

Anthony “T-Bone” Bell

Hall of Fame Meritorious Service

Our first inductee hails from the windy city of Chicago, where he was once a youth bowler and later joined adult leagues. He blew into Albuquerque and joined a league. He eventually enrolled his son into the YABA program and decided to give back to the sport he enjoyed so much by becoming a coach. He had worked with kids previously in the local roller rink. Now I have yet to see him do his other hobby, roller skating, but I have heard on many occasions he is a beast on wheels. And a Music Master DJ. So here's a guy 20 plus years later that is still showing up every Saturday morning, giving up his morning cartoons as a kid, and now as an adult, leaving his shop on the west side of town to drive and spend his Saturday morning to work with youth bowlers. I know that doesn't seem like much to some of you, but to a kid that loves bowling and wants to be better it's the world to them. There are people who have a zest and passion for what they do in their lives. T-bone is man that enjoys life, be it skating, playing music, restoring a classic 1955 Buick or 65 Impala and maybe a little bowling. He has a life that he embraces with an absolute joy. For those of you that have not spent time around T-Bone during league, a tournament or anywhere else means you probably haven't heard him laugh. He has this laugh that makes you smile. When he works with the youth bowlers that laugh is always present and he relates to them. His positive attitude brings out the best in the kids whether they are 3 or 18. Now don't get me wrong- we have all been there when there have been meltdowns, but he has this way of making it better. When kids come to league, they enjoy spending it with T-Bone. They also ask him to spend extra time and he

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always finds the time. If a kid ask for a partner in a youth adult event he finds a way to be there. T-Bone enjoys bowling and competing, so he also participates in the local city, senior and state tournaments. Those are some of the rare occasions he doesn't come to junior league; the other is normally to visit his mom on her birthday or maybe Mother's Day. If the kids are bowling, he makes his best efforts to be there for them and cheer them on. It's not about the glory of WIN WIN WIN, although that's nice. It's about making positive people that remember sportsmanship, pride and integrity of the sport of bowling. He teaches the skills to become a better athlete, and person, and citizen. He teaches that working hard gets you where you need be, but he reminds you that you can compete while having fun. A few years ago while bowling in a tournament he was bowling really bad, and I mean really bad, so bad he was ready to put the ball in the bag just take the zero. Then the voice in his head came to him, "what kind of example would I be setting to quit?". So he swallowed his pride and for goodness sake he came back and did a first - he bowled his first ever perfect game. When he bowls league he doesn't get mad if he bowls bad, I know he could, but remember you never know who is watching, young eyes remember their mentor's actions. As I look at the lives that he has touched, I know he has impacted at least a few in this room. If he can help a child love the sport of bowling like many of us and teach them the fundamentals of the game, that's our future competition. I am sure when he went to USBC Open Championship in Reno a few short years ago and competed with one of his previous junior bowlers as his doubles partner, he never imagined she was gonna stomp all over him. She just happened to not bowl under a 200 the entire tournament and placed very well in All Events. T-Bone, on the

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other hand, not so much. But he laughed it off and made the best of the evening and he was very proud of her.

- Dedicated to enriching the lives of youth bowlers.
- 20 plus years of coaching
- So for his continued dedication to our youth bowlers, volunteering countless hours, hoping to see them love and succeed at the sport of bowling, I present to you Mr Anthony Bell better known as Coach T-Bone.
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