

[← Newer Article](#)[Index](#)[Older Article →](#)

Who is the best coach in bowling?

JEFF RICHGELS | Posted: Thursday, August 8, 2013 8:00 am

The passing of legendary coach John Jowdy last week prompts this fascinating question: Who is the best coach in bowling?

I don't really think there's a correct answer to that question, which is part of why it's so fascinating.

When it comes to the mental game, I think there is a fairly clear consensus that Dean Hinitz is the world's premier coach.

But I don't think you could find consensus for the physical game.

There are many great coaches and the key thing is that the one that might be best for one bowler might not be best for another. It's all about finding the right fit.

I've been fortunate enough to work with several top coaches, including Jowdy when I was on the PBA Tour in the 1980s as I wrote after his death last week.

Bill Hall, then the ball driller for the Tour and now a world-renowned coach, also helped me when I was on Tour.

Since I left the Tour, I've worked with both of my teammates who are in Bowlers Journal's annual listing of the top 100 coaches: Mike Shady and Steve Richter.

And I've also worked with Mike Jasnau, who I think would get some deserved votes as the world's best coach.

One man I'd enjoy working with who I have corresponded with is Joe Slowinski, who also likely would get some votes. I love reading the very interesting analytical pieces he writes in Bowlers This Month. Sometimes I have to read them two or three times to understand them!

Retired PBA Tour champion Mark Baker has rocketed up any list of top coaches in recent years, with a highly recommended book I haven't found time to read yet and for his renowned work with some of the world's top players.

Another coach worth mentioning is Bill Spigner, the Hall of Famer writes a monthly piece in Bowlers Journal analyzing the game of a noted bowler. His recent piece on Ronnie Russell was one of his most interesting.

I've never worked with Bill but know him well and Jowdy mentioned him as being among the world's top coaches.

[Here is a testimonial Jowdy wrote on Spigner's website.](#)

And here is what Slowinski wrote last Friday on his Facebook page:

"R.I.P. John Jowdy. I had the great fortune of communicating with John since my time in Malaysia. We would discuss the state of our sport as well as specific physical game issues with specific professional players. He was always full of wit with a biting comment for something he thought wasn't right. My last e-mail correspondence with him was in March of this year. It was clear then that he was tired, 'As for me, I'm just taking it easy. I quit coaching and practically stopped writing. I'm going to be 93 in April and my wife has dementia...so life has been a bit difficult the past 3 years.' He believed Bill Spigner to be the best coach in the world and I share this now in John's honor. John was a huge influence on our sport. First, Bill Taylor and now John Jowdy."

Update: There is a [great thread on my Facebook page here](#) off of this blog featuring comments from many noted bowlers and coaches.

[Sign up](#) to automatically get 11thFrame.com stories and the 11thFrame.com newsletter exclusively for subscribers.

