



Gary Brinker began bowling in 1960 while attending Iowa State University. He moved back to the Waterloo area in 1962 and has been bowling in the Waterloo area an average of 3 leagues per year ever since.

During a career that has now spanned over 40 years, Gary has put up some impressive numbers on and off the lanes.

Waterloo City Tournament: Team titles = (8); Scratch Titles = (6) 1973-76, 1978, 1990, Handicap = (2) 1976, 1990; Singles Titles = (1) scratch, 1965; All Events = (5) scratch, 1970, 1972, 1973 finishing in a tie with State Hall of Fame member Rick Eighme, handicap 1965, 1968.

State Tournament: Gary bowled his first state tournament in 1965 and has bowled every year but one that he had to miss for job-related reasons. Gary has one state title – 1982 Team Event. He was part of the Berry's Lanes team that included State Hall of Fame members Fran and Rick Eighme. Gary has also had two top five finishes in doubles with partner Dick Fisher, finishing second in 1978 with 1298, one pin off the lead Also in 1978 a second place finish in team and a fifth place in all events with a 1965. In 1980 Gary and Dick finished fifth in Fort Dodge.

GIBA: Gary began bowling these in the late 1960's, before they became known as the Greater Iowa and competed on a regular basis through the early 1980's. He has at least two second place finishes as well as numerous top finishes.

SSBA: Gary bowled in every tournament since its inception in 1994. He has not won a title but has finished in the top five several times.

State Match Games: Gary made his first finals in 1968 at Air Lanes in Des Moines. Other finals were in Burlington, Lancer Lanes in Cedar Rapids and a second place finish in Mason City.

US Open: Gary bowled in the US Open Qualification in 1978 Greensboro, North Carolina.

ABC: Gary has competed in over 25 ABC Tournaments and has two 1800's to his credit, with them being St Louis and Long Beach. He was a member of the Esco Auto Supply Team that finished eighth out of 2988 teams in Long Beach in 1972. The team consisted of State Hall of Fame members Fran Eighme, Rick Eighme and Adrian Erickson, shot a score of 3040. Gary led the team with a 656 series.

ABC Masters: Gary bowled in the 1969 ABC Master's Qualifications in Madison WI.

Gary has bowled in countless other tournaments. These are just a sampling of the main events. During his career he has over (150) 700 series with his first 700 in 1968, a 741. Gary's high series was 763 bowled with a black Manhattan rubber and had one 300 to his credit using a Yellow Dot. This was true until April of 2002 when Gary bowled his second 300 game with a high series of 769 in a SSBA tournament in Davenport. Gary then finished the league season with a 750 series the next day. Gary also has one 297 and six 290 games. Most of his scores were bowled well before the inception of today's high powered equipment.

Gary has averaged at least 200 during thirteen different seasons with his first 200 average coming in the 1968-69 season. He averaged over 200 in more than one league and has a career high average of 208 (once in the 1968-69 season of 54 games and again in the 1976-77 season with 90 games).

These are just some of the things that Gary Brinker has accomplished as a bowler. Gary has meant a lot more to the sport of bowling in the Waterloo area.

League Secretary: Gary was league secretary in at least six leagues and is currently secretary of one league.

Peterson Classic: Gary was squad sponsor for over twenty years in this tournament.

Junior League Coach: Gary was involved with coaching for over twenty years and ran the junior league program in the 1970's. He still participates on a limited basis. He helped develop, most notably, Shannon Buchan, as well as his three sons and now is helping his grandson Tyler on improving his game.

Volunteer UNI Bowling Coach: Gary participated in this for approximately two years driving to each of these tournaments and taking many of the bowlers in his van.

Local Association Board: Gary was elected to the Waterloo board as of the 1972-73 season. He served as director, third vice-president, assistant secretary, second vice-president and was president for the 1978-79 season. While on the board, Gary always attended annual state meetings as well as the ABC national delegate at least once. Gary has been on the local Hall of Fame committee for over twenty years and is still currently on the committee as well as the local All Star Team selection committee.

Cedar Valley Bowling Council: Gary was a member of the committee that raises scholarship money for the junior bowling program.

Senior Scratch Bowling Association: Gary originated a monthly scratch tournament for bowlers 50 years of age or older. Primarily in Northeast Iowa, but has traveled all over the state. The tournaments began in 1994 with eight bowlers attending the first

tournament. Currently, the tournaments are averaging over 40 bowlers per tournament and he works to raise added prize money to enhance the prize fund.

Gary has received many rewards from bowling, such as being inducted into the Waterloo Hall of Fame in 1989, but the most important reward he has received is the people he has met and the friendships he has developed through bowling. Gary truly loves the sport of bowling and is still very active in the sport, even after 40 plus years.