

Broward bowlers finally find a home

By Gary Curreri
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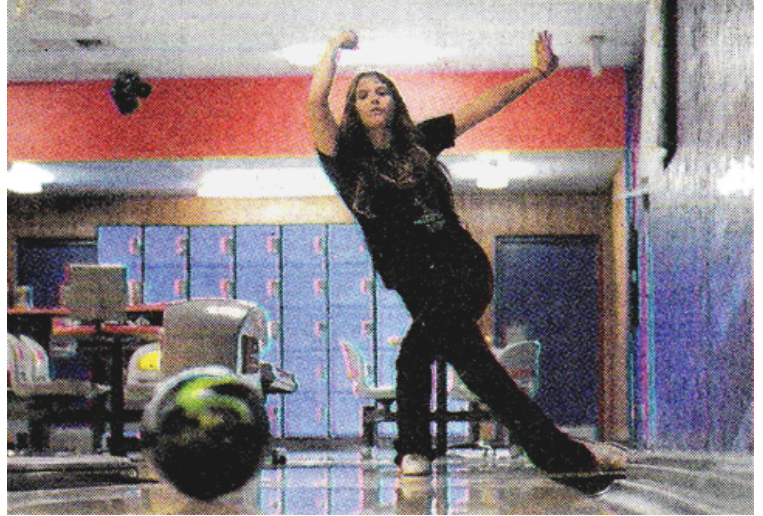
When it comes to high school bowling in Broward County, Mike Nyitray is living by the adage, “if you build it, they will come.”

Nyitray, who owns the pro shop at Brunswick Margate lanes, started a Broward County High School three years ago and currently has 32 bowler bowlers from seven different high schools. Archbishop McCarthy has a full boys and girls teams, and Highland Christian has a boys team. The other don't have enough bowlers to compete as teams, so they play as individuals against each other.

But for postseason play, Nyitray's group will compete in the same state-qualifying District 14 competition as their Palm Beach counterparts at Strikes @ Boca on Oct. 29.

“The main difference is that we have teams with one, or two or three bowlers on them, which would mean they are singles bowlers,” Nyitray said. “If a team has less than five bowlers on it, that team would be classified as singles athletes. The Palm [Beach] league is a more traditional league where you have teams consisting of five bowlers and they play school and schools.”

Two schools from Broward County – Coral Springs Charter and St. Thomas Aquinas – field full teams and compete in the



Gary Curreri/Staff Photographer

Coral Glades junior Krystina Nealon is averaging 216.8 during this high school bowling season.

Southern Division of Palm Beach County High School bowling league.

Bowling is similar to lacrosse, which started out as a club sport and grew in popularity so it was offered at the county level for the first time last year. That's Nyitray's goal, who formed the Broward group three years ago. He coaches the Coral Glades bowlers.

Coral Glades sophomore Krystina Nealon, 15, who missed qualifying for state at the District 14 competition by 10 pins last year is carrying a 216.8 average this year after averaging 195 last year.

“It is nice not having to go to Palm Beach to bowl,” Nealon said. “I wouldn't mind doing it every once in a while, but it would be hard doing it every week. This is like 20 minutes from my house, so it isn't that bad.”

Bowling has been a state-sanctioned sport since 2003. Broward County Athletic Director Rocky Gillis said schools can choose to bowl if they want to.

“We really haven't been adding any sports,” Gillis said. “The state has bowling and the schools have the option of having a bowling team if they want. It is their choice. From the school's standpoint, there have been cutbacks on supplements for coaches and it is the school's choice if they to field a bowling team.”

Schools represented in the Broward group are: Highland Christian, Archbishop McCarthy, Northeast, Taravella, Coral Glades, Zion Lutheran and Pompano Beach.