

# *Darrol Nelson*

*(Miscellaneous Memorable Moments)*



## Table Shuffleboard Association

December 29, 2002

The Table Shuffleboard Association's Board of Directors and the shuffleboard community, friends, and family proudly present the TSA Shuffleboard Hall of Fame "Player & Promoter" Award to Darrol Nelson on this 29th day of December 2002!  
-- TSA Directors, Table Shuffleboard Association, Inc.

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# *Darrol Nelson*

## Table Shuffleboard Association

## Hall of Fame Induction

December 29, 2002 - TSA HOF Inductee Ceremony

Houston Holiday Open 2002, Houston, Texas

## *Darrol Nelson*



Darrol Nelson of Cheshire, Oregon was born July 7, 1943 and has been an avid shuffleboard player since 1965 when he started playing at 21 years old. He had a big fascination for shuffleboard since he first observed the game. He quit playing a couple of times, but always came back. He loved

the motion of the weight as it went down the board. The late Truman Adams (TA) of Portland, Oregon was most influential and his mentor when he turned 21. His higher education of shuffleboard was in the late 70's when he started winning.

# Darrol Nelson

Darrol Nelson TSA HOF (con't.)

December 29, 2002 Houston, TX

Darrol's first major victory in Singles was at the "HOT-N-TROT" in Portland against opponent Ron Harrelson. Billy Mays and Bob Miles were there at the time. Darrol's first major Doubles victory was in 1977 with Doug Buhl, again at the "HOT-N-TROT" in Portland against opponents Billy Mays and his partner Nevel (Mel) Curry from Canada. This began a partnership with Doug Buhl that continued for many years. In the summer of 1978 Doug and Darrol toured the country for 9 weeks and played 46 sessions and only lost money in 2 of the 46 sessions. They played from the west coast to the east coast and the southern states. They toured the country again in 1983.

Before 1977 there were no tournaments, as we know them today other than the Northwest Regionals. Everyone used to go into the "Black Cat" in Portland on Friday nights, they had 3 boards, and you put up your name and waited to play. The modern era tournaments (as Darrol calls them) didn't really start until the early 1980's.

The biggest purse Darrol ever won was at Billy Mays' "World Championship" at the Showboat in Las Vegas in 1984. He won the Pro-Singles event.

The entry fee at the "World Championship" was \$800 per person, with a 32 person cut-off (they had to turn players away). Darrol won \$17,500 in entry fee only, not including the sponsor sale money.

In the 80's, Darrol traveled to play at Don Valk's "US Open" at the Aquafest in Austin, Texas and played at the Corporate Image (David Williams' bar) tournaments in Ft. Worth, Texas. He also traveled and played in tournaments in Michigan, New York, Florida, Arizona, and California to name just a few.

Among some of the most memorable wins for Darrol were when he partnered with Galin Gaunt against Donnie Cox and Leroy Ledford in 1982; partnered with Steve Bjorn at the "Fir Cone Tavern" in Shelton, Washington in the early 90's; playing with Loren Lampley at "Buzz's Tavern" in Mud Bay; and winning the last President's Day Tournament at



**Darrol Nelson &  
Longtime Partner  
Doug Buhl**



# TSA HOF

Darrol Nelson TSA HOF (con't.)

December 29, 2002 Houston, TX

Blinky's in Santa Clara, California in 2001 where he won the Singles event *against* Dan Hitt, and then won the Doubles event *partnered with* Dan Hitt.

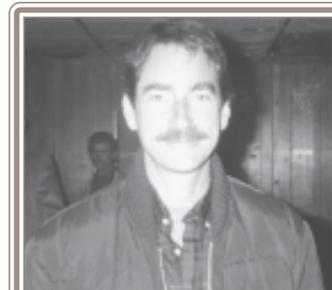
If anyone wonders where Darrol got his thumb shot, Billy Mays states that "In 1977 Darrol was playing the owner of the 'Time-Out-Tavern' on 6th Street in Seattle, Washington, and she was eating up the middle of the board against Darrol. When she took time out to go to the bathroom, Billy showed Darrol the thumbshot and Darrol never lost another game against her."

Darrol is a retired Locomotive Engineer and was a fireman previous to that. He has 4 children: 3 boys and 1 girl. He has 6 grandchildren. They all live within 50 miles of him in the Portland area.

The most influential people to him in shuffleboard were Mack Mackaronis, Doug Buhl (old time partner and great strategist), Billy Mays, and the late Truman Adams (TA) who was his mentor when he started playing when he turned 21 years of age.

Darrol's accomplishments speak for themselves. He is the best of the best in table shuffleboard, number one (1) in the world. His game is what we all strive for. He is a true sportsman, win or lose!

As stated by Dave Keithahn, a Pro from California who recently beat Darrol in a 2 out of 3 competition: "When Darrol lost I was totally blown away by the fact the he was the first person to come over to me and he grabbed me and hugged me and congratulated me on my win. That's how I will strive to conduct myself in the future. He taught me what a true sportsman really is!"



**Darrol Nelson  
Singles 1st Place  
Corporate Image  
1987**



**Darrol Nelson &  
John McDermott  
Doubles 1st Place  
"Michigan Playfair  
Open" 1987**