Greater Cedar Valley U.S.B.C Bowling Association

Loretta K. Wander – Association Manager

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We the members of the Greater Cedar Valley U.S.B.C. Bowling Association submit the following candidate for membership consideration into the Iowa State U.S.B.C. Bowling Association Hall of Fame Posthumous category.

Richard "Rich" Kemme was a Waterloo native who possessed tremendous natural bowling ability in addition to a charismatic personality. He had athletic skills that extended over a wide variety of sports, which included softball, golf and bowling.

Sadly, Rich passed away after suffering a heart attack in August of 2004. Rich made a name for himself as a Waterloo bowler, and then enjoyed an extraordinary run of success in Cedar Rapids for six years prior to his untimely death.

Rich used his natural ability to mold his game in Waterloo's Junior Leagues. As a high school prep he helped Waterloo East High School win a state championship in 1980. Subsequently, he went on to enjoy a string of championships locally over the next two decades.

Rich excelled in all three venues of competition, singles, doubles and team. During the 1987-88 season he paired with Terry Gabbard to roll a Iowa State record of 1552 in doubles. Three years later he helped a Waterloo squad to the Iowa State Open Division Team title in Clinton with a score of 3262. Three weeks later he prevailed by winning the prestigious Maple Match Games championship.

In 1993, Rich, a regular in the competitive Maple Masters League, added a team title in the city tournament.

When his career took him to Cedar Rapids, Rich took his bowling career there also and his new surroundings were a hit. While he continued to play near scratch golf, he dedicated himself to his most favorite sport, the game of bowling. In six seasons in the Cedar Rapids association, Kemme was the bowler of the year four times and had high average in four of the six seasons. Along the way, he erupted for an 868 series which was just 10 pins shy of the Iowa State record.

Rich Kemme's statistics are amazing for a bowler whose career ended in his early 40's. Rich finished with 28 series of 800 or better, 27 perfect games, 16 299's, 4 298's, and 10 other games of 290 or better.

Rich Kemme is a Proven Champion

1980 Iowa State High School Champion – Team event
1983 Iowa State Singles Junior Champion
1986, 1989, 1991 Waterloo City Match Games Champion
1989 Greater Iowa Tournament Champion
1991 Iowa State BA Open Division Team Champion
1993 Waterloo City Tournament Team Champion
1998 Greater Iowa 50/50 Doubles Champion
1999 Cedar Rapids City Tournament Doubles Champion
2001 Iron Man Classic Champion

Rich Kemme has Established Records

Iowa State Open Division Doubles Champion - record 1552
Cedar Rapids City High Scratch Series – 868 on October 5, 1998
300 games - qty 27 (1st rolled December 1, 1986,
300 rolled in Iowa State Tournament May 1, 1999)
299 games - qty 16
298 games – qty 4
290 + - qty 10
800 series – qty 28

Rich Kemme was an Unyielding Competitor

Cedar Rapids Bowler of the Year - 1999
Cedar Rapids All Star Team Captain - 2003
Cedar Rapids All Star 1st Team - 2004
Cedar Rapids Career Average (7 years) - 231
Allied Industrial League Average - 243
Evergreen League Average - (2 seasons) - 242.5
May City Duster League (6 seasons) - 237.3
Happy Couples League (2 seasons) - 236.5
May City Majors League - 233.6
Gone But Not Forgotten League - 230.3

Rich Kemme was a true gentleman and an ambassador of the game.

Rich possessed a charismatic personality that was contagious. In a time when individuals were looking for instant gratification, Rich lead by example. He was calm, collected and respected the people and settings around him. He was a true positive example for the youth who followed behind him.

When asked to comment about Rich, his fellow bowlers were quick to contribute. Among comments received were:

- *"Bowling with and against Rich made you a better bowler. You always knew he was going to bring his best game every time he stepped onto the lanes, so you had to do the same to have a chance".*

- *"The honor scores were numerous, but Rich was most pleased when he ended the night with 30 clean".*

- *"Great sportsmanship, he was the first to congratulate you when you bowled better than he did or beat him in head-to-head competition in a tournament".*

- *"It was never the "Houses fault, the Lanes fault, or the Balls fault" when he rolled a below average game".*

- *"Rich had a pure passion for the game of bowling. He would bowl with you if you averaged 20, 120 or 200 as long as you enjoyed the sport as much as he did".*

- *"Accuracy and power are not associated with full rollers… this was not the case with Rich Kemme".*

- *"Rich was a great guy both on and off the lanes".*

All the accomplishments were achieved before the age of 40. A shining career cut far too short. Rich was elected into the Waterloo Bowling Hall of Fame posthumously in 2005. The Greater Cedar Valley U.S.B.C. Bowling Association seeks to recognize those individuals who make significant contributions to the Association through either service or bowling ability. Rich Kemme's bowling accomplishments compare favorably with the Iowa State and Associations Elite Hall of Famers. Please consider those accomplishments in a positive light and add his name to the list of bowlers who have helped to make the Greater Cedar Valley Association one of Iowa's best.

Signed

Jim Johnson, *President, Cedar Valley Bowling Association*

Connie Rommel, *Vice President, Cedar Valley Bowling Association*

Loretta Wander, *Assoc. Manager, Cedar Valley Bowling Association*

Rich Kemme Family