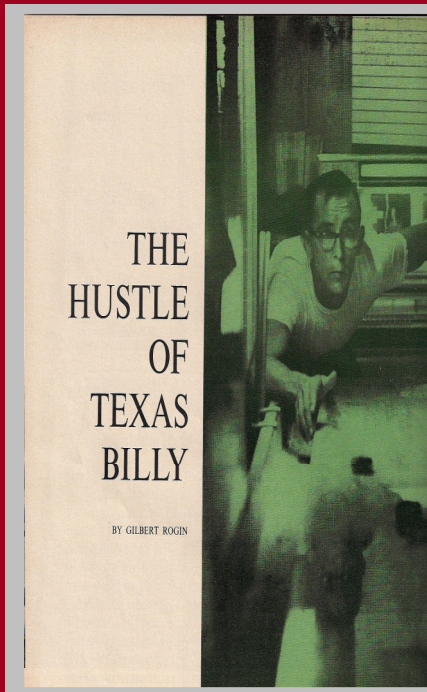


BILLY MAYS

INDUCTION INTO THE TSA HALL OF FAME AND
TEXAS STATE SHUFFLEBOARD HALL OF FAME



Sports Illustrated

"I've always believed that every man born has something that he can do better than anyone in the whole wide world," says Billy Wayne Mays, a 31-year-old Dallas carpenter, his shoelaces untied, a pack of cigarettes rolled into a sleeve of his T shirt, eyes bigger than life back of his glasses. "But not many men ever discover what that something is. I'm lucky. I found the one thing I can do better than anyone. I can shoot the hell out of that shuffleboard."

A Shuffleboard Legend

I've known Billy longer than just about anyone else in the game. He has dominated the game of shuffleboard since the 1950's. There has never been a player in any sport that has dominated a sport for as long as Billy has and there never will be another player like him.

The Hall of Fame is legitimate now that Billy Mays is inducted. This makes me honored to be a member now that he is included.

~ Bill Melton

Billy, without a doubt for many years was the best player in the world; traveling over a million miles playing anyone who dared play him. Bill Melton and I have been in many tournament finals against him and Earl.

Billy is the best teacher. Helping many players improve their game including myself many years ago. He single handedly taught me to shoot right handed, however, at my advanced age, I think I need a refresher course. There is no player in the world that deserves this honor more.

Congratulations,

~ David Williams Sr.

I met Billy at the one and only California State Team Championships in Sacramento, California around 1968. His reputation had already preceded him, so while I hadn't yet met him, I definitely knew about him. The California State Team Championship was my first experience with a big tournament. Bar teams from all over the state were participating. These bar teams were loaded with "road" players – the best players from all over the country and a lot of money was at stake. Billy was by far the best. The best of the best. I was in awe. As an opponent or fan, I always enjoyed being around Billy. What a guy!

Billy, finally I can say congratulations to you on your induction into the TSA Hall of Fame. The highest honor that we as players can bestow. A most deserving honor for the best of the best.

~ Bob Hunt



BILLY MAYS



Billy's milieu is the beer bar, and his time any time—the glaring afternoon or the very small hours of the dark night.

Billy Mays is the best!

~ Rick Boyer

Congratulations Billy, you deserve this honor.

~ Johnny Ballard

What can anyone say about Billy Mays that hasn't already been said? And it's all true. Quite simply, he created the game that we all play today, and attempts to improve our performance to something resembling his skill level.

I know that my opinion that he's the greatest player ever is shared by many. His knowledge of strategy and talent at carrying it out has rarely, if ever, been equaled. After all, he invented most of it. His place in our sports most prestigious institution has been obviously vacant and just sitting there waiting for him.

Congratulations Billy!

~ Jack Davis

When I was younger I would go up to Darroll and Bill anytime they finished well in a tournament and ask them "Aren't you the best player?" Always, without a hesitation, they would say "Billy Mays is the best player in the world." Billy showed me just how good he is when he and I were playing for 1st in the Pro Singles. I had never been double dipped so I wasn't that concerned. I even ask him if he wanted to split. Billy just replied "Let's go Billy Boy." He proceeded to run over me 4 straight. The best hustle Billy ever got us on was getting me and all my football buddies to try to carry a case of beer on our shoulders around the block. We all paid Billy. After we made small wagers on things like watching a knife fall from the ceiling into a beer bottle, blowing a dime into a beer glass, drinking a gallon of milk in 10 minutes - my Dad told us it would be best to quit making small wagers against Billy. Since then I only make small wagers on Billy.

On a road trip to Denver we made a stop in Amarillo to win a little money before the tournament. We walked in and Billy yells "I'll bet anyone in the bar that the boy can beat anyone in the house" I played all night winning every game while Billy drank beer at the bar and collected the money. At the end of the night, a cowboy got a little upset that he had lost betting of every game. Billy tells him "I'll bet you another \$1000 that you can't kick the boy's ass!" I decided then and there that my road trip days were over. Luckily, we did make it to the car and made it to Boulder about day break.

Back in the days of Bill and David playing Billy and Earl, I got to watch the best match games. They would play until none of them had a dollar left to gamble with. People would stay after the tournaments to watch the matches. Since then there hasn't been match play to rival those games - not even close. Congratulations Billy!

~ Billy Melton

Billy Mays is truly a living legend in the world of shuffleboard. He has more different types of shots and strategies than anyone I have ever met. I can not think of anyone who has played in as many different bars around the country as Billy. I wish he would write a book about some of his experiences, but I imagine he should not tell all of them. He is definitely the most colorful shuffleboard player in the world. If you have not witnessed his trick shot exhibition, go to "youtube.com" search for "Shuffleboard Legend Roadhouse Billy Mays". He is truly amazing.

~ Ron Bowers

TSA HALL OF FAME AND TEXAS STATE HALL OF FAME

"A One of a Kind Player and Person!"
Becky Foster

BILLY MAYS

What can you say about Billy, except he's the best player who ever played the game. He's a good friend and responsible for me being the player I am. He chewed me out a lot, but he taught me how to win at this game. Congrats to a good teacher, friend, and awesome player, I love you Billy. – Diana Hagen

Billy Mays – finally in the Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. About time! People have said to me over the years, "how can there be a Hall of Fame and Billy Mays not be in it?"

Billy was my mentor. He taught me how to refinish boards, adjust them, mix wax and a great many other phases of the game. He probably taught me more than most. I would argue and disagree with him until he got mad and tell me the reason and the what for. I learned more about shuffleboard driving on the highway than any place else.

We were really close friends for years. Billy would do just about anything for me but he doesn't want anyone to know it. I'm so happy that you finally allowed yourself to be inducted. This is well deserved and way overdue.
~ Johnny Wayne Crawford

Congratulations Billy on your HOF induction. You have been a great teacher to both of us. After you shared your time with Michael teaching him how to effectively bump up a weight, we began the tradition of exclaiming "BILLY MAYS" whenever anyone bumped up a weight properly. It was always fun to see people looking around the room thinking.... I didn't know Billy was here....

You may not have been there in person, but always in the spirit of the game you love and taught so well.

Love and respect,
~ Michael and Susie Halstead

Billy Mays is without question one of the greatest players to ever play table shuffleboard. I have talked to some who say the best ever. There is no doubt he has been a huge influence on how we play today. I feel lucky to have played in his era and experienced him firsthand.

I have witnessed his teaching players from all levels. He always found time to show anyone what they wanted to learn.

His showmanship ranks right there with his ability. He can and has made some of the most outlandish bets, games, and shots in the sports history, and still does today. There has never been a question if he belongs in the Hall of Fame, only when.

Congratulations Billy,
~ Al Salazar

Billy – The Legend. I had heard the rumors of the shuffleboard player who traveled the US playing and beating everyone. He showed up at Charlie Browns in Ft Worth in the 1980's and did some trick shots that impressed us all. He won money blowing a dime into a beer mug.

I've played with and against Billy for over 25 years – winning a few and losing many. There is no one who can adjust to a board more rapidly. He has taught more players than anyone, making a mediocre player into a great one, like Diana. Billy is always the first to volunteer the show a player a few new shots and help them learn the strategy of the game. He is always willing to lend a helping hand. Billy has helped the raise more money for the Texas Shuffleboard Hall of Fame than all other contributors combined. He's donated his woodwork and done several exhibitions for us. He is my hero!

Congratulations,
~ Bobby and Jeri Williams

TSA HALL OF FAME AND TEXAS STATE HALL OF FAME

We know you are the greatest shuffleboard player that ever lived but you have been even better at being a friend to us. ~ Cindy Demory & Fred Boyd

BILLY MAYS

Congratulations Billy. As one of the pioneers of this game the Hall of Fame would not be complete without your induction. Your contributions to this sport, most good some not so good, are too numerous to document them all but I'm sure everybody that has played this game has a Billy Mays story he will never forget! Again congratulations.

Always your friend,
~ Jim Payne

I first met Billy Mays in the mid 80's at Wertz's Bar in Anderson, IN. He put on a shooting exhibition and if you played him for \$20, you got a t-shirt that said "I played Billy Mays and won or lost." He was already out of t-shirts when I got there but I beat him 3 in a row. We ended up 5-4 Billy. I thought this guy wasn't all that – wrong again Bobby V! I loved to pass weights and gamble way too much. Billy showed me how you how far you can take that strategy. We call it Billy Ball. Billy actually was and still is a great lagger, but he finds that aspect of the game a little boring. While his style of play may not be the best for tournament play, he still won more than his share. While I hate to use the words, greatest, best, ect, he is a really, really good shuffleboard shooter.

You're the best Billy.
~ Bobby Voorhis

Well, we finally have the best player in the history of shuffleboard in the TSA Hall of Fame. I couldn't be happier for two reasons; #1- I've been asked many times why Billy Mays isn't in the Hall of Fame, #2- being one of his fans, I agree with all those that asked me for years, "How can you have a Hall of Fame without the inclusion of Billy Mays?" So, thank you Billy. The world of shuffleboard can smile again. Welcome home.

Okay, so after competing with Billy for over forty years, here is what I know. His best game is frames. If he wins the hammer, you would save a lot of time if you just pay him. If you win the hammer, he will still win 75%-80% of the time. Worse odds than Vegas! He was the best horse collar player I ever saw. You all know what he can do in switch or stay hammer. If you were going to give Billy a run, you better own a power game. If you left weights on the board (yours or his) you would have little chance of beating him. Of all the great things he could do on that 22' piece of wood, his greatest gift was his unmatched board play. Billy scored on their hammer. I don't know if Billy was religious or not, but his board play came from heaven.

Here's a few of the "Billy" things I enjoyed through the years. He came by my house one day to show me his van that he had painted with a paint brush. You would have had to be there. He came in the house and showed my oldest son his favorite trick, blowing a dime into a glass. My son is still trying to master that one.

We took a road trip in his Plymouth Fury. The freeze plug broke. We didn't want to pay \$90 to fix it. So, we drove across Arizona stopping every 20 miles to add water in the 110 degree temperatures. Finally, we pulled into a garage and got it fixed for \$135. No one ever accused us of being smart.

I played two times with Billy in tournaments. The first was the biggest team event in history at the fair grounds in Longview, Washington. We were doubles partners. We won. No simple feat itself. Team members included Fred Thumann, Joe Hudson, Don Cox, and Leroy Ledford. I also played with him in doubles tournaments at Dowers in Yuba City, CA. We also won that one. Not bad – 2 for 2.

Here's the last thing I know. In the early years, Billy put this game on his back. Everyone throughout the country knew the name Billy Mays. He was in magazines, newspapers, and they even tried to make a movie of him (Roadhouse Billy). He was a one of a kind and a living legend!

Congratulations and welcome to the TSA Hall of Fame.
~ Hal Perry

P.S. Question most asked, "Why do you play Billy". Answer, because he's the best.

TSA HALL OF FAME AND TEXAS STATE HALL OF FAME

"He's just amazing!" ~ Della Greener

BILLY MAYS

What is there to say that hasn't been said about Billy? Oh yeah, he's one of my favorite people! When I'm around Billy, whether it's telling old stories or new, playing cards, or my favorite playing shuffleboard, I'm always honored to be with Billy

He teaches the game with a passion and a sea of knowledge to pass along. He plays the game with style and grace that will never be matched. He has always played the game like I believe, it should be played. He uses the slightest subtleties of a board to execute shots that make us wonder why we are playing and know why we all love this game.

Billy deserves this honor to be not just a member, but a feature member in this fraternity of honored shufflers!

Congratulations!
~ Mike Taylor

Due to work obligations I apologize for not being able to be here for this festive event, but I want to express my Congratulations to Billy Mays and Johnny Wayne Crawford for their induction into the Texas shuffleboard hall of fame. Billy it has been a long time coming and I think you should have been the 1st living person inducted into the Texas Hall. Shuffleboard would not be the same if it were not for you, not only here in Texas, but nationwide. I just want to thank you for the contributions you have made in our great sport. I also want to thank you for the personal contributions you have given me. There are way too many for me to name them all, but one thing I heard you say many years ago during a draw at 3rd base here in the Houston area has always stuck with me. There were a few players that wanted to get into a \$20 or \$50 draw (don't remember the exact amount) but these players also, whom I don't remember names, were not on the same level of playing field as were most of us. But what you told everyone that day stuck in my head ever since. If you didn't want to take the chance on drawing the amateur player you didn't have to put your money in but, you can't tell anyone they can't get in if they want to play. It is the luck of the draw. What I got from that was, you cannot expand the number of players in our sport by discouraging them from playing. I have also seen the work you have done with new players as well. Take Johnny Wayne for example. The 1st time I met Johnny Wayne was when he came to a tournament with Billy Mayes and there was a big to do about his rating at that time. I guess Billy has done a good job teaching Johnny because not only have become and been a great player, but you have supported not only most Texas tournaments, but many tournaments nationwide. By supporting, I don't only mean showing up and playing, but I also mean helping tournament directors adjust boards and everything else that needs to be done to help make a tournament successful. Johnny I also want to express my thanks for your contribution to our great sport.

These guys are a fitting duo to be inducted to the Texas Hall at the same time.

Congratulations to Billy Mays the World's greatest player and Johnny Wayne Crawford "The Great One"

~ Brian Walker
Texas Hall Of Fame Director

TSA HALL OF FAME AND TEXAS STATE HALL OF FAME

"A living legend, larger than life" ~ Jeri Williams

BILLY MAYS

I first met Billy at a tournament at the Corporate Image in 1987. I was introduced and we shook hands and that brief encounter left an indelible memory. He was thin framed, wore thick glasses, and had wavy brown hair. He was sure of himself and I couldn't help but wonder if he ever made a bad shot would he bite his tongue; which protruded from right to left before every shot. In the past few years our encounters were more frequent, and I've had the pleasure of being his partner on several occasions. The air of confidence one gets from playing with Billy is invaluable. His knowledge and personal instruction are second to none. I am honored to call him my friend. Congratulations to an icon and legend of the sport. There will never be another quite like Billy.

~ Wayne Steinfels

I met Billy about 2 years ago at Volcano's in Hurst, TX during one of our local Friday night shuffleboard tournaments. I asked one of our local players who the stranger was, and their response "he is one of the true greats, and he is considered the greatest shuffleboard player of all time." I knew right then and there I had to meet this living legend. I have the great fortune to play with such great as the Williams' and embraced the opportunity to be introduced to Mr. Billy Mays. I was actually never introduced that night. As I was throwing a weight during my last frame he came up from behind me and asked if I played there often. I told him every Friday night and how much I love the game. He then said "I can give you a few tips tonight that will improve your game." We introduced ourselves to each other, and it was friendship from there on out.

Billy can tell a joke better than anybody I know, he can sell the horns off a billy goat and he can pull tricks on a person that you just know "there is no way he can possibly do that!" The best part about Billy is his unselfishness when it comes to helping you with your shuffleboard game. Since meeting Billy, we've won several tournaments together and lost a few because he chose to play with me a lower rated player. He gave me confidence in my game when I did not have much and he believed in me when I questioned my playing ability. Today I play with much more confidence and hope to become an even better player, thanks to a wonderful man, shuffleboard great, jokester, and most of all a great friend. Billy you have my heart and friendship for the rest of our days.

~ Della Greener

Table Shuffleboard Association

December 30, 2009

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 Billy Mays during the HHO 2009 at the Hilton, Clear Lake, TX!
— TSA Directors, Table Shuffleboard Association, Inc.

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"Billy is the material of magazine articles, tall tales, and fables"
~ Bill "Wooley" Wooldridge