

'Lady Luck' makes area bowler \$10,000 richer



AL HARRISON

I'd rather be lucky than good. That is a familiar tune sung by many bowlers everywhere over the years.

Tim Detherage of Westland is both lucky and good. In fact, he is a very good bowler, judging by his average in the 220 range.

He has bowled 11 300 games in his career, but it was "Lady Luck" that just made him \$10,000 richer.

It all started this past season as Tim joined the Brunswick Challenge League at Livonia's Wonderland Lanes.

This 18-team league bowled the season under more difficult than normal conditions, primarily by using the Brunswick Professional Bowlers Association Gold Pins, the same ones used on the PBA tour.

You've probably seen these special pins on TV when the PBA is being televised. The pins are somewhat heavier than normal, 3.9 pounds each compared to 3.6 or 3.7 pounds with the regular.

These few ounces of added weight make it more difficult to strike. The lane conditions are also dressed differently, making for a tougher game.

A good bowler like Detherage can make the adjustments in his game necessary to score well. He scored very well Dec. 29, 1999, as he had a perfect game in this league under the tough conditions. That is where his bowling skills paid off.

Now for the lucky part of the story.

Everyone who bowled a 300 game in the 30 different bowling centers across the USA was eligible for the grand prize drawing by the Brunswick Corp.

In all, there were 40 entrants nationwide with nine of them coming from Wonderland Lanes.

This is the part where "Lady Luck" enters the scene, for it was Tim whose name was drawn at random, making him the recipient of a check from Brunswick for \$10,000.

Others who were in the drawing from the Overland cities were, Mike Surdyk and Tom Hay of Redford, Chuck Ruel and Donald Parks of Westland, and Stan Mardeusz of Livonia.

Another lucky guy was Ken Bashara, the proprietor of Wonderland Lanes. Ken did not even have to bowl a perfect, he was handed a check from David Burel and David Way of Brunswick for having this league in his house where the winning player bowled.

Tim, a father of two, Brandon, 5, and Brianna, 3, were all on hand together with his wife Sue to receive the check.

He is employed at Detroit Diesel, and is a graduate of Plymouth Salem High School. As of now, the Detherage family has no specific plans for the money, but whatever they do, they will certainly enjoy.

•Have you ever wondered who had the highest bowling average ever?

A new record has been set this past season by a Texan, Mike Scroggins, a part-time professional bowler from Amarillo.

He has broken the American Bowling Congress record for highest average and most 800 series in a season.

The 36-year-old lefty averaged 256.8 for 78 games in a scratch league. Scroggins also had seven 800s and three more in the 790s in one league.

He also had a streak of eight consecutive weeks without an open frame. The old record for highest average was 251.0 by Russ Hunt in Ogden, Utah during the 1995-96 season.

Altogether, Scroggins set a record with fourteen 800 series in one season with two months remaining for 1999-2000.

Now let's all take deep breath and say, "I can do better."

•I stayed up a bit later last Monday to watch the Ladies Pro Bowling Tour on ESPN2 (which aired at 11 p.m.)

This was the Queens Tournament from the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev.

It's the Women's International Bowling Congress Championship and one of the triple crown events of the year.

The first match was won by veteran Lennae Barrette, who moved up to take on one of our local ladies, Marianne DiRupo, a member of the Cloverlanes All-Star Bowlerettes.

DiRupo qualified for the No. 2 seeding and won her match handily, then went up against Wendy McPherson.

It was a high scoring game and only an errant shot in Marianne's fifth frame which resulted in a washout and an open frame kept her from the top prize.

The Queens crown was up for grabs until the final frame, but her \$13,000 check was not a bad consolation for coming in second. •The Hamtramck Singles

Classic at Hazel Park Bowl guarantees \$25,000 for first place and \$12,500 for second in handicap singles. 50th place pays off \$1,000.

Anthony Hill currently leads with 1,116 pins, while Richard Planko of Novi is second with 1,009 (plus \$2 pins handicap for 1,101).

In the eight games singles, Marj Milanovich leads with 2,136 while Rex Arphucinda is second with 2,125.

For the senior singles (55 and over) Richard Planko, ranks first with 1,101, while Bill Haynes of Rochester Hills is second at 1,082.

For sponsors high series, Paul Gadomski of Plymouth is in second with 1,024.

There is still time to get in on the action. For more information, call Joann Taylor or Carol Hagen at (248) 546-0070.

•The seventh annual Afro Steel/Bowl One/Mika Koivunien

mi Open of the Michigan Junior Masters Association (MJMA) was held recently at Bowl One Lanes in Troy.

Brian Peczynski of Canton fared quite well winning a \$300 scholarship award for finishing fifth in the boys division, while Mike Keller of Grand Ledge went all the way up the stepladder finals for the championship.

Chris Reed of Waterford finished in sixth place and Westland's Steve Engebretson rounded

out the top 12 with 3,746 pins, including 105 bonus pins.

The MJMA is the Midwest's premier scratch competition for youth bowlers, founded and directed by Dan Ottman of Troy. The monthly competition is a great opportunity for the better youth bowlers to earn extra scholarship money.

Check out the website at www.michiganjrmaesters.com. For more information, call (248) 689-8696.

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