

## James Francis Podowski

### Superior Performance



James F. Podowski was born in Baltimore, Maryland, June 19, 1930 to Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Podowski of Rosedale. He exhibited his athletic ability early with three Varsity letters at Kenwood High School. He then continued his education at Baltimore Junior college and the University of Baltimore with degrees in Industrial Engineering and Business management.

Jim and his former wife Ellen have three children; daughter, Kimberly and two sons, James and Eric. The family moved to Ocean City and owned Granny's Pub for a number of years before Jim

returned to the Baltimore area.

Jim started bowling tenpins in 1961. His progression to the top was swift. Only 5 years after taking up the sport, Jim rolled a three game series of 812 while participating in the Maryland State Tournament. Thirty years later his score still stands as the State Tournament record. At the time, Jim's score was the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest series by a left-hander in the history of ABC. That score powered Jim and his partner, a young bowler named Mike Lastowski, to the first of many State Titles for each. In addition to doubles, Jim also won the scratch team event and the scratch all-events title with 2038 in 1966. His "Granny's Pub" team also won State titles in 1967 and 1978.

Other accomplishments in Jim's career include:

- 2 GBM Team Titles
- 2 GBBA Doubles Titles
- 1 GBA Singles Title
- Camp Hill Singles
- Rocky Springs Doubles
- Leisure Lanes Doubles
- Harford Lanes Doubles

Prior to 1974 Jim averaged over 200 for four seasons. He also represented both Baltimore and Maryland in two ABC Masters Tournaments.

Jim has also given back to the sport. He served on the GBBA Board of Directors for four years. He also has been instrumental in the formation of, and participating as an officer in many scratch leagues over the years. In recent years, Jim has assisted many bowlers of all averages by sharing his vast knowledge of the game. There are many top players in the area that would assess his coaching ability as rivaling his on-lane prowess.

It is with great honor that the Maryland State bowling Association selects James Francis Podowski as the inaugural inductee in the Superior Performance Category of the Maryland State Bowling Association Hall of Fame.