

## Don Johnson Superior Performance



The name Don Johnson is permanently etched in the history of professional bowling. He is listed No. 8 among the 50 Greatest Bowlers in the history of the Professional Bowlers Tour.

Don was born May 19, 1940, in Kokokmo, Indiana, but spent most of his adult life in Akron, Ohio and North Las Vegas, Nevada, where he retired from the Tour in 1977.

During the 1980's era, the years of many stand-alone area bowling centers, Don found a home at the former **Charleston Heights Bowl**. He bowled league there, and was elected president of the elite 4-man scratch league. That facility is now Arizona Charlie's on Decatur Blvd.

His shining star as a member of the Southern Nevada Bowling Association (now SNUSBCA) was his teaching sessions for bowlers of all levels. So many novice and aspiring pros would marvel at the opportunity to be given one-on-one video instruction by one of professional bowling's elite players: the **PBA Player of the Year in 1971 and 1972** with an amazing record of **26 titles**. There was a period in history - through most of the '70's - that Don Johnson made the Saturday afternoon telecast his personal showcase. He was inducted into the **PBA Hall of Fame in 1977**.

Don loved Las Vegas. He discovered Pan, a card game that is no longer offered in casinos, but as in everything else he put his heart into, he became pretty good at it.

As so often the case, all of us who were lifetime fans assumed his legacy in Nevada as a member of the association for more than 20 years was etched in our Hall of Fame. Oddly enough, Don was never nominated.

Don Johnson proved himself worthy of inclusion into the PBA Hall of Fame with an amazing career as a professional bowler, and proved himself equally worthy to be honored in our Hall with his personal interaction with thousands of Southern Nevada bowlers, as well as participation in leagues and serving as a league president. The time has come for this icon of professional bowling and dedicated teacher to be honored in the Southern Nevada USBC Association Hall of Fame.



*An all too familiar television shot of the 1970's*

# Don Johnson

## Superior Performance



- \* **26 National Professional Bowlers Tour titles**
- \* **PBA Player of the Years 1971 and 1972**
- \* **PBA Hall of Fame 1977**
- \* **Placed No. 8 on PBA's 2008 list of "50 Greatest Players of the Last 50 Years"**
- \* ***Bowling Magazine's* 2000 list of "20 Greatest Bowlers of All Time"**
- \* **Toured for 14 years (1962-76), and won titles in each of those years except for 1965. Twelve straight seasons with titles**
- \* **From January 1971 through December 1972, won 9 PBA titles**
- \* **Made his mark in television archives with the most memorable TV shot in the history of the PBA by leaving a 10-pin on his final attempt at 300 in the 1970 Firestone Tournament of Champions**

**It can be viewed any time on YouTube (Don Johnson 299)**

**Don and his son Jimmy Johnson share the distinction with Dick and Pete Weber as the only two father-son PBA title holders**



### **USBC Eagles**

**1976 Doubles Classic Div. with Paul Colwell**

**1977 Classic Division Team event**

**Rolled at least one 300 game for 16 consecutive years on the PBA Tour**

**Retired from the regular Tour in 1977, moved to Las Vegas and joined the Southern Nevada Bowling Association (SNUSBCA)**

**Won 1988 Las Vegas City Tournament Team event and Scratch All-Events**

**League President of the prestigious 4-man elite scratch league at Charleston Heights Bowl**

**Over a course of more than 20 years in the association, taught hundreds, perhaps thousands, of bowlers of all levels with one-on-one video instruction**