

PERFECT!

Written by Deb Egenberger
Friday, 11 February 2011 14:25 -



Kolbo finally conquers 300 game at Lakeside.

Chad Kolbo started flinging a bowling ball down the slick lanes of Lakeside Fun Center about 32 years ago when he was 8 years old.

He bowled in a Saturday morning youth league then and practically grew up in Gothenburg's bowling alley.

"It's a second home," said Kolbo, who purchased Lakeside Fun Center with his wife Lori in May of 2008.

Then what would make him so nervous during his regular Wednesday night league that he would have to step back, take a deep breath and adjust his footing on the final frame?

"I was fine until the last frame." Kolbo said.

That's when he recalled that he'd thrown strikes in all of the front nine frames three times already this bowling season and finished less than 300 after missing pins in the final frame.

One more dead-on throw and he'd have the fifth perfect game of his life.

A perfect game is the highest score possible in bowling, achieved by rolling 12 consecutive strikes in a game.

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“I was really nervous,” he said. “I didn’t want to blow it.”

So Kolbo moved his feet a couple of boards to the left to allow for slower ball speed that comes with nerves. He pulled back and let it fly.

“I finally conquered it in my own house,” he said.

Kolbo rolled his first 300 game in a scratch tournament in Cozad in 2004.

He got another one in Columbus, one in North Platte and his most recent in Lexington two years ago while playing a family doubles tournament with his son Trey.

“This was the first time I had a perfect, perfect though,” Kolbo said, explaining that every roll was dead flush with all 10 pins headed straight in the pit.

“There were no doubters,” he said.

Normally, Lakeside Fun Center collects donations from local businesses to help a perfect bowler celebrate.

Kolbo said since he shot the 300 game in the bowling center he owns, he didn’t even consider collecting donations for prize money.

A few other bowlers felt differently, though, and gathered a pot of cash for Kolbo, presenting it the following week during league play.

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Some bowlers, Kolbo said, will retire the ball they used to shoot the 300 game.

Kolbo said that's not the case for him.

"Bowling balls are too darned expensive," he said.

So he will continue rotating the bowling balls he keeps tucked in his office when he plays on Monday and Wednesday night league teams.

And he'll keep working toward another perfect game.