

Summer leagues abound to stay sharp

As the sun sets on another bowling season, we might just put the balls and shoes away for the summer, or perhaps look into the many options available all over town in spring and summer bowling leagues.

Why a summer league? There could be several good reasons: To work on improving your game for one; to keep the good game going with some continuity; to practice different angles to the pocket; or get better at making certain spares.

Another reason would be to keep on enjoying your bowling game a little bit longer.

There is a whole range of possibilities for spring/summer action at bowling centers everywhere. Check with your favorite house for their schedules. Most are short season leagues of ten or twelve weeks, most offer reduced rates, some are trio leagues — bowlers may be seniors or mixed.

Here is a sampling from around our area: Country Lanes (Farmington); Monday Night Doubles Classic begins 7:30 p.m. Monday, May 5 for 13 weeks; Tuesday Night Parent/Youth starting 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 13 for 12 or 13 weeks; Tuesday Ladies Nite Out Trio 7:30 p.m. beginning May 5 for 13 weeks; Wednesday Seniors at 12:30 p.m. starts Wednesday, May 14 for 13 weeks; Youth Scholarship League

Wednesdays at 7 p.m. starting on May 14; Thursday Summer Seniors Mixed May 8 at 7 p.m. for 13 weeks.

Call Country Lanes at (248) 476-3201 for entry forms. Plaza Lanes (Plymouth); Seniors No-tap starting on May 12 at 12:30 p.m. for 15 weeks, also on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. for a 9-pin No-tap for 15 weeks.

Starting Tuesday, May 13 is the Plaza Mixed Trio League with two games against one team, followed by two more games on another pair vs. another team, five points to be won or lost in each set. This one runs 15 weeks. Wednesday, May 14 begins a sport condition trio league with two sets of two games vs. two different teams.

On Thursdays the Battle of the Sexes league takes to the lanes at 7 p.m. This league is filled, but you might want to list as a sub. All leagues are fully sanctioned by the local associations. For more details and times call Plaza Lanes at (734) 453-4880.

Mayflower Lanes (Redford) has the "Have-a-Ball" league beginning May 6 and running to Aug. 12 with 7:00 p.m. start, four persons on a team. The cost is \$18 per person and every participant receives a new ball. There is a Wednesday Senior Men's Trio from April 30 to July 30 with a 12:30 p.m. start. Cost is \$7 per bowler.

On Wednesday nights, there is the "Double Dipper" which is a two-man team format and lots of prize money, like \$2,000 per place. The fee is \$20 per week.

On Thursdays, they are having the Cosmic Kids (ages 5 and up) starting May 22 and

ending on August 16, fee is \$7 per week.

Jess Maccioen, 70, is one of the long-time stalwarts in the Mayflower Senior Men's Classic League. This past Wednesday he strung out 12 strikes for his third 300 game. Strangely, his second one occurred only two weeks ago in the Friday Senior League at Thunderbol Lanes. He had his first one several years earlier, in 1990 at Ford Lanes in the Ford Engineering League.

Hits off to the winners and girls champions of the Young American Bowling Alliance City tournament held recently at Sunnybrook Lanes. The team consists of Stephanie Wegener, 15, of Farmington Hills, a student at Harrison High; Kasey Pierce, 17; Kathleen Kowalski, 15, of Farmington Hills and a student at Mercy High; and Melissa Miller of Farmington Hills, 19, a recent graduate of Harrison High.

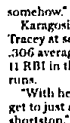
This team, named "Wright's Women" in honor of Ed Wright, bowled 2,445 scratch to earn the championship.

More good news for the long hot summer ahead, Ladies Pro Bowlers Aleta Sill and Michelle Mullin will be conducting a "Summer Bowling Camp" July 14-16 at Country Lanes in Farmington Hills. It will be based on the Kegei Digital Video Coach, a very successful system in improving all facets of the game. Enrollments are being taken now; call (313) 274-1227 for more details.

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

SOFTBALL

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Schneider

"It's the best collective infield of any I've had. They know the game and their positions. All that being said, they have to come to play."

Sophomore Kali Blanchard is a returning varsity player and all-state tennis player who replaces all-area catcher Holly Van Cleave. Blanchard had 29 chances and batted .275.

"She has Holly's type of swing — short and compact — and she seldom strikes out," Falvo said.

The Marlins are relatively inexperienced in the outfield, although senior Erin Agency is a returning varsity player and will start in right.

"When Dana is pitching, we expect a lot of balls to go to right field, and she'll be a defensive stalwart out there," Falvo said.

Junior Kelly Ferrara will play center field when Frantz is pitching, and the left fielder will be junior Courtney Malinowski, who is the backup pitcher.

Junior outfielder and designated runner Nicole Gonzalez completes the roster, but sophomore Caitlin Law might be called up from the JV at times.

Karagoulian's ability enabled Falvo to play Tracey at second base last year. She hit for a .306 average with seven doubles, two triples and 11 RBI in the leadoff position. She also scored 29 runs.

"With her lateral quickness, we expect her to get to just about anything hit in the direction of shortstop," Falvo said.

"I just want to see the girls achieve what they're capable of achieving," Falvo said. "If we can achieve their goals, we'll be happy."

"They'd like to win the league, and they'd like to win their last game of the season, meaning the state championship."

The Marlins hope to regain the Catholic League title, which was won by Harper Woods Regina, which Mercy later beat in the state quarterfinals.



BAL BRESLER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore Dana Frantz assumes the role of No. 1 pitcher for the Mercy softball team this year.

Mercy was scheduled to host Birmingham Marian Friday and its tournament Saturday, but it probably won't play until Monday at the earliest when it visits Madison Heights Bishop Foley. "I just want to see the girls achieve what they're capable of achieving," Falvo said. "If we can achieve their goals, we'll be happy."

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TRACK

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outstanding half-mile and distance runner in senior Brian Coats. He is backed up by fellow cross country runner Nick Israel, Matt Drew, Andrew Slinger, Eric Jaschowski and Evan Plumley in the 1,600 and 3,200 runs. All are seniors except Plumley, a sophomore. "I think we're as solid as we can be there," Reed said.

Senior Darius Goodman, Cook and junior Charlie Gass can run the 400, 100, 800 and 1,600 meters.

Thompson provides depth in the 800. The Hawks have a quality hurdler in senior Kevin Davis, a state qualifier who won the 300 regional race. He's another capable sprint-relay runner, too.

Harrison's other top hurdlers are senior Brian Hill, junior Andrew MacLean and freshman Sidney Stewart.

In the throwing events, the Hawks are led by seniors Joe Graham, Daniel Ayvondie, Ricky Sulaiman and Cook.

Senior Ornelando Morgan and Goodman return in the long jump. The leading high jumpers are juniors Brett Laird and Reggie Anderson and freshman DeAnte Thompkins.

The Hawks have three veteran pole vaulters in Sulaiman (state qualifier), Laird and senior Eric Lakoschkin (regional champ). All three are capable of vaulting 13 to 14 feet, according to Reed.

Most schools in the Oakland Activities Association don't do the pole vault, but "We're still committed to it. Pole vaults we can use it on weekends and in the 'regional,'" Reed said. "And we have senior guys, and we want to be committed to them."

In terms of numbers, Harrison has one of its biggest squads in years with 70 boys. That will help since the Hawks are the smallest school in the OAA's Division I and will be competing against schools twice their size. Potentially, Harrison could contend for the state title, Reed said. "But we have to be better than we are, because the other teams have a lot more depth than we do."

Harrison was scheduled to host a C.A.A. Invitational today with Canton and Rochester Adams. "We're going to every meet and do our absolute best," Reed said.

"On the track, I think we can be as good as anybody. If we can pick it up in the final events, I think we'll be competitive."

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