

# Bowling's single membership concept remains alive

A great Yogi Berra said in his famous phrase, "It ain't over until it's over."

That is the buzzword now for the recent attempt by our leaders to get us moving ahead into the new century with the concept of a Single Membership Organization (SMO).

As you know by now, it was voted down in March at the American Bowling Congress convention in Knoxville, Tenn.

Don't look now, but the Women's International Bowling Congress is staging its annual convention this week in Reno, Nev.

The WIBC, too, will be voting on the SMO issue and, if for some odd reason it votes to adopt, the issue would still be very much alive and just as controversial.

As it stands now, the Young American Bowling Alliance and USA Bowling, both making up the rest of the components of SMO, have previously declared support of the

## SMO proposal.

If our fair ladies of the WIBC reject SMO, the issue is dead in the water (almost).

But it is likely to be resurrected again, this time with a more reasonable and workable structure to make it something that the majority of the people will want and benefit from.

When the right combination of bowlers put a tournament team together, good things can happen.

In fact, when Lee Snow and his daughter Krista decided to enter The Eastway Mixed Team Challenge at Thunderbowl Lanes, they filled the squad with Livonia's Pam Jones, Joe Sacceucci and Mike Vallender.

Lee rolled a 279 game with a 687 series, while Krista topped them with a 278 game and 694 total.

Jones fired a 257 game with 650, while Sacceucci rolled a 278 game and a 710 set.

Vallender topped everyone by shooting games of 300-



Ten Pin Alley  
Al Harrison

286-288 and an actual pinfall of 914. The team scratch total was 3,555, which is the third highest ever in the state by a mixed team.

It also ranks seventh all-time in the USA for a mixed team scratch score.

With 61 pins per game added, they were assured first place for the event.

The payout would be \$3,000 based on at least 52 entries.

For Vallender, this 814 series was a continuation of a very hot streak coming off of back-to-back 300 games in the Greater Detroit Bowling Association's recent city tournament at Wonderland Lanes in Livonia.

There was a lot more going on April 19 at Ken

## Bashara's Wonderland Lanes in the Youth All-Stars tourney.

Twenty-seven league bowlers participated this year in the \$3,200 in scholarships. The tourney was made possible through the generous donations from Thomas Schemansky, The Handelman Co. of Troy and Tillman Electric of Plymouth.

More than \$4,000 has been awarded in this program since its inception in 1993.

Some of the past winners are now attending colleges and universities with the help from their bowling scholarship winnings.

This year's winners were acknowledged during the annual banquet at Burton Manor in Livonia.

Among the winners and recipients for 2003 include: 1. Steven Siemieniak; 2. Ronnie Sparks; 3. Sean Hall; 4. Justin Logan; 5. Lauren Kwapis.

Many of the Detroit Women's Bowling Association (DWBA) have, in many ways, by the secretary-treasurer of the organi-

## zation, Rose Marsh.

Rose has been the organizing force for events and all kinds of happenings within the DWBA, and in cooperation with the GDBA, as well as serving on the Greater Detroit Hall of Fame panel for countless years.

Rose, a Hall of Famer herself, is now retiring from these duties and activities. She certainly has served the bowling community well and it will be a very hard job to fill her shoes.

Her job will be taken care of very capably, however, at least on a temporary basis, by Mark Martin, Executive Director of the GDBA.

Mark is going to be a very busy guy in the coming months, especially over the Summer when there is so much to get done in preparation for the following season.

As the Professional Bowlers Tour seniors hit town next week with the Greater Detroit Open at Lodge Lanes in nearby Belleville, it is an opportunity to come on down and

watch such greats such as Johnny Petraglia, Mark Roth, Dave Davis, Dave Soutar, Bob Glass, along with Gene Stus from Allen Park, will compete at the senior level like they did many years ago in open competition.

This is also a chance for children to bowl with these pros in the pro-am squads.

The youth squad will start at 5 p.m. Saturday, May 10 (one time only). The entry fee is \$40 without ball or \$120 (includes a new Brunswick Monster Frenzy 1 ball).

The adult pro-ams will be limited to 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Saturday, May 10 with a \$50.00 fee for adults (without ball) or \$140 (with the same brand ball by Brunswick).

For those who just want to watch these legendary pros, qualifying squad action will be Sunday-Monday, May 11-12. Eliminations start at 10 a.m. followed by the finals at 7 p.m., Tuesday, May 13, at Lodge Lanes.

For more information, call (734) 697-9178.

# Plymouth Whalers pick up size in OHL draft selections

By C.J. RIAK  
STAFF WRITER

The future is now for the Plymouth Whalers, and their view of it is something big. At last Saturday's Ontario Hockey League Priority Draft, the Whalers chose a left wing, a right wing and a defenseman with their three selections in the first two rounds. All three share one common trait: size.

"It was evident the success a guy like Chris Thorburn had in the playoffs and we wanted a guy who could do that for us," said Whalers coach/general manager Mike Vellucci. "We wanted somebody who could work hard along the boards and score goals."

The Whalers' first-round pick (16th overall) was Michael Lombardi, a 6-foot-2, 180-pound left wing who played last season for the Minor Midget Vaughn Kings. In 28 games for the Kings, Lombardi had 17 goals and 52 assists (49 points), with 159 penalty minutes.

"Michael Lombardi is a power forward - big, strong and skilled," said Vellucci. "I know a lot of coaches say this, but he was a guy we had rated very high on our board and were happy to see he was still around by the time we picked."

Lombardi, who is a native of Richmond Hill, Ont., is looking forward to joining the Whalers. "I am very excited to be in

Plymouth," he said. "The Whalers are a great organization."

"I would say I'm a bump-and-grind, get-your-nose-dirty type of player. What you see is what you get with me."

Size was again a key element in Plymouth's second-round selections. The first second-round pick (No. 32nd overall) was Dan Collins, a 6-1, 180-pound right wing who was with the Syracuse Jr. Crunch last season. Collins totaled 14 goals and 12 assists (26 points) in his 35 games with the Crunch, with 58 penalty minutes.

"Dan has a ton of skill from the blue line in," Vellucci said. "He is a player who can score and has nice hands around the net. In the games we saw him play against the Ann Arbor team, he dominated."

Plymouth's second second-round selection was someone close to home: Mark Milner, a 6-2, 180-pound defenseman from Livonia. Last season playing for the '87 Little Caesar Minor Midget team, Milner collected five goals and 23 assists (28 points), with 141 penalty minutes, in 69 games.

Although Vellucci is hoping all three players will join the Whalers, nothing is for certain.

"Like Dan (Milner) is a player who isn't sure if he is going to college or will play for the Whalers," the Whalers' GM/coach said. "But we are

excited to have the opportunity to have him playing for the Whalers. He is a player who could easily be a first-round NHL pick."

"He is a powerful and skilled defenseman who is a future captain. He could come in right now and quarterback our power play."

Milner, however, won't rush his decision. "I really like the OHL, it seems the better players go to the OHL," he said. "But it's a tough decision (college or pro) to make and I have all summer."

All three players pleased Vellucci. "I think we were able to get some great players with a lot of potential to be impact players in the future," he said. "We were able to get players with a lot of size, but also have a lot of skill."

The Whalers also helped their future a bit. Last Friday, the day before the OHL Priority Draft, they traded their second-round pick (39th overall) and a third-round pick (58th overall) they got from Sarnia to the Kingston Frontenacs for the Frontenacs' second-round pick next year and their third-round selection (44th overall) this season.

**Award-winners**  
At the Plymouth Whalers annual team banquet last Thursday, Chad LaRose received the greatest accolades,

taking home two team honors. LaRose, who set a team record by scoring 61 goals during the regular season, was selected by the Whalers' coaching staff as the regular season's Most Valuable Player. He also received the Top Scorers Award.

LaRose, who was earlier

named winner of the OHL's Leo Lonlonde Memorial Trophy, which is presented to the OHL's outstanding overage player, finished second in the league to Ottawa's Corey Locke in the Most Outstanding Player Award voting. Other award-winners for the Whalers were

John Vigilante, Rookie of the Year; Cole Jarrett, Defenseman of the Year; Jimmy Gagnon, winner of the Face-off Award; Chris Thorburn, Playoffs Most Valuable Player; Nate Kiser, Hardest Worker; and James Wisniewski (from Canton), Scholastic Player of the Year.

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