Put away those golf sticks bocce becoming popular in area

Looking for a new and different sport to try this summer? Put aside the golf clubs and tennis racquets for a moment and pick up a set of bocce halls

soft cause and tennes racquies to a borce abilist. and pick up a set of borce balls. Borce (which means "kiss" in English) is an ancient sport that has become a modern, competitive game.

John Del Signore and three friends from Lineau and the same is the sam

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The sport can be played by singles or teams of up to four on a side.

A team receives one point for each ball that lays closest to the pallino.

Each of the four closest balls during a round scores one point. It's possible to tally four points by throwing all four balls closer to the pallino then any of the opponents.

half to Jose to the pallino then any of the opponents.

The game is played from 12 to 18 points, depending on the number of players.

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I have been sport myself, said Del Signore "Boece is a very popular game in July, You could call it the national sport at quite the same way as in Iuly," A point of the same way as in Iuly, "A point of the same way as in Iuly," A point of the same way as in Iuly, "A point of the same way as in Iuly," A point of the same way as in Iuly, "A point of the same way as in Iuly," A point of the same way as in Iuly, "A point of the same way as in Iuly," A point of the same way as in Iuly, "A point of the same way and saked if I would like to put together a team and play in their ournament." Del Signore said, "I got louid of my friends and we played as two teams. I was a little worried at first because I hadn't played competitively for awhile."

The tournament, which was double elimination, involved 25 men's teams and 25 women's teams.

Del Signore was teamed with Orlando Troiani. The pair won six straight games and reached the finals against their friends Angelo D'Orazio and Nazareno Troiani and lost, 18-16, in a close contest.

"There are a lot of ways you can play the game. It varies a lot and that makes it interesting. I've been playing ever since I can remember when I was

a kid in Italy," Signore said.

"There are two ways of throwing the bocce to score points. You can roll them or throw them through the air toward the pallino. The best way is through the air but that's also tougher,"

Siguore, an 18-year resident of Livo-nia, added that when playing on a court the players can use the walls and bounce the bocce toward the pallino.

"I remember in Italy we used to play for wine and other things. It's a very relaxed and easygoing sport for every-body," Signore said.

Another illusion about the sport is that it's mainly for just Italians. "That's not true. There were a lot of American players at the tourney not of Italian descent and they played very well," Signore said.

The game is not as lengthy as many sports, taking anywhere from 15 minutes to two hours to play, depending on the skill of the players.

"The east side of Detroit and Wind-sor have strong ties with the game. It's not an Italian game and people are starting to find out more about it," he said.

bocce court at Rotary Park on Six Mile.

"We would like to see more courts in Livonia. The best way to play is on a court but it's a lot of fun anywhere. It's also good exercise," said Del Signore.

The game is fairly inexpensive with a set of bocce running no more then \$50. Del Signore also compared the game to horseshoes and bowling but added that to be good a player one "must have the right feel for the game."

Probably the nicest element to bocce is that it's a very good summer sport.

"Oh yes, summer is the best time of year. We get into a lot of friendly games and have a lot of fun," Signore said.

The Italian-American Club of Livo-nia is also at the starting point of or-ganizing its own bocce tournament lat-er this summer or early fall.

"We think it would be great to get a lot of people involved from around here. More people would get a chance to see what the game is like," Signore said.

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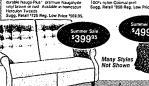




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