

## NANCY NEELD

For this transplanted Texan, life truly began after 40. And tonight, Nancy Neeld achieves two firsts for the Albuquerque Sports Hall of Fame –first WOMAN to be inducted into the Hall, and first TENNIS player to gain the award. A more deserving athlete on both counts couldn't be found.

For the second successive year, Mrs. Neeld was named the top women's singles player in the 45-year-old age division of the U.S. The ranking was tabulated on her overall performances at Las Vegas (hard court), Houston (clay court) and Milwaukee (indoors).

But gaining No. 1 ranking isn't new for Mrs. Neeld . . . . she was top ranked women's singles for 40-year-old division in 1970, and three times she has been half of the No. 1 senior women's doubles (1970, '71, '72). And for 12 years the 47-year-old mother of three (Terry, 22; Curtis, 18; Carol, 15) was No. 1 women's singles in New Mexico.

Born in Dallas, Mrs. Neeld moved to Albuquerque in 1957 after winning the Texas Interscholastic crown in 1946, '47 and '48, when she was named No. 1 singles player in the Lone Star State. She was named to the National Junior Wightman team in 1948 after attaining No. 7 singles ranking and No. 4 doubles in the U.S.

Nancy graduated from North Texas State in Industrial Arts, moving here in 1957 as technical division draftsman at Sandia Base, and later married Bob Neeld. In 1969, Col. Neeld, a member of the 188th Tactical Sqdn., of the 150th Fighter Group, New Mexico Air National Guard, was reported missing in action in Vietnam.

Tonight's inductee has played a big role in the development of Albuquerque's junior tennis program, primarily at Albuquerque's Tennis Club. In 1976, she received the Governor's Award for 'Sportsperson of the Year' and was awarded the USLTA Service Bowl in '72 for her service.