

Author launches new duckpin bowling book

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MANSFIELD — Ever since his mother signed him up for a duckpin bowling league in the fifth grade, Brian Ewing has loved the sport.

Since then, he has become one of the top duckpin bowlers in Connecticut, even being ranked number one in the state last year.

In 2012, Ewing won the Hip Correnti Memorial at Holiday Lanes and the A division singles event at the 2013 National Tournament.

Ewing has been president of CT Duckpins, a group that organizes duckpin bowling tournaments in the state, since

2017 and has been a board member since 2013.

It was his love of duckpin bowling that inspired him to write his book “The Golden Age of Duckpin Bowling: The Myths and Legends that Made the Game.”

The book discusses the early years of the game by following the careers of two famous duckpin bowlers: Nick Tronsky of New Britain and Elizabeth “Toots” Barger of Baltimore, Maryland. The book also examines the sport’s origin myth and explores the technical advances that changed the game.

“I just wanted to know a lot about some of the famous bowlers I’ve

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Brian Ewing signs a copy of his new book at his book signing event

Ewing signs new book in Mansfield

I heard of like Nick Tronsky from New Britain and Elizabeth Barger from Baltimore,” Ewing said. “Nobody had put together a comprehensive biography of these individuals.”

To learn more information about Tronsky and Barger, Ewing looked through thousands of old newspaper articles.

As an English teacher for grades 10-12 at Norwich Free Academy, it was difficult for Ewing to find time to write his book during the school year. That was why he opted to write the bulk of his book during the summertime. It took Ewing approximately four years to finish his project.

The book was officially released in early March. Ewing said it has been selling well so far, with more than



Guests bowl at Brian Ewing's book signing event at Lucky Strike Lanes on Friday.

100 copies sold as of Friday.

To promote his new book, Ewing held a book signing event at Lucky

Strike Lanes in Mansfield last Friday.

During the event, Ewing gave a talk

where he discussed the history of duckpin bowling.

The pinsetter revolutionized the game in the 1950s. Bowling alleys could now operate at all hours because they were not reliant on pin boys resetting the pins. The increased hours led to more people bowling.

“This is about the time that housewife's leagues become very popular and women start entering the bowling alley. We saw a lot of competitive bowling by females during this time,” Ewing said. “We also get children, another big demographic, and children began bowling in larger volumes around this time as well.”

Nowadays, string pinsetter machines are sweeping the nation. They are often seen at breweries, who use duckpin bowling lanes in an effort to retain customers.

“Breweries have sprouted up everywhere with quality food and quality craft beers,” said Rich Dunnack, manager of Lucky Strike Lanes.

“But they find that the customer comes in, they have a drink or two, they have a sandwich, but then they leave. They didn't want the customer to leave, so they added six or eight lanes of string duckpins.”

Following Ewing's talk, guests got a chance to bowl with him.

Many of the people who attended Ewing's book signing picked up a copy of his book at the event. They were anxious to learn more about the sport of duckpin bowling as well as hear more about Tronsky and Barger.

“I'm so anxious to start digging into that book and

Reading,” said Dunnack, who had just gotten a copy of the book on Friday.

To learn more about

Ewing's book visit duckpin-book.com.

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