





TEXAS STATES DELEGATES PARTY







Thursday, February 13, 1997

Hall of Fame to induct six

Tonight's inductees come from widely varied sports

By DAVID KING
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

The most diverse group in the three-year history of the San Antonio Sports Hall of Fame will join the honor roll tonight at the Alamodome.

The class of 1997 includes a polo legend, college baseball's winningest coach and the San Antonio hall's first woman, who already is a member of three halls of fame.

Activities at the Hall of Fame Tribute get under way at 6:30 p.m. with a cocktail reception and silent auction. The dinner and ceremonies begin at 7:30 p.m.

Proceeds benefit the San Antonio Sports Foundation's Dreams for Youth program, which allows disadvantaged youth with opportunities to train in six Olympic sports. More than 800 tickets have been sold for the event.

This year's inductees are former Spurs guard James Silas, former University of Texas baseball coach Cliff Gustafson, golfer Betty Jameson, high school coach Nemo Herrera, polo legend Cecil Smith and football star Tobin Rote.

Silas, nicknamed "Captain Late" by former Spurs broadcaster Terry Stembidge, teamed with George Gervin to give the Spurs a formidable backcourt in the team's ABA days and its first seasons in the NBA.

His No. 13 is one of two numbers retired by the franchise. Silas lives in Austin.

Smith, who lives near Boerne, was a working cowboy who became one of history's most domi-

Class of '97

■ **What:** San Antonio Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony and dinner.

■ **When:** Reception at 6:30, dinner and ceremonies at 7:30 tonight.

■ **Where:** Alamodome

■ **Who:** Cliff Gustafson, baseball; Nemo Herrera, high schools; Betty Jameson, golf; Tobin Rote, football; James Silas, basketball; Cecil Smith, polo.

■ **Current members:** 1995 — Bob Coleman, George Gervin, Tommy Nobis and Kyle Rote; 1996 — Dan Cook, Angelo Drossos, Weldon Humble and Tommy Kramer.

■ **Tickets:** Call 246-3480. No tickets will be sold at the door.

nant polo players. He held the game's highest rating, 10 goals, from 1938 to 1962, and was selected to every U.S. national team from the 1930s to the 1950s.

Smith has been a member of the Texas Sports Hall of Fame for 41 years.

Gustafson won a record 1,427 games and 22 Southwest Conference titles at Texas in 29 years. That came after 344 wins and seven state championships at South San Antonio High School, including a 39-0 team in 1967.

"I really enjoyed my choice of profession," he said. "I was pretty fortunate. It not only brought me a lot of pleasure, but also a sense of pride."

Jameson helped found the LPGA (then the Women's Professional Golf League) in 1950 and won 10 professional events in her career. She was the first woman to break

300 over 72 holes — she shot a 295 — in winning the U.S. Women's Open in 1947.

"I was definitely a pioneer," she said. "I wish I had been born a little later."

She already is a member of the LPGA, Texas Sports and Texas Golf halls of fame. She lives in Delray Beach, Fla.

Herrera coached high school basketball and baseball from 1928 to 1970, winning two state championships and taking six teams to the state tournament at Lanier, then taking two more teams to Austin while coaching at El Paso Bowie.

His Bowie team also won the first state baseball championship, in 1949.

Herrera had a career record of 545-193 in basketball and 469-269 in baseball. He died in 1984 at the age of 84.

Rote, a 1946 graduate of Harlandale High School, was 3-1 in the biggest contests of his football career. In 1950, he led Rice to a 27-13 win over North Carolina in the Cotton Bowl.

Then in 1957, filling in for Bobby Layne, he took the Detroit Lions to a 59-14 rout of Cleveland for the NFL championship. Six years later, he led the San Diego Chargers to a 51-10 victory over the Boston Patriots for the 1963 AFL championship.

The Express-News sportsman of the year, Olympian Josh Davis, and sportswoman of the year, bowler Cudy Berlanga, will be introduced at the event as well.

San Antonio Hall of Fame inductees relish spotlight again

By TIM GRIFFIN
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

The head table at the Alamodome Thursday night wasn't a place for the merely outstanding.

New inductees in the San Antonio Sports Hall of Fame made their mark in their respective sports with a trademark of excellence setting them apart from their peers.

The six selections are the largest and most diverse group in the hall's three-year history. New inductees include former Spurs guard James Silas, golfer Betty Jameson, former University of Texas and South San Antonio High School coach Cliff Gustafson, polo legend Cecil Smith, Harlandale and Detroit Lions quarterback

Tobin Rotte and high school coach Nemo Herrera.

"This means something special for me because I finally got a chance to come back home again," said Jameson, a pioneer on the Ladies Professional Golf Association tour and a member of three other halls of fame.

San Antonio's hospitality was most noticeable for Silas, who moved to the city when the Spurs arrived from Dallas in 1973. He was known as "captain late" because of his nerves with the team.

"This city has been very good to me," said Silas, who now runs a youth program in Austin. "I never would have thought anything like this would have happened 25 years ago when we got here. Being picked

for this Hall of Fame is one of the most special things I've had happen to me."

Some of the biggest cheers of the evening were reserved for Smith, who was known as "The Babe Ruth of polo" during his 49-year career that stretched through the early 1960s.

"I never would have thought I would receive this chance," said Smith, who turned 83 today. "I didn't think I'd live long enough to be honored and it feels very good."

Smith attended the ceremonies in a wheelchair, supported by friends and family members.

"I haven't felt that well the last few weeks," Smith said. "But I wanted to come tonight and see everybody again."

Later in the evening, however, Smith complained of feeling chilled and was taken to Nix Hospital by his doctor as a precaution.

"He didn't have a fever, but his doctor thought he needed to spend the night at the hospital," said local architect Ralph Bender, who acted as Smith's escort at the event.

Rotte led the Detroit Lions and San Diego Chargers to NFL and AFL championships after a stellar career at Rice.

Relatives of Herrera accepted the award for their late father, who died in 1984 at the age of 86.

Herrera coached high school basketball and football from 1928-70, winning two state championships and taking six teams

to the state tournament from Lanier High School.

"My dad always felt San Antonio was a special place where we (as a family) have held near and dear to us," said his son, Charles D. Herrera of Columbus, Ohio. "I can tell you that this is where he would have wanted to be honored more than any other."

Gustafson, who claimed seven high school championships at South San and two more national college titles at Texas, honored Herrera's memory.

"To have a chance to be inducted with a legendary high-school coach like Nemo is very special to me," Gustafson said. "I was very blessed to have the chance to know him."

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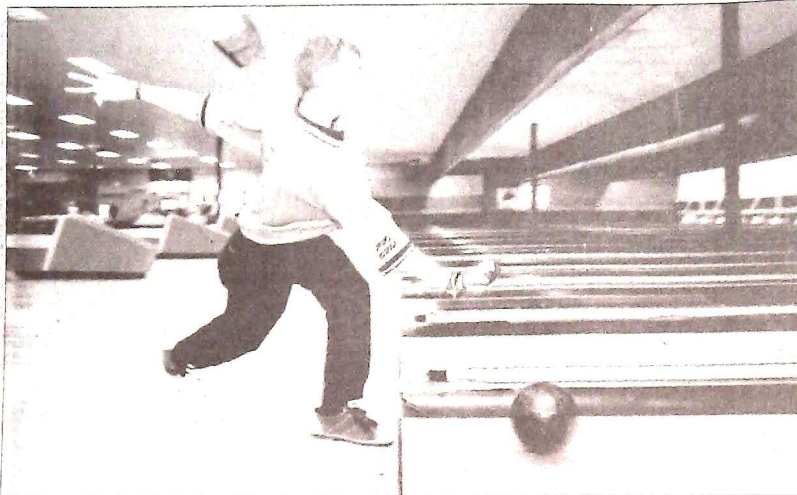
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DOUG SEHRES / Staff

Jeremy Sonnenfeld displays the form Thursday that recently earned him a place in bowling history.

900 series, fast lane to fame

Stunning feat turns college student's life upside down

By HARRY PAGE
 EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

Finding quiet study time hasn't been easy for Jeremy Sonnenfeld the last two weeks.

The 20-year-old University of Nebraska sophomore has been besieged with interviews, television appearances and traveling dates since rolling the first American Bowling Congress-sanctioned perfect series — 900 — Feb. 2 in Lincoln, Neb.

That's 36 straight strikes.

"Ever since the 900 series, I've done more than 50 different radio shows," said Sonnenfeld, of Sioux Falls, S.D. "Being interviewed and throwing a ball on (ABC's) 'Good Morning America' was a thrill. I've even done interviews with the BBC in London and I've had interview requests from stations in The Netherlands and New Zealand.

"When I come to my room from class there are at least 15 different people requesting return calls on my telephone message box. My time hasn't been mine lately. If it's not interviews, it's photo shoots at different bowling centers. It's been hectic."

Sonnenfeld was in San Antonio on Thursday, with his Nebraska coach and former PBA star Bill Straub, to do promotional work with locally based Columbia 300 Industries. Sonnenfeld's three 300 games were bowled with Columbia's Blue Pearl Pulse.

"My school work has suffered," Sonnenfeld said during a news conference at Country Lanes. "I wrote to my instructors to let them know why I've been missing class. My instructors' responses have been great."

Sonnenfeld is carrying a 3.0 grade-point average, and taking 15 hours this semester, as a business major.

"The notoriety is great and I'm living this moment," Sonnenfeld said. "I know it can't last forever but this will be something that I will have the rest of my life. I'll al-

BOWLING

ways have the pride in knowing that I bowled the first sanctioned 900 series.

"No, I'm not going to let this get to my head. My parents taught me to always be humble, respect others and be thankful for what you've accomplished."

Sonnenfeld's father, Tom, a member of South Dakota's Bowling Hall of Fame, has just one career perfect game. His mother, Joyce, is a teacher.

"No, I don't hook the ball that much," Sonnenfeld said. "My dad told me to stick with the fundamentals. I'm a straight-shooter, like (PBA Hall of Famer) Dick Weber, if you want to compare. Dad's advice to play down the middle of the lane because you stay out

of trouble was the best. My game has further improved because Bill (Straub) is a great teacher of fundamentals."

Sonnenfeld had two 300 games and an 826 series in winning the Australian Junior Masters and Singles championships in 1994. He won the South Dakota amateur championship in 1995 and was named an All-America in helping Nebraska to the national men's title in 1996. Last summer, he won \$30,000 in winning a sweeper event at the Hi-Roller Tournament in Las Vegas.

"Now, among other things, I'm determined to get my degree before I even consider thinking about the pros," Sonnenfeld said. "Needless to say, I've got to get back into the books real hard — after this unbelievable ride slows down."

Berlanga's achievements make up for missed goals

By **MARISSA SILVERA**
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

Each year, Cindy Berlanga ups her bowling standards. Her goals in 1996 included a 300 game and a series of 750 or better.

She didn't achieve either. Along the way, however, she earned the most prestigious honor for female bowlers by winning the Women's International Bowling Congress singles championship.

The national title came on the heels of being crowned the 1995 San Antonio Women's Bowling Association (SAWBA) city champion by winning the all-events scratch title.

"I had a good year," Berlanga said. "I didn't attain either of my goals, but I won the city and national championship. It was not what I anticipated."

Because of those achievements, the San Antonio native has been named the San Antonio Express-News Sportswoman of the Year.

Berlanga, a 43-year-old mother of two whose full-time job is running her and her husband's auto interior decoration shop, became the first San Antonian to win the WIBC title.

Berlanga traveled to Buffalo,

■ See WIBC/15C

WIBC, SAWBA titles make Berlanga's year

■ Continued from 1C

N.Y., on April 28 and bowled the only 700 series of the tournament. She competed in the Classic Division, which features the elite women bowlers and all of the Ladies Pro Bowlers Tour competitors.

Her winning score was 723 — 244, 225 and 254 — which was 33 pins better than the runner-up.

"At nationals, I was worried about falling apart in the last game," Berlanga said. "I had the shakes, I was afraid that I would talk myself out of finishing well."

After opening the third game with a "Greek Church" split and leaving an open frame, she started to panic. Berlanga sought advice from her best friend and bowling partner, Yvonne Holland.

Holland said she could not understand why Berlanga was so nervous.

"She just needed work with her psyche," Holland said. "I told her, 'You've been there, you've done that. It's no different. Don't worry about it.'"

Berlanga went on to bowl the highest game of her 723 series. But unlike most other sports, the WIBC competition is not head-to-head, so Berlanga had to wait a few weeks

"I feel like I won the lottery. I don't think it could happen again. I feel very fortunate."

■ **CINDY BERLANGA**
On winning the WIBC championship

to find out if her score was good enough to win, especially since the professionals had not bowled yet.

Holland said that was the second-most nervewracking moment for Berlanga. She tried hard not to let Berlanga think about it.

Finally, in June, Berlanga was notified that she was the champion. She received a check for \$2,800 and a jeweled lavalier with the score engraved to wear on her necklace.

"I feel like I won the lottery," she said. "I don't think it could happen again. I feel very fortunate."

Now Berlanga is tempted to prove that it was not a fluke when she tries to defend her title in Reno, Nev., next spring.

In the meantime, she is preparing for the World Team Challenge Bowl, which will be held next



RICK HUNTER / Staff

National women's singles bowling champion Cindy Berlanga still has goals she hopes to reach — a 300 game and a 750 series.

month in Fort Worth.

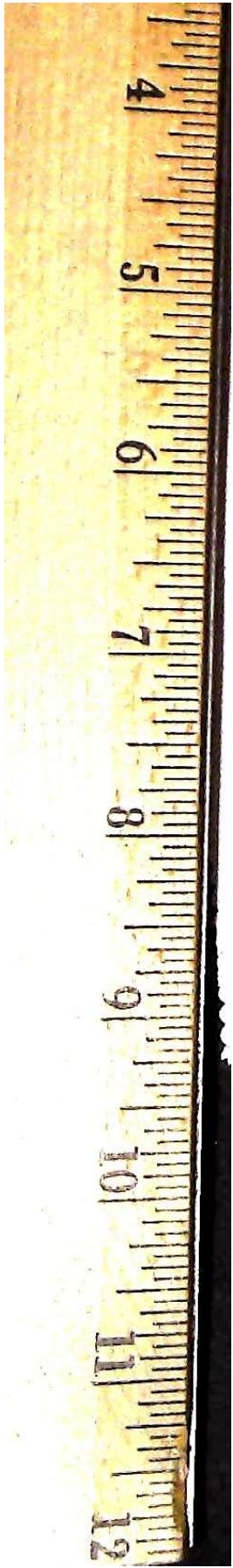
She continues to bowl in two local leagues at Astro Bowl and Oak Hills.

Berlanga also is captain of a traveling league team called the Astro-Nots. They compete in each house locally and won the league championship.

Her team also finished eighth in

the Open Division at the Texas Women's Bowling Association State Tournament last summer.

A bowler for more than 20 years, Berlanga has found her groove this year. In the 1995-96 bowling season, which began in August, she had 60 series of 600 or more and four 700 series. She also bowled a 288 game and four 279 games.



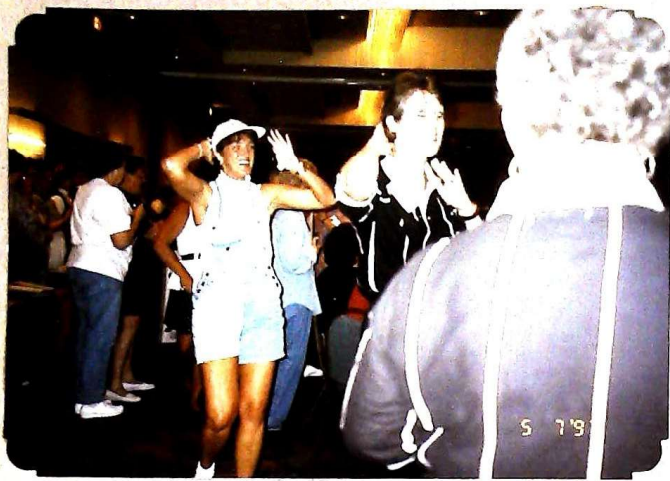






First Place Winner!

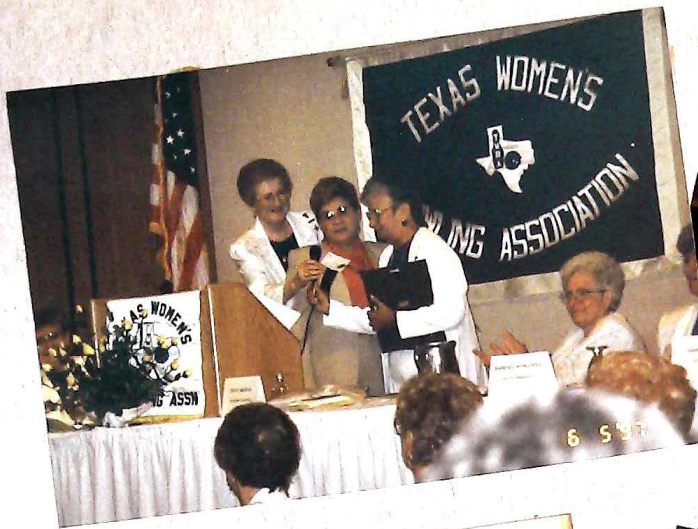




Fun Fair



Smile! You are caught on camera. Now she is loose!





Ruth James Jane Wright Elsie Mitchell



Rebbie Kirst



Yasuko won this table decoration!



Elfi Tomczyk Louise Mangelsdorf



Barbara Johnson Director WIBC



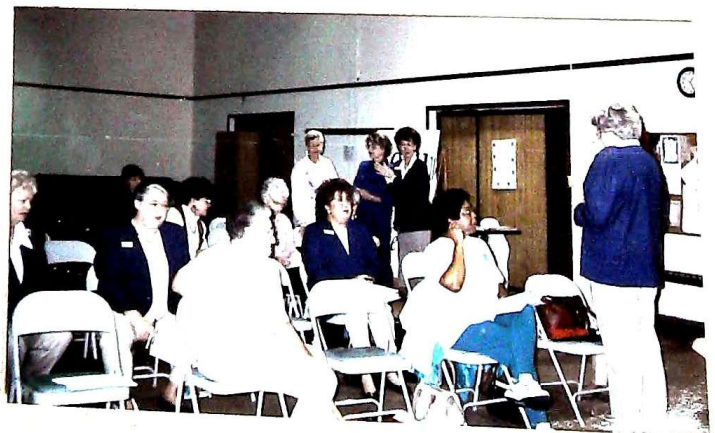
Beverly McLendon
President TWBA



1998 is our turn.

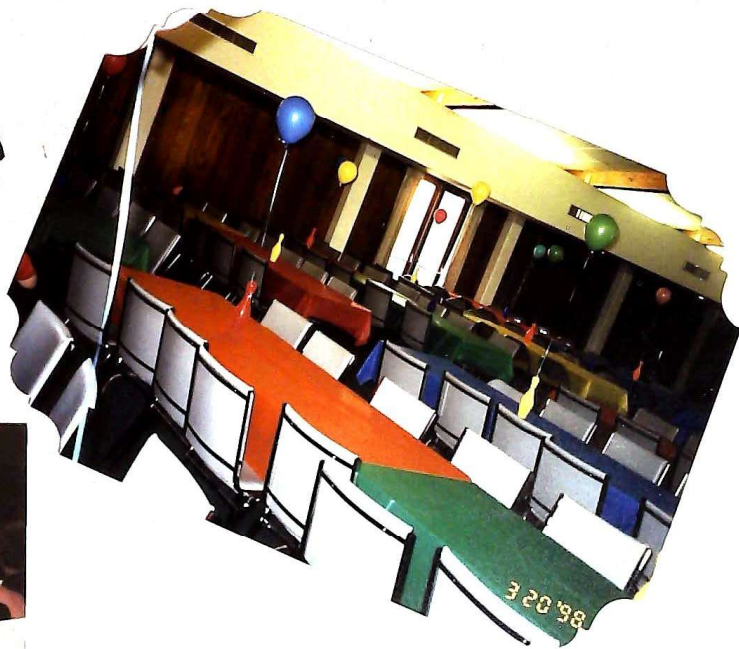


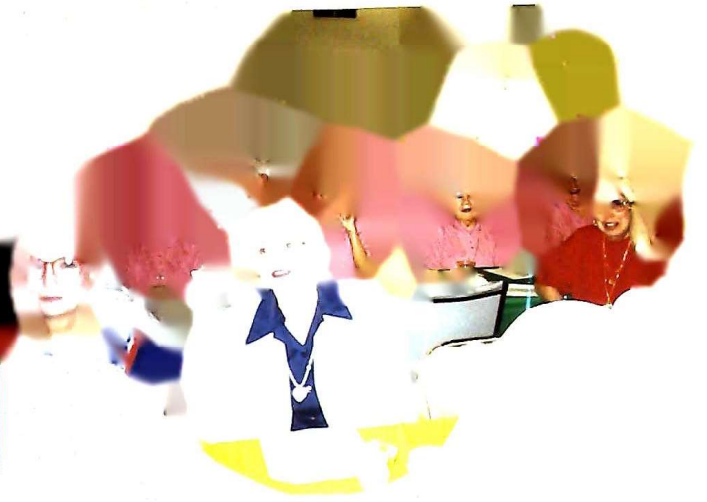


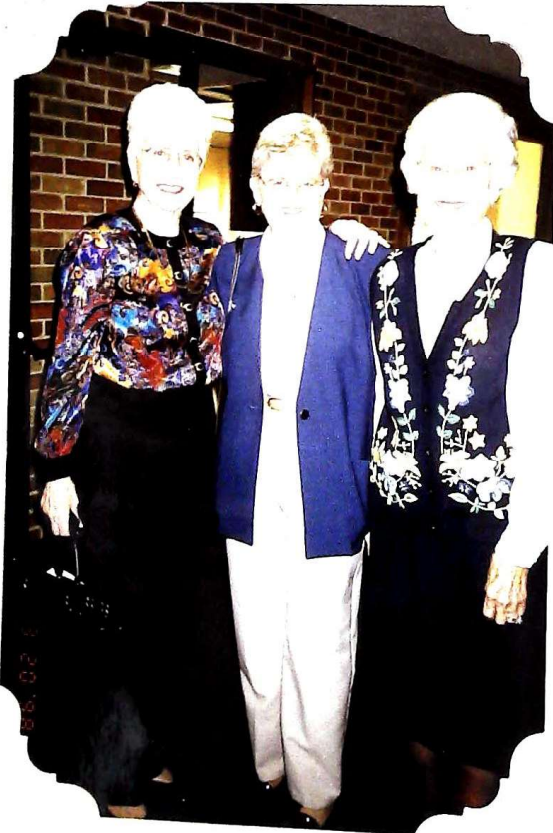












San Antonio Bowling Council Hall of Fame Banquet and Induction Ceremony

On February 8, 1998, the San Antonio Bowling Council held their 27th Annual Hall of Fame Awards Banquet to enjoy a good meal, the company of many of the city's bowlers, and most importantly, to induct four new members into the San Antonio Bowling Hall of Fame. Joining the 68 previously honored members as the "Class of 1997" are Jake Granato, Jerry Smyth, Louise Mangelsdorf, and Harry Nixon. Jake and Harry are recognized for their achievements on the lanes, while Louise and Harry gain membership through their years of meritorious service.

Each of the inductees was elected by a combined committee made up of members of the San Antonio Bowling Council, the San Antonio Bowling Association, the San Antonio Women's Bowling Association, the Bowling Proprietors Association, the Greater San Antonio YABA, and current members of the Hall of Fame.

Following a social hour of spirits, and music by Debbie Kirst, the dinner and associated activities were presided over by John Jones, President of the San Antonio Bowling Council and Mistress of Ceremonies, Sylvia Broyles, WIBC Vice President and Texas WBA Secretary.

Jake Granato, who was introduced for induction by John Rizzo, was lauded for his 30 plus years of prowess on the lanes which include two sanctioned 300 games, and an almost uncountable number of 600 and 700 series (782 being the highest). During his years on the lanes he has consistently carried averages in the 200 range, ending one season with a 220 standard as his personal best. As a tournament bowler he experienced numerous wins being crowned as the San Antonio City All-Events and Doubles champion, the San Antonio Match Game Doubles champion, and several times a finalist in the Match Game Singles Tournaments. One of his most memorable feats was as a member of the Columbia 300 team which rolled the nation's highest team game and series during the

1969-70 season. As a team member, Jake had a 264 in the team's 1287 game, and 717 of the team high 3605 series.

Jerry Smyth, who currently calls Anchorage, Alaska home, was not able to be at the banquet, but had Bob Harris, his longtime doubles partner as a "stand-in." His accomplishments were outlined by John D'Andrea. As a career member of the Air Force, Jerry spent the majority of his career moving between Brooks and Lackland AFB with a short stop in Alaska. While in San Antonio he found time to win the San Antonio City All-Events title three times, the City Match Game Singles two times and the City Match Game Doubles. Jerry also won the Hoinke Classic Doubles tournament with Bob Freehauf and several Alaska state titles.

After his retirement from the Air Force, he spent a couple of years as a PBA member and had a

national televised tournament finals appearance, where he finished in fourth place, to his credit. In addition to his election to the San Antonio Hall of Fame, he has also been previously elected to the Anchorage Alaska City Bowling Hall of Fame and the Alaska State Hall of Fame.

Sylvia Broyles, who also doubled as the Mistress of Ceremonies for the banquet, introduced Louise Mangelsdorf for induction. Louise's "career" of dedicated support to the sport of bowling began in Pecos, Texas where she served as a league secretary and secretary of the Pecos Womens Bowling Association. Following a family move to San Antonio, she wasted no time in making her mark in the San Antonio association. Again, after beginning as a league secretary, she was installed as a Director in the SAWBA and did not hesitate when asked to become the

City Association Secretary, a position which she held, and executed in an outstanding manner, for eight years. In 1984 she was trained to become a Certified Lane Inspector and continues to work in cooperation with the San Antonio Bowling Association to provide this service to the bowling centers within the area.

Louise has held many positions in the San Antonio Womens Bowling Association, the San Antonio Bowling Council, and the Texas Womens Bowling Association. As a result of these activities she was recognized by the TWBA for Dedicated and Distinguished Service in 1987 as Secretary of the Year. She continues to be active, not only on the lanes in several senior leagues, but also by helping in any way possible in almost any association activity or tournament.

Harry W. Nixon, who was presented by Harry Page of the San Antonio Express, is best known and recognized for his 30 plus years as Secretary/Treasurer of the Texas Tenpin Bowling Association. He has worked tirelessly during this time to support these smaller bowling clubs throughout central and southeast Texas who have often been referred to as the "backbone of bowling" in the area. His activities to promote and oversee the annual Texas Tenpin Tournament has ensured that it s, and will continue to be one of the better tournaments of its kind. Even though Harry is recognized for his meritorious service, he has also excelled on the lanes by being a past member of a San Antonio City Tournament Championship team, in addition to several high finishes in the Texas Tenpin and Senior Olympics tournaments.

Each of the new Hall of Fame members, in addition to all the recognition from their peers in attendance, was presented a distinctive Hall of Fame pin, or pendant, by the San Antonio Bowling Council and Hall of Fame Recognition Certificate from ABC/WIBC, to serve as a lasting memento of this prestigious honor.



Jake and Dee Granato



Harry and Estelle Nixon

Bowling Council Hall of Fame Banquet and Induction Ceremony



San Antonio Hall of fame Inductee Louise Mangelsdorf, with husband Charles. (For story, see page 5)

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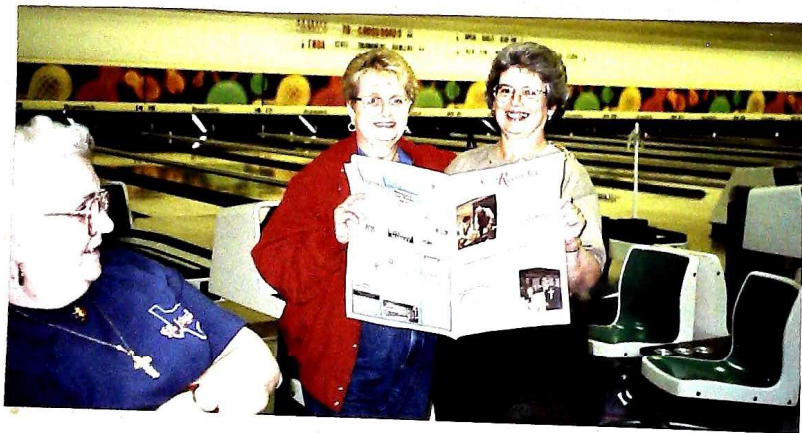
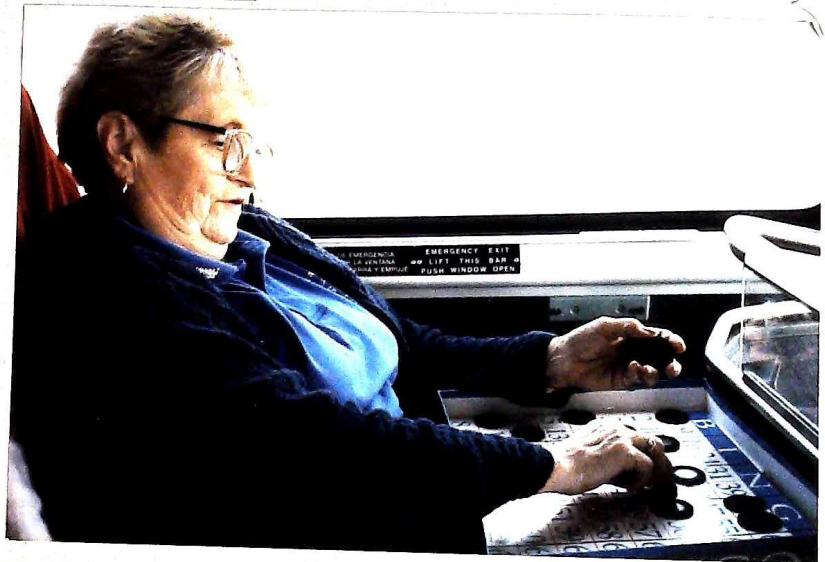
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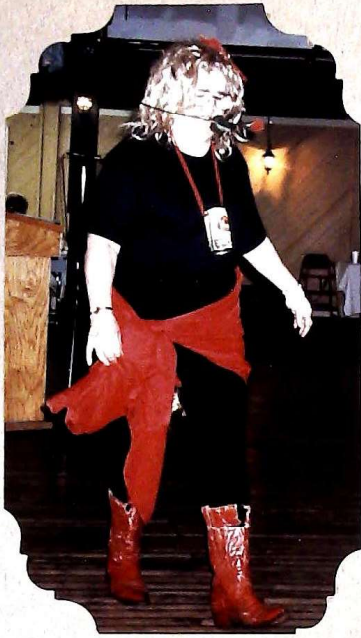


Harry and Estelle Nixon

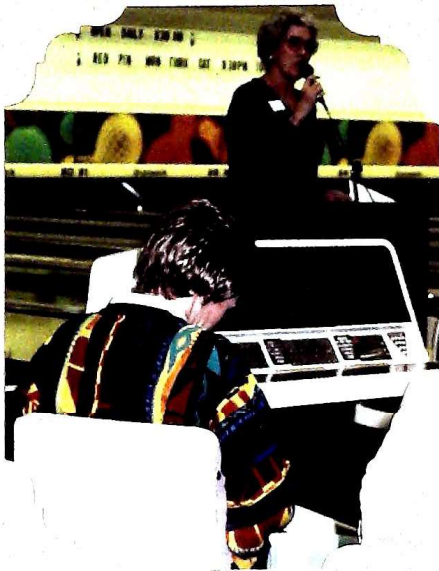
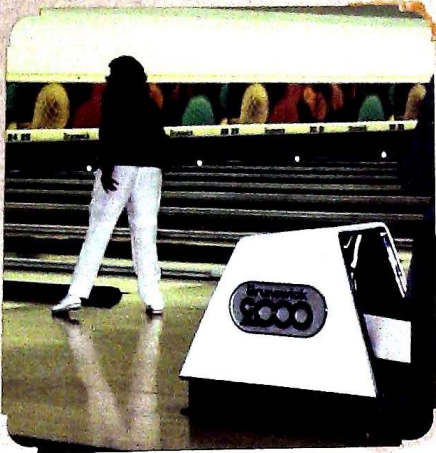












CONGRATULATIONS
SAWBA CITY CHAMPIONS!



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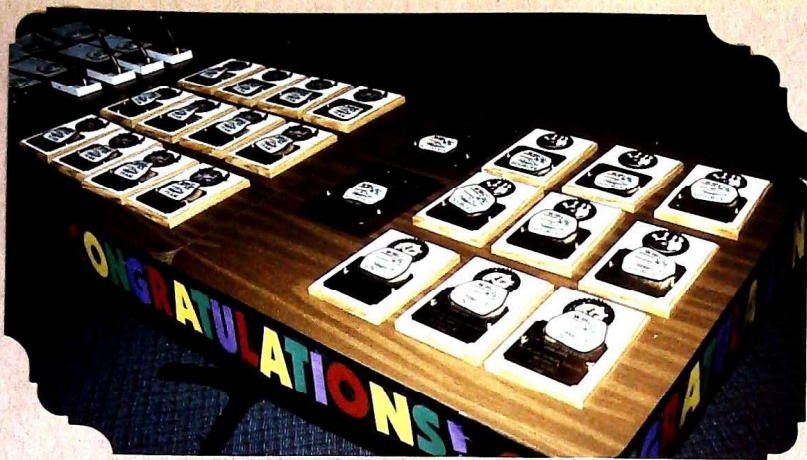
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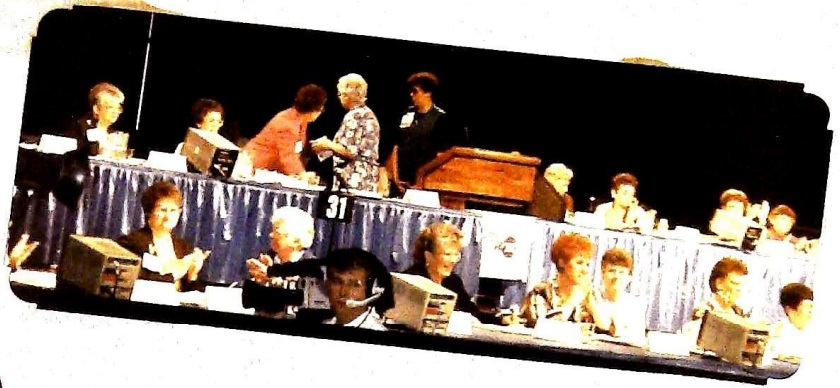
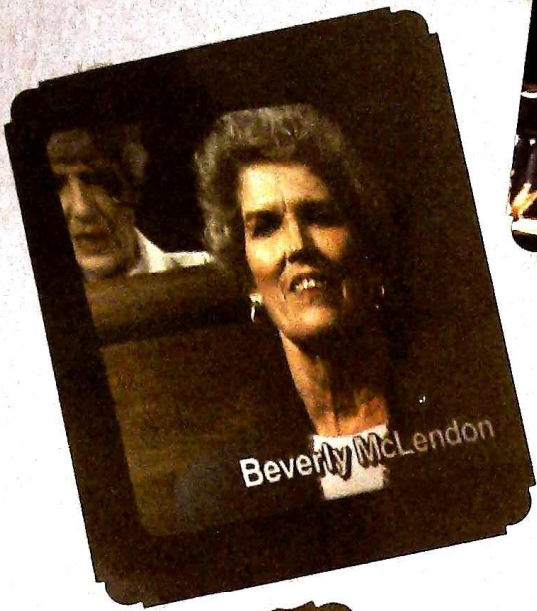
















Just think, little old me coming back... with a medal

Three San Antonians captured gold medals at the U.S. National Senior Sports Classic in Tucson, Ariz., this week.

Stearlorte Rutledge, 60, and Annie Webb, 59, won the women's 55-59 doubles crown. Erna Franz, 76, won the women's 70-74 singles title.

Rutledge and Webb had combined games of 362, 406 and 358 for a 1,126 total.

"There were some tough ladies competing," said Rutledge, who, with Webb, won the state 55-59 doubles title last year to qualify for the event. "We had to do what we had to. We had to keep on stroking."

"We didn't let down at any time, and we kept each other pumped up. Whenever either of us missed, we forgot about it and tried to do better the next frame. I'm real excited about it. Just think, little old me coming back to San



Harry Page
BOWLING

Antonio with a medal. That's great."

Webb also finished fourth in her division's singles competition. Franz just blew away the field in her division with games of 182, 183 and 229 for a 544 set. Gladys Rose McGee of Oklahoma and Kate Quifoski of Maryland tied for second with 516 series.

■ **Close finishes:** Rhaanne

Kubstoss from Skydunk and Kevin Ramey from Country won what is believed to be the closest scratch division race in the Billy Simon Scholarship Tournament's history at Ponderosa last week.

Kubstoss edged Allison Hendricks from Wonder by a single pin — 918-917 — in the girls division. Ramey nipped Eric Sosa of Astro by two pins — 1,067-1,065 — in the boys division.

Fondressa's Shanel Bell and Jennifer Dear finished 1-2 in the girls handicap division with respective scores of 1,104 and 1,071. Curtis Guerrero of University had 1,191 and Brian Jeter of Astro totaled 1,163 for the top two spots in the boys handicap division.

The winners earned \$500 scholarships; the runners-up earned \$250 scholarships.

■ **High rollers:** Jerri Baker had

games of 300, 197 and 245 for a 737 Wednesday at University, and 228, 194 and 300 for 682 set Thursday at Country. Dave Barimore rolled 257, 278 and 279 for an 814 series, and Larry Kassner had 300, 258 and 233 for an 811 set Wednesday at Astro.

Dave Dupont had 256, 289 and 279 for an 824 series Thursday at Country. Jeff Everman rolled 236, 210 and 300 for a 746 set Thursday at Astro.

■ **Keq tidbits:** Pete Moon had a 299 game at Astro. Robert Monroe had 11 straight strikes on route to a 279 game at Country.

Danny Palacios had a 289 game at Oak Hills. Terry Sammons had a 289 game and Cindy Pena rolled 269-754 at Ponderosa. Anna Ruiz had a 137 triplicate at Spare Time. Tex Saengerhausen had a 290 game at Sports West. Bill Lowe had his first 700 series with 289-702

at University. What a turnaround: Jim Corrales and Bill Winn rebounded from finishing last in 1996 to winning the businessmen's Doubles title this season at Wonder Bowl.

■ **Crossed fingers:** Phil Pennington of San Antonio has this week-end to see if he can maintain his lead and claim the Division 3 singles title at the TSHA state tournament in Amarillo, which ends Sunday. Pennington's 708 series puts him 37 pins ahead of his nearest competitor.

■ **PBA regional:** Mike Shoemaker of San Antonio finished with 9-6-1 record and a total pinfall of 5,840 to earn \$750 for sixth place in the PBA Bowlero and Zeims Ford Corners Regional Tournament at Farmington, N.M. Veteran Henry Gonzalez of Colorado Springs won the event with a total pinfall of

6,189 for \$3,000.

■ **Donations needed:** San Antonio's Jerlyn Keller is scheduled to compete on the Deaf World Games for the Deaf, set for July 13-26 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

However, before she can fulfill her obligations, Keller is required to raise \$2,561 by June 16 to cover expenses.

Anyone wishing to help Keller's efforts should make a check payable to "AAAD/World Games for Deaf (Bowling)" and mail it to: Jerlyn Keller, Deaf Team USA, 388 Addax Drive, San Antonio 78213, or call the Texas Relay Service (to contact Keller) at (210) 718-2889 for more details.

To leave a message for Harry, Page, call Express Lane at 595-0500 and punch 442.

2C Monday, May 19, 1997

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TODAY

THE SPORTS RUNDOWN

QUICK HITS

Fernandez turns off Pierce's power

COMPILED FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Mary Joe Fernandez captured her first championship in more than two years, winning 6-4, 6-2 on Sunday when Mary Pierce's power game vanished in the final of the German Open in Berlin.

"This was the biggest title of my career," Fernandez said.

The 25-year-old American has reached the semifinals of four of eight tournaments she's played in 1997, including the Australian Open.

Fernandez, largely ignored at a \$927,000 tournament that featured 16 of the world's top 20 players, also ousted No. 2 seed Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic in the semifinals.

"This was a tough field," Fernandez said. "All the top women were here."

Fernandez survived a flurry of winners at the start from Pierce, the No. 12 seed who won last week's Italian Open. Pierce led 4-2 in the first set against the 10th seed, but soon started missing her fierce forehands and backhands.

"The harder I tried, the worse I was playing," Pierce said. "I ran out of gas. I felt like all my energy was gone after six or seven games."

Fernandez won eight straight games as Pierce continued to hammer shots down into the net.



ASSOCIATED PRESS
Mary Joe Fernandez won her first title in two years with a straight-set victory Sunday over Mary Pierce at the German Open.

women's teams from Arkansas, Mississippi, South

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Fernandez won eight straight games as Pierce continued to hammer shots deep into the corners without success. At one point, the American swept 12 of 12 points.

■ **Italian Open:** In Rome, Alex Corretja won a showdown of the world's hottest clay-court players and established himself as a top favorite for the French Open.

The 10th-seeded Spaniard outplayed No. 7 Marcelo Rios of Chile 7-5, 7-5, 6-3 to win the Italian Open for the biggest title of his career.

Playing in his fourth clay-court final of the year, Corretja avenged his loss to Rios in the championship match at the Monte Carlo Open three weeks ago.

In a season when no other players have made a big impact on clay, the two will be considered among the top contenders for the French Open starting May 26.

"It's unbelievable to win here," Corretja said. "The next step will be to win a Grand Slam. It will be different in Paris with five-set matches every day for two weeks. But I think I can do well there also."

Corretja, based in Spain's tennis hotbed of Barcelona, controlled the 2-hour, 23-minute match from the baseline with his steady, top-spin forehand, while a tired-looking Rios lapsed into unforced errors.

Bowling: Local women fourth

Brunswick Thousand Oaks finished fourth in the women's division of the Traveling Classic Bowling League's national playoff Sunday at Astro Bowl.

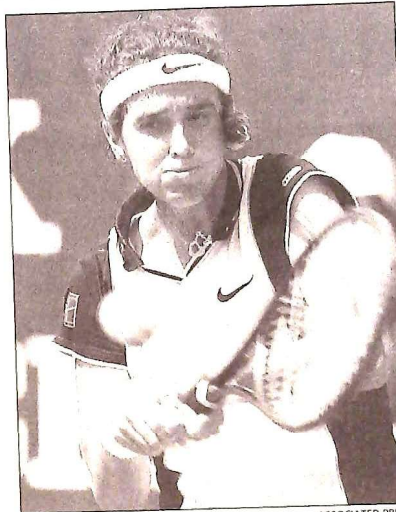
Thousand Oaks, featuring Cynthia Diaz, Debbie Jeanson, Rocky Bouhel, Karen Mahon, Lynda Benz, Theresa Ramirez, Lisa Nelson and Caryl Fonseca, finished with a total pinfall of 8,496 to earn \$600.

DSCW Scoreboard of Fort Worth won the division for \$3,600 with a total pinfall of 8,760. Golden Lanes of Western Carolina was second with 8,735 and Russell's Pro Shop of New Orleans was third with 8,681.

Lords of Grotto from Houston had 8,837 to capture the first-place prize of \$6,600 in the men's division.

New Braunfels' Comal Bowl and Comal Pro Shop ended fourth and seventh, respectively. Comal Bowl with Andy Chappell, Arthur Frazier, Scott Cilman, Jack Turner, John Patmor, Rich Hansen and Jason Steffek finished with 8,122 for \$1,250. Comal Bowl Pro Shop, featuring Robert Scott, Terry McFarland, Dennis Black, Donald Stange, Randy Willard and Tex Saengerhausen, ended with 7,837 for \$850.

The \$38,000, four-day event, co-sponsored by Columbia Industries, featured 178 men's and 118



ASSOCIATED PRESS

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women's teams from Arkansas, Mississippi, South Carolina, North Carolina, Louisiana and Texas.



Harry Page
BOWLING

Aim is at pocket, not pocketbook

Recreational bowling may be more affordable than playing tennis or golf, but preparing for the competition may be just as expensive.

Just to bowl in league play costs an average of \$10 to \$20 a week — depending on how much a league wants to put into its prize fund — for at least 36 weeks.

Open bowling costs an average of \$2 to \$3 a game. Most centers offer a slight discount for bowling during the day and discounts for bowlers 55 and older (open and league play).

League fees, which include lineage and secretarial fees, don't include the \$12 fee for an American Bowling Congress card and \$11 for a Women's International Bowling Congress card for each season, which runs from Aug. 1 to July 31.

Playing tennis costs from \$4 an hour and up for court time, plus hundreds of dollars for equipment and accessories. A round of golf can range from \$12 to more than \$500, depending on the location. Golf clubs can be sky high, too.

"Bowling has gone with the minimum wage," said Wayne Hawley, the proprietor of Wayne's Bowling Supply. "In 1958, the minimum wage was \$1, and you could bowl a game for 45 cents, buy a ball for \$24.95, shoes for \$9.95 and a bowling ball bag for \$8.95.

"Now the minimum wage is \$5.15, and bowling costs have risen with it. Bowling, overall, is still cheaper than playing golf or tennis."

A beginning bowler can get started by purchasing a plastic ball for \$55 to \$70, a bag for \$34.95, shoes for \$34.95 and, if they want to get fancy, a shirt for \$25. Drilling a new ball, however, will add to the cost — \$20 to \$30 for a fingertip drill, \$15 to \$25 for conventional grips and \$20 to \$35 for specialty drilling. A beginner's costs to get started could range from \$150 to \$190.

The costs spiral substantially for the advanced and competitive bowler. Specialty balls can range from \$185 to \$300. Shoes with special soles are \$125, inserts for

the ball \$7, thumb inserts \$10, a multi-carrying ball bag \$80 or more, wrist brace \$18, elbow splints \$6, rosin bag \$1.30, and a box of bowler's tape \$4.50. It takes a "star" bowler at least \$400 just to be prepared.

"I think bowling is still the game of the working class," said Don Jonietz, who runs the pro shop at Astro Bowl. "Retailers don't have any control of the prices. The marketing departments at major corporations have sold the public on how good their products are, and the public figures, if they don't have it, no matter the cost, they won't keep up."

The game's expenses are more prevalent on the pro men's and women's tours. Dave Smart, the pro tour advisor for Columbia

Industries, said it costs Professional Bowlers Association players about \$1,000, including the tournament entry fee, and Professional Women's Bowlers Association about \$800 each week just to compete. Those expenses also include ball drilling that cost an average of \$30 to \$40 a ball. Most players have agreements with ball companies for free use of their equipment.

"PBA players drill about two to three new balls per week," Smart said. "A pro has to make the (top 24) finals each week just to break even. It costs to play this game — for everyone."

To leave a message for Harry Page, call ExpressLine at 554-0500 and punch 4442.