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Getting on a roll

Coach brings bowling program to 9 county schools

BY ALYSSA CUTTER
Staff Writer

High school students in Coconut Creek may soon have the opportunity to compete in a high school varsity sport, even if they aren't athletically inclined.

Since 2010, United States Bowling Congress Gold Certified



Michael Nyitray

Coach Michael Nyitray has been working to bring high school bowling to Broward County, where it's only had limited participation until now.

Nyitray created a program approved by the Florida High School Athletic Association, and nine high schools in the county are already registered.

"Right now, there isn't a whole lot of money for sports in the schools," Nyitray said. "The program I created doesn't need any money. That's the part that's unusual. I'm not looking for the county to fund a six-figure program. That's not the way it's designed."

Nyitray wants to educate school principals and parents about the program. Phil Randazzo, Coconut Creek's district supervisor of parks and recreation, is in favor of city schools jumping on the bowling bandwagon.

"[Nyitray] trying to get bowling into high schools is terrific," Randazzo said. "We want kids active, so anything involving [physical ac-

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tivity] we support... It's also a social sport, so students would get to meet people. I definitely think this is a great idea."

Nyitray said the bowling program has three aspects that make it different from traditional high school sports programs.

First, it has a dual citizenship, meaning the program will be considered both a club team, like many intramural sports, and be classified as a varsity sport, so students can compete in FHSAA district and state tournaments.

Second, bowling has traditionally been a team sport; schools with fewer than five students interested in bowling couldn't participate. Now students can compete in singles matches.

Third, coaches do not have to be school specific; they can coach students from different schools.

"The beauty of bowling is that you don't have to be a big athlete," Nyitray said. "Bowling can be played by anybody."

FHSAA Sport Administrator for Bowling Harvard Jones is happy that the game is spreading around Broward County and hopes it continues.

"I think that as more people become aware of bowling as a varsity high school sport, more schools will have athletes that want to participate," Jones said.

For more information, visit Worldmike.com.

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