

At Pontiac Silverdome

Table hockey tourney planned

Remember table hockey? The game you played when you were a kid with the little metal hockey players who moved up and down in grooves and spun around to shoot the puck?

Would you believe there's going to be a table hockey tournament in the Pontiac Silverdome January 15 and 16?

Well, not the whole Silverdome. The tournament, called the Maestro Cup Classic, is a part of the Boat-Camper Sports Spectacular which runs from January 8 through 16. But the tournament is sponsored by a group called the World Table Hockey Association, there will be \$1,500 in prize money, and people are coming from all over to play in it.

"The last tournament we had a guy here from Thompson, Manitoba," said Sidney Stutz, a spokesman for the WTHA. "Generally, we have about 10 or 12 people coming in from Chicago, 19 or 12 from Montreal, about eight from New York."

"People come from a long way to get into these things, because there aren't many of them around."

STUTZ SAID THAT THE WTHA sponsors three tournaments annually, including the Maestro Cup, now in its fifth year. "This tournament is our

biggest and best ever, as far as I'm concerned."

The WTHA, formed in 1968, is a growing organization, according to Stutz. "As far as a children's game, the game is basically going downhill. Our following is basically from people like you and me, who've been playing for years and for some reason never put the game away."

He added that table hockey enthusiasts come from all walks of life, including one active WTHA member who is a nuclear scientist. From the world of sports, Stutz mentioned baseball pitcher Jim Bouton, football player Randy Vataha, and Pierre Bourcard, who makes his living playing real hockey, as avid players.

Stutz is planning on 96 singles, 48 doubles and 50 doubles teams. Most of the entries he has now are from out of town. "From the local area, entries always flow in the last two weeks," he said. "It's very popular in that area."

FOR THOSE WHO WOULD rather not devote an entire day to table hockey, as a tournament requires, there is the "Challenge a Champ" program which will run from January 8 through 14 at the Silverdome. For a small donation, anyone can play

against a group of selected WTHA champs and sports celebrities. Proceeds will go to the Detroit League for the Handicapped.

Stutz said that this is the first time a table hockey event has ever been held for charity. Times will also be allocated for handicapped persons to participate in "Challenge a Champ."

"Table hockey, being the kind of game it is, is ideal for the handicapped," said Stutz, who added that the Silverdome is an easy place for a person in a wheelchair to maneuver.

Curling history to be re-enacted

Orchard Lake, the site of the country's first organized curling club, will again resound to the slap of the broom and the knock of stone on stone.

The Birmingham Department of Parks and Recreation and the Orchard Lake Scenic and Historical Society are co-sponsoring a re-enactment of this early curling event, 1:30 through 5 p.m., Jan. 16.

Curlers from the Birmingham Curling Club will provide the leadership in this ancient sport.

The exhibition will take place on the lake near the Orchard Lake Community Church on Commerce Road, between Orchard Lake and Hiller roads in the northwest corner of the lake.

The Orchard Lake Club, the first organized curling club in the United States, was founded in 1831. Two of the early stones used by the club in the 1860's are now in the American Curling Historical Museum in Chicago.

THE INITIALS "O.L.C." are chiseled into the historic granite stones. The teakettle-shaped stones, the best of which are made of alisa Craig stone, weigh 40 pounds each and cost up to \$270 a pair.

Alisa stone, according to experts, is an aplite alkaline igneous pluton composed of felspar, quartz and plagioclase soda amorphous-riebeckite of poikilitic texture.

Curling can be traced to origins in Scotland, having its beginnings on one of the many frozen surfaces of the lochs. Stones from the river beds were dislodged and thrown along the ice, generally for distance.

For others, accuracy was of prime importance, and as more and more people took up the game, it became the refined sport that it is today.

Following the curling exhibition, in which spectators are invited to participate, light refreshments will be offered in the Orchard Lake Community Church. Parking is available in the church parking lot on Commerce Road.

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Trojan matmen win

Getting a strugglehold on wrestling mats is getting to be a habit for Clarenceville coach Leo Kinsella and his strong, experienced Trojans. Clarenceville last week had an easy time grappling to its third invitational championship in as many tries this season by besting an eight-team field at Marine City.

The Trojans won seven of the 13 weight classes, placed second in two others and claimed one third to complete 18 2/3 points—46 more than runner-up Marlett. Host Marine City finished third with 10 1/2 points.

"We had nine in the finals," Kinsella said. "It was practically us against them (the other seven teams)."

Jeff Heidelberg, 126 pounds, won his title match on a pin.

The other six individual champions for Clarenceville—Mike Crilly, 105

pounds, Greg Robertson, 132 pounds, Mark Desjardins, 138 pounds, Kevin Respecki, 155 pounds, Marty Marx, 178 pounds, and Matt Prisk, 191 pounds—all won on decisions.

Eric Black, 112 pounds, and Ray Lehar, heavyweight, placed second and Paul Laurens, 145 pounds, finished third.

"Robertson and Respecki probably competed in the two toughest weight classes," said Kinsella in praise of their individual efforts. "It was a great overall team effort, especially when you get 10 guys placing," the coach added.

The Marine City Invitational title is Clarenceville's third this season. The Trojans earlier topped all comers at their own wrestling tourney and claimed the top spot at the Allen Park Invitational.

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