

Vince Baldus  
Boone

Posthumous

Inducted March 29, 2008

#### Vince E. Baldus Hall of Fame Nomination-Boone County Bowling Association

The Boone County Bowling Association would like to nominate Vincent. E Baldus to the Iowa State USBC BA Hall of Fame. Vince died this last year on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2004, ironically this was the same day he bowled is only 300 game in 1962. He was teaching a ladies class on bowling at the time. Since it was not a sanctioned league or tournament, he never received an ABC award, but did receive a trophy and letter from AMF.

Vince's interest in bowling started as a young man in Story City, IA. He joined his first league there and was bit by the bowling fever. He later joined leagues in Ames, Boone, and Ogden. He belonged to the Story County and Boone County bowling associations for many years.

In 1960 Vince and his wife, Nancy, bought out Iowa Hall of Famer Karl Knoodle's share of Bowl Mor Lanes in Boone, IA, in 1963 he bought out his partner Cleo Johnson and Vince and Nancy became the sole owners. He retired from the bowling business in 1997. During those 37 years he was instrumental in introducing the game of ten pins to thousands of people from all walks of life. It is for this we think he has earned a place in Iowa's bowling history.

Vince shared his passion for bowling with anyone and everyone he ever met. He was instrumental in starting many state tournaments for different organizations that are still a valuable part of bowling in Iowa. He helped start the Farm Bureau State Tournament, the American Legion State Tournament, Elks State Tournament, and the Moose State Tournament. He promoted these tournaments in the clubs and all over the state until they became a regular yearly event.

Vince and Nancy hosted many of these events over the years along with Imperial Lanes in Boone. Vince started several traveling leagues in central Iowa; the Moose Traveling League and the Central Iowa Traveling League. Vince also competed in these tournaments and leagues and was very successful along with his teammates on several occasions. His team has won the Moose State Tournament, the American Legion State and he also won the singles event in the International Moose Tournament in the '60s.

Vince actively supported the Iowa Men's State Tournament throughout his bowling career. He always tried to take at least 20 teams to state every year from all the bowling centers in Boone County. They always reserved 20 team spots and it was very rare for them not to be filled. Vince even went to Waterloo, IA to get daughter Diana's, husband Ed Sidler, and his team to join them. Ed's team had never bowled in an Iowa State Men's Tournament.

It was very important to Vince to support tournaments; he felt it was important to the future of bowling, even if he was not persolly successful on the lanes. In 1983, Vince

filled a new team with himself and his four sons. It was his personal highlight of his own State bowling career. Vince, for many years, split a squad with a friend from Illinois to take bowlers to the Peterson Classic in Chicago. He believed events such as this not only taught humility to some of the hot shots, but also added a layer of fun and excitement to the bowling season.

Youth bowling was important to Vince and he always had time for the youth. He convinced Boone High School and United Community High School that bowling would be great for a segment of physical education class and even drove the bus to pick up and deliver the kids to the center and back again to school. He taught hundreds of kids to bowl over the years. Kids from all ages were always welcome at the Bowl Mor. He allowed many young people work for bowling and it as a special way to get things painted!

Vince's influence led a couple of his former workers/bowlers to become bowling proprietors. Troy Brower in Madrid and Joe Portwood of Harlan both learned the love of the game from Vince and are successful owner/operators in business today. Vince also understood the physics of bowling and could drill equipment for even the most difficult bowlers. He knew good fitting equipment was important to a person's enjoyment and continued success on the lanes. He always kept up on drilling techniques and changes in equipment. He was of the era that started with standard fingers to fingertips to inserts. He always promoted change as good for the game/sport.

Vince was elected to the Boone County Hall of Fame in 1992 for his service to the game and success on the lanes in Boone County. Vince had long since hung up his bowling shoes, but he was always still active in teaching and promoting bowling, still gathering teams for the Iowa State tournaments, the Elks, the Moose, etc. He always wanted everyone to keep bowling no matter where they moved or what changes occurred in their lives. If you moved somewhere he could tell you the bowling center you should get hooked up with or the name of someone that could hook you up.

Vince had 6 children who all bowled. Some of them took it more serious than others, but all shared the passion and the love for the game. His son, Alan, was elected to the Boone County Hall of Fame in 2004, has a 300 game and an 800 series to his credit and serves on the Boone County Bowling Association board of directors. His daughter, Diana Sidler of Cedar Falls, also is a Hall of Fame member in Waterloo Metro, has 5 Iowa State Team titles to her name, coaches high school bowling, and is a director in the Waterloo Metro Women's Bowling Association.

Rodney Baldus is still an active bowler and has won the Elks and Moose state tournaments his father started so many times they have though about adding his name to the event. Sons Tony and Chad, both lefties, were coached by their father and have distinguished themselves on the lanes by winning local association events. They have both averaged in t 185-190+ ranges. Chad worked with his parents at the Bowl Mor until the business closed in 1997. Daughter Carla Wickman and husband Max were also avid bowlers when the Bowl Mor was open. Carla and her father coached all 5 of her children

and all of their friends. She took all of the junior bowlers to the state YABA tournaments.

Vince has 15 grandchildren and several of them have distinguished themselves on the lanes. Granddaughter Angie Wickman recently won the doubles event at the Iowa Women's State tournament and her husband, Ed Bacon, won the singles event in the booster division of the 2004 Iowa Men's State Tournament. John and Samantha Sidler, daughter Diana's children, have both made the All State High School Bowling teams and John was on the Iowa State High School champion Boy's team in the 02-03 school years. Vince influenced all of us to keep bowling and to serve the bowling community even though we no longer have the monetary interest in it.

Vince leaves behind a legacy of love for the game of ten pins, not to be the best, but to enjoy bowling for the sport of it and what it can add to your life. Bowling brings people together at any age. Vince was never in it solely for the money; he died a poor man, but was very rich in friends, family, and memories. So, for his lasting influence on the game of ten pins and the generation of bowlers were touched by Vince's involvement, we feel that Vince E Baldus is an excellent candidate for induction in the Iowa State USBC BA Hall of Fame.

Signed this day August 12, 2004

Mike Stout, Boone County Association, Secretary

Darrell Fremont, Boone County Association, President  
Iowa State Bowling Association 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Alan Baldus, Boone County Bowling Association, Director  
Boone County Bowling Association, Hall of Fame  
Committee, Chairman

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