Now is the time to prepare for bowling season



Here comes the new bowl-ing senson. Are you rendy for it?

Most leagues will be getting under way within a few weeks. If you have not used your equipment over the summer, it would be a good idea to check its status. If the ball doesn't seem to fit

would be a good idea to check its status. If the ball doesn't seem to fit right, it sometimes is due to lack of your hand being used for this purpose for a couple of months. After a few games, your tendons will stretch out again and the slightly tight finger holes will loosen up (no, the ball did not change, your hand did).

After a couple weeks of bowling, if the fit doesn't seem right, it's time to visit the pro shop.

It would be a good idea for all league bowlers to get out at least a few times to throw some practice games. Don't worry about the accres, the lane conditions could be totally different right now.

Just get yourself "tuned up"

Just get yourself "tuned up" again for bowling, especially with the bargain rates you can

with the bargain rates you can find during August.

Look at the shoe situation, for if the sliding sole is worn out, it's time to get replacements. Better to do so in the pre-season than the middle of the season.

pre-season than the middle of the season. Another suggestion is to call your team members and make sure they are planning to bowl

again. Some people just seem to disappear and then the team is left short-handed. Moneywise, sanctioning fees have gone up \$2 more for men. The ladies stays the same at \$10.50 per year while the men will be paying \$12 this season.

*Expo Report: The 1996 edition of this event at Gibraltar North last weekend was not very good.

tion of this event at Gibraltar North last weekend was not very good.

I would not go so far as to call it a "lop." Many consumers did attend, mostly all from the cast side suburbs.

The numbers were down, there were few interesting attractions, just a few new products, and it has become pretty much a clearing opportunity for lose-outs.

Ebonite's new ball, the "Wolf" looks like a winner. Storm Products displayed its line of balls including one called the "spare" which is designed to "go long, then go straight," according to Bob Hart of Storm.

Many of the older bowlers will remember Hart from his time in Detroit when he was one of the All-Stars and had won his share of titles locally and on the Pro Tour.

Storm also features some high-performance balls including the "Facilic Storm. Dilaura Brothers introduced ac couple of new items to take away those pains from sore knees and elbows called "Band-it" and 'Kneed-it."

They will be available in most pro shops soon, the "Expo" itself needs some fresh new ideas and creativity to keep it going in the foreseeable future

The Eccentric will juellan team photos whenever possible. Please submit all team photos to Tham Photos, 805 E. Mojol, Birmighaes, Mich., 48093. All aports teams covering the Birmingham-Bloomfield, West Bloomfield, Walled Lake, Rochester, Southfield and Trya areas are eligible.



Oakland Sox rule: The Oakland Sox, a group of 11-year-old baseball players from throughout Oakland County, played in the North Oakland Baseball Federation this summer. The Sox sported an 89-10 record covering the past two summers. They were the 1995 Michigan State champions and missed participating in the AABC World Series by one victory at the Ft. Wayne Regional. Players contributing to the team's success include: Josh Jacobson, Mike Jones and Nick Schilling (Rochester), Chris Lakos (Troy); Steve Cullen and Chris Keener (Oxford); Joel Coe, Joel Malkasian (Lake Orion); Brendan Rosenbergh (Bloomfield Hills); Kyle Flancbaum (Farmington); Kyle Creapeau (West Bloomfield); and Richie Englam (Otisville). Assisting manager Dave Cullen are pitching coach Mark Scott; infield coach Joe Rosenbergh; outfield coaches Joe Creapeau and Mark Swaha; and team administrator Ken Keener.

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FURNACE SALE

REBATES UP TO \$250

Meltdown from page C1

The Meltdown seized the first jewel, and their first national title, by going undefeated at the July 6-13 American Inline Roller Hockey Series (ARHS) in St. Louis, Mo. They edged the St. Louis Franklin Blast 5-3 in the Junior Division title game as Brian Eovaldi was named Tournament MVP and Jason Deskins. finished as the tourney's high

finished as the tourney's high scorer.
Chris Burch, a sophomore defenseman on Walled Lake Central's, 1995-96 ice hockey team, acted as a team assistant. He was a member of the Rockets in 1995, but a broken leg suffered during this past high school hockey season prevented him from suiting up in 96.
The second jewel – the United

States Amateur Confederation of Roller Skating (USAC/RS) nationals – was held duly 18-26 in Chicago. Despite, playing without top goalies Blackburn and Jeff Reynaert who were both at the USA Hockey Select 17 Camp in Colorado Springs, the Meltdawn reached the title game but came out flat and lost 5-3 to the Empire (N.Y.) Snipers after falling behind 3-0.

However, the loss, the Meltdawn's first since July 1995, served as a wake-up call in preparation for the NARCh. "The NARCh is the big one, said Cody Begdorian, 17, who in the fall enters his senior year at Bloomfield Hills Lahser. "It's definitely the top pational tournament because the best teams from the around the country will be there. First place is it for us. We won't be happy with anything else."

We won't be happy with any-thing class. Four Meltdown members – Ernie Hartleib, Ron Kolito, Jason Deskins and Brian Eoval-di – were named to USAC's World Junior Team (Team USA); which competed in the first Junior World Cup Invitational at The Odeum immediately follow-ing the USAC'RS nationals.

Ice is nice

Puck roller hockey involves

U.S.G.A. Index or ten 18ho

two 15-minute periods and teams of four skaters and a goalic. The game is designed for speed and scoring - there are no offsides or icing restrictions - and checking is not allowed.

But that doesn't mean coach Begdorian isn't looking for ice hockey players. It's quite the contrary.

Basically, I want a real good ice hockey background, said Begdorian, whose introduction to roller hockey came when his then 12-year-old son, Cody, landed a spot on a Macomb County skating rink house team.

That's real important. Size is not that important in this game; it's a finesse game and it's all about having the skills like puck control and passing."

Coach Begdorian's careful selection process has been described as aggressive. But, as he explains, it takes talent and togetherness to survive on the demanding national level.

togetherness to aurvive on the demanding national level. Therefore, the team will periodically undergo roster changes in a search for that mix.

"This is like a little mini-machine and you try and keep the best guys on the team," cach Begdorian said. "If some-body's not working out or he's not doing what he's supposed to do, well, there are other people

Carter, an 18-year-old Ply-mouth Canton graduate, plays left wing for the Detroit Whalers of the Ontario Hockey League. He joined the Meltdown just a few months ago and has been impressed.

few months ago and has been impressed.

"This is a real good team," Carter remarked. "We've played against a lot of good team during the last two tournaments we've been in, but we have five or six guys that are exceptional players."

crs."

Carter says he enjoys playing defense in roller hockey because he can control the game more at that position. And like his teammates, he's optimistic the Meltdown will bounce back from the USAC/RS loss to the Snipers.

Snipers.
"We all felt pretty bad. It was
the like the first junior game
(the Meldown) had lost in a long
time," Carter said. "But we will
be ready for the NARCh tournarent."

that want to play this game that we know about.

"Most of my guys are at the highest level of ice hockey for their age and they re well known in the community of ice hockey... And to win at the national level that's what you have to have. You can't go into a national tournament weak at any position and other coaches like myself in other cities are doing the same there cities are doing the same there is no the coaches like myself in other cities are doing the same there is no there is no the coaches like myself in other cities are doing the same there is no the coaches like myself in other cities are doing the same there is no the coaches like myself in other cities are doing the same there is no the coaches like myself in other cities are doing the same the coaches like myself in other cities are doing the same the coaches like myself in other cities are doing the same the coaches like myself in other cities are doing the same the coaches like myself in other cities are doing the same the coaches like myself in other cities are doing the same the coaches like myself in other cities are doing the same the coaches like myself in other cities are doing the same the coaches like myself in other cities are doing the coaches like myself in other cities are doing the coaches like myself in other cities are doing the coaches like myself in other cities are doing the coaches like myself in other cities are doing the coaches like myself in other cities are doing the coaches like myself in other cities are doing the coaches like myself in other cities are doing the coaches like myself in other cities are doing the coaches like myself in other cities are doing the coaches like myself in other cities are doing the coaches like myself in other cities are doing the coaches like myself in other cities are doing the coaches like myself in other cities are doing the coaches like myself in other cities are doing the coaches like myself in other cities are doing the coaches like myself in other cities are doing the coaches like my

house.
"To win at the NARCh tournament we have to be steady in our play and we have to remember what happened to us in the past," Blackburn said. "We had a letdown (in the USACRS final) and I think we're eager to make up for that."
"We did OK at the USAC. A lot of teams were cumning for us

up for that."
We did OK at the USAC. A lot
of teams were gunning for us
and we fell a little short, coach
Begdorian said. "But we're optimistic about the NARCh tournament in part of because of what I
have with our top two gonlies.
The thing we're going to have to
do is play tough man-to-man
defense. We're going to sore our
share of goals, but we have to
make sure and focus on shutting
the other teams down.
"I'm having a riot out here. It's
great to work the kids and we're
taving a lot of fun."
Other current Meltdown mem
bers include defensemen Chris
Lipka, Rob Krueger, Randy
odgers and forward Chris Sensoli.

Coach Begdorian admits goal-

SPORTS SHORTS

MACKER TOURNEY TIP-OFF

MACKET TOURISMY THEORY
Registration will continue
through Tuesday, Aug. 20, for
teams wishing to participate in
the Gus Macker 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament salted for Sept.
7-8 at Pine Knob Music Theater.
Entry forms remain available at
area Meijer stores and at Oakland University.
For further information, call

For further information, call the Macker Hotline at 1-800-876-HOOP or the local hotline at (810) 375-5762.

LAKSIR GOLF OUTING

The Laker Fan Club is holding the second annual Laker Golf Outing beginning with a shot-gun start at 1 p.m. Friday, August 23, at Brentwood Golf & Country Club in White Lake.

includes a cart, a buffet dinner and 18-holes of golf.

For more information call Steve Bright during business hours at (810) 932-5200 or in the evenings at (810) 661-1546.

PREP COACHES INTROVO

West Bloomfield Schools is looking for two varsity football assistant coaches and three middle school football coaches, interested candidates should call (810) 539-2580.

Laker Courses

The Laker Fan Ctub is holding the second annual Laker Golf Outing beginning with a short on start at 1 p.m. Friday, lugust 23, at Brentwood Golf & Zountry Club in White Lake.

Cost is \$80 per person and (810) 589-2580. — would call the Walled Lake MI Golf of Walled Lake MI Golf of Walled Lake MI 48390, or call (810) 960-8373 for more information.

