"Superior Performance"



Dennis S. Wilson was born October 24. 1950 and was raised in Perryman, Maryland. Today, he lives and works in Aberdeen.

When Ideal Lanes (now Harford Lanes) opened in Aberdeen in 1957, Dennis followed his mother, Gert, to the bowling alley when she bowled her leagues and by the time he was 8 years old had talked her into letting him join the junior leagues there. Under the coaching of Mom and of CHCBA Hall of Famer John Piper, Dennis quickly showed an aptitude for the game. Unlike today, in his years in the junior leagues there were not many tournaments

for the youth bowlers, however, the Aberdeen Jaycees sponsored an annual singles event and Dennis won his age group several times. By the time he was 15 years old he was averaging in the high 170's.

It was at age 15 that the lure of better competition and an extremely competitive local bowling culture prompted Dennis to move on to bigger things. In the 1966-67 season, his first as an ABC member, he bowled regular in three leagues, including the newly named Bill Snavely Scratch league. His high average that year was a very respectable 180. By the 1970 season he was a regular in 5 leagues at Harford Lanes, 1 at Cecil Lanes in Elkton, and I at Bowlerama in Wilmington with a high average of 198. In the 1970-71 season Dennis booked his first 200 aver- age, a 201 for 87 games at Cecil Lanes. It was the high average in the Cecil-Harford Counties Bowling Association that season, with only one other bowler in the book with 2M).

Traveling with the Harford Lanes Schlosser Plumbing teams (Bob Marshall. Sr., Tony Moscato, Joe Ciufo, Sr., Maynard Piddington, Al Bucchi, Mike Lastowski and others) Dennis took to the tournament trail. His first ABC tournament was in 1969 and in 1973 he was listed in the ABC Tournament Yearbook on the 2 year (25th; 208). 3 year (11th; 209), and 4 year (17th; 205) high average lists. Next month he will participate in his 29th ABC Tournament.

His lifetime tournament average is 192. In 1971 he joined the PBA as a regional member and cashed in several tournaments before resigning from the organization in 1978.

In the Harford Invitational, Dennis's record reads like a history of the event itself. In

addition to two titles in 1970 and 1977, Dennis cashed 2nd in 1971 and 1985; 3rd in 1975; and 4th in 1969,1980, 1991, 1993, and 1998.

Dennis's other tournament titles:

Maryland State B.A. tournaments: Scratch Team Champion - 1971, 1976, 1994, 1998

Cecil Harford Counties B. A:

Scratch Doubles Champion in 1994 Scratch Team Champion - 1974 & 1998 Hdcp Team Champion - 1973 & 1993 Scratch All Events Champion - 1993

CHCBA & HCWBA Mixed Scratch Team Champion -1993

Hdcp Team Champion - 1998 & 1999 Lebanon Dutchman Scratch Team

Champion - 1978 CHCBA 700 Club Member Non Member

Harford Lanes High Rollers Tournament - 1992

Dennis was one of the first local bowlers to roll multiple 300 games. His first came on April 11, 1979 at Cecil Lanes. The following summer he rolled one in the finals of the Invitational at Harford Lanes (against his brother Doug). To date he has accumulated 8 sanctioned 300 games, the most recent being in December of 1999. During the 1977-78 season Dennis' 772 series earned the Merit Award as high set in the association. His 700 sets are far too numerous to be certain of the total number with a high of 794. Since that fist 200 average in 1971. His highest year book average has been 221 in the 1994-95 season.

Dennis has always given back to the game as an officer in many of the leagues he has bowled in. He currently is bowling in three leagues, including the Bill Snavely Scratch League for the 34th consecutive year, and serves as secretary in all three. In addition to his day job at Saks Fifth Avenue in Aberdeen, Dennis still works the front desk part-time at Harford Lanes, where he started out 40+ years ago cleaning tables, keeping score, pin chasing, or whatever odd job was needed to be done for a chance to practice.

Whether it's league bowling or birthday parties, with his patience, gentle demeanor, subtle sense of humor, and love of bowling he is a valuable ambassador of the sport to every person he comes in contact with, be they league bowlers or open bowlers, first time bowlers or professional bowlers.

In recognition of his accomplishments and dedication to the sport of tenpin bowling, the Cecil-Harford Counties Bowling Association welcomes Dennis S. Wilson into their Hall of Fame in the Superior Performance category.