

Pro bowlers display talents in tourney

Professional bowlers are unique. They seem to have a whole different world of their own, sort of like walking on clouds. Having been around them for several days in the week past, I was impressed by one common denominator, they are all very talented in the ability to project a bowling ball accurately for the 60 feet of lane surface.

Their ball action is explosive; they know exactly how to execute on each and every shot whether a strike or difficult spare. But they are only mere mortals, each with their own nuances, superstitions and all.

They live with the intense pressure that goes with the territory. A simple mistake could cost them a chance to cash in for the tournament.

We had the Professional Bowlers Association World Championships event a week ago in Taylor. The pro-am and qualifying rounds were held at Taylor Lanes, the semifinals and finals at the Taylor Sportsplex, a facility more known for hockey than bowling.

Special lanes and grandstands were temporarily installed for the event on Saturday and Sunday, playing to a packed house and a national



Ten Pin Alley
Al Harrison

TV audience.

There were several local pro bowlers, PBA members who took advantage of zero travel expenses to take a whack at the dream of winning the \$120,000 top prize.

Among them was Ryan Wilson of Garden City who was in on the action during the qualifying rounds, having stood as high as 32nd place out of 262 pro entries.

He was doing very well until he ran into a tough pair of lanes and saw many of his plus points disappear.

The competition narrowed the field down to the four finalists. In case you missed it, they were Parker Bohn III, Webster Brian Kreter and the eventual winner, Walter Ray Williams, Jr., who took home the \$120,000 check for first place.

All of the final matches were closely contested, and just like you and me, many great shots failed to carry the 10-pin, and

even the top pros can get 'ten-pin-itis'.

In the first final match, Williams defeated Weber, while Kreter beat Bohn and finally it was Walter Ray over Kreter, who took home \$60,000 for coming in second.

Third and fourth cashers each pocketed \$20,000 for their efforts. The PBA National Championships have contracted to come back to the Detroit area for the next three years after many years in Toledo.

Williams is the all-time PBA money leader with \$3,028,301 coming into this tournament. This win virtually locks up "Player of the Year" honors for him as well.

In the latest Afro Steel Michigan Junior Major Association (MJMA) action, the 16th annual doubles tournament was held recently at Racine-a-Bowl in Kalamazoo.

On the boys side, Justin Weber (Glenview) and Evan Relich (Garden City) won their second event of the season each by running up the ladder all the way to victory. They each win \$200 in scholarship money.

For more information on MJMA monthly competition, call Dan Ottman at (248) 689-4699 or check out the website

at www.mjma.net.

On the local scene, 10-year-old Taylor Summan of Livonia recently rolled a 163 game, way above her average, somewhere in the 50s.

She did it in the Pinbusters YAA league at Merril Bowl Lanes.

Taylor is a student at Bradford Elementary in Livonia.

At Woodland Lanes in Livonia, Barry Tikely, Jr. of the Ford Parts league recently came through with a perfect game.

Wonderland Lanes in Livonia had lots of excitement as Ken Bashara, the proprietor there rolled a 300 game in the West Side Proprietors travel league.

While Jim Hopkins had a 300 game with a 413 series in the Saturday Night Live League and John Dahl of the Kings and Queens had a 299 score.

Maybe some of these top-notch bowlers should have bowled in the PBA tour at Taylor.

On the road again... next stop, Knoxville, Tenn., for the American Bowling Congress' annual convention and to bowl in the ABC tournament.

Al Harrison is a resident of Livonia and director of the Greater Detroit Bowling Association. He can be reached at (734) 411-1039.

OAA BASKETBALL

ORLANDO ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION ALL-DIVISION BASKETBALL TEAMS

DIVISION I
Southfield Lathrop: Kassel James, Jason Jones, Ryan Laibage, Jonathan Matthews, Bailey Gay, John Castelli, Antonio Bonds, Christian Justin, Michael Chris Johnston, Hudson Clara, Patrick Central, Jason White, Nathan Redmond, Webster, Ignace Jordan, Featante, Pierre Ellis, Southfield, Edouard Watson.

Coach of the year: Max Avery, Southfield Lathrop.

DIVISION II
Birmingham Grizzlies: David Greenfield, Gordon Watson, Mike Lathrop, West Birmingham, Mike Martin, Edouard, Jay Rivers, Jason Matthews, Anthony Redmond, Webster, Ignace, Michael, Chris Johnston, Hudson Clara, Patrick Central, Jason White, Nathan Redmond, Webster, Ignace Jordan, Featante, Pierre Ellis, Southfield, Edouard Watson.

Coach of the year: Mike Avery, Birmingham Grizzlies.

DIVISION III
North Lathrop: Jason Jones, Kassel James, Jason Jones, Ryan Laibage, Jonathan Matthews, Bailey Gay, John Castelli, Antonio Bonds, Christian Justin, Michael Chris Johnston, Hudson Clara, Patrick Central, Jason White, Nathan Redmond, Webster, Ignace Jordan, Featante, Pierre Ellis, Southfield, Edouard Watson.

Coach of the year: Tom Nguyen, North Lathrop.

DIVISION IV
Madison: Mike Martin, Edouard, Jay Rivers, Jason Matthews, Anthony Redmond, Webster, Ignace, Michael, Chris Johnston, Hudson Clara, Patrick Central, Jason White, Nathan Redmond, Webster, Ignace Jordan, Featante, Pierre Ellis, Southfield, Edouard Watson.

Coach of the year: Mike Nguyen, Madison.

VOLEYBALL CAMPS

Madonna University will host a series of summer volleyball camps.

Cost is \$120 (\$80 for youth camp).

Morning sessions will be from 8:30 a.m. to noon. June 29-July 2 (Elite); July 7-10 (Setters); July 13-16 (Hitters).

Afternoon sessions will be from 1-4. June 29-July 2.

(General Players); July 7-10 (Youth); July 13-16 (Defensive Specialty).

For more information and registration, call Madonna University head volleyball coach and camp director Jerry Abraham in the evenings at (734) 254-0698 or call the volleyball office at (734) 432-5612.

LAKERS

connected on just 21 of 64 attempts from the floor - It made the task that much tougher for coach Bill Norton's squad.

"We needed our best two players to score," Norton said. "But we needed to find points somewhere else, and we couldn't do that."

The loss was doubly disappointing for Groves, because the Falcons had knocked off defending Class A champion Pontiac Northern the previous night.

More acknowledge Groves had a poor shooting night but added, "I'd like to think we were playing pretty good defense on them, too. They weren't as open as they were in the first game (against Northern)."

Defense alone couldn't have won the game for West Bloomfield, Senior Mauro Martin scored 35 points, including 10 foul shots in a row down the stretch to keep the Falcons from staging a meaningful comeback.

Senior forward Ed Richardson, described by Moore as a "monster on the boards," provided some spark and toughness with 15 points and 12 rebounds.

Even though he was red-hot from all corners of the floor, Martin later was businesslike in assessing his performance and the fact West Bloomfield needs just three more wins to claim a state championship.

"You don't think about it (scoring points); it was just a great team effort," Martin said. "We just played hard and the game comes to you."

In the first quarter, the Falcons actually took a 10-0 lead with 4:14 left after a triple by Martin scored (15 points).

But Merritt answered with a try of his own, to let Groves know West Bloomfield intended on hanging around.

Richardson helped the Lakers build a 17-12 lead after the first.

Martin made a three for a 20-12 Laker lead, and West Bloomfield closed out the half with a 13-2 run to lead 35-16.

It was 49-29 West Bloomfield after three frames, with Martin keeping his team comfortably ahead, hitting two triples and a drive.

Groves got within six points in the last minute, but Martin continued to make free throws to close out the game for the Lakers.

Line: Joe Jones (734) 411-1039

SORROWS

the sixth- and fifth-grade girls, but the Saints did win the CYO Western Suburban No. 1 Division with a 10-0 record.

Sorrows defeated each of the other division members: Livonia St. Michael, Dearborn Divine Child, Plymouth Our Lady of Good Counsel, Redford St. Mary and Detroit St. Scholastica - twice.

The Saints started the season by winning their own Thanksgiving tournament with victories over St. Germain, 20-7; Bloomfield Hills St. Hugo, 41-6; and St. Clair Shores St. Joan of Arc, 38-0.

Sorrows repeated as champion of the St. Clair Shores St.

Margaret Christmas tournament by defeating Groves: Sainte Star of the Sea, 38-5; Rochester Holy Family, 40-8; and Warren St. Anne, 21-11.

The Saints concluded the season by winning the Livonia Ladywood tournament again. They did it by beating Good Counsel, 21-3; Farmington Hills St. Fabian, 45-13; and Livonia St. Edith, 32-8.

Sorrows, which scored an average of 36.2 points per game and allowed just 11.8, had the closest call of the season in the 14th game at Divine Child.

The Saints trailed by four points late in the game but rallied for a 33-30 victory. It was the only close game they had.

"Sitting on the bench, I thought, 'Well, the long streak is about to come to an end,'

but we pulled it together and pulled it out," Mueller said.

Besides the experience factor, team defense was a major reason for the Saints' success, he added.

"We had a group of girls who were committed to playing defense," Mueller said. "We put after every team, every game."

"For little sixth-grade girls, it was pretty remarkable that they were motivated to play defense."

Is it possible the Saints might have a fifth straight unbeaten season in 2003-04?

"With so many sixth graders moving up to seventh grade, it's a longshot that we'll be able to run the table again, but you never know," Mueller said. "We've had some great players come through Our Lady of Sorrows."

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