GEORGE CLARK: Des Moines
Born January 26, 1948

Iowa State Men's Hall of Fame Committee:

The Greater Des Moines Bowling Association would like to nominate George A. Clark for the Iowa State Bowling Hall of Fame in the special category.

George started bowling in 1957 when he was just 9 years old. George recalls his first game only being in the 50s, but that was enough to make him want more! He joined a junior league that year and ended up averaging about 70. George continued junior bowling and at the age of 17, decided to venture into adult leagues. His first year, 1966, George rolled in two leagues and carried an average of 188.

The next season George decided to get serious about the game which he had come to love with such a passion. He joined 2 leagues on Monday, 3 on Tuesday, 1 on Wednesday, 2 on Thursday and 1 on Friday. That's 9 full time leagues and he also bowled every sweeper and tournament that he could find on weekends.

George averaged in the high 190s and 200s in most all of those leagues that he bowled in that year. In 1969, George averaged 218! From 1969 to 1988 George bowled in 18 national tournaments, 19 state tournaments and every local Des Moines Association tournament. While bowling in ABC tournaments he rolled over 1900 in all events 3 different times and finished 10th place in the 1971 doubles event.

In state tournaments, George has bowled on 4 state championship teams, has been on runner-up teams twice and has placed 3rd twice in doubles. In 1985 and 1998 George and his partner won the doubles event in our Des Moines City tournament. George also won the all events title in 1998. Many of the Indian Lanes teams George has bowled on in recent years have won city team event titles, not saying anything about winning in some of the top Classic Leagues in the state.

In other tournament competition, he was the 1968 Iowa Match Game champion, and in 1969 placed 13th in the U.S. All-Star tournament in Hialeah, Florida. He also has won 2 Greater Iowa Bowling Association championships and has been a 4-time runner-up. At one time he was the 11th all-time money winner despite missing four complete seasons.
George also has one Missouri Valley Classic Open championship to his credit.

In Central Iowa competition, George is a 5-time Indian Open champion and has won the Greater Des Moines Open and the Ankeny Open. George formed and ran the Central Iowa Bowling Association in the mid 1980s for three years. Today that tournament operates as the Mid-Iowa Bowling Association and attracts nearly 1,000 bowlers per year.

George has a sanctioned high series of 809 and three 300 games to his credit. He also has rolled over 250 – 700 series, most of which were bowled in the 1970s.

In 1988, George's bowling career took a slight setback when he underwent serious surgery on his right shoulder. His doctor told him he might not be able to bowl again. By rolling lighter equipment and not bowling as much, George has still been able to compete. In 1989 he averaged 220, his highest ever, and also won the scratch singles of our local city tournament.

In 1983 George was elected into the Greater Des Moines Bowling Hall of Fame. He has also served on the Greater Des Moines Board of Directors since 1983 and has been elected president of our association for two 4-year terms, completing his latest one in 2000.

Installed in 2002 in the Bowling Ability Category