

in the pocket/W.W.Edgar

Of all the sports and recreational activities, bowling is the only one that owes its popularity and success to a single piece of equipment.

Florida kickers rule tourney

Schoolcraft College was the site of the girls' Wolverine Soccer Tournament last weekend and Key Biscayne, Fla. seemed right at home by playing in all three championship games.

Cincinnati, Ohio defeated Key Biscayne 1-0 in the Under-14 Division, Key Biscayne edged Bonanza Express Soccer League Blazers 2-1 in the Under-16 Division and Dayton, Ohio dumped Key Biscayne 3-0 in the Under-19 Division.

Ten teams competed in the Under-14 Division, five in the Under-16 Division and eight in the Under-19 Division.

The boys' Wolverine Tournament was contested at three sites on the east side.

known to man and dates back to 5200 B.C., bowling was doomed in the early 1940's when the lack of pinsetters caused many of the area establishments and other places across the

Kilmarnock, Scotland scrubbed Troy Pawnees 8-1 to win the championship in the Under-12 Division.

London, Ontario blanked Bonanza Express Soccer League Arsenal 4-0 for the title in the Under-14 Division.

London defeated Bonanza Express Soccer League Troy 1-0 to win the Under-16 Division crown and the Windsor Rowdies edged Michigan Youth Kickers 1-0 in the Under-19 Division.

Seventy-one teams competed in those four divisions of the boys' tournament.

Many area teams — both boys' and girls' — also participated in the tournaments, which were sponsored by the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association.

country to consider closing. Then, an old game named Charlie Schmidt, a resident of the mountains in New York state uncovered his latest invention — the automatic pinsetter — and the game was saved.

The coming of the pinsetter was one of the best guarded secrets of all sports in that the first machines were built under lock and key on the seventh floor of a machine shop in Brooklyn, N.Y. It was unveiled to the public for the first time at the American Bowling Congress convention at Buffalo in 1946.

Long before that, there were several automatic machines, but they didn't meet the ABC requirement that the pins had to be reset on the spots on which they were left standing on

spares. Schmidt's machine was the first to reset the pins where it found them.

One of the most interesting features of the new machine was how it separated the pins from the ball in the pit before resetting them.

To old Charlie Schmidt this was a simple matter. He had the pins conveyed with two strips of wood several inches wide reaching from side to side.

They were kept far enough apart to allow pins to fall through, but not the ball. When the ball hit, it set in a motion a motor that raised the two boards to the height of the lane and then tipped the ball off to the ball return.

Since then the underground return has come on the market and the bowler

doesn't see the ball until it pops out of the return at the bowlers' bench.

The first automatic pinsetters in America were installed at the Bowler's Drome in Mt. Clemens, and for a year there was a steady stream of proprietors making a trip there from all parts of the country to see the saviour of the game in action.

MARGE MERRICK, now a resident of Columbus, Ohio, who recently was honored with a place in the WIBC Hall of Fame, once bowled in the Detroit women's all-star leagues.

In fact she was named the city's Bowling Queen on four occasions and she bowled out of the old Maple Lanes in Dearborn.

ANSWERING THE MAIL: The late Harold Allen, proprietor of the now defunct Palace Recreation, has an unusual place in bowling history. Bowling with his brother, Ray, he helped win the ABC doubles when he was only 16 years old.

But that is not his most unusual feat. He once bowled a 299's score.

How did this come about? After rolling 11 strikes in a row he had a solid hit on his 12th ball but the No. 10 pin split down the middle and one half of it was left standing.

In no way could he be credited with a perfect game. The shot still is one of bowling's great oddities.



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