

in the pocket/W. W. Edgar

One of the features of the league bowling season now fast drawing to a close is the advancement of the juniors — both in numbers and ability to topple the pins.

Both divisions of the younger group — the American Junior Bowling Congress and the Youth Bowling Association — have reported new highs in membership. And the high scores rolled by some of them, week after week, speak for themselves.

One of the proudest developers of the juniors is Fred Hamlin, owner of Farmington Lanes, and he admits he is amazed by the quickness with which the younger element, especially in the school leagues, get the knack of the game.

It used to be something of a person's skill, even among the elders, to roll a 200 game. Now, the juniors are piling up double century scores in almost all of the establishments in the area.

"Some of these young bowlers have the finest form I have seen in a long while," Hamlin confided, "and you will be hearing about them before too long."

SO WELL, ARE some of the juniors doing that Hamlin, among other proprietors, is getting away from what were called junior house leagues. They need another name now.

"How can you call it a junior league when these young bowlers are rolling high 600 series and several of them have hit 700. We won't have to worry about the future of the game when we see these people bowl."

The growing popularity of the juniors was evident last week when more than 400 juniors and their parents attended the annual banquet sponsored by Merri-Bowl Lanes. This is by far the largest junior bowling banquet in the area. Woodland Lanes also will have a

huge gathering at its awards dinner next month.

DICK PRESTON one of the area's veterans, displayed some of his old form in the Wonderland Classic when he closed with a 256 game and a 683 series that tied him with Al Brass for the pacemaking role. In the ladies classic, Cindy Zirol was tops with 610.

EVEN WHEN the classic bowlers fail at Westland Bowl you are sure to find someone in the other leagues qualify for the 700 club.

This week it was the veteran Chuck Tarver, a member of the Wednesday men's league who came through. He had a middle game of 259 for an even 700 series.

Jane Martin also came in for some of the honors when she rolled a 245 in a 626 series to lead the way in the ladies classic. Right behind her came Julie

Bechtol with a 242 in 620 and Ann Dickerson with a 235 in 611.

TOM CAREY was the big gun in the Vinco League at Garden Lanes. He came through with a 642 that gave him a 28-pin edge on Ed Margalski. Third place went to Ray Merezki with 610 and Jerry Kundrot was next with 606. Meanwhile, Judy Mazi paced the ladies classic with 590.

RON MATHISON had mixed emotions last week when he finished his regular turn in the Ever-7 league at Country Lanes.

He was dealt a blow by Lady Luck in his first game when the No. 4 pin stood on his final ball and robbed him of a perfect game. He settled for 299 then added games of 219 and 199 for a 717 that earned him the pace-makers role and membership in the 700 club.

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