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Bowler Ahearn 'due for a good game,' rolls 401

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

Adam Ahearn wishes he had the second frame back from his second game during Youth Bowling Council (YBC) Senior Division league play 10 days ago.

After striking in the first frame, the Grade 9 Acton High School student left the two-pin on the left side standing.

"After the fourth frame, he came over to me and said 'I wish I had

that second frame back,' "remembers Adam's father, John, who on Nov. 21, 1993 rolled a perfect 450 game at the same Acton Lanes, but hasn't come close to duplicating it. "I told him not to say that unless he struck out, and he did."

Adam's non-mark in the memorable second frame—a spare would have given him a 420—was his only flaw in rolling a 401, thought to be the highest game ever bowled by a YBC member in Acton.

"The ball just hit the left side of the headpin," is how Adam describes the near-perfect shot. "I keep trying to think what I did in that game. The ball just broke the way I wanted it to.

"I just tried to throw the ball and not look at my potential score. In the seventh frame I thought something might happen... I might have been just due for a good game."

The seven-year bowler thought that was the case just three weeks before this latest feat when he turned in a 344 in YBC play.

"I thought that would be my high game for the year," smiles Adam, 14, a 204 average bowler who sandwiched his personal-high game between scores of 267 and 173 on lanes 5 and 6. "I usually just shoot for 300 because that's a good game for me. I just concentrated on each frame and didn't look too far ahead. I was thinking more about beating my opponent."

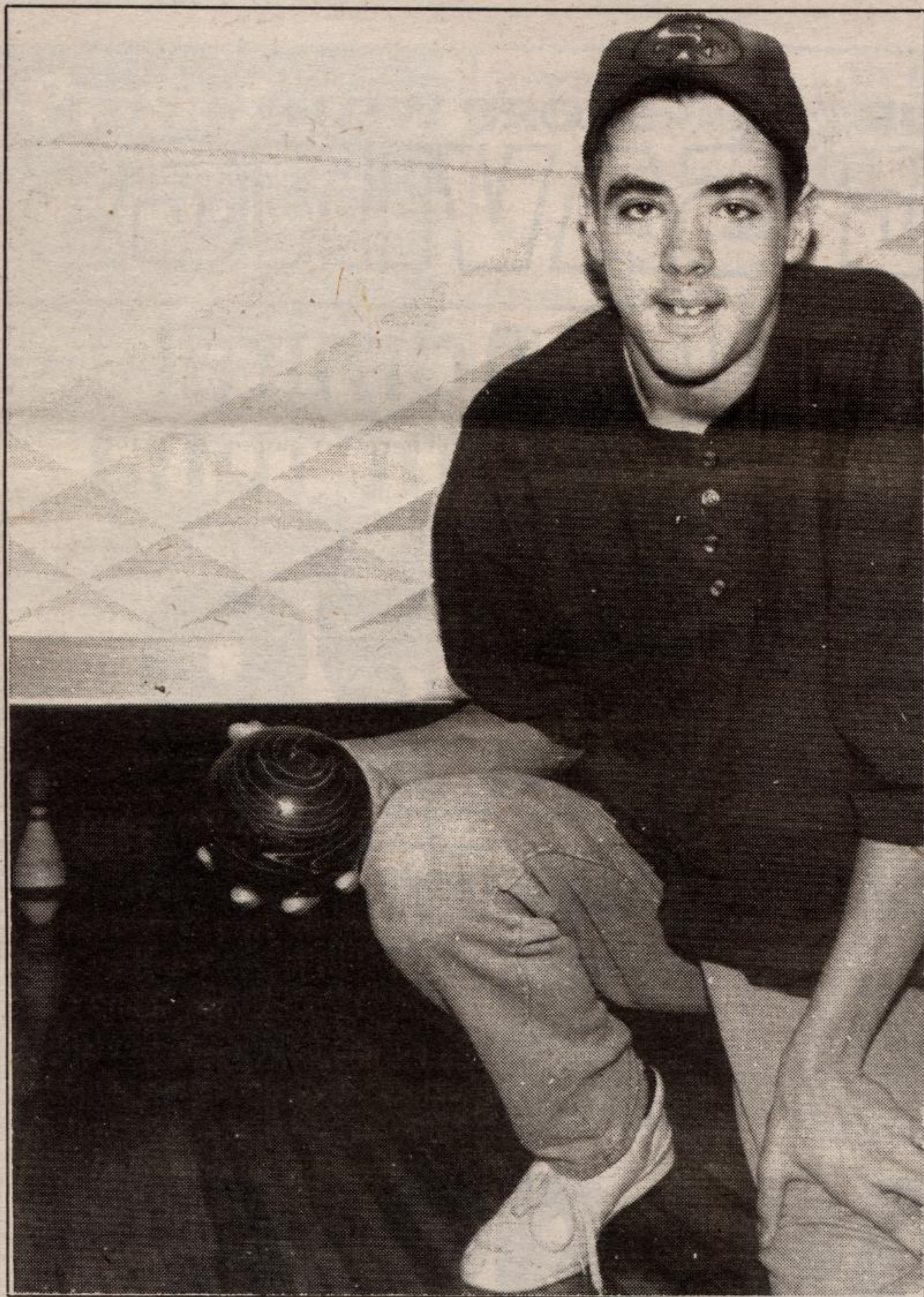
Adam, a member of his school's Midget Boys' basketball team, admits to being quite relaxed after his first five frames. He says even that last ball in the tenth and final frame "went like the other balls." But that was after he stopped his hand from shaking before he settled in to release the ball.

Adam says it feels good to have achieved such a high score, saying it shows people he can bowl.

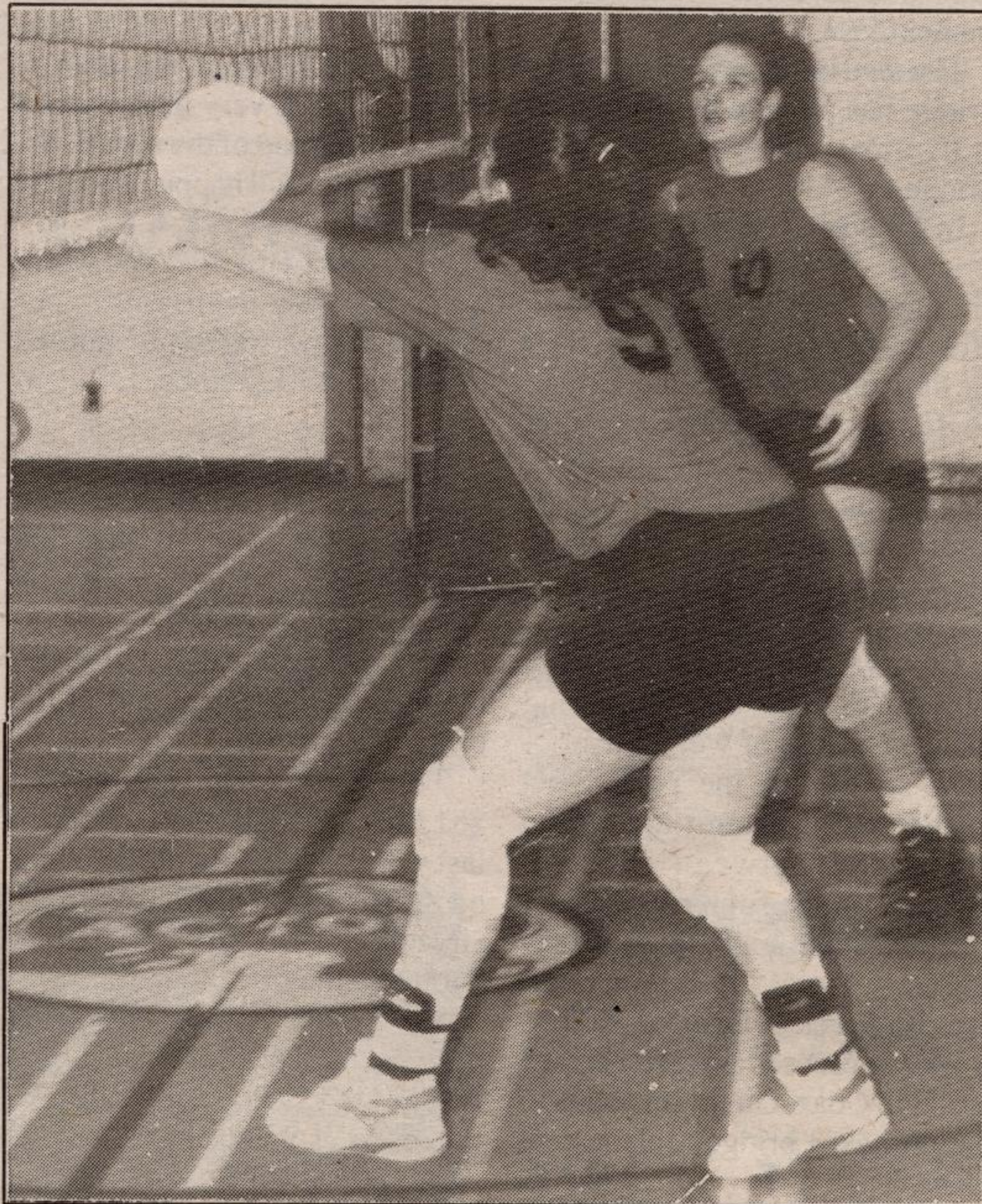
"But I think a lot of people expect you to bowl like that all the time. I won't be disappointed if I don't get it again," he reveals. "It's a relaxing sport, and I enjoy talking to the people I bowl with."

Darlene Labombard, Acton Lanes co-proprietor, says Adam is the only YBC bowler she knows of to bowl a 401.

"I think it's fantastic. My highest is 420 and I've bowled forever," she laughs. "He has set a good example for other kids to strive for high scores."



HIS NEMESIS: Adam Ahearn stands by the one pin that prevented the 14-year-old bowler from throwing a perfect 450 5-pin game. The YBC bowler finished with a 401. (Eve Martin photo)



SCENE SETTER: Redmen Pam Olsen sets the ball to Jenny Goy against St. Thomas Aquinas in a Halton high school Senior Girls' volleyball match here on Thursday. (Doug Harrison photo)

Figure skaters O'Leary, McGilloway off to COSIC

The Acton Figure Skating Club is proud to report that members Erin O'Leary and Cara McGilloway will represent the town at the Central Ontario Section Interclub Competition (COSIC) March 1 to 3 in Midland.

O'Leary will skate in the Senior Bronze Ladies Solo Dance, while McGilloway will compete in two events—Senior Silver Ladies Solo Dance and Senior Bronze Ladies Freeskate.

The AFSC finished third overall at the recent Halton-Peel Interclub competition in Mississauga.

Following are the other local results: Preliminary Ladies Freeskate Run-Off: O'Leary (8th) and Jessica Metelka (5th); Jr. Bronze Ladies Freeskate Run-Off: Nicole Laforest (3rd) and Jenny May (9th).

Nicole Laforest: Jr. Bronze Ladies

Figures (4th) and Jr. Bronze Ladies Freeskate (3rd); Caitlin Dick: Sr. Bronze Ladies Figures (3rd) and Sr. Bronze Ladies Freeskate (7th); Cara McGilloway: Sr. Bronze Ladies Figures (1st) and Sr. Bronze Ladies Freeskate (1st).

Cora Routledge: Jr. Silver Ladies Freeskate (6th); Gold Ladies Freeskate: Stasha Vancek (6th) and Joy Christopher (7th); Sr. Bronze Ladies Solo Dance Final: O'Leary (1st) and Jessica Metelka (3rd); Jr. Silver Ladies Solo Dance Final: Julia Metelka (6th); Sr. Silver Ladies Solo Dance Final: Candice Timbers (4th, tie), Jenny May (4th, tie) and Cara McGilloway (1st); Cora Routledge: Gold Ladies Solo Dance (13th); Bronwyn Marshall: Open Gold Ladies Solo Dance (8th) and Theresa Marwood: Open Gold Ladies Solo Dance (2nd).

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