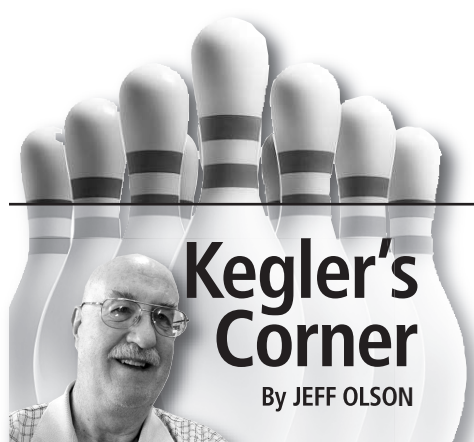




Photos by Ben Mitchell

SPRING SPORTS HAVE SPRUNG

Hood River Valley High School athletes were busy this past week practicing and gearing up for the upcoming spring sports season that starts in earnest next week. Clockwise, from top right: HRV track athletes begin a 500-meter run at the high school track Wednesday afternoon, while the girls lacrosse, boys lacrosse, and girls softball teams were busy drilling at the Westside Elementary athletic fields. Not pictured are the boys and girls tennis teams, the boys and girls golf teams, and the boys baseball team, who are also getting ready for the season. Action at HRV kicks off on Monday with the girls varsity softball team hosting Gresham at the Westside fields at 4:30 p.m. Home games continue on Tuesday with boys varsity baseball hosting Sam Barlow at 4:30 p.m. and girls varsity lacrosse facing off against Liberty and Lincoln at 7. On Wednesday, the track team will compete against Centennial at 3:30 p.m. and the boys tennis team hosts Gresham at the Tsuruta tennis courts at 4.



Kegler's Corner
By JEFF OLSON

Team Nishi wins Tues. Nite Mixed

When the going gets tough, the tough get going.

That cliché just about sums up the roll-off for the championship of the very popular Tuesday Nite Mixed League that was held last week at Hood River's venerable Orchard Lanes. The four combatants vying for the coveted crown were the first and second place teams in rounds one and two of their regular season: Double A Orchards, Take Ten, Team Nishi and Got Sand. This was a three-game total pins match.

Team Nishi jumped out of the gate, taking a 78-pin lead after the first game and they never looked back, extending their lead by 79 more pins after the second game and 29 more after the third game. Team Nishi won by almost 200 pins, sparked by the timely talents of Stuart Kawachi, who rose to the occasion as he almost always does by firing a nifty scratch 655 series. Stuart, who also won the much sought after singles championship in the Hood River City bowling tournament earlier this season, was 124 pins over his av-

erage for the match. That, ladies and gentlemen, is how championships are won. Congratulations to Team Nishi, Jeff Hasegawa, Janet Kawachi, Rich Nishimoto and the peerless Stuart Kawachi, champions of the Tuesday Nite Mixed League at Orchard Lanes!

TEAM OF THE WEEK:

Ken Kramer, +126 (780)
Stuart Kawachi, +124 (775)
Eric Plimmer, +123 (723)
Dave Baumsteiger, +119 (719)
Jeremy Bloom, +102 (759)
3,756 total pins

The league season is quickly winding down to a close with only a month or so left. Scoring has been a bit tough lately, but the good thing about that is there are always "horses for courses" and that old saying is certainly reflected in our current team of stars who bowled the most over their averages last week.

Leading the parade of prodigious players is the gregarious Ken Kramer, who is probably more familiar with strikes than anybody. The former umpire tossed a big bunch of pins out of the game last week in the fast-paced Wednesday night Fraternal League where he popped a mighty fine scratch 678 series that was capped by a nice 266 game. Ken led everybody last week ending up 126 pins over his average to take the No. 1 honors on the team of the week, his second appearance on the big five this season.

Our second star is the aforementioned Stuart Kawachi, who makes the fab five for the first time this season.

Our next three keglers are also making their first appearance on the team of the week this season. Eric Plimmer sure had things his way in the Wednesday afternoon senior Colts & Fillies League where the 138 average mainstay started his session with a scratch 196 game and then went even better with a super 204 in his second game. Used to be if you averaged 200, that was considered

par in this great game and that's exactly what Eric did in his first two games: 400 pins for a 200 average! Quite a start, Eric finished up 123 pins over his average to grab the third slot on the team of the week.

We want to extend a warm welcome to a newcomer to Orchard Lanes league action, Dave Baumsteiger, who recently moved to the area from California. Dave's brother, Ron, is one of our most illustrious regulars; they should make quite a team in their future exploits on the friendly boards at Orchard Lanes. Dave notched a solid scratch 608 series in the Colts & Fillies which was 119 pins over his average, good enough to get the clean-up slot on this classy crew. Getting that first 600 series at a different bowling center always feels good.

Well, we've got nothing but the best adjectives to describe our anchor man on this stellar five, Jeremy Bloom. Jeremy is a youngster, but he's one of the best bowlers in town. The smooth right hander blasted a solid scratch 701 series in the Fraternal which was 102 pins over his average.

Jeremy has an extensive resume in this great game of ours, having rolled many big-time 700 sets and a couple of perfect 300 games. His average is so high that it's difficult for him to get on the team of the week because the higher your average is, the more difficult it is to bowl over it.

A couple other highlights stand out last week. Smooth, textbook stylist Gordon Sim led everybody in scoring last week with a nifty scratch 727 series that he fashioned in the senior Lads & Lassies League on Thursday afternoon. Gordon, who is one of top average players in town, rolled a big 279 game in this series. He's so talented that scores like these are almost routine for him — he's that good.

And, one of our young rising stars, Zach Mohun, also got another taste of greatness, firing a big-time scratch 277 game in the Fraternal. Zach was a key player on the talented HRVHS bowling team that nearly won the state championship a few years ago. Great bowling everybody!

LEAGUE HIGHS

Monday evening Industrial:

Greg McDaniel: 236 game & 651 series
Pat Olson: 244 game

Tuesday morning Ladies Workshirkers:

Nancy Asai: 206 game & 593 series

Tuesday Nite Mixed:

Pat Olson: 259 game & 675 series
Stuart Kawachi: 235 game & 655 series
Mary Finley: 234 game & 580 series
Gordon Sim: 244 game
Bryan Mason: 235 game
Nancy Asai: 202 game

Wednesday afternoon Colts & Fillies:

Lynn Spellman: 248, 216, 214 games & 678 series
Dave Baumsteiger: 215, 204 games & 608 series
Joyce Ebersole: 509 series
Len Hickman: 222 game
Kim McCartney: 217 game
Eric Plimmer: 204 game
Karen Baumsteiger: 183 game

Wednesday evening Fraternal:

Jeremy Bloom: 246, 235 games & 701 series
Greg McDaniel: 237, 237 games & 699 series
Ken Kramer: 266 game & 678 series
Josh Worth: 245 game & 651 series
Bernie Keys: 192 game & 505 series
Zach Mohun: 277 game
Aaron Troxel: 248 game
Pat Olson: 242 game
Mike Parke: 237 game

Thursday afternoon Lads & Lassies:

Gordon Sim: 279, 245, 203 games & 727 series
Jeff Miller: 237 game & 615 series
Joyce Ebersole: 193 game & 525 series
Kim McCartney: 222 game

HR gymnasts medal in Corvallis meet

Local gymnasts from The Dalles' Riverside Gymnastics Academy sprang to the top of the podium during the 2015 Oregon State Gymnastics Spring Invitational held last weekend in Corvallis.

For the second meet in a row, Hood River gymnast Audrey Fuentes took the title, placing first all-around with a score of 37.0 in Level 3, one of the "compulsory" levels, where each athlete must perform the same routine.

In addition to her first-place finish, Fuentes was the recipient of the Judges Award, which Coach Jacque Johnston explained is a "special recognition" given to a single athlete in each individual event.

"This award is for gymnasts who 'stand out' in the judge's eye. It can be for an incredible leap on the floor. It can be from a hard fall off the beam, and yet the gymnast has the tenacity to get back up and finish her

routine," she explained. "Or it can be from a 'well-managed mistake,' as was the case with Audrey, who received the award on the bars. Audrey performed what the judges referred to as 'two very impressive mill circles,' while the routine only calls for one. Audrey is so polished on bars, that even with an extra element, she still finished in third place."

Other top finishers included Regina Sanchez Macias, who won first place on the bars in Level 4, with a score of 9.4. Johnston also reported that Poppy Miller, along with other fellow Level 6, 7, 8, and 9 teammates from RGA, received second place with a team score of 112.175, just .05 points behind first place. Results for Hood River athletes are as follows:

Level 3: Team: 4th (110.05)

Audrey Fuentes:
1st: All-Around (37.0) & Floor: (9.475)
3rd: Vault (9.45) & Bars (9.25)
4th: Beam (8.85)
Ava Krantz:
2nd: Bars (9.225)

3rd: Vault (9.3)
4th: All-Around (35.975)

Level 4:

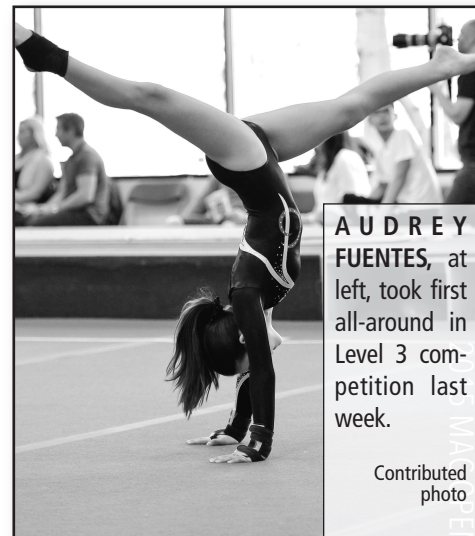
Jacy Johnston, Sophia Riviello, and Regina Sanchez Macias, along with nine other teammates finished 2nd with a team score of 110.175.

Jacy Johnston:
3rd: All-Around (35.375) & Floor (9.075)
4th: Bars
5th: Vault
Sophia Riviello
3rd: Vault (8.825)
5th: Bars
6th: All-Around (34.45)
Regina Sanchez Macias
1st: Bars (9.4)
4th: Vault
8th: All Around

Level 6 (Optional):

Poppy Miller, along with her level 6, 7, 8 and 9 teammates earn 2nd-place team finish with a score of 112.175, just missing first

place by .05 points.
Poppy Miller:
2nd: Vault (9.2)
5th: Bars & Floor
6th: All-Around (35.35)



AUDREY FUENTES, at left, took first all-around in Level 3 competition last week.

Contributed photo