Greater Cedar Valley U.S.B.C. Bowling Association
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To: Iowa State U.S.B.C. Bowling Association Hall of Fame Committee
C/O Charles Kutsch, Association Manager
715 Lincoln Avenue
Dubuque, Iowa 52001-3413

Attention: Iowa State Hall of Fame Committee

Subject: Nomination for Iowa State U.S.B.C. Hall of Fame - Posthumous Category

The Greater Cedar Valley USBC Bowling Association endorses the nomination of Roger Yordy for Iowa State Hall of Fame consideration.

Over the years Waterloo has produced its share of high caliber bowlers, Rich Schmitt, Bob Hansen, Arnie Reynolds, Walt Harmsen, Roy Granneman, Rick & Fran Eighme, Adrian Erickson, Gary Brinker, Joe Engelkes and most recently Shannon Buchan. Roger Yordy can also rightfully take his place amongst those individuals as one of Waterloo's and the state of Iowa's strongest competitors.

Roger began his career in the 1966 season participating in three leagues. Throughout his 43 year career, Roger has been a dominate player. A true competitor, he was always looking for competition and bowled in every type of local tournament, sweeper and pot game across a wide diversity of lane scoring conditions. To his credit, Roger had found success on the lanes wherever and at what level he chose to compete. Bowling in as many as four leagues a week, Roger's contributions had led his teams to numerous titles in Waterloo and Cedar Falls' elite scratch leagues while creating a multitude of friendships.

Over Roger's career, spanning 43 years, he has consistently been among Waterloo's elite bowlers. Innovative might be the best description of his game and attitude on the lanes. Roger combined his working knowledge gained as a machinist as John Deere's Waterloo operation with ball drilling in the Waterloo Bowl Inn Pro Shop. In an era before the emergence of high tech reactive equipment, he worked to develop drilling patterns which maximized the bowler's inherent skill and interaction with the ball resulting in better, more predictive shot making.

Roger was sincere and honest with his advice and was soon identified as a reliable source of bowling information. He shared that knowledge with others to help them improve their game. His experimentation was not short lived and one could almost say that he was intense about it as the ABC test lab. In a short period of time, he had amassed a basement full of balls which soon exceeded 100, all in the name of bettering the game of bowling.

While many would consider working full-time at John Deere, selling and drilling balls at the Pro Shop, bowling three to four leagues per week, bowling tournaments and practicing more than enough to fill a week, Roger also coached junior leagues. Roger could be counted on to be at Tavern/Electric Park Lanes early Saturday morning to help with the junior bowling program. He took pride in his association with the junior program and helped to develop many of today's top notch Waterloo adult bowlers. His association was not short lived. Roger coached for over 10 years and an original charter member of the youth scholarship fund which has since renamed in his honor.

While Roger enjoyed many spectacular moments, you could always count on his effort on every shot. He never quit. That determination has produced hall of fame type numbers over the years that included local, state, regional and national tournaments. He had found success at all levels of competition as evidenced by the following list of accomplishments.

League

- 1st. 700 Series – 735 September 1970
- Championships: 25 plus (includes all Waterloo/Cedar Falls scratch and elite leagues.
- Scoring Average:
  - 1973 – 1979 = 193 average
  - 1979 – 1988 = 202 average
  - Highest average – 221 in 1982
- Waterloo City Record - 1994
  - Scratch Team Series - 3665 (of which Roger shot 784)

Note worthy Local Tournaments

- City Tournaments – Waterloo and Cedar Falls Association Titles
  - Team Scratch - 3
  - Team Handicap - 1
  - Doubles Scratch
  - Singles Scratch
    - Waterloo City Match Games (Scratch) 1st.place 1974 undefeated
    - Waterloo City Match Games (Scratch) 2nd. 1989
    - Waterloo Courier Tournament of Champions (NE Iowa) team posted five (5) top five finishes

State Tournaments

- 30 plus appearances
- 1981 Open team – 2nd. Place

Regional

- Iowa State Match Games Finalist - 1974 - 7th place
- PBA Regional - Muscatine - 1980 - 20th place
- PBA Regional - 1989 - 12th. Place
- Greater Iowa Bowling Association
    - Participated in 110 tournaments
    - Games Bowled – 722
    - Average - 194
    - Winnings - $3204.07
- John Deere Interplant Tournament 1989 - 802 series (300-247-255) team event

National – ABC / USBC

- 1976 Oklahoma City ABC - 1864 All Events
- 1977 Reno - 35th place singles with 684 series
- 1981 Memphis - qualified 12th from a field of 480

    Qualifying average - 214

    - Defeated pro bowler Fred Jaskie
    - 2nd round lost to pro Dennis Lane
    - 3rd. round lost to pro Gary Dickinson

    Match Play average - 203.45
- 1989 Wichita - 1879 All Events

Roger was a consistent supporter of the National Tournament. He has been honored with 25 and 30 year participation awards. 26 tournaments were consecutive. The string was broken due to cancer treatment. Roger resumed participation and was awarded with a 30 year plaque in 2006.

High Score Awards

Since the first 700 series that Roger rolled in 1970, he has accumulated an impressive list of honor scores. He demonstrated that he was a true competitor with the ability to execute and repeat shots under pressure.

- 300 games - 10
- 299 games - 4
- 298 games - 1
- 11 in a row award - 3
- 800 series - 2
- 700 series - 225 plus with most bowled in an era when high scoring was not a norm.

The achievements listed above are only a brief sampling of Roger Yordy's talent. The intangible element that he brought to the game was his ability to raise the performance of others around him.

Roger was an integral part of the Waterloo bowling scene for 43 years. To say that he lived for the game aptly identifies Roger's relationship with the game that he so loved. Roger accumulated his knowledge and his awards in an era that had not yet witnessed the rampant high scoring and advent of high tech equipment. He earned his scores, his recognition and his reputation the hard way. He [practiced, experimented and practiced some more.

Sadly one month after rolling a 290 game in 1997, Roger was diagnosed with cancer and had his first surgery. He attempted his first some back in 1998 after 34 radiation treatments and suffered a broken collar bone while bowling due to the side effects of treatment.

Undeterred, he attempted a change to left handed to stay involved with the game and people that he loved. After regaining some strength and returning to the right hand, Roger returned to the ABC where he had a firm goal in mind, to earn the 30 year participation award.

Roger continued to fight cancer. It almost could be said that he was continuing the will to live because of bowling. It gave him purpose on those most difficult days. He earned his participation award. But yet, his greatest honor was ahead of him. As the end of his career drew near, on one magical night, glimpses of Roger's game returned. Strike after strike, mark after mark accumulated. All that Roger needed was a strike in the 10^{th} frame to make 700. The entire bowling center came to a halt as Roger released his shot. A flush shot to the pocket sent ten pins to the pit and the house erupted in a roar of appreciation. As Roger had lived for the game his entire life it was only fitting that he end it on an up beat note.

Roger succumbed to the effects of cancer on June 9, 2009

Roger was elected to the Waterloo Bowling Association Hall of Fame (Skill Category) in 1990. Upon receipt of recommendation from the Greater Cedar Valley USBC Hall of Fames Committee, the Greater Cedar Valley USBC Bowling Association Board of Directors unanimously endorses the candidacy of Roger Yordy for the Iowa State Hall of Fame consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Greater Cedar Valley USBC Bowling Association

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HALL OF FAME