

Local pair among world's best

Soaring pilots like competition high in the sky

By C.J. RISAK

In this sport, the sky is the limit.

It's called soaring. The sport is played in an engine-less plane, thousands of feet above the earth, by pilots who learned their skill during the last World War.

The pilots are towed in their gliders by airplanes, drifting well up into the heavens. When they are released, the race is on. Whoever can glide through the course the fastest will receive first place points for that day's competition.

After two weeks of this

type of game, the pilot who has accumulated the most points is declared the winner.

Last week in Adrian, such a winner was chosen. He was Herb Mozer of Bloomfield Hills, and the competition he won was the U.S. National 15-meter Soaring Championship, the most prestigious national event in its class.

It was the second such championship for Mozer. He won it in 1977, but missed last year's competition because he was in France for the World Championships.

Herb differs from many of the other glider

pilots. He is only 25, it is not his profession, and he can work on the sport only six or seven months out of the year.

"The soaring season lasts from about mid-April until the first snow falls," explained Rudy Mozer, Herb's father. It was from Rudy that Herb first learned his skill. It appears that the son may have surpassed the father in the sport, but the elder Mozer still competes, and does quite well.

RUDY MOZER FIRST learned about gliders from his father, who was going to the airport to practice in his gliders,

he came to the United States in 1949, but it wasn't until 1956 that he began gliding again. He took part in the National Championships in Adrian last week and finished 10th out of 58 pilots.

Soaring is an expensive sport to participate in, and there are few that can make any money at it. And, as Rudy sees it, there are few that worry about that.

"To us it's just a sport, a very nice, absorbing sport," he said. He didn't always feel that way.

While his father was going to the airport to practice in his gliders,

Herb, then just a boy, would go with him. The sport began to fascinate him, and it wasn't long before he was in the cockpit himself, searching the sky for thermals (rising air currents soaring pilots depend upon for power). Herb was 14 when he soloed in a glider.

When son Herb started to show some of the skill he had inherited from his father, Rudy's interest in the sport was rekindled.

"I had started to lose interest, but when he (Herb) started to get good, my interest was renewed," Rudy said. "It added a little family rivalry. Now, I think that if I beat him, I can beat anybody (because he is the best)."

With the added intensity of the family rivalry, Rudy finds the challenge of soaring in "beating good pilots in competition."

Herb's history in soaring "goes back 15 years. I used to fly at Elmira, New York, before they had much soaring around here."

But Bierenes first learned his skill in a glider the same place Rudy Mozer did — in Europe, just after the war.

"I began flying gliders with the Netherlands in 1946," Bierenes recalled. He emigrated to the States in 1949.

He didn't fare too well at Adrian, finishing 40th. But the glider he flew belonged to a different class than the others competing, a class having more restrictions. But for him, the thrills, the challenge, was the same as it was for Rudy and Herb Mozer.

"The testing of my skill against someone else's under the same conditions (is what I like)," Bierenes said. "There is no prize money involved... very few make any money."

"It is one of the truly amateur sports." There are 18,000 members of the Soaring Society of America, approximately 3,000 sailplanes in the United States, and between 400 and 500 competition pilots.

It is these few, dedicated to the competition of soaring, that make it a sport.

By W.W. EDGAR

In The Pocket.

(Continued from page 2B)

THE NAMES Mohacsi and Fiebig have dominated women's bowling for some time and, from all indications, this condition will continue.

Mary Mohacsi, who has been the queen several times, recently fired a 719 in the classic at Town & Country Lanes. And Cora Fiebig was honored with the captaincy of the all-city team.

Now the Greater Detroit Junior Bowling Association has named its all-city teams and who should be on the top team, but the Mohacsi and Fiebig children.

Sandi Mohacsi and Lisa Fiebig, have been placed No. 1 and No. 2 in the open division. So, it won't be long until they, too, will be in the all-star leagues.

IT DIDN'T take very long for Bob Bascchi, a member of the Goebel team who won the 1979 ABC all events to learn that there is a price to pay.

When he decided to leave Goebel and join the Strub team for the coming season, he lost his eligibility to try for a place on the U.S. Team that will bowl in the world championships.

CHARLIE RIFFLE got away to a good start in the men's trio at Westland Bowl when he fired a 256. It helped when he dipped to games of 211 and 213 which enabled him to take top honors with the Jeff Dinsburg with 627 and Terry Smith with 607. Cyndi Edwards placed the women's league with a 214 in 599.

ENICE TESLAK, who carries a 153 average, showed the way in the Kings and Queens league at Woodland Lanes. She opened with a 196, duplicated that figure in the second game and then dipped to 156 in the third for a 548.

BILL DECESARE, who has been labeled the king of the fund raisers in the charity bowling events, will be the guest of honor at a big "thank you" party on Friday, July 27.

The thanks will come in the form of a testimonial dinner dance at St. George's Church Hall, 18405 West Nine Mile Road in Southfield.

Restrictions during PGA

(Continued from page 1B)

play the North Course and use carts there."

The front nine of the North Course will be closed on July 27. The back nine will be closed on July 28, after which the North Course will be used as a parking lot.

The clay tennis courts at Oakland Hills will be closed on July 27. The hard surface courts have already been closed, and the press tent has been erected there.

Erickson said that despite the hardships inherent to the PGA championship, the Oakland Hills members seem to be solid in their support of it. He pointed out that a lot of the work will be done by the club members. According to Erickson, 800 volunteers will work during the tournament.

"I would say the members are behind it," said Erickson. "They've bought thousands and thousands of tickets, they're giving their time, buying their own uniforms."

Play is their work

Better and safer outdoor recreation programs for Michigan youth are the aim of a July 28 to August 1 workshop for recreation directors at Michigan State University.

The workshop in outdoor program administration, co-sponsored by the Michigan department of Natural Resources and the MSU department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, will focus on a broad array of outdoor activities suitable to state communities.

Backpacking, skeet shooting, ski touring, flora and fauna identification and wilderness survival, as well as camping, boating, swimming, hiking, hunting and fishing, will be covered.

Special thought will be focused on cycling and off-road recreational

vehicling in a period of fuel shortage.

Emphasis will be on attitudes, environmental impact, laws, proper approach and fire, water, climbing and hunting safety, plus teaching and certification techniques.

MSU, DNR and public school and industry authorities will instruct.

The workshop, designed for school, club, camp, marina, country club, or resort recreation directors, will be headquartered on the MSU campus, but utilize nearby lake, camping and wilderness areas.

Co-sponsored by MSU's Lifelong Education Programs, the workshop may be taken for university credit or without credit.

Contact Dr. Roy Niemeyer, MSU professor of health, physical education and recreation, 517-355-5182.

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