

Bowling, biking go together for retirees

Vroom... goes the roar of the motorcycle engine as 65-year-old Jerry Holden of Canton pulls up in the parking lot of Mayflower Lanes and astride his Honda Ace.

He then unstraps a double-bowling bag, removes his helmet and is through the door on his way to compete in the Monday Morning Senior Men's League.

Jerry bowls Wednesdays and Fridays at Mayflower as well. Recently retired from Universal Foods, he can now devote more time to his favorite

pastimes, including playing senior softball and going touring on his Honda.

Mike Anger of Redford is another rider who is involved with bowling. He is the lane maintenance man at Mayflower Lanes and also rides a Honda. Not to be outdone, Jim Jinnerson of Livonia is a true Harley-Davidson man who enjoys cruising with his wife, Clara, almost as much as bowling. Now that Jim is retired from the Observer, he has more time for bowling and biking. I just hope you guys tie those bowling bags down real good, a runaway ball bouncing along the expressway would not be good.

There are others who ride and bowl. If you know of more let me know and they will be mentioned in future articles.

Next, let's see how many bowlers get to the lanes in their helicopters.

■ What happens when you combine clowns, bowling and charity? The answer is a whole lot of fun while helping the Livonia Firefighters clown team. Clown Bowl 2003 starts at 9:30 p.m. Friday, April 25 at Woodland Lanes, 33775 Plymouth Road, Livonia.

The cost is \$20 per person including shoes and three games of no-tap bowling. It's always a lot of fun for everyone, young or old alike and the funds go to directly benefit the Livonia Firefighters who volunteer to do this. For reservations, call (734) 522-4315.

■ Woodland Lanes will also be the host site for Bowl-A-Rama, which benefits the Second Chance at Life Walk-A-Thon.

All proceeds go to the University of Michigan Transplant Center to further educational efforts aimed at increasing organ donations.

The time and date to remember is 7 p.m. Saturday, May 17.

The cost is \$15 per person with bumper bowling available for the kids. There will be 50-50 tickets, lucky strike ball and a drawing to win up to \$2,500. Tickets are \$5 for drawing and can be purchased now through Carol Mancini at Woodland Lanes. Carol is also taking RSVPs (by April 30) at (734) 432-2625.

■ As these words of wisdom are being written, my travels have taken me to Minneapolis as I am spending the holidays with my son, Rick and his family. My grandson, Adam, is taking me to the Metrodome Thursday to watch the Detroit Tigers battle the Minnesota Twins.

Al Harrison is a resident of Livonia and a director of the Greater Detroit Bowling Association. He can be contacted at (248) 477-1839.

Chiefs edge Shamrocks

BY PAUL BEAUDRY
STAFF WRITER

Adrian ran away from the pack at the Dearborn Elks Relays on Saturday, but the real battle came between two Observers' teams.

And Canton came away on top, edging Redford-Detroit Catholic Central for second place, 36-34 - with a lighter than normal roster because of spring break.

"It was a real proud of the effort the kids gave," said Canton coach Bob Richardson. "We were like a lot of teams there, in that we didn't have our full team, so we were spread a little more than we normally were. But the guys did a great job and we were looking forward to starting our dual meet season."

Adrian cruised to the win in the nine-team meet with 66 points, while Dearborn was fourth with 31, Birmingham Seaholm was fifth with 21, followed by Temperance Bedford 917, Taylor Truman (13) Westland John Glenn (12) and Southgate (2).

"It was a good meet but it was unfortunate that Salem, Brother Rice and DeLaSalle weren't there," CC coach Tony Magni said. "But the competition was still very good."

"Canton did very well for not having all their kids there. We ran well and could have done a few things here and there, but

overall I was pleased."

CC had three winners: The shot put relay with Pat Clark, John Mulroy, Nick Barrett and John Smart (174-0), the 6,400 relay with Dave Lucas, Trevor Step, Max Working and Brian Doot (18:36) and the distance medley relay with Mike Rossiter, Alex Kobylarz, Phil Schneider and Kevin Mason (11:17).

The Chiefs had one first, coming from Steve Kiljaneczyk, Brian Solash, Rodney Preston and Devin Thomas in the intermediate shuttle hurdle relay (1:23.1).

Canton was second in the pole vault relay (Rich Hensel, Kiljaneczyk, Derek Reeves: 29-0), the 800 relay (Andy Bossov, Brandon Reeves, Corey Walzer, Thomas: 1:33.3) and the high-hurdle relay (Kiljaneczyk, Matt McClellan, Rodney Preston, Solash: 1:08.6).

CC's lone second was in the discus relay with Clark, Barrett and Ryan Danescu (360-6) and had a third from the high-hurdle relay with Zach Zrull, J.P. Duprey, Jose Comse and Bill Makela (1:08). The same four were also fourth in the intermediate hurdle relay in 1:26.1.

The Shamrocks were fourth in the 3,200 relay with Doot, Step, Working and Schneider (8:50), while Makela, Adam Hester, Rob Lawrence and Steve Mason were fifth in the 800 relay (1:36.4).

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Spring sports become 'The Silly Season'

John McEnroe, in one of his famous encounters with a despised chair umpire, blurted out: "You cannot be serious!"

That's basically been my reaction to what I affectionately call now "The Silly Season" of high school sports.

Not to be confused with fall or winter sports seasons, where you can actually take things seriously.

ously, spring sports have almost become a joke in these parts.

While most out-of-state school districts get spring break out of the way no later than mid-March, a majority of schools in Michigan continue to go against the grain - just like it does for girls basketball (held in the fall) and girls volleyball (held in the winter).

It's been a long-standing tradition in this state for spring athletes to hold coaches and athletic directors hostage, pre-

and post-Easter week.

And the issue becomes even more complex when spring break falls in late April as it did this year.

ADs, however, lost the battle years ago, unable to schedule any events which conflict with supposed high school spring training in Cancun, South Padre Island, Panama City, Daytona or any other trendy warm weather destination.

(Actually, some area teams now travel as entire groups to some of those southern spots to train and stay sharp.)

And what traditionally takes a timeout for a week actually has turned out to be a timeout for almost two weeks.

Some athletes take off before school lets out, so ADs and coaches, fearing more defections, don't schedule anything two days prior to Good Friday. And they often wonder how many will make it back in time for the Monday after (which this year falls on April 28).

I've heard stories of prominent team members skipping out of events even before spring break begins, putting their seasons and coaches in a difficult

predicament.

Thus, this 2003 spring sports season may become the silliest of all-time.

The usual March rainouts and cold weather, coupled with an early April snowstorm, wiped out nearly seven valuable days of scheduling this spring.

Throw in spring break week, senior prom, senior trips and senior skip days, seniors and graduation nights, the window to schedule shrinks even more.

Obviously, the only solution is to jam as many events into a eight-week span.

One area high school baseball team, already faced with several make-up dates, will have to play 16 games during a 21-day span.

So much for practice. Who needs it, right?

I don't want to paint with a broad brush and say all high school athletes treat spring sports as a joke, because there are many who take their sport seriously. They use the break to improve and get better.

But the message that parents send when they take their kids out of school early, miss games and disrupt the team, is becoming more and more a serious problem. It puts the coaches in a bad situation.

And what a terrible message that is sending.

But the schools go right along, appearing powerless to confront the issue.

I'd continue the normal scheduling of league games through spring break and let the chips fall where they may. If you have to use JV players when varsity players defect, so be it.

Thank God there's no fall break, and when winter break hits, basketball, volleyball, swimming and hockey seasons don't shut down for a week.

I've taken three trips to Kansas in three years in mid-March, and I've gotten the same response when asking the locals how they handle high school sports during the spring: "Why wouldn't you schedule sports during spring break?" they say. "We do."

Sounds like a novel idea. Really, you cannot be serious.

Brad Emmons is Sports Editor for the Livonia-Westland Observer. He can be reached at (734) 953-2123.

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CITY OF ROSEVILLE
APPLICATIONS FOR ENTRY-LEVEL
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The Act 78, Police and Fire Civil Service Commission will be accepting applications for the position of POLICE OFFICER to create an employment eligibility list for future employment opportunities. As an Equal Opportunity Employer, the Act 78 Commission is seeking qualified applicants. Members of minority communities regardless of race, ethnicity or gender are encouraged to apply. The position of Police Officer has a starting annual salary of \$35,295. Check our Website at www.ci.roseville.mi.us or contact the Clerk's Office at (586) 445-5440 for additional information and qualifications.

Applications may be mailed to those residing 100 miles or more from Roseville. Applications are required from and returned to the City Clerk's Office, Roseville Civic Center, 29777 Gratiot, Roseville, MI.

Applications available: May 9 through May 23, 2003, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, May 17, 2003, by appointment ONLY.

All completed applications must be returned no later than 3:30 p.m., June 6, 2003.

Written Test: June 24, 2003, 6:00 p.m.

Oral Examination: July 22 through July 25, 2003

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