

Early wins are important

NOW THAT MOST of the bowling leagues are in full swing and the good scores are coming in, the question of sandbagging also comes up at the start of the new season.

For the benefit of those not familiar with the term, sandbagging refers to bowlers intentionally keeping their scores down at the beginning of the season to begin with a lower average, thus gaining an advantage for a team in a handicapped league.

Fortunately, most bowlers are out to do their best all the time, for this is the right way to bowl in competition. It would be difficult and almost impossible to determine if someone is actually "laying down" because at the beginning of the season a lot of people are simply out of shape after the summer layoff. The point is you should always play your best. The scores and averages will even out over the season, and a game lost at the beginning of the season is as important as a win near the end.

• The Senior House League bowls on Tuesday nights at Bel Air Lanes on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington. Nobody can accuse these guys of sandbagging, as these scores prove: Jerry Lash, 704 series and 258 game; Paul Koenig, 704 series; Lynn Lewis, 659 set with a 258; Willie Smith, 672 with a 257; George Bertling, 666 with a 259; Tom Johnson, 656 with a 266; Bud Gignar, 652 series; Ed Wright, 652; Steve Mitchell, 652; Mort Friedman, 650; Jeff Erard, 256 game.

The Lash's Five team ran up a 3092

10-pin alley AI Harrison

series with a 1066 game. This league still has a few openings with a maximum average of 201. The league starts bowling at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday. There are also openings at Bel Air in the Funtimers Mixed-Up Mixed League Friday nights at 6:45 and the Pin-Suiter, Linda Gossett shot a 203 game in a 564 series.

Mayflower Lanes in Redford saw Eleanor Buchanan roll a 204 game in the Headstarters League which bowls at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday. At Woodland Lanes on Plymouth Road in Livonia, Mike Kosowski never sandbagged either, as he scored a fine 277 game in the Allied Men's League. The Thursday Nite Men's Senior House League had some outstanding scores for this early in the year, as George Bird led the way with a 705 series, including a 278. Jim Gagnon 696, Ari Kay 669, Tim Bennett, 267 and 693; Jerry Tomczak 669, Tom Elsey 676, Bud Gignar 652, Dahn Williams 653, Ken Smolts and Jack Craig 278.

• In the Ford Parts League on Tuesday, Gary Cockfield rolled up a 605 series and Dan Williamson hit a 667 set, while Dennis Weatherford had a 246 game in a 633 set. Tom Rene shot 266. In the

Wednesday Night Trio, Bill Stillwell led all bowlers with a 705, including a 278 game. Jim Sierbacz 640, Ron Towwell 247-611, Dave Nurvich 238-650, Mike Kruczek 236-650, Larry DeFelic 235-631 and Jeff Lovelace 255-677. In the Starlight League, Linda Gossett shot a 203 game in a 564 series.

Merri Bowl on Five Mile in Livonia saw Fred Young register a 290 game in the Senior House League. While Jim McPhail rolled a block of 224-234-277 for a 735 series. Mickey Przytulski came through with a 199-224-285 for a 712, and John Watkins rolled up a 717 series.

The Lost Weekend Tris is a Sunday morning men's trio league which had some nice openers, with Clarence Bishop, R. rolling 649 series and Daryl Thibeault a 636 set. In Y.A.B.A. action the 5- to 9-year-old Bananas saw John Bentley at 89 pins over average (series), prep bowler Emily Mitchell 92 over, Junior/Majors member Kelly Mitchell 193 pins over average. Melissa Cairns was 58 pins over average and Shelley Ellertson 192 over for the series with a 210 game.

• In the Coca Cola Classic Majors, Chris Machnik led with a 217 game. Mer-

ri Bowl has some openings in the King Louie/Right Approach Scratch Trio League bowling Thursdays at 10 p.m. with any combination of men or women bowlers with 180 averages and up.

• The first reported 300 game of the season took place at Westland Bowl by Steve Fletcher in the Sunday Sleepers League. Steve averaged 177 later, and it looks like that average will escalate this season.

In the Sunday night King & Queen League, the husband and wife team of Tom and Colleen Johnston combined for a 794 and 697 dual series as Tom had a block of 279-267-248 and Colleen 234-219-214. Needless to say, they took all the jackpots. I guess they never heard of sandbagging either.

• There are openings at Westland Bowl in some short season fun leagues: the Just For Fun Sunday Nite League at 9:15 p.m. beginning Sept. 24 and a league at 8:30 p.m. on Monday nights with a combination of men and women bowlers. For details call Westland Bowl at 722-7279.

Bowling tip of the week: Nowadays the ball return racks are getting pretty crowded so many bowlers have more than one ball. It has been suggested to me that each bowler have only one ball placed on the return since these have been designed for only about 10 balls in the first place. There is always room in the Settee area for all those extra balls. This is up to the captain, but please try and keep to five active balls per team.

the week ahead

PREP FOOTBALL
Friday, Sept. 15
St. Agatha at Grosse Pointe, 7:30 p.m.
Redford Union at Dearborn, 4 p.m.
Redford at D.H. Ann Arbor, 4 p.m.
W.L. Central at Liv. Stevenson, 7:30 p.m.
Garden City at Ypsilanti, 7:30 p.m.
Northville at W.L. Central, 7:30 p.m.
Redford CC at Ann Arbor Pioneer, 7:30 p.m.
Garden City at Ypsilanti, 7:30 p.m.
Wayne Memorial at Monroe, 7:30 p.m.
Harper Woods at Clarenceville, 7:30 p.m.
Liv. Westland at Tekonsha, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 16
Liv. Church at Farm. Harrison, 1 p.m.
Garden City at Liv. Stevenson, 1 p.m.
Westland Glenn at N. Farmington, 1 p.m.
Bishop Borgess vs. Don. Drake Child at Garden City Junior High, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Sept. 12
Det. Dominican at Liv. Westland, 5:30 p.m.
Wadon Hunt at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.
Garden City at Don. Fordson, 7 p.m.
Wayne Memorial at Ypsilanti, 7 p.m.
H. Farmington at Ferndale, 7 p.m.
Liv. Church at Liv. Stevenson, 7:30 p.m.
Farm. Harrison at Farmington, 7:30 p.m.
W.L. Central at Lake Orion, 7:30 p.m.
Westland Glenn at South Lyon, 7:30 p.m.
Bishop Borgess at Redford Union, 7:30 p.m.
Red. Thurston at W. Galt. Richard, 7:30 p.m.
Redford Temple at Warren High, 7:30 p.m.
Livonia Ladywood at Troy High, 8 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 14
Friday, Sept. 15
Liv. Westland at Flat Rock, 5:30 p.m.
Red. Temple at Don. Fairlane, 6 p.m.
Redford Union at Dearborn, 7 p.m.
Red. Thurston at Dearborn, 7 p.m.
Wyandotte at Wayne Memorial, 7 p.m.
Liv. Farmington at Liv. Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Det. Country Day at W.L. Westland, 7 p.m.
Farmington at Liv. Church, 7:30 p.m.

Liv. Franklin at Liv. Stevenson, 7:30 p.m.
Wat. Kettering at W.L. Central, 7:30 p.m.
Garden City at Novi, 7:30 p.m.
Bishop Borgess at Spauld Avenue, 7:30 p.m.
Liv. Livewood at S. Lyon, 7:30 p.m.
Waterford Our Lady at St. Agatha, 7:30 p.m.
(Farmington Hills Mercy Hospes Classic)
Ply. Canton vs. St. Joseph, 6:15 p.m.
Farm. Mercy vs. Trenton, 6 p.m.
Liv. Westland at Liv. Stevenson, 7:30 p.m.
(Farmington Hills Mercy Hospes Classic)
Convolutions and Teals, 6 and 7:45 p.m.

BOYS SOCCER
Monday, Sept. 11
Ply. Salem at Liv. Farmington, 5:30 p.m.
Northville at Redford Union, 5:30 p.m.
Liv. Westland at Farm. Harrison, 5:30 p.m.
Farmington at W.L. Westland, 5:30 p.m.
Liv. Church at Liv. Canton, 7 p.m.
Garden City at Novi, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 12
Don. Edsel Ford at Red. Thurston, 4 p.m.
Redford CC at H.W. Bush, Galtagher, 4:15 p.m.
Bishop Borgess at Harper Woods, 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 13
Crestwood at Garden City (High), 4 p.m.
Allen Park at Red. Thurston, 4 p.m.
Liv. Stevenson at Farmington, 5:30 p.m.
Liv. Farmington at A. Huron, 5:30 p.m.
W.L. Westland at Liv. Church, 7 p.m.
Liv. Franklin at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
Ply. Canton vs. Ply. Salem (CEP), 7 p.m.
Farm. Harrison at Northville, 7 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 15
Liv. Stevenson at Garden City, 4 p.m.
Redford Union at Red. Thurston, 4 p.m.
Redford CC at Farm. Brother Rice, 4 p.m.
A.P. Cabrini at Bishop Borgess, 4 p.m.
Don. Fairlane at Liv. Stevenson, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 16
Bish. Borgess at H.W. Bush, Galtagher, 3 p.m.

Lady Ocelots optimistic about season

By C.J. Rink
staff writer

The season opens tomorrow for Schoolcraft College's women's soccer team, and optimism is running high. Why not? Coach Nick O'Shea calls this his best team, from top to bottom — better than his National Junior College Athletic Association championship squad of 1987.

"This team will probably be the most balanced, best coached team I've had," said O'Shea. "I'll be able to put 11 quality players on the field. They'll be more consistency — we're good everywhere."

But there's more to winning than talent. It takes purpose, a determined, focused effort, with all players aiming at the same goal.

And as talented as the Lady

Ocelots are, they have no greater advantage than the bitter memory of last season.

"I'll never forget that day," said SC midfielder Dawn Gabriel, now a sophomore. The day of infamy came last November, when bids to the NJCAA tournament were extended. SC was the defending NJCAA champion. It had finished the '88 season 14-2-2; its bid to the national tournament was no more than an afterthought.

BUT THE BID never came. The Lady Ocelots were deprived of a chance to defend their title by a set of obscure rules that have since been revised.

Changing the rules after the fact was little solace to SC's '88 squad.

But it did provide the impetus for '89.

"We're determined to do it this year," said Gabriel, the former Livonia Churchill standout. "I know the returning players think about (last year). And I know Kellie (Davis) and Rose (Hally) and I talk about it a lot. We're going to win the national title this year."

That's more than just the normal preseason chatter, brimming with hope and confidence, but with a foundation of ifs. O'Shea will have some scorers up front, something he rarely has had (only the '87 champs could compare). And his defense is experienced and steady.

The Lady Ocelots traveled to East Lansing Wednesday for an exhibition match with Michigan State. The final was 3-2 favoring MSU, but

O'Shea was hardly disappointed.

"I was happy with the fact that they were able to score," he said. SC got goals from Shannon Meath and Joan Arndt; Cindy Bowman assisted on Arndt's.

"OUR DEFENSE played well, overall," added O'Shea. "There were some small things we did wrong, but there is going to be some confusion on the defense until they get used to playing with each other."

The remarkable thing is, O'Shea has spent little practice time on the defense. "We've been concentrating on the offense. We haven't done any defensive stuff, really."

"Our defense is fairly strong with Kellie and Rose, and even though Gina (Carozzi) didn't play back there

last year, she pretty much knows what I want," said O'Shea. Lisa Yderstadt is another O'Shea plans to use extensively on defense, if her injured knee comes around. She is currently limited to about 10 minutes of play a game.

With Meath, Arndt, Bowman, Robin Lawson and Lori Hodges, O'Shea has five capable forwards to summon. Hodges is currently hampered by an ankle injury, but she should return soon.

"We should get some goals from the people up front," said O'Shea confidently.

IF THERE is a question mark, it's in the middle where Gabriel is the only experienced returnee. There is talent, to be sure. Angie Stiglmair, Amy Zanetti, Bev DeJohn and Donna

O'Brien all have ability.

"The middle is where we have to work right now," admitted O'Shea. "We're trying Donna at center mid. She was a sweeper at North Farmington, so it's going to take her awhile to get used to it."

The Lady Ocelots are not pressed for time. Their first real test against NJCAA opponents doesn't come until the end of this month at the Monroe (N.Y.) CC Tournament. They play Monroe on Sept. 30; it was the Monroe coach, Chuck Salomone, who got his team into the NJCAA tournament last year in place of SC.

"They're going to pay for that," pronounced Gabriel.

The long-awaited mission to claim what might have been theirs is just getting under way for SC.

Fighting Crusaders win season opener

By Brad Emmons
staff writer

Third-year Madonna College volleyball coach Jerry Abraham is hoping his freshman-dominated team will grow up fast enough this season to make a run at the NAIA playoffs.

The Fighting Crusaders, coming off a 29-10 season, opened their 1989 campaign Thursday with a 15-3, 15-4 victory over visiting Oakland Community College.

"We have an extremely young team," Abraham said. "It's a good little group with seven freshmen, five sophomores and one senior, but we're facing a tough schedule."

Thursday's match was merely a warmup for Madonna, a four-year school.

OCC, a two-year school, could only come close in the middle game.

Kristy McFadden, a 6-foot-1 sophomore from Redford Bishop

Borgess High, led the Borgess attack with eight kills and seven blocks.

Three freshmen contributed seven kills each including Stacey Girard, a member of two-time state Class A champion Livonia Ladywood; Toni Smith of Walled Lake Central; and Maria Wordhouse of Plymouth Salem.

SOPHOMORE Jenny Sladewick (Livonia Stevenson) recorded seven service aces, while freshman Lynn Bergeranger (Walled Lake Central) did an effective job setting up Madonna's 5-1 offensive attack.

Defensively, Madonna standouts included senior Wendy Spencer (Walled Lake Western), sophomore Lisa Drenka (Borgess) freshman Melissa Mars (Borgess).

Abraham also can go to four other players this season: freshmen Ann DiMambro and Val Perrone, both of Borgess; and sophomores Wendy Weala (Dearborn Fordson) and Penny Baker (Lincoln Park).

Mustang defense deflates Canton

Plymouth Canton lost a girls basketball game Thursday night, but the Chiefs hope they made an investment that will pay dividends later in the season.

As Denny Crum and the Louisville Cardinals have shown, it is often beneficial in the long run for a team to play a challenging non-conference schedule early in the season.

On Thursday, the state-ranked Chiefs played perhaps the most challenging team on their schedule, defeating Class A state champion Birmingham Marian, falling to the host Mustangs 56-46.

The game was decided in the last 6:13 of play, when Marian, perhaps benefiting from all of last season's big game experience, outscored Canton 14-3 to pull out the win.

Canton had taken the lead at 43-42 on a basket by Kristine Ford with 6:28 to play, before the Mustangs took over.

POST PLAYERS Tina Govan and Carmie Garofalo led the surge, combining for eight points down the stretch to lead Marian to victory.

LILLIE-CICCERONE was impressed by Ferko's performance.

"She hurt us underneath in the third quarter," she said. "She does a nice job of planning her man, and they do a good job of getting her the ball."

The intense defense of Marian, however, enabled the Mustangs to bounce back and claim the lead after three periods, 42-37.

Marian constantly changed defenses throughout the game, using various presses and trapping the ball on both ends of the court after made baskets. The pressure was effective, as it seemed every time Canton would make a run, the Mustangs' defense would cause turnovers, resulting in quick points.

Lillie-Ciccicone said the ability to switch defenses is one of her team's strengths.

"That (changing defenses) has been our forte for a long time," she said. "If one doesn't work, we change. Now we've worked it in until we switch up during the games."

Canton did not quit, however, and scored the first six points of the fourth quarter to take the lead for the final time, 43-42, before Marian's

stretch run decided it.

MARIAN WAS LED in scoring by Hazel Olden's 17 points, while other standouts included Garofalo (14), Govan (10) and Carlin Graat (nine).

Ferko was the only player for Canton to reach double figures, tallying 23 points.

While not happy with the final outcome, Canton coach Bob Bloom saw many good things in the game.

"Overall, it was a pretty well-played game for early in the season," he said. "Our intensity was there, but not our recognition. Hopefully, that will come with time."

One thing Bloom was not happy with was his team's outside shooting. "We haven't shot the ball well yet this year," he said. "We have to improve on that, or it will be hard to Ferko the ball inside."

Despite the tough competition from Marian, Bloom enjoys playing the Mustangs.

"Mary's a great coach," he said. "She does an outstanding job, and her kids always play hard and tough. That is why we love to play them."

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