

**Don Breeden
Des Moines**

Bowling Skill

Inducted: April 2006

Don Breeden is one of the best bowlers in the state; his ability and achievements in this sport are second to none.

Don began his rise to the top at the age of 7 as a junior league bowler in the town of Humboldt, Iowa, where he lived with his family, Father Don, Mother Jeanne, Sisters Donna and Susan, and Brother Jerry.

It did not take Don very long to decide that bowling was going to be the sport for him. Don quickly began understanding the game and soon was competing in as many tournaments as he could talk his parents into taking him to. They traveled all over the state of Iowa, as well as venturing into Minnesota. Don competed as a handicap bowler until the age of 18, when he started bowling scratch leagues. Soon all around the area knew that Don Breeden would be a force to reckon with in the future.

After graduating from high school, Don moved to Albert Lea, MN, where he worked at a bowling center and ran the pro shop from 1982-85. During this time Don won several tournaments and awards. Don's willingness to help other bowlers excel in their games quickly gave him a large following.

From 1985 to 1987, Don attended Vincennes University in Indiana, where he became a member of the V.U. bowling team as a walk on. In the summer of 1987 Don went to work for the Brunswick Corporation.

Don moved to Des Moines in 1991 and began his bowling dominance in the Greater Des Moines Bowling Association, which earned him the respect of many, as well as the envy of some.

Some of Don's tremendous lists of achievements include: 12-290 games, 4-298 games, 21-299 games, 51-300 games as well as 27-800 series. One season Don had an 800 series and 300 games in four different houses. He has also rolled two 300's in the same tournament or league on three different occasions. In March 2002 while competing in the Albert Lea, Minnesota City tournament singles event, Don bowled a record-breaking 290, 300, and 300. This set a new Minnesota state record, which hadn't been broken since 1989. That series of 890 was also the high series in the nation for the 2001-02 season.

Don is a ten-time champion of the Mid-Iowa tournaments, a seven-time champion in the Greater Iowa tournaments; he has two Iowa Open championships to his credit and is an eight-time champion in the Central Bowlers Alliance in Minnesota.

Don has been competing in the ABC National Tournaments for 22 years and has a lifetime average of 207.

Don has one of the highest lifetime averages in the Greater Des Moines Bowling Association. Don's lifetime average in the association's area is somewhere around 228, give or take a pin or two, and this was done in a total of seven different houses within the association area.

In the 1993-94 season at Grand Lanes in Des Moines, Don averaged an astounding 240 for 87 games, and out of those 87 games; Don shot below 200 only one time. That same year, the highest average in the nation was 247. Don's team at Grand Lanes had the high series in the nation for a 4-man, 1-woman team with a total of 3646.

Don has competed in several PBA regional tournaments, in 1988 Don placed second in the Mid-Western tournament in Minnesota. Don bowled against Pete Weber in the final match, losing 280 to 289. This set an all time record for a final match play game in the history of the tournament. In 1993 Don competed in the Mid-West PBA Regional tournament held in Cedar Rapids, and became the first non-member to win the championship. Since then Don has cashed in many other PBA regional tournaments, placing 2nd in three in the last 2 years. In the 1988 season Don won the Peterson Classic with a total of 1731, the highest score since 1948. Don also won the Bill Spigner Memorial Championship.

At the end of the 1988-89 season, Don was selected as the United States Amateur Bowler of the Year, by the Bowlers Journal magazine.

At the United States Olympic Festival in 1989, Don won the Gold Medal in the singles division. Don is a four time national qualifier to the Team USA, winning the state championship three times.

These are just a few of Don's accomplishments over the last few years, but Don is much more than just a great bowler.

In the fall of 1993, Don opened a pro shop in the Des Moines Bowling Center in Des Moines. Don was very busy drilling equipment and instructing bowlers of all ages, often at no charge. Don is the kind of person that will take time off from work, to come to a bowling center to help anyone that asks him.

It is persons like Don Breeden that will get this sport back on its feet.

Nominated by the Greater Des Moines USBC BA

