



10-pin alley

Al Harrison

Youngster does what the great ones couldn't

On Sunday, Nov. 6, 13-year-old John Balicki made a bit of history in the Ward Invitational Youth Travel League.

This league has been in existence for more than 40 years and many of the graduates have become legendary names in bowling. Never in the history of the league had anyone bowled a perfect 300 game. This is just what Balicki accomplished at North Hills Lanes in Rochester.

Many times over the years, there were bowlers who could get the first 11, but never the elusive 12th strike.

Last season, a 299 was rolled, and others came close. But it is difficult to come through the pressure of getting No. 12.

Congratulations to John Balicki, you are the first after all these years, and perhaps some of the others in the Ward League can do it as well.

A few lanes away from John, Robla Ostro with a 245 game took over the high game in the district standings.

The league will be competing at West Bloomfield Lanes on Orchard Lake Road on Sunday, Nov. 20. Come on down and watch these terrific young bowlers.

While on the subject of young bowlers, there is another fine group of kids in the Leo Wolak's Junior All-Star Classic League at Bowl One Lanes in Troy.

In this league, the leading averages after 24 games belong to Amos Mathis (226), Duane Henderson (218), Kurt Pilon 217, and Eric Tully 214.

Pilon has the league high game to date with a 280 while Mathis holds the high series at 741. The league bowls on Wednesdays at 4 p.m.

Mike Devlaminak had an incredible series on Wednesday, Oct. 26 as he came through with games of 234-229-300 for a 783 series. Congratulations to Mike for some outstanding bowling.

This league is seeking financial sponsors for scholarship money for the end of the season tournament. Any and all sponsors will be listed on the bowling sheet each week.

Paul LaFleur bowled a 700 series in the recent Make-A-Wish charity tournament. LaFleur is a member of the Greenfield Mixed League, which bowls on Friday night at Country Lanes in Farmington Hills.

During last Friday's competition, Katie Stonye bowled a fine 603 series on games of 185-212-205. Leading the Greenfield men, Bill Pietrzyk owns the high game of 275 and high series of 622, while Gayle Priekorn holds top honors for the ladies with a 235 game and 623 series.

In the Wednesday Night Country Keglers League, Jerry Bennett rolled a perfect game on Nov. 2. Bennett's 300 was the first at Country Lanes this season.

At Norwest Lanes in Farmington Hills, Dr. David Egan bettered his 152 average with a 232 game, winning the over-average jackpot in the Detroit Architects and Engineers League. Other high scorers in the league were Dave Everington (244) and Robert Withrow (239). The league bowls Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m.

Plum Hollow Lanes in Southfield continues to see some fine scores with John Hamussen shooting a 711 series with games of 264-223-224 in the Monday Nite Men's League.

In the Michigan Bell Sunday League, Cleo Peebles registered a fine 288 game, and the women were doing great in the Monday Mixers with Mildred Arnet rolling a 230 game and Shirley Croogloff a 213 with a 547 series.

In the Budweiser Classic League, bowling Friday nights at Plum Hollow Lanes, Paul Kopacz was perfect as rolled a 300 game and Tom Hay came very close to that score with a 299.

John Wodanick fired an 813 series on games of 267-267-279 and the Pro/Fit Bowling Sales team wrapped up a high series of 3,684.

The Budweiser Classic League boasts some of the finest bowlers in the area, and these scores are almost routine for them. They bowl in two shifts on Friday night, so anyone may come down and watch the action. These bowlers are worth watching.

I am reviewing the bowling program by Sybcevision. This set consists of six audio tapes and one video tape featuring star bowlers Marshall Holman and Johnny Petraglia.

The results and analysis of the program will appear in this column in a few weeks after I have a chance to fully evaluate it.

Bowling Tip of the Week: This is from Gini Richardson, instructor at Strike & Spare Lanes. The best way to convert a spare that calls for a "Brooklyn" hit is to stand at the center dot on the approach and use the third arrow from the right. You will come right into the 1-2 or "Brooklyn Pocket." Reverse this if you are a lefty.

(Al Harrison, a Southfield resident for 20 years, serves as league secretary for the Inter-Lodge Bowling League. Harrison requests that any information dealing with area bowling establishments be sent to the Eccentric Sports Department at 1225 Bowers, Birmingham 48012, or called in at 354-5857.)



TITAN BASKETBALL

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Raiders look ahead to district

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

North Farmington coach Greg Capling forced a smile Saturday night — even after his team lost — probably because he was looking ahead to Thursday.

Walled Lake Central turned away North 60-54 Saturday at Plymouth Salem to claim third place in the Western Lakes Activities Association tournament.

The two teams meet again Thursday in a first-round Class A district game at WLC. A district loss would end North's season.

But Capling figures the only thing North lost Saturday was a little pride. The day was meant for experimenting.

The loss moved North to 12-8.

"Of course, we wanted to win, but my main goal was getting a bunch of kids to play," Capling said. "I wanted to do different things and now I've got my mind set on what we'll do Thursday. Hopefully, Central will be overconfident."

North and Central were tied 25-25 at halftime, but the Vikings pulled away in the third quarter, outscoring the Raiders 18-11 to lead 43-35.

Center Tonia Smith led Central with 19 points, and guard Kelly O'Hanlon added 18.

North had three players in double figures, led by Donna O'Brien's 17 points. Eve Clear scored 15 for the Raiders, and Kim Gurecki contributed 12.

"Donna did a super job," Capling said. "Pound for pound, she's one of the toughest players in the league. Because we're so small (5-foot-8), she ends up covering the other team's post player."

girls basketball

SALEM 31, NORTHVILLE 23: Plymouth Salem won the defensive struggle and earned fifth place in the WLA A-tourney behind the 16-point effort of Ed Ealey. Salem, 15-5, scored only 14 first-half points but held Northville, 14-8, to five.

"That was the key," Salem coach Fred Thomann said. "While we were scoring only 14, that was the kind of game it was. It was low key and methodical. Nobody tried to break it open."

Karen Baird was Northville's only double-figure scorer, netting 14 points. Wendy Bailey scored six points for Salem.

Though she led Salem in scoring, Ealey's presence was felt even more when she brought the ball up against Northville's full-court press.

"She's such a fine talent in terms of handling the ball," Thomann said. "She dealt with the pressure effectively, and we had a chance to set up in the half court."

MERCY 44, AQUINAS 41: Junior forward Joanne Stephens scored 17 points, and Lee Albrecht added 12 points and 11 rebounds Saturday in host Farmington Mercy's three-point win.

Mercy, 7-13, made 16 of 29 free throws, with Stephens converting all but one of her 10.

Three players fouled out for Mercy.

FRANKLIN 61, JOHN GLENN 59: If there was a Miss Basketball award given only to freshmen players in the state of Michigan, it might belong to Livonia

Franklin guard Dawn Warner.

Warner carried Franklin to a thrilling 61-59 win Saturday over Westland John Glenn, earning the Patriots a seventh-place finish in the Western Lakes Activities Association tournament played at Plymouth Salem.

Franklin improved to 12-7 overall and Glenn fell to 6-11.

Warner, held scoreless in the first quarter, finished with a game- and season-high 29 points. She made all nine of her free throw attempts, including seven straight in the final quarter.

CHURCHILL 48, HARRISON 22: Forward Jeremy Williams led three Livonia Churchill players in double figures, scoring 18 points and helping lift the Chargers' record to 7-13.

Farmington Harrison is without a win in 19 games. Cindy Saba scored 12 points for Churchill, and center Carrie Blanchard added 11.

Darcy Pinal led Harrison's effort with eight points.

The Hawks trailed 11-3 after one quarter and were down 25-11 at halftime.

STEVENSON 52, FARMINGTON 37: Teresa Sarro scored 18 points for Stevenson, which finished its regular season with a three-game winning streak.

The Spartans are 4-18 overall, and Farmington dipped to 5-14.

Ten of Sarro's points came in the second half when Stevenson improved on its 17-25 halftime advantage.

Stevenson coach Chuck Liechstein is excited about the Spartans' late-season surge.

"We're starting to get the right combinations," he said. "We have a fast team when we're trying to press and a tall team when we're setting it up on offense."

Farmington had balanced scoring, but no Falcon scored in double figures. Jennifer Norman led Farmington with nine points, and Jennifer McGilch scored seven.

Center Marissa Ferrari, Farmington's leading scorer, was 10 of 16 from the free-throw line. Erika Hatcher and Melissa Tisdale scored six points each for the Falcons.

girls basketball

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Monday, Nov. 14
Luth. Westland at B.H. Kingswood, 4:30 p.m.
Allen PK. Cabernet at Farm. Mercy, 7 p.m.
Liv. Ladywood at State Aquinas, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 15
Clarencene at St. Agatha, 7 p.m.
Red. Thurston at Dearborn, 7 p.m.
Brighton at Luth. Franklin, 7:30 p.m.

Westland Glenn at Wayne Memorial, 7:30 p.m.
D.H. Crestwood at Garden City, 7:30 p.m.
Redford Union at Farm. Harrison, 7:30 p.m.

Fennell at Farmington, 7:30 p.m.
(end of regular season)

DISTRICT TOURNEY PARINGS

CLASS A
at WAYNE MEMORIAL

Friday, Nov. 18: (A) Wayne Memorial vs. (B) Livonia Franklin, 6 p.m.; (C) Westland John Glenn vs. (D) Garden City, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 21: Livonia Ladywood vs. A-B winner, 6 p.m.; Livonia Churchill vs. C-D winner, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 23: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Southfield High regional vs. Taylor Central district champion.)

at NORTHVILLE

Thursday, Nov. 17: (A) Northville vs. (B) South Lyon, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 19: Plymouth Canton vs. Plymouth Salem, 6 p.m.; Novi vs. A-B winner, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 22: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Plymouth Canton regional vs. Tienon district champion.)

at WALLED LAKE CENTRAL

Thursday, Nov. 17: (A) Walled Lake Central vs. (B) North Farmington, 6:30 p.m.; (C) Farmington Hills Mercy vs. (D) Farmington, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 19: West Bloomfield vs. A-B winner, 5:30 p.m.; Walled Lake Western vs. C-D winner, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 22: Championship final, 7:30 p.m. (Winner advances to the Shelby High regional vs. Birmingham Seaton district champion.)

at SOUTHFIELD-LATHROP

Friday, Nov. 18: (A) Southfield-Lathrop vs. Detroit Henry Ford, 7 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 21: Livonia Ladywood vs. A-B winner, 5:30 p.m.; Southfield vs. Redford Union, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 22: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Southfield regional vs. Detroit Oak district champion.)

CLASS B
at REDFORD BISHOP DORSEY

Thursday, Nov. 18: (A) Detroit Renaissance vs. (B) Oak Park, 6 p.m.; (C) Redford Bishop Dorsey vs. (D) Livonia Clarencene, 7:45 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 19: Farmington Harrison vs. A-B winner, 6 p.m.; Redford Thurston vs. C-D winner, 7:45 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 22: Championship final, 7:30 p.m. (Winner advances to the Madison Heights Madison regional vs. St. Clair Shores South Lake district champion.)

CLASS C
at WYANDOTTE MOUNT CARMEL

Thursday, Nov. 17: (A) Wyandotte Mount Carmel vs. (B) Redford Tenebris Christian, 6 p.m.; (C) Westland Huron Valley Lutheran vs. (D) Taylor Baptist Park, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 19: (B) Allen Park Inter-City Baptist vs. C-D winner, 6 p.m.; Lutheran Westland vs. A-B winner, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 22: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Warren Bethesda regional vs. Rochester Lutheran Northwest district champion.)

St. Mary's cage team holds on to beat Saints

By C.J. Rissak
staff writer

There's no telling how good the basketball team at St. Mary's College will be.

That comes after the Eagles' first game. The Orchard Lake school opened its season hosting the Gino's Pizza Classic Friday and Saturday, and in Friday's opening round SMC battled back from a five-point deficit to take an eight-point lead with three minutes left, then had to hold on to win 95-93 over Aquinas College of Grand Rapids.

In game No. 2, Friday, Madonna College went against St. Xavier of Chicago, the sixth-ranked team in the NAIA in pre-season polls. St. Xavier won as expected, but not without an argument. Final score was 88-68.

"In the second half, we played much better," SMC coach Glen Donahue said after the win over Aquinas. "We had more poise, more patience, and we ran a better offense."

WHAT'S PUZZLING about the Eagles is trying to figure the kind of team they'll be once everyone is

healthy. Missing from action Friday were three probable starters: center Jerome Washburn, with a hamstring muscle pull; guard James Curtis, still recovering from off-season knee surgery; and transfer guard Terry Koerner, sidelined by academic problems.

Donahue started two freshmen and, after a shaky first half, things turned around. SMC trailed 39-34 at the break before building its second-half lead, thanks to the three-point shooting by James Butcher.

The senior guard connected on six of 10 tries from three-point territory and finished with a game-high 22 points. Sophomore guard Desny Butcher, still hampered by a cracked collarbone, showed no ill effects; he netted 18 points. Junior forward James Lakes contributed 14 and freshman guard Jeff Suspect had 13 — 11 in the second half.

Suspect was at the free throw line in the game's final seconds with a chance to tie the victory. He had hit all seven of his previous free throws, but this time he bounced the ball off his foot, a violation that gave the ball to Aquinas. The Saints, however, couldn't connect, and SMC hung on for the win.

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