

It was a year ago this week that the bowling community lost one of its most beloved members, Eddie Coy. Tragic accidents like Eddie's are just that—tragic. We can't see it with our eyes or understand it with our minds. But we can know in our hearts that the coin we call tragedy has a flip side God calls good. One of the greatest healing medications has nothing to do with a prescription or a pill, but a promise. The promise is that He will cause all things to *work* for good. Not some or several, but *all* things, and we can either count on everything He says or none of it.

Our job is the same today as it was a year ago, to look for the good promised from the bad. It may not come *when* we think or *how* we think, but its coming is certain. Over the decades of serving his fellow bowlers, those who would call Eddie their friend number into the thousands. To the family, we hope any sorrow divided that many ways will be one that will begin to fade over time.

Speaking of saying good bye, several bowlers have had to move because of Chrysler relocations and all will be missed, but one whose name nearly dominated women's high scores of late is Cathy Hildebrandt. If you notice her name dropping from the high scores listing it's because Cathy, Chuck and son James will be pulling out of town as this paper is hitting the press. Hildebrandt's 194 average is currently at the top at this season's mid-point. The only question is who will replace her? Is it finally time for Sue Elkins to lead the pack from the left side? What about Cindy Chesher, whose name has probably appeared more than any other woman in town over the years? Can she come back from a below average start in just half a season? Let's not rule out Veronica Blalock, who's averaging 10 pins over last year and 20 pins over the year before that. Other top ten contenders include Sue Keisling, Karen Castle, Martha Biehl, Myra Burk, Brittney Chesher, and Jane Shafer. Will it be a "dark horse"? Stay tuned.

The top women's series half way into the season shows no 700's yet, but Hildebrandt's 677 is high, followed by Sue Elkins 670, Veronica Blalock 646, Cindy Chesher 645 and Karen Castle 642. High game honors go to Blalock with 280, Castle 267, Elkins 258, Hildebrandt 256 and Sue Keisling 245.

Years ago, a 200 average would be headline news. Today, even in an overall down year, more than a dozen men are shooting "deuce," with *many* more capable. Top average for the men—and among the top every year—is Scott Shafer with 215. Others include Jeff Clark 209, Bill Kendall 208, Rick Taylor 207, and Mark Holzinger 206.

Sixteen different men have recorded 700's led by Charlie Luellen's 765, John Murphy 744, Aaron Brown 743, Scott Shafer 742, and Mark Holzinger 738. High games: Shane McCorkle 290, Bill Kendall 280, Shafer, Paul Helderbrand and Stan Beard all with 279.

With a very successful Star Wars league concluded, high series honors for the boys in the Junior-Senior division went to Kyle Becker with 663 and John Hicks with a *five award-winning game* of 279. Becker also led the league with a nice 194 average. (His dad does own the place, doesn't he?) For the girls, Destiny Werner had the high series with 565 and Amber Neal had high game with 241. Werner and Neal recorded the high averages with 152 and 151 respectively.

In the 9-11 year old Prep boys division, Seth Stonerock and Ryan Jones led with averages of 121. James Hildebrandt had the high series with 465 and Tyler Sidwell had the high game with 186. For the girls, Kati Jackson led all three categories with her 114 average, 436 series and 163 game.

In the 6-8 Bantam bowlers, Kole Schofield and Samuel Hua tied for high average for the boys with 86, while Wesley Haltom had the high game and series with 145 and 252. Mara Biehl led the girls in average with 89 and both game and series with 153 and 247.

How low can you go? The 3-5 year old Bumper league is to bowling what T-Ball is to baseball. How much more fun does it get? For the boys, Travis Reeves finished with a great 98 average and Jaron Landreth had the high game with 123. Madison Abrams' 85 average and 114 game was tops for the girls.

Before the youth league started in the fall, we practically begged Strike Ten Promotions to extend the Star Wars merchandise availability into our winter leagues. After all, the Rose Bowl has been the number one center in the country three times more than anyone else, but they politely refused. Now they've changed their mind and have allowed us to offer Star Wars again to those who join our winter league. So, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, the seven different Star Wars balls or movie poster packages are again an option, along with three new favorites from Cartoon Network. Sign-up day is this Saturday, January 7 between 9 am and noon. Except for the Bumpers, the leagues start January 14, and registration will continue throughout next week for those who can't be here on Saturday. As always, pre-bowling is a popular option when other activities conflict with league time.

Our 40th Annual Strike or Nine Doubles tournament is set to kick off this Saturday. The handicap tournament is open to both men and women, and you may compete anytime lanes are available. First place pays \$400.00 (based on 200 entries) and both weekly highs and 300 games get your money back.

And finally, after a long hiatus, our ever-popular Russian Roulette is coming back, and it really is *by popular demand*. As before, the new Russian Roulette returns on Sunday, January 15, but at an earlier 7 pm starting time. Stop by for a flier or call to sign up in advance. Colored pin shots, Pick Four, \$25 and \$50 shots and more await!