



**Candlepin Gallery recently had the chance to chat with Jeff Surette, two time Comcast Candlepin Challenge winner! We would like to thank Jeff Surette for participating in this new feature.**

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

*I live in Dracut with my girlfriend, Kristin and my daughter, Karlee who just turned 2. I have a lot of fun with her now that she's runs around and talks my ear off!*

*[ed. note: Jeff is 24, and is originally from Tewksbury, MA. He's been bowling for 23 years!]*

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

*I have 2 jobs. In the morning, I work for FedEx and then I work at Candlewood Lanes in North Reading.*

**What's your home lanes?**

*My home house is Candlewood; I've been bowling there my whole life!*

**What's your current average? What's your high single/three/five?**

*My average at Candlewood is roughly 133.*

*My high single is 202.*

*My high three is 475.*

*My high five is 753.*

**How many leagues do you bowl in presently?**

*I only bowl in the Friday night pro league.*

**Many of our readers come from out of state and/or Canada. Could you tell us about the Friday night pro league that so many of the television bowlers are in? How is it run? How does scoring run? Can TV viewers come out and watch you guys?**

*The Friday night pro league is obviously every Friday. You make your own team and pick a house to bowl out of. It is all scratch [ed. note: meaning no handicap] with 2 points each string and 2 for total pinfall for the 3 strings.*

*The great part about this league is that you travel to other houses for half the year to bowl against the other teams, meaning half are home matches half are away. My team is Chris Boisvert, Sam D'Agostino, Jeff Buggea, Eric Pelletier, and myself...we won the league last year.*

*It is a really good money league, and since all houses are different only the away matches are counted towards your average.*

*Yes, anyone is welcome to watch matches start at 8 PM every Friday.*

**It seems like the Friday Pro League is the "cream of the crop." How would you classify it?**

*Friday night is definitely one of the best leagues for the high average bowlers, some of the best competition around.*

**You bowl with John Zappi in the world championships. What's it like to bowl in that event? Is it any different from the Friday pro league?**

*Well actually I haven't bowled with Zappi yet, I'm joining his team this year for the first time. But I'm very excited about it being able to bowl on the same team as Zap, [Craig] Holbrook and [Bob] Whitcomb rather than against them. We have a very strong team and hopefully I'll get my first worlds title this year with Maria's Subs.*

*The worlds is unlike anything else, it doesn't compare to any leagues or tournaments. It's seriously a full week of bowling. Monday starts with the knockout tournament, 5-string qualifying with top 32 making the knockout portion. Then it's a one string match winner advancing till there is a winner.*

*Tuesday starts the team competition. There are 24 teams split into 2 divisions, 12 teams per side. Our team bowls against everyone on our side, with each being a 3-string match. So Tuesday through Thursday are all three 3-string matches starting at 9 AM, ending roughly 6 PM.*

*Friday finishes up the last 2 matches, then starts the first match of the playoffs. The winner of each division receives a bye until the final 4...all playoff matches are 3 strings decided by total pin fall.*

*This is the best candlepin event you will ever see. If you get a chance to see even just 1 day of it, it would be worth it.*

**How did you get your start in candlepin bowling?**

*I got started in bowling because of my dad, Tom Surette, who was a pro bowler. He used to work Saturday mornings at Candlewood, and I would go every Saturday and bowl all day long.*

**When we see you on television, you always have that same cool, calm demeanor. Is this a carry over from life off the lanes, or do you do anything special to relax when bowling?**

*As far as looking as you put it cool and calm on TV, I'm always pretty relaxed in general. Bowling on TV is fun for me, I mean I get money for doing something I'm good at and like to do.*

**You've racked up some pretty big scores on Candlepin Challenge. What's your secret? How do you stay in the pocket so often?**

*Yes, The Challenge has been good to me over the past few years and luckily I have put up some good numbers on the show. Honestly, with hitting the pocket...the way I look at it, I don't aim for a specific pocket 1-2 or the 1-3, all I do is aim at the head pin and it seems to find either the left or right pocket pretty often.*

*[ed note: Gee, I wish my ball would do that!]*

**What do you consider to be your greatest accomplishment in candlepin, so far?**

*As far as accomplishments goes, it's very hard to rank the best one because everything means a little something different. But I would have to say the top two would be when I won the International Tournament in 2003 up in Canada, and the back to back championship shows on Candlepin Challenge. I have been luck so far and hopefully the threeppeat will come this year.*

*Everything I have accomplished, I owe it all to my dad...I'm 24 years old and been bowling for 23 of them so I've just been doing it for so long it really doesn't faze me a bit, I actually love a big crowd!*

**How do you work to correct mistakes during a match?**

*With fixing mistakes, I usually only do one thing that gets me into trouble which is I guess called "happy feet," or rushing to the line. It's easy to tell if you're doing that because the ball usually goes left or right and doesn't get the correct action with the pins. By slowing down your feet in the approach, this gives you more arm speed and accuracy to put the ball where you want it.*

**Do you have a favorite opponent? Or is there one guy you'd prefer NOT to face in a one game, elimination match?**

*As far as bowling against someone, there is no one I would feel safe bowling a one stringer. As we know from watching the Candlepin Challenge, anything can happen. If it were a 5 or 10 string match, I'd take my chances with anyone because 1 bad string isn't really a big deal.*

**Do you have any advice for bowlers trying to improve?**

*I would say just always try to throw the same ball every time. That means if you throw it right to left, always do it no matter what pin your shooting at. And always throw it at the same speed, that is a big part of picking up spares. Also one more little thing is to always pick up those extra pins on your third ball, it always seems to come back and bite you in the butt at the end.*