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In The Pocket



By
W.W. EDGAR

How would you like to be averaging 194 in your favorite league and still be in 78th place on the average sheets?

That's what has happened to Cora Peblig, top average woman on the Buzana team which, this season, is getting its baptism in bowling in the men's all-star league.

While Cora is averaging 194, she is tied at that figure with Mary Mohacsi, and Gerry Ritter and Kathy Halsip are deadlocked at 192. Penny Behn, captain of the team, is in 80th place with 190 and Leona Pinkos is one notch further back with 188.

At that, the girls are enjoying the experience of bowling with the all-star men and claim it will help them in the top women's events at the close of the season.

THE BOWLING PROPRIETORS, sponsors of the Detroit Bowling Hall of Fame, have called a meeting of the committee on Feb. 7 at the Michigan Inn to select this year's honorees. The hall was inaugurated in 1967 and was one of the first in the country to be sponsored by a city association.

THE ODDEST series of the week was the one turned in by Phyllis Cloutham at Woodland Lanes.

Bowling in the senior house league,

she started with games of 211 and 235, that included a string of seven strikes. Then with visions of a high 600 series, she slumped to 114 in the final game and had to settle for a 560.

In the men's division, Jack Gagnon had a 188 between games of 236 and 247 for a 671.

THE VANDERWILLS were at it again in the Mixed Classic at Farmington Lanes. Gary paced the men's section with a 246 in 673, while Jan had a 222 in 596 to show the way to the women.

Among other high scores, Frank Urban had a 248 in 622.

ANOTHER RECORD was established in the Bowling Proprietors Traveling League this week at Country Lanes when Dennis Grote splattered the pins for games of 244, 233 and 196 for a 673 series. His closest rival was Ed Young with a 644.

DOUBLE-CENTURY figures were the order of the day at Garden Lanes and showing the way was James Mitchell of the Moose League with a 647. Then came Gilbert Clippert of St. Norbert's league with a 644, Jeff Stover, of the J&J mixed league with 642 and Bob Bernat of St. Norbert's with a 620.

Girl paces swim club

Suzi Greene grabbed high-point honors placing in six events, including one first-place finish in the A category for the West Bloomfield Swim Club in a meet held Jan. 14 and 15 in Grand Rapids.

During the same two days, other members of the club participated in a 'C' division meet at Warren Woods High School. Placed in the 10-and-under category, Greene won the 50-yard freestyle (:28.19) and finished sec-

ond in the 50-yard butterfly, 100-yard intermediate and 50-yard backstroke.

Other 10-and-under girls to place were: Lynn Kline, second, 50-yard breaststroke; and 50-yard backstroke; Lynda Hughes, first, 50-yard breaststroke and 50-yard butterfly; Tracy Wardle, fifth, 50-yard freestyle and 50-yard backstroke; Susie Lindstrom, second, 50-yard freestyle, fourth, 100-yard freestyle.

The combined efforts of Greene, Hughes, Kline and Wardle earned a first place in the 200-yard freestyle relay and 200-yard individual medley.

In the 11-12 age bracket, Jennifer Ross placed first in the 100-yard intermediate and third in the 100-yard freestyle. Those places were won in the B category.

Matt Ruwart recorded a third place in the 50-yard freestyle while Cathy Ruwart took second in the 100-yard breaststroke for the 13-14 age group.

At Warren Woods (C category), Mark Hawkins earned sixth in the 8-and-under 50-yard backstroke.

In the 10-and-under class, Jill Petteer took fifth in the 50-yard butterfly. Steve Aula captured fourth in the 50-yard backstroke and sixth in the 200-yard intermediate while teammate Craig Thorlakson notched fourth in the 50-yard breaststroke.

Swimming in the 11-12 age division, Laurie Knotts placed second in the 50-yard freestyle and fourth in the 100-yard breaststroke. Knotts teamed up with Susan Aula, Debbie Banyon and Cindy Tucker to gain a third in the 200 and 400-yard freestyle relays.

Con Griffin captured first in the 100-yard breaststroke.

Todd Holappa place second in the 50-yard freestyle and fifth in the 200-yard freestyle in the 15-14 age group.

BILLY G, who makes sporadic appearances in the metropolitan area, paid a visit to Westland Bowl last week and missed pining the Little Caesar Classic by two pins. He fired a 647 with a 235 game. The leader was Lou Haneck with a closing 234 for 649. Allen Manning also had a 234 in 635.

Herri Beattie led the women's division with a 585 and was followed by Mary Mohacsi with 571.

THE SENIOR CITIZENS had a great time at Merrill-Bowl as Bill Kryskia came up with a 247 in 609.

Others with double-century figures were Dale Strong and Link Valler, each of whom posted an even 200.

LOIS MERRIMAN didn't win a game, but took the weekly series in the Livonia Ladies Classic with 546-72-618.

In the three individual games, Shirley Schwartz won the opener with 142-58-200, Betty Markward and Mary Bierkamp tied for the second-Betty had 180-33-213 and Mary, 167-46-213-while Marion Heath captured the third with 194-31-225.

AT PLAZA LANES, Sharon Fletcher set the pace for the ladies with games of 190, 208 and 198 for 576. In the ladies classic at Plymouth Bowl, Linda Snapp was top scorer with games of 241, 166 and 163 for 562.

Netters to stage 'battle of sexes'

Trot out the Billie Jean King-Bobby Riggs slogans.

The "Battle of the Sexes" phenomenon has arrived here, sparked by a Birmingham man and a West Bloomfield woman.

Leading principals in the event are Mark Conti of Birmingham, who is head professional at Oak Park Racquet Club, and Anita Goldman of West Bloomfield, a top amateur player at Centaur Farms Racquet Club.

Showdown time is 8 p.m., Thursday, at the Oak Park Racquet Club. Admission is \$1 for adults and fifty cents for students under 18. Spectators will be limited to 200. All proceeds will be donated to the City of Hope, a cancer fighting organization.

BETS HAVE been made. Prevent vocal bantering is now taking place. Both sides disagree on how the event got started, how the rules were selected and how the teams were selected. Both sides are confident of victory.

Goldman said the women, will wear T-shirts bearing the knickname "Pussycats" and a picture of a kitten.

IF THE WOMEN win, they will be escorted to the Virginia Slims tournament and receive seating arrangements of their choice.

"The men have to wait in the lobby," Goldman said. "We don't want to sit with them."

If the men win, they will receive a dinner of their choice at one of the female player's home. The dinner will be catered by the eight female players.

"We want to put them where they belong," Conti said, "in the kitchen while we eat our dinner. They've been real cocky since the Bobby Riggs match. (Riggs lost to Billie Jean King in a challenge match.) I think Riggs was overconfident."

"This match got started basically when Anita Goldman challenging me and a group of men to play in a match that she felt she could win," Conti said.

"The rules are slightly in their favor," Conti said. "When I was discussing the handicap with her I wasn't aware of how strong a group she was selecting. Most of her players are tournament players, with the exception of Anita, while my players are class A club players. I still think we'll beat them."

All but two of the women players are teaching professionals.

Rule changes in both singles and doubles favor the women. In singles men are limited to one serve, female players may hit into the alleys, male players may not serve and go to the net or return serve and approach the net. The ball must bounce once in either case before a male player can approach the net. If a ball is hit in mid-air after serve or on return of a serve, the male player automatically loses the point.

In doubles play, the male players are limited to one serve and female

players have a 30-point spot in each game.

"THIS IS REALLY a personal thing between Mark and me," Goldman said. "He said women couldn't play tennis well. I said given the proper handicap we could take them. He said we could handicap to the hilt and still couldn't win."

"We got the teams together," Goldman said. "This figured out the handicap. He found out who my team was and revised his lineup. Then he backed down on one of the handicaps."

"We had a doubles handicap," Goldman said, "where the men could not come to the net to return a serve. If the men need to be able to do that we'll let them and still win."

Conti, however, has a stronger team than he admits. Three of the men are former professionals. Another was the number one player at Eastern Michigan University.

FOLLOWING IS A series of short sketches about each of the participants.

Mark Conti of Birmingham. Former number one Big Ten singles and doubles champ for the University of Michigan. Ranked number one in men's singles in the Midwest in 1970. Teaching professional at Oak Park Racquet Club.

Frank Schubert of Fraser. Former number one player at Eastern Michigan University. Current member at Oak Park Racquet Club.

Errol Peschel of West Bloomfield. Member of Detroit Tennis and Squash Club. Former teaching professional in Florida.

Dave Farmer of West Bloomfield. Former head pro at Franklin Racquet Club and number one player for California State University.

Matt Vanderkoot of Detroit. Played number one at Wayne State University in 1977 and was a teaching professional at Grosse Pointe Club.

Ron Bozzo of Birmingham. Member of Centaur Farms Racquet Club and 1977 winner of the Birmingham Bubble Open Mens' Singles Tournament.

John Simon of Franklin. Member of Centaur Farms Racquet Club and top male player for its Metro Tennis League team.

JOHN POPYK of Birmingham. Played Rod Laver to a 5-4 loss in a tie breaker at the recent charity benefit at Franklin Racquet Club. He is a member at Oak Park Racquet Club.

Janet Fox of Ann Arbor. Now the number two ranked player in the Midwest. Played number one singles at University of Texas and ranked number two in Texas as a junior player. Now the pro at Huron Valley Racquet Club.

Sue Heald of Oak Park. Ranked number one in Michigan women's singles division and now a teaching professional at Oak Park Racquet Club.

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