

Winning was foremost for bowlers in 65th Gavie



TEN-PIN ALLEY
Can you imagine 84 teams of five bowlers each under one roof in one day for a tournament where the pride of winning is more important than cash prizes?

It happened Aug. 20 at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park at the 65th Annual John P. Gavie Memorial Tournament.

There were lots of excellent scores throughout the house as proprietor Jim Strobl made sure that the lanes would be good. Not easy, but possible for a good shooter to score well.

Good luck to all the bowlers out there in our communities, who together make the greater Detroit area the largest and best bowling scene anywhere in the world.

The Gavie is the largest one day tournament of its kind anywhere.

More than a tournament, it is a social event where old friends get together again and renew friendships.

In the opening ceremonies, Aleta Sill was honored for her having been selected as one of Detroit's top ten athletes of all time, taking her place along with Gordie Howe, Bobby Layne, Joe Louis, Sheila Young and Dave Bing among others in connection with Detroit 300, the city's tri-centennial celebration this year.

The tournament was also dedicated to Dan Ottman of Troy in the men's division, Sill in the women's and Gene Stus in the Seniors.

The men's champion, Storm Team, consisted of Dick Beattie (700), Rick Eiermann (590), Brantley (715), Jeff Austreng (720) and Kevin Trumbull (705) for a winning total of 3,430.

High series in men's went to Vern Flowers, who shot an 803 series.

The winning team in the women's category was Turbo 2-N-1 Grips with Erica Mickowski (628), Shelley Zarek (659), Novella White (662), Lisa Pittaway (735) and Michelle Ewald (684) for a total of 3,368. The high game was a 299 bowled by Michelle Mullin while Pittaway's 735 took high series honors.

As for the seniors, it was Gil & Co. with a winning total of 3,077 rolled by Gil Weems (627), Kit Floyd (520), James Jacks (587), Norman Johnson (631) and Will Lenox (610).

The nearly 500 bowlers who participated had a great time and each came away with a souvenir bag and a big smile.

*The very next night, also at Thunderbowl, the Detroit Pepsi All-Star Classic began its 67th season.

This is the league that Joe Norris built. Incredibly, 25 percent of bowlers who are in the American Bowling Congress Hall of Fame competed in this league at one time or other over the years.

They carry on the tradition of legendary bowlers of past years who helped establish the league as the standard of excellence.

They bowl in the Arena section, and the public is welcome any Tuesday night to watch some of the most proficient bowlers anywhere.

The Hamtramck Singles Detroit All-Star Traveling Classic bowls on Thursday nights at 30 different bowling centers in Metro Detroit. Many of the stars bowl in both leagues.

The rosters of the all-star leagues are full of great names from around the area, many of whom are present and future Hall-of-Famers.

*Jim Kidd of Livonia was not kidding when he sent me the final results of the Regional PBA Tournament at Bowl One Lanes in Troy. It was he who emerged with the winning score of 703 in the Pro-Am event.

Kidd rolled a 202 after a slow start. Combined with Dave Tamber's 277, it put him in position after one game. His next partner was Dale Strike with a 222, adding to Kidd's 236 for a 458 doubles total.

The final game was with Dave D'Entremont, who shot only a 182, but the rules in the Pro-Am give the amateur a minimum 200 pro score. Kidd rolled a 265, giving him a total of 1,402 and first-place prize money.

Kidd bowls regularly in the St. Genovese's Men's League on Thursdays at Merri Bowl in Livonia and a mixed league at Skore Lanes every other Saturday.

The Pro-Am event in Professional Bowlers Association is always a good way to be bowling with the best bowlers in the nation, so be sure to visit the next PBA tour stop at Taylor Lanes.

Entry forms are on the counters at most area bowling centers.

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