

2014 MHSIBCA Hall of Fame

George Pohly, Macomb Daily, Sports Writer

George Pohly joined the sports staff at The Macomb Daily in 1984. He was named sports editor in 1988. Pohly reports on all high school sports, including bowling. A New Baltimore resident, Pohly also writes a local bowling column, reports frequently on motor sports and writes a blog, Game On, for MacombDaily.com. The Olivet College graduate has been honored for his writing by the Greater Detroit Bowling Association, the Michigan Auto Racing Fan Club and the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan.

Bob Hutchings, Proprietor

Bob Hutchings, along with his wife Sue, owns Marshall Lanes in Marshall, Michigan. He has been involved in the bowling business since the age of 12 when he started helping out at Marshall Lanes. Over the course of 47 years, he has learned the business from the ground up. Bob is also a well-respected Pro Shop Operator and has customers from all over the state of Michigan.

When Ron Tomassoni and the Bowling Centers Association of Michigan came to the Southwest area of the state with a plan to get high school bowling started, Bob was the first area proprietor to jump on board.

As a competitive bowler in his own right, Bob was excited about what high school bowling could mean to the youth of the area. He has donated thousands of hours of practice time, discounted his pro shop services and put in hundreds of hours of drill press time to ensure that the Marshall High School bowlers were well outfitted.

High School Bowling in Marshall is a family project with Sue, who was inducted in the Hall of Fame in 2011, as a head coach and son Joe as an assistant coach.

Randy Allen, MHSAA, Director of Bowling

Randy Allen grew up on a family farm in rural North Dakota where he attended school, and is a 1969 graduate of Brown Institute of Broadcasting in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He spent 25 years in broadcast communications as a sportscaster, news director, operations manager and producer of sports television for a network of six TV stations in Wisconsin. From 1973-1982 he was the play by play voice of the Wisconsin State boys & girls basketball, hockey and football telecasts. In 1991 Allen accepted a position as Communications Director for the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, responsible for all media coordination, marketing and print publications.

In June of 2001, Allen joined the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) as Assistant Director in charge of hockey, softball, golf and hockey, student eligibility and chaired the MHSAA Junior High/Middle School Committee. Allen has served on the National Federation softball and hockey rules committees and was a 35 year registered official in baseball and softball during his days in Wisconsin, having officiated 8 state Finals.

Randy worked with proprietors, coaches and schools through the MHSAA bowling task force that led to bowling becoming an interscholastic sport in Michigan in 2004. The program began with 160 schools and has grown to over 335 boys and girls teams with State Finals in four divisions, the largest combined school based bowling program in the nation.

A life-long bowler, Randy has been married for 39 years to his wife Mary. His son Dean is currently serving as assistant athletic director at Pontiac Notre Dame

Prep HS in Pontiac.

Rusty Thomas, Pinconning, Coach

Rusty Thomas was first introduced to coaching bowling when his oldest son talked him into volunteering. Working with Beth Skinner, he set out to put the Pinconning High School Bowling program on the map. With encouragement and motivation from coaches like Dave Kowalski, and Rick Dodick the Spartans were rolling.

Over 10 years later and Pinconning Bowling Teams have made their mark with 6 Conference Crowns, 7 Regional Titles, a State Team Finalist, and a State Team Championship. Rusty has coached 8 individual state qualifiers, two regional singles champions and had a Senior selected for the Detroit Dream Team Chad Skinner, who was Mr. Bowling in Michigan in 2008.

Bowler CJ Kerr won a Boys Regional Singles Championship, and Sam Richter won a Girls Regional Singles Championship during Thomas's time as coach.

In each of the last 10 years he has taken a team to the State Finals.

An unforgettable moment for Rusty was the final frame of their State Championship season when his son struck out in the tenth frame, prior to the anchor marking to secure the Championship.

In addition to coaching each year for the past 8 years Thomas has ran the Pinconning Team Invitational Tournament, giving teams from around the state an opportunity to compete and have fun. He has a motto that he repeats always and often, "It's all about the kids". This belief has served Randy well over the years, keeping the focus on the student athletes.

Thomas believes that when a bowler joins the Pinconning program then for that season, for their high school career, and beyond that they are part of his family.

Based on the success the Spartans have had over the last 10 years this family has made Rusty Thomas very proud. Congratulations Coach.

Chris Buryta, U of D Jesuit, Coach

Coach Chris Buryta began his journey with bowling by organizing intramural bowling at Wyoming – 7 Lanes when he joined the University of Detroit Jesuit High School as a mathematics teacher in 1974. He then soon after became the coach of the U of D team that joined the new Detroit area Catholic Bowling League at Ramona Lanes. For the past 40 years he organized and coached intramural and varsity bowling with successes in the inaugural state varsity program in the 90's with first year as runner-up team, then second and third places following. As varsity coach in the Catholic League his teams were League Champions in 2005 and 2006. Coach Buryta is extremely proud that the U of D Jesuit varsity team is State Champs in Division 1 this year.

Robert Dean Tubbs, Davison, Coach

Coach Robert Tubbs has been selected for induction to the Michigan High School Interscholastic Bowling Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Tubbs helped build one of the strongest programs in the state and has won 90 of 110 matches in his 10 years at Davison. His teams have captured six conference titles, four district crowns, four regional championships, and have finished among the top ten in the state five times. He has coached 13 individual state qualifiers, three regional singles champions and a two-time state singles champion in Tylor Greene, who was Mr. Bowling in Michigan in 2012. Tubbs also was named Big Nine Conference Coach of the year, Saginaw Valley Conference Coach of the Year, Flint Journal Area

Coach of the Year, and MHSIBCA Division One Coach of the Year. In addition he served 20-years as a board member of the Greater Flint American Bowling Congress (currently known as Greater Flint USBC). Tubbs was an original member of the MJMA, was a National Youth Team Invitational Champion, and the first Flint youth to bowl a perfect game. – D.N. Davison Index

Penny Stillwagon, Owosso, Coach

It all started at Capitol Bowl in Owosso when I was ask to take over the Youth Program and the Owosso High School Club Program which I have been coaching for 17 yrs. My own kids started at the age of 5 in the Bumper Program. I have enjoyed watching my own children and the other youth bowlers over the years. I have so much fun and learned a lot from these kids. Since my children have graduated and move on I have continue coaching. I consider these kids as part of my family. I always look forward to every season because it brings new future bowlers to the Youth Program and the High School Sport. I have been so blessed over the years with these kids and the program. We as the Varsity Team have done so well and have proved ourselves over the years with 3 undefeated seasons and have 12 conference titles and been to states 14 times. I want to give special thanks to the wonderful AD's and to Jason Campbell and Dan Matthies. I feel so honored for being nominated. Thank you very much.

Mike Roach, Battle Creek Pennfield, Coach

Mike was the driving force behind Pennfield establishing bowling as a Varsity sport in 2003-2004. With that push came the coaching position as well. He has been the Southwest 8 Conference Coordinator for the past 10 years and now will continue doing those duties for the new Interstate 8 Conference. Mike has been a member of the coaches association since he stared coaching and holds various positions including the Ranking Committee, All State Selection Board and is currently the 1st Vice President. He has also been involved in several MHSAA Rules Committees.

Pennfield has established itself as an outstanding program with 14 City titles between the boys and girls teams, a conference title, 3 Regional Titles, A State Runner-up and A State Title. The program has also had 2 Dream Team Members and several All State Selections.

Of course none of this would be possible without the support of his wife Janit who not only listens when he needs to vent but helps with the Conference Tournament but also the Regional Tournament that Pennfield host every year.

Bob Ariss, Owosso, Coach

I was introduced to the sport of bowling in the mid 70's by my uncle Bob and Larry, in 1979 I bowled in my first league with my Aunt Linda and Uncle Bob that is when I really got the bug to bowl. I truly wish that they would of had High School bowling when I was in school what a opportunity that would of been. In the late 80's I was approached to start coaching the younger kids on the weekdays at Capitol bowl in Owosso By my long time coach Lila Furnish (she will always be my coach ask anybody my age in Owosso who bowled they know her trust me). When I started coaching the Owosso bowling team we had only won a handful of times till our move to another conference since then we have compiled 4 league titles and a Regional title, we have been to states twice and have had a few guys qualify for the singles portion of the state finals. There are several people that I have to thank for giving me the opportunity to give back what I was given the first being my parents there the ones that footed the bill for me to bowl, my Grandmother Jameson that was always there to be my doubles partner. I also

need to thank my coaches Lila Furnish ,Joe Bowles, Larry Jameson and Tom Trecha, Joe and Lila are the ones that truly encouraged me to coach. Lila and Joe always told me "give back what you are given in the sport". There are three other people that I need to thank and they are my daughters if you ask my oldest she will tell you what she thinks about the game cause they never see dad on the weekends during High School bowling but they know how much it means to me to coach so thank you to all that got me started and to the ones that keep me going. There is one more person that I have to thank and that is Penny Stillwagon she is the one that got me into coaching High School bowling.