

Girls Bowling

Sweet Home returns to ECIC Division II

by **PATRICK J. NAGY**
Reporter

The last time Sweet Home's girls bowling team competed in ECIC Division II they didn't lose a league match for three years.

Because of enrollment, Sweet Home, 6-3 in ECIC I last year, returns to ECIC II. Lady Panthers coach Jim Russo would have liked to have stayed in ECIC I.

"I would have liked to have stayed in the other division because I don't know what to expect from the other teams," said Russo, now in his fourth year coaching the team. "Last year was a real challenge. I think because we had gone undefeated the previous three years, we thought we were a pretty good team and then at (ECIC) Rolloffs and sectionals, we would face other teams and it would be tough... Facing teams like Frontier and Clarence (in ECIC I) makes us a better team."

Russo returns ten bowlers but his top two averages, Sarah Poley and Nikki Voelker, both 185, graduated.

As of this writing, Sweet Home's "A" team is comprised of junior Amanda Page, sophomore Margaret Wahl, and eighth graders Gina Picone and Charlene Cinelli. The "B" team is made of seniors Jacquie Johnson and Ashley Brant and juniors Shannon Huebert and anchor Jillian

Nasisi. The "C" team will feature junior Nikki Giselman and freshmen newcomers Courtney Smith and Kaitlyn Gruzweig. Eighth grader Kaylee Kaminski could bowl on "B" or "C". Russo said senior Allison Boziski had to quit the team to prepare for college at Harvard University.

Page, on the squad since eighth grade, is the "A" team's anchor and will battle Picone for the team's top average. Page averaged 173 last year, Picone averaged 152.

Page led Sweet Home at the Maryvale Holiday Tournament on Dec. 4 with a 608 series. Page is co-captain with Wahl, who has bowled for Sweet Home since seventh grade.

Russo said Picone has the ability to be a good bowler.

"I think she could be the next Lindsay Baker (Sweet Home grad who is a junior at University of Nebraska, led NCAA with a 215 average, named 2005-06 National Tenpin Coaches Association Player of the Year)," said Russo. "She's way ahead of the curve right now. She's slowly maturing from last year but I'm real enthusiastic about where she's going to be."

Russo said Nasisi could be the surprise of the team.

"She's like a sponge," said Russo. "She listens to everything and is really consistent on spares. If we can get her to throw more



Junior Amanda Page is one of two Sweet Home girl bowling captains.
Photo by Joe Eberle

strikes, she could raise her average significantly."

With such a young team, Russo is finding he has to coach more of

the mental game of bowling rather than actual technique.

"They all know how to throw the ball, get strikes and make spares," he said. "We just need to grow up a little bit and get that maturity needed to take us to the next level. And I'm seeing that."

Sweet Home opened the season with a 10th place finish at the Maryvale Tournament.

"We have our work cut out for us," said Russo. "It was pretty evident at the Maryvale tournament that teams like Lockport and Frontier are so much ahead of us talent wise."

Russo said one of his goals this season is for every bowler on the squad to compete on "A" or "B" to get their varsity letter.

Sweet Home

2006-07 Schedule

12-13 at Hamburg (Legion)..... 4 p.m.
12-19 at Iroquois (Lancaster) 4p.m.
1-3 South..... 4 p.m.
1-8 East..... 4 p.m.
1-10 at W.S. East (Wimbledon) 4p.m.
1-17 Hamburg..... 4 p.m.
1-22 Iroquois..... 4 p.m.
1-31 at East 4 p.m. (Transit)
2-5 W.S. East 4 p.m.
2-13 at ECIC Rolloffs (Thruway).....TBA
2-16 at Section VI Championships (Thruway).....TBA
*All home matches are at Manor II Lanes.

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Consistency needed for Amherst boys bowling

by **PATRICK J. NAGY**
Reporter

Amherst Central's boys bowling team finished 2-8 in ECIC Division II last year but coach Jason Beckman hopes consistency will help the team succeed in ECIC III.

"Each of our bowlers has the ability to throw a big game at any time," said Beckman. "We don't rely on just one team member for that... Consistency will be key this season. We need to bowl our best games when they are needed the most."

Beckman said Amherst's main goal is to focus on one shot at a time.

"When you do this consistently, the big picture will take care of itself," he added. "We obviously strive to win each time we step onto the lanes but we are also interested in getting better each week and developing a positive team environment."

Although Beckman has no set "A" and "B" teams as of this writing, his top four bowlers for each team include

seventh grader Eric Michalski (205 average), sophomore Justin Garus (186), junior Brandon Jeffords (169) and sophomore Dean Snyder (164) on "A" and juniors Kyle Schmidt (164), Chris Oliver (159) and Corey Rotterman (149) and sophomore Sean Stein (134) on "B". Schmidt and Oliver both received most improved team awards last season.

Beckman said big team strengths are hard work and camaraderie.

"Many of them have been together for two to three years and are very supportive of each other," said Beckman.

Beckman thinks his team believes that they can compete with any team in ECIC III.

"We're not going into any match with the idea of just keeping it close and we want to see improvement each week," said Beckman.

At the Maryvale Holiday Tournament, Michalski had a high set of 626 and high game of 243. Schmidt and Oliver shot 233 each.

In a 4½-2½ loss against Tonawanda, Garus shot 631

(176, 234, 221) and Jeffords (246).

Amherst Central

2006-07 Schedule

12-13 at Pioneer..... 4:30 p.m. (Arcade)
1-3 at Depew 4:30 p.m. (Broadway)
1-8 Cheektowaga 4:30 p.m.
1-10 Springville 4:30 p.m.
1-17 Tonawanda 4:30 p.m.
1-22 Maryvale 4:30 p.m.
1-24 Pioneer 4:30 p.m.
2-5 Depew 4:30 p.m.
2-7 Cheektowaga 4:30 p.m.
2-12 Springville 4:30 p.m.
2-12 at ECIC Rolloffs (Thruway Lanes)..... TBA
2-15 at Section VI Championships (Thruway Lanes) TBA

*All matches are at Airport Bowling Lanes unless otherwise noted.

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North keglers have holes to fill on 'B' team

by **PATRICK J. NAGY**
Reporter

Williamsville North can make a strong case why ECIC Division I is the toughest boys bowling division in Section VI.

Last year, the Spartans fielded its best team in school history and needed to win its last two matches to qualify for sectionals. North was 6-6. Add in the graduation of the team's top two averages, Steve Wood and Frank Pingtella

and North has some holes to fill.

"Optimistically, I'm looking to be .500," said North coach Jim Rauh. "We were good last year and we were .500. Clarence is always really strong, so is Lancaster and Frontier."

Rauh returns seniors Greg Sacco, Matt Parisi, Dave Griffith and Mike Gilbert and junior Steve Levine. All should bowl on "A" this season. The fifth man who isn't bowling well in any given

match will bowl on "B".

All five combined for a 25th place finish at the Maryvale Holiday Tournament on Dec. 4.

"Even if we can't go to sectionals as a team this year, these five guys could go as individuals," said Rauh.

Sacco is averaging 202 and should anchor "A". He threw a school-record 299 last year. Rauh said Sacco received lessons from Kathy McDonald's coach Frank Coburn, who was recently hon-

ored by Bowlers Journal International as one of the top 100 coaches for youth and school in the country.

"Greg's a good spare bowler and can string strikes," said Rauh.

Last year, Parisi threw a 290 against Sweet Home. Rauh said Parisi should average in the 190's as will Gilbert.

Griffiths and Levine both averaged around 175 last year and were on the "B" team.

Three of the four "B" team spots are up in the air as of this writing.

"We have five bowlers who are pretty solid," said Rauh. "After that, there's a pretty big jump from the fifth guy to the sixth guy, so we're going to need some to step up."

North won the combined

boys-girls Williamsville Cup last year.

North 2006-07 Schedule

12-13 W.S. West..... 3:30 p.m.
12-18 Clarence 3:30 p.m.
1-3 Orchard Park..... 3:30 p.m.
1-9 at Lancaster (Lan) 3:30 p.m.
1-11 at W.S. West..... 3:30 p.m.
1-16 Frontier..... 3:30 p.m.
1-18 at Clarence (CL Bowling Academy)..... 3:30 p.m.
1-30 at Orchard Park.. 3:30 p.m.
2-1 Lancaster..... 3:30 p.m.
2-5 at Frontier..... 3:30 p.m.
2-7 Will. Cup (date tentative, at Transit)..... TBA
2-12 at ECIC Rolloffs (Thruway).....TBA
2-15 at Section VI Championships (Thruway).....TBA

*All home matches are at Transit Lanes.

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Sweet Home

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"We're still trying to evolve and replace Quentin and Ramadan are trying to fill the leadership Hudson's scoring and athleticism and Daniel role."

Joseph's leadership," said Schintzius. "Terrell has taken strides to assume the leadership role and Carr

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