

Woman earns spot on Wall of Fame



AL HARRISON

An old tradition crumbled at Town & Country Lanes last week in Westland when the name Sandra Nowlen was added to the alley's Wall of Fame.

For 32 years the names of all the bowlers who had rolled games of 298 or better, or series of 800 or better, have been placed on the wall. And until last week, all the names were men's names.

That changed with Nowlen, who is from Garden City, rolled a 300. She bowled a '69 series, the highest ever by a female in the house and the highest in the history of the Tri-Cities Ladies Association. Her 300 was the fifth in association history and the first since 1959.

Nowlen, a 1984 graduate of Garden City High School, carries a 178 average in the Monday night senior house league. She also competes in the Area Pro Shop Majors at Thunderbolt.

Nowlen, who currently attends Dorsey Business School, has been bowling seriously for only a couple of years. She said she was only a little nervous in the 10th frame of her perfect game. But when she carried a Brooklyn strike with the 11th ball, she knew the 300 was hers.

By now most bowlers have heard the sudden death of Bob Bittner last week only hours after scoring the perfect game that had eluded him all his life. He was one of the best bowlers in the city, a member of the Stroh's Beer All-Star team, and came close to 300 numerous times.

A week earlier he pitched a 290 and rolled 14 strikes in a row over a two-game span. He's also bowled several 800 series. But no 300.

Bittner was very well-known throughout the bowling community and was well-liked by all.

"He was a great guy and the best Travel League competitor I ever saw," said Bittner's friend Harry Campbell.

Correction: The 1993 Mixed Doubles Tournament season starts Jan. 8 and runs through Aug. 29 at Plum Hollow Lanes. First place is expected to pay \$4,000, not \$400 as was originally reported. For more information, call Lee Snow at 353-6540.

BOWLING HONOR ROLL

Super Bowl (Canton) Publishers Meet — Jack Eganberger, 292-275/273/823 (100%).

Del Jane Lanes (Farmington) West Side Men — Jerry McPherson, 247-706; Bob Dunham, 248/622; Lynn Lewis, 248/625; Jim Galt, 247/622; Paul Lind, 244; Jeff Veldema, 244; Duane Kury, 652.

Senior House — Larry Kibler, 229/694; Todd House, 247/528; Russ Fraker, 270 D.O. Olympic, 244.

Country Lanes (Farmington Hills) Deserted — Tom Johnson, 232/620; Ryan Wilson, 265-229; 237/775; Tina Barber, 234-215/624; Chris (Bob), 234.

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have to get them to look at and prepare for life after basketball.

Scott is the perfect role model. After graduating from Eastern with a degree in business communication, he took a job with Pepsi. He worked his way up the ladder there for three years before landing a job as district manager for the Chrysler Corp. He is currently in charge of the largest sales district in the Metro Detroit area. He was married last August and lives in Southfield.

"I hope they can look at me and see that I'm doing real well without playing basketball," Scott said. "I want them to know that the lessons they learned in sports relate to the real world. The things that make you great in business are hard work, the ability to work with people and be a part of a team. That's what these companies are looking for."

"I was lucky that when I was at Eastern I had people who helped me keep focused on academics. When I was done playing, I still had two credit hours left before I could graduate. I chose to come back and finish school. Who knows, if I didn't, I might still be chasing that NBA dream."

from the team.

"This would be a good time to change courses in my life," he said. "If I decide I want to change course."

He's certainly traveled a long and exhausting road since leaving Stevenson. He was a star at Montana State, averaging better than 21 points per game his junior and senior seasons. He was first team all-Big Sky both years and was the league's most valuable player his junior year.

"I scored 27 points in my first college game and from then on people started giving me all kinds of nicknames," he said. "They called me Downtown Domako. They called my three-pointers Livonia Layups. They called me Instant Offense."

He played a year in France before the Houston Rockets came calling before the 1989-1990 season and gave him a guaranteed contract.

"That was my one legitimate shot at it," he said.

But he wound up a victim of the numbers game and was the last person cut from the team. Since then, he's been a basketball vagabond, traveling throughout the Continental Basketball Association, making stops at Cedar Rapids, Columbus and Rockford, before heading out to Belgium.

Domako's production has steadily decreased over the years, largely due to a bum knee.

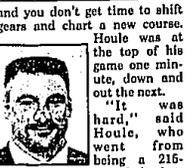
"I knew I needed surgery, but I couldn't afford to miss the playoffs," he said. "Time is money."

He finally had surgery to repair the knee last fall, and his game has shown a marked improvement.

"I wish I would have had it done years ago," he said. "I can't remember when it has felt this good."

So, maybe he'll return to the CBA and give it one more shot. Or, perhaps he and his wife of four years, Vicki, will move back to Montana where he'll return to school and pursue a degree in computer science. But for the time being, he's going to stay home and be with his father.

"I told my agent not to do anything until after the holidays," he said. "Then I'll see what's next."

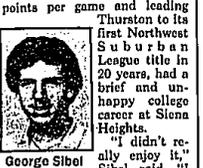


DAVE HOULE

and you don't get time to shift gears and chart a new course.

Houle was at the top of his game one minute, down and out the next.

"It was hard," he said. Houle, who went from being a 215-pound basketball star at Salem to a rugged 275-pound offensive lineman at Michigan State. "When you are in a life-style as structured as sports, and then all of a sudden you are working and you're married — it's just not the same thing. It's tough."



GEORGE SIBBEL

Houle became the starting right tackle on one of the best offensive lines in Big Ten history. He, along with Tony Mandarich, Bob Kula and Pat Shurmer, anchored a line that propelled Michigan State to a Big Ten title and a Rose Bowl game in 1987. Behind that line, the Spartans averaged close to 300 yards rushing per game and Lorenzo White amassed 1,572 yards and 16 touchdowns.

He was drafted by the New York Giants and then the spotlight was shut off. First, a series of shoulder injuries forced him out of pro football. Then came allegations that Houle, Mandarich and other Spartans took steroids, allegations that Houle vehemently denied, allegations that were never proven.

"The way everything ended left a bad taste in my mouth," Houle said. "I don't play sports anymore and I don't watch football on television. I haven't been back to East Lansing. It hurts too much. When it's over, it's over."

Don't misunderstand. Houle isn't unhappy with his life. Like everyone, he just has some bad memories. But the future, he says, is bright.

"I've got a good job (he's the safety director at Harlan Electronics in Southfield), a nice wife (Michelle) and nice home in Plymouth," he said. "Things are real good for me now."

TOM DOMAKO

The dream still burns for Domako, but it is starting to flicker.

"I'm kind of at a crossroads right now," said the 26-year-old, who left Stevenson and became somewhat of a folk hero at Montana State University. "I'm getting on in years as far as basketball goes. There are so many things I want to do with my life. I want to go back and get my degree. I want to raise a family. I don't want to be 55 years old and have a kid in high school, you know?"

But...

"But I still think there is a lot of good basketball left in me."

Fate has intervened to give Domako some time to weigh all his options. He was playing in the top professional league in Belgium and averaging 22.5 points per game. But last week his step-mother died and he wanted to come home to be with his father. The Belgium officials wouldn't let him leave. He came home anyway and he was cut

points per game and leading Thurston to its first Northwest Suburban League title in 20 years, had a brief and unhappy college career at Siena Heights.

"I didn't really enjoy it," Sibbel said. "I ran into some biased coaching."

After spending a season on the junior varsity, Sibbel became a starting guard for Coach Ben Braun (now at Eastern). He played well, but when a couple of other players rejoined the team after sitting out academic suspensions, Sibbel was relegated to the bench. He didn't return to Siena for his junior season.

"Everything is politics," he said. "I've learned that no matter what you do, no matter how good you are, you are expendable. There's no loyalty."

Sibbel finished his education at Madonna University, getting a degree in criminal justice. But he has yet to settle on a career path. He's currently a security officer working the afternoon shift at the Ford Rouge Plant.

"I am keeping my eyes open," said Sibbel, who married the former Julie Hultquist of Redford. "It's hard to settle on a career path. There are jobs. I'm looking at a bunch of things. I'm very lucky if you can do in life what you really want to."

He thinks he might like to try robotics. He may return to school and study computer science or seek a master's degree in corporate law. He is looking into a job as a probation officer.

"My life is moving full-speed ahead," he said.

As for athletics, Sibbel is the scourge of the area's recreation leagues.

"My brother (Jim) and I kill," he said. "We played in this four-on-four league and I averaged 52 points per game. My game is better now that it was in high school."

He has put on about 30 pounds of muscle mass since his high school days and he has developed an inside game.

"I can still dunk," he said. "Not bad for a 27-year-old."

DAVE HOULE
Sometimes it ends too quickly

GEORGE SIBBEL
Speaking of bad memories, Sibbel, after averaging 22.5

Few gifts actually improve with age. Your bank sells one of them.

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COLLEGE SPORTS

Sarah Ruete, a 1991 Plymouth Salem graduate, is averaging 9.8 points per game for the Adrian College women's basketball team. Ruete, a sophomore guard who has started three of nine games, scored 19 points in a 113-69 win over Taylor University at the Tri-State University Tournament.

The victory gave Adrian third place in the Tri-State Tournament. The point total was the most ever scored by an Adrian team in a single game. Adrian lost the opening game of the tourney, 83-81, to Indiana Tech but Ruete was instrumental in keeping the Bulldogs close with a three-point basket late in the game.

Ruete is 34-of-88 from the field (39 percent) and leads the team in steals with 23.

Williford honored

Capping one of its best soccer seasons ever, Oakland University had two players named to the all-NCAA Division II second team by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

Sweeper Derek Williford, a senior from Livonia (Stevenson) Michigan-Dearborn program. He will serve as assistant coach to Sandra Clark.

Also named to the second team was sophomore forward Mali Walton, who bettered the former single-season school scoring record by netting 17 goals and 14 assists (48 points).

Joining Williford and Walton on the all-region team were junior keeper Mike Sheehy (from Farmington) and sophomore forward Eli Tiomkin. Sheehy was outstanding in the season's last half, finishing with a 0.97 goals-against average and 10 shutouts.

Tiomkin also broke the OU single-season scoring record, collecting 20 goals and 11 assists (61 points).

OU finished 18-3-1, advancing to the NCAA II semifinals.

Mann to UM-Dearborn

Dave Mann's success has been noticed.

Mann coached Redford Bishop Borgess to a 20-3 record last season and into the Catholic League championship game.

Now Mann will try to help transform the University of Michigan-Dearborn program. He will serve as assistant coach to Sandra Clark.

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE NOTICE OF PROPOSED FORFEITURE

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service proposes to declare forfeit to the United States the following items seized at Detroit, Michigan:

four (4) bags containing 20 kg of dried processed deer velvet (Cervus elaphus)

The items were imported in violation of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1538(c)(1), 1538(e), 1537(N)(1), and 50 C.F.R. §§ 14.61 and 14.11.

Any person having an ownership interest in the items, who desires to file a claim for them, must file the claim and post a bond with the Office of the Field Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building, 1 Federal Drive, Room 486, Ft. Snelling, Minnesota 55111-4007, in accordance with the provisions of 50 C.F.R. Part 12 (1991).

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