Newspapers.com by Ancestry
https://www.newspapers.com/image/1118020110/

Downloaded on Aug 23, 2026

AAU hoop program offers big showcase

There is no denying that basketball has become a year-round sport.

Perhaps just as important as a player's high school season is in helping them secure a college scholarship, is what the athletes do in the summertime.

And that means camps and AAU, especially for the girls.

The reason is simple: Most women's colleges don't have the biggest of budgets and, while it may be worth it to make a trip to a single regular-season game to watch one blue-chip prospect, it's surely more advantageous to watch many good players at one time against each other at the same place.

Hence, the importance of summertime play. And the AAU program run by the Police Athletic League is one of the most important for Island girls.

The local PAL sponsors teams in three divisions (13 and under, 14 and under, and 16 and under) that offer open tryouts. After the teams are selected, they will travel to various tournaments in and out of the state in preparation for the Metroplitan AAU Tournament, the winner of which will earn a spot in the nationals.

The 13-and-under girls' team will be the first to offer tryouts. Any interested

Jerry Lee
SCHOLASTIC SCENE

players can attend one of three tryouts. The first is scheduled for Saturday at the Duncan PAL Center in Manhattan (West 52nd Street between 10th and 11th avenues) at 10 a.m.

The second will be held Monday at Bernstein Intermediate School in Huguenot (Hylan Boulevard and Huguenot Avenue) at 6:30 p.m., and the final tryout is scheduled for March 28 at Sheepshead Bay High School (3300 Avenue X) at 7 p.m.

The 13-and-under team is coached by Joe Luken, the head coach of the St. Clare's varsity girls' team. Luken will be assisted by Joe Loughran, the PAL's director of sports programs.

A year ago, this duo won the Metropolitan tournament and earned a trip to Shreveport (La.) for the AAU/USA Junior Olympics National Championship.

"It was," said Loughran, "a rude awakening."

The local club dropped its first three games and then managed one win in three tries in a consolation-type setup.

"It's just a different level of play and with just about five weeks or so to prepare, you have to have a realistic approach to what you want to accomplish," Loughran noted. "Many of the other teams practice and play all year round so it's tough to compete with that.

"But, all in all, I think it's really a great experience for the kids. It's a pretty exciting thing for a 13-year-old kid."

And it can be pretty important to an athlete's future.

Tryouts for the 14-year-old team (coached by Bob Daggett, the St. Peter's High School girls' varsity coach) and the 16-and-under team (coached by John LoSasso, the head coach of the John Jay HS girls' varsity) have yet to be announced.

For more information on the PAL's AAU program, call Loughran at 212-477-9450 (ext. 340).

Waiting game for Maida

Two years ago, the phone in Jodi Maida's Grant City house was pretty busy. And not just with calls from boys asking for dates. Many of them were from college recruiters, expressing their interest in the St. Peter's guard with the long-range shooting accuracy.

Then came a debilitating injury to her right knee and a year on the sidelines.

"A lot of schools were calling and sending letters and it looked like Iona (College) was real interested," said Maida, "but once I got hurt, the phone calls stopped.

"I haven't heard from anybody."

Maida

Maida returned to the Eagle lineup this year, played in all 27 St. Peter's games, averaging 10.5 points per game while showing she hadn't lost her touch by tossing in 22 baskets from three-point range.

But it wasn't an easy road Maida had to hoe.

"Having to wear that brace really slowed me down," Maida said. "I kept asking my doctor for a lighter one, but he said this was the one I had to use. I hated it."

So now Maida waits and hopes.

"I don't need the brace anymore and I'm still working out and running, but my options to keep playing are limited," Maida said. "I'll probably go to a Division III school and see what happens."

What *should* happen is for some smart coach to take a chance, offer Maida a scholarship and watch her prove the skeptics wrong.

Jaques Classic set

The annual Jaques Classic all-star basketball games will be held April 6 at St. Peter's HS, New Brighton.

The 6 p.m. preliminary contest will feature outstanding players from the Catholic Youth Organization grammar school league. That contest will be followed by the high school boys' game in which the Island's schools will be split into North and South squads.

Teams will be announced. Admission for both games will be $3 for students and $5 for an adult or a family.

Bowling

Van Vorst the new SIWBA queenpin

By JOE D'AMODIO
ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

Step aside Nazareth Laursen. There's a new girl in town.

Donna Van Vorst ended Laursen's three-year reign as queen of the Staten Island Women's Bowling Association by capturing the SIWBA's 43rd Annual Championship all-events title.

The 27-year-old Van Vorst knocked over 1,836 net pins in nine games, eclipsing runner-up Sue Brofsky, who finished with a 1,782-pin series, and Jackie Ma'olo, 1,780, in the competition the past month at Rab's Bowling on the Green.

Laursen, the three-time defending all-events net champion, finished a distant 12th with 1,685 pins — 81 pins off her pace of last year.

"This is the highlight of my career," said Van Vorst, who copped her first all-events title in 10 years with SIWBA to earn the Harry Brofsky-Dennis Zajac Memorial Award and a $125 paycheck. "When they told me (Monday night), I was shocked. I'm thrilled because it's the top women's tournament on the Island."

Van Vorst, a right-hander, also captured the SIWBA's inaugural all-events gross championship, which was incorporated to give the handicap bowlers a chance to bask in the spotlight with the scratch keglers.

"It was designed so that we would have two champions — one net and one gross," explained SIWBA secretary Pat Schnur. "But Donna bowled so well scratch and took advantage of her handicap, she didn't give anyone a chance in the gross event."

Van Vorst's 288-pin handicap helped her win the all-events gross title with 2,124 pins. She beat out Robin Kammerman, 2,092 pins, and Michelle Ferrante, 2,088 pins.

In doing so, Van Vorst collected an additional $125, along with the Laurie J. Dockter Memorial Award.

"I'm happy to win both events," said Van Vorst, who had a 172 entering average.

For Laursen, the loss was actually a relief.

"The pressure is finally off," said Laursen. "I'm relieved now."

Not even Laursen's 629 in the team event Sunday could compensate for her sub-par performances the previous day in the singles (549 series) and doubles (507) events.

"I just wasn't in that zone you have to be in," Laursen explained. "I was in the pocket all day, but I just wasn't carrying. I wasn't loose and you have to be loose to bowl good. I felt nervous. I was nervous in the past, but I was able to channel it. This time I couldn't." Laursen also attributed her downfall to a lack of tournament participation.

"You lose that competitive edge when you don't compete in diffe ent tournaments," she said. "It's something you ca't turn on and off. You have to be in a tournament frame of mind and I wasn't."

Nevertheless, Laursen applauded Van Vorst.

"I have nothing but accolades for the tournament champion," said Laursen. "She bowled great. Anyone who bowls well over nine games deserves it."

Van Vorst, armed with an AMF blue Angle ball, began pursuit of both titles by tossing an inconspicuous 583 series in the team event on the tourney's first day.

That series, however, enabled Van Vorst's team, Suzie's Wringers, to take over and eventually maintain the top spot in both the team net (2,257) and gross (2,708) events. The other members of the team are Mary Gardner, Judy Del Rio and Jennifer Quattrocchi.

"I was psyched after that because of how well my team did," said Van Vorst, a clerk for the United States Postal Service in West Brighton. "It kind of motivated me."

It motivated her so much, she returned the following weekend and fired a 639 in the doubles and a 614 in singles to take an early, commanding lead in the hunt for the net all-events title.

"I wasn't event thinking about all events until I read it in the paper the next day," said Van Vorst.

ADVANCE PHOTO/TONY CARANNANTE

Donna Van Vorst poses with her two SIWBA all-events trophies.

With two weeks still remaining in the tourney, no one, including Van Vorst, figured her score would hold up, especially with all the top guns — Laursen, Peggy Garbarino and Carol Stefanski — competing on the tourney's last weekend.

"I really didn't think it would stick because my score was lower than some people's entering averages," she said. "I thought I had a chance in the gross, but not in the net."

But her score did hold up and now she sits atop the SIWBA.

Van Vorst added the Cherrick Memorial Trophy to her collection. The award is given to the nine-game gross high roller with a 165-and-over average.

Pat Micara (2,045) won the Marty Lichtenstein Memorial Trophy for tossing the highest gross series among the 155-164-average bowlers; Cathy Falk (1,998) rolled off with the Lil Mazzariello Memorial Trophy for earning high gross honors in the 135-144 bracket.

The Rab Wilkinson Trophy, given to the high gross roller in the 145-154 category, went to Angela Marrocolo, the singles gross champion, who finished with a 2,086 score.

Kammerman's 2,092 was good enough for the Jack and Jim Barbour Memorial Trophy, given to the high 134-and-under bowler.

Marrocolo, a 154-average kegler, also copped two other trophies, winning the Barbara Colvin Phelan Memorial Trophy (most pins over average for three games — 168 pins with a 630 series) and Jerry Lonz Memorial Trophy (high series gross — 772).

Dale Fuca, who possesses a 140 average, won the most-pins-over-average Country Pro Shop-Ray Laursen Trophy by unleashing a 254 — 114 pins over. That 254, along with her 59-pin handicap per game, enabled Fuca to secure the Molly Ruocco Memorial Trophy (high game gross) for shooting a 313 with handicap.

Lisa Palazzola, in the running for the all-events net championship until her poor outing in the singles event, earned high series net honors by firing a 657 in the team event.

Meanwhile, Joann Savini's 266 was the tourney's high net game.

All trophies, awards and cash prizes will be presented at the SIWBA Tournament's "Honor the Champions" luncheon April 14 at 1 p.m. at the Island Chateau, Grasmere.

Reservations are now being accepted. The cost is $21 per person, and event champions need not pay for the luncheon. Interested parties should contact Schnur at 979-0689.

The official standings

SINGLES
Gross

	Net	Hcp.	Gross
Angela Marrocolo	630	142	772
Marie Varriale	656	114	770
Mary Ellen Stefanski	583	160	743
Christine Thomson	558	170	728
(tie) Jayne Calano	573	150	723
Toniann Naso	642	81	723
Santa Joan Del Re	587	130	717
Maryann Moschello	593	122	715
Donna Van Vorst	614	96	710
Judy Wood	572	137	709

Net

Marie Varriale	656
Toniann Naso	642
Angela Marrocolo	630
Donna Van Vorst	614
Laura Goodman	613

DOUBLES
Gross

	Net	Hcp.	Gross
T.DeMeo-I.Cahill	988	448	1436
P.Endress-H.McHugh	1182	234	1416
L.Perugino-L.Lerolino	945	461	1406
B.Folino-J.Savini	1056	331	1387
(tie) F.Merolo-J.Merolo	1062	308	1370
D.Agosta-L.Palazzola	1243	127	1370
D.Sembler-K.Konczynski	1076	293	1369
K.Russo-M.Sore	1138	229	1367
D.Vella-D.Morel	1113	249	1362
J.Schone-S.Brofsky	1114	247	1361

Net

D.Agosta-L.Palazzola	1243
P.Endress-H.McHugh	1182
A.Passero-C.Stefanski	1141
(tie) A.Cuoco-M.Heddle	1138
K.Russo-M.Sore	1138

TEAM
Gross

	Net	Hcp.	Gross
Suzie's Wringers	2257	451	2708
Team No. 41	2027	504	2531
Mackauer Auto Body	1874	637	2511
Victory Bowcco	1900	606	2506
Can't Touch Us	1718	780	2498
Team No. 144	1872	822	2494
Team No. 148	1903	576	2479
(tie) Team No. 153	1746	724	2470
Team No. 142	1769	701	2470
Tidy Bowlers	1801	665	2466

Net

Suzie's Wringers	2257
Pizza Town	2198
Sunset Lanes No. 3	2196
Team No. 122	2154
Bingo Belles	2109

Weinberg hits 758

BY ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

Mitch Weinberg paced the action in the Colonial Lanes 950 Scratch League last night by firing a 758 series. Weinberg rolled games of 277 and 245.

Country Lanes
Joe Barra 255-645; Lou Fiore 258; John Parisio 244; Debbie Spina 235; Eric Hoppe 241.
Rab's Bowling on the Green
Gene Seery 266-666.
Colonial Lanes
Mitch Weinberg 245, 277-758; Bill Close 247-662; Mitch Beckwith 266-666; Joey Zancanotta 254-661; Tony Gubitosi 254, 664; Hank Neumueller 248, 672; Pat Rourke 258; Lou Parisio 244.

Roundup

Duo keys grammar school team's swimming victory

BY ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

Liam Gilroy and Alan Kok won three events each to pace the teams of St. Sylvester's, St. Mary's, St. Joseph/St. Thomas, St. Christopher's and Our Lady of Good Counsel over St. Rita's and St. Clare's 232-219 in a Staten Island Catholic Grammar School Swim League meet yesterday at Staten Island Aquatics, West Brighton.

Gilroy, competing in the 5th and 6th grade division, captured the 50-meter backstroke, the 25 butterfly and was part of the winning medley relay.

Kok, competing in the 3rd and 4th grade division, won the 25-meter backstroke and was part of the winning medley relay and 100 free relay.

Marissa Ramos (7th and 8th) won three golds for the losing team, taking the 50-backstroke and competing in her team's medley relay and 200 free relay victories.

Darts

Last night's scores from the Staten Island Dart League:

Walter Caccavale 116; Augie Simoncini 120; Vinny Simoncini 140; Ed Smith 100; George Pinsham 200; Joe Zoninino 225; Ben Suarez 225; Matt Winslow 100; Mark Panzera 100; Dom Troisi 118; Phil Lincotta 100; Charlie Moody 100; Marylin Maraski 325; Ken Hansen 100; Ted Mayerhoff 100; Gary Carr 180, 100; Kevin Borelli 120, 110; Ann Wynans 100; Bob Hutchinson 120; Eric Geidel 340; David Diaz 106; John Strandberg 200; Louis Strandberg 100; Darren Ahern 205; Kerri Kochanover 100.

Field

(From Page C 1)

extremely cooperative. And, the SCA people are on the site every day; they're most responsive."

Blanc agreed, citing as an example a "snag" caused by blueprints which shortened the baseball field's right-field to 250 feet at the foul pole.

The infield cutouts which require special foundations were already in place when Tierney noticed something was wrong. "The bleachers were too far from the third-base line," the coach explained.

"Thankfully," Blanc said, "the contractor and the SCA people were agreeable to changing it."

Changing meant moving the field some 20 feet farther away from the right-field fence.

It also meant delay, according to Petosa.

"The asphalt (which is installed beneath the AstroTurf) was 80-85 percent down," he said. "We had to do the base cutouts again and we had to redo work on the bleachers and rip out electrical ducts which were already installed.

"If not for that," Petosa insisted, "the (baseball) field would be ready now.

"An unbelievable amount of rain this winter hurt, too," Petosa said.

Redoing the baseball field is not the only example of responsiveness.

Tierney, admittedly "very disappointed the field isn't ready," was quick to point to extras like moving the dugouts (which, in the plans, jut out past the backstop) and agreeing to give the dugouts cement floors. "He (Petosa) is supplying us with fenced-in bullpen areas, too," Tierney said.

Baseball isn't the only facility getting extras.

The plans call for the football field to keep its original stands, but with new aluminum seating.

"There were no plans to raise the stands," football coach Ralph Mustillo said, explaining that those "in the first four rows can't see the game because of players standing on the sidelines.

"Rogers and Neeland said they're going to do it (raise the stands) for us," Mustillo said.

The plans also called for the 440-yard track to be ripped up and to be replaced by a 400-meter track.

"Our track," Whitehouse said, "is the only one I know of in New York City that is absolutely plumb level."

Whitehouse has asked to keep the base and spend the money which would be saved on a quality surface.

"A Randalls Island-type surface and not the usual bargain-basement stuff," Whitehouse said, adding "Every surface the Board (of Education) put in here was absolutely horrible; every one of them disintegrated within three years.

"The contractor is very open-minded about the track," Whitehouse said. "He's willing to put in a quality track surface, and he's going to put in a discus cage for us, and he said he'll give us a second runway (for the pole vault, long jump, and triple jump).

"He also said he'll put in the devices they use at Harvard to save the inside lanes on the track by forcing joggers to use the middle of the track."

Petosa is also responsible for the track team still having use of their facility.

"They've run a machine on the track to clear it so we can practice," Whitehouse said.

Still, those who can't practice are impatient.

"We think they're doing their best," Blanc said. "It's just that the season's here.

"At the same time," Blanc added, "we don't want to push to where they're not doing the job, and we'll pay for it later on."

No way, Petosa said.

"Hey, I'm bonded," he said. "If I screw up, it will cost me — my house, my car, my business. I'm not going to take the blame — not for the football coach, the baseball coach, or the president of the United States.

"This job's going to be done right — and ahead of schedule."

Lincoln, Robeson cop PSAL titles

BY ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

Abraham Lincoln HS of Brooklyn captured its first PSAL Class A city championship since 1986 with a 55-40 victory over South Shore of Brooklyn last night at Madison Square Garden

Darryle Flicking led Lincoln (23-3) with 16 points while Kenny Woseley led the 25-1 losers with 23.

In the girls' A final, Paul Robeson (25-1) got 18 points and 23 rebounds from Kendra Nelson and 20 points from Jennie Canty to cruise past John Jay 59-43. Jay finishes at 24-3.

Copyright © 2026 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.