

Congress led way for future bowlers



TEN-PIN ALLEY

When the bowling leagues all take to the lanes again this fall, it will mark the 100th anniversary of the American Bowling Congress.

It was back in 1895 that those interested parties convened to set the wheels in motion for future generations. The rules were decided on, bowling lane dimensions, equipment limitations and many other points were settled on, and the die was cast for those of us who came along later.

It did not happen overnight, or really with any haste, but had been hashed over and over for years until the elected officials could come to any agreement.

What it took was strong leadership, and that was exactly what came along in the form of Mr. Moses Benzing, the president of Brunswick-Balke-Callender Co. which boasted plenty of skilled craftsmen and woodworkers.

This came about from building wagon wheels, later on pool tables, and eventually bowling equipment.

Can you imagine what bowling balls would have been like 100 years ago?

Probably a piece of hardwood from a tree trunk, turned on a lathe, sanded smooth, followed by a finger hole drilled into it.

At least they had something to work with, a weight limitation and a set of dimensions to work within.

So it was Moses who led us out of the wilderness, and this is the year ABC celebrates its 100th year. The ABC has grown to become the largest sports organization in the world.

It was not easy, as everybody seemed to have ideas of their own as to how this game should go, but under the strong leadership of Benzing, the

game has enjoyed stability, and perhaps most important of all, they kept it simple, they kept it basic.

A glance back over the years shows that so very little has changed with the exception of ball materials and balances. Sixty feet to the head pin from foul line, remains, along with the 16-pound maximum weight per ball.

So for the first 100 years, ABC should be lauded for keeping everything basically the same.

Perhaps the most significant change is the gender balance. Women can now join the previously all-male ABC. Why do they do this? I think merely to step up to another level of competition for those like Tamika Glenn of Farmington Hills, who demonstrates an amazing ability to compete with anyone at any level of play.

So nothing much has changed in 100 years, the official kick-off of the season takes place on Monday, Aug. 21, with the John Gavis Tournament at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park.

During the same week, opening ceremonies for the All-Stars takes place, while everything else just sort of falls into place.

The ABC will most likely do some promotions to tie in with the 100th anniversary of organized bowling.

And don't forget Bowling Expo coming soon to Gibraltar North Trade Center.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Doug Uhl, executive secretary of the Wayne Westland Men's Association.

Doug is recovering from heart surgery as I am. He had an angioplasty bypass operation.

If you're like me, Doug, you're cheering at the bit, anxious to get back out on the lanes one of these days soon. I want to take this bit of space to thank my many friends for those nice get well cards.

They are greatly appreciated, they go a long way to cheer up a hospital patient. Thanks, a ton!

McCaul emphasizes Neon defense

By STEVE KOWALSKI STAFF WRITER

When Steve McCaul joined the Detroit Neon last year as a rookie, he accepted the team's request of him to concentrate on defense.

Now he's asking some of his teammates to make a similar commitment.

McCaul, who played forward throughout his amateur career at Redford Catholic Central and Michigan State University, said he feels helpless on some nights as a Neon defender. The Neon are 1-13 overall and in last place in the Eastern Division of the Continental Indoor Soccer League.

"I still love it, but it's not much fun realizing you're 1-13," McCaul said in a telephone interview prior to Thursday night's loss to Anaheim, the Neon's 10th straight defeat.

McCaul said one of the problems is the system the Neon use with midfielder Drago, who was the second-leading scorer in the CISL last year with 53 goals and 60 assists.

After losing seven of their first

eight games, the Neon chose to employ a "runner" system with Drago. What that means is Drago plays offense but doesn't have to play defense.

When the ball crosses midfield into the Neon's end of the field, Drago heads to the bench on the fly and is replaced by a "runner," who happens to be the speedy Earl Parris.

With 14 games remaining, Drago has seven goals and 16 assists, which is far off his production of a year ago. His popularity, however, with fans probably helped earn him a berth in the All-Star game, which will be played Tuesday in Portland.

"Drago says his defense takes away from his offense, but it's hurting us; you can't play like that, especially in the indoor game," said McCaul, a Livonia native. "The pace is so quick and Drago isn't exactly in a hurry to get off the field. Earl is faster than hell, and I admire him, but by the time he gets on the field there's already a three-on-one break. The big problem is not everyone gets back on defense — and the major one is Drago — and it's showing right now."

McCaul missed five games this year after twisting his left knee in a loss July 9 to Pittsburgh. When he's been healthy, McCaul has seen considerable action. He has one goal, no assists and 10 blocks.

Two of the Neon losses in their current slide have been especially heartbreakers.

On July 22 against Dallas, the Neon wasted a 7-1 lead and lost 9-8 on a goal with three seconds left at the Palace. On Friday, Aug. 4 at Arizona, the Neon took a 4-3 lead with 18 seconds left on Bobby Harmon's goal, only to watch the home team force overtime with a goal with six seconds remaining.

Arizona won the game 5-4 in overtime.

McCaul watched in disbelief from the bench as Arizona tied the score with an extra attacker on the field after pulling the goalkeeper.

"Joe Murtagh was sitting next to me and we both thought, 'It's about time we turn it around.' Then they scored, we looked at each other and said, 'What the hell,'" McCaul said.

Recruiting tenacity pays for Madonna

By C.J. RISAK STAFF WRITER

When Jerry Abraham assumed coaching Madonna University's softball in addition to volleyball, he knew the team needed bolstering.

By the time his third season on the job begins next spring, that goal will be realized.

At least in part.

Abraham took a young — no seniors and just two juniors — Lady Crusaders' team to the NAIA Great Lakes Regional last spring. They finished the season 25-18.

With 11 players certain to return (including all three pitchers), most coaches wouldn't have been too worried about recruiting. But Abraham isn't that sort.

The Madonna coach, who guided the Crusaders to the NAIA World Series in '93, not only recruited tenaciously, but — by his own description — with luck.

"All the kids I decided to go after decided to come," he said, adding there wasn't a single question mark in the bunch.

In other words: "These are good, sound kids, with a good work ethic and with great attitudes."

That just about says it all. Or does it?

Not quite. Because the number of players Abraham was interested in bringing to Madonna was not five or six, enough to keep his roster at 15 or 16. He has more than doubled his team's size: 14

SOFTBALL

newcomers have committed to the Crusaders.

How did he do it? Well first, there's the aforementioned factor — a bit of luck. Everybody he went after, he got.

Secondly, it helps being the volleyball coach. Two of his recruits will also play on the Crusaders' volleyball squad, too: Livonia Franklin graduate Jaclyn Deane and Jennifer Russell, from Grand Rapids Catholic Central.

"I was impressed with the way she handled the last in his school," said Abraham of Deane, a volleyball middle-hitter he envisioned at first base or in the outfield. "When she gets hold of it, she can really drive it. Which is just what I want — hopefully we can get some power out of her."

Russell, a 5-foot-8 outside hitter/defensive specialist in volleyball, can pitch and play several other positions. "Where she'll contribute, I really don't know," Abraham said.

But both should contribute. Still, considering the number of players Abraham has coming in, no one is irreplaceable.

And there are those who can, and indeed will step in and help immediately. Five of his recruits are junior college players: Shawna Greene, Dawn Shaffer and Jamie Vickers, all from Oakland Community College; Melissa McGue, from Henry Ford CC; and Stacy Piontkowski, from Alpena CC.

Green and Piontkowski come in with three years of eligibility remaining; the other three will be juniors. Greene can, and very probably will, play several spots. A Clarkston grad, she has "good speed and good bat control." She hit over .400 at OCC.

Shaffer, a third baseman at OCC from Flint Linden, has a "great arm and is very gutsy." A .400 hitter, she is projected as a possible starter. Vickers, a 385-pounder, is another one who will challenge for playing time, probably in the infield. A Waterford Mott grad, she played second and shortstop at OCC.

McGue played at Taylor Kennedy (which is where Abraham saw her — he coached Taylor Center's softball team until last spring) before playing outfield at Henry Ford CC. "She's a hustler," Abraham said. "She's a Pete Rose-type player." She also hit .456 for the Hawks.

Piontkowski was voted the top catcher by Michigan's junior college coaches this past season; she boasts a strong arm and solid defense, and should combine with returning starter Jennifer Pinter to give Madonna a solid one-two tandem behind the plate.

Among the others coming to Madonna is Art Bagazinski, another Franklin grad. Bagazinski led the Patriot regulars in hitting, batting .417, with 12 doubles, five triples, two home runs and 27 runs batted in. A shortstop and outfielder as a senior, she should at least add depth next season.

Jennifer Kusars (Taylor Center), Kara Glicki (RiverView Central), Janell Leschinger (Alpena), Marissa Mittleman (L'Anse Creuse), Catherine Ragsdale (New Boston Huron) and Jamie Heins (a transfer from Siena Heights University) join Bagazinski as walk-ons.

Kusars is a second baseman noted for her speed; Glicki is a left-handed finesse pitcher who plays several other positions; Leschinger was also a pitcher, noted for her control, but she played a variety of positions and hit .342; Mittleman was her team's MVP, hitting .472 with three homers and 22 RBIs; Ragsdale is a solid defensive catcher and team MVP, who hit .380; and Heins is a just-added transfer with sophomore eligibility who played third base with the Saints.

"Basically, it's been a wonderful year," summarized Abraham. "What we wanted from our recruiting was, No. 1, the best players we can get; No. 2, they should have a great work ethic — they have to want to play a lot of games; and No. 3, they have to be good students, which all of them are."

"We had some definite spots to fill, and now we've got depth in the infield and in the outfield. And we have a good group coming back."

Abraham was quick to add that having a lot of players "doesn't mean we're better." But after an initial sorting out process, they should be.

SPORTS SHORTS

Hans for the Sports Roundup should be submitted by 5 p.m. Tuesday (for the Thursday issue) and 5 p.m. Friday (for the Monday issue).

TEXAS EARNS CROWN

Paul Terk took a third place in the boys 15-16 pole vault at the AAU Junior Nationals Aug. 5 in Des Moines, Iowa.

Terk, who will be a junior this fall at Livonia Franklin High, tied for first with three other vaulters after clearing 14 feet.

He settled for the bronze medal after being involved in a jumpoff.

SOFTBALL SIGN-UP

Crackerbox Sports of Farmington Hills is organizing coed and

men's softball leagues. For more information call (810) 474-6175.

OLYMPIC PROGRAM

The Farmington Soccer Club is hosting the 1996 girls Michigan Olympic Development open outdoor tryouts at Founders Sports Park from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 12 and 13, for birth years 1982/83, 1981, 1980, 1979 and 1978/77.

The Michigan Olympic Development program is open to all Michigan youth. The goal is to develop soccer athletes capable of competing at the Olympic and international levels. Spectators are invited.

For information call assistant program administrator Steve Devoson at (810) 305-8090.

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CITY OF FARMINGTON SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING (Summary)

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council with Carol Collins, Executive Director, Southeastern Oakland Cable Commission was held on Monday, August 7, 1995, in Council Chambers, 22899 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan. Notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with Public Act 97-197A.

PRESENT: Beth Campbell, Hartzack, McInnes, Tappier.

ABSENT: None.

OFFICERS PRESENT: City Clerk/Treasurer Control, Attorney Deaneon, City Manager Leach.

Council discussed the tentative for renewal of a franchise agreement with Time Warner. Council approved the franchise agreement with the cities of Canton, Plymouth and Northville and the franchisees of FWOCC (Farmington) and FWOCC community arena commitments for 1994.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

ARNOLD T. CAMPBELL, Mayor
PATRY K. CANTRELL, Clerk/Treasurer

CITY OF FARMINGTON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS (Summary)

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was called to order by Mayor Campbell at 8:23 p.m. on Monday, August 7, 1995 in Council Chambers, 22899 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan. Notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with Public Act 97-197A.

PRESENT: Beth Campbell, Hartzack, McInnes, Tappier.

ABSENT: None.

OFFICERS PRESENT: City Clerk Cantrell, Attorney Deaneon, Director Gen. Director Gormann, City Manager Leachoff, Assistant to City Manager Richards.

City was presented with a "Certificate of Achievement" for participation in the Oakland County Immunization Action Program.

Action of the regular meeting of July 9, 1995 and the Special Meeting of July 14, 1995 were approved.

Minutes of other boards were received and/or filed.

Council adopted a resolution in support of the Farmington Public Schools "zero tolerance" policy to control teenage alcohol and drug use.

Council directed administration to draft a policy regarding City support of non-profit organizations.

Council did not object to transfer of a STD Inoper Screen from Arthur Drugs, Inc. to Marvont T. Zeeman, Nine-Grand party store.

Council approved changes to the policy on outdoor sales applications.

Council approved a Maintenance Agreement for Farmington Road.

Council approved preparation of a display on the City's award winning Road Improvement Program at the Michigan Municipal League Annual Convention.

Council approved termination of a contract with Oakland County for personal property list removing services.

Council authorized the purchase of a 1995 GMC pickup truck.

Council authorized Payment No. 1 to Road Rock Concrete for the 1995 Sidewalk Program.

Council authorized a permanent services agreement with MicroMedia for Internet Services Telephone System Software.

Council authorized a term purchase order for car washing services with Jet Kar Wash, Inc.

Public Comments were heard.

Council Comments and Announcements were heard.

Council requested Timothy Zeeman to the Board of zoning Appeals and appointed Deaneon and Michael Hartzack to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Council approved the Department of Public Services and Water and Sewer Department Quarterly Report and the Building Department Quarterly Report.

Council reviewed and approved the Monthly Payments Report.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

ARNOLD T. CAMPBELL, Mayor
PATRY K. CANTRELL, City Clerk/Treasurer

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: AUGUST 21, 1995
TIME: 7:30 P.M.
PLACE: Farmington Hills City Hall
11543 Eleven Mile Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
Center Site Plan 110-13-04

ITEM: The City of Farmington Hills City Council will give formal consideration to Center Site Plan/Open Space Plan 110-13-04, which requests the approval of the City Council to utilize the Single Family Housing Cluster Option in the RFP-4 Planned Residential District (77 detached units). The property involved is located on the south side of Nine Mile Road, east of Green Hill Road, and is more particularly described as follows:

Block 16, 23-32-250-004 & 025
A part of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 22, T19N, R12E, City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, Michigan, Containing 11.23 Acres.

NINE MILE RD.
EIGHT MILE RD.
GREEN HILL RD.
DRIVE RD.
HALSTED RD.

The applicant in this matter is Salvatore Cottone, Green Hill Plans, L.L.C., which requests the approval to build twenty-seven detached single-family cluster housing units on the site.

Any person who is interested is invited to participate in the discussion of the Center Site Plan/Open Space Plan and the Single Family Housing Cluster Option by reviewing at the Planning Office, City of Farmington Hills, on any business day between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Public August 14, 1995
Time 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Phone 248-277-0000

DALE S. COUNTEDAN, Director
Planning & Community Development