



Our latest victim is The Vaporizer, Lou Alberghini. Lou is one of the most entertaining bowlers out there (think Marshall Hollman...with far more style and pizzazz), and one of the loudest men in candlepin. But he's also a very interesting, humble guy. But when Lou's in the house, you're assured of a good time. Candlepin Gallery recently had the chance to chat with Lou...

**Why not start by telling us a little bit about yourself?**

*I grew up in Bridgewater, MA., and got interested in bowling at age 12, 1977. I started bowling at Academy Bowl in Bridgewater, about 4 weeks into the season I broke my right arm and decided to keep bowling, left handed, while the arm healed. So I actually became pretty good at it.*

**As most of us know, candlepin pros have a “day job.” What’s yours?**

*I’ve been in specialized shoemaking for 27 years. Basically I make custom shoes. I’ve been with [Reebok](#) for 10 years. [ed note: Lou has made custom bowling shoes for himself and several of candlepin’s finest bowlers...each with their own unique style, just like him!]*

**What’s your high single/three/five?**

*High Single: 214  
[ed. note: keep in mind, the world record score is 245]  
High Three: 519  
High Five: 808*

**You have a personal bowling alley called “The Python Pit.” It’s featured here at CG. Could you tell us how The Pit came to be and how it’s constructed, etc.?**

*The Pit all came about for a few reasons. I don’t have the interest to bowl much anymore, so building a small alley in my basement keeps me in the game. Fingerbang (Sam D’agastino), Zap (John Zappi), were over my house after a day of bocces (lawn bowling) we ended up in the basement bowling with plastic pins. We had a blast! So from there I came up with the idea of building the Python Pit. My pockets were so full of Finger’s and Zap’s money, I put all of it to use in a way that we could all enjoy and get together once in a while. Without the people and the stories, the Python Pit would cease to exist!*

**So, are you going to tell us exactly how much money you’ve taken from these guys?**

*Lets just say this, my pants are always riding low when they leave. The Brinks truck has been spotted on several occasions in my yard!*

**How often do you have your “house tournaments” in The Python Pit?**

*I have tournaments as often as possible. Everyone has obligations so at times it’s tough, but usually about every month or 6 weeks. The smack talking starts and a match evolves from it! Nobody’s ever*

*left the Pit not wanting to come back!*

**How many times have you bowled on television? How many TV wins do you have?**

*I have to think about this one- Channel 5 singles 8 times (5-3), Channel 5 doubles 4 times (2-2), WNDS 2 times (1-1), Comcast...you know what I can't even think of how many times. I know one thing for sure...I got one win on that damn show and I beat Shawn Baker...I've blocked out the rest of not getting the job done. Someone always bowls a little better than me. CFD (Candlepins for Dollars) 2 (1-1). I bowled a 430 triple and was the top bowler in tournament of champions...losing to the legend Craig Holbrook 417-385.*

**Who was your doubles partner on channel 5 doubles show?**

*Eric Young we won at Crowell Bowl with a 1294 and Gerry Belmosto...we won at New Palace Lanes with a 1334.*

**What's it like for you to bowl under the television lights? Do you adjust your game at all? Does it feel different than league night?**

*No, to me I just be me, which sometimes can be loud and entertaining. I treat it as a very enjoyable time and feel very blessed to be able to do it!*

**You mentioned your appearance on Candlepins for Dollars. Could you tell us about the experience, winning a ladder series and being the top bowler in the tournament of champions.**

*First off, I'd like to say out of all the shows I've been on over the years, this one was most enjoyable and well executed. Basically I tried out once for the show and was fortunate enough to be the top seed (709), and then bowl 430 to be the top seed (in the ladder series) once again.*

**Do you approach the game any differently in a doubles match? We all know it's throw ball and make 'em vaporize, but is doubles bowling inherently different from singles?**

*Basically, it's the same preparation, do as good as possible to ensure success.*

**It's my understanding that you do not bowl in any league play. Is that due to not having enough time to do so, or is there another reason?**

*Honestly, I look at the game differently now than when I was younger. I have all the time in the world to put the practice in and have full support from Lori [ed. note: that's Lou's wife]. That to me would be selfish to my family. I have 3 wonderful ladies in my life and I really enjoy spending time with them as opposed to the alleys. And the Python Pit keeps me mentally there even though I just walk down a set of stairs to visit it! (Jeff) Surette, Zappi, Fingerbang, (Stu) Bergman, (Jeff) Buggea, (Mike) McIntosh, (Anthony) Pastore and even (Lynne) Thompson, etc. It truly doesn't get any better than this...at least for me!*

**Do you have a favorite house you like to go...other than the Pit...to for a good time bowling with the guys?**

*Not really, as long as you see friends at them its always a good time!*

**You mentioned your "three wonderful ladies." Tell us about them.**

*My daughters, Briana (7) and Ashley (5). In September, my very patient wife Lori and I will be celebrating our 10th anniversary.*

**How did you get your nickname, The Vaporizer?**

*I got it from removing objects with a lot of speed and accuracy, with either a Bocce Ball or Bowling Ball. [ed. note: essentially, when this guy bowls, the pins vaporize!]*

**What would you consider your biggest/greatest accomplishment in your years of candlepin bowling?**

*It hasn't happened yet!*

**Some guys have a favorite tournament or event that they make a point of participating in every year. Do you have one?**

*Anytime I get the chance to see my friends is a special event for me.*

**Outside of bowling, what are some of the activities you like to get involved with?**

*I like building things-anything. I actually built my dads-my bocce court. Anything that looks impossible for one person to take on, I'll do it.*

**Is there a guy out there that "has your number?" What's the one bowler you wouldn't want to face in a 1-string elimination match?**

*None, lots have my number but I'm not afraid to face anyone.*

**Finally, do you have any advice for any bowlers trying to climb the ladder to the television shows and/or the WCBC?**

*Remember the whole deal with bowling is to have fun, be yourself, and find someone with the ability to show you how to bowl Physically, mentally...PRACTICE-PRACTICE...ETC!*