

In The Pocket.

By
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Before Old Father Time departed, the bowlers in the western suburb closed out the old year with a real bang. By the time the old gent with the scythe left the scene, they had rolled eight series above the 700 mark and set a new mark for a week.

Nothing like this over had been recorded at any other time during the year and even the women got into the ranks of those who broke the 700 barrier.

The women made their contribution when Pam Blake and Ann Setlock, bowling in the Ladies Major at Crown Lanes, reached the coveted pinnacle. Pam posted a 724 and Ann came through with a 702.

THE REAL BLASTING came in the

Little Caesar Classic at Westland Bowl, where three of the sharpshooters broke the barrier. Dick Beatie showed the way with a 736 on games of 214, 246 and 276. Several lanes away Bob Priewski rolled counts of 280 and 258 in 719. This was only one pin better than Bob Giske Jr. who registered counts of 224, 227 and 237 for 718.

Larry Brandt, bowling in the Bel-Aire Classic, joined the group with a 718 that included games of 252 and 244. Meanwhile, Greg Preston joined the 700 club at Plaza Lanes with a 703 in the Pin Busters loop.

After starting with a 204, he came back with games of 243 and 226 for his big count. The other barrier buster was Rocket Freeman who rolled 284,

243 and 256 for 703 at Plaza Lanes.

FOR THE FIRST TIME this season, there was a deadlock for top place in the Ladies Classic at Garden Lanes and two former bowling queens accounted for it. Ann Setlock and Mary Mohasni each came through with 588 to share the lead.

Richard Kunn was the top man in the County League at Garden when he posted a 651. His closest rival was Jim Prevost with a 632 and Ken Radford wound up in third place with 601.

ONE OF THE oddest series of the week was the performance of Sue Franz in the Wednesday Mixers at Woodland Lanes. After opening with a spare she ran up 10 strikes in a row,

only to leave up the No. 4 pin on her final ball. She settled for a 279 in 571.

A big middle game of 234 helped Sandi Vahn to pace the ladies league. She inserted a 234 between 191 and 179 for 604. She yielded to Cindy Edwards for high game honors when Cindy came up with a 265.

In the Ford Parts loop Fred LaPointe, a 187 average bowler, had eight strikes in a row, then left up the 8-10 and had to be content with a 258. In the men's senior house league Paul Conlon had a 255 in 680 and Mike Smart had a 247 in 677.

PAT REID started the new year right in the Livonia Ladies Classic when she won two of the three games and the series. After Betty Markwardt took the opener with 195-35-230, Pat won the second with 202-31-233 and the third with 204-31-235. This gave her the series with 549-93-642.

THE PINS were flying at Farmington Lanes during the holiday week. In the Mixed classic there were 26 series above double century figures as Rex Saxton rolled a 288 in 688 to show the way. Behind him came Jack Helle with 226 in 623 and Jan Vandervill with 226 in 648.

In the junior house league Bill Stephenson was top man with 247 in 663, while Bob Loucks landed the number-up spot with 221 in 609 and Ray Smith placed third with 257 in 607.

2 shine in field hockey

Two Rochester residents were key members of the Alma College Field Hockey team this fall.

Senior Bonnie Bastow and freshman Marybeth "Cookie" Novitsky helped Alma win a share of the first Michigan Athletic Association (MIAA) field hockey championship offered in the league's 90-year history.

Last year, when field hockey was still played under the auspices of the Women's MIAA, Alma won the first championship in tournament play. A 1-1 game with Albion College resulted in the two teams sharing the first title, with 4-2 records in league play.

"Alma's strongest point," said coach Peg Ciccolella, "is that the team believed it was an offensive team. Consequently they played an offensive game. We were a fast team, a lot faster than most of the other teams we played."

In MIAA action, Alma scored 13 goals while holding opponents to just three goals.

Only one of the team's members had ever played field hockey before coming to Alma because very few high schools offer it as a varsity sport. Of the 18 players, only Birmingham freshman Cynthia Lauren—a 1978 graduate of Detroit Country Day—played the sport in high school.

Ciccolella said knowing nothing about field hockey is an advantage to players wanting to start competing in college.

"Field hockey is a sport where you can't hold back," said Ciccolella. "It requires a tremendous amount of endurance because the play is 35-minute halves with no time-outs."

"The only time there is a break in action is when a goal is scored. The game is very quick. It isn't like football where they throw a flag and everybody gets a rest and then goes back to the huddle. Compounding that is the fact that there are only two substitutions a game."

Early in the season, when the coach and players realized how well they were playing, they had a team meeting and decided they wanted the championship.

"You talk about competitive spirit coming on to people who had never experienced that before, and it is quite high. Field hockey is always a cohesive team, but that kind of goal really pulled us together," said Ciccolella.

As a senior, Bastow was one of the four team captains.

She played left and was in her third year of competition.

"An inner has got to have good stick work. She has to be fast and be able to control the ball, to receive a pass and dribble the ball right down the field,"

said Ciccolella. "Bonnie did that very well, and she was a quiet type of leader the players looked forward to when they needed reassurance."

Of Novitsky, Ciccolella said, "Although Cookie had never played field hockey before, she had good athletic experiences in high school and it showed. She played wing this year. She is still learning about the game,

and the position, but she has picked up the skills."

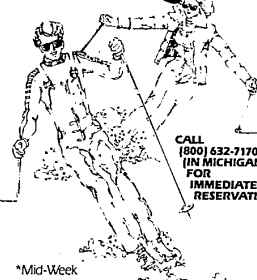
"All (Cookie) needs to do for next year is to be a little more confident in the mechanics of the game, and not lose skills involved," said Ciccolella.

Novitsky, who was a standout volleyball and basketball player at Adams High School, is planning to play on the women's basketball program at Alma.

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