



Our latest subject is 2008 WCBC Rookie of the Year (and runner up bowler of the year) Dave Godwin! Candlepin Gallery would like to thank Dave for participating in the latest installment of this feature.

Why not start by telling us a little bit about yourself, Dave.

I am 18 years old and a pretty well going kid. Just trying to stay young as possible! (ed note: aren't we all? Ha!)

How long have you been bowling? What is your high single/three/five. What's your current average?

When I first picked up my first bowling ball, I was 4 or 5 years old. I always used to go with my grandmother to watch her bowl in her league, but then she put me into the Saturday morning kids league when I was around 9 years old. I have always loved to go down and bowl with my friends and I always just stuck with it.

My high single is a 221, my high 3 is a 467, and my high 5 is a 756 that is if it counts for my last 5 games of a 10 stringer, if not then my other high is a 721...and my current average is a 126.

You recently won your first WCBC Tour Stop. Tell us about that day. What was working for you? How did you feel going into it? Give us some details on it.

When I woke up that morning all I was thinking about was the Rookie of the Year award. I really didn't need that much but I didn't want it coming down to the wire in my last game. When I started to bowl I was feeling really good and then the pins just started falling my way; but just like any bowler we all know when we have the good days and bad days.

Like I said the pins where falling my way and I was just in a groove where my accuracy was not a problem, then the next thing I know I was tied for first going into that last game with my really good friend Dave Hodge (we where on the same lane as well).

After I realized I had a chance of winning, I just did the best I could to keep the pressure on the other guys!

As most of us know, candlepin pros have a "day job." What's yours?

I work at [Borrelli's Italian Deli](#) in Methuen right off of Merrimack Street. Come by when ever you have a chance, we have great food there!

What's your home lanes?

Pilgrim Lanes, Haverhill, MA

You were a product of the Pilgrim Lanes ICYBA program. Describe the program for us. Can you share your experience having a coach like hall of fame member Bart Maderios?

Bart? Well, there is only one word that I have to say that describes Bart: INCREDIBLE.

There is nothing that he has never done for me when it came down to bowling. He has had my back for everything. The same as his son Andrew. They both have had my back through my many many years for the kids league. It is an honor to be a graduate from the kids program out of Pilgrim Lanes.

What was it like bowling in Canada? Is the game much different for you?

Bowling in Canada is such an awesome experience for the kids and me as well. Meeting some great kids and great people up there! Every year I went up, I just couldn't wait to go back up again. Everything is just about the same, but they don't bowl 5 boxes at a time in a tournament, they only bowl 2 at a time.

They are great people up there and it was also an honor driving up to Canada with the kids.

Each time I see you on television (let alone in person), your ball is a magnet for the headpin. What's your secret to keeping that ball in the middle of the lane?

HA! Well, I don't know if you notice or not but my ball kind of comes from the left to right angle. All I do is just try to stay consistent, but staying consistent is the hardest part in candlepin bowling. That takes lots and lots of practice and a lot of focus as well. There is no secret from me bowling, just practice and have a lot of fun when your doing it!

That 200 game you rolled in Canada (correct me if I'm wrong...was it a 221?) was a thing of beauty. It was one of the top ten sanctioned results of all time. Tell us about that day and how you made it happen.

That 221 game is a game that I will NEVER forget! There is nothing I can really say about it. I mean it just kind of happened, again it was a lot of consistency of hitting the head pin and taking my time; not rushing at all. My goal is to hit the head pin every time in the game and I just did. Once the ball hit the head pin the pins would just explode.

It's just an awesome feeling to have that game under my belt.

Do you have any advice for the youth bowlers in the various programs?

The only advice I have for the kids now a days is always keep your head up and always have fun. If your having fun, please don't think about giving it up because candlepin is such a great sport and I would like to see it continue to grow!