

Wheelchair '5' eyes national title

By Doug Funke
staff writer

The Westland Sparks, without a doubt, are among the four best wheelchair basketball teams in the country this season.

Exactly how good remains to be determined. And, it will be determined this weekend during the championship round of the 53rd National Wheelchair Basketball Tournament.

There is good news and bad news for the Sparks as far as the finals go.

First, the good news. The championship round will be contested at Westland John Glenn High School. The Sparks should feel right at home.

Now, the bad news. The Sparks' semifinal opponent is the Casa Colina (Calif.) Condors, the defending national champion and currently ranked as the best wheelchair basketball team in the country.

SPARKS' FANS can take heart though. The Westland contingent, which is ranked second in the country, has a history of success in the tournament, having won six national titles.

The two will duel 7 p.m. April 3 in the first game of a doubleheader.

The Condors were titlists in the Southern California Conference this season with a 17-0 record. The Sparks were champs in the Lake Erie Conference with a ledger of 14-1.

The second semifinal game will fea-

ture the North Florida Renegades, ranked third in the nation, and the Chicago Sidewinders, rated fifth. Those two will battle at 9 p.m.

The Renegades, which are based in Gainesville, reigned as kings of the Florida Conference with a record of 15-0. The Sidewinders sat atop the Midwest Conference with a record of 13-0.

The winners of the two semifinal games will meet for the national championship 2:30 p.m. April 4. A consolation game will precede the title clash at 12:30 p.m.

The Classy Chassis will entertain April 3.

Tickets, at \$2.50 per day, are available in advance at the Melvin Bailey Recreation Center in Westland. The Center is located at 36651 Ford Road between Wayne and Newburgh roads (722-7670).

Tickets will also be available at John Glenn, 38105 Marquette (West of Wayne Road between Ford and Cherry Hill) days of the tournament.

A \$5 all-tournament pass is also available. There will be no admission charge for spectators in wheelchairs.

THE SPARKS qualified for the final four by winning two games last weekend in the Eastern Sectional.

The Sparks first defeated Toledo, 55-25, then blitzed Washington, D.C., 22-40. The Sparks avenged their only loss of the season with their victory over Toledo.

Laker trackmen 5th

Dan Kenwell and Dave Butler earned first places last Saturday to pace West Bloomfield's fifth-place finish with 25 points in the Kalamazoo Invitational.

Benton Harbor won the 12-team meet with 56 points and Kalamazoo Loy Norrix was second with 49. East Kentwood had 40 points and Portage Central scored 27.

Kenwell won the shot put event with a toss of 53 feet-1 1/4 inches, and Butler was the best high jumper with a 6-foot-4 effort. West Bloomfield's distance medley relay (Chris Clark, Dan Sebo, Mike Moore and Mark Shaw) placed second with a time of 10:53.1.

Sebo finished second in the 440-yard dash with a 53.7 clocking, and teammate Tom Grabowski landed fourth in the mile run with 4:48.0.

in the pocket/W.W. Edgar

Area bowler to defend title

Mary Mohacsi, the five-time Detroit bowling queen, is about to write a new chapter in the history of the Michigan State Women's Bowling Association tournament, now underway in Grand Rapids.

In defense of the all-events title that she won a year ago she rolled her way to the top of the list again last Sunday with a count of 1,693.

This gave her a big lead and just about assured her of keeping the crown and becoming the first back-to-back winner.

Added to that feat, she joined with her daughter, Sandi, and posted a 1,202 series in the doubles that placed them high on the board.

Mary's closest rival in the all events is Leandra Stowski, also of the Detroit all-star leagues, who is on the board with an 1,815 series.

One of the most thrilled of the area bowlers in the event was Renee, daughter of Marge Kropacek, who rolled her first 600 series in a state tournament. She had a 602 that included a 222 game.

LIKE OLD MAN RIVER, Eddie Lubanski just keeps rolling along. The one time captain of the Strook team came within one pin of breaking the 700 barrier in the Bel-Aire Classic when he linked counts of 245, 228 and 226 for 699. But it only got him second place for the night.

Bob Newburg had a 267 game in a 714 series to earn the pacemaker role, with Dave Hamilton, the former junior star, landing third with a 686.

THERE WAS quite a battle in the junior house league at Merri-Bowl before Bill Miller landed on top with a 256 in 681. Behind him came Tom Dow with 657 and Will Arsenault tied with Bob Taylor at 651 for third place.

In the ladies doubles, Jan Wright was 35 pins out in front in a duel with Karen Thornborn with 624.

In the ladies classic, Ardis Kelly beat out Mary Mohacsi by six pins for top place with a 632 and Randy Smith turned in the only 700 series of the week with games of 278, 257 and 204 for 740.

In the handicappers league, Ken

Nickela started with 249 but had to settle for a 650 series.

DIANE GADSBY topped the field in the Livonia Ladies Classic when she won the first of the three-game series with 186-30-216 and then took the series with 542-90-642.

In the other games, Patti Schwartz won the second with 185-57-237 and Evelyn Miller captured the third with 189-32-221.

JAY DISHONG bounced back into the winners' circle at Westland Bowl with a 722 series that included games of 247, 248 and 227 he was joined in the barrier-breakers group by Bob Goike who had a 256 middle game in 706.

In the ladies division, Denise Rathbun posted a 656 to edge Leandry Stawski by two pins.

AT GARDEN LANES, Joe Churchill had high score of the week. It was a 678 to pace the Road Commission loop. Ron Highland was next in line with 638.

In the Moose League, Dave Moran posted a 277 in 647 and Bill Wiercroch

was top man in the St. Linus group with 611.

IN OTHER PERFORMANCES, Brenda Garner had a 244 in the Canettes league at Super Bowl, and Diane Collins, with a 155 average, rolled a 235 game in a 603 series at Woodland Lanes.

AL GILREATH became the newest member of the 700 club at Plaza Lanes when he showed the way to the Pile Drivers with 730 on games of 224, 260 and 246. His closest rivals were Ron Aman with 676 and Don Wilson with 675.

THERE WAS some good scoring at Country Lanes when Mike Jagan had a closing 268 in 693 and Gil Gilard went 164 pins over his average in the Elks league with 698.

Three new members were enrolled in the 700 club — Jim Hayes with a 279 in 722, Ray Ponke with 717 and Joe Kin with 701.

And Sue Ellis showed the way to the women with games of 243, 186 and 214 for 643.

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