

Sports scene loses another legend with death of Joe Norris



AL HARRISON

Last week took it's toll with the passing of Dale Earnhardt, Eddie Matthews and Horner Cleaves.

Now, I write about a legend who was Joe Norris, for he passed away Feb. 19 in San Diego following a two week bout with pneumonia. He turned 93 on Feb. 10.

Norris was scheduled to compete in a record 72nd American Bowling Congress Championship Tournament on March 12.

There have been millions of bowlers over the past century, but only one Joe Norris.

He spent the early days of his illustrious career in Detroit and captained some of the greatest bowling teams ever to hit the lanes. Norris, a member of eight different bowling halls of fame was certainly one of the greatest bowlers of all time and he was honored as such at last year's ABC convention in Albuquerque, N.M.

Among the many records he holds — the was the youngest over (at that time) to bowl a 300 at the age of 18 and conversely also the oldest at the time when he did it again at age 88.

Joe would hop on a plane to Detroit for almost any occasion, and certainly for the annual Old Timers Tournament at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park, which he called "the best event of all."

Norris earned his fame as a bowler, but was also a renowned practical joker and could relate those stories in detail as if they were done yesterday.

And, yes, he could tell stories about bowling events which he took part in, he could remember exact scores like they happened last week as well as names of people and places from a totally different era.

Norris, who was born in Springfield, Ill., and raised in Detroit became the first bowler inducted into the San Diego Hall of Champions when he was honored in absentia on Feb. 7.

It was the eighth hall to recognize his illustrious career. Regarded as one of the best team bowlers in history, Norris organized the first of the fabled "beer teams" when he secured Stroh's sponsorship of his ABC Tournament team in 1933.

Under Norris' leadership, Detroit Stroh's captured the 1934 Tournament team title, five national match game championships between 1934 and 1945, while adding another pair of ABC titles with the Tri-Par Radio team in 1954.

These teams helped establish the Detroit area as the world capital of bowling.

• The one time "Boy Wonder of Bowling" won a number of individual titles as well as team championships. He bowled with a team of other great bowlers in an exhibition match against a team of German bowlers prior to the 1936 Olympic games in Berlin.

His legend grew in the ABC,

on an annual event except during World War II when it was suspended. Norris bowled in his first ABC Tournament in 1926 at age 18 and missed only once (1942) when he was recovering from appendix surgery.

• In 1986 Norris became only the third bowler ever to knock down over 100,000 pins in ABC Tournament competition. In 1992, he surpassed the lifetime pinfall record and by 2000 in Albuquerque he had bowled a new all-time high with 123,770 pins for 642 games, an average of 192.78 spanning seven decades.

• Joe Norris was a true treasure to our sport. ABC Executive Director Roger Dalkin said, "We are going to miss him, but rather than mourn him during our national convention at Reno in March, we're going to celebrate his life and all he did for our sport."

Last year, after tying the record in number of ABC tournament events at 71, Norris said: "Old age doesn't bother me. I figure that's part of life. I've been pretty lucky health-wise. I've been pretty lucky bowling, too. It has taken me to 45 different cities in every continent."

"I came from a poor family and we didn't have any money for education. I'd probably have been selling shoe laces on a corner if it hadn't been for bowling. But it was more the friendships and traveling and being with the right people, that meant the most to me."

• Each year at the Greater Detroit Hall of Fame banquet,

the Tom McKay Award is given out to an individual who has been dedicated to the advancement of the sport of bowling.

Last year's recipient was Norris, whose was elected to the Detroit Bowling Hall of Fame in 1999.

Anyone who would like to visit the Detroit Hall of Fame may do so by visiting Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park where it is all on display in the main concourse.

Plenty of Norris photos and memorabilia are there. And if the venerable George Prybyla is around, he can tell all kinds of Joe Norris stories.

• Norris will be remembered by those who knew him as a great

competitor, a gentleman and also an ambassador of the sport of bowling. We call him a legend, but he was more than that, a giant among men and a large slice of bowling history.

BOWLING HONOR ROLL

Country Lanes (Farmington) Ever-7: Matt McKenzie, 801. Country High School: Keith Hernan (age 15), 296.

Cloverlanes (Livonia) Renaissance Mixed: Hashone Green, 299. Sunday Night Mixed: Byron Goldston, 300. Pico Inter-Plant Mixed: Ron Rich, 300. Elks Tournament: Dave Fisher, 299. Monday Morning Foursome: Shondron Jordan, 805 series.

Merit Bowl (Livonia) Big Ten Mixed: Ron Seese, 299.



Joe Norris: A legend in the sport of bowling.

Just For The Fun Of It

Put your dreams in motion with a Recreational Loan from Dearborn Federal Credit Union.

You can take it easy on the deck of your new boat or travel the country in an RV, with a Recreational Vehicle or Boat Loan from us. We can arrange financing before you shop, giving you the bargaining power to purchase the boat or RV of your choice.

Affordable

- Low fixed or variable rates
- Terms up to 144 months
- No pre-payment penalties

Easy to apply

- No application fees
- Up to 100% financing
- Apply online or by phone, 24 hours a day

Convenient repayment options

- Automatic payroll deduction
- Account transfers
- HomeBranch, 24-hr. telephone service

Call 888-338-2700 to find out how to join.

DEARBORN
Federal Credit Union

Striving to make everything we are...everything you need.

www.dfcu.org

NCUA: Your savings are federally insured to \$100,000 by the National Credit Union Administration, a U.S. government agency.
Dearborn Federal Credit Union is an Equal Opportunity Lender.

Shamrocks rally to win regional

BY PAUL BEAUDRY
STAFF WRITER
pbeaudry@oe.homecomm.net

Twice during Wednesday's Division 1 team wrestling regional, Catholic Central was close to being down for the count.

And twice, the Shamrocks picked themselves off the mat for the win.

CC fought back from a 22-6 deficit in its semifinal match against Dearborn Edsel Ford, winning seven of the last nine matches for a 34-29 win over the Thunderbolts.

Then the Shamrocks did the same thing in the final against host Northville, again winning seven of the last nine matches to turn a 19-3 deficit into a 37-28 win over the Mustangs and earn a spot in the state quarterfinals.

The guys were awesome. We've been waiting a year for this... a chance to rectify a mental mistake from last year," said CC coach Mike Rodriguez, referring to the Shamrocks' disqualification from last year's regional because of a weigh-in violation on his part. "Everybody did what they were supposed to do and came through."

The win sends the Shamrocks (17-8) into the Division 1 quarterfinals on March 2 in Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena against Temperance-Bedford — a 70-3 winner in its regional final against Pinckney. Northville (24-3) advanced to the finals with a 47-30 win over Livonia Stevenson.

In both cases, Tim Mulroy started the Shamrocks on their way as he posted a pin in the opener and a 6-4 win in the final at 125, then Nate Rodriguez won his next two matches at 136 to close the gap.

Trailing 19-9 going into 140 pounds, CC mixed up the line-up

WRESTLING

a bit, swapping Chris Peterson from 140 to 145 with Mike Werner, and moving Chris Craciolo down to 152 and Jay Abshire up to 160.

The move paid off as Peterson and Werner won with pins and Abshire might have saved the day at 160 by holding off Anton Palushaj, 5-3. With time running out in the third period, Poljusevic came close to reversing Abshire and coming away with two points that would have tied the score. But Abshire held him off, got the win and gave CC a 24-22 lead.

"We changed the lineup to play to our strengths," said Mike Rodriguez. "We wanted to mix things up so our good people weren't going to get pinned. It was very instrumental, but it all was."

A major decision by Ryan Rogowski gave CC a 28-22 lead, but Northville tied that with a pin at 189. Matt Markowicz gave the Shamrocks a 34-28 lead at 215, then Blaise Naysmith closed it out with an 8-2 win.

It was pretty much the same story in the opener. After falling behind 16-0, Mulroy and Nate

Rodriguez earned a pin and a major decision. Then Werner got a pin, Abshire, Craciolo and Jason Hilliker won by decision to tie Edsel Ford at 25-all. Rogowski got a major decision and Markowicz won with a technical fall and CC moved to the finals.

Stevenson (16-8) started in the same hole against the Mustangs, but couldn't catch up. Northville started out by winning the first five matches for a 28-0 lead, but the Spartans streaked back with a pin at 135 by Doug Novack (3-13), Matt Radley at 140 (8-6), Chris Cooperider at 145 (0-4-4) and Imad Kharbush at 160 (1-19) to cut the lead to 32-24.

But that was as close as the Spartans could get as Northville earned pins in the next two matches to go ahead 44-24.

"We're hurting and it showed," said Stevenson assistant Dave Falzon. "We had five starters who couldn't wrestle because they were hurt. Northville's got talent and they are very good. But the kids came back and fought hard. You have to give them credit."

"Novack, Radley, Kharbush and Cooperider did what they were supposed to do and stick their opponent. We had a good season. We weren't supposed to get this far and we did."

Old, drafty, problem windows need replacing? We're here.

Renewal by Andersen. Window replacement from a company you can trust.

If high heating bills are getting you down, don't wait. Get your old windows replaced with beautiful, new energy-efficient windows.

- Custom-sized replacement windows that carry the Andersen® name.
- Start-to-finish replacement process, we do it all.
- Styles and colors to match or change the look of your home.

To arrange for a free in-home estimate,

call us at

(888)-537-3639

or visit our showroom

www.renewalbyandersen.com



LIVONIA
37144 Six Mile Road



All Renewal by Andersen windows carry the Energy Star® label.

renewal

BY ANDERSEN®

www.renewalbyandersen.com

SNotes from

search and hunt for voles and mice. Seeds at the base of bird feeders and garbage are not dismissed either.

One of the things that allows skunks to survive in urban areas is their opportunistic appetite. They will eat almost anything they can find that is edible.

Though skunks are more common than most people realize, few have ever encountered one. Do not panic if you do encounter a skunk. They are very "confident" animals. Wild skunks have been seen in the presence of bears, bobcats, coyotes and other predators, casually eating and almost oblivious to the threat of danger.

Skunks are passive animals. Don't corner them, or throw things at them, yell, scream or holler; speak softly, move slowly and the animal will continue on its way. Enjoy the opportunity to see a live wild animal.

Now save
50% per window

We're out new windows!

*Not valid with other offers or group purchases. Available only at participating stores. Offer valid through 2/28/01. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are not participating. ©2001 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. Energy Star is a registered trademark of the Environmental Protection Agency. *Based on price of window unit.