

STATEN ISLAND SUNDAY ADVANCE ■ APRIL 6, 1997

BOWLING

You can't take one without the other

■ SIWBA selects both Nazareth Laursen and Carol Stefanski as 1997 Hall of Fame inductees

When it came to picking inductees based on superior performance for their 1997 Hall of Fame class, the Staten Island Women's Bowling Association board members weren't about to choose between Nazareth Laursen and Carol Stefanski. That would be like choosing between a Mercedes Benz and an Acura Legend.

So the SIWBA board members took the easy way out by selecting both—and rightfully so.

"We just felt we couldn't take one without the other," said SIWBA secretary Pat Schur. "We felt the two of them have always been close in so many things like tournament wins and average. It seems like in a year when one won the tournament, the other had high average. The two of them have also been around the same number of years, so we felt they should go in together."

The two will be inducted in the prestigious Hall during next Sunday's Champion of Champions Luncheon at 12:30 p.m. at the Island Chateau, Gramercy.

For Laursen, her entrance into the SIWBA Hall is something she always wanted, although she thought it would be quite some time before she got it.

"When (SIWBA president) Rose (Taylor) called and told me, I thought she was joking," said Laursen with a laugh. "It's definitely a big honor. Just because the right-handed Laursen is in the Hall, however, doesn't mean her best years are behind her."

"Hopefully, they're still in front of me," she said. "I think I matured as a player and look forward to being a better bowler."

Laursen's SIWBA accomplishments include four all-events titles (1988-90 and '96), singles net and gross winner in 1996, high game net in

1996, high series net in 1996 and 1998, high series gross champ in 1996, part of winning doubles net squad in 1988 and part of winning team net in 1989 and 1997. Her last seven season averages starting in 1990 were 199, 191, 204, 196, 194, 185 and 194.

"I can't really say that one of the above accomplishments stands out much more than another," said the 36-year-old Stapleton resident. "They all came pretty much at different stages of my life, and all have special significance."

Laursen, an author of two perfect games and a career-high 767 series, admitted that winning three all-events titles "was probably the hardest thing to do because anytime you win, to come back and win the next year there's a lot of pressure."

A bond broker in a Manhattan firm, Stefanski knows all about pressure, and how to deal with it.

Maybe that's why the 35-year-old Silver Lake resident has been so successful on the lanes the last two decades, prompting her selection to the SIWBA Hall. Not that Stefanski thinks she belongs there.

"Actually, I feel a little funny about it," said Stefanski of her selection. "I didn't exactly contribute anything to the sport and I always thought someone who gave to the game would be worthy of it."

"I just bowl because I love the game," Stefanski admitted to not even knowing a SIWBA Hall of Fame existed. But now that she knows, though, she's happy to be there.

Stefanski, the all-events net champ in 1992, also won singles net events in 1981 and 1992. She had high series net and gross in 1981 and was the singles gross champ the same year. She won top high game net in 1988 and 1989 and was the high-game gross winner in 1988. The righty also won the nine-game gross title in 1981 and 1989.

In 1981, she won the nine-game gross in the 130-144 category so that's how far she's come," stated Schur.

In 1990, she averaged a career-high 212 and followed that up with averages of 206, 198, 193, 190, 204, 219 and 201.



Carol Stefanski, left, and Naz Laursen congratulate one another on their selection to the bowling Hall of Fame.

Stefanski, who owns one unsanctioned 300 game, said the highlight of her career was "the night I was one strike away from an 800 series." That night last year she wound up with a 783—which is a career high.

Although Stefanski didn't compete in last month's 4th annual championship tournament, she hopes to be back next year.

"There's a test I had to take for work which was extremely crucial," she said. "It was right around

the tournament and most of those weekends were spent studying."

As for the pair going into the Hall together, both had nothing but praise for each other.

"I think it's an honor to go in with Carol," said Laursen. "She's very talented, a great bowler who definitely has a lot of accomplishments."

"Now that I know the Hall of Fame exists, I was surprised to learn that Naz wasn't in years ago because when I started bowling she was someone I wanted to be like," said Stefanski.

ROAD RACING

Benjamin 2nd in April Fool's 5K Run

ADVANCE STAFF REPORT

MANASQUAN, N.J. — Jeff Benjamin, the 32-year-old New Dorp HS track coach, placed second in the Manasquan Recreation Committee-sponsored April Fool's 5K Run Benjamin clocked a personal-record 16 minutes, 4 seconds, behind Dennis Hendy, who ran 16:09.

The Elmhurst resident ran with a pack of five runners through a 5.07 first mile, but at the halfway point, Hendy broke away from the field. Benjamin secured second place with a strong last half-mile.

CAPE COD, Mass. — Bill Welsh, running for the U.S. Coast Guard 10K race with a time of 51:22.

Brian Tress captured the SIAC weekly 3-mile Run For in 16 minutes, 25 seconds at Clove Lakes Park.

Scott LaMorte (17:39) and Dave Panza (17:40) were second and third overall.

Danielle Bird was the first female to finish with a time of 21:35. Rita Dougherty was second in 22:08.

Other notable times were turned in by Mike Berk (18:09), Tom Beck (18:15), Lisa Mangus (23:43), Joanne Sang (24:48), and Ruth Fairbrother (26:12).

Fat Mangus (1:31) outpointed Kathleen Mangus (1:39) in the kids' 200-meter run at the same venue. Nicole Gagliardi was third in 2:40.

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Bernard Wright, representing the SIAC, placed second in the 36-39 division in 38 minutes, 40 seconds in the Cooper River Bridge 10K Run. The race featured a field of 15,219 runners.

Chris Gimocchio, representing the N.Y. Fire Department, finished the 20th annual Fire Police 5-mile Run in 29 minutes, 33 seconds at Central Park.

Follow firefighter Tom Brady clocked a 29:54 while pushing on Patrick in a stroller, and Tommy Laup had a time of 32:13.

20th Annual Fire Police 5 Mile Run: Chris Gimocchio (29:33), Mike Smith (29:35), Steve Caputo (31:08), Kevin Caputo (31:10), Lou Schiller (31:25), Tommy Laup (32:13), John Schiller (32:15), Mike Smith (32:15), John Schiller (32:15), Mike Smith (32:15).

HS hockey notebook

ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

NYIHA championship on tap Tuesday

The finals of the NYIHA double-elimination championship playoffs between the Clippers and the Eagles I, which was originally slated for last week, has been moved to Tuesday night at 8:30 at the S.I. Skating Pavilion, Charleston. The JV championship will precede it at 6:30.

The Clippers, who are coming out of the winner's bracket, only need to win the first game to take the title, while the Eagles, the loser's bracket survivor, would have to win twice for the championship. If the Eagles win the first game, game No. 2 would most likely be scheduled for Thursday.

One of the biggest factors going into the game will probably be the 10-day layoff for both clubs. Each team is coming off its biggest win of the year. The Clippers 2-1 victory over the Lions 1 in overtime and the Eagles 4-3 OT victory which eliminated the Lions. And each team also has several "hot" players during the second season.

The Eagles' Anthony Jackson scored a hat trick against the Lions, while teammate Chris Shelton has two goals in the last two playoff games. Nick Dito scored both of the Clippers' goals against the Lions, while also adding a single goal in the 7-3 playoff win over the Vikings I. Ardent Kalezić had a hat trick against the Vikings and also had a goal whittled away against the Lions.

Will these players lose some of the intensity and hot play they exhibited in the previous playoff games because of the layoff?

"I think I'll be even for both teams," said NYIHA President Chris Schuler. "The layoff won't even make a big difference. It should be a pretty good match on Tuesday."

Get your seats early.

NYIHA coaches, officials pick champion

We polled several East coaches, one West coach and the league's president to pick their brains on the upcoming championship and this is what they had to say.

CIRIS SCHULER, NYIHA President, "I think the Clippers are the favorite."

KEN GREGG, VIKINGS I coach, "The Clippers have to be the favorite, just because they finished in second and beat the Eagles three out of four during the regular season. However, as we see in the playoffs, that goes right out the window. And, the Eagles are on big roll right now."

GARY SOPER, FALCONS I assistant coach, "I would have to say the Eagles. They play a harder game. If they check hard and stay out of the penalty box, they can win it."

DAN ENRIQUEZ, SEA GULLS coach, whose team lost the West title to the Clippers by two points two seasons ago, "You know I coached most of these kids in the All-Star game the last two years, and I would like to see the Clippers win. I think they have the talent and they work hard. They were in the West and this is their second year in the East and they're really improving. They've earned their spot in the East."

A pair of hockey games broke out

A recent playoff contest between relatively clean teams, Vikings I and the Clippers, produced

120 minutes of penalties in the second period alone. In a season filled with brawling, even a meaningful postgame produced Neanderthal actions.

Fortunately, riveting hockey took place in the two ensuing games involving Lions I, which produced upset overtime losses against heated rivals Eagles I and the Clippers. There were no brawls, not even fights, and only the occasional and acceptable penalties. When the players concentrate on playing, the game can be on the ice was meant to — exciting action.

In a season that saw many teams resort to questionable tactics, these games showed how successful and entertaining hockey can be on the island. It's a shame, but instead of using games to work on skills and making plays regardless of the score, players and their clubs decide to figure out who are the best boxers and sculpts (carving the other teams' players with the stick).

One player, not with any of the above clubs, summed up the attitude of some of his league-mates after watching the Viking-Clippers match. "Why don't they just fight?" he wondered.

"What's the big deal?"

Just the potential for major injuries, referees having to fear for their lives, fan rising and police involvement.

Those with intent to maim or audition for the Golden Gloves should wonder why they signed up to play hockey. Unfortunately, it's a small percentage of coaches and players who are helping ruin a great sport that most kids want to just play.

If Lions I-Eagles I and Lions I-Clippers could be bottled, the NYIHA would gain a large measure of respect in the future.

Lions go out stunned, but with class

Many Lions I players were stunned by their sudden playoff demise after a 20-0 regular season. "The season's a success," said the coach. "We just lost them at the wrong time, and we paid the price. The offense was there and the defense was there (against the Eagles), but we didn't get the result."

"But we showed you our program is so good, because not too many teams down 2-1 (late in the game) can come back. A lot of teams would have given up."

SIHA hoping to spawn PSAL league

The Staten Island Ice Hockey Association Public High School Championship Tourney, a double-elimination affair involving the clubs from the public schools (Centrals, Sea Gulls, Pirates and Vikings), will begin play at the S.I. Skating Pavilion Sunday, April 12.

The purpose of the tournament, according to SI president John Deane, is to drum up interest for PSAL hockey.

"We are going to approach the PSAL, to see if it would interest them. We've had a great draw in the past, but the draw was not as good as the PSAL. In just about every borough, so if the (PSAL) would be interested, we'd be the initiators. We've talked to schools in Queens and have had contact with Chelsea Pirates in Manhattan."

Sunday's games mark the Sea Gulls' and Falcons' 4:30 p.m. and Centrals against the Pirates at 8:10. The tourney will continue on April 14, 16 and 19.

— SAM BOROWSKI and BILL SPURGE

HS TENNIS

SIA newcomers a downer for rest of SIHSTL

ADVANCE STAFF REPORT

When the 1997 Staten Island High School Tennis League season opens tomorrow, there will be good news for some, but mostly bad for the others.

Staten Island Academy coach Brian Manske is seething with the timely appearance of sophomore Mark Grae and junior Christopher Marrelego, both of whom will be making defending the league's crown a relatively simple task.

"This will be the strongest 1-2 punch the league has ever seen," predicted Manske, who has up-graded the Tigers' non-league schedule to accommodate his top players.

"You have to look at this as a learning experience," St. Peter's coach Mike Boylan said of players facing Grae and Marrelego. "You're not expected to win but use it as an opportunity to get something out of a match against a top player."

SIA's top-heavy lineup, as one might surmise, is not welcome news in other parts of the league. St. Joseph-by-the-Sea figures to be competitive and former champion Monsignor Farrell is taking rebuilding steps.

S.I. Academy

HEAD COACH: Brian Manske, 15th year.

1996 PERFORMANCE: 6-2, first place.

KEY PLAYERS: Mark Grae (so.), first singles; Chris Marrelego (Jr.), second singles; Daniel Gajdzowski, third singles; Sriram Sridhar and Gregory Karetas, first doubles; Matt Saccoccio and James Marrell, second doubles.

OUTLOOK: Manske expects nothing less than a championship repeat. The Tigers have a nice blend of youth and experience and playing non-league foes will sharpen the skills of the entire lineup.

Monsignor Farrell

HEAD COACH: Alex Rodriguez, first year.

1996 PERFORMANCE: 5-3, tied for second place.

KEY PLAYERS: James Cardello (Jr.), Alex Giverty (so.), Pat Kempl (so.), and Thomas Fella (so.)

OUTLOOK: Rodriguez came along the 11th hour to step in as Alex Montor, so it will take him some time to familiarize himself with the players. "Right now, it's a

bit difficult predicting the talent," admitted the MF coach, "but toward the middle of the season it will be clear."

St. Peter's

HEAD COACH: Mike Boylan, fifth year.

1996 PERFORMANCE: 5-3, tied for second place.

KEY PLAYERS: Ricky Ochoa (Jr.), first singles; Champ Albano (Jr.), second singles; Rolo Paimese (Jr.), third singles; John S. Dao (so.), singles; Steve Paimese (fr.), John Laura (so.), Kevin Gleason (so.), Tom Milano (so.), doubles.

OUTLOOK: "We've got some nice hitters, and they've been out practicing," Boylan said of his young, but experienced crew. "I think we're going to see some nice things."

St. Joseph-by-the-Sea

HEAD COACH: Bob Atanasi, first year.

1996 PERFORMANCE: 4-4, fourth place.

KEY PLAYERS: Kevin Schargen (Jr.), Mike Uzro (Sr.), Victor Dellacaro (Jr.), Greg Orzono (Jr.), Mike DeBenedetto (Jr.), Brian Rosa (so.), Paul Riccardi (so.).

OUTLOOK: Things couldn't be better for the rookie coach since 11 of 12 players are returning. How the Vikings blend and mesh will determine their final standing. "I feel pretty confident about our group and they're a fairly confident group," the Sea coach pointed out. "I know SIA is loaded, but we'll give it a shot."

Moore Catholic

HEAD COACH: Ted Miller, third year.

1996 PERFORMANCE: 6-2, tied for second place.

KEY PLAYERS: Eugene Gagliardi (Jr.), Michael Mendola (Jr.), Andrew Ackerman (Jr.), Lorenz Albano (Jr.), Jason Cheng (Jr.), Chris Cucarotta (so.), David D'Agnesse (Jr.), Anthony DeFrancisco (Jr.), Thomas Fella (so.), Michael Green (so.), Joseph Longobardi (Jr.), Chris Melt (so.), Ron Riccotti (Jr.), Michael Smith (so.).

OUTLOOK: There are more positives in the Mavericks program despite failing to win a match in two previous seasons. Miller tallied had good numbers for tryouts and has managed to keep those numbers. "It's tough building a program," says Miller, who has no home courts. "I know we'll have a big party when we get that first win."