

# The Board Talk

Published Monthly by George & Donna Wilber  
503 E. Sheridan Rd., Lansing, MI 48906 Phone: 517-371-2538 or 517-484-4976  
E-Mail: dgwilber@prodigy.net

Vol. 17, No. 2

February 2000

## Houston Holiday Open: Bah! Y2K Humbug!

By Don Meehan

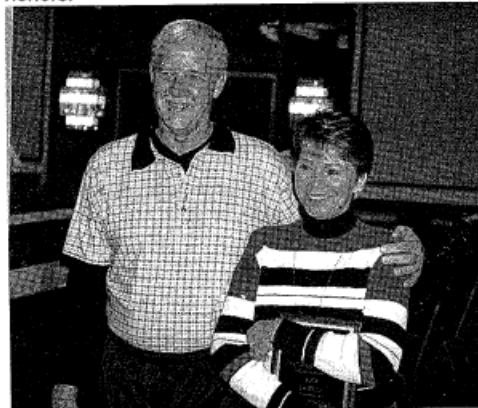
- 170 Shufflers from Nine States
- Diana Hagen Inducted into Texas Hall of Fame
- New Year's Eve Bash Fun for Everyone

Dateline Houston: The last major shuffleboard tournament of the millennium came off "without a hitch" in Houston, Texas on Dec. 26-31, 1999. Organizers Jack Scott and Johnny Ballard moved the 4th edition of the tournament to an expanded venue, the Houston Greenspoint Marriott Hotel, and 170 shuffleboarders from nine states followed them. Competition took place on 16 beautiful boards in the hotel's Grand Ballroom. The hotel also offered \$49.95 deluxe rooms and free transportation to and from Houston Intercontinental Airport, located nearby.

Veteran shuffleboard player and large tournament volunteer Lyndon ("Coach") Baize from Austin opined: "This is a good tournament. You folks do a great job. I've seen and worked a lot of tournaments and this is real smooth. Lots of folks are looking for something to do right after Christmas and it's good to get out and have some fun, win or lose, and shake those holiday blues!" Right on, Coach! (Editor's Note: Did you check out Coach's sexy legs on the cover of the January issue?)

Official tournament competition commenced on Sunday, Dec. 26, with a pro-am draw and an amateur draw. In the pro-am, Johnny Wayne Crawford of Dallas teamed with Houstonian Stan Stinson to withstand a fierce challenge from Arlington's Jeri Billard and Houston's Danny Norris and take first place. Mitch Melton and Mahlon Nobles from the Dallas-Ft. Worth area claimed third, while C.W. Walker and Jack Davis of Ft. Worth finished fourth. The amateur draw saw the Houston team of John "JT" Thames and Chuck Leach complete the event undefeated, despite a furious assault by fellow Houstonians Don ("Hitman") Meehan and Jim ("Rainbow") Bramlett. The team of Houstonian Wayne Hammond and

Jason Veal, newly moved to Oklahoma City, placed third, while Len Webster of Omaha and Leon Black of Lansing, Michigan, eased into fourth. Houston players Jim Payne and George Marx, Perla Scott and James Cato shared fifth and sixth place honors.



While Diana Hagen hugs her plaque, Johnny Wayne Crawford gives a congratulatory hug to Diana for her induction into the Texas Hall of Fame.

Day Two featured the ABC draw, an event in which players of all skill levels team up with "A" players playing "A"s, B's playing B's, etc. First place was claimed by Gwyn Orsi and Jim Kosicke of Omaha and Danny Norris of Houston. Johnny Wayne ("The Great One") Crawford led teammates Pete Worsnop of Houston and Jim Coulter of Huntington Beach, California, to second place. New Texas Shuffleboard Hall of Fame member Diana ("Queen of the Jungle") Hagen mentored fellow Houstonian Gilbert ("Silent Assassin") Baird and Marilu Roberts of Omaha to a third place finish. The team of Jim McGee of Houston, Mahlon Nobles of Dallas and Marie Coulter of Huntington Beach, California, claimed fourth.

(continued on Page 16)

**Holiday Open** (continued from Page 1)



Stan Stinson (left) and Johnny Wayne Crawford were winners of the pro-am draw.



Jeri Billard and Danny Norris took second place honors in the pro-am.



Mahlon Nobles (left) and Mitch Melton finished third in the pro-am.



Chuck Leach, with his partner "JT" Thames, took first place in the amateur draw. (Editor's Note: The flu bug struck during the Holiday Open and some players were confined to their beds when photos were taken.)



Winners of the ABC event were Gwyn Orsi, Danny Norris and Jim Koscicke.



Johnny Wayne Crawford, Pete Worsnop, and Jim Coulter took second place.

Day Three was four-person team day, with pro-am and amateur events. On the pro side, the team of Fred Johns, Gary Thompson and Mike Keevil of Washington and Hall of Famer Glen Davidson from "all over" completed the event undefeated but chose to split 60/40 with a Houston team led by Diana Hagen, with Marshall Partlow, Tom Milan, and John Szinski, who were declared the runners-up. David Williams of Ft. Worth led Jeri Billard, Steve Walker of Cushing, Oklahoma, and Kathy Keevil of Tacoma, Washington, to a third place finish.



First and second place pro-am team members (from left): Gary Thompson, Fred Johns, Marshal Partlow, Diana Hagen, Glen Davidson, Mike Keevil, John Szinski. Not pictured: Tom Milan.