

Elvira Toepfer Takes Coveted 'Queen' Crown Again

By W. W. EDGAR

There'll be a bright new jewel in her tiara when Elvira Toepfer is crowned "queen" of the metropolitan Detroit bowlers for a record-breaking fifth consecutive year.

It will be symbolic of her unofficial designation as the greatest woman bowler ever developed in the Detroit area.

Elvira is well known to Observerland bowling followers as she appears at Livonia Lanes in traveling circuits from time to time.

To gain her fifth crown, however, she created her top average in the Bowlerettes League at Motor Lanes and the Ladies Major League at Pine Tree Bowl. She has appeared many times at other establishments throughout the western Wayne County area.

"There's no question in my mind," Mrs. Lillian C. Jacob, President of the Detroit Women's Bowling Association, remarked, "Elvira is the greatest we ever have had."

These sentiments were echoed by some of the stars of other years and they emphasized that no one was more deserving of the honor.

STELLA HARTTRICK, anchor bowler on the all-star Olympic Recreation team of the 30's left little doubt as to her close.

"I've bowled with the best we ever had," she said, "and I'd have to rate Elvira as tops."

"I can't recall anyone I could rate above Elvira," Clara Allen, captain of the Olympic team, vouched, "and I can remember such outstanding bowlers as our own Louise Stockdale, Ruth Johnson, Val Mikiel, Hattie Wooster, Connie Powers, and the others. There was none who compiled a record that can compare with Elvira—at least in Detroit."

Even Elvira's rivals joined in proclaiming her the best.

Among them was Ann Setlock, the perennial "brides maid" in the average race.

"I have bowled with and against Elvira for the past 15 years," Ann confided, "and she's the best. Not only is she tops in averages, she is one of the grandest persons ever to take up the game. It is just a pleasure to know and bowl with her."

Among the others who joined in bestowing the new honor on the "queen" were "Eddie" Coy, a former champion in her own right, and Agnes Ekstrom, captain of the first All-Star team on which Elvira bowled.

"She's an inspiration to my team," Agnes stated, and "Eddie" was loud in her praise of a bowler who not only reached stardom, but maintained her poise through it all.

Thus, the young girl who stepped from the snack bar at Centennial Recreation on Gratia Avenue in 1940 has climbed the heights to a point where she will join the immortals.

She already has earned a place in the Detroit Bowling Hall of Fame, and has won national acclaim as one of the country's top average bowlers. But, now being called the best of all time in Detroit is her crowning achievement.

In accepting her honor this year Elvira recalled that she was first exposed to bowling when Cy Goralecz, then an instructor at Centennial Recreation, induced her to try the game.

From the start she showed promise despite a delivery that started with the highest backswing of any bowler in the country.

"Never mind that high swing," Cy cautioned, "she's got the potential of being a great star. Subsequent events proved he was quite a prophet."

At the time Cy's wife, Marie, was captain of the Gears by Enterprise team in the All-Star League, and she gave Elvira her start. Fortunately, no tournament was too big nor distance too great—Otto had his team there and he was with it to cheer it on.

When Marie Goralecz gave up the captaincy it reverted to Agnes Ekstrom, another keen judge of bowlers, and she continued Elvira's development.

When the Gears by Enterprise team faded from the picture she joined the Colonial Brouch team, another champion, then Alamo's Catering, and the present Jac-Ro Corporation combination.

"I have been extremely fortunate," Queen Elvira stated, "I've had good teachers, fine sponsors and great team mates."

"And when I was named to the Detroit Bowling Hall of Fame, that was the greatest thrill I ever have had."

Asked, semi-seriously, if she could make a cake, the new Queen smiled, and readily, as is her wont, answered, "...I live too close to my Mother."



Elvira Toepfer Gains Top Honor

Driver From Redford Sets Mark

Joy Fair won the 25 lap feature event for Last Model Stock Cars Saturday at Flat Rock Speedway however, his official track record of 13.31 was broken officially by John Anderson, of Redford Township, when he toured the oval in 13.09.

Anderson had held the unofficial record of 13.31 set last week but had to await the certification of the speedway's timing clocks. The clocks having been certified during the past week were ready when Anderson made his first qualifying run, and established the new mark.

Fair, defending Late Model Champ, posted a 13.25 for second and fast time of the evening.

Dennis Pace, of Plymouth, led the first 13 laps of the feature with Harold Fair, Danny Byrd, Fran Harden, Joy Fair and Anderson running bumper to bumper behind him.

On the 12th lap Anderson made his move to the outside and tangled with Harold Fair going into the third turn causing a caution flag. Both drivers were able to restart in the rear of the field, and when the green flag dropped it was Joy Fair moving from third to second and Fran Harden moving to third, all getting past early leader Pace.

Anderson moved from last to fourth after the restart and was challenging Harden for third when the checkered flag dropped.

In other Late Model events Fair won the Dash. Heat Race winners were legs. Toth of New Boston; Ron Miller of Toledo; and Denver Nelson. The Pursuit race saw Anderson come from last to win in only six laps.

The Figure 8 Feature event went to Dick Simmons of Plymouth, followed by Chuck Briggs of Belleville, Lubie Allen of Wayne, and Joe Barham of Plymouth.

In preliminary Figure 8 events Simmons won the dash. The Fair-Anderson duel for top honors will resume Saturday night. Time trials start at 6:45, and racing at 8:15.

B. Borgess Trackmen Win Again

Bishop Borgess remains unbeaten in track.

The Townshipers made it 7-0 overall and 4-0 in Catholic League action by trouncing Dearborn Sacred Heart, 92-28.

Dennis Koltunichuk won the 100 and 220-yard dashes and ran on the winning 880-yard relay for Borgess.

Ron Kozlowski won the long jump and the 440-yard dash and also won the mile relay that won for Borgess.

Borgess Tops, 6-4,

Bishop Borgess baseball team continues to sit pretty in the Catholic League title chase.

Borgess made it 4-1 for the season by downing Gabriel Richard, 6-4, behind the four-hit pitching of Carl Bernhardt who fanned nine.

Mark Szpond knocked in Jerry Sharon with the first Borgess run, then two more scored in the second with Sharon's second hit driving in Jeff Crawley and Ray Sobocinski.

In the seventh, three walks and another hit by Szpond helped wrap up the scoring for the winners.

Kettering Runs Over Trojans

Kettering High's track team had no trouble rolling by Clarenceville, 91-27, in a dual meet.

Mark Kuehn was a double winner for the Trojans, capturing the low hurdles and the long jump.

Kettering's Kevin Reabe won the 440-yard dash in the blazing time of 56.5 seconds.

How Clarenceville placed: HIGH HURDLES: 2-Hallstead, MILE: 3-Skages, 100-YARD: 3-Stem, LOW HURDLES: 1-Kuehn, Time: 28.8 seconds, 220-YARD: 1-Stem, Time: 23.7 seconds, POLE VAULT: 3-Hallstead, HIGH JUMP: 3-Stem, LONG JUMP: 1-Kuehn, 3-Hallstead, Distance: 19 feet, 8 1/2 inches.

'Hot Line' Open Again

The opening of the early trout season in Michigan got the Department of Natural Resources' fishing information "hot line" in Lansing buzzing again. In case you've mislaid it, the number is 373-0908 and the area code is 517. The line is open Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. E.S.T.

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