

# Sports

## This guy may be a Hall of Famer

By CHARLOT M. DENMON  
Staff Writer

A potential candidate for the Wyoming Valley Men's Association "Hall of Fame" is Charlie Kazokas, who bowls at Back Mountain Bowl, Dallas. Kazokas is proof that one is never too old to bowl. At the age of 73, he rolled a 279 (642) two weeks ago and this season is carrying a 186 average.

Kazokas, who has been bowling for more than 50 years, said he used to carry a higher average but has not been doing so well during the past two years. He regrets that, try as he might, he has not been successful in rolling a perfect game of 300 although he has come close, hitting 290 and a 708 series.

In the more than half century he has bowled, Kazokas has competed in houses throughout the Wyoming Valley and in Dupont. Although he lives in Luzerne, Kazokas has been bowling in Dallas for the past 15 years.

When Kazokas first started bowling, the cost was only 15 cents and bowling balls had only two holes, one for the thumb and one for the forefinger. There were no automatic pin setters or no ball returns but rather pin boys were used to set up the pins and return the bowling balls.

Kazokas started bowling in St. John's in Luzerne, but also bowled in Plains with Pete Koslosky, who at one time bowled the most 300's in pro bowling and also with pro bowler George Billig, whom Kazokas said was one of the smoothest bowlers he ever knew.

The first time he entered a tournament Kazokas came in second, three pins out of first place. Kazokas bowled five nights each week until about two years ago when he cut back to three nights. He's still sharp, though, because not too long ago he rolled nine consecutive strikes in one game at Back Mountain Bowl.

When Kazokas first started



Dallas Post/Charlot M. Denmon

### Checkin' the board

Charlie Kazokas, bowler at Back Mountain Bowl, checks the standings of his team in the Friday Night Major League.

to bowl, different people told him he'd never be a bowler. He proved them wrong, however, has outlasted all of them. In 1986, he was named "Man of the Year" by the local association. Since he has bowled in the Friday night major league, the team he is on has finished first or second every year.

Kazokas used to bowl at O'Brien's in Dupont and well remembers one night having eight strikes in a row. In the ninth frame, he swept all of the pins off the lane but one pin tipped and stayed up, breaking his string. A consistently high bowler, he is not a "blood" bowler — he likes to win but not at the expense of hurting others.

A true sportsman, Kazokas used to play hard ball and, after playing amateur ball throughout the area for years, was called up to spring training with the Wilkes-Barre Barons. He

played with such men as Hubie Fitzgerald and Bob Lemon. He was asked to go to West Virginia to play, but refused. Kazokas also played softball but it was in a fast pitch softball league years ago when they didn't wear a glove on the field.

Now retired, Kazokas enjoys fishing and hunting and recently returned from Canada where he went fishing with friends. He usually fishes alone and goes small game hunting with his dog, but when he goes deer hunting, Kazokas goes with a group of friends.

His favorite sport, however, is bowling and he plans to continue that just as long as possible. The years he has spent in the sport and the number of young persons he has helped become better bowlers certainly makes him a potential candidate for the Wyoming Valley Men's Association "Hall of Fame."

## Bowling news

Shaver's Five shut out Wilson's Menaces in the Sunday Nite Couple League led by Anne's 176 and Hall's 521 series. Marcia Matthews rolled 170 but it was wated as her Superstrickers dropped all to Booth's Highballers. Piccillo took three from V. Matthews.

In the Native Textiles League Pin Pluckers shut out the Ringers while the Alley Cats picked up four points on a forfeit by the Ballbusters. S. Teetsel hit 178 for the winning five. G. Bobb's 533 paced Lew's Cals to three points from the Sandbaggers and the Road Runners copped three from the Nitwits sparked by J. Barcheski's 206. The Beats took three from Bad News Bowlers despite K. Hoover rolling 503.

In two weeks of bowling in the Community Service League, Picketts Charge posted a 5-3 record, Smith's Country Store 6-2, Bayo's Ice 5-3, G.H. Harris 6-2, Herb's Pro Shop 3-5, Roth Novelty 2-6, Besecker's Realty 3-5, and Fino's Pharmacy 4-4. Hitting high scorers were C. Kazokas 279 (642), (539); D. Purvin 213 (566), (523); F. Cornell 234 (621), (531); D. Wickard 551, 247 (541); D. Eddy, Jr. 574, C. Cytte 544, 520; R. Witkowski 527; D. Eddy, Sr. 522, 220 (576); J. Baur 523; C. Sorber 549; J. Halowich 526; J. Brady 557; L. Wolfe 235 (590); Glen Mazer 236

(568); B. Hammer 213 (547); E. Phillips 525; L. Hoover 522; E. Harris 545, 524.

Back Mountain Bowl took three from Fashion Vending team in Ladies Country League while Grotto Pizza was splitting 2-2 with G.H. Harris. The Bowl five continues in first, the pizza team in second. Castlettes picked up three from Gordon Insurance. E. Roberts rolled 203-193 (550) for the Harris girls, M. Harris hit 185 (474) for Gordon's, D. Zurinski posted 181 and L. Cyphers hit 172. B. Strazdus knocked down pins for 178, A. Tregan tumbled them for 174, D. Balliet walloped the wood for 224 (494) and E. Shuleski rolled 180. A. Brown gave Back Mt. Bowl 194.

In the Idetown Compact League D. Moore knocked down pins for 210 (557) leading LaBarons to blanking Aries, whose high man was J. Berti with 526. Camaros shut out the Corvettes paced by P. Nice's 535. Capris picked up three from the Firebirds aided by B. Ishley's 179 and B. Davis' 184 (484) showed the way for Citations three points from the Lancers whose B. May hit 171. No one was able to hit high scores in the meet between the Mazdas and Pintos taken 3-1 by the Pintos.

J. Haines' 535 led Carverton A to three points from Carverton

B in the Back Mt. Church League and East Dallas picked up three from the Orange men with no one breaking a 500. Glen Mazer's 215 aided Shavertown A in splitting 2-2 with Dallas A and C. Kazokas' 562 led Shavertown B to an even split with Trucksville C.

In the Back Mt. Farmers League M. Delaney pounded the pins for 210-213 (615) to lead the Black Sheep in taking all from the Turkeys, whose A. Hospodar rolled 218 (532) and D. Doty 501. Mules blanked the Ugly Ducklings whose T. Ruger hit pins for 225 (537) and the Thoroughbreds shut out Barn Cats. The Chickies took three from the Moo Moos without any hing singles or series on either teams.

B. Searfoss rolled 514 to pace Porky's in taking four from Stymie's five in Our Gang League. Spanky's made it three over Butch's team and Alfalfa's gang dropped three to the Buckwheats despite E. Dingle's 529. Wheelers copped three from Chubby's team.

In the Lakers League Pish Construction took three from Wesley's Boys despite Tom rolling 519 for Wesley. Jean's 177 and Barb's 182 aided Wesley's Girls in taking three from Academy men whose Jim, Jr. posted 531. Waterfront girls copped three from S.V.C. TV.

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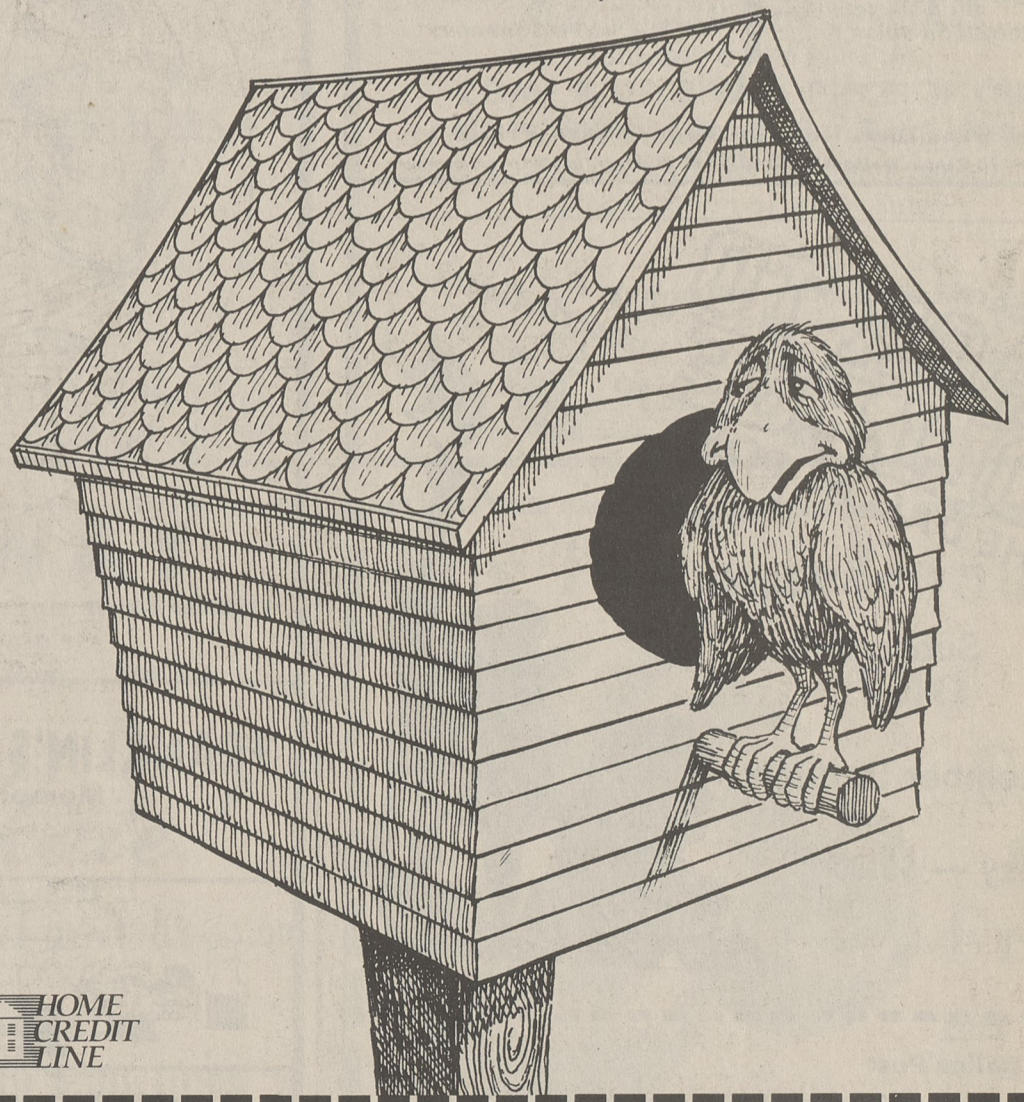
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