

Eric Maxwell  
Olathe - Wy-Jon  
Kansas State USBC Hall of Fame  
Service - 2019

Eric has been married to wife Joan for 25 years. They have two sons, Justin and Andrew.

I grew up with my parents bowling two nights a week and always going to “watch” I remember being so excited when I was finally old enough to be the one keeping score for both teams on the pair.

Sometimes I miss the days of the grease pencil and manual scoring. My mom was also the secretary of a league so I would sit with her and read all of the scores to her while she filled out all the paperwork every week. I’ve been in the bowling business since starting as a Porter at King Louie College Lanes in 1985 and have not missed a league season in 37 years. I was fortunate enough to bowl for Gordon Vadakin at Wichita State my freshman year of college and bowl the next three years for KU under Mike Fine. In 1991, I started working full time at Olathe Lanes East and became manager within 6 months. I am currently a part time manager and league coordinator there.

Both of my kids started bowling at the age of 2 ½ which kept me active in Saturday morning youth leagues and gave me the passion to start coaching more. My kids seem to get me involved in many volunteer situations. I started volunteering at Justin’s elementary school when he started first grade and have been at the school for 15 years now even though both kids have graduated from there. While Justin participated in the Kansas City Open Youth tournaments, I decided to volunteer to help with the organization and still do today. In 2013 as my son was starting at Olathe South as a freshman, I was asked to come on board to be an assistant coach. That was a very long discussion with my son before I agreed to do this, it has been so much fun getting to coach kids that have grown up through the program and join them in the good and the “not so good” days. I can honestly say it got even a little bit better when my son graduated and I did not have as much stress. In 2004, I remember the first time sitting in a school board meeting in Olathe helping to push high school bowling in our area. I was shocked how quickly we got this through and after 1 year of it being a club sport, we were already on board for this to be a varsity sport. The first couple of years I tried to do a league sheet and keep stats but that was such a pain. I had to come up with something easier. Year after year I kept working to keep improving a product that was easy for me to keep track of all the stats.

It was tougher on the other end though trying to get the scores sent to me in a timely fashion and in so many different formats. By 2009 I was up to 25 schools in the NE Kansas area and by 2012 I was keeping stats for 32 schools. That was the year I tested sending out my spreadsheet and having about ½ of them use it. I was so worried about telling coaches they “had” to use my spreadsheet, but what a difference in time it made for me. I was now able to take this product make a website and use Facebook for posting scores as they came in. In 2015, I was asked to take on the whole state and with the help of the coaches, I think it has become a great success. Facebook has replaced the lack of newspaper coverage we have in some areas around the state and parents are checking every night for updates.

The last 3 years I have had the honor to be the scorekeeper at both 5-1A and 6-A State Competitions.