

DOWN THE LINE

Members of the bowling team explain the journey to their first score of 200 out of 300 total points

By Ben Seelig

It's the final frame, and band senior **Michael Fuerborn** lifts his ball from the return. He knocked over nine pins, and needed to spare the 10th in order to have a chance at 200. He tosses the ball over the right-most arrow, and lets it glide across the lane to the opposite corner. Right before crashing into the pin, it falls into the gutter. 198.

"Bowling is a game of mentality, so a lot of it was because my mental strength wasn't strong enough," Fuerborn said. "I'd get really nervous, and I'd either throw a shot into the gutter or just miss my mark entirely. Once I finally got that 200, my mentality changed."

He attributed much of his improvement to consistency, or hitting his "mark," which is in between the first and third pins on the right side. In addition, greater focus on the current shot led to an improvement in his scores.

"When I'm on the lane and throwing the ball, I can clear my mind and just focus on that," Fuerborn said. "When I'm in the alley, I'm pretty happy. (Bowling) is something I love doing."

Some bowlers, like band senior **Liam Pasch**, join out of school leagues for more competitive practice, access to coaching, and free practices. In 2024, Pasch bowled in competitions almost every Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday.

"My first 200 was November (2023). Once I got the first one, I knew it wouldn't be that bad to get the second," Pasch said. "After the first (200), though, it took a little bit for me to get

the second one. I knew I could do it, but in my head whenever I would get close to it, I'd be like, 'I've done it before, I could do it again,' but I just wouldn't do it. It set me back a little bit."

Pasch started to slowly improve his scores in competition since then, devoting his practices to drills, mainly focusing on the way the ball left his hand. As of the 2024 school season, his work culminated in two scores of 279 back to back.

"The first one was insane for me because I had never done that before, and I know, since I've been bowling for so long, and I've seen that before, that I'm one strike away from 300," Pasch said. "Then the second one felt so much easier than the first one."

Unlike Feuerborn, Pasch tries to think as little as possible about the current shot. Once set up, he trusts his hours of practice to come through in his muscle memory.

"I try to get more involved with (the outside world) so I can distract myself from Bowling," Pasch said. "I try not to pay attention to the game, and I pay attention to the single throw rather than the score. I won't look up on the screen the entire time that I'm bowling."

With some students, like vocal sophomore **Logan Besin** and band junior **Anderson Spellman**, achieving their first 200 in the 2024 season, the school's team average proved to be one of the best in its history. Pasch, a captain of the team, guided these players through the mental and physical hardships.

"I'm super proud of people like (strings senior **Charles Debay**) and Logan... going out there four, five times a week," Pasch said. "Logan is going out there as much as he can, showing a ton of interest in it, and sharing my passion for it. That has put us at the best place we've ever been in school history."