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STATEN ISLAND SUNDAY ADVANCE, October 1, 1978

On the bowling beat

New alley the best thing for bowlers ... and competition

By JOE LOVERDE

Bow down your heads and give thanks, fellow bowlers, our prayers have at long last been answered.

And just at a moment too soon, at that.

The place of sparkling new real estate that has taken the place of the once-castled lot on the south side of Hyatt Blvd. between Delaware and Barton Aves. in Dongan Hills is just what we've been asking for since heaven knows when.

Indeed, it is a godsend, or at least a new present from a Staten Island bowler named Guido Passarelli.

Country Lanes, the first bowling alley to be constructed on Staten Island since

we started losing 10 of them some 15 years ago, opened for business Sept. 11. And the vast majority of the borough's bowlers are glad — make that relieved — that it has.

It is a beautiful and modern facility, equipped with 32 Brunswick Astro-Line 12 lanes complete with telescopes, and all the conveniences, such as a snack bar, a lounge, lockers, a pro shop and a parking lot capable of holding 130 cars. And just about everyone — including most of the proprietors and managers of the island's six other bowling centers — feel that Country Lanes can only help boost the interest and growth of bowling on our island.

It's the best thing that could have happened for Staten Island bowlers, Mike Lometta of Columbian Lanes said.

"The management and owners are first class and so it only follows that they'll run a first-class operation. That can only give a good image to the bowling industry."

"And I don't consider it competition," Lometta added, "because the island needed it."

From the response the new house has gotten, it's easy to see the truth in what Lometta says.

Although the opening of Country Lanes has affected several bowling establishments on the island — most notably Columbian Lanes and Knotty Pine Lanes — it hasn't done critical damage anywhere. And for the first time since Coral Lanes closed its doors some six years ago, there is an increase in the number of people going out to bowl each night on Staten Island.

Sure it's affected us," Mike LaMorte of Columbian Lanes said. "It's affected everybody because all the bowlers want to bowl in the new house. That's only natural."

But it can only help stimulate the interest in bowling because late people who were once turned away are finally getting to bowl.

"I've been there and I can say that the place is immaculate," Don Walters of Knotty Pine attested. "I wish them the best of luck."

"We lost five leagues to them, but we were able to compensate by picking up five more leagues. You might say we're a little strapped right now, but that can be overcome."

Passarelli had his establishment built about as fast as a bowling center could possibly be built, even though they missed the projected Aug. 15 opening date.

In mid-May, the lot was completely barren. But, after working seven days a week and in spite of a concrete strike, the house was able to open in time for the new season.

"We used a week later, really," Kay Christensen, the assistant manager at Country Lanes, said, "but there have been no complaints. We had a few problems, but nothing major."

"We did have one motor that burned out, but it's mostly been ball returns striking and that's because everything's new. We've had a few damaged bowling balls, but Brunswick is either replacing or repairing them for free."

According to Kay, the new house is booked up with double shifts every night. And while she's been able to book only six day leagues "It's the first year and a lot of people weren't sure we'd open", senior citizen programs and junior leagues are in the process of being organized.

About the only thing the new establishment doesn't have is a liquor license — but Kay noted that it shouldn't be long in coming.

The pro shop, which is soon to open, is owned by Johnny Petragnia. Staten Island's gift to the professional bowlers tour.

And Angelo Albanese, who was the manager of Bowling on the Green for so

many years, brings experience to the managing job at Country.

So far, Victory Lanes, Sunset Lanes, Columbian and Bowling on the Green report that they haven't been affected by Country Lanes. Victory and the Green have even picked up a few leagues, according to proprietors Mike Marotte and Bobby Coppotelli.

Only Stan Golden of Sunset, while admitting his house hasn't been affected, remains skeptical over whether Country Lanes is a good thing.

"I've always felt we didn't need another place," Golden said, "but it's here. Only time will tell one way or the other."

Still, most folks involved share the view of Coppotelli, who said: "It's nice to have good competition. It's good for everyone — especially the bowlers."

And the bowlers, after all, are the ones who count most.

You'd better believe it

Cedrick Hardman remembers what it was like to be a winner

By JAY PRICE

Cedrick Hardman has been in San Francisco a long time. Longer than any other player on the roster of the San Francisco 49ers. Long enough to remember when the franchise was a winner, and the truth line was perhaps the most feared in football.

Hardman was an All Pro in 1977, he played in three pro bowls, and in the playoffs.

Now he plays for a loser.

The 49ers, who as a group would look more at home in the NFL house in Tuscaloosa than in a professional locker room, play the Cincinnati Bengals later this afternoon. It is their fifth game of the young season, and it is not inconvertible that, by day's end, they will be the only team in the league to have lost all.

Hardman's worst crime this season is guilt by association but, by the criteria most often applied to team sports, he, too, is a loser.

He is too big a man to fit the word.

"It's a lousy feeling," he said last Sunday, after the 49ers had been humiliated by the Giants. "No, worse than

lousy. It's degrading."

The worst part of it is the scene in the locker room, like this, he said, "I'm faced with a lot of the best of the rest of the room where his teammates dressed, quickly and in silence, as if eager to get out in the fresh air before someone robbed off on them."

I remember what it was like to be a winner. You don't forget that, ever. It's like love, everybody wants to be with each other, to be close to each other.

"When you're losing, it's hard. It's tedious. It's hard to come eye-to-eye with people. Just thinking about it seemed to make Hardman self-conscious, and he stared at the floor, rubbing one side of his face with a huge hand.

It can be the ruin of a man," he said.

Hardman is the sort of paradox not uncommon in NFL locker rooms. A man whose teammates are violent on the field, and off it is thoughtful, almost gentle. He gives the impression these days of a man who has thought long and hard on his predicament, in an attempt to persuade himself not to take it personally.

"I was lucky to have played on those good teams," he said, "because they showed me the ingredients it takes to have a winner. At least now I can under-

stand why we lose."

"You can't make apple pie without no apples."

Faced with winning an aging team slip down the wrong side of the mountain, new general manager Joe Thomas decided during the off season not to wait for attrition to change the personnel; he decimated the team. Jim Frickert is now in Oakland. Tommy Hart, Hardman's opposite number on the defensive line, is now the pass rush in Chicago. The others are scattered around the league. "I must be doing something right," Hardman said. "I'm the only one they kept."

That much, at least, as an Hardman would want. He is deeply involved in the city and its people. "I told Tommy Hart on the phone the other day, 'I'd rather be in San Francisco than first in Chicago.'"

And he derives his satisfaction, such as it is, in the skill with which he pursues his own craft, which is the pursuit and destruction of quarterbacks. There are few who do it better. "The game has

been broken down and analyzed so, to the point where it's an individual thing," he said.

You see a game as a whole, but I see it strictly as a one-sided thing."

He is resigned to the reality that, so long as the 49ers are at the bottom of the heap, his own play will go largely unnoticed. All Pros and Pro Bowlers come from winning teams, unless they handle the football. Hardman has been on both sides of the yard.

"I get recognition for what I do, that's fine," he said. "But if not, I still know I'm doing my job. When the people I work for don't think so, then I'll worry. There are a lot of good defensive players in the league. I really come down to how valuable you are to your team."

Hardman's value to the tradition 49ers is inestimable. Without him, they might slip right off the standings at the bottom of the league. The rule line, still getting to know one another, just learning to work as a unit, has gotten to the quarterback just six times all season, three

of those by Hardman, despite the fact he is double-teamed almost every play.

One big play of the sort only Hardman is capable of — coming from a wide set at an impossible angle, beating his man and, with that incredible speed for so big a man, getting to the quarterback for the big hit before he can release the ball — is sometimes enough to lift a team for a series, for a whole period. But Hardman doesn't want to be consciously trapped into carrying that kind of burden.

"I want to do my job first," he said. "And then pick the rest of the guys up if I can. But doing my individual job comes first." When the defense comes off, the offense and offense goes on, Hardman doesn't even watch. He sits down, as much to get away as to rest. You're better off not getting too involved," he said. "It just eats you up when things go bad. You have to keep things in perspective."

But if it comes Joe Thomas will get us a winner. He is quiet for a moment. "If he stays on the job long enough,

Thomas will get us a winner."

It is that hope, which he doesn't allow himself to dwell on at length, that helps keep Hardman going. That, and the memories of the way they were, back in '75 when the 49ers from four were burying everything in sight; the year they put four quarterbacks away.

"The defensive backs on that team, let me tell you, they were leaping out. Cedrick Hardman said, and he was leaping out loud."

It was the only sound in the room.

Vilas gains final in French tennis

AIX EN PROVENCE, France (AP) — Argentina's Guillermo Vilas beat New Zealand's Chris Lewis 6-4, 6-3 Saturday to gain the final of the Raquette d'Or tennis tournament against countryman Jose Luis Clerc.

Earlier in the day, Clerc won his semifinal against Czechoslovakia's Ivan Lendl 6-3, 6-1.

Sport-scene

Dan Ballard fighting battle of the bulge

By JACK MINOGUE

In all his years of pitching, the tough season for Dan Ballard never has been from April to September. Not when he pitched for New York, St. Louis, or with DePompo's in the Tidewater-Metropolitan Major League.

And not now when he's in the Atlanta Braves' farm system.

Dan Ballard's toughest campaign always has been the winter, the period from October to March when inactivity and mom's home-cooked added inches to his waist line.

"Boy, do I have a tendency to put on weight," Dan said. "I'm only home about five weeks and I've put on six pounds. When I was away, there were no home-cooked meals and I'm not exactly a gourmet cook, you know."

It's tough resisting food here because everyone in my family is a big eater," he continued.

Last year, before spring training, I had to get down from 210 to 195. I hit 195, but I had to beat my time doing it. I ate broccoli for a month."

The kind of season the big right-hander had and the very good prospect of moving up a notch to Double-A ball should help him power this winter.

Ballard has strictly a short-relief man for the Greenwood (S.C.) Braves. He had a hand in 21 of his team's victories, an accomplishment that earned him selection to the West Carolina League's all-star team.

Dan posted a 13-4 record and saved eight more victories, while recording a 3.13 earned run average.

In 30 games, he pitched 37 innings while striking out 39. The latter may seem somewhat low to those familiar with his pitching style in Staten Island.

But he bears little resemblance now to the Ballard who alternated between overhand and sidearm as he blew the

ball past hitters.

"No football is now a stinker," Dan explained. "I just turn it over. But it's not my main pitch."

"I use the sinker to set up my slider. That's my No. 1 pitch. I go with it about 70 per cent of the time."

Ballard no longer comes over the top by way of the third-base dugout, either. "I'm strictly three-quarters now," he explained.

With the transformation on the mound has come extra determination to do better in his toughest season.

"I intend to do three things this winter — work, get married to Carol Leila of Forts, N.J., and get in better shape for spring training," Dan promised.

Last year, I wasn't prepared when I went down. With all the snow we had, I couldn't get that much running in and when I did, it was indoors.

In spring training, I was behind everybody and it may be what kept me off the Double-A team last season."

Ballard then took out the winter training program the Braves gave him. It called for some work with weights and for running at least twice a week whether it be in sneakers or snowshoes.

If Dan can have a good year in this his toughest season, the one that starts in late winter should be a piece of cake.

The city's public high school coaches are taking a beating this year. It seems, everyone in the system getting a pay raise while the coaches continue to work with a 25 percent pay cut that was imposed three years ago.

The PSAL office imposed the cut three years ago as an alternative to eliminating some sports.

However, when the Board of Education boosted teachers' salaries, it ignored the PSAL, giving that office no extra funds.

It is a hardly equitable treatment and one that can only discourage those who remained on the job throughout the crisis.

O'Brien ruling puts hole in Knicks

Associated Press

Larry O'Brien knew he could not make the Seattle SuperSonics "white" following their loss of Marvin Webster, but the National Basketball Association commissioner's bold ruling in prior compensation cases.

That includes Houston's signing of perennial all-star Rick Barry this summer, and New Orleans' 1977 acquisition of Knickerbocker Mike Burke. Based on the standards set by the commissioner's ruling in prior cases, based on the record in this controversy, including Kansas City General Manager Joe Aleson's impartial evaluation and based on our own careful assessment of the equities,

round draft choice in 1979 in such cases is to try and make the team that lost the player whole, called Seattle's Webster. "I don't think I exceed any that I have been called upon to consider in prior compensation cases."

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An Invitation to All Friends of Dr. Bill Willets

On Sunday, October 8, 1978, at 12:30 P.M., Wagner College will dedicate its baseball field to the memory of Dr. Wilfred S. C. Willets.

All of his friends will find a welcome at the ceremony. The field is off Campus Road, with gates at the Science Building and on the north side. Parking spaces are beside the Science Building and on the field's north side after entrance to the campus through Campus Road security station.

Following the ceremony, the Wagner College baseball team will play West Point's at 1:00 P.M.

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