

## Bowling offers benefits for home-schooled kids

Bowling has been a long-time favorite pastime for school kids.

And now Merri Bowl Lanes in Livonia has a program in place for the kids that do not attend traditional schools.

Home schooling has become a reality for many folks who prefer this legal alternative to the system.

While most kids are sitting in classrooms learning their letters, multiplication tables and the solar system, these children are improving their bowling skills at Merri Bowl for school credit. They are not alone. According to the U.S.

Department of Education, approximately one million school-age children are home-schooled. That number grew consistently over the past three decades.

Learning at home does not necessarily mean staying at home, as these students receive physical education credits while enjoying America's favorite participation sport.

Merri Bowl is one of 10 bowling centers in metro area that has special programs for home schoolers. Lanes are reserved at specific times for them to bowl at a discounted rate. Because of these special times, and lanes reserved for them, students can meet their classmates each week.

Bowling offers more than just physical outlets for school children. Students can also master basic mathematics and even gain better insight into some physics theories. There have been many cases

where even autistic children have made huge strides to normalcy through bowling programs that have been geared directly to them.

Bowling is also one of the only sports that people of all ages, skills and abilities can participate in.

Parents or other educators can join home schoolers on the lanes at the same great rate.

Home schoolers can call Merri Bowl at (734) 427-2900 to inquire about the special rates and times. The program will continue through the end of the regular school year.

■ Dan Ottman of Troy is the architect of the Alro Michigan Junior Masters Association. This has been one of the nation's great programs for developing the competitive bowlers for the future. Many of the big names you see in the game today came up through this organization with the monthly scratch tournaments held in different parts of

southeastern lower Michigan. Now that Alro Steel is the principal sponsor, additional money is available for scholarships as the kids grow and move on to college.

This junior league also attracts bowlers from all over Ohio, New York, Wisconsin and Illinois.

The 10th Alro/Bay City featured some of our local kids who show a lot of promise for the future.

Ronnie Sparks, Jr. of Wayne, the top qualifier with 1,966 pins, finished second overall. Evan Reich of Garden City qualified sixth, while Pat Barter of Westland was 10th.

It looks very promising for these young bowlers. If you have a child who can bowl in competition, give Ottman a call at (248) 689-8656.

Al Harrison is a resident of Garden City and a director with the Greater Detroit Bowling Association. He can be reached at (734) 422-1609.

## Hawks will compete for all 7 state titles

The Michigan Hawks Soccer Club recently placed teams in all seven age groups of the Girls Michigan State Youth Soccer Association Championships with the winners going on to compete in the region championships next June in Des Moines, Iowa.

The under-17 Hawks, coached by Tim Ernst, won the State Championship beating Vardar 5-1. In the semifinals the Hawks defeated Jackson United 7-0.

On the way to the finals they scored victories over Plymouth, 8-1; Grand Valley Premier, 10-0; TKO, 5-0; and Ann Arbor Arsenal 5-1.

Members of the Hawks include: Kathryn Cumming, Troy; Nicole Cuzzillo, Whitney Guenther, Lindsay Hill, Northville; Nicole Hermann, Jill Kehler, Maureen Pawlak, Novi; Erin Don, Dearborn; Melissa Doherty, Livonia; Jordan Falcausan, Plymouth; Jill Kehler, Flint; Megan Mains, Holt; Stacy Rogers, Shelby Township; Erica Rose, Farmington Hills; Marissa Sarkisian, Canton; Margaret Smith, Portage.

The under-16 team, coached by Brian Doyle, also beat Vardar in the finals. It won by a closer margin of 3-1.

In the semifinals the Hawks shut out TKO, 2-0.

They also scored impressive victories along the way defeating Northville (1-0), Livonia (2-0) and Team United Blazer (4-2).

The team MVP was Lauren Hill (Northville). Hill led the Hawks with two goals in the finals.

Members of the team include: Kelly Hay, Lauren Hill, Jon Krich, Lynne Raymond, Kim Trentacosta, also Northville; Alicia Hay, Andrea Johnson, Katie Raker, Rachael Rudzick, Canton; Renee Farrell, Lauren Hess, Livonia; Sarah Burns, Ann Arbor; Kristen Evey, Royal Oak; Heather Klenk, Saginaw; Danica Rodriguez, Redford; Katina Scott, Shelby Twp.; Anslee Stuber-Powell, Lansing.

The under-15 team, coached by Teri Steinwascher, lost to Vardar in the finals, 1-0. The Hawks beat Ann Arbor 1-0 to earn the right to play in the finals. They also defeated Troy 2-0 in the quarterfinals. They raced through the first three rounds winning by a combined score of 23-1 over Lobos, Brighton and Hawks Black.

Members of the team include: Jessica Cadwell,

### SOCCER

Wendy Huot, Kaitlin Howe, Livonia; Lindsay Evans, Joyce Rose, Farmington Hills; Jessica Greaney, Elyse Horbach, Allison Mason, Rachael Stesney, Troy; Hillary Inger, Grosse Pointe Park; Gina Leone, St. Claire Shores; Kristin March, Canton; Cassandra Shear, Clawson; Melanie Slusher, Sterling Heights; Ashley Temby, Brighton; Danielle Underwood, Grand Rapids; Brandi Victory, Caledonia.

The under-14 Hawks, coached by Jim Kimble, needed regulation, overtime, double OT and finally penalty kicks to decide their game against the Bloomfield Force.

Vanessa Bailey scored on the final penalty kick to give the Hawks the championship. Goalkeeper Shay Mannino was awarded the tournament MVP, only giving up two goals throughout the entire playoffs.

Members of the team include: Vanessa Bailey, Casey Pederson, Northville; Jessica Barnet, Kristine Chaklos, Kelli Corless, Stephanie Crawford, Emily Eshbrook, Katie Walker, Kellie Walker, Novi; Aili Delvecchio, Birmingham; Courtney Kassab, Pinckney; Deana Kinter, Grand Blanc; Marlie Lieberman, West Bloomfield; Shaylin Mannio, Grosse Ile; Alyssa Risk, Farmington Hills.

The under-13 Hawks, coached by Derek Williford, vanquished Vardar 2-0 to win the MSYS Cup.

In fact, they didn't give up a goal through out the entire tournament with wins over Hawks East, 2-0; TNT Dynamite, 3-0; AC Storm, 2-0; USL, 2-0; and San Marino, 6-0.

The tournament MVP was Jenni Caroslo and the tournament MVP goalie was Courtney Whalen.

Other members of the team include: Kathleen Griffith, Alisha Lussiez, Livonia; Katie Chaklos, Jamie Fratto, Novi; Lauren Babst, Troy; Amanda Bailey, Fenton; Anna Cunningham, Grosse Pointe Farms; Jalese DeBlasi, Allen Park; Afon Delvecchio, Birmingham; Allison Eckler, South Lyon; Kelsy Kassab, Pinckney; Christina Nafie, Commerce; Theresa Yankovich, Northville.

The under-12 Hawks, coached by Ernst and Bridget Bradley, also won the title.

### SPORTS ROUNDUP

#### GIRLS HOOP TRYOUTS

The Livonia Lightning AAU girls basketball organization will stage tryouts for the upcoming season, Sunday,

Dec. 8, at Ladywood High School, located on Newburgh between 1-96 and Five Mile Road. The tryout schedule will be: 1-2:30 p.m. (10-and-under);

2:30-4 p.m. (11-and-under); 4-5:30 p.m. (12-and-under); and 5:30-7 p.m. (13-and-under). The tryout fee is \$10. Please arrive 30 minutes before scheduled tryout time to register.

For more information, call Dale Drabicki at (248) 615-2373 or program director Patrick Cannon at (734) 953-0854.

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## Country Day rolls into 'B' quarterfinals

BY CHRIS MAYER  
STAFF WRITER

Now the real fun begins. After easily dispatching two district opponents and a pair of regional foes, Detroit Country Day's girls basketball team has reached the Class B quarterfinals. The Yellow Jackets (23-1) are now gearing up for what they hope is a long and successful run this week that culminates in a sixth straight state title game appearance.

DCD's immediate focus shifts to talented Detroit Renaissance.

The Yellow Jackets and Phoenix (22-3) renew acquaintances Tuesday evening at Warren Woods-Tower High School, with the winner advancing to semifinal play Friday night at Central Michigan University's Rose Arena. The last time Country Day and Renaissance met this late in the season was 1999 when the Yellow Jackets posted a 68-51 victory in the regional finals.

Renaissance reached the round of eight by virtue of Wednesday's 60-41 win over Dexter in the Tecumseh regional final. Janelle Cooper scored a game-high 23 points and Marissa Thrower had 11 points to lead head coach Diane Jones' team.

"Renaissance is very athletic and very quick and it's going to be a great matchup," Country Day head coach Frank Orlando said. "We're going to have to

play a game that uses our height advantage and they'll probably have to come up with a defense that's going to negate it."

The Yellow Jackets were hardly tested in their first four tournament games.

DCD won by an average score of 69-27, and only Madison Heights Bishop Foley (38) was able to put more than 30 points on the scoreboard. What was even more impressive was Country Day's ability to complete the task at hand and not look too far ahead.

"I really tried to tell the girls to work on the fundamentals as best we could and don't really worry about the score," Orlando said. "I'm very happy with the discipline we've showed."

DCD took home the Clawson regional championship Wednesday evening by thumping Pontiac Notre Dame Prep. Ten different Yellow Jackets reached the scoring column, led by senior Carrie Moore's game-high 15 points, in a 62-21 triumph.

Six-foot-one sophomore Kristen Morris (12 points, nine rebounds) and 6-3 senior Elise Morrison (10 points, seven rebounds) were unstoppable inside for Country Day, which built leads of 17-3 after the first quarter and 36-9 at halftime.

Michelle Bates topped Notre Dame Prep (10-15) with seven points.

### BASKETBALL