Area bowlers struggle at ABC event in Montana

We came, we saw and we did not conquer. That's it in a nutshell for last week's journey to the Montana badlands for ABC 2002.

The bowlers were greeted with a red carpet everywhere in town, and the people of Billings were congenial and friendly to the bowlers and convention delegates everywhere we went.

I would like to say that the three teams from the Greater Detroit Bowling Association were bowling at their very best. On the first day in toam events, we fell like General Custer must have felt at the battle of Little Bighorn, about 50 miles away.

The second day was singles and doubles. Most of us were getting better adjusted to the lane conditions, but still nothing worth writing about in this newspaper or anywhere else. If you are a bowler, you should also have a good sense of humould also humould also humould also have a good sense of humould also hu

Westland and I both struggled but still cranked out a few good scores.

In all, about 55,000 bowlers will compete in this event before it concludes in June. ABC 2002 in Montana will have had the largest turnout of competitors outside of the National Bowling Stadium in Reno.

Thomas F. DeChallus served as president of ABC this year, the first African-American to hold this office and an ex-New York City firefighter. In the ABC, the office duration of the president is only for one year. His successor is Jim Bevins of Knoxville, Tenn., coincidentally the site for next years ABC turnament and convention.

In the legislative sessions, some issues were

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adopted and others rejected.

The voting ran smoothly and the GDBA delegation voted as a block. An item not up for a vote
until next year is the idea of a single membership
organization (SMO). The purpose of it would be to
consolidate operations of ABC, WIBC, YABA and
USA Bowling into one organization, to be named
later.

consolidate operations of ABC, WIBC, YABA and USA Bowling into one organization, to be named later.

This would mark a significant change if passed, and according to ABC executive director Roger Dalkin, it would result in an annual savings of approximately \$1.8 million, which would make it feasible to operate more efficiently and without a raise in membership dues for a longer period.

This proposal is still under study by an ad hoc committee, which includes GDBA President Marvin Dooley of Southfield.

There were many who spoke up either pro or con, and the entire issue will require further study. Anyone who has any ideas on the subject can write me at this newspaper or phonot the GDBA. Your comments and ideas are welcome.

This decision can affect the future of our sport. The ABC and WIBC would no longer exist as such, and YABA would also become a part of it. Would the projected cost savings (and loss of jobs) offset the advantages of being a self-supporting entity?

Would the smaller areas be able to control the larger ones since each would have an equal number of votes regardless of membership numbers? Membership services would be the same, since that part of the organizations was combined a few years ago to expedite the delivery of national awards.

Is it worth the risk of having fewer numbers of

ow years ago to expedite the delivery of national wards. Is it worth the risk of having fewer numbers of

is it worth the risk of naving lever numbers of volunteer workers who are dedicated to the sport of bowling? That will be the big issue up for a vote next year in Knoxville. What do you think?

(Al Harrison is a Garden City resident,)

GRAND OPENING

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

YOUTH BASEBALL TRYOUTS
The 13-and-under Livenia
Travel Bulldogs, members of the
Little Caesars Amateur Baseball Federation, will be hold
final tryouts for the 2002 season.

son. The Bulldogs will play a 40-45 game schedule, including league

game senedule, including league play and tournaments. For more information, call Dave Schroeder at (734) 462-9467 or Gary Niemczak at (734) 464-8709.

LIVONIA BASEBALL SIGNUP

LIVONIA BASEBALL SIGNUP
Openings for Gity of Livonia
coed T-ball and coach-pitch
baseball programs will be filled
on a first-come, first-serve basis
from April 22 through May 3 at
the Parks and Recreation office,
located at 33000 Civic Center
Drive.
The second-chance registration is for persons who missed
the March 1 deadline. There
will be not waiting list.
You must reside in either the
Livonia or Clarenceville school
districts to register.
For more information, call
(734) 466-2410.

(733) 466-2410.

LIVONIA SOFIBALL SIGNUP
Openings for the City of Livonia pigtail, powerpuff and Class
F girls softball program will be
filled on a first-come, first-serve
hasis April 29 through May 10
at the Parks and Recreation
office, located at 33000 Civic
Center Drive.
The second-chance deadline is
for those who missed the March
28 deadline. There is no waiting
list.

list.
You must reside in either the
Livonia or Clarenceville school

districts to register.
For more information, call (734) 466-2410.

(734) 465-2410.

POWER SKATING CLASSES

Suburban Training Center in
Farmington Hills will have a
beginning power skating class
on Fridays from 4:30 to 5:20
pm. and an intermediate power
skating class on Fridays from 4
to 4:50 pm. for eight weeks
starting April 12 as part of the
Skate Great Training Program.
Skaters ages 7 and up are
invited to enroll in the beginning skating class. The intermediate power skating class is

open to mite travel and squirt house or travel players. Pre-registration is required. For more information call Sub-urban Training Center at (248) 888,1400 or visit www.subur-

SBS-1400 or visit www.subur-banhockey.com.

SKATING CUBB PLANS CUNIC
As part of National Skating
Week, the Farmington Hills
Skating Club will sponsor the
"It's Great to Skate Clinic" 911:20 a.m. March 30 at the
Farmington Hills Ice Arena.
The clinic is free and open to
the public. There will be a \$2
charge for skate rental, however. The clinic will have an agendo activities, so please plan to
attend the whole time.
Door prizes will be available
to answer questions and assist
skaters. Ages 3 and up are welcome. Participants abould
arrive early to sign in. The clinic
is limited to the first 250
skaters.
ICE SKAING SHOW IN MAY

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The SKAIING SHOW IN MAY

The Fermington Hills Figure
Skating Club will have its Sixth
Annual Ice Skating Show at
7.30 p.m. Friday, May 17, and 4
p.m. Saturday, May 18, at the
Farmington Hills Ice Arena at
35500 West Eight Mile Road.
One hundred young members
of the figure skating club and
the Learn to Skate Program
ranging in age from 5 to 16 will
perform synchronized and figure skating routines to the
"Coler Mc Skating" theme.
For more information about
Hills less thow, call the Farmington
Hills Ice Arena at (246) 478-

the snow, call the Farmington Hills Ice Arena at (248) 478-8800.

800.

EMU YOUTH FOOTBALL CLINIC
The Eastern Michigan University football coaches will host a youth football clinic 1:30-4 p.m. Sunday, May 5, at Rynearson Stadium in Ypsilanti for kids ages 8 to 14.

Each participant will receive a T-shirt, two tickets to the home opener against Toledo on Sept. 7 and a tour of the team locker room and weight room.
The cost is \$10 before April 16 and \$15 after that date. All groups or teams of 10 or more will be charged \$10 a person.
The coaches, including head

Observer Classifieds sell (800) 579-SELL

We're a "natural"

coach Jeff Woodruff, will teach basic skills and techniques to become an improved player. For more information call (734) 487-5642.

FHIA REGISTERING PLAYERS
FARMINGTON Hills Hockey
Association is accepting registrations for new players for the
2002-2003 full/winter season.
Registration forms are available
at the information desk at
Farmington Hills Ice Arena on
light Mile Road, For more
information call (248) 478-8193.

information call (248) 478-8193

YMCA STHORRAY SIGNUP

The Farmington Family,
YMCA Stingray awim team is
registering swimmers for its
'Spring Tune-Up,' a competitive
swim program that runs from
Monday, April 8, through Friday, May 31.

Team participants do not need
to be YMCA members during
the Spring Session only
Leponding on ability, participants will swim either at the
YMCA or local high school
pools.

pools.
For more information, call
Cathy Warnick at (248) 5530276 between the hours of 8:30
a.m. and 8 p.m.

0276 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. SPRING BREAK CAMP
Total Baseball will stage a spring break camp for ages 7-17. from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., Montal the spring break camp for ages 7-17. from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., Montal the spring break camp for ages 7-17. from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., Montal the spring break camp will be moved indoors to Total Soccery Wixom.
The cost is \$126.
Professional players and college coaches will instruct young sters on the techniques of pitching, hitting and fielding. Camp participants will be clocked on a radar gun for arm and bat speed.
For more information, call (248) 668-0160 or e-mail totalb-bulwixom@aol.com.
(Send litems for the Sports Roundup to: Dan O'Mearns. (Send litems for the Sports Roundup to: Dan O'Mearns. (7034 591-279. You can also e: mail information to domeara@oc.hom.comm.net.)

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Lunch Buffet.\$8.95.. Dinner Buffet

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*Children 2 years of age eat FREE!



SUNDAY, APRIL 14 Starting at 9 a.m.

Join together to fight Arthritis. Come walk with us!

Grosse Pointe

THE ARTHRITIS WALK IS THE ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION'S nationwide team event that raises funds to fight arthritis. Walking is a fun and healthy way to team up with the Arthritis Foundation to make a difference in the lives of people with arthritis.

- 1.5 million people in Michigan have arthritis.
- It is the number one disabling chronic disease in America.

Get your friends, families and co-workers together, come walk, raise money, win prizes and have a fabulous fun-filled day. To register, call the Arthritis Foundation, Michigan Chapter at 800-968-3030 or check out our website: www.arthritis.org

The mission of the Arthritis Foundation is to improve lives through leadership in the prevention, control and cure of arthritis and related diseases.

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