

## **Nicholas (Nick) Menendez**

### **Youth Star of Tomorrow**

### **Superior Performance**



Nicholas Menendez is a 17-year-old Senior at Indian Creek School in Crownsville, Maryland. Nick carries a 4.29 weighted GPA, with several Advanced Placement (AP) classes scheduled for the Fall. He is very involved in school government having served as Class President in his 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade, and as SGA Student Body President for his 11<sup>th</sup> grade. For his senior year, Nick will serve as President Emeritus of the student body. He is a member of

the National Honor Society and Key Club at Indian Creek School. In addition to his academic achievements, Nick is also a black belt in Tang Soo Do Martial Arts.

Nick started bowling at the age of 5 when his mother took him and his brother Michael to Severna Park Lanes for duckpin bowling. Nick immediately took to bowling, and soon thereafter, started bowling the Saturday morning league at Annapolis Bowl. He immediately excelled on the lanes, and in short order, won the Triple Crown award in 2011 and 2014. He continued his Saturday bowling at Greenway lanes in Odenton and again was awarded the Triple Crown Award in 2019, and 2020. Nick has bowled two 300 games and has two sanctioned eight hundred series, 810, and 806 respectively. While bowling at Greenway, Nick has kept a 220.00 to 225.00 average for the past several years. In addition to his Saturday morning league, Nick also participates in several leagues at his second home, The Lanes in Fort Meade. Nick's true passion is sport shot bowling and has maintained an active tournament schedule throughout his youth bowling career.

In 2019, Nick won the U15 Pepsi Maryland State Youth Championship after a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish in 2018. He has participated in several Maryland State USBC Association Youth Championships, with his best finish in 2017, where he finished 1<sup>st</sup> in Teams, 2<sup>nd</sup> in Doubles, 4<sup>th</sup> in Singles, and 1<sup>st</sup> in All-Events. In 2021, Nick placed 1<sup>st</sup> in All-Events and 1<sup>st</sup> in Doubles in the 2021 Greater Baltimore USBC Association Youth Championships.

As stated earlier, Nick has maintained an active tournament schedule both regionally and nationally. Locally, Nick has bowled multiple Mid Atlantic Junior Bowlers Tour tournaments, sponsored by Billy Gasn, and has won nine titles, becoming the all-time leader in tournament wins. In 2020, Nick became the first youth to win an adult title in the "Last One Standing" adult tournament series.

Nick has qualified and participated in the Jr. Gold National Championships between 2017-2022. He has made the Final Advancers round for U15 and U18 with his best finish this year being 51<sup>st</sup> out of 1120 bowlers. In this year's Youth Open Championships in Indianapolis, Nick finished 28<sup>th</sup> in all events in a field of 204, as well as 8<sup>th</sup> out of 112 in the team event.

In 2019, Nick and his Chesapeake Bay Striker's teammates won the USA Bowling Team National Championships in Detroit, Michigan, an event televised on the CBS Sports Network.

Just this past August, Nick, with his Chesapeake Bay Strikers, won the Storm US National Junior Team Challenge Championship in New Castle, Delaware. Their team bested a field of over 41 teams, featuring some of the top youth bowlers in the country.

Nick has been recognized for several awards throughout his youth career. These include, Bowl4Life Athlete of the Month, May 2019, Mid-Atlantic Junior Bowlers Tour Bowler of the Year Scratch Division, 2019-2020, Bowlers Journal International Magazine, "Next Generation Athlete", August 2020 Edition, as well as the Greater Baltimore Bowling Association 2021 Youth Making a Difference Award.

It's been said that "it takes a village to raise a child". Well, the same can be said about raising a youth bowler. Nick would first like thank his family for all their support throughout his youth bowling career. Any youth bowler parent knows about the number of hours and dollars spent supporting their child's passion. Second, Nick would like to thank his coaches throughout his youth career, especially, Hall of Famer, Danny Wiseman, Fort Meade's Mike Sinek and, tournament and league director, Billy Gasn. He would not be the bowler he is today without their countless hours and self-sacrifice to help him improve. Lastly, Nick would like to thank Lou Ann Trader Richards for her devotion and love for Greenway's Saturday morning youth league, as well as, Kevin Mumpower, for his expertise in drilling Nick's equipment.

Finally, Nick would like to thank Vickie Barnhart Coughlin, and the Maryland State USBC Association, for this special Youth Star of Tomorrow recognition. He hopes that he will continue to make his family and friends proud and represent the Maryland State USBC Association with honor and distinction.