

Iowa State U.S.B.C. B.A

Hall of Fame Class of 2014

Induction March, 29, 2014

Burlington, Iowa

“Posthumous Category”

John (Johnny) Kehoe

Waterloo, IA

On March 14, 1959. the Iowa State USBC Bowling Association founded the Hall of Fame to perpetuate the names of those men who have displayed outstanding ability in the game of American Ten Pins and who have contributed through meritorious service, to the general welfare and progress the game in the State of Iowa.

In 1972, the Waterloo Association established a local Hall of Fame to recognize members who set themselves apart from fellow bowlers through superior bowling ability or contributions to the game. Through the years the Greater Cedar Valley Bowling Association has continued to search for and recognize individuals who meet those requirements at the highest levels. It is expected hat the candidate must possess either superior bowling ability , exceptional service to the association or played a prominent role in promotion of the game. John Kehoe's career has combined them all.

At this time, the Greater Cedar Valley USBC Bowling Association endorses the nomination of John (Johnny) Kehoe for Iowa State Hall of Fame consideration.

Personal Data:

- John (Johnny) Kehoe
- Birth date: 10 February 1912
- Deceased: 12 November 1999

John was born in Farley, IA in 1912 moving to Waterloo in 1928 as a teenager, "Johnny" quickly demonstrated hi athletic skills and leadership.

- As a student at St. Mary's High School, Waterloo, Johnny initiated the football program. He procured uniforms from the University of Iowa for the new football team.
- As a baseball player, he was scouted by professionals and offered a minor league contract.

John instead opted to remain in Waterloo and help with support of his brothers and sisters. Shortly after graduation, John was introduced to bowling and what would evolve into a lifetime love affair with the game and people associated with it.

Bowling Skills:

- Started bowling in 1933 – St Mary’s Lanes – Waterloo
 - 1st year average was a remarkable 169
 - Then never under 185
 - Lifetime high average 201

Jon found success both on the lanes as a participant and behind the control desk as a proprietor.

City:

- 700 Series - 12
- 600 Series - 650 +
- 1945 – City High Series
 - 237-212-256 = 705 (Only Waterloo 700 that year)
 - 1st. Waterloo member to join the National 700 Club
- Consistently finished in top 10 averages
 - 1947 – City high average – 191.3
- 1950 selected to bowl a match against United States Match Game Champion Andy Varipapa, winning one game of the three.

John supported the State, Regional and National tournaments.

State:

- Participated in 32 state tournaments
 - Team Event – 2nd place – 3 times
 - Doubles – 2nd place, rd. place & 5th place
 - Singles – 6th place
 - 1951 State Match Game Finalist
 - State Senior Tournament
 - Scratch Doubles
 - 1st place first 4 years
 - 1969 rolled record score 1292 with John rolling 686

Regional/National:

- Chicago Tribune Classic
 - 7th place (out of 5038 entrants)
 - Rolled 4 games back to back of 883
- 1961 – March of Dimes Classic – 1st place with 706 series
- Knights of Columbus State Tournament
 - Team – 1st place 3 times
 - All Events Champion – 2 times
- Catholic Order of Foresters State Tournament
 - 11 – State Titles
 - Highlighted in 1968 – winning team, singles & all events with 1904

National Tournament:

- Bowled in 16 tournaments

Proprietor:

While John “Johnny” Kehoe was a competitive force on the lanes it was John Kehoe the promotions manager and proprietor that helped put the bowling scene in Waterloo on a firm foundation. John was proprietor and co-owner of the Waterloo Bowl Inn from 1953 to 1963, and proprietor & co-owner of Tavern on the Green Lanes in Waterloo, retiring from the bowling business in 1976.

An avid bowler an inductee into the Waterloo Hall of Fame, he is credited with many innovative advances in the Iowa bowling arena.

- **Innovations:**
 - Electric Bowling Ball Polisher
- **Originator – Waterloo Weekly Pay on the Spot Tournament**
- **1956 Driving force behind the creation of Waterloo Courier Tournament of Champions**
 - Covered all of NE Iowa
 - At peak drew 350 teams who earned the right to participate by winning their respective league.
- **1st. Waterloo proprietor to have morning leagues to benefit 2nd. shift workers. In 1960 he expanded to 7 day a week coverage.**
- **1965 won the National BPAA Idea Contest (Bowl Your Average Tournament) promotion. This included an all expenses paid trip to San Diego National Bowling Proprietors Convention.**
- **Promotions – Worked with 2 – fishing lodges in Ontario, Canada to secure team sponsorships in Waterloo.**

John possessed a solid bowling game which produced frequent high scores and championships. He successfully moved into the role of promoter/proprietor and was noted for his outstanding promotional abilities. John never forgot the youth and their importance to the future of the game. He worked tirelessly to promote the junior league program and for 21 years served on the local Junior Cowling Council.

The Waterloo Bowling Association established a local Hall of Fame in 1972 to recognize those who excelled on the lanes and dedicated themselves to help make the game of bowling and the Association something special.

John was inducted into the Waterloo Bowling Association Hall of Fame in 1975 as it's 14th member, rightfully taking his place along-side the likes of State Hall of Famers, W.T. Ormsman, Walt Harmson, Bob Hansen and Bill Neidert who were also instrumental in making the Waterloo Association what it is today.

John's abilities were over shadowed by his character. John entered the business side of bowling not for the money, but for his genuine love of the sport and those who participated. John was an individual that truly could be said you never heard a bad word about.

It is often said history repeats itself. We hope so. The game of bowling can always use another friend like John Kehoe.

Sincerely: Greater Cedar Valley Bowling Association Board of Directors

Joseph Engelkes – Chairman, Hall of Fame Committee

Connie Rommel – President, Greater Cedar Valley Bowling Association

Loretta Wander – Manager, Greater Cedar Valley Bowling Association

