



**Our next interviewee is John Zappi, Comcast Candlepin Challenge's all time consecutive wins leader with 9, and 2007 WCBC bowler of the year! Candlepin Gallery would like to thank John Zappi & his wife Lee Ann for participating in this new feature.**

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

*I am 32 years old, living in Quincy, MA. I have been married for 6 years. When I am not bowling I enjoy playing golf and playing cards.*

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

*I do inside sales for Snow and Jones a plumbing and HVAC wholesale company.*

**What's your home house?**

*My home house will always be Lucky Strike Lanes in Dorchester. I grew up there, and learned everything thing I know about candlepins out of that house. They closed down about a year ago, but now I bowl out of Colonial Lanes in Weymouth and Hanover Bowladrome in Hanover.*

**What's your current average?**

*It's different everywhere. I would say I'm a solid 128 avg.*

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

*High Single: 186*

*High 3: 485*

*High 5: 750*

**Do you remember your tournament competition? How did it go? Do you recall any thing monumental about the experience?**

*I have had a lot of great tournament experiences but the one that sticks out the most was in March of 2006. It was the last WCBC pro tour stop of the year at the Bowlarama in Sanford, Maine. I went into the tournament in 5<sup>th</sup> place overall and just had my mind set on staying in the top 5 for the year. I was trailing Craig Holbrook by 100 pins for Bowler of the year. I ended up winning the tour stop and breaking the house record for 10 strings with a 1441. I fell short of becoming bowler of the year by 18 pins.*

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

## **league night?**

*The only difference between TV and league night is the crowd and the feeling that you have to prove yourself. I never adjust my game.*

**You said you never adjust your game. Could you describe your game to the readers? Obviously, it's hit the head pin and knock 'em all down. But what sort of ball do you throw (straight, cross...)? Do you have strategies for different leaves (in terms of lining up the shots)?**

*I am a left handed bowler. I throw cross alley from left to right, and never try to over think a shot. You know from experience what the wood is going to do. I don't have any kinds of strategies when it comes to shot making. I simply look at the shot, and throw the ball to the spot I think will give me the best chance of making it. I always try to get everything moving on the plate when I'm trying to make a shot.*

**You are the owner of the longest win streak on Candlepin Challenge. What was going through your mind as you were nearing Det Klein's record? Were you nervous?**

*I wasn't nervous, I was more anxious. I just wanted to get it done. I was concentrating on beating the person I was bowling against. The day I taped I had a goal--breaking the record. And I accomplished that goal. I couldn't have asked for anything more.*

**When you were beaten by Jeff Buggea, what was your first thought? Were you relieved to end the streak, or were you hungry for more?**

My very first thought was "wow, it's over" but I was still happy because I did what I went there to do... beat the record. That was a great match and I was happy for Jeff. I am always hungry for more. That's what keeps me motivated.

**Are you back in the roll-off pool?**

*Most definitely!*

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

Beating Det Klein's record on the Candlepin Challenge for the most consecutive wins.

**Your wife has been seen in many shots on Candlepin Challenge. I know she's supportive of you, but is she a bowler, too? How far does her interest in the sport go?**

I will let her answer that....

*Lee Ann: No, I do not bowl. I am very interested in John's bowling. I have watched him accomplish so many things over the past 15 years and I am extremely interested in his bowling career and his accomplishments. I am more and more proud of him everyday.*

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

The World Candlepin Championship. The worlds is by far the greatest tournament I have ever participated in. The worlds is the best of the best and the competition up there is like nothing else.

**Could you go into some more detail about the world candlepin championships? Many of our readers have never seen this tournament. Could you give us a taste of the experience?**

*The experience is like no other. There are 24 teams fighting it out to become World Champions. The tournament is usually the second week in November. They have a Knockout Tournament on Monday which has about 100 bowlers fighting for the singles championship. Tuesday starts the World Tournament. You have 7-8 people on a team, and you bowl three matches a day, three strings, until Friday. The top 5 teams from each division make the playoffs, and the first place teams of each division get a bye into the semi-finals, and then its on from there. Elimination matches...you lose you go home, and the last team standing becomes world champions. It's an unbelievable tournament. I bowl with a*

*great bunch of guys up there, and we till the end. We went to the finals in 2006 but lost. It was a great experience.*

*[ed note: John is a member of Maria's Sub. He's teammates with Bob Whitcomb, Mike Cuccia, Craig Holbrook, Billy Travers, Righ Bognanno, John Lang, Jimmy Powers and Jeff Surrette.]*

**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?**

I am unaware of anyone that has my number. There is no one that I wouldn't face in a 1 string elimination match...bring it on!!

**Do you have a favorite opponent--the one guy you enjoy bowling against? Why or why not?**

*I really don't have a favorite. I will bowl anyone. I just like being competitive.*

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

*Bowling with competitive people is extremely important. The tougher the competition, the better you bowl and the more experience you get. Practice, practice, practice.*