



For Shannon Mascorro, blindness doesn't keep her from enjoying bowling.

# Blind learn to bowl

Like thousands of other American children, eight-year-old Shannon Mascorro gets in the family car each week and is driven to a nearby bowling alley to take part in America's top participant sport.

The difference between Shannon and the great majority of her contemporaries is that Shannon never really knows what she bowls. She has to be told.

Shannon has been sightless since birth, a handicap which will keep her from participating in most of the recreational activities of a society geared toward the sighted.

But the dedication of a group of people in Oakland County is giving the blind and deaf a chance to participate in recreational activities which, without their help, would be limited exclusively to the sighted.

The group is called the Blind Recreational Society and is headed up locally by husband and wife team Lee and Vicki Williams. Those two have been instrumental in setting up classes which teach the blind and deaf recreational activities in the county.

This weekend they began a class at Firebird Lanes in Pontiac aimed at teaching blind children such as Shannon to bowl.

The Society's main monetary expenditure is installing the rails used as a guide by blind bowlers. The rails run perpendicular to foul line of the

alley and parallel to the gutters.

A right-handed bowler would thus hold onto the left rail as he approached the alley and use it as a reference for the head pin.

"We've installed 1500 of these rails thus far and we have another 500 on order," said Williams.

"We'll install rails anywhere a blind bowler wants to bowl. And we'll start blind and deaf classes anywhere there's an interest in them," he said.

The Society receives all funds for its activities through donations. One local proprietor who has been co-operating with the society is Bill Lawton, general manager of Birmingham Bowl in Birmingham.

"We take collections from our sighted bowlers and the response has been overwhelmingly good," he said.

Lawton was contacted recently by Action Line of The Detroit Free Press and asked to donate a couple of balls to the society.

"I agreed right away but I didn't know that it was Action Line who had called until someone pointed it out to me in the paper," Lawton said.

Lawton is so enthusiastic over the entire concept that he has started a small drive of his own.

Last week, after he had fitted Shannon with a new ball at the pro shop of his alleys, he said that he would like to see donations of the lighter weight balls used by children made to the so-

ciety through Birmingham Bowl.

"A lot of times a child will outgrow a light ball and move to a heavier one. But if people will bring in eight to 12 pound balls to Birmingham Bowl, I'll see to it that the balls are plugged, drilled to fit a blind child and refinished," Lawton said.

Those interested in enrolling children in the blind or deaf bowling classes should contact the Blind Recreational Society at 334-6313. Area residents wishing to donate used bowling balls to the society should contact Lawton at the Birmingham Bowl.

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**Local fencer places third**

Fencing, the sport of Romantic Age gentility, is alive and well in Detroit. And one of the year's biggest annual tournaments, the Birkkrant Sabre Invitation tournament, was held on Nov. 2 at the University of Michigan Dearborn Campus.

The tournament is named after, and sponsored in part by, Norman H. Birkkrant, Birmingham resident and Austrian Counsel General in Detroit.

DEFENDING CHAMPION and three time All-American out of Wayne State University, Steve Denosi placed third.

Denosi, a senior and Southfield resident, lost his title to Yuri Rabinovich, a Russian emigrant now living in Detroit.

Second place was taken by Bill Goering, of Farmington Hills. Goering has been a member of the U.S. Pan American Game Teams and a member of the U.S. Fencing Team. Ann Arbor's Bill Boucher placed fourth.

"This is a good tournament in that the top fencers from the Mid-West come out for it," Sharon Rees, tournament spokesman said.

Although Denosi finished third this year he still hosts an impressive record for his six years of Sabre fencing.

HE has finished fourth, second and last year, first in the NCAA competitions which give first team All-Americans status to the top six finishers in each weapon.

In addition, Denosi won the national junior championships in 1972, reached the quarterfinals in the 1973 World University Games in Moscow, won the 1974 Midwest Open and finished third in the United States Open in 1974.

IN ADDITION to his fencing, Denosi has found time to hit the books at Wayne State enough for an A-minus average, which, along with representative scores on the medical board exams, he hopes will take him to medical school next fall.

"If that happens, I know I won't have the time to put in on my fencing that I would. I hope just to maintain the level that I'm now at and hope that it will be good enough," Denosi said.

Denosi has traveled throughout Europe fencing and says that the best fencers are from the Eastern Communist block countries, France and Italy.

"The occupational listings for some of the fencers of the Eastern Communist block countries are really a joke. I talked to one fencer who was listed as a soldier. I asked him how many times he has worn a uniform. He told me three times in the past two years. They just fence and pick up their pay checks at the end of the week," Denosi said.

Denosi is far from bitter about the treatment he has received from fencing.

**Marion seeks cage crown**

By BRIAN PERLOVE

Football is not the only thing that might capture the imagination of sports fans this weekend.

True, Brother Rice moves into final football competition Sunday, but Marion has its own dreams as the girls basketball team moves into the quarter finals of the Catholic League Playoffs.

Ending the season 10-1 Marion entered the first round of the finals last weekend and defeated St. Florian 24-23.

Trailing 12-6 at halftime, Marion came back in the fourth quarter to win.

"DEFENSIVELY we are an excellent team," said Don Fitzpatrick, Jr. Varsity coach and aide to varsity coach Marty Carnahan.

Leading the scoring was senior Terry Schevers, leading the team with 121 points this year, with 10 points and Michele Denomme, senior, scoring six points.

Other points came from: Beth Cortez, with four Teresa Hetzel, with three and Marti Morrall, scoring once. All three are juniors.

Bidding for a repeat of last year's success Marion will go against Bishop Gorgess this Friday at St. Marys of Redford.

**Swim finals coming up**

A contingent of lady swimmers from area high schools will match their skills against girls from all over the state next weekend, Nov. 15-16, at Sterling Heights Stevenson High School.

Preliminary competition will begin on Friday at 9 p.m. and continue Saturday (Nov. 16) morning. The finals will begin that afternoon.

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