

in the pocket/W.W. Edgar

Women bowlers head for tourney

Followers of tournament bowling have a treat coming next month when the Ladies Pro Tour makes its annual stop at Bill Srock's North Hill Lanes in Rochester.

They are due to vie for a championship during the week of August 16. And, as usual, there will be a pro event on the day preceding the grand opening.

The tournament takes on added interest this year because the younger crop of bowlers are making inroads on the roles played by the all-stars for several years.

For instance, in the field will be Cindy Mason, the 19-year-old from California who topped the field last week in Houston, Texas.

She is one of the latest of the younger crop, but she may get plenty of competition from Detroit's two young stars — Aleia Rzepke and Cheryl Daniels.

Penny Behn, who led the Bonanza team to the championship in both the ladies all-star leagues during the past season, is also expected to compete.

With them will be Cora Fibig, who was the top average woman bowler in the city with a mark of 205. At any rate, it will be a keen

battle all the way.

ONE OF THE most outstanding performances of the past week was turned in by Dot Garyea at Merri-Bowl Lanes.

With an average of 160 in the Ladies League, she found the range for a 672 series. She linked games of 183, 256 and 223.

A NEW NAME POPPED UP in the winners' ranks at Wonderland when Hank Novakowski turned in a 630 to pace the men's trio. He opened with 207, came back with 180 and closed with 243. It was his highest point of the summer season.

LARRY JOHNSON was the top man in the Thursday league at Garden Lanes. He posted a 652 to beat Dan Micholski by 35 pins. Jim Pennington was next in line with 615.

Behind this trio came Norma Johnson with 613, and Ann Setlock with 606.

In the Parent and Child League, Tom Sokolowski rolled a 645 to far outdistance the field. His closest rival was Steve Denning with 583, one pin more than Jerry Long, who had a 562.

He loves his tennis 'racquet'

By M.B. Dillon
staff writer

Eating and sleeping rank only slightly higher than tennis when it comes to the essentials of life for Cranbrook Tennis Club pro and manager Don Brown.

It's not difficult to see why. A Birmingham resident and a tennis pro for 21 years, the man adores tennis, loves people, thrives on teaching and coaching, drives to work in tennis gear, and works in an atmosphere as peaceful and calm as Walden Pond.

His office — the Cranbrook Tennis Club pro shop — is cozily nestled in the quiet woods of Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills.

Situated on an expansive redwood deck, it affords a bird's-eye view of all eight tennis courts. (Two weekends ago, the scene was abuzz with the Cranbrook Junior Open which attracted players from Ohio, Illinois and all over Michigan.)

It's places like those where Brown is liable to sit down with the likes of Arthur Ashe to talk tennis.

"I can pick up and retool, and that helps me with my kids," said Brown, who has also taught golf.

BECOMING ONE of those students requires patience. To join the 100-member, non-profit club, which leases its facilities from Cranbrook, prospective members face a five-to-seven-year waiting list.

Part of the attraction is the minimal cost. A complete family summer membership (which includes unlimited court time and admittance to the club's social events — lessons are extra) is \$65. Single memberships are \$45.

Brown said he's never heard of a cheaper club anywhere in Michigan.

Another factor is the friendly atmosphere.

"I know the people I teach," said Brown, "and I can ask them about their families. If it weren't for the setting here, I wouldn't enjoy it. It would be too sterile."

Probably the biggest plus the club offers is Brown's track record.

More than 100 of his former students have the tanned, trim, blond and lean look common to their colleagues — tennis professionals.

One of Brown's past pupils, Craig Wittus, just returned from Wimbledon, England, where he won his first singles match. "That means Wittus will be ranked around No. 125 in the world and depositing about \$30-40,000 in his bank account this year," said Brown.

Another protege, Jeff Etterbeck, never lost a high school match. He was No. 1 on the University of Michigan tennis team, led his squad to a recent Big Ten championship and currently is ranked No. 191 in the world.

The veteran coach has guided his Cranbrook squads to four state championships — and individual student-ath-

letes to 18 state titles. All 10 members of his squad made this spring's all-Observer & Eccentric team.

Recently, Brown invented and patented the Don Brown Tennis Trainer — a Styrofoam ball, and a plastic-shafted tennis racket with a rubber grip at one end and an oval piece of lightweight polyethylene at the other.

The trainer can be used to practice strokes on the tennis court, or to hit balls in gyms, hallways, living rooms — even against windows.

FIVE YEARS AGO, Brown's club teams owned a 110-2 record. But because the inter-club league no longer provides enough competition, the Cranbrook Tennis Club team (boys and girls 10-18 years old) compete on a circuit that takes in Dearborn, Ann Arbor, Midland and cities in other Midwestern states.

After playing five tournaments, players receive a southeastern Michigan ranking.

The key to his success?

"Getting quality staffers to work for you is one of them," said Brown, who rewrote the record books as a professional at Pine Lake Country Club, Birmingham Athletic Club and the Bloom-

field Open Hunt Club before beginning full-time at Cranbrook.

Currently, Brown employs assistant pro Phyllis Vambrach; his daughter Bonnie, 18, who last year captained Birmingham Seabloom's tennis team; and Charlie Moore, a 1981 state doubles champion for the Cranes.

WHAT DOES BROWN think of Wimbledon champion John McEnroe? Not much.

"With the right goes the responsibility," Brown said. "That applies to anything."

"McEnroe's a fantastic athlete and player, but someone I don't enjoy watching. He's not a good role model for kids to emulate."

Brown said that playing professional tennis is something he would have enjoyed, but "I didn't kid myself," he said.

"I was a good college player, but not good enough to join the tour. I love all sports, maybe that was part of the problem."

Brown doesn't have to kid himself about his present profession. Whether his student is a bright-eyed young rookie or a 55-year-old tennis-elbow sufferer, Brown is more than just "good enough."

Bloomfield team wins

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"Vaughan's a great pitcher. All the scouts are looking at him."

The Bloomfield ace finished with 14 strikeouts and only four walks, three coming in the first inning.

Losing pitcher Jim Zubkus went the distance, allowing seven hits and fanning seven.

Bill Rankin doubled home two runs for Bloomfield in the top of the third, and Tony Bruce went two for three and drove in another run.

Vaughan then alternated strikeouts and walks for the rest of the first inning as Berkley pushed across a run.

"After that first inning, no one reached base until the top of the sixth when Vaughan gave up a leadoff walk," said Bloomfield manager Norm Kaplan. "He had a smoking fastball and pinpoint accuracy."

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