# Vote will determine if organizations merge

**Ten Pin Alley**

Al Harrison

The 100th Annual American Bowling Congress championship tournament is under way in Knoxville, Tenn. It began Feb. 8 and will continue to its conclusion on June 21.

It may, however, turn out to be the last-ever ABC tournament, depending on how the delegates vote at the ABC national convention in mid March.

Having read this far, don't panic.

The tournament may take on a new identity, depending on how the delegates vote on a Single Membership Organization proposal this year.

SMO simply would merge the men's (ABC), Women's International Bowling Congress (WIBC) and Youth American Bowling Association (YABA) organizations into one entity, probably to be identified as the United States Bowling Congress (USBC).

Why the change after over 100 years of successful operation by ABC and almost that long by WIBC and YABA?

The answer lies in an idea that by combining the three into one, more efficient operation and cost savings would result.

As a bowler, you are directly involved in the upcoming decision, as it will have a definite effect on the structure of your own organization. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to talk to your delegate.

He is going to Knoxville next month representing you.

Your opinion counts and you should be heard. The local organizations will be having caucuses soon to decide on how they will vote as a bloc.

The ABC is currently the largest sports organization in the world with about two million members.

The Greater Detroit Bowling Association is the largest local in the total number, and carries the most weight when it comes up to the voting.

If the SMO concept passes in Knoxville, it will still have to pass in further voting at the women's convention in May before it would be official.

Regardless of which way we vote, it will still take ten pins down to get a strike and all ten pins in two tries to get a spare.

■ Regarding the ABC tournament itself, a large contingent from the Detroit area will be there in mid-March as the delegates will be bowling as individuals, doubles and teams.

According to ABC Executive Director, Roger Dalkin: "As ABC celebrates the 100th edition of the world's most successful sports competition for grassroots members, we offer our assurance that the ABC Championship Tournament will continue virtually unchanged into the foreseeable future."

■ The first tournament was held in 1901 in Chicago. It was a rousing success in spite of many doubters who thought that tournament bowling was nonsense.

The 1910 event took place in Detroit. That was when local Detroiter Tom Haley became the first to break the 700 barrier, causing a near-riot as spectators broke down he barriers and carried him off on their shoulders.

It returned to Detroit in 1940 and that year the Tigers won the pennant. The event came back again in 1961 as our city was gaining recognition as the "City of Champions," then again in 1971, with the lanes set up at Cobo Hall.

That was the most recent year for us to host the ABC, but efforts continue each year to land it here again.

There is a lot of history over those 100 years (the event was canceled in 1943-45 due to World War II) and among the champions were Detroiters Ed Lubanski (1959), Lee Jouglard (1951), Fred Smith (1921), William Miller (1914) and Thomas Haley (1910).

All-events city champions included Ed Marzka (1986), Bob Goike (1984), Bob Basacchi (1979), Bob Hart (1974), Luke Karan (1961), Lubanski (1959), Fred Bujack (1955), Tony Lindemann (1951), Walter Reppenhagen (1934), Harry Gerloski (1926), H. Miller (1917) and Thomas Haley (1910).

Team champions with local ties included Ottman Enterprises (1997), which also captured the team all-events (1999); State Farm – Lou Magic Agency (1990); 300 Bowl from Pontiac (1964); A&A Asphalt (1960), Pfeiffer Beer (1959, 1955 and 1953); E&B Beer (1952), Pepsi Cola (1950), Fife Electric Supply (1939), Krakow Furniture (1937), Stroh's Bohemian Beer (1934), a team led by the late great Joe Norris, the latter whom stands as the all-time pinfall leader with a total of 123,770 over 71 ABC tournaments.

*Al Harrison is a resident of Livonia and a director with the Greater Detroit Bowling Association. He can be reached at (248) 477-1839.*

## THE WEEK AHEAD

**BOYS BASKETBALL**
**Tuesday, Feb. 25**
Oak Park at N. Farmington, 7 p.m.
Lahser at Farm. Harrison, 7 p.m.
Hazel Park at Farmington, 7 p.m
Pershing at Redford CC, 4 p.m
**Friday, Feb. 28**
N. Farmington at Lahser, 7:45 p.m
Oak Park at Farm. Harrison, 7 p.m.
Farmington at Madison, 7 p.m

**GIRLS VOLLEYBALL**
**Saturday, March 1**
**Class A district tournaments at Farmington High School**
Berkley (A) vs. Mercy (B), 4 p.m.; Southfield vs. Southfield Lathrup, 5 p.m., Farmington vs. A-B winner, 6 p.m.; championship, 7 p.m
**at Novi High School**
Walled Lake Central (A) vs. Walled Lake Western (B), 10 a.m., Farmington Harrison vs. Novi, 15 minutes after first match; North Farmington vs. A-B winner, 15 minutes after second match; championship, 15 minutes after third match

**BOYS HOCKEY**
**Division I regional tournament (Redford Catholic Central host)**
**Monday, Feb. 24:** Royal Oak Kimball (A) vs. Dearborn Edsel Ford (B), 5 p.m. Birmingham Groves (C) vs. Livonia Stevenson (D), 8 p.m Both games at Redford Arena
**Tuesday, Feb. 25:** Livonia Churchill (E) vs. Redford Union (F), 5 p.m. at Redford Arena; Redford Detroit Catholic Central (G) vs. Farmington Unified (H), 8 p.m. at Compuware Arena.
**Thursday, Feb. 27:** A-B winner vs. C-D winner, 5 p.m. E-F winner vs. G-H winner, 8 p.m. Both games at Redford Arena
**Saturday, March 1:** Championship, 8 p.m. at Redford Arena (Winner advances to the state quarterfinal Wednesday, March 5, against the Ann Arbor Huron regional winner at Redford Arena.)

**GIRLS HOCKEY**
**Tuesday, Feb. 25**
Mercy vs. Plymouth Canton, 6:30 p.m. at The Arctic Edge.
**Saturday, March 1**
Mercy vs. Northville, 8:30 p.m. at Suburban Training Center

**ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE**
**Friday, Feb. 28**
Ottawa at Plymouth Whalers, 7:30 p.m.
**Saturday, March 1**
Sarnia at Plymouth Whalers, 7:30 p.m.

**GIRLS GYMNASTICS**
**Saturday, March 1**
**Regional tournament**
Tri-Farmington will host meet at Farmington Training Center, TBA

**BOYS SWIMMING**
**Saturday, March 1**
Catholic League meet at Dondero, TBA

**PREP SKIING**
**Monday, Feb. 24**
State championships in Marquette, TBA.

# OCC women claim conference hoop title

Oakland Community College won the Michigan Community College Athletic Association's Eastern Conference championship in women's basketball Wednesday when it trounced host Henry Ford CC, 84-39.

The Lady Raiders, who finished 11-2 in the conference and are 20-6 overall, won the title outright when Schoolcraft and Mott lost Wednesday.

It's the first conference championship in 12 years for OCC, which outscored Henry Ford in the second half, 48-17.

Ashlee Larsen scored 15 points to lead the Lady Raiders; Tiffany Burt netted 13, Dana Millard and Jessica O'Dell 11 apiece. Jillyn Stork and Larissa Taylor chipped in nine each.

Burt also had eight rebounds and Larsen seven as OCC won the rebounding battle, 49-45.

Millard, Leah Anttila and O'Dell had four assists apiece, and Millard, Burt and Larsen had three steals each.

Katie VanGoethem and Dawn Allen did most of the scoring for the Hawks (2-11, 2-23).

They accounted for all but seven of their team's points with 17 and 15, respectively. VanGoethem also had six assists.

**BASKETBALL**

## Ford men defeat OCC

Henry Ford Community College handed visiting Oakland CC a 77-62 setback in men's basketball Wednesday.

The Hawks had four players in double figures. Bryon Cole scored 15 points, Robert Miller 14, Patrick Abraham 13 and Kenneth Gupton 10.

Kyle Lawrence scored a game-high 16 for OCC; he also had eight assists, five rebounds, two blocks and three steals. He and teammate Romel Murray played all 40 minutes.

Craig Myree added 14 points and Ralph Sylvester 13 for the Raiders, who dropped to 3-10 in the MCCAA Eastern Conference and 5-21 overall.

Murray and Myree had eight rebounds apiece. Will Pendegrass had seven assists and added seven points.

Henry Ford, which led 37-32 at halftime, is 7-6 in the conference and 16-9 overall.


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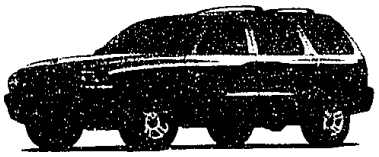

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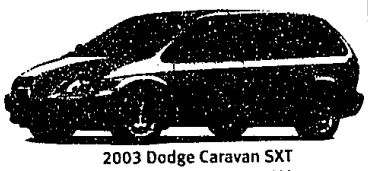

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