

In The Pocket

By W.W. EDGAR



Fred Vitall, one of the sharpshooters on the Stroh team who played a leading role in the Westland Bowl Classic for several seasons, is firmly convinced now that the defending champion is jinxed in the Masters Tournament sponsored by the Greater Detroit Bowling Association.

He found it out the hard way last weekend in Behrman Lanes when he put the title on the line and could finish no better than seventh place. While he was faltering Pat Janucci took the crown with a victory over Ted Bakateslos in the final.

Vitall's downfall kept intact the tradition that no champion has successfully defended the title since the inception of the event a decade ago.

There seems to be no stopping Cora Fiebig, the area's top average woman bowler.

Bowling in the Bowlerettes League last Monday night she established two season records. The first came with a high single of 290 and then the high series of 713.

With this performance she became the second woman to break the 700 barrier this season. Last October Bonnie Barnes fashioned a 702 series and it stood up until Cora blasted past it.

Monday night to boost her mean average well above the 190 she had at the start of the season.

THREE OTHER PINMEN broke the 700 barrier during the week.

Jim Shaffer turned the trick in Mayflower Lanes when he linked games of 236, 245 and 228 for a 707.

The second new member of the club is Bill Engstrom, who fired a 737 series in the Senior House League in Bel-Aire Lanes in Farmington.

The third was a real surprise when Jeff Peck, making his first appearance in the Westland Classic finished with a 247 after games of 225 and 228 for an even 700.

THE 700 SHOOTERS had a big edge on their rivals in all leagues.

In the senior house in Bel-Aire the closest anyone came to Engstrom was Alex Martin who had a 690 while Bill Cooper landed third place with 668.

Jim Shaffer was away ahead of his rivals in Mayflower and Peck's run-up in Westland Bowl was Jim Shaffer with 651 and Phil Childers finished with a 245 to land third place with 619.

THERE WAS A CLOSE battle for honors in the St. John Biscue League at Garden Lanes where Al Crosby showed the way with a 637 to earn a five pin margin over Jerry Fisher and Al Quint landed third with a 607.

THE BOWLERS FINALLY found the range in Country Lanes and James Roane set a new high single of 278 to post a 687 series joining him for honors was Bill Okowski, a 125 average bowler, who fired a 518 series that included a 228 game which is 103 pins above his average.

Meanwhile Rosemary Dobson took some of the spotlight by converting the "impossible" 4-7-10 split.

THE GIRLS HAD a great time of it in Mayflower Lanes. The high scorers included Alma Mohar with a 557, Carol Wescott with 532 and Diane Richardson with 525.

The conversion club added two new members as Barbara Riteracki topped the 2-4-7-10 and Phil Collier did the same with the 5-6-10.

DOUBLE CENTURY FIGURES were the order of the day in Bel-Aire. While Bill Engstrom was fashioning

his 737 in the Senior House League, John Lennon had a 673 to pace the Businessmen's circuit and Jay Robinson showed the way in the Classic with a 688. Right behind him came Stan Williams with 667 and Jack Brown finished in third place with 659.

A NEW NAME POPPED UP in the Farmington Noon Classic when Darlene Marrow came in with a 234 in 619. In the Meadowbrook Mixed League George Edwards registered a 241 in 634 to join the season's leaders.

NEN SANTI furnished the top scoring in the Guys and Dolls in Plymouth Bowl with a 684 series that came on games of 238, 251 and 207.

LOIS MERRIMAN rolled her way to top honors in the Livonia Ladies Classic with a 532-72-624 series that included a high single of 195-24-219. In the other singles Gerry Zande won the first game with 190-35-229 and Dee Briggs took the third with 192-33-224.

ONE OF THE HIGHEST triplicates of the season was posted in Drakeville Lanes, Farmington, when Charles Coram, a 171 average bowler, rolled identical counts of 204.

Sharing honors with him, Mary Gaugon posted a 265 in 581 for a new high in the women's division.

UNLESS SHE FALLS into a terrible slump over the rest of the way Cora Fiebig seems certain to be crowned the area's top average woman bowler when the league season closes.

At the moment she is carrying a 190.8 mean average made possible with a 191.45 in the Ladies Major League and 190.30 in the Bowlerettes.

Along with her other honors she will make a bid to retain the state team title when her group goes to Lansing next month. Last year she won the crown with a team composed of the sixth member of other combinations.

SHARON ECKERT turned in one of the best performances of the week at Garden Lanes by putting together games of 226, 175 and 184 for a 585. It was outstanding because her average is 153.

One of the closest finishes of the year came in the St. Linus mixed league where only 12 pins separated the top three places. John Dudek set the pace with a 613 and Al Bjorek tied with Cass Treul for second place at 601.

Prep hockey's 'rookie' state tourney sites-tiers announced

In the first year of prep state tourney play, a total of 80 high schools are entered in MHSAA competition.

Forty-seven schools have been assigned to the "more experienced" Tier One while 37 are in Tier Two. There will be 16 regionals, eight quarter-finals, a semi final and final.

LIVONIA BENTLEY High will be the host of one of the 16 regionals with Ford Arena set for the battle between Ann Arbor Huron, Ann Arbor Pioneer, Detroit Country Day, Jackson Lumen Christi, Livonia Stevenson and host Bentley.

Two other Livonia schools in Churchill and Franklin find themselves in the Wyandotte Regional. They will be joining Allen Park, Ecorse, Trenton and host Wyandotte in the one-game knockout tourney at Yack Arena in Wyandotte.

The two Southfield schools in the Suburban Loop, Southfield and Southfield Lathrup, are in the Detroit Catholic Central, University Liggett, Oak Park and host Austin Regional dates have been set for March 3-8.

THE WINNER of the Livonia Bentley

Regional will meet the victor of the Detroit Austin Regional in a quarter final clash at Bloomfield Hills Expo on March 11, at 7 p.m.

The champion of the Wyandotte Regional meets up with the Bloomfield Lathrup victor at Allen Park Civic Arena on March 11, at 7:30 p.m.

Other quarter final sites are Highland Nordic Arena and Sault Ste Marie Pular Stadium.

Semi-final play will be at Yost Arena in Ann Arbor on March 14, starting times at 7:15 p.m. and 9:15 p.m.

State final time is March 15 at Yost Arena face-off set for 5 p.m.

All of the area prep squads are in Tier One competition. The draw for the Bentley High regional will be conducted in Bentley High on Feb. 20, at 10 a.m.

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The Detroit Cocker Spaniel Club is hosting a sanctioned puppy match on Sunday, Feb. 16, at Vester Hall on 177 Vester in Ferndale.

Classes for puppies are two to 12 months and entries will be taken from 11:30 a.m. until judging at 1 p.m.

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