

Last-minute gift idea: new see-through bowling ball

Dear Santa: With less than a week 'til Christmas, it is too late to wish for a new bowling ball.

I already have one or two I like a lot, but Ebonite has come out with a new 'Skull' ball.

It may seem ghoulish, but this is a lot different from the dull or mundane black, red or blue.

They have developed a Fun Ball series that has already brought forth the brightly colored Zebra and Tai Chi balls in polyester.

The Skull ball was introduced in prototype for the movie 'Mystery Men' starring James Gandolfini, not exactly a box office hit, but coming to home video in January.

In the movie, this ball suppos-

edly contained the skull of Garafalo's father, Carmine the Bowler, who was slain by the mob. The ball then became a weapon for her to avenge his death.

Even though the motion picture won't win any Oscars, the ball caught the attention of many fans and Ebonite began production in November, announcing that 8,000 of these would be available that month.

"The supply was sold out before they even hit the shelves," said Bill Scheid, Ebonite president. "In a category that was virtually non-existent, the Fun Balls were quickly sold out and had created a lot of hype and Beanie Baby mystique."

Beyond being eye-catching, the new Skull ball is a technological work.

Utilizing Everclear, an exclusive polyester to create a completely clear veneer, Ebonite engineers were able to create the first actual see-through bowling

BOWLING

balls. Other see-through balls were cloudy, at best. This type of ball will have a very low hook coefficient, therefore it will perform better as a spare ball, or for use on very dry lanes.

"The bowling industry has been introspective for a very long time," says Bob Reid, vice-president of marketing for Ebonite. "Not only have we been too caught up in a technology to improve scores of a small percentage, the real serious bowlers, the industry simply overlooked the millions of recreational bowlers."

"More importantly, the industry forgot what made bowling a wonderful sport from the beginning — fun."

"Millions of dollars have been spent to find the right core shape, weight and veneer for dif-

ferent types of bowlers and conditions."

The highly aggressive balls that many bowlers are using help produce a more powerful shot, but they make spare shooting more difficult.

With the Fun Balls, spare shooting is just a step back to straight basics. If you can throw it, you should make most of the spares.

As for the Skull ball, the production run will be limited, so if you want to own one of the freakiest balls ever, see your pro shop guy right away.

In the Bacardi/Blue Ribbon group scratch tournament last week at Westland Bowl, Chris Mowinski emerged victorious after a final match dogfight with Bill Zacheranik.

It was Zacheranik, however, who stole the show by being high qualifier with a 300 and 278 among his three game total of 805.

Bill also breezed by his match

play opponents only to lose his carry in the final match, enabling Mowinski, who was a steady performer all day to take home the \$1,500 first prize.

In the second match-play round, Mowinski defeated Gary Duarard 219-170; Bill Zacheranik downed Jim Graves, 249-223 and Mike Gehrke bested last month's winner, Don Parks, 211-193.

Zacheranik got a bye, then Mowinski bested Gehrke 278-184 to move into the final match. The next event is slated for 11 a.m., Jan. 16, 2000, at Drakeshire Lanes in Farmington Hills.

"Congratulations to Jeff Nieman for his victory over Jeff Potts of Redford in the Midstate Masters 198 division bowled at Super Bowl in Canton last Sunday."

Nieman qualified 23rd and Potts made match play by one pin in the 62nd spot.

Other qualifiers from O&E

Cities: Chuck Saperstein, Birmingham (2nd); Mike Wiat (4th); Scott Allen (9th); Al Anderson (12th); of Westland; Bob Worley (11th) of Livonia; Glenn Swiney (17th) and Tom Brisbey (38th) of Redford; Allyn Madden (26th) of Southfield; Bob Maki (29th) of Canton and Earl Fugh III (60th) of Garden City.

Jason Nieman earned a trophy and \$2,300 for first and runner up Potts pocketed \$1,150 for second place.

Jarvis Woelke rolled a perfect game Tuesday morning in the Senior Men's Invitational League at Wonderland Lanes in Livonia.

There have been a lot of other 300 games around town, but Jarv is only 86 years young and underwent knee replacement surgery a few years ago.

He is nicknamed 'The Mechanic', descriptive of his precision style. It was the second 300 for Woelke, in his long bowling career.

BOWLING HONOR ROLL

Wayflower Lanes (Redford)
Wednesday Men's Senior Classic: Jim Zellen, 245/215/222/684; Ted Kriest, 278/083; Hal Lacouche, 257/040; Frank Patten, 250/601; Norm Bouchard, 258/696.
Monday Seniors: Jim Zellen, 258/696; B. Nunney, 266/872; Big Bill, 670; Jim Rosen, 243/660; Bud Kramer, 242/235/651; Jack Johnston, 250.
Friday Seniors: Mel Abramo, 259/119; Walt Anderson, 278/121; Dick Ketter, 292/670; Len Zendei, 256/659; Frank Fendric, 244/055.
Oak Lanes (Westland)
O&E Adult: Paula Stasak, 223/008; Judy Gentile, 234/592; Ann Niedermyer, 214/592; Gary Spelman, 235/560; Hazel Fran, 221/555.
Town 'n Country (Westland)
WB Sunday Memorial: Carol Komopatzi, 250/713.
Tuesday Junior Classic: Jim Harper, 290/751.
Thursday Morning Men: Rick Farr, 300; Marc Stencel, 300.
"A C Youth/Adult: Gary Pack, 755; Gary Schemke, 722.
Westland Bowl
St. Paul's Men: Mark Hatch, 276/630; Jason Williams, 270/614; Whitey Carter, 201/627; Mark Brooks, 267/074; John Aul, 269/618.
Monday Men: Jeff Sosnowski, 252/622; Mike Gehrke, 248/609; Harmon Graves, 247/685; John Castillo, 244/645; Mike Sosnowski, 242.
BARCEN The Mike Boucher, 268/834; Bill Cady, 212/582; Brian Doodie, 211/564.
Westland Champs: Tina Dickhaut, 254 (121 pins o/a); 524; Candy Loschlevo, 235/629; Don Pitt, 221/523; Sunny Cans, 222/608; Suzanne Eka, 251/621.
Thursday Nite Mixed: Keith Post, 256/652; Genevieve Forbes, 244/584; Harrison, 245/682; Brian Bailey, 234/594; Candy Bailey, 213/510.
Sunday Seniors: Ray Agius, 289/708; Mike Norris, Jr., 279/723; Jeff Roche, 278/721; Ryan Wilson, 278/726; Tom Johnson, Jr., 278/708.
E/O Double Trouble: David Fish, 268/613; Bill Barron, 232/581; David LeDon, Sr., 237/598; Frank Buchanan, 225/591; Kris Barrett, 190.
E/O Hand Time: Al Bering, 290/767; Pat Masterson, 260/643; Louise Gordie, 256/590; Kathy Brown, 243/606; Laura Maher, 219/590.
Monday Morning Men: Randy Kline, 268/759; Pat Stover, 257/686; Joe Kovach, 234/666; Larry Rosenberg, 237/590; Vernon Looney, 216/582.
AM Ladies Title: Jana Tavorina, 200; Phylis Hartman, 181; Paula Forder, 172.
Youth League (Saturday) Coe Cola Majors: Tony Vitale, 278/673; Erick Shumka, 232/615; Brian Paczynski, 227/614; Pat Butler, 222/613; Crystal Tion, 60, 203/516.
Saturday Coe Cola Juniors: Darrell Ott, 225/609; Ryan Warner, 213/570; David Ponder, 206/536.
Saturday Coe Cola Pros: Adam Whalen, 150; Jason Brown, 148; Holly Clendening, 137.
Saturday Coe Cola Seniors: Joshua Tavana, 105; Courtney Smith, 123.
Tuesday Seniors: Stefan Harrison, 119.
Tuesday Seniors: Devin Craig, 97; Rachel Romanek, 123; Michelle Goff, 111; Valerie Romanek, 107; Stacey Cooper, 101.
Tuesday Youth Doubles: Matthew Yeak, 105; Kristopher Boyer, 109; Jessica Witte,

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