

Super Bowl

Aussie **JASON BELMONTE** is the unorthodox 10-pin bowling champ taking on the world

JASON BELMONTE is a sporting enigma. Not only has he enjoyed massive success and recognition at both youth and open levels at the same time, but the 22-year-old has done it in a style that defies convention. Belmonte is a two-handed 10-pin bowler. That's the equivalent of the parallel windmilling motion that Kiwi cricketer Lance Cairns used to send deliveries down the pitch in the '80s. It looks downright wrong.

Hailing from Orange, NSW, Belmonte won the prestigious World Bowling Writers' World Bowler of the Year award in 2004 on the back of outstanding performances and a fifth-place finish – after leading throughout the 32 qualifying games – at the bowling World Cup. At the world masters last year, he bowled the event's first and unequalled 300 (perfect) game.

Belmonte is better known in Europe and the US than at home, where the game doesn't enjoy a high profile.

His peers regard him as somewhat of a hero, and are in awe of his potential. As Belmonte said after being knocked out of the World Cup in the semi-final: "I have to realise I am 21 and there are a lot of World Cups ahead of me."

He first picked up a ball aged 18 months at Orange Ten Pin Bowl, the alley owned by his parents; he entered his first competition aged three, won his first the next year,

and in 2000, was the first Aussie to bowl a perfect game overseas.

Belmonte uses two hands (and two fingers) to impart more spin on the ball. And judging by his list of achievements (see box, right), clearly he's onto something. Whether it works for you at the local alley is something *Alpha* takes no responsibility for.

"I am 21 and there are a lot of World Cups ahead of me."

King pin: Belmonte is the future of 10-pin bowling.



LEAVING NOTHING TO SPARE: BELMONTE'S ACHIEVEMENTS

GOLDS

- August 2002, Commonwealth 10-pin Bowling Championship: wins Championship Players' Sportsman Award and 299 high game award
- February 2004, Asian Zone Youth Championship: three golds (singles, teams and All Events)
- July 2004, World Youth Championship: two golds (singles and All Events)
- July 2006, World Youth Championship: one gold (teams).

INTERNATIONAL TITLES

- International Euro Challenge, Greece (2006)
- Kuwait International Open (2005 and 2006)

NATIONAL TITLES

- Werribee Open, Melbourne Cup (twice)
- South Pacific Classic
- Blacktown Open
- Warrawong Youth
- Arafura Cup
- Champion of Champions, Brisbane
- SA Cup, Brunswick International Open
- Australian Youth Cup (twice)
- Perth 10-pin Cup (twice)

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