

Diana Silva

Diana Silva first stepped into a bowling center with her friend Diane Baca. Diane's mom, Lavarene was bowling in league at Holiday Bowl. This was somewhat of surprise to Diana that bowling was something people enjoyed competing in. She went on to try the game and discovered she enjoyed it. Then one day Jean Shaw, the then owner of Holiday Bowl, asked Diana to join a league so that is when she started in 1972 as member of WIBC ending her first year as a bowler with a 189 average. Diana being a competitive individual in other sports like softball and rodeo she quickly became hooked on bowling. She just knew that if she wanted to be a good bowler she would have to get better. At the time she was working for her dad, on her lunch breaks and any other spare moment she would be practicing to get better. She said that she remembers having a funny hop that needed to be fixed. She began bowling in as many as 7 leagues a week. She may have been the rookie on the lanes but she quickly made a name for herself on the score sheets. Bowling with other awesome women in her early years like Shirley Schnider, Emma English, Helga Kaesheimer, and Dee Miller inspired her to become the best bowler that she could be. As time progressed she would compete with bowlers like the Stomp sisters, Dana Miller-Mackie and Terrie DeAngelos who brought out the vicious competitor in Diana.

In 1973 Diana began bowling in tournaments that including AWBA City, NMWBA State, WIBC Nationals and the Queens. It was in 1976 that she began bowling on tour with the PWBA. Diana was devoted to her children and made a choice to only be on tour part time. During her time on tour Diana competed in many PWBA competitions. Her favorite was the US WOMENS OPEN, she seemed to always do well but it was in 1979 that she took the title. The following year she almost did it again but unfortunately only took second. (not that 2nd was a bad finish). During her time on tour, Art would be serving with dual duties as mom and dad. In 1985 Diana stopped touring shortly after her son John gave a TV interview complaining about his dad's culinary skills and "burnt toast". All the kids were grateful to have mom and her home cooking back home.

When researching Diana's bowling career she was noted on many occasions by WIBC headquarters in Wisconsin for her repeated 700's. Apparently during her early years of bowling it was rare for women to bowl more than one 700 per season. In fact in 1975 less than 25 women had done across the United States Someone forgot to let Diana know because year after year she would bowl multiple 700's. On June 1, 1980 Diana again proved what she could do in the Classic Bowlers Association Tournament. This time she bowled against all men. Bowling a 783 and a 790 she did very well that day and left many of her fellow bowlers upset.

Diana made a name for herself in the city of Albuquerque as she held many titles in AWBA tournaments. Diana became known throughout many leagues as strong competitive bowler.

For over 30 years Diana has a composite average of 192.10. Her highest book average was a 205 in 1985-86 season. After many surgeries Diana took a short time off of bowling. When she returned she maintained a 181 average which is what brought down her pre-recovery bowling composite average.

Diana has also contributed to the sport of bowling as director with the AWBA and working with YABA in the Coca-Cola tournament.

Due to recent surgeries Diana has not been able to join other bowlers on the lanes but she is always a great cheerleader to her children and grandchildren that are very active on the lanes. I know for those of us that have had the privilege to watch Diana it is a complete joy. Diana looks like a majestic ballerina in her approach with graceful south paw swing as though she were delicately stroking an infants hair. Her ball glides down the lanes but thunders into the pins with sheer devastation. Both male and female veteran bowlers are always remembering the beautiful form that Diana brought to the lanes and hope to have her rejoin ranks of bowlers.

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DIANA SILVA

Diana would bowl up 7 leagues a week.

AWBA member 1972-2006

ABA member 1998-2005

NMWBA member 1972-2006

USBC 2006-

PWBA Tour 1976-1985 part time

Awards

AWBA

Doubles 1975 Phyliss Case
1984 Terrie DiAngelos
1986 Dana Miller

Singles 1977 699

NMWBA

Doubles 1976 Shirley Synder

PWBA

US Open 1979 1st Phoenix, Az
1980 2nd Rockford, IL

7th Tulsa, Ok
1978 11th Aurora, Colo

WIBC

Series

Highest Series 798 1/9/80 this was a state record for high series until the 86-87 season when Pam Hollander bowled a 804 series.

At PWBA National Championship Tournament held on November 15/16/17, 1976, Diana not only bowled her 1st 700 series for the season but her 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. (728, 719, 729, 722).

700 95+

GAMES

290	3
288	2
280	1
279	12
278	6
277	1
275	1

TOURNAMENTS

Diana has participated in approximately 25 **AWBA** Women's City tournament starting in 1973

WIBC Women's Championship

1974	Houston, TX
1975	Indianapolis, In
1976	Denver, CO
1977	Milwaukee, WI
1978	Miami, FL
1979	Tucson, AZ
1980	Seattle, WA
1981	Baltimore, Md

1982 St Louis, MI
1983 Las Vegas, NV
1986 Orange County, C A
1988 Reno/Carson City, NV

ABC OPEN Championship

2000 Albuquerque, NM

NMWBA

1972-73 Alamogordo

1975-76 Santa Fe

1976-77 Las Cruces

1977-78 Albuquerque

1978-79 Farmington

1980-81 Santa Fe

1981-82 Clovis

1983-84 Farmington

1985-86 Albuquerque

1992-93 Hobbs

1996-97 Santa Fe

2000-2001 Albuquerque

Diana participated in both the Women's Championship Tournament and Queens from 1976 thru 1983.

Diana participated in the Coppers Town Tournament which was a PWBA regional.

In 1974-75 season Diana was recognized as one of 25 women to achieve a 700 series. In that season she received 3 700's, then 11 the following season and 8 in 77-78 season.

In 1986 Diana and Dana Miller won the Realty & Mortgage Invitational Double with a 1219

In the 1983 Classic Hotel Invitation Diana won the All Events with a 1949

AWBA Hall of Fame Class of 1995

Governors Cup Award 1980 Governor Apodaca

Co Athlete of the Year 1980 City of Albuquerque

AVERAGE

Composite average for over 30 years 192.1

Highest Average 205 in 1984-85

In 1979-1980 season Diana was recognized as one of 117 women receiving a medal from WIBC for having 200 or above average. She ended that year with a 201 average.

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