

Michael Joseph Doonan

Superior Performance



Michael Joseph (Joe) Doonan was born February 1, 1927. He began his bowling career as many Baltimoreans did in the 1950's as a Duckpin bowler. His Duckpin bowling career included three games over 200 with his high of 209 coming understandably during the Evening Sun Tournament in 1954. His high average was 129 and he won the All Star Tournament in 1960.

Joe was known for his smooth graceful style both on and off the lanes. He adapted this style very well to the game of Tenpins in the late 1950's. In 1961 Joe captured his first State title winning the Scratch Doubles Event. The same year he also began his run of nine GBBA titles with the Team and Doubles Titles. In 1971 he capped that run with the GBBA All Events title. Joe's other State titles included another Doubles title in 1967, the 1968 Team title and the two most prestigious titles, the 1967 and the 1969 All Events.

Joe's greatest accomplishment was winning the prestigious Maryland All Star match game tournament three consecutive years 1963 thru 1965. This was a grueling match play tournament which pre dates the current BPAA US Open.

Other notable accomplishments were tournament wins in the Baltimore Evening Sun tournament in 1963 and again in 1968, and the first annual Baltimore Masters title in 1975. During his career he added fourteen more titles throughout Maryland and Pennsylvania.

His personal scoring highs are also noteworthy. Joe had three 300 games the first of which came in 1968. This was the first one at Perry Hall Lanes. He followed that with a second at Perry Hall in 1971. His third came in 1984 baptizing Forest Hill Lanes with its first in the process.

His first 700 series came, where else, during a tournament at the Leisure Lanes Doubles in 1964 with a 771. His career high series was a 782. Joe also competed in fifteen ABC National Championships, four ABC Masters Championships and four BPAA All Star Championships. In

1972, Joe was inducted into the GBBA Hall of Fame as the first admission for Superior Performance.

For his outstanding achievements in the game of American Tenpins, the Maryland State Bowling Association is proud to induct Michael Joseph Doonan into its Hall of Fame in the Superior Performance Category.