

BOWLING

Bowling coverage expands, Edgar's legacy lives on



AL HARRISON

Don't look now but there have been some changes made. For the next 35 weeks Observer & Eccentric readers can enjoy expanded coverage of bowling.

I hope that bowling enthusiasts can recognize that it is the local business proprietor, whether a bowling center, pro shop or supplier who enables us to fully enjoy this great pastime.

During the off-season, we will report back to a column in the sports section.

In retrospect, "Ten Pin Alley" carries on a tradition of bowling coverage which began long before the Detroit declines became involved.

Unless you admit your age, you might not remember that it

was W.W. "Eddie" Edgar who covered the bowling scene for the Observer & Eccentric. A 48-year resident of Livonia, he was the first bowling writer in this area. His column was called "In the Pocket."

During his 16-year tenure as executive secretary of the Bowling Proprietors Association of Greater Detroit he was considered the "originator" of bowling until he retired in 1968.

He helped bring bowling out of the saloons and into the mainstream for all to enjoy.

Edgar was one of the first sports announcers in Detroit. In 1924 he was named by WCX (now WJR) to read the sports news. He also gave weekly bowling reports on the air.

His regular Observer column was "The Stroller," a name which stuck with him always.

Edgar, as a writer/promoter and Bowler Hall of Fame. He was generally credited with making Detroit area bowling what it is today.

In 1971 he was honored as the recipient of the Judge John D. White Award for his many contributions to bowling in the early years. This same award went to "yours truly" last year.

During the golden years of sports, Edgar rubbed shoulders with legendary figures such as Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth, Joe Louis, Joe DiMaggio, Gar Wood, Knute Rockne, Mickey Cochrane and many others.

As we enter a new era of on-the-scene and behind-the-scenes bowling news, I hope to be able to carry on a tradition on these pages which "The Stroller" began a long time ago.

Bowling clinics

There are openings for bowlers who would want to improve their game in the Eastern Cherokee Clinic on Sunday, Oct. 4, at The Rack Attack Pro Shop in Thunderbird Lanes in Troy. The clinic is sponsored by Columbia 300, Brunswick, Track, Inc., AMF, Ebonite, Turbo 2-N-1 Grips, Linds Shoes, Robbins', King



W.W. "Eddie" Edgar

Louie and EB Sports. These sponsors will be supplying the door prizes.

Topics to be covered include adapting to lane conditions, ball surface, core design, drilling layout, ball release style, conditioning for bowlers, three hours of on-lane instruction and computerized video analysis. The clinic is limited to 50

entries. Check-in at 8 a.m., clinic starts at 8:45 a.m. and runs to approximately 5 p.m. Cost is \$86 per person (\$100 after Sept. 27). Bring your own equipment. For reservations or further details, call Tim Wice-1963 when the state decided to widen M-69 from two to five lanes. The road was closed and there was no access for several months. Could they survive these conditions? They sure did and Benning once again proved his resourcefulness. He did a little twisting and pulling and somehow got a temporary road plowed through from the back. Now bowlers could get in through the back door and the place kept humming.

Benning legacy

Forty years ago it may have been a little simpler to get things done, Frank Benning built a bowling center on a vacant lot in 90 days in 1961. There were no blueprints, the guys just scratched out lines in the sand and pretty soon they had a 32-lane bowling center on M-69 in Waterford. They named it Aways Lanes.

This is of special interest because Benning died last week at age 78. His son, Gary, now carries on in a family business that has contributed in no small way to the local bowling scene.

When they opened in time to start the season they had two full shifts every night. Frank Benning was a pretty good

bowler, proving it by winning the very first jackpot the first night. His back went bad soon after and he had to stop bowling, but he did what he had set out to do.

There was a major hangup in 1963 when the state decided to widen M-69 from two to five lanes. The road was closed and there was no access for several months. Could they survive these conditions? They sure did and Benning once again proved his resourcefulness. He did a little twisting and pulling and somehow got a temporary road plowed through from the back. Now bowlers could get in through the back door and the place kept humming.

Frank Benning was known as a door. He would always accomplish what he set out to do, starting with his earlier ventures and adventures in the bar business in Pontiac. Aways Lanes is now run in the same family tradition by son, Gary, and there are even a few of the original bowlers still around from opening day in 1961.

BOWLING HONOR ROLL

Cloverlanes (Livonia)

- All-Star Bowlers: Tracy Wade, 203; Sam Graves, 260/730; Juanita Wenzel-Zemke, 259/053; Cheryl Stipeck, 247; Cynthia Black, 259/040; Lisa McCarty, 247/079; Michelle Anget, 202; Robin White, 254/058; Audrey Williams, 245.
- Sunday Youth Classic Travel (Masters): Duin Flores, 277-255/692; Mike Suowalki, 234; Fred Eminger, 240; Joe Buchanan, 225; Mike Siders, 220; Pat Brown, 227.
- SYC Travel (Classic II): Brian Marto, 218-215/600; Brian Caldwell, 245/581; Stacy Bice, 212-210/608; Rob Heijun, 221/567; Carmen Schmitt, 218/558; Travis Deicher, 219; Katie Bishop, 258.
- St. Aidan's Men's: Rich Rakak, 203-204/640; Tony Kalamy, 211-253/053; Cliff Merritt, 211-203/036; Alan Polasky, 203-223-231/038; Jeff Amelch, 203-223-215/041; John Nemo, 223-255/625.
- Knute House Men: Jim Conham, 299/087.
- FoHoCo Thurs Night: Dave Diomed, 257/718; Col Collins, 267/700; Tony Bennett, 625; Steve Bester, 247/081; John Teeter, 279/601; Jerry McCall, 248; Bob Aschraf, 279/714; Chuck O'Rourke, 289/730; Jim Dunson, 203/700; Frank, 257/064; Four man team: Randy Thompson, Brian LeBlanc, Bob Aschraf, Chuck O'Rourke, 1022 game/2700 series.

Senior Bowlers: Premium Bowling Products:

- Jeff Roche, 255/705; Mimi Grogan, 286/700; Art Chojnacki, 256/895; John McDerm, 235/682; Mark Gomo, 245/702; Doug Sider, 267/759; Mickey J. Smith, 242/687; Ken Smolts, 244/653; Brad Surango, 208/684; Jim Stevbins, 246/600; Art Chojnacki, 267/700.
- Local 882: Roy Lince, 258; Gail Ivancic, 235; Bob Monis, 235; Joe Edeeh, 233.
- Midnight Mikes: Tony Mazzetta, 248/700; Eric Dutes, 240; Phil Puczkowski, 278/692.

Pine Lanes (Plymouth)

- Suburb Proprietors Travel (men): Mark Wojni, 256/654; Tony Baltara, 222; George Kayganich, 219/006; Billy Garcia, 231/617; Paul Butler, 217/298.
- Suburb Prop. Travel (ladies): Judy Wash-Koon, 209/500; Mary Baratta, 200/617; Viv Waldrop, 109.

Mayflower Lanes (Redford)

- Fridy Seniors: Jim Zelen, 233/303; Valt Arsenault, 218/610; Alan Parratto, 240/600.
- Good Neighbors: Dawn Weigel, 207; Alice Water, 190.
- Wed. Senior Men's Classic: Mike Adorjan, 248/617; Lou Krasky, 210-234/635; Chuck Rice, 203-209-230/644; D. Brown, 246-221/648; Paul Temple, 205-228/623; Joe Ferrante, 213-219/010.

Country Lanes (Farmington)

- University Men's: Don Borgessier, 278/727; Dave Wilson, 259; Tony Elias, 285/732; Neil Deckman, 258; Ron Matti, 200/237.
- Event League: Tom Roy, 258/595; Ron McKenzie, 245; Bob Stewart, 248/682; Barry Wynn, Jr., 242; Matt McKenzie, 238/600; Dan Hoffmann, 279/710; Mike Kaloski, 249/658.
- Tuesday Mixed Trio: Bob Johnson, 255/650; Lyle Schreiber, 268; Paul Dost, 603; Joe Statels, 611; Michelle Gill, 210/621; Vern Flowers, 268/694; Ron

- Goodman, 265/655; Lethy Smith, 209/075; Andy Rubin, 279/737; Leonard Berger, 258.
- Metro Highway: Jeff Veder, 243/580; Steve Hoberman, 205-228/635; Alan Herson, 217/502; Frank Darabos, 200/627; T.D. Brown, 220/407.
- Country Knights: Joe Malinzi, 258/641; Dennis Harris, 244/631; Gary Via, 233; Ron Wynn, 239/644; Fred Rainard, 220/630; George Varn, 224/662.
- Greenfield Mixed: Robbie Cooding, 212-223/683; Walt Thomas, 222-202/613; Ryan Wilson, 223-234/635; Debbie Vign-Meter, 220-220/600; Sandy Weed, 205.
- Stirkas: Norma Sheena, 203; Rita Dowood, 206/548.
- D'Val Beth Frags: Wayne Lusky, 203-215-260/687; Jeff Eisenberg, 225-202.
- Howard Kuretsky, 207/613; Mitch Finkel, 227-203/600; Bryan Levine, 203-223.
- Goodtime: Mike Kovaca, 230; Phil Parker, 212; Herman Schenberg, 203.

Drakeshire Lanes (Farmington)

- BYN Beth Morganthau: L'Chayim/Zelig-Graed: Mike Diskin, 213-231/634; Jerry Kahn, 208-203-213/624; Steve Hoberman, 205-228/635; Alan Herson, 210-210; Lee Weinstein, 217-209.
- BYN Beth Downtown Fox: David Shabnam, 265-225-210/700; Nancie Rakoff, 258-219/658; Jeff Sprague, 257-204/657; John O'Brien, 233-202/618; David Lazarus, 215/607.

Novi Bowl (Novi)

- Westlake Lethetic: Will Grube, 663; Chuck Barry, 616; Ron Beardsley, 612; Kevin Chambers, 612; Mark Zepenny, 600.

Garden Lanes (Garden City)

- St. Louis Men's Classic: Al Dobos, 258-226-205/740; Dennis Rochetree, 205-244-246/617; Dave M. Barner, 218-248-203/669; John Adomita, 213-212-237/668.

PRO BOWLER TIP OF THE WEEK



Scott Williams

Scott Williams, Owner of Skores Unlimited Pro Shop and the Ballistic Ball Co., manufacturer of the "Boomerang" and the "Bomb." Located: Inside Taylor Lanes 24800 Eureka Road near Telegraph. Phone: (314) 947-1020.

A. For generally oily conditions you should have an aggressive ball with a lot of flare potential. On dryer lanes, a shiny urethane or even polyester ball could work out better.

Q. Some of the new balls are highly polished, others are a dull finish. Which is preferable?

A. The shinier surface will have more traction or grip at the back end. The duller finish will give an earlier hook with more of an oven arc.

Q. How about spare shooting with a ball that hooks a lot?

A. Some bowlers prefer to have a shiny hard finish ball just for spares, one that will not hook very much.

Q. What is best for youth bowlers or senior citizens?

A. Youth bowlers will start out light and work up in weight as they get older. There are youth programs well suited for young children. Seniors will usually have to drop off somewhat in weight, depending on their own physical ability. Many of today's lighter balls are more technically advanced and will produce good results.

Q. What's the best way to get properly fitted?

A. This is really the most important consideration of all. Every pro shop will be sure to fit their customers right. That is their business, and they are very good at it. Just measuring the fingers and drilling holes is not good enough. The pro shop will analyze the bowling style, the flexibility and delivery, get the proper pitches and ball balances for getting the most out of your ball.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

67th Annual Old Timers Tournament and Party 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 28. Dinner at 8:30 p.m. only. Seven age groups. Thunderbolt Lanes, 4200 Allen Road, Allen Park Call John Chmelko (810) 766-3240.

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