Women's pro bowling tourney to stay in area

It appears that professional women's bowling is in Rochester to stay.

It appears that protessituats women, so showing is in Rochester to stay.

Everyone from sporor representatives Hal Newhouser and John Maxwell to tournament director Pat Stancil was so pleased with last week's Professional Women's Bowling Association (PWBA) tournament at North Hill Lanes that they're already talking about an annual affair. Not only was the \$40,000 pursol, or of the largest on the tour, but the scores were just as high. The 24 match-play qualifiers from a starting field of 1011 averaged 218 through games, including an excluding 300 match by tournament runner-up Toni Ciliard.

Gillard.

The high scores and general organization had PWBA commissioner Roger Blaemire bubbling over next year's expected Rochester stop.

"The sponsors were happy (with the tournament results), the players were

happy, and I was happy," said Blaemire from his league office in Chicago.
"I would think there's a definite chance that the PWBA will be back (in Rochester).
"I talked with the proprietor (North Hill's Bill Srock) and he wants it back. The tournament was well run, with exceptional scoring, and the house was just super. This was the highest scoring tournament ever on the PWBA tour."

ONE OF THE only negative aspects for the tournament organizers was the absence of local television coverage. The three-day event was originally scheduled for live television coverage, then switched to tape-felaped, but cameras never made it. Because of potential TV exposure, the PWBA decided to switch to head that competition instead of the normal eight-game block match-play finals.

In the stepladder format, the num-

ber five qualifier after 42 games bowls the number four qualifier, with the winner challenging number three, and so forth up to the number one seed. Blaemire said stepladder finals is something the league is experimenting with as a permanent championship mutine.

itine. 'It (head-to-head) creates more excitement, and we are planning to use it in a lot more tournaments even if we don't get television coverage," he said. "It creates more interest and

he said. "It creates more interest and we're finding out it's a good way to conduct the finals." The five top qualifiers after block and match play included three California bowlers, one from Ohio and a local professional from Utica.

Toni Gillard, a first-year pro from Beverly, Ohio, poeed the qualifying rounds with a sizzling 238 average, which included two 700 series. In third round of match play the soft-specified in the professional from the play the soft-specified in the play the s ken 25-year-old watched a 10 pin wobble over for her 12th consecutive

strike and her first 300 game ever.
Despite her consistency, Gillard lost the stepladder finals to second-seed Pam Rutheford from Orwille, Calif. Rutheford, who averaged 221 throughtout he tourney, rolled seven strikes in the final match against Gillard and won 237-284. "When I go out for a one game match I just try to put the ball in the pocket," said Rutherford, who came close to \$13,000 on 11 tournament stops in 1977. "The crowd (estimated at 700) gave me a lift, and every time I got a strike it seemed like they were with me."

me."

In an exciting match for third place, Rutherford struck out and rolled five strikes in her last six balls to edge another Californian, Virginia Norton, 238-236. Norton started with five straight stikes but faltered later in the match.

Norton, the winner on the tour's first

second match of the finals (213-211). She also won her first match against Donna Adamek, of Monrovia, Calif., 237-220.

237-220. Rutherford picked up \$4,000 for her stepladder win, while Gillard earned \$2,300. Norton \$1,600, Kraft \$1,400 and Adamek \$1,200. Sixth-place Betty

Morris, from Stockton, Calif., earned \$1,100.

Troy's Jean Eastman, who was the tournament's 24th and final qualifier after 18 first-round block games, moved up three positions during match play. Eastman averaged close to 265 through 42 games and won \$440.



Michigan Christian '5' wins

By MARTY BUDNER

Michigan Christian College basket-ball coach Doug Freeman just wanted to instill confidence into his energetic

players.
The Warriors had a little trouble The Warriors had a little thouse early in Monday's game against Great Lakes Bible College, but by the time it was over, MCC won in an over-powering mismatch, 122-72. It was the Warriors' third straight win, and the third time this year that Freeman's team climbed above the century point mark.

nark. "We played kind of lackadaisical in

"We played kind of lackadaistical in the beginning," said Freeman, whose Warriors are now 9-6 overall, and 4-0 in the North Central Christian Athletic Conference (NCCAC).

"Last year we only beat (Great Lakes) by four points in each game we played against them," he said, "That shouldn't happen if you're a good team."

team."

The Warriors are defending champions of the NCCAC, and have their toughest games coming up. Tonight.

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Thursday, MCC plays Concordia. which is also undefeated in league play, and has Grand Rapids Baptist on Feb. 14.

Although MCC beat both teams in a Atthough MCC beat both reams in a preseason tournament back in November, he expects them to be much more improved at this stage of the season. He said that in order to compete against those teams, the Warriors will have to continue to work on their fast

have to continue to work on their fast brewhen we play against teams that are competitive, we usually try to tire them out with our fast break," said Preeman. "We try do force the play against has possible and keep that ball moving up the floor. "We made some changes in the past couple of weeks on our fast break. We want the ball and the players to move we just don't want our or two people controlling and dominating the ball. We want five people to handle it. "Our fast break is improving with every game, and our full-court press and 1-3-1 zone looked good tagainst Great Lakes)," said Freeman.

THE WARRIORS are averaging 99¹² points a game in the league, while giving up an average of 60 points on defense. Overall, the offensive production is slightly lower with an 84-point

tion is stignity tower must an expensive average.

Freeman has also been receiving balanced scoring from his five starters. Ed Stromanis averaging 18½-points a game in the league, followed by Kenny Rider's 14 points, Allen Grant's 13, John Highstreet's 11½- and Dave Rider's 9½-point-per-game average.

age. Against Great Lakes, seven players scored in double figures. Eric Austin led the team with 17. Kenny Rider and Stroman had 16 each, Grant had 13. Glenn Wilson and Phil Foster each had 11, and Duane Carter had 10.

MCC 122-GREAT LAKES 12



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