

The Greater Cedar Valley USBC Bowling Association is pleased to endorse the nomination of Dave Gerst for Iowa State Hall of Fame consideration.

- Dave Gerst
- Birthdate: November 11, 1955
- Age: 64
- Member of Waterloo / Greater Cedar Valley USBC Bowling Association

Dave Gerst has eclipsed 50 years of bowling participation in the Greater Cedar Valley dating back to entering the junior program in 1968 as a twelve year old. Following a six year stint as a junior leaguer and the completion of his high baseball eligibility Dave debuted in 1974 as an eighteen year old averaging 164 in his first men's league competition. The road to become the bowler that he is today was not an easy one. It required much hard work, practice, equipment experimentation and an unyielding desire to become a top tier competitor.

As Dave's bowling career was rounding into shape he modeled it after three of Waterloo's premier bowlers, Iowa State Hall of Famers Rick & Fran Eighme and Joe Engelkes. In his middle ages, Dave suffered an upheaval in his personal life. He refused to let it get the better of him and used it as a motivator to become mentally tougher and apply it to his bowling game while becoming the person he is today.

Over the years he consistently has sought out tougher competition while competing in all of Waterloo's most competitive leagues. Dave has bowled regularly in as many as four leagues and currently bowls in both of Waterloo's premier leagues, (Viking and Maple Masters). In addition to winning championships in all of the Greater Cedar Valley's most competitive leagues, Dave has amassed (9) city tournament titles enroute to (3) Metro All Star 1<sup>st</sup> Team selections.

He can be found virtually every weekend as a frequent participant in Eastern Iowa scratch tournaments including the Greater Iowa Bowling Association (GIBA) and Senior Scratch Bowling Association (SSBA).

To say that Dave qualifies as a true sports enthusiast would be an understatement. Be it baseball, football, golf, hockey, basketball, NASCAR, stock car, English Premier League soccer and yes..... even curling..... Dave is a fan. The sport though that caught his attention at a young age and still burns brightly with a competitive passion today after 50 years is bowling. His awards and accomplishments have set him apart from his competitors and are well deserved.

## Skill

Dave surpassed the 200 average barrier in 1986 after 10 years in adult leagues and his game has gotten progressively stronger with every year. He consistently averages in the 225-228 range with a lifetime high of 233.

Dave's uncompromising drive to improve his skill sets have resulted in some very solid numbers.

- 800s – 18. Rolled in 4-different centers with a high of 847.
  - Most recent 800 was recorded at age 64.
- 700s – 500+ and still adding to the total
  - 1st 700 recorded 21 Sept 1979.
  - Recorded 50 700s at age 63 in the 2018/19 season.
- 300s – 41. Rolled in 6 different centers
  - Dave has reached the 12<sup>th</sup> shot 59 times and his mental toughness shows. He has successfully executed on the 12<sup>th</sup> shot 69.4% which is far above the national norm.
  - Includes a 300/804 rolled in the 2015 State Tournament Open Team event.
  - In the 1991 Waterloo City Tournament, Dave became the first bowler in Cedar Valley history to record (2) 300 games in one night of sanctioned competition. Dave rolled 300 in his last game of singles and moved a pair to roll 300 in his second game of doubles.
- 299s – 14
- 298s – 4

## State

Dave has competed in 38 consecutive Iowa State Tournaments and has recorded five top 10 finishes

- 1992 – Waterloo 6<sup>th</sup> place Open team event
- 1994 -- Muscatine 4<sup>th</sup> place Open doubles
- 2009 – Dubuque – Open team event rolled the team high tournament game with 8<sup>th</sup> place finish
- 2015 – Waterloo – Open team event - Dave rolled 300 in his final game for an 804
- 2018 – Cedar Rapids - 7<sup>th</sup> place Open Team
- 2019 – Muscatine - 10<sup>th</sup> place Open Team

## Regional

Dave's success is not limited to the Waterloo metro area. He has put countless thousands of miles on his car while traveling to weekend tournaments throughout the Midwest in Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Over the years he has gained many friends while competing outside of the Waterloo area.

Among his fondest memories are:

- In 1988, Dave's team won the prestigious Waterloo Courier Tournament of Champions. This tournament featured 150+ league champions from across North-East Iowa.
- 1994 - Top 10 finish in the inaugural Brunswick World Team Challenge (Minneapolis)
- 1999 State Elk's Tournament Team Champions – Scratch & Hdp (Cedar Rapids)
- 1999 State Elk's Tournament Doubles Champions – Scratch & Hdp (Cedar Rapids)
- 2014 - 7<sup>th</sup> place finish in the highly competitive 8-Game Minnesota Senior Classic (MSC) match play tournament (Minneapolis)
- Competing in the Quad City Senior Tournament Dave added two more titles.

#### Greater Iowa Bowling Assoc. & Senior Scratch Bowling Assoc.

- Dave is a regular competitor and consistent casher on the **Greater Iowa Bowling** circuit dating back to 1986 and has qualified for three finals finishing 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>.
- On the **Senior Scratch Bowling Circuit** Dave can lay claim to 7- titles.
  - In 2016/17 season he added a 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish

#### ABC/USBC Open

Beginning with the 1989 Wichita tournament, Dave has competed in 31 consecutive Open tournaments with #32 scheduled for Reno in Aug 2020. He takes pride in his accomplishments on the difficult scoring patterns.

- Composite Average – 198.34 over 252 games
- Bronze Medals – 9
- Silver Medals – 3
- Highest Series – 714 -- helped his Deery Motors to 27<sup>th</sup> place finish in 1996
- Highest All Events total – 1944
- Clean 30-Frame Awards – 2 (2016 & 2018)

### Meritorious Services

Dave is not one dimensional. He has supported his local Association by frequently stepping forward and volunteering his assistance. Dave has demonstrated time and time again that he is prepared to act on his words and devote the energy necessary for the betterment of the Association and his fellow bowlers.

Dave has competently performed a wide variety of administrative functions during his career.

- Director – Waterloo Bowling Association – 10 years
- Hall of Fame Committee member – 28 years
- Hall of Fame Committee Chairman – 5 years
- Certified Lane Inspector
- Waterloo Bowling Association Nominating Committee
- League Officer
- State Tournament Volunteer

During his 10-year tenure on the board Dave was a conscientious, dependable Director who attended every local workshop and jamboree and was highly visible while providing city and state tournament coverage. As a member of the finance committee, Dave utilized his University of Northern Iowa Accounting degree to provide leadership in budgetary and auditing functions.

### Summary

Dave has been a member of the Waterloo/Greater Cedar Valley Bowling Association for the past 45 years. During that timeframe he has combined bowling skill with administrative leadership to help promote the game of bowling.

Dave has demonstrated his love and commitment to the game of bowling. He has freely and generously given of his time to serve the Association and his fellow bowlers through his involvement as:

- Association Director
- League Officer
- Hall of Fame Committee Member and Past Chairman
- Waterloo Bowling Association Nominating Committee

Dave's commitment to the Greater Cedar Valley Association and his fellow bowlers has worked to ensure that other bowlers have received proper recognition for their accomplishments. His skill and dedication to the game is without question.

Over the years Waterloo has been known as a hot bed of local bowling talent and a bowling community led by a top-notch association. Waterloo has been fortunate to see bowling greats such as Rich Schmitt, Bob Hansen, Joe Engelkes, Gary Brinker and the Eighth brothers Rick & Fran receive State Hall of Fame recognition for their skill. While individuals such as W.T. Ormston, Bob Ganahl, Greg Everett, Russ Young, and Darrell Fremont have received recognition at the state level for their bowling and administrative contributions.

Dave Gerst's longtime contributions, both skill and administrative, to the Waterloo bowling scene are consistent with the basics upon which this Association was built. He successfully combines these two elements as set forth by those who have gone before him.

The combination of outstanding bowling skills with service to his fellow competitor in conjunction with sportsmanship on the lanes speaks very highly of the individuals who are representative of the Waterloo bowling scene and have entered into the State Hall.

We the Greater Cedar Valley Bowling Association believe that the time is proper to submit the name of Dave Gerst into consideration for Iowa Bowling Hall of Fame consideration.

Sincerely: The Greater Cedar Valley USBC Bowling Association

Joseph Engelkes, Chairman, Hall of Fame Committee



Chelley Pratt - President, Greater Cedar Valley USBC BA



Loretta Wander - Association Manager

