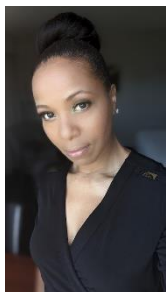


Crystal J. Shaw-Wesby

Superior Performance



Crystal Shaw-Wesby was born into a bowling family where her mom, Clara Shaw, several of her aunts and uncles, and both grandmother's all bowled. However, Crystal and her brother, Carlos Shaw, did not begin bowling until around the ages of eleven and twelve. Crystal's brother joined the local youth league, Silver Hill Strikers, in Silver Hill, MD a year before she began to bowl. She asked her mom if she could bowl the following year. This is when the magic began. Crystal's first year bowling average was an 88. While she didn't really know what this meant, she quickly realized she was hooked and wanted to learn more about the game.

Crystal had a lot of tough moments throughout her youth league years including feeling like she wasn't getting the help she needed and a female coach telling her to quit bowling and stop wasting her mom's money. But she didn't let this stop her. When Crystal was twenty, she decided to join the adult leagues. There, she was able to find bowlers outside of the youth league coaches who could assist her with more knowledge of the bowling game. As Crystal's game progressed, her love for the game and hunger for bowling knowledge grew deeper. She sought and worked with many well-known area coaches to help her reach her goals. One of the most notable coaches was Gary Parsons, affectionately known as "The Guru". Gary gave Crystal a solid foundation of the game of bowling. He also taught her how to drill bowling balls and how to run a pro shop. At the time, Crystal was one of the only women in the DC, Maryland and Virginia area as well as along the northern East Coast who was drilling bowling balls. Crystal took great pride in making sure the equipment she drilled was perfect and her customers were happy. As Gary would put it, "She could hit a line like no other."

At the same time Crystal joined an adult league she began bowling the WIBC Women's National Championships, currently known as the USBC Women's Nationals. Her first big finish was in 1996 in Buffalo, NY where she placed 2nd in her division, just missing first place by five pins. In 1997, Crystal achieved a 200 average for the first time. Over the next few years, under the constant coaching of Gary Parsons, Crystal decided to take everything she had learned to the highest level and acquired her Professional Women's Bowling Association card. She was now considered a pro bowler!

From 2002 to 2003, Crystal cashed in six out of eight regional and professional level tour stops. She bowled alongside some of the greats including Kim Terrell (Kearney), Cheryl Daniels, Leanne Barrette (Hulsenburg), and Carol Norman to name a few. Crystal qualified to bowl in the PWBA Regional Players Championship in Las Vegas, NV in August 2003 where she finished 11th out of 99 bowlers. Crystal was overjoyed when a few of the well-known professional bowlers complimented her game and even suggested that she bowl in future tournaments with them. In 2003, to everyone's dismay, the PWBA shut down operations. Crystal's dreams came to a screeching halt as the announcement came mid tour stop. While bowling was big in many other areas, information on other possibilities was not as easily accessible in the area Crystal grew up bowling. Therefore, all she could do was return to weekly league bowling. A few years later, other opportunities arose for Crystal to showcase her skills when she joined the Poison Bowling Club, a few travel leagues and the ICBC or Inner-City Bowling Congress.

In 2007, Crystal was approached by Nichele "Nicky" McConnell while bowling a late Saturday night club match in the ICBC. Nicky was in awe of Crystal's game and humbleness. Nicky asked if Crystal would join her and two other phenomenal women bowlers, Tiffany Bell and Terri Franklin (Eiland) bowling in tournaments. Crystal accepted without hesitation! The foursome formed a remarkable team and were given the name "Fire Power" by an onlooker who couldn't believe all the fire power this foursome of women had on the lanes. Bowling with this group of women launched Crystal's career with the Maryland State USBC Association. Crystal won the MD State Women's Championships All Events Scratch category from 2012 through 2016, also in 2018 and 2023. In 2013 and 2019 she won the MD State USBC Ladies Singles Tournament. In 2012 Crystal and Nicky became the first two-woman team to ever win the MD State USBC Open Championships Scratch Doubles event. Along with the rest of Fire Power, Crystal went on to win a total of MD State 27 titles. For several years during that same time period, Crystal bowled in the Starfires League at Perry Hall Lanes, and she competed in several tournaments hosted by the Baltimore Women's Bowling Association establishing herself as one of the top female bowlers in that association. In 2015 the BWBA awarded Crystal with the Triple Crown Award for her achievements of the high average of 222, the high game of 300 and the high set of 991 for 4 games in the Jason's Double's League where she bowled with Nicky McConnell.

Crystal moved to North Carolina in 2020, but she continues to support the MD State USBC Association tournaments. Today, Crystal continues to bowl in league competition as well as local, state and national tournaments within multiple bowling organizations including the USBC and TNBA. Before the untimely passing of her friend and fellow Fire Power teammate, Nicky McConnell, Crystal was tasked by Nicky with taking over the coordinating of the many tournaments Fire Power bowls along with numerous other bowlers.

While Crystal has lots of achievements on and off the lanes, many of her biggest accomplishments include the successes of the plethora of bowlers she has coached over the last 19 years and those she offered a word of advice.

Therefore, for her overall performance in the sport of ten-pin bowling, the Maryland State USBC Bowling Association welcomes Crystal Shaw-Wesby into its Hall of Fame in the Superior Performance category.

Accomplishments:

Maryland State USBC Association Awards:

Women's Championship Tournament

All Events Champion: 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2023

Team Champion: 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 (Terri Franklin, Nichele McConnell, Crystal Shaw-Wesby, and Tiffany Bell)

Doubles Scratch Champion: 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2023

Singles Scratch Champion: 2014,

Women's Singles Championship Tournament

Scratch Champion: 2013, 2019

Open Championship Tournament

Doubles Scratch Champion: 2012 (Nicky McConnell)

Mixed Championship Tournament

Doubles Scratch Champion: 2016 (Sean Friendly)

NCAUSBCA Association Awards:

Women's Championship Tournament

Scratch Singles Champion: 2009

Scratch Doubles Champion: 2012, 2015, 2018,

Scratch All Events Champion: 2012,

Virginia State USBC Awards:

Women's Championship Tournament

Scratch Singles Champion: 2014

Scratch Doubles Champion: 2018

Scratch Team Champion: 2014, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2022, 2023, 2024

Scratch All Events Champion: 2014, 2017