

## Volleyball

### lobs along

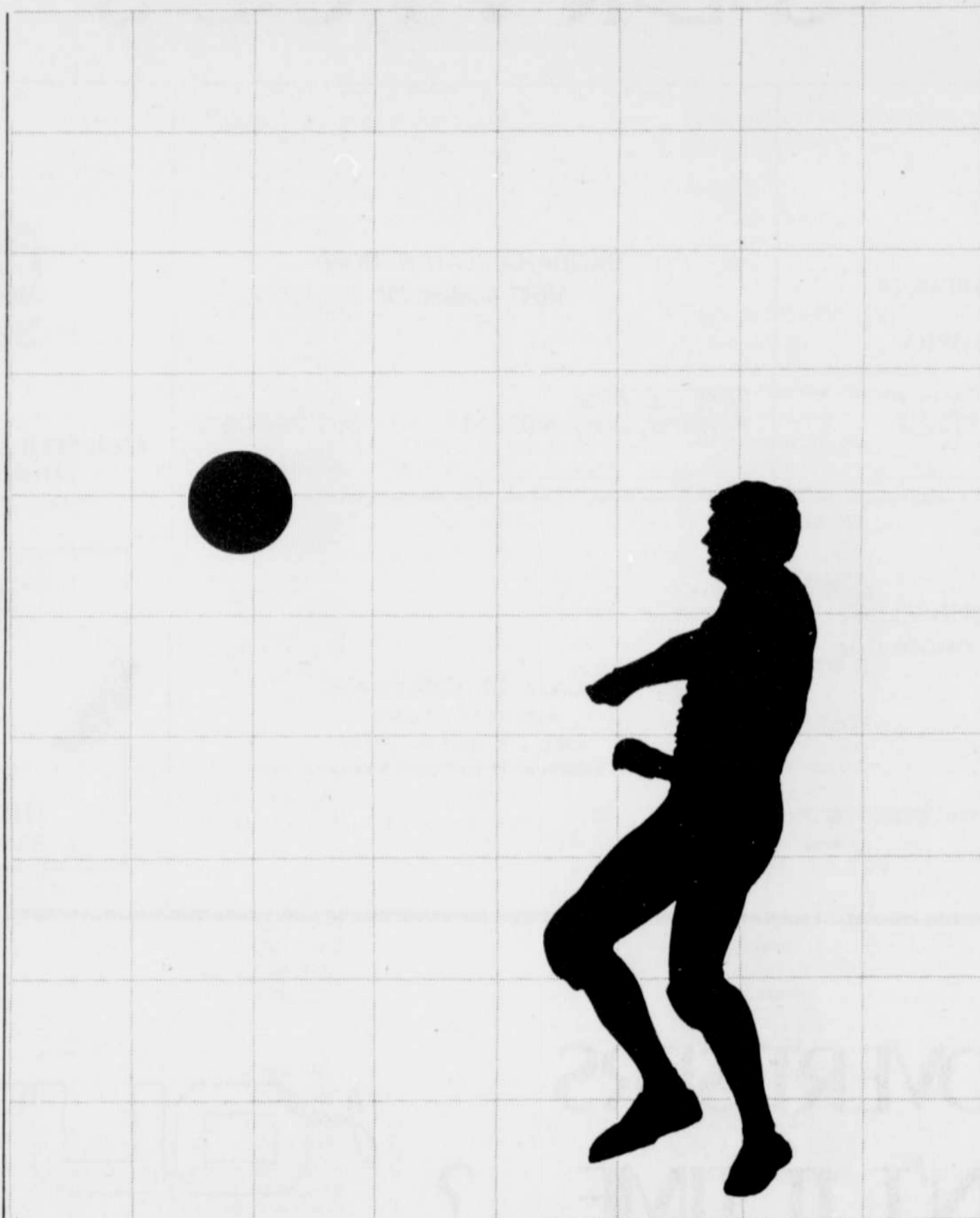
by Ken Vogl

It's funny how you never really know what you've got 'til it's gone. And so it goes with this year's volleyball season. With only the grand finale, the post-season tournament left to go, most of us beginners are finally ready for play.

It was with great expectations and much optimism that 12 teams, nearly half of them new, took to the courts in early September, to inaugurate gay volleyball's 2nd year. I can't remember seeing so much optimism turn to so many moans and groans so fast. Let's face it, if the referees had whistled every infraction at the start of the season, we couldn't have completed a match. The city league has skill levels ranging from A through J; most of us were playing somewhere between P and U. Volleyball, as a sport, requires the grace of dance, the precision of martial arts, and the stamina of gymnastics. If you have ever seen even high school level volleyball, it is truly amazing to watch. It is not necessarily for the faint-hearted or the fumble fingered.

This focuses on a very important question concerning "gay sports" in general. Most of us (gay males) either weren't very good at or weren't interested in playing "straight sports" in school or at the local vacant lot. Discouraged, we usually found other things to do. This problem was exactly the opposite for lesbians, who as girls excelled athletically but were discouraged from competing with boys, and usually found other things to do.

Consequently, the gay community has tended to take a rather dim view of athletic competition. While all this may be changing, we still must find an answer to the question of whether gay sports should be "just for fun," an alternative for gay men and women who want to get together and away from the overzealous, competitive, jock(ette) mentality of straight sports. Or, should those who seek excellence at any endeavor, sports or otherwise, prevail with their goals of high quality competitive gay sports leagues? Is there room for both ideals, without splitting leagues into divisions for one persuasion or another? As far as volleyball is concerned, I think the question was especially pointed in 1983. I



know of many well-intentioned people who started the season only to get turned-off early because volleyball wasn't as much "fun" as they thought it should be. As 1984 approaches, let's hope that we can resolve our differences and put our combined talents and energy to the best results possible. I think we'll find participation in gay sports a valuable addition to our already "alternative" lifestyles.

Finally, not to forget some well-deserved credit due... for massive amounts of hard

work and time spent, a hearty show of appreciation to Richard Roth and Scott Gillies, league organizers and the current president and vice-president. Also, to team representatives and all the faithful who knew they had their work cut out for them and believed in themselves. All in all, you never really know what you've got 'til it's gone. Good luck in the tourney. Let's do it again next year!

Footnote: For those who just can't seem to get enough... we have for you Monday Night

(Pick-Up) VOLLEYBALL! When: Monday nights, 8:30 'til 9:45, through February. Where: Hosford School, 1 block north of S.E. 28th Pl. and Division St. Ali are welcome; for more information call Ken or Steve at 253-8706.

## Bowling for turkeys

by Renee Cherry

On Sunday, November 20th, thirty-six teams of the Portland Community Bowling Association competed against each other (and themselves) for turkeys in the 1983 Turkey Bowl held at Pro 300 Bowling Lanes.

The event started at noon (an early hour for some) and was enthusiastically embraced by all participants, with some of the highest Monte Carlo jackpots ever. The final jackpot of \$145.00 was won by Phil Scott of JR's.

To win a turkey, a bowler had to bowl strikes in the third, sixth, and ninth frames in the same game. All teams bowled three games. The leftover turkeys, and many other items such as shoes, lunches, champagne, towels, etc., were raffled off at the party held at Ray's Ordinary Bar and Grille after the tournament.

Chuck Christensen led the pack with a 192.7 average for the day followed by Wanda Schmidt with a 188.0 and Charlie Webster at 187.0 coming in third. The top team average honors went to the Back Alley Five team consisting of Steve Wright, Terri Case, Carol Meredith, Tammy Garrett, and Bev LaBelle. Second place went to JR's Transvestites followed in third place by Embers All Nighters. There were also seven individuals who bowled 200 and over games. They received prizes of lunches, drinks, etc., from various establishments within our community.

Although only 36 teams were able to compete in the Turkey Bowl, there will be 50 teams representing the gay community when the league begins on January 8th, 1984. Because of the large turnout of bowlers this year the league must split into two different sessions playing at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on the same day at Pro 300 Bowling Lanes.

Bowling will be approximately every other Sunday (check with a bowling enthusiast for exact dates) so come out (literally) and support your gay bowling league.

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