

Ansara will have input into Hall of Fame picks



AL HARRISON

Low Ansara of Farmington Hills has been appointed to the selection committee for the Greater Detroit Hall of Fame.

This panel meets once a year to select the bowlers who will receive this top honor.

Ansara brings a lot of knowledge and experience to the table; he's best known for his sponsorship of top teams in the all-star leagues, and has been a highly-regarded bowler in those leagues as well.

Ansara is the principal owner of the Red Robin Restaurants

and a group of Big Boy restaurants. His input will be of great value to the committee when they make their selections.

The Hall of Fame selection process is structured to ensure that any inductee has surpassed the criterion and has emerged as the top choice from the slate of other worthy candidates. The names of this year's honorees will be released to the press Sept. 8.

The American Bowling Congress, together with the Greater Detroit Bowling Association, will conduct three meetings for league officers who were invited to attend at their homes.

The first of the series will be held on Monday at Sterling Lanes, 33200 Schoenherr, Sterling Heights, (810) 978-6200. Supplies will be passed out from noon-8 p.m. with the Detroit Women's Bowling Association (DWBA) taking part.

There will be special officer sessions at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. The second will be Wednesday at Airway Lanes, 4825 Highland Road, Waterford, (248) 674-0424. Supplies will be passed out from 2 p.m.-8 p.m. with the Pontiac Women's Bowling Association joining in. There will be a special officer session at 7 p.m.

The third and final session will

take place Wednesday, Aug. 18 at Merril Bowl Lanes, 30055 Five Mile, Livonia, (734) 427-2900. Supplies will be passed out from noon-8 p.m. with the DWBA participating. Special officers sessions will be 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

All league officers are urged to attend these meetings. They will receive the new ABC/WIBC rules books, record sheets, a new yearbook and other materials the league will need. If you have any questions, call the GDFA office at (810) 773-6350. They will assist you in any way.

There is still time to get your team entries in for the 63rd Annual John P. Gavie Memorial Tournament, which will be Aug. 23 at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park. Entry blanks are

available at most bowling centers for teams in the men's, women's and senior categories.

The Gavie is regarded as the official kick-off to the new bowling season. It is an opportunity to meet old friends and make new acquaintances, and there is a very nice selection of mementos gifts that each participant receives.

When you visit Thunderbowl Lanes, take a little extra time to walk the concourse and view the Detroit Bowling Hall of Fame, originated by George Prybyla. It is full of some great memorabilia, and all of the Hall of Famers have their plaques hanging in the showcases. Thunderbowl is located on Allen Road, just west of Outer Drive and a mile east of Southfield Road.

Want to buy a bowling ball?

Today is the final day of the Used Ball Swap Meet at Westland Bowl, located on Wayne Road. There are lots of late model balls of all brands for sale at bargain prices. If you do not care to spend \$200 for a new ball, this is a good opportunity to get previously owned balls at bargain prices.

And get in on the door prize drawing as well. For each ball bought at this sale, the buyer gets two free games in August at Westland Bowl. Ray's Pro Shop, which is on the premises, will plug and re-drill these balls for \$10 during the following week.

Sometimes you can find a ball that fits just right and does not have to be fitted. Inserts or grips would be slightly extra. The sale ends at 8 p.m. today.

Wooden bats from page D1

played with wooden bats, 5-4 in aluminum-bat games!

Livonia Adray scored 34 runs in 12 games with wooden bats tracked by The Observer, an average of 2.9 per game. Adray averaged 5.4 runs in 11 aluminum bat games tracked.

Adray, third in the Collegiate Division, was 5-7 in wooden bat games, 4-7 in aluminum bat games.

Hines Park coach, Stu Rose, who also coaches Henry Ford CC, said Dan Fairchild, a 1998 Garden City graduate, was one of his few players not hindered by the wooden bat.

The Collegiate Division teams elected to use wooden bats for a second-straight season in a pre-season vote among the four coaches. Michigan Lake Area Rams coach Rick Berryman, Livonia Decision Consultants coach Mike George and Livonia Adray coach John Moraitis voted

in favor of wooden bats and Rose voted for aluminum.

Majority ruled.

The league decided to go to wooden bats last year because it attracts quality players who are choosing to go out of state to play in wooden bat leagues. Rose isn't sure it's a good idea, and not just because his team struggled.

Omar Diaz hit the team's only two home runs with wood, Rose said. Hines Park hit all sorts of homers with aluminum bats, scoring in double digits several times with the bats they've been swinging since they were kids.

"I didn't want to go to wood," Rose said. "I'm an aluminum fan because that's what college uses. It made sense to me to swing what they use during the season. My team batted seventh (among junior colleges) in the country with aluminum. It's a whole different team with wood."

If the 'top' player wants to

show a pro scout who's not convinced he can hit with wood, the Cape Cod League is a great place to play. Marginal players, prospects, are much better off using aluminum and let the scouts guess.

Moraitis said he's indifferent about which bats his team uses.

"I'm just like a sheep, went along with what everyone else did," Moraitis said. "The hit (with wooden bats) all right, just can't hit it as far. The bats are a little heavier and they don't get it around as quick."

In contrast to Hines Park's and Livonia Adray's struggles, the Rams and Collegiate Division champion DCI averaged slightly more runs per game with wooden bats than aluminum.

The Observer compiled all of the Rams' scores and they averaged 4.3 runs with wooden bats (64 in 15 games), compared

to 4.09 with aluminum (45 in 11 games). The Rams were 8-7 with wood, 4-7 with aluminum, finishing second.

Berryman and the Rams had more hits with aluminum bats but couldn't seem to get the clutch hit often, keeping scores lower in those games.

He was surprised that the Rams scored more per game with wooden bats than aluminum.

"I'm shocked by it," he said. "But we hit pretty decent pitching this year."

Berryman still is a believer in using wooden bats will make the players better hitters when they return to aluminum in the collegiate season.

"It makes them realize what they have to work on to be better hitters," he said.

All of DCI's scores were compiled, also. DCI averaged 5.5 runs per game with wooden bats (63 in 15 games) and 5.4 with

aluminum (64 in 10).

DCI was 11-31 with wood and 4-6 with aluminum.

George, the DCI coach, thinks using wood makes a player a better hitter once he goes back to aluminum in the collegiate season. He said his teams at Madonna University, where he formerly coached, used to take batting practice with wooden bats and it helped once they used aluminum in games.

"I like the concept of the wooden bat," George said. "It makes for a quicker game and is a great teaching tool for kids. You get away with a lot with an aluminum bat that you don't get with wood. I would vote for it to stay."

The Can/Am Division, an unlimited age division made up of Troy Jet Box and three teams from Canada, is in favor of continuing to use aluminum bats in all of its games, including those

with the collegiate teams.

"We're all senior players, not going pro anywhere, so why spend extra money on wooden bats when there's no advantage to you anyway," said Chris Souliere, a former league coach.

Kish also pitched a four-hitter as the Rams' pitcher. The Tennessee state champion Germantown Sox, 14-1. Twins Ben and Andrew Davis went 3-for-3 in that game. Glowacki, Kish and Kahle were 2-for-3.

Andrew Krushelnyski, Steve Bayoff, Gabe Schwartz and Jesse Henderson were solid defensive players.

Team from D1



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