Harold (Hal) DeWoody Posthumous Inducted March 14, 2009
Cedar Rapids

The Cedar Rapids U.S.B.C. Bowling Association would like to submit the name of Harold (Hal) DeWoody for consideration into the Iowa State U.S.B.C. Bowling Hall of Fame.

Harold, or Hal, as he was known by all the bowlers, was born on August 19, 1916. Hal first wet his appetite for the sport of bowling in 1940. Although it was another five years before his real lust for the game of ten pins would really become evident, it wasn't long before his athletic ability and desire to conquer the sport took roots. Even though is first year average was only 141, his desire to excel in this sport was such that it was full tilt ahead for Hal, and he never looked back. Over the next 34 years Hall accomplished what many bowlers only dream of.

His competitive nature became his trademark and his three step unique style of approach gave him an uncanny accuracy in hitting the pins. Hal was a pillar on four of the best teams in the Cedar Rapids area over the years. During the late 1940s through the 1960s and early 1970s, Hall carried averages from 194 to 208. For eleven of those years he was above 200 with 208 being his highest in 1967 at May City Lanes.

Hal was a member of the Cabin Still Team which dominated the Cedar Rapids area competition for several years. He also bowled with other great teams in the Cedar Rapids area such as the Marion Bowl Team and the Beaver Realty Team, who in those early years had put together a 3267 scratch series, which for that time of using a Fly Spray canister to lay the oil and cross wipe dressing in addition to the hard rubber and cork bowling balls was a pretty good accomplishment.

Another team that Hal was a member of held the Cedar Rapids Bowling Association City high team score of 3361 for many years. That team was sponsored by Lancer Lanes and was made up of Jim Butler – 752, Pete Cassidy – 587, Jim Hiat – 712, Jim Novak – 641, and Hall with a 699.

Some of Hal's other accomplishments and honors include being picked to bowl against PBA teams in Cedar Rapids, made up of the likes of Don Carter, Ray Bluth and the infamous Budweiser Team as well as Buddy Bomar who anchored the Falstaff team.

Hal was never one to brag about his bowling, but when asked one time about some memorable moments, he humbly replied, "Once when bowling with Ralph Briles, Ralph won the Christmas Tournament in Burlington, IA. I bowled with Jim Butler and he won the Iowa State Singles and I bowled with my wife in the Peterson Classics and she would always bring home money. I guess I just bring out the best in everyone."

Hal was not the only good bowler in his family as Bunny, his wife, was the fifth all time leading money winner for women competing in the Peterson Classic during those years. Hal would admit, it was sometimes a struggle to keep up with Bunny. She was as competitive as Hal was.

In addition to bowling, during the summer months Hal was a softball pitcher for the Major League Iowa Man team. Hal felt that pitching softball in the summer would make his transition to bowling in the fall easier, and we believe that to be true.

Some of Hal's accomplishments over the years include:

1954 and 1955 – Iowa State American Legion All Events Champion with a 710 series in singles
1958 – Cedar Rapids Bowling Association City All Events Champion
1963 – Cedar Rapids City 700 Tournament Champion
1963 – 38th Place Singles finish in the ABC Nationals with a 669
1967 – Hal was honored in the Bowlers Journal magazine by throwing five Consecutive 700 series in league bowling of 794, 748, 737, 728 & 728
Two Cedar Rapids Bowling Association City Team Championships with the Cabin Still Team

Hal bowled in many Iowa State Bowling Association tournaments from the early 1950's through the late 1960's

During Hal's bowling career he had 28 700 series with a high of 794 and a high game of 290 of which he rolled twice.

Hal is survived by his wife, Bunny, who resides in Anamosa, IA and two daughters Lee Anne and Lynette.

In 1981 Hal was Posthumously inducted into the Cedar Rapids Bowling Hall of Fame. To say that good bowlers never die, they just fade away, are not the words to describe Hal. He was an icon in the Cedar Rapids area and in Eastern Iowa for many years and his name is still mentioned whenever bowlers talk about the past great bowlers in Eastern Iowa during the 50's and 60's era.

The Cedar Rapids USBC Bowling Association would therefore like to place the name of Harold (Hal) DeWoody before the Iowa State U.S.B.C. Bowling Association Hall of Fame Selection Committee for consideration into the Iowa State Bowling Hall of Fame Posthumous category.

Sincerely,

Jerry Robinson – President – Cedar Rapids USBC Bowling Association
Brian James – Vice President - Cedar Rapids USBC Bowling Association
Bob Mumma – Director - Cedar Rapids USBC Bowling Association