

David Williams

(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 David Williams on this 29th day of December 2002!
-- TSA Directors, Table Shuffleboard Association, Inc.

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David Williams

Table Shuffleboard Association

Hall of Fame Induction

December 29, 2002 - TSA HOF Inductee Ceremony

Houston Holiday Open 2002, Houston, Texas

David Williams



"I have been very fortunate in Shuffleboard. I played with Bill Melton for years then young Billy came along and now David Jr. is becoming a force in the game. This is such a great sport in which I have made so many wonderful and dear friends."

-- David Williams Sr.

(2002 Texas Open in Houston, TX)

David Williams is a self-employed, owner of Dave Williams Paint & Body Shop. He has 5 children, including daughters Christi, Robin, and Amy and sons Jeff and David Jr. (who has already established himself as a no nonsense competitor and rising star in the game of shuffleboard) and 8 grandchildren.

David was born in Howe, Texas and moved to Ft. Worth when he was 4 years old. He has two brothers Bobby and Gary and a sister Linda who along with Bobby's wife Jeri find it a full-time job taking care of the "boys."

David first started playing shuffleboard 30 years ago ('70s) on a bank shuffleboard.

David Williams

David Williams TSA HOF (con't.)

David eventually graduated from bank shuffleboard to long boards that are used today and over the years has firmly established himself as a player with many friends among competitors but few peers in terms of skill and ability.

In the late 70's when David was still developing his enormous skill, Glen Davidson and Billy Mays, using false names and presumably disguises, came to Ft. Worth to play David. Well, sometimes the unexpected happens and David defeated them both. Shortly after that Bill Melton also came to Ft. Worth to play a few games of "friendly" shuffleboard with David. Nowadays neither one them will admit who won that session, but it was the beginning of a formidable partnership and a twenty-five friendship. Ironically, this budding relationship got off to a bit of a rocky start when Bill convinced David to go to Big Springs, Texas for a tournament, which turned out to be a keep hammer event and David was soundly beaten. Despite this resounding defeat, Bill saw enough promise in David to take him as a partner in a national tournament billed as the "World Series of Shuffleboard" held at the Black Cat Tavern in Portland, Oregon in 1981.

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This tournament was such a prominent event that it was even covered by the local TV station. The finals pitted David and Bill against Galin Gaunce and Billy Chiles. Well, Billy Chiles and Bill prevailed and the headlines the next day in the local paper read "Players shuffle home with \$13,000".

Over the next dozen years, or so, David and Bill successfully partnered together in many events including Reno, Las Vegas and Austin (for Don Valk's "Texas Open"). Through the years, David has also enjoyed great success in Mixed Doubles playing with Diana Hagen, the "Queen of the Jungle." Despite his prowess as a doubles player (although Diana claims she carried him), David's greatest achievements have probably been in the Singles events. Unlike other events where team play overshadows individual performance that is not the case in Singles. Nowhere to run, nowhere to hide, nobody to blame. Pro-Singles is very difficult and challenging and few can claim the success that David has achieved over the years. With 15 documented Singles titles, David has won state championships and major Singles titles everywhere from Pennsylvania to Nevada and in between.



TSA HOF

David Williams TSA HOF (con't.)

Among those titles are two victories in the "Texas Open Singles" championship game over the legendary Darrol Nelson who along with Billy Mays are unquestionably the two greatest players to ever touch a weight. In fact, the game between David and Darrol back in 1991 for the "Texas Open Single" title has been called, by some observers, one of the greatest matches in the history of the game with one possible shot after another being executed by both competitors. Since this match was being played as other events were completed, there were well over one hundred players watching this game and marveling at the expertise displayed by both David and Darrol.

Although David still excels at Singles and Doubles, in recent years he has also enjoyed great success in team events where he has probably won more team titles than any other captain.

As with most true champions, David does not dwell on past accomplishments but rather looks forward to the next challenge. Although he has won countless tournaments over the years, he is much more at ease talking about the play of others, especially the younger players like Dan Hitt and Mike Taylor and now Jr.

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In fact, he and David Jr. will likely be a formidable team for years to come.

As it stands, the compiled list of David's past tournament achievements is incomplete and based upon what David and Bill Melton can recall, plus what is documented in The Board Talk since 1984 and the more than 100 plaques and trophies he has on display at his body shop. Unfortunately, dozens of others have either been lost or misplaced over the years. Nevertheless, by any account it's a list we can all envy and David justly deserves to be inducted into the TSA National Hall of Fame and be recognized as one of the best players in the history of the game. As a player, David's accomplishments speak for themselves. But winning tournaments is only a small part of his contributions to the game. In addition to being a top-ranked player for more than 20 years, David is a persistent supporter and promoter of shuffleboard everywhere he goes. In addition, due to his great love and respect for the game he is always willing to assist new players as well as struggling veterans with advice/help on their game. David (and Don Valk) are pioneers in bringing major tournament play to Texas in the 1980's. Congrats!