

Spelling Out the Basics of the Game

By **BILL SPIGNER**

THERE ARE SO MANY TERMS in bowling, from official titles to alley lingo. In fact, it's taken two issues to cover them all. In the last issue, we reviewed the terms and definitions for bowling balls, lanes, and lane play. In this issue, we'll take a look at the terminology for the bowling industry, in the pro shop, as well as strikes and spares and types of bowlers.

SPARE PLAY

BED POST: The 7-10 split, also known as the **GOAL POST**.

BIG FOUR: The 4-6-7-10 split, also known as the **DOUBLE PINOCHLE**.

BLOW: To miss a spare.

BUCKET: The bucket is the 2-4-5-8 for righthanders and the 3-5-6-9 for lefties.

CHOP or CHOPPING: To hit the front pin and leave a pin standing on either side of where the pin hit.

DESIGNER WASHOUT: This stylish leave is

Need some help with your game? Bill Spigner welcomes questions from readers. Send them to: Bowling Clinic, Bowling Digest, 990 Grove Street, Evanston, IL 60201 or e-mail bowl@centurysports.net.

a 1-2-4-6-10 for righties and the 1-3-4-6-7 for leftlanders.

FIELD GOAL: A shot that misses the 7-10 split by rolling between them.

GET THE WOOD: This happens when a split is left and you go after the easiest pins to knock down. This allows you to knock

down the most pins possible out of the frame—you don't risk going after the entire split at the expense of missing all the pins. Depending on the game situation, getting some pins out of a tough split is better than none at all.

GRANDMA'S TEETH: This split consists of the 4-7-9-10 pins for righties and the 6-7-8-10 combination for leftlanders.

GREEK CHURCH: A Greek church is when the 4-6-7-9-10 pins on the right side, or the 4-6-7-8-10 on the left, are still standing.

LEAVE: The pins left standing after the first ball.

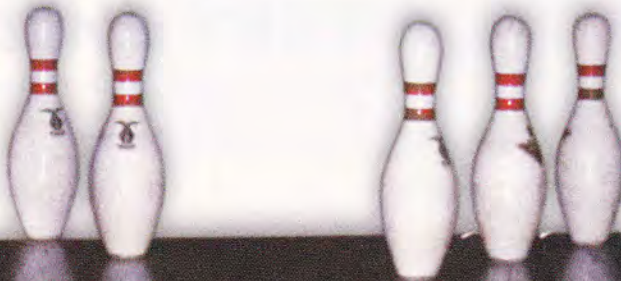
LILLY: The lilly, also called a **SOUR APPLE**, is a leave made up of the 5-7-10 pins.

THE PBA WASHOUT: Leaving the 2-8-10 for righthanders and the 3-7-9 for lefties.

PICKET FENCE: For righthanders, a picket fence is the 1-2-4-7 combination; for lefties, it's the 1-3-6-10.

RAIL: Another term for a split.

SLEEPER: A sleeper is a pin hidden from view by another pin.



Splits come in all shapes and sizes. Depending on your game strategy, you might want to just get the wood on this split and knock out the 3-, 6-, and 10-pin. Otherwise, you'll risk a field goal.

Common sleepers are the 8-pin in a 2-8 leave and the 9-pin in the 3-9.

SPARE: A made spare involves knocking all 10 pins down with two rolls of the ball.

SPLIT: Two or more pins left standing that have a separation between them without the headpin standing. A

BABY SPLIT can be converted if the ball takes out both pins, as in the 3-10, 2-7, 4-5, 5-6, 7-8, or 9-10.

THE STRIKE BALL

BEAK: When the ball hits the headpin straight on.

BLOWOUT 7-10: This strike is a light pocket hit where the 5-pin falls in front of the 7-pin, and the 6-pin doesn't take out the 10. It's the opposite for lefthanders.

BROOKLYN: A strike when your ball crosses over to the "wrong" (opposite) pocket. In New York, it's referred to as a **JERSEY** strike.

CAN OPENER: A half-pocket strike that splits the pins apart, sending the 5-pin to the side wall. A can opener used to be the sign of a well-thrown ball, back when it meant something to knock the 5-pin out on a light pocket hit. (I'm really dating myself now.)

JERSEY SQUASHER: When the ball hits the headpin straight on and strikes.

LOVE TAP: A half-pocket hit where the 6-pin goes into the gutter and topples the 10-pin *after* it looks like it's going to be left standing. For lefthanders, it's the opposite scenario, with the 7-pin making the love tap.

MESSENGER: A light pocket hit where the headpin ricochets off the kickback, flies across the pin deck, and takes out the 10-pin for a strike. (It works oppositely for lefthanders.) Also referred as the **SCOUT** and, by ESPN color analyst Randy Pedersen, the **BIRD DOG**. (A **GIRL SCOUT** is a messenger that comes across the pin deck but doesn't take out the corner pin.)

PING: A ping happens after the ball deflects a lot when it hits the pocket, usually resulting in leaving corner pins or pocket splits.

POCKET: The position at the pins you want your ball to hit to have the best chance of striking. For righthanders, the pocket is

A stussy—rolling the 2-pin on a very light hit—is named in honor of its famed practitioner, Stus.

between the 1- and 3-pin, and for lefthanders it's between the 1- and 2-pin. The **HALF POCKET** is a light pocket hit that usually results in leaving a 10-pin for righties and 7-pin for lefties.

POP THE CAP: Popping the cap happens when a bowler is playing an extreme inside line and actually throws the ball *over* the gutter cap back onto the lane. Robert Smith made this type of shot famous when he did it on ESPN, where he was able to loft the ball more than 15 feet to get the ball back onto the lane.

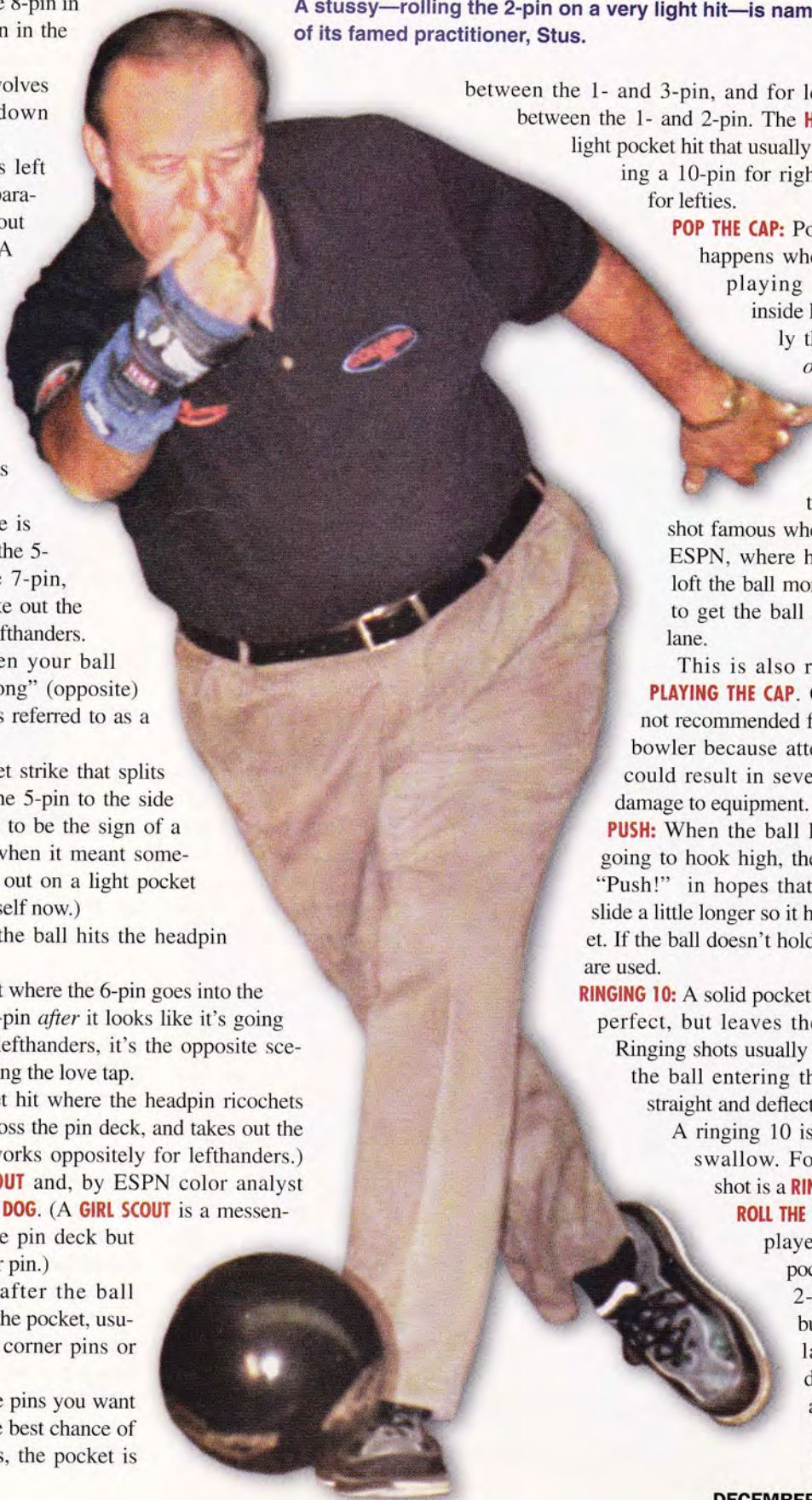
This is also referred to as **PLAYING THE CAP**. Cap shots are not recommended for the average bowler because attempting them could result in severe injury and damage to equipment.

PUSH: When the ball looks like it's going to hook high, the bowler yells "Push!" in hopes that the ball will slide a little longer so it holds the pocket. If the ball doesn't hold...other terms are used.

RINGING 10: A solid pocket hit that seems perfect, but leaves the corner pin. Ringing shots usually are a result of the ball entering the pocket too straight and deflecting too much.

A ringing 10 is a hard hit to swallow. For lefties, the shot is a **RINGING 7**.

ROLL THE DEUCE: When a player gets a light pocket hit and the 2-pin is left—but a pin comes late to knock down the 2 for a strike. (For lefties, it's the 3-pin).



STUSSY: A term used on the Senior tour when a player rolls the 2-pin on a very light hit. A stussy is affectionately named for the great Senior player, Gene Stus, because he did this quite often. His powerful strike ball allowed him to roll the 2 more than most bowlers.

TURKEY: Three strikes in a row. A **WILD TURKEY** is six strikes in a row. The PBA is now using this as its name for a six-bagger on ESPN because Wild Turkey bourbon is sponsoring the PBA Regional tour.

WALL SHOT: A wall shot is a light pocket hit that sends the headpin to the side board, from where

it ricochets off to take out the 5-7 for righties and the 5-10 for left-handers.

WEAK 10: A half-pocket hit where the 6-pin falls in the gutter and doesn't take out the 10-pin. The 7 is the pin left standing up for left-handers.

TYPES OF BOWLERS

CRANKER: A bowler who exerts a lot of energy into lifting and turning the ball to get a lot of revolutions and hook. Examples of crankers are Smith and Jason Couch.

POWER STROKER: Players who are able to get a lot of revolutions and hook on the ball while being very smooth and consistent. Players like Pete Weber and Chris Barnes fall into this category.

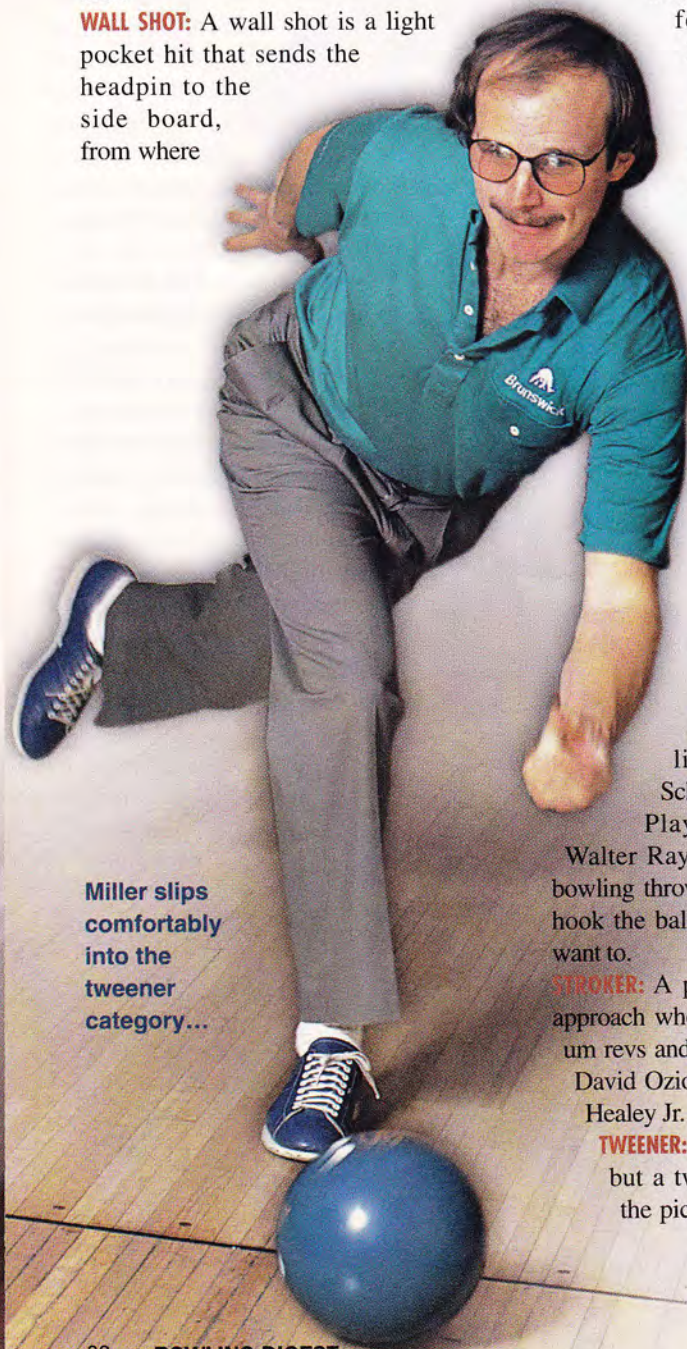
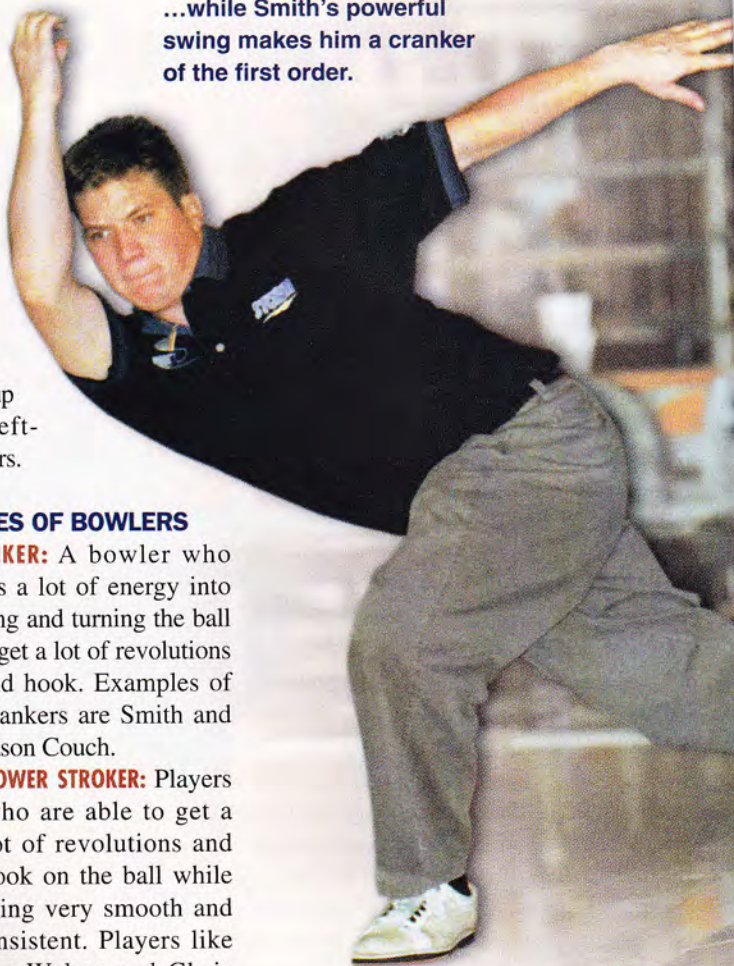
STRAIGHTY: A player who uses a small hook with a very direct line to the pins, like Dave Traber, Ernie Schlegel, and Michael Haugen.

Players like Norm Duke and Walter Ray Williams Jr. do their best bowling throwing straight, but are able to hook the ball a good amount when they want to.

STROKER: A player with a very smooth approach who throws the ball with medium revs and hook—the “textbook” style. David Ozio, Tommy Baker, and Patrick Healey Jr. fall into this category.

TWEENER: Another name for a stroker, but a tweener doesn't always have the picture-perfect form the stroker

...while Smith's powerful swing makes him a cranker of the first order.



Miller slips comfortably into the tweener category...

has. Hugh Miller, Brian Voss, and Dave Husted are tweeners.

IN THE PRO SHOP

BEVEL: To round off the top of the holes of the ball for comfort.

GRIPS: Presized inserts installed in the finger and thumb holes. Finger inserts are softer than the material the ball is made of. A high percentage of bowlers who use a fingertip grip use the finger inserts for comfort and feel.

Grips help produce more finger lift. Thumb inserts are either round, round tapered, or oval in shape. With the variety of materials and construction of balls, thumb inserts provide a consistent feel from ball to ball.

PLUGGING: Filling the holes with an epoxy so the ball can be re-drilled.

RESURFACE: A procedure that is done to a

ball that is tracked-up, damaged, or scratched. This is done by sanding the surface of the ball down with varying grades of sandpaper and abrasives to get the ball back to like-new condition. The pro shop will either do this by hand using a **BALL SPINNER** or with one of the **RESURFACING MACHINES** made today. The best way to resurface is with the resurfacing machine because it has the best chance of keeping the ball round and controls the amount of material being taken off the ball. You can resurface a ball three or four times to help rejuvenate it.

SLUGS: Solid inserts that are installed in a ball, then drilled to size. Slugs are used instead of thumb inserts for the same reason as grips, to get a consistent feel from ball to ball. Slugs are also used to re-drill holes and adjust the span, pitch, or hole size—or all three.

THE BOWLING INDUSTRY

ABC: The American Bowling Congress is the governing body of men's bowling.

BPAA: Bowling Proprietors' Association of America. This is a voluntary, dues-paying organization of bowling proprietors.

BPAC: Bowling's political action group, BPAC, is made up of lobbyists who represent bowling in Washington, D.C. It is privately funded by individuals in the bowling industry in order to help protect the industry against laws that would adversely affect the bowling business. Basically, BPAC is bowling's voice in Washington.

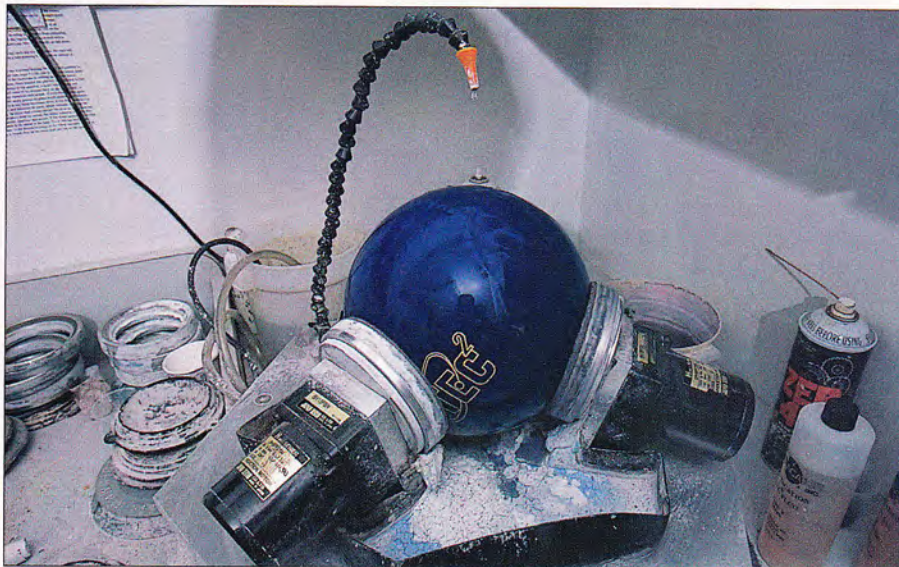
IBPSIA: International Bowling Pro Shop and Instructors Association. Many top pro shops and instructors are members of this organization.

JOG: Junior Olympic Gold is a membership association for junior bowlers. There is a national tournament each year to qualify youth bowlers for Junior Team USA, which represents our country in international competitions.

PBA: Professional Bowlers Association.

PWBA: Professional Women's Bowlers Association.

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP: This proposal combines all the governing bodies of bowling



A ball spinner is a key tool to help resurface your ball—and extend its life.

(the ABC, WIBC, YABA, and USA of women's bowling. Bowling) under one roof.

WIBC: The Women's International Bowling Congress is the governing body

YABA: The Young American Bowling Alliance is the governing body for youth bowling. ●

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