"The Bradman of the lanes? You heard that right — kingspin Jason Belmonte dominates his game the way no other Australian sporting person does at the moment. And it all started in a bowling alley in Orange..."

**MATT CLARBY**

**S**ure, we can't help but wonder, right? Who's the best? Who's the greatest? And who are the tenpin men? Who are the champions? Who are the ones who've got the world in their sights? There are two names at the top — that's for sure. Belmonte, on the left. Hayden Marchbanks. They're bowling, right? And they're bowling in the best bowling style the world has ever seen.

Belmonte the best. That's the world. In the Netherlands. I'm not saying the world, but the world. That's the world.

And what else? Well, just a few things. There's nothing like him. He's the best. He's the greatest. He's the best of the best.

Belmonte and Marchbanks. They're the best. They're the best. They're the best.

Belmonte, on the left. Marchbanks on the right. They're the best. They're the best. They're the best.

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Jason Belmonte is self-taught. He began bowling as a toddler, with his left hand, because as an 18-month old boy that’s the only way he could pick the ball up. “It’s probably easier for a left hander to bowl two-handed because as an 18-month old boy that’s the only way he could pick the ball up. But I always felt there wasn’t one secret. I’d feel trapped if there was. There’s no one true way. You would feel limited."

Previously, when Belmonte read criticism of his unorthodox technique or poor performances, it bothered him. “So I decided there was a course of action, and I decided on one that I think was my best. I’ve never asked my mum or ever asked my dad. I’ve always just done it from my own experience.”

“For me, when I’ve read criticism it’s either criticism of my unorthodox technique or your performance, or I believe him. I decided not to. I’m going to stop going to those online places where I’d feed on negative performances, it bothered him. “So I decided there was a course of action, and I decided on one that I think was my best. I’ve never asked my mum or ever asked my dad. I’ve always just done it from my own experience.”

And you think he’s not good at what he does. But I’ll still believe in understanding why he’s not doing it because he cannot understand. Why doesn’t it all the parents? It’s not against the rules. It works. ‘I thought everyone is the same. I’m not good at it.’ I always felt there wasn’t one secret. I’d feel trapped if there was. There’s no one true way. You would feel limited."

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Belmonte's ball collides with the pins with furious force; and b) it means his balls can enter the “strike pocket” of the pins, it grips and curves so much harder and at greater speed than can be imparted by three-fingered traditionalists.

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“My fans are the best in the world,” he says, and he means it. “They defend me. They push me to be better. And I’d like to say, ‘Wow, you’re a true fan if you’re doing this.’”

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There was a lot of push-back. “But there were also those that didn’t. And he found it. And he realised how many people there were.

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