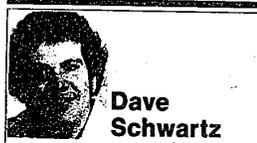


Sports trivia

It's not just a sidelight



Dave Schwartz

Sports trivia — there's nothing trivial about it.

Trivia is actually more than a sport, it's a science. There is just something about a person who knows that Jim Northrup batted .205 in 1965 that makes the person special. By the way, he did bat .205. You can look it up.

My own claim to fame in sports trivia is having beaten the 1977 MSU "College Bowl" champion in a head-to-head dual match. This guy was amazing. He knew absolutely everything. I mean everything.

If you asked this dude (his name was Cliff) how many tons of iron ore were exported from Yugoslavia in 1959, he'd give you the answer to the ounce. Without blinking an eye.

Anyway, he had heard about my reputation as a sports expert. Not self-proclaimed, either — I ask anybody from good ol' Wilson Hall. So a sudden death championship was arranged.

I was nervous. This guy was strictly major league. It was rumored that

sports was just another subject to him, along with East German foreign policy and the physiology of astronauts.

My seconds briefed me before the match. Only man to make an unassisted triple play, hit a grand slam and be traded all in the same week? Ron Hansen, Washington, 1956.

The only all-St. Louis world series? 1944, Cardinals vs. Browns. Cardinals won 4 games to 2. Fastest hat-trick in NHL history? Bill Mosienko — 21 seconds it was ready.

In any sporting event, two big factors are intimidation and, at the same time, sportsmanship. Like Ali, I used both.

"Now Cliff," I asked, "what's your favorite sport — baseball, right? Affirmative. You're from New York — what's your favorite team — Yankees or Mets? Mets? OK, we'll stick to the Mets."

The strategy was working. I saw him fidget and sweat. In fact, since he was 5-7, 235-pounds, it was more like a

downpour.

"Who was the first Met pitcher to ever win a ballgame?" I asked, winking at the tense crowd. "Er, ah — gee, what was his name," stammered Cliff. The 30-second limit ran out. "Sorry, Cliff, it was Jay Hook."

Now it was his turn. If I answered his question, I won. "Who was the only pitcher besides Sandy Koufax to win the Cy Young award between 1963 and 1966?" he asked. I was in luck. A question I knew.

"Gee, Cliff, wasn't it Dean Chance for the 1964 Los Angeles Angels — 20-6, 1.64 earned run average?"

Cliff couldn't comprehend that someone knew anything that wasn't stored in his cerebral capacity. So help me, he started to cry.

"Hey c'mon, Cliff, take it easy," I said, patting him on the back with genuine concern. "Oh," he sniffed, "I'll be all right."

So don't just mess around with this sport. It's not for everybody. Which

brings up a standing offer to any reader out there who thinks that he can beat the champ. Same sudden death format. To any winner — a free night on the town. Same goes for me if I win. Are there any takers?

Meanwhile, I've devised the ultimate trivia contest. There will be no winners to these questions. Good luck!

1. How many people made up the largest Detroit Tiger crowd in history? Name them.
2. Who would have been the American League batting champion in 1942 if baseball had been invented?
3. How many times does Bobby Hull breathe during a regulation hockey game?
4. What was the most popular middle name in the NFL in 1964?

Answers to be given in the first issue of the new century, or when a Detroit major league sports team wins a championship — whatever comes first.



in the pocket/W.W. Edgar

Every time there is a wave of high scoring, such as the numerous 700 series that have been bowled in recent weeks, a howl goes up that the lanes must be "fixed." There are all sorts of protests that proprietors favor special leagues and that the lanes are treated differently from time to time.

But one important fact is overlooked. There are many more better bowlers now than the area ever had. Even the juniors are showing signs of stardom.

"And don't forget," Fred Hamlin, owner of Farmington Lanes, said, "the proprietors have learned to use more skill and with better products than ever before. So, if you consider the numerical growth of good bowlers and the modern methods of lane maintenance, it is easy to see that there would be higher scores."

To continue the high scoring, John Hurley posted a 715 in the Monday morning league. This brought to 50 the number of 700 series bowled in the house this season.

Even the ladies went on a scoring spree and Julie Zimmerman fashioned a 640 with a 232 finisher in the classic.

WHILE THE CLASSIC BOWLERS were doing their thing, Dave Hamilton, the youthful star, continued his high scoring at Farmington Lanes. Bowling in the high school league, he linked counts of 244, 175 and 248 for 657. And in the mixed classic, Rudy Pearson ended the women's streak of winning high game honors when he paced the field with a 245 in 684.

277, 235 and 196 for 708. Behind them came Tony Collins with a 247 in 671.

Joining in the high scoring Jane Martin, who carries a 140 average, had a 247 in 514.

PEG ELZENBER took top honors in the Livonia ladies classic when she won the middle individual game with 200-234 and the series with 520-102 — 622. In the other games, Teresa Berries took the first with 180-28 — 208 and Lois Merriman won the third with 202-28 — 230.

THE HIGH SCORING found its way to Plaza Bowl during the week and two of the bowlers in the Hits and Misses league broke the 700 barrier. William Ray put together games of 288, 248 and 226 for 762, and Dennis Seeman had

158 and 218 for 598.

In the invitational doubles, Kay Buchanan showed the way with a 630. Linda Kendall was next with 555, one more pin than Dody Colner. In the Golden Eagle loop, John Bisgaard had 267 in 643 and Jim Bono had high game of 264 in the mixers loop.

THE SHARPSHOOTERS at Westland Bowl had another great week and when the final pin fell, six of them had shattered the 700 barrier. It was the highest scoring week of the season in the house.

The action started last Friday night in the Little Caesar Classic, when Bob Jawor put together games of 232, 246 and 285 for a 745. That was just a start. With the pins flying all over the place, Bob Goike followed with a 739 that included a closing 279. Behind him came Dick Beattie with a middle game of 288 to post a 729.

Then in line came Dave Pickett with a middle 274 for 724, Al Rizzo with a 285 in 713.

UNUSUAL PERFORMANCES were the order of the day at Woodland Lanes. In the Tuesday Flyers league, Mary Borodny converted the "impossible" 4-6-7-10 split. In the Night Out loop, Joyce Jensen went 9 pins over her average with a 232 game and Kathryn Brothers had a 217 in 655. And the closest finish of the year came in the Kings and Queens, when Chaz Dazerrick posted a 235 to beat John Bommarito by a single pin. To top things off, Ray Chamberlain rolled consecutively games of 190 and finished with a 222 for 602 in the senior citizens league.

THE FEATURE of the week at Merril-Bowling was provided by an 11-year boy, Bowling in the Father and Son league, Fred Young rolled games 222,

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