

Area teen is runner-up in state tourney

TEN PIN ALLEY
AL HARRISON

This is a story about courage. When anyone faces adversity and still gives the best effort—that takes courage.

When the varsity high school state championships were held couple of weeks ago in Flint, sisters Ally, 15, and Kimmy Cichon, 13, helped Livonia Churchill take sixth place under the Baker Format.

The one part of the PBA tour we seldom see or hear about is the PBA Regional.

In the Central Region, there are several local PBA members who go out and compete in our mid-America area.

They bowl pretty much the same format, the same skills and competition, but without the TV money and for smaller cashes.

Ray Kreuter of Westland is one of the regulars on the regional PBA tour and he has

enjoyed some success while away for a few days from his pro shop business at Country Lanes in Farmington Hills.

Ray is this year's recipient of the Pat Patterson Award for the region.

Each region is able to make the award to the person who has "Embodied the dedication and service required to further the growth of the PBA Regional program and carries the name of the man whose allegiance to the PBA was paramount in con-

vincing the great stars of the day to compete on the PBA tour."

Affectionately known as "Sarge," by the Central Region players, Kreuter currently holds the longest active streak in the region at 93 consecutive tournaments.

Ray is the "go to guy" when something needs to be done.

His service to the region and its players is top notch and he personifies what the Patterson Award is all about.



Sister act:
Ally (left) and Kimmy Cichon helped Livonia Churchill to sixth-place finish recently in the state high school championships.

Finished second a year ago.)

In singles competition this year, Ally made the cut for match play, winding up in 22nd place. After four match-play games, she had moved up to sixth. Two more wins put Ally in the fourth-seeded spot for the stopladder finals.

There was some break time for extra practice, but the unthinkable happened as Ally's thumb split open on the palmward side.

Although she could still bowl, it was quite painful.

When she went up against the fifth seed, won the match, took on the third seed and won again.

Now the tension started to build along with the injury, but Ally fought through it and defeated the No. 2 player.

Now it was the moment of truth, the championship match.

Undaunted, Ally out-bowled the No. 1 seed and led by 20 pins after eight frames. Her ninth frame left her looking at the 3-6-9 spare, one that is usually a snap for her, but the 9-pin wiggled and stayed up, leaving an open frame.

Now with the match really on the line, she made what appeared to be her best shot of the day in the 10th and final frame, only to be staring at the 8-10 split, which is virtually impossible to convert, leaving another open frame and a huge disappointment.

Bad luck indeed, but Ally, a true sport, said "There's always next year."

Both sisters were cheered up by their parents Joe and Dot Cichon.

Joe coached them both for years, while Dot continued to be supportive and encouraging.

Ally carries a 191 average, while Kimmy, averages 180.

This is a fine reflection on both parents who have certainly done a great job of bringing up two wonderful kids.

Now is the time for high schools like Churchill to get behind these great student-athletes and show some real support.

Hats off to the dedicated folks at Merri Bowl in Livonia for sponsoring the team, and particularly Debbie Blanchard who does a fine job of working the varsity program.

■ Everyone knows about the Pro Bowler's Tour, we can see it in the comfort of our living rooms and dens on any given Sunday.

Volleyball camps offered

Schoolcraft College will offer a series of summer volleyball camps, directed by Ocelot women's coach Tom Teeters, for players ages 8 through adult.

There will be two sessions for all skills, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday through Friday, July 8-11 and July 15-18; spikers training, July 15-18; serving and defense training, July 8-11; setters training, July 15-18; and elite all skills, July 8-11.

The camps will be held at Schoolcraft's Physical Education Building, 18600 Hagerly Road, between Six and Seven Mile roads.

The cost for beginners and intermediate players for each session is \$90 (\$85 for each additional family member or groups of 10 or more).

A \$30 non-refundable deposit is required upon registration with full payment due on or before the first day of each session.

The cost for elite camps is \$126 (\$115 if registered by June 14, or for each additional family member or groups of 10 or more).

There is a \$10 discount for any additional session for beginners, intermediate or elite camp sessions.

For more information, call (734) 462-4400, Ext. 5564 or 5607.



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