

Cobras keep scores close but win once

The 18-and-under NFWB Michigan Cobras returned from the Junior Olympic national championships with one victory, a 16-10 win over the Iowa Aces.

Although the Cobras did not advance, they were competitive in losses to the San Antonio Missions (4-2), New Jersey Outlaws (7-5), Kentucky Colonels (5-2) and South Carolina PITT (7-5).

Engler issued individual certificates of commendation to the players, coaching staff and league president Al Ludwig.

The Cobras won the state championship three of the last four years, and in 1995, finished fourth nationally.

NFWB's Michael Sopo and Josh Gad-Harf received honorable mention certificates in the Junior Olympic tournament in Charlotte, N.C.

Sopo, a West Bloomfield resident and student at Orchard Lake St. Mary's High School, compiled a .550 batting average and had the fifth-highest average in the tournament.

Gad-Harf, who attends West Bloomfield High School, was recognized for his three home runs. Also hitting home for the Cobras was Brian Gruber, Brad McCloskey and Craig Sopo.

Other team members are Dan Duffey, Joe Morris, Tim Andrzejak, Andrew Todd, Mark Richards, Jay Melvin, John Piekall, Mike Barrett, Tim Clouse and Wellington Andrews.

Living legend

Prybyla leaves his mark on bowling scene



AL HARRISON

During the opening ceremonies of the Les Stanford Chevrolet Hall of Fame and Museum Thursday All-Star Classic leagues Aug. 19, many introductions took place and a special event occurred.

George Prybyla, longtime proprietor of Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park, handed the "key" over to the new ownership. Jim Ströbl takes over the helm at this world-renowned bowling emporium.

For Prybyla, it was another milestone in his 67 years as a bowling proprietor. He is not actually retiring. He will stay on with the new regime and lend his guidance to assure that the facility will continue in its time-honored tradition.

Most readers probably don't know who George Prybyla is and George himself is not one to seek attention. But this man is a living legend and link with the past. From humble beginnings in Hamtramck to a position of

respect throughout the bowling industry, he has "been there, done that."

This man has been a good friend to the likes of Andy Varipapa, Joe Morris, George Young (described by Prybyla as "the nicest guy in bowling"), Pete Carter, Buzz Fazio, Johnny Crimmins, Tony Lindermann, Eddie Lubanski and Harry Campbell.

Campbell spent many years managing the house with a special flair. Then there is Joe Paulus, one of the legendary bowlers who is a hall of famer as well as a partner at Thunderbowl Lanes.

Back in the 1950s, George was a heck of a bowler, averaging over 200. He had to make a tough decision, whether to be a bowler or a bowling alley owner. He certainly made the right choice, but over the years, he has been so busy running the business, there was rarely any time left for him to bowl.

Prybyla has left his mark here in any way. He established the Greater Detroit Bowling Hall of Fame in the concourse of Thunderbowl. It is worth the trip for bowling fans or enthusiasts to walk in just to see this impressive display.

He has also given great support to the national Hall of Fame and Museum in St. Louis, for which he and Campbell have raised more than \$45,000. He has helped raise more than \$250,000 for various charitable causes throughout the Detroit area.

As George puts it, "Bowling has been real nice to me, it's a great pleasure to give something back."

Both of the Tuesday and Thursday All-Star leagues have dedicated their 63rd anniversary season to George Prybyla and that is quite an honor.

At the opening ceremony, the Dan Ottman team was presented with the Eagle, a

trophy for winning the ABC National Tournament at Huntville this spring. Ottman, a Troy resident, was recently elected to the Greater Detroit Bowling Association Hall of Fame, a sensational year for this most deserving representative of the sport of bowling.

Just to show that Thunderbowl is not exactly standing still, it recently announced a new tournament this season with \$100,000 guaranteed for first and \$50,000 for second place. It will be a handicap event on an individual basis. That is great news for all Detroit area bowlers and with handicap, anyone has a chance to win some big money.

Roy Munson is not eligible to bowl in this event, even with his rubber hand. If you don't get my drift, then you did not see the movie "Kingpin."

Al Harrison writes about bowling for the Observer Newspapers. He lives in Garden City.

BASEBALL

Unlike their opponents, who draw players from across their entire states, the Cobras get 76 percent of their talent from the immediate Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield communities, according to NFWB manager Bob Sopo.

"The New England team, for example, conducted tryouts and selected the team from three New England states," he said. "Our competitive performance complements the NFWB youth baseball organization."

Sopo added Gov. John

Tennis from page C1

tial to be in the finals of the league and regional."

Lipin isn't certain about her doubles teams except to say seniors Eria Morgan and Nadia Zaman will fill the No. 1 or 2 assignment.

"I keep telling them they're going to be the pivotal team for getting us to states," Lipin said. "I visualize them as a strong team, and I see them getting stronger."

Other doubles combinations could be juniors Cristina Grzejewski and Nicole Gopojan and senior Melissa Connolly with freshman Maggie Wright.

Also competing for a doubles position will be senior Melihann Connolly and sophomores Carey Czech, Ann Stacey and Marissa Macandrog.

Fifty-four girls appeared for preseason practice. Mercy has a no-cut policy, so the Marlins will have two JV teams in addition to the varsity.

Mercy was third in the Holly Invitational Saturday behind Rochester (19) and Whitehall (18) with 17 points and lost the dual meet to Lahser, 6-3.

Harrison High School

The Hawks also have a new coach in Deborah Schmitz, who replaces longtime coach Bernie Goldstein, who retired from teaching at the end of last school year.

Schmitz is new to coaching but played tennis at Taylor Truman High School. She is a Farmington Community Schools teacher.

The Hawks, who were fourth in the Western Lakes Activities Association tournament, return an outstanding No. 1 singles player in senior Carla Shade.

"She looks very strong in practice, and I expect she'll have a very nice season," Schmitz said.

"She's a good all-round player. She can really run her opponents around."

Junior Brittany Maxey will play No. 2 singles and is a well-rounded player like Shade, according to Schmitz.

"Both are very good servers and have strong backhands," she said. "Their forehands are equally as good. Neither is afraid to come to the net."

Sophomore Kelli Vessell is slated for No. 3 singles and freshman Jill Maxey No. 4.

Players contending for doubles positions are seniors Jodi Schuld and Lynn Papowicki, Juniors Brian Mailloche and Christina Junge, sophomores Melissa Donovan and Angela Zadorozny and freshmen Amber Bahr, Sara Duffy and Joanna Konopka.

"We have a very strong singles department, and our doubles are trying hard and will be doing well by the end of the year," Schmitz said. "I expect us to have a very nice season."

TENNIS

BLOOMFIELD HILLS LAHSER 7 FARMINGTON 1 Tuesday at Farmington

No. 1 singles: Colleen McHugh (L) defeated Fawn O'Leary, 6-0, 6-0.

No. 2: Carrie May (F) def. Stephanie Chin, 6-4, 7-5.

No. 3: Rhonda Luedke (L) def. Stephanie Unger, 6-2, 6-2.

No. 4: Rachel Andeer (L) def. Carly Ramsey, 6-2, 6-1.

No. 1 doubles: Rachel Victor-Restra Venasupe (L) def. Susan Kettler-Joanna Gora, 6-0, 6-3.

No. 2: Allison Eddy-Elaine Rosa (L) def. Karen Pawloski-Kari Berkesch, 6-3, 6-2.

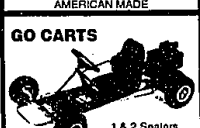
No. 3: Revalli Mummenn-Nitya Ganesh (L) def. Lynsay Howard-Lauren Picard, 6-1, 6-1.

No. 4: Marla Morian-Kara Antonini (L) def. Anna Gough-Molly Weaver, 7-6 (7-4), 6-0.

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