

DOUBLE THREAT

Siblings sign school's first bowling scholarships

Beth Fowler told Al. com after winning the state bowling championship, that the sports she had tried previously did not give her the feeling of passion that she has for competition and self-expression as bowling. That passion showed as Fowler bowled three 200 point games with a high score of 243 to secure the school's first ever AHSSA bowling championship.

"I've come along way to get to this point," she said after the meet.

Beth was not the only Fowler on a team that competed for a state championship, her brother Doug was on the boys team that came in second in the boys' AHSSA championship.

"When we play together, it's the brother sister rival that helps us be more competitive. . He beats me sometimes," Beth said. "But we usually almost always end up tying."

The championship games were just the beginning of happiness for the siblings. A couple of weeks after the championship games, the two signed bowling scholarships with Hastings College in Nebraska.

"After signing the scholarship, I was completely thrilled. This was one of my life long goals. When I did, I couldn't stop being so happy and excited about it," Fowler said.

According to Doug, Hastings was the first college to express an interest in the siblings.

"We were attending a collegian expo in Indiana where colleges were looking to recruit," Beth said. "Hastings was the friendliest so we went to visit their campus."

The Fowlers were responsible for forming the first bowling team. They approached former athletic director, Mr. Maurice Jones about

forming the team. The first team took to the lanes last year, but the 2016 season was the first time, the sport was sanctioned as an official competition sport.

The Fowlers have been fanatic bowlers since they can remember and their family started the sport for fun.

"We discovered the technical side to bowling and how competition can make it fun. Now, we see it on a different level," Beth said.

The siblings' parents began taking the two around the country to attend clinics hosted by professional bowlers. They mingled with the professionals and learned important tips of the trade.

"Bill Spigner, who is now retired, helped me mentally with the game. I learned how to look at the lanes differently with his help," Beth said.

Doug credits his game with another tip.

"The best tip I have received came from professional Jason Delmonte. He helped me notice ball speed," Doug said. "His tip helped me slow it down and affected my arch and power."

After making history by winning the first Alabama state championship, Beth has her eye on another prize-the college championship.

"I hope we can take our college team as far as we can go, perhaps, win it all," Beth said.

A lifelong dream of becoming a great bowler will continue to be a goal the siblings want to achieve together. It's about family, fun and competition, but Beth sums it up with one word.

"Accomplishment," Beth said. "It's all about accomplishment."



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