

# BALTIMORE SPORTS

STORIES FROM CHARM CITY



EDITED BY DANIEL A. NATHAN



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FOR REVIEW PURPOSES ONLY

# **Baltimore Sports**

*Stories from Charm City*

**Edited by Daniel A. Nathan**

FOR REVIEW PURPOSES ONLY

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## Toots Barger

*Queen of Duckpins*

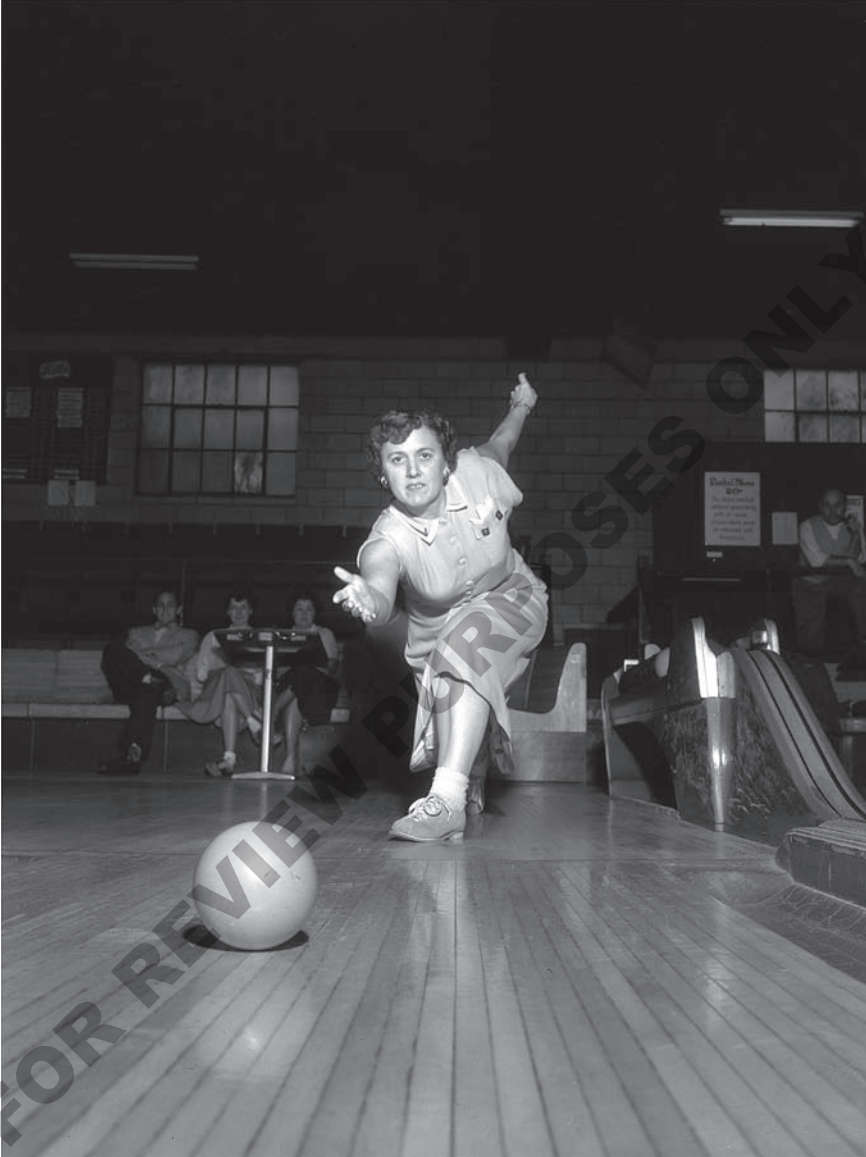
STACY KARTEN

Little did I know when I was growing up in northwest Baltimore and bowling in an organized youth duckpin bowling league at the Liberty Heights Bowling Academy in the early 1960s that I was being schooled by the greatest female duckpin bowler of all-time—Elizabeth “Toots” Barger. After all, what nine- or ten-year-old, just becoming involved in a sport for the first time, would pay attention to that sort of fact?

It would be around twenty-five years later that I would meet Toots in a professional capacity when I worked for the renowned Baltimore-based bowling center operator, Fair Lanes, Inc., and Toots was active in the proprietor ranks at Riviera Bowl in Pasadena, Maryland. Of course, by that time, Toots was in her seventies and no longer the skilled duckpin bowler that garnered so much acclaim in and beyond Baltimore, but she still bowled in leagues for fun and exercise and loved to promote the game. By this point in my career, I knew about and appreciated all that Toots accomplished on and off the lanes.

Toots Barger was a true Baltimore sports legend who rose to fame during the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s in a sport that most people believe originated in Baltimore at the turn of the twentieth century and became a part of the city’s unique charm, as homespun as marble stoops, snowballs, Berger cookies, coddies, and National Beer.

Duckpin bowling was a big sport during those years, as virtually every neighborhood boasted having duckpin lanes and there were thousands of leagues and tournaments. For the unacquainted, duckpin bowling utilizes a



Elizabeth "Toots" Barger, local duckpin legend, by A. A. Bodine.  
*Courtesy of the Maryland Historical Society.*



short, squat pin, almost 10 inches high, and bowling balls that are 4 7/8" or 5" in diameter, ranging in weights from 3 lb., 6 oz. to 3 lb., 12 oz. The scoring and rules are the same as tenpin bowling except that you get to bowl a third ball in duckpins if you don't get a spare. Achieving high scores in duckpins is very difficult. While the tenpin game sees thousands of perfect (300 score) games every year, the highest duckpin game ever bowled was 279 by Peter Signore Jr. of Newington, Connecticut, on March 5, 1992.<sup>1</sup>

During the 1940s, 1950s, and early 1960s, Baltimore was still considered a heavily industrial, blue-collar city, where hard work was expected, and there were no major professional sports teams. The National Football League Colts moved to Baltimore in 1953 and Major League Baseball's Orioles arrived in 1954, so before fans started gushing over Johnny Unitas's accomplishments as a quarterback and Brooks Robinson's miraculous play as a third baseman, Toots Barger was admired and applauded for dominating her sport. It was not uncommon for Toots's name to be mentioned in the same conversations that included the names Unitas and Robinson. In 1999, when *Sports Illustrated* published its list of the best fifty athletes of all time from every state, Toots made the list for Maryland at number 50.<sup>2</sup>

During her reign as the aptly dubbed "Queen of Duckpins," Toots claimed thirteen National Duckpin Bowling Congress No. 1 rankings as the highest average female duckpinner (1946/47–1950/51, 1952/53–1956/57, 1960/61, 1963/64, and 1964/65). (Note: the bowling season spans two calendar years, typically running from September until May.) She also finished second in the rankings six times and ranked in the top ten twenty-eight times during her career. The highest average Toots ever attained was 126, which she accomplished three times.<sup>3</sup>

Toots won the prestigious Baltimore Evening Sun Duckpin Tournament twelve out of the twenty-two years in which she competed (1942–1963), including six in a row from 1946 to 1951.<sup>4</sup> This invitational tournament got rolling in 1925 and was held annually through 1968. The event generated tremendous coverage and publicity in local print and later on television when the finals were televised in the 1950s and 1960s. The grueling thirty-game elimination format showcased the area's best men and women duckpin bowlers and Toots's dozen championships proved her mettle.

Toots also captured numerous tournament championships, including the Ladies Chesapeake Open five times, the Ladies Baltimore Open twice, and she was a two-time winner of the tournament named for her, the Toots Barger Open. At one point, Toots held every individual woman's duckpin world record, and it is said that she won every duckpin tournament ever held at least one time, except for a Pro Tour title. The Women's National Duckpin Association did not start until 1982, when Toots was sixty-nine

years old, well beyond the age she could compete effectively against the younger women bowlers.<sup>5</sup>

Toots was so popular, successful, and respected that she was asked to donate one of her duckpin bowling balls, which she autographed, and a pair of her bowling shoes to the Smithsonian Institution.<sup>6</sup> She was, after all, a local treasure.

### **Duckpin Bowling History**

To appreciate what Toots Barger meant to Baltimore and duckpin bowling, it is important to understand the love affair the city had with the sport, which is believed to have started in Baltimore. The long-accepted version of the game's beginnings has links to Baseball Hall of Famers John McGraw and Wilbert Robinson, who were teammates with the Baltimore Orioles in the National League from 1892 through 1899 and again in 1901 with the Orioles, who switched to the newly formed American League. Both men would go on to enjoy distinguished managerial careers in the National League: McGraw with the New York Giants and Robinson with the Brooklyn Robins (eventually renamed the Dodgers).<sup>7</sup>

McGraw and Robinson were also business partners who owned the Diamond Alleys, a traditional tenpin bowling establishment and saloon, on Howard Street in downtown Baltimore. Around 1900, a Baltimore furniture maker named John Dittmar came up with the idea of whittling the pins into a smaller size and brought a set to the Diamond Alleys. McGraw and Robinson used to give Dittmar the shattered wooden pins so he could use the wood for furniture legs. The pins were set up and a small crowd watched as some people rolled against the smaller pins. Upon being struck, the pins flew off the lanes and McGraw and Robinson, who were avid duck hunters, remarked that "it looked like ducks flying off a pond" and the term duckpins was coined. Dittmar subsequently manufactured smaller bowling balls to go with the pins.<sup>8</sup>

The sport quickly became extremely popular, as duckpin lanes seemed to spring up in every neighborhood. Organized leagues and tournaments developed rapidly and the duckpin game soon spread to other areas when Robinson would introduce the sport to cities to which he traveled per his team's baseball schedule. The sport flourished on the East Coast, from Massachusetts to Georgia. Duckpins became so popular that it pushed tenpin bowling out of Baltimore. The game even attracted the legendary baseball great Babe Ruth, a Baltimorean who occasionally bowled duckpins.<sup>9</sup>

Even during World War II, duckpin bowling did not seem to suffer as much of a decline in participation as other sports in Baltimore. In a February

1943 *Baltimore Sun* article, J. E. Wild reported, “After roughly checking the number of duckpin bowling leagues in the Baltimore area at the present time one is forced to admit this particular sport is not suffering too much from the war.”<sup>10</sup> According to Wild, “The check shows that at present there are 506 leagues in existence in town with 5,078 teams on their rolls. Counting regulars and substitutes this makes 35,546 persons who roll regularly in these leagues. This is only a few thousand less than were competing here before Pearl Harbor.”<sup>11</sup> Maintaining this level of participation could be attributed to many factors: the fact that there were so many duckpin bowling establishments; the sport could be played year-round; it only took a couple of hours to complete a league match; and women could participate just as easily as men. In addition, duckpin bowling was often a salutary respite for people during a difficult period, especially after a long day on the job.

For over one hundred years, Baltimoreans proudly claimed that duckpin bowling was hatched in their city. However, author Howard Rosenberg has debunked that notion. While researching *Cap Anson 3* (2005), Rosenberg found a reference to the term duckpin bowling in the 1894 *Lowell Sun* (Massachusetts) and subsequently came across an 1892 reference to duckpin in the *Boston Globe*.<sup>12</sup> On the other hand, there have been several articles over the years proclaiming the game’s Baltimore pedigree. An article in the *Baltimore Evening Sun* on February 19, 1929, featured the headline, “Uncle Robbie, of Diamond Fame, Inaugurated Duckpin Bowling Fad Back in 1903.”<sup>13</sup> Robinson reiterated his claim in the *Pittsburgh Press* in 1929.<sup>14</sup> The birth of duckpin bowling in Baltimore was repeated in a December 24, 1965, *Baltimore Sun* article with the headline, “Duckpin Game Began in 1900.”<sup>15</sup>

To complicate matters further, in 1992 John Dittmar’s grandson, John Beaver, and his nephew, Melvin Bierman, concurred with the Baltimore version of the game’s history. They recalled from family discussions that Robinson and McGraw were visiting Dittmar one day and they noticed that one of his products were sofa legs. The ballplayers offered Dittmar their worn and broken tenpins, which could be made into the couch legs and save Dittmar on resource materials. Dittmar was already manufacturing scoreboards, lanes, tenpins, and tenpin balls. When he received the Diamond Alley pins, he experimented and fashioned smaller versions of the pins. Dittmar saw the opportunity for children and ladies to handle smaller bowling balls. He took the new and smaller pins to McGraw and Robinson and the rest is history.<sup>16</sup>

Beaver lamented the fact that his grandfather did not stick with the duckpin manufacturing. “We were in the lumber business already and only made the duckpins as a favor to McGraw and Robinson,” Beaver said.

Dittmar's company correspondence shows that a great effort was made to obtain a US patent on the duckpin, but in 1914 that patent request was denied as the patent office stated the duckpin was just a "cosmetic change to the tenpin."<sup>17</sup>

Ultimately, while historians and duckpin industry officials do not know precisely how and when the sport originated, Baltimore still proudly claims the sport as its own. In fact, the duckpin bowling industry launched a campaign in Annapolis in 1992 to have duckpin bowling named Maryland's Official State Sport—the state sport is jousting—but that legislative effort was defeated. Yet as one would expect, one of the most prominent spokespeople in the campaign in the legislative hearings was "Baltimore legend" Toots Barger.<sup>18</sup>

### **Toots Gets Rolling**

Born in the Hamilton section of Baltimore in 1913, Mary Elizabeth Ryan was given the nickname "Tootsie" by her aunt. She shortened it to "Toots" and when she started bowling she had the name monogrammed on her bowling shirts. A 1931 graduate of Eastern High School, Toots was introduced to duckpin bowling in 1939 when she substituted in a league at Seidel's Lanes on Bel Air Road in Baltimore and averaged 96 her first season. Her second season, she averaged 107 at the Vilma Lanes. The following season Toots's average improved to 115, seventh highest in the nation.<sup>19</sup>

Realizing she had some talent for duckpin bowling, Toots started taking duckpins seriously, practicing daily, and improving her skills. Within a short time, she was competing in the major women's leagues in Baltimore and various tournaments on the East Coast.

Toots married Ernest Barger, a plumber, in the late 1930s and the couple had a son and a daughter. Toots would also venture into the duckpin bowling business with her husband as owners of the Stadium Lanes in the neighborhood near Memorial Stadium and the Liberty Heights Bowling Academy in northwest Baltimore. Toots also worked at Riviera Bowl in Anne Arundel County, where she lived at the time. During her years as a proprietor, Toots taught thousands of children how to bowl, which helped the sport grow.<sup>20</sup>

Toots was in her prime as a bowler during the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s, when Baltimore was a major population center. According to the US Census, Baltimore was the seventh largest city in 1940 and the sixth largest in 1950 and 1960.<sup>21</sup> Although many people viewed Baltimore as just a stopping-off point between New York or Philadelphia and Washington, DC, the city was full of activity and had much to offer its residents. The city consisted of hard-working blue-collar and middle-class people and major employers

such as Bethlehem Steel, Glenn L. Martin, and the shipping port. During World War II, in particular, employment was at peak levels at Bethlehem Steel and Glenn L. Martin.<sup>22</sup> Baltimore was a large city with limited entertainment options, and duckpin bowling was a fun and affordable way for many people to spend their leisure time.

After Toots stopped competing in the Baltimore Evening Sun Bowling Tournament in 1964, she served the tournament on a volunteer basis, her twelve championships hovering over the entrants. Robert Naylor of the *Baltimore Sun* wrote:

There's a sort of ghost of Christmases past that lurks behind the firing lines of this year's Evening Sun Duckpin Tournament, especially haunting to competitors in the women's division.

The girls roll tonight at Fair Lanes Dundalk. But keeping an expert eye on the action from the fringes of the gallery and then tabulating scores in the back room will be Mrs. Elizabeth Barger. This ghost of tourneys and titles past they call "Toots," and she's still a lively one.

"I'm still bowling you know," Toots reminds. Few duckpinners in town need to be reminded. "But I won this tournament 12 times and I've been in it ever since they went to 30 games. That's twenty-some Christmases that I was unable to enjoy with my family like everybody else. When I wasn't bowling, those nights I would be nervous. So I just decided I'd prove what I could do, so that's it," said Toots.<sup>23</sup>

Although Toots continued to bowl in leagues until she was eighty-two—she stopped bowling due to bad knees—the all-time great retired from competitive bowling in the 1970s. Her highest honors included being a charter member of the National Duckpin Bowling Congress Hall of Fame in 1961, the same year she was elected to the Maryland Athletic Hall of Fame; she was only the second woman and the first duckpin bowler to achieve that recognition.<sup>24</sup>

Suffering from dementia, Toots died of cancer at the age of eighty-five in Frederick, Maryland, in 1998. As one would expect, she received a lengthy obituary in the *Baltimore Sun*. Frederick N. Rasmussen wrote, "It was said her very presence in a duckpin alley shook the composure of the women who competed against her."<sup>25</sup> Combing through the *Sun* morgue, Rasmussen added, "When she retired, *The Evening Sun* said, 'Above all, it was an era of sheer brilliance in the clutch, when her competitive spirit more than anything else, provided the decisive ingredient in the capture of her innumerable titles. Far more often than not she came from behind, leaving the feeling that she never was out of contention until the last ball was rolled.'"<sup>26</sup> Longtime Baltimore sports columnist John Steadman, who recalled Toots as being "extremely modest" and "outgoing," was quoted

in the obituary: “She dominated her sport and established records in bowling that no other woman approached.”<sup>27</sup> Such was Toots’s renown that the *Washington Post* and even the august *New York Times* noted her passing, the latter reporting that she was “a perennial world champion in a decidedly regional sport,” that she “had long been known as the Queen of Duckpins,” and that she “became such an acclaimed figure that she was regarded as the city’s premiere athlete until Johnny Unitas came to town.”<sup>28</sup> All true. More than twenty-five years removed from competitive bowling and the peak of her celebrity, Toots nonetheless garnered recognition in major metropolitan newspapers and on National Public Radio.<sup>29</sup>

### **Toots Barger’s Impact**

What made Toots such an outstanding bowler and a popular sports icon?

With regard to the game, in 1947 Toots cited proper footwork as the key to good bowling. “Most women first taking up the game insist on landing on their right foot, instead of the left, for the slide up to the foul line. That throws them off balance, twists the wrist abnormally as the ball is delivered and the ball does not strike the pins where it is intended to,” she said. “That’s why I say body balance is the first requisite to good bowling. Acquire that, then bowl naturally, no matter how different from another’s style your own style may be. Patience and regular practice will do the rest.”<sup>30</sup> Easier said than done for most of us.

Now eighty-three, Joan Corcoran of Baltimore grew up watching Toots bowl and eventually competed against her. “My mother, Audrey Mullaney, bowled in the 1930s and became familiar with Toots Barger back in the day,” Corcoran explained. “Later, as I was bowling in leagues and major leagues I bowled with Toots. I bowled against her in later years in the 60s through the 70s. She was quite a champion. Her form was impeccable. Her follow through was so impeccable. She was well known because of her ability, national rankings, her tournament wins. She was the most prominent woman bowler of her day, sort of like Babe Didrikson in the golf world,” recalled Corcoran, clearly still impressed with Toots’s game.<sup>31</sup> Corcoran continued:

Many kudos and articles were written about her. She was huge because she remained at the top of her game for such a long time. During the 50s she owned the Stadium Alleys in the Greenmount corridor and due to that fact her whole life could be dedicated to being the best you can be in that sport. Owning the bowling alley as she did, she could practice shooting the 7 pin, the 10 pin, and the 5 pin, any split shot you can

name. She had the time to be able to do this. Her bowling ability was phenomenal. It was her ability to keep that same delivery all the time. The follow through is big.

Corcoran also commented on the game's popularity in Baltimore. "One of the things that made it very popular, Baltimore was like the hub. Duckpins was the thing. Most grade schools had their own youth leagues after school programs. The focus was on local bowling leagues. Women were stay-at-home moms and there were day leagues for them to bowl in. The parking lots were always packed," she said.

A better than average bowler, Corcoran competed against Toots in the Baltimore Evening Sun Tournament and remembered that experience. "When you received an invitation to that tournament, it was an honor, a big deal," she said, adding that trying to defeat Toots was a challenge. "I think she was so intimidating, she scared the pants off a lot of them [opponents]," remarked Corcoran.

Professional bowler and proprietor of Mount Airy Lanes and Greenmount Bowl, Joe Rineer has been involved in duckpin bowling for over five decades. "I grew up in Baltimore. I remember I was delivering the *News American* paper and I would deliver those papers as fast as I could so I could get home in time to watch the Evening Sun Tournament which was televised at that time. The finals were always on TV. It was great. She [i.e., Toots] was a classic as far as form and she was probably like a female Tiger Woods of duckpins," Rineer said.<sup>32</sup>

According to Rineer, there were not many male duckpinners as good as Toots and her following was big. "She was watched as much as any of the men. Definitely, I was told she bowled three games every day. I think just her personality made her popular. People just liked watching her bowl, thinking 'I wish I could do that and act like her.' I don't think you could mention her name to anyone who bowled in Maryland and they wouldn't know who she was," said Rineer.

When Toots competed, duckpin scores were lower due to tougher lane conditions and poorer equipment. The pins and balls were both made of wood as opposed to today's all-plastic pins and urethane covered bowling balls. "She never bowled a 200 game," Rineer recalled. "When I was told that I said you've got to be kidding me. In her days the gutters were deeper, the pins were level, and the pins were all wood. What made her great was that she had the mentality to throw every ball like it was the pin that was going to win her the game. It's a pretty frustrating game. Duckpins and golf are closely related as far as the frustration level," explained Rineer.

“Toots was always the same lady. In her heart she knew she had the ability and the edge because of those three games. She did it every day. I loved picking her brain as a bowler and a proprietor,” Rineer said.

Regarding duckpins’ popularity in Baltimore, Rineer commented: “At that time she was before Fair Lanes, so until it came along every town had a center or two centers with eight to twelve lanes in them. Then Fair Lanes came along with the Recreation Center. There wasn’t an exit that didn’t have a duckpin bowling center.”

In 1923, the Recreation Center opened on Howard Street in downtown Baltimore, close to where the then-closed Diamond Alleys were located. This duckpin establishment featured one hundred duckpin lanes, five floors with twenty lanes each. The Recreation Center would eventually become the publicly held Fair Lanes, Inc., which at its peak owned and operated 116 bowling centers in thirteen states. Twenty of those bowling centers, totaling over five hundred lane beds, were for duckpins.<sup>33</sup>

Wally Hall, originally from England and now living in Pasadena, Maryland, joined Fair Lanes in the early 1960s. He, too, has fond recollections of Toots. “Toots was the personification of all that was good about Baltimore and Maryland. She was a tough competitor but always fair and gracious in defeat. She had the ability to be friends with everyone and never let her celebrity status as a national champion come between her and her regular bowling pals. She showed that women were capable of holding their own against the best of the male bowlers in this the hardest of all bowling games. Her passion for the sport never left her. She loved duckpin bowling and is truly one of the greats in the sport,” said Hall.<sup>34</sup>

Hall said that Toots had a major impact on the sport. “She meant so much to the duckpin game because of her consistent performances. She was a good ambassador for the sport and being local she was good news for the Baltimore press, which helped endear her to Baltimore,” he said. Indeed, the approbation many Baltimoreans had for Toots endures.

Hall continued to consider the important link between Baltimore and duckpins. “There is a unique relationship between Baltimore and duckpin bowling because it originated here. I think the fact that for many years it was cheaper than tenpins appealed to many hard-working Baltimore residents, plus I believe between the two World Wars there were more duckpin lanes in the Baltimore area than tenpins. The fact that Baltimore had national duckpin champions and the sport generated local press coverage, as well as press and business sponsorship, also helped,” he remarked. Based on my thirty-five years working in the duckpin industry, I think Hall’s comments regarding Toots’s impact on duckpin bowling are accurate. There



is widespread consensus that Toots was a difference maker in the sport's growth and popularity.

Ron Matz, a news and features reporter for Baltimore's WJZ-TV 13, grew up in northwest Baltimore as a big Toots Barger fan and an avid duckpin bowler. Matz also has a good feel for all things Baltimore. "I think what endeared Toots to the city and state was the fact that she was so modest," Matz explains. "She was always easy to talk to and approachable. She was popular because she was one of us, so to speak, just someone who loved to bowl but also excelled at it. She was also a trailblazer. Back in those days we didn't recognize great female athletes, as we should have," recalled Matz.<sup>35</sup>

"I saw her bowl many times and when she got up to bowl she always drew a crowd because everyone wanted to see the best. She was amazing. Toots and her husband, Ernie, ran the Liberty Heights lanes where I bowled in a league. You would see Toots or Ernie in there every day. They were real Baltimore characters," he added.

About the charm of duckpin bowling in Baltimore, Matz said:

There was a certain romanticism about duckpins. It was not unusual to see a "Perfect Game" in tenpins. Duckpins was another story. It was a much bigger challenge. At one time, I bowled in three different leagues. All of my friends were consumed by the sport. It was a religion. Duckpins are just another part of the quiriness of Baltimore and what makes the city so unique. Here it is 50 years after duckpin bowling was at its zenith here and we still have many lanes devoted to duckpins. The Patterson on Eastern Avenue, Stoneleigh Lanes on York Road, Pinland in Dundalk and probably others I can't remember. Duckpins, like Natty Boh, John Waters and our white marble steps are Baltimore personified.

If Toots Barger is the greatest woman duckpin bowler of all time, Pat Rinaldi of Chevy Chase, Maryland, is in the next tier of outstanding bowlers. Rinaldi was the National Duckpin Bowling Congress No. 1 ranked woman bowler six times and won numerous tournament titles.<sup>36</sup> Rinaldi also has pleasant memories of Toots. "I bowled in Washington and she was up in Baltimore, so I did not bowl a lot directly with her, plus I was much younger. Of course, I did bowl against her in some tournaments in Baltimore. I knew she was a legend and a force to be reckoned with. She was a fierce competitor and someone you would want to be like when I grew up," Rinaldi remembered. "One thing she always said, that one hint she always gave me about bowling, was stay down and get the ball out. Down and out and loose as a goose. That is what she would always say. I still remember that and keep trying to do it. She was very focused on being the greatest bowler

and she was the greatest bowler. She was always someone everybody tried to be as good as.”<sup>37</sup> For many bowlers, Toots set the standard of excellence.

Twenty-six years after her death, and almost five decades since her stellar bowling kept her in the public eye, Toots Barger may be waning as a local sports legend. Memories fade, after all. Those who compete in duckpin bowling and most native Baltimoreans over the age of fifty fondly recall her. But those who are not in that demographic don’t know much if anything about the woman the *Baltimore Sun* once called “duckpin bowling’s equivalent of Babe Ruth.”<sup>38</sup> Add to that the decline in the number of duckpin bowling centers—there is only one establishment within the city limits and just nineteen facilities in the state—and the industry does not have the wherewithal, and perhaps the need, to perpetuate Toots’s celebrity and memory. The Orioles and the Ravens, on the other hand, who have the resources to celebrate and market their all-time greats, keep their memories alive for younger fans.

One could argue that Toots Barger impacted her sport as much as any athlete in any sport. For over thirty years, she dominated on the lanes and in the media, sparked legions of fans and participants, and was considered an all-time great Maryland athlete. Toots accomplished this with tremendous humility and style, which was a byproduct of her simply doing what she enjoyed most, rolling a small ball down a sixty-foot lane and knocking down some small pins. No one did it better than Toots. She was a hometown original, “Babe Ruth without the swagger,” one of us.<sup>39</sup>

### 10. Toots Barger: Queen of Duckpins

1. See [http://www.ndbc.org/world\\_records\\_men.htm](http://www.ndbc.org/world_records_men.htm) (accessed August 23, 2014).
2. See <http://www.si.com/vault/1999/12/27/271866/the-master-list-the-50-greatest-sports-figures-of-the-century-from-each-of-the-50-states> (accessed August 23, 2014).
3. The National Duckpin Bowling Congress in Linthicum, Maryland, is the sanctioning and governing body for adult duckpin bowlers. It compiles annual average rankings of the top twenty duckpin bowlers and has the lists for each year since it was established in 1927. It provided me with Toots's rankings and averages.
4. Stacy Karten, "Is Bowling Still Cool?" June 5, 2007, <http://www.pressboxonline.com/story/2075/is-bowling-still-cool> (accessed August 23, 2014).
5. See <http://wndatour.com/about-us/> (accessed September 6, 2014).
6. Frederick N. Rasmussen, "Elizabeth 'Toots' Barger, 'Queen of Duckpins,' Dies," *Baltimore Sun*, September 29, 1998, 6A.
7. Burt Solomon, *Where They Ain't: The Fabled Life and Untimely Death of the Original Baltimore Orioles, the Team That Gave Birth to Modern Baseball* (New York: Free Press, 1999).
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