Hounshell inducted into state HOF

11-3-13



Debbie Juniewicz
Bowling Insider

At the time, Ed Hounshell described his state tournament run as mind-boggling. Five years later he looks back on it as a "dream come true."

Hounshell earned five state titles in 2008. He and teammates Rick Starbuck, Jerry Owens, Craig Baker and Jeff Parks won both the handicap and actual team titles. The Kettering bowler also earned the singles actual, all-events actual and all-events handicap titles.

Hounshell added another dream-come-true accomplishment to his bowling resume this weekend as the 61-year-old was inducted into the Ohio Bowling Council Hall of Fame for superior performance Saturday. He joins the ranks of accomplished local bowlers like Linda Kelly, Mandy Wilson, Bob Kelly, Sue Hartley and Kari Watson.

"I'm definitely in some pretty good company," Hounshell said.

It's an honor more than five decades in the making as Hounshell started bowling in youth leagues when he was 9 years old. He joined the American Bowling Congress when he was 17 and had hall-of-fame aspirations not long afterward.

"It's something you dream about when you're 18," Hounshell said. "But you don't really plan on it."

It wasn't long, however, before Hounshell was building a hall-of-fame resume that includes seven state and 18 city tournament titles.

He has posted 27 300 games and seven 800 series, including an 865 career high series. He has bowled his way onto the all-city team five times and was inducted into the Greater Dayton Bowling Hall of Fame in 2000.

Hounshell had lots of local success, but it wasn't until the 2008 Ohio State USBC championship at Princeton Bowl in Cincinnati that he boosted his state qualifications.

"Everything has to go your way to have that kind of success," Hounshell said. "I lined up and I never moved during singles or doubles. And it was the same shot for team - I didn't have to move until the third frame of the third game and when I made the move, it was the right move."

Despite his decades of success, Hounshell was a bit surprised he was selected for the state hall of fame in his first year on the ballot. Surprised but thrilled.

But for all of his titles and honor scores, neither are what keeps the veteran bowler – who is averaging 218 – coming back to the lanes season after season.

"The big thing is I've bowled with the right people – all really good bowlers and competitive, but we have fun," Hounshell said. "It's been a fun ride and as long as this body holds up, I'll be bowling."

Contact this contributing writer at djunie@aol.com.