

Bowling transcends racial boundaries

AL HARRISON

TEN-PIN ALLEY
As we have observed Martin Luther King day last Monday, it seems that few have recognized the way the sport of bowling has exemplified the true meaning and spirit of his dream of racial integration.

community has taken to bowling in increasing numbers while the overall league memberships have been falling every year. Black bowlers have distinguished themselves well on the lanes over the years with some of the best names in the game. Such a list would have to start with Cheryl Daniels, Carmen Allen, Yvonne Jones, Novella White and Tamika Glenn among the women, Curtis Odum, Gerald Brown, Frank Robinson Jr., Lonnie Jones, Earl Justice, and from an earlier era, Eddie Peart, Bill Rodman, John Barnhill and Bill Grundy. Many of the younger kids today show a lot of promise, such as Pat Brown, who led his Plymouth-Salem team to the state high school championship last year.

Surely there are many good leagues in the Detroit area that enjoy a friendly competitive scene, but their rosters are open to anyone regardless of race, color or creed. The big question for a team captain would be, "Can this guy bowl?" When bowlers lace up their shoes they do not waste thought or energy on whether a bowler on either team is black, white or purple, but rather ask "What's his average?" It is also noteworthy that the African-American

and board member Linda Landrum. The officials of the Greater Detroit Bowling Association include First Vice President Marvin Dooley, John Davis Jr., John J. Davis, Frank Robinson Jr. and past President Eben Smart. These are people who have devoted their time and energy to the betterment of the sport without thought of compensation or financial gain.

Wanza Christie of Redford averages around 134 in the West Lane Ladies Senior League at Oak Lanes in Westland. Last Monday she rolled a 240 game, which is good for anyone who bowls but great for a 78-year-old. Wanza has been bowling since the age of 18 and, needless to say, she loves the game. This is indeed a lifetime sport for those who enjoy it so much. For those who enjoy mingling from AARP, there are plenty of good opportunities to bowl and have fun. Senior leagues are everywhere. The atmosphere is

always friendly. There is lots of good competition, and the cost is usually less. Even the sanction fee is discounted for seniors age 55 and over. There are some good tournaments, "golden opportunities" for seniors both locally and at the national level.

The Michigan State Bowling Association Tournament at Jackson is currently in week No. 2 of its 17-week run. The Optional Doubles event has the combination of Lee Snow of Farmington Hills and Ken Kosick of Canton in fourth place in the "Scratch Optional" with a score of 1,364. Livonia's Jon Parks and Bob Rozycki lead in "Scratch Doubles" actual with 1,462. This pair also leads in "Doubles Handicap" with 1,661. Kosick currently holds first place in "Singles" actual with 778, which is also good for first place in "Singles Handicap." Snow has second in "All-Events Actual" with 2,119.

COUNTRY LANE (Editor)

Final Birth Jacobson: Dennis Edner, 288/801.

FOOTBALL

Lee first became an assistant with the Patriots in 1985 under Armand Vigna. He also played for Vigna as a linebacker and tight end, catching a touchdown pass in the 1975 state Class A

championship game in a 21-7 win over Traverse City.

The 43-year-old Lee addressed players Friday afternoon after informing Franklin principal Dan Willenck and athletic director Dan Freeman of his decision to "retire."

Lee, who commuted to practices daily from his home in Birmingham, works for Four Way Aircraft Co. of Center Line.

"This has been well thought out and it's simply time to move on," Lee said. "It's bittersweet, but I enjoyed every minute I coached her. My brothers Bob and John played at Franklin. It's been a part of me a long time. I remember going to my first game there in 1969 when I was 12 years-old."

"I was given a great opportunity to coach at my alma mater and I'm thankful Dan (Freeman) hired me. I'm also thankful Armand (Vigna) gave me an opportunity to coach at Franklin in the mid 80s. I also appreciate what Dr. (Kenneth) Watson (Livonia's Superintendent of Schools) did for me there when he was principal."

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