

Area bowlers enjoy competition, festivities

Last Sunday was a double dip on the local bowling scene.

Earlier in the day, the Professional Bowlers Association finals were broadcast live on ESPN from Taylor Lanes.

A few hours later, bowlers and fans enjoyed the awards dinner and induction ceremonies for the Greater Detroit Bowling Hall of Fame.

In the PBA final TV match, it was a classic duel between two great hall of famers, Brian Voss and Walter Ray Williams.

Hollywood could not have

choreographed it better as Voss had to throw three "do or die" strikes in the 10th frame in his previous match to make it to the finals four times with an even split, two wins apiece.

Walter Ray took charge late in the game for his 36th title. He passes Mark Roth in all-time wins and is second to Earl Anthony with 41 wins.

Williams is also approaching the \$3-million mark in career earnings with \$2,795,451.

Several local bowlers entered the Greater Detroit Open.

With little or no traveling or hotel expenses to deal with, it is a lot more practical to stay at home and still be able to compete for the \$40,000 top prize.

Among those local heroes who were able to vie for the championship were Bob Chamblain, Auburn Hills; Bruce Falcon, 41 Tracie Raskey, Rochester Hills;

Anthony Moses, Inkster; Rochester Hills; Doug Spicer, West Bloomfield.

The legendary Gordie Howe rolled the first ball. He might have had a better result if he propelled the ball with a hockey stick, but you can see this great athlete could have been a world class bowler had he chosen bowling for a career.

The Hall of Fame banquet at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Warren was a perfect ending for this great day.

There were several members from previous years in attendance, and this year's honorees were Carol Gaddis, who was a big figure in the local women's bowling scene years ago. Her 18th average in 1976-77 was the eighth highest in Detroit.

She was on the No. 1 All-City Team twice and had made the U.S. team for international competition in 1975. John Bennett has rolled 19

sanctioned 300 games, along with three 800 series, a unique one of 837 by bowling a triplacate score of 273.

John helped organize the Bonanza All-Star League and, in the All-Star Classic League, was a member of over 20 championship teams. He was inducted into the Michigan Majors Hall of Fame in 1992.

In 1993, Harold Sullins set a PBA record with 239 consecutive tournaments bowled in. As of 2002, he has bowled 33 perfect games, 13 299s and 12 series of 800. He has won five PBA tour national championships and 12 regional titles.

Doug Evans has won five Michigan Majors tournaments and was runner-up five times. Locally, he won the GDBA Masters in 1988 and was second in 1980. His highlights include 16 perfect games, 14 800 series (with a high of 824) and had the high average of 236 in the

GDBA in 1995-96.

Ed Wright of Farmington Hills was honored in the meritorious service category. He has devoted much of his life to the development of bowlers through the youth programs, particularly the Sunday Youth Classic Traveling League, which he directed.

Many of his kids went on to great achievements in bowling, including his own daughter, Julie, who is in the top ranks of women bowlers.

As a show of appreciation, many of the Country Lanes people came down to the banquet to celebrate the occasion with him. The Honorable David J. Szymanski, Chief Judge Pro Tempore, has become involved in many bowling programs and events, including the John W. Smith Oldtimers, who run bowling events to benefit the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. He was selected to receive the Judge

John D. Watts Award for serving the sport of bowling.

Mary Mohacsi of Livonia was the recipient of the Thomas McKay Award. During her illustrious career, she has earned countless titles and traveled extensively in connection with bowling.

She has been inducted into the Women's International Bowling Congress, Michigan and Greater Detroit halls of fame. Mohacsi was Detroit's Woman of the Year from 1963-64 through 1986-87 and a 10-time Detroit Queen of Bowling.

She is a great promoter of the sport and has contributed much to the image and prestige of bowling. Her acceptance speech was in the form of a poem, which I hope to print here in a future article.

Al Harrison is a resident of Garden City and a director with the Greater Detroit Bowling Association. He can be reached at (734) 422-1609.

CC whips Novi in D1 playoff

BY BRAD MONASTIERE
STAFF WRITER

As winter's first snowflakes fell on Redford's Kraft Field Saturday afternoon, the Catholic Central Shamrocks reminded the thousands of spectators why they have been the team of the fall in the area in recent years.

Using a stifling defense and another huge game on the ground from junior RB Derek Brooks, CC won its second straight regional championship with a convincing 26-3 win over the Novi Wildcats in Redford. CC now advances to Saturday's Division I state semifinal against the Macomb Dakota Cougars, at a site to be determined.

The Shamrocks, now 11-1 on the season, overcame costly first half penalties and relied on Brooks' strong legs to carry them to the next level in the state playoffs.

CC was whistled for seven first-half penalties, and threw an interception near the Novi goal line as time expired in the first half. But keeping in form with the season, the team came out sharper in the second half and executed well on both sides of the ball.

"We definitely put ourselves in some tough positions with our penalties," said CC coach Tom Mach. "Novi did a good job of controlling the ball, especially in the first half, when we only had three possessions. It was a game, that entering the fourth quarter, either team could win."

FOOTBALL

"But we stress playing well for the full 48 minutes, and we go into each second half thinking the score is 0-0, and wanting to play a better second 24 minutes than first 24."

Brooks proved to be tough for Novi to handle in both halves of the game, rushing for 205 yards on 22 carries, 106 of those coming in the first half. He had six runs that gained at least 10 yards, including a 41-yard run in the second quarter, and a 37-yard sprint early in the third that set up CC's second score.

"Our line played great the entire game," Brooks said. "We practice hard every day, and we're able to be a well-conditioned team. Our goal is to always be the last one standing after a game."

Although Brooks didn't find the end zone, junior QB Dave Thomas found it twice, both on the ground and through the air. His two-yard sneak as the first quarter ended put the Shamrocks ahead 6-0 (the extra point was blocked).

With 5:05 left in the game, he lofted a perfect 25-yard scoring strike to junior Sean Shahrestani that proved to be a backbreaking play in the contest.

"Thomas has been able to make good passes at key times for the Shamrocks all season, and Mach said he is developing into a true leader on the field."

"Each game we've been asking Dave to do a little bit more,"

Mach said. "He's done a real nice job for us, making good passes at important times during games. He's become a good general for us."

While CC has been a regular visitor to a regional championship game, Novi was making its first appearance this late in the state playoffs in several years.

At first, it looked like Novi was the more poised team, with CC jumping offides on the first two plays of the game. The running of option QB Chase Chandler kept the Shamrocks off balance for much of the first half. CC was able to stop Novi on the 37-yard-line on the opening possession, setting up its own first long drive of the game.

The Shamrocks used the final 7:22 of the first quarter on a 17-play, 90-yard march down the field that ended with the Thomas sneak to make the score 6-0.

Novi opened the second quarter with its only scoring drive of the game, engineered by a 58-yard kickoff return that gave the team terrific field position. Although the Wildcats gained just 29 yards on the drive, a 27-yard field goal cut the CC lead in half to 6-3.

The first half ended with that identical score, but it didn't take the Shamrocks long to change it. Highlighted by a 37-yard run by Brooks, the Shamrocks increased their lead to 12-3 with 9:19 left in the third, when senior Randall Means burst through the line for a 10-yard scoring run.

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