

Top bowlers wing their way to Montana



TEN PIN
ALLEY

The big silver bird with the red fin protruding high sits at the end of the runway, jet engines revving for takeoff into the wild blue yonder.

There are many bowlers aboard the air-

craft. Its destination is Billings, Mont., with a contingent of the Greater Detroit Bowling Association on board to attend the American Bowling Congress National Convention March 13-17.

I gaze at the many fellow delegates on board, they are also scheduled to bowl in the ABC Tournament while at the convention.

The thought occurs to me: "All

Michigan and Illinois are virtually tied for the most teams entered, but the Land of Lincoln has 747 five-player teams while Michigan has 745. A distant third was Ohio with 630.

of these guys are bringing several bowling balls each, there must be hundreds, so how in the heck is this thing going to get off the ground?"

Not to worry. Al, they always seem to fly just as well with or

without two tons of bowling balls.

The captain pushes the throttles ahead and off we go.

By the way, the new McNamara Midfield Terminal is amazing, easy to get confused as to where

to go, but it is really big, and I mean big.

Now that spring has finally arrived in Michigan, but in Montana it is still very much winter. These never-used longjohns may actually come in handy for once.

When this edition hits the streets, the big silver bird will have already landed back at Detroit Metro.

The annual session will opened Friday with several

amendments to the ABC constitution up for consideration and voting.

The combined delegates from southeast Michigan by far outweigh any other region of the nation and our votes will have a more weighted influence on the outcome.

We have already met in caucus and discussed our vote, as the GDBA will vote as one solid block.

Some proposed amendments may seem trivial, and many will be easily dismissed. There are some rules issues that may affect you in some way, and we are there to represent your best interests, the Detroit area bowlers.

Delegates will also have attended several workshops on matters akin to keeping bowling going strong.

There will have been some debate over the proposed Single Membership Organization (SMO), which was introduced last year.

It is not yet up for a vote this year, as further studies will be made. As it stands now, the idea seems to be losing support among the local delegates.

It would combine the ABC, WIBC, YABA, USA Bowling and Bowling, Inc. into one single operating body.

Since our organizations are made up mostly of volunteers, it may weaken rather than enhance the structure of organized bowling.

This entire matter is somewhat lengthy to try to explain in this space, so a follow-up will appear in this column as we learn more and it gets closer to a vote, which could take place a year from now.

The ABC Tournament this year at the Billings site has the fifth highest number of bowlers registered in ABC history with 10,250 teams entered from all 50 states and six other countries.

It started on Feb. 9 and will finish on June 22.

Michigan and Illinois are virtually tied for the most teams entered, but the Land of Lincoln has 747 five-player teams while Michigan has 745. A distant third was Ohio with 630.

You may have noticed the Earl Anthony posters which have been placed in all local bowling centers. It is there to promote the Earl Anthony Memorial Scholarship Fund and is intended to create a \$1 million scholarship fund for youth bowlers to further their education.

It will be administered by YABA under its 501(c)(3) tax exempt designation. Contributions are considered tax deductible.

All donors who contribute a minimum of \$25 will receive a Earl Anthony signature pin.

There are envelopes attached to the posters to make it easier to send in your contributions.

Champs

from page D1

basket shot by Sarah Levett combined with Mulroy icing six straight free throws to seal the victory.

The win earned St. Fabian coach Walt Bzdok's team the trip to St. Mary's and the championship game.

Season-long contributions from Amy Derop, Katie Farnick, Monica Hayworth, Emily Hunter, Allison Hurt, Christine Kenzie, Alex Herzfeld and Alexia Clayton helped the Falcons to 15 wins and a third-place finish in the Marian High School Christmas Tournament, in addition to their magical, six-game tournament run.

The Falcons celebrated their championship season at their banquet Sunday, thanking their loyal supporters and honoring the players and coaches, which included assistants Steve Hurt and Mike King.

Three members of the squad were elected scholar-athletes from their school: Mulroy from St. Fabian, Emily Hunter from Dunckel Middle School and Amy Derop from Power Middle School.

Mulroy also was named by her teammates as the winner of the Dennis Ciechanowski Award for leadership, character and effort in building team spirit.



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