

2000 big year in bowling



AL HARRISON

The last year of the second millennium has ended, and, oh, what a year it was on the local bowling scene. We have seen some things take place that will be noted for many years to come — new records established and other ways in which this sport of ours has taken great new strides and shows a positive outlook for the coming new year.

Starting with the Y2K bug, the computers did not all crash as feared and wipe out our memory chips. Even the Autoscore and computer secretary programs survived the big scare of just one year ago.

Shawn Arbogast of Westland had the first Observerland 300 of the year at Westland Bowl in the Sunday Sleepers league.

The game began at 10:48 a.m. and ended at 11:34 a.m. and was submitted to the ABC. In February, 60-year-old Jarvis Woelke became the first octogenarian in the history of the game to have rolled two 300s in the same season. His second was at Mayflower Lanes in Redford.

His other 300 was at Wondoland Lanes in Livonia two months earlier. Woelke's feat was noted in an article in the May 16th edition of Sports Illustrated.

The month of March featured the purchase of the men's Pro Bowlers Tour by a group of former Microsoft executives led by Chris Peters. This move will ultimately lead to more money available to promote the sport of bowling, especially on national TV.

Also in March, the Michigan High School Bowling Championships took place at Century Lanes in Waterford with the

Plymouth Salem team capturing the boys title and the Waterford Mott girls team taking the crown in their division. In April, it was Livonia's Julie Wright setting the pace by winning the State "Queen" title by winning the Michigan Queens Tournament at Royal Scot Lanes in Lansing.

On April 10, the All-Star Bowlerettes league had the Turbo 2-N-1 Grips/Romero team set a new all-time high series with 3,557 against the All-Star Grille team, which came back in November to top that high water mark with a 3,600 series.

In May, it was Tim Dotherage of Westland coming through with a victory worth \$10,000 in the Brunswick Challenge. In order to qualify one had to have bowled a 300 game in this competition during the season.

As luck would have it, Wondoland Lanes proprietor Ken Bashara also won \$3,000 as the host bowling center for the winner. May also saw Larry Walker of Garden City named Bowler of the Year by the All-Stars in their banquet at St. Mary's Cultural Center.

In June, the Cecil Ward Youth Travel Classic League won the youth travel championships by defeating the Western Wayne Youth Travel Classic and the Sunday Youth Classic in a match at Ypsi Arabo Lanes.

Also in June, Jackie Haner won the youth scholarship awarded at the Michigan State Bowling Council banquet in Jackson. Haner was the first female to roll a perfect game in the WWTTC.

In November, it was the five women bowlers on the All-Star Grille team setting a new all-time world record with a three game series of 3,600 in which they rolled 113 strikes along the way.

Another November happening was that during the 70th

annual Old Timers Tournament, GDBA President Michael Monson of Farmington Hills rolled a 300 game along with another 300 by Phil Horowitz of West Bloomfield. They were the first ever perfect games in the history of the event. Monson also topped the 800 mark for his series.

In August, Dagwood Bumstead was elected to the Greater Detroit Bowling Hall of Fame in a special category to bring nationwide attention to the Detroit area bowling community.

In September, the leagues went into full swing and those who bowl at some of the area centers in which Steve Klein operates the All-Star Grille were able to satisfy their palate by ordering the Al Harrison Burger, which Steve has added to his menu. The All-Star Grilles are located in Cloverlanes (Livonia), Plaza Lanes (Plymouth), Cherry Hill Lanes (Dearborn Heights) and Hazel Park Bowl.

In the Oct. 22 Ten Pin Alley, I suggested that presidential candidates Al Gore and George W. Bush settle the election with a bowling match. This was a few weeks before the Florida fiasco, and what a simple solution this would have been to the whole matter, the winner of the match becomes the next president.

In December, Mark and Diane Voight of Farmington Hills announced their purchase of Woodhaven Lanes, bringing their total number of bowling centers to 18. The Voights now own the nation's largest independently-owned chain of bowling centers.

Question of the week: What can some senior bowlers do that none of the youth bowlers can?

Answer: Sing and brush their teeth at the same time.

Al Harrison is a resident of Garden City. He can be reached at (734) 422-1609.

BCS doesn't solve everything



PAUL BEAUDRY

The only bowl I want to see for now is a soup bowl.

Did anyone else notice that whenever ABC or ESPN hyped the Orange and Sugar Bowls during New Year's Day's bowlfest, the networks would be quick to tell you that the Orange Bowl would be between No. 1 Oklahoma and No. 2 Florida State?

However, they would conveniently forget to inform you that No. 2 meant BCS points, not rankings in the polls. And they conveniently avoided mentioning Miami's ranking (No. 2 in the polls, last time I looked before the bowls), in order to perpetuate the rating-driven myth that the Orange Bowl will solve the battle between No. 1 and No. 2.

This column comes out after the last bowl game, played last night, but I can promise you that if Florida State won, the Associated Press writers' poll will rank the Hurricanes as No. 1 and the coaches will pick the Seminoles. So much for the BCS solving everything...

Hey, Notre Dame fans! Still

think the Irish deserved a spot in the BCS? Sure and glad Bob Davie signed that nice long contract extension.

Speaking of contract extension that didn't mean jack, any Michigan fans who were excited to see John Cooper fired are misguided.

Cooper was the best coach Michigan ever had. He'd usually win enough games to stick around, then his bottom would pucker against the Wolverines and his teams would lose that game and any bowl game.

Throw in the fact that he kept losing Ohio high school players to other schools, his team was in internal disarray between infighting and academics and other problems and it was simple to see why he was let go.

Cooper was hired from Arizona State on the basis of one win — his 1987 Rose Bowl victory over Michigan. A lot of the reason he was let go was because his next 13 teams at OSU could only beat the Wolverines twice and were 3-8 in bowls. Farwell, Coop, Michigan fans will miss you.

Speaking of Michigan, I never thought I'd see the day when the women's basketball team came close to outdrawing the men's team. Pay no attention to what was announced when

the men beat Eastern Michigan on Saturday night. Attendance at the women's game against Purdue that afternoon was real close in terms of actual fannies in the stands.

Speaking of fannies in the stands (or lack thereof), rumor is that the Rockers actually won again. They have as many wins this year as Ohio State did under Cooper against Michigan. And instead of introducing the players before the games, they're going to start introducing the fans.

BCS update: Think Nebraska was trying to make a point to the BCS powers with its win over Northwestern?

BCS update: Think Virginia Tech should have played in the Fiesta Bowl instead of Notre Dame?

I did watch replays of some of the high school football finals over the weekend and have three questions.

One, when is Harrison applying to the OLIAC; two, how's John Herrington with new knees; and, three, what game were the officials in the Division I game between Grand Ledge and Utica Elmhower watching?

(Beaudry is the Redford-Garden City sports editor. He can be reached at 734-953-2106.)

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