

DORIS SWAGER

Doris began bowling in 1956 at Sport Bowl on North 2nd street in Albuquerque. There wasn't a spot on a team, so she created a new team and joined the league. She bowled her first 200 game that season while bowling in the Reddy Kilowatt Tournament, which was held at the San Mateo Lanes. Her first 700 series was in 1971 at Fiesta Lanes. That 717 was only the 8th bowled by a woman in the state of New Mexico. It was the second highest at the time. It would be 10 years before she bowled her second one at Holiday Bowl.

Doris was an active member of the 200 and 600 Club and was awarded a lifetime membership in both. The highest game she ever bowled was a 290 in 1971. This at the time was the third highest game bowled in the nation that year. She received a gold necklace with a ruby in it from WIBC. This was also the record held in the city and state in 1971.

In 1987 Doris won the New Mexico Senior Tournament All-Events. This allowed her to represent the Land of Enchantment in the National Senior Tournament in Jacksonville, Florida.

Doris has participated in most of the NMWBA tournaments with the honor of winning several times. Doris began bowling in many of the AWBA tournaments starting in 1956. Doris was also on teams that set many team records.

Doris has attended 19 WIBC National Tournaments. She has represented the AWBA as a delegate 6 times. She has also served as a delegate to the State.

Doris became a AWBA Board Member working on several committees as well as Chairperson, and the Sgt-at-Arms. During her years as a league bowler, she held offices as President and Secretary of numerous leagues.

Doris joined the PWBA and attended the Pro Tournament in Dallas, Texas. She thought it was a wonderful experience, however, it didn't take but that one tournament to convince her that she wasn't that caliber bowler and wasn't prepared to be that dedicated.

She joined the Cooperstate Regional Association which included bowlers from New Mexico and Arizona. She bowled well and received a plaque for runner-up Bowler of the Year in 1981.

Doris was also a certified coach for AJBC. She coached in both the AJBC and the YABA at Valley Bowl, Rio Grande Bowl, Fiesta Lanes, Lomas Bowl and Bowl-O-Drome. She coached handicap bowlers and also coached gym classes from Highland High School for 2 seasons at Rio Grande Lanes.

Her words: “In the 39 years of my bowling career, I have always promoted bowling, but the main thing I have always promoted is good sportsmanship. I have met and enjoyed so many wonderful people in the world of bowling. I have also admired so many talented bowlers through the years. Most of my family bowls and still enjoy the sport. It is the most wonderful entertainment for the family to share together. My father first took me bowling when I was 12 years old. At 92 he is still bowling in two leagues.”.

