member- FIQ, Helsinki, Finland.
- 1988 Team USA 2nd alternate
- 1989 Team USA State Champion – Maryland
- 1990 Team USA State Champion – Arizona Team USA member
- 1990 Team USA member
- 1991 US Olympic Festival - St. Paul, MN - Silver Medal Team

Team USA/ USBC -Tournament Accomplishments (cont.)

- 1991 Team USA State Champion – Nevada
- 1991 US Olympic Festival - Los Angeles - Gold Medal Team; Bronze Medal Match Play
- 1991 1st Place Team All-Events, ABC Tournament
- 1992 Team USA State Champion - Nevada
- 1993 US Olympic Festival - San Antonio - Gold Medal Singles
- 1993 1st Place Team All-Events, ABC Tournament
- 1995 Team USA State Champion — Nevada

ABC/USBC Tournaments Lifetime Average 202.5 for 33 Events
(200.9 in Team Events; 202.1 in Doubles Events; 204.6 in
Singles Events)

Therefore, for his overall performance in the sport of tenpin bowling, the Maryland State USBC Association welcomes Rod McLean into its Hall of Fame in the Superior Performance Category.