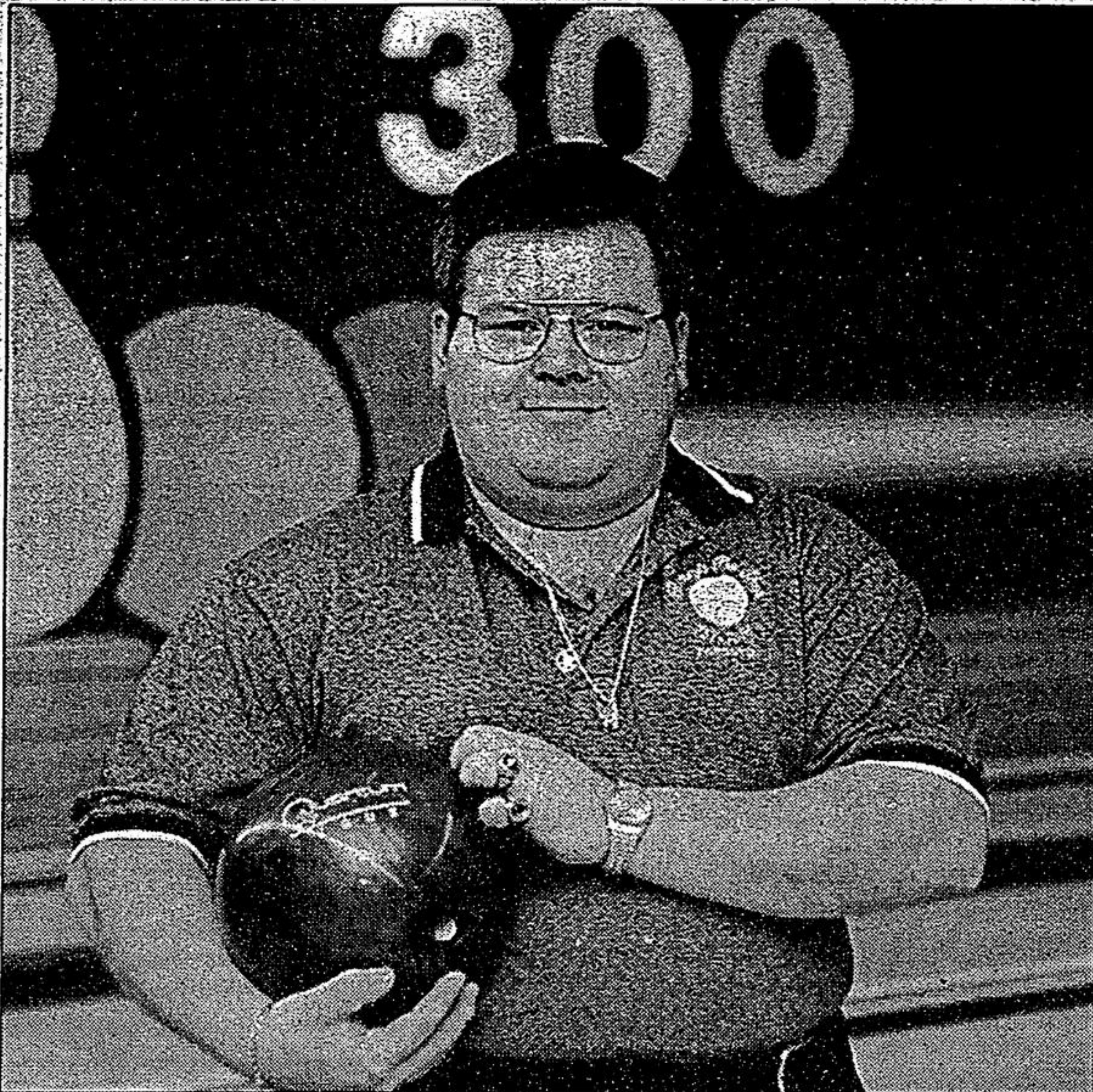


SPORTS



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEN

Stouffville bowler Kevin Plein scored a perfect 300 during a recent game at Markham's Club 300. Plein has been bowling since 1972, and this is his second perfect game.

Perfection

Stouffville bowler is ace of the alley at Club 300

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
SPORTS EDITOR

Perfection is something that Kevin Plein strives for whenever he takes to the bowling lanes.

And based on what he's done since his first game in 1972, Plein has been pretty adept at achieving his goal.

He got his first taste of perfection on the 10-pin lanes in 1986 when he rolled a 300 at All Star Bowl in Toronto.

A second perfect game for Plein almost became a reality in 1993 when he delivered a 299 during a men's league outing at Markham's Club 300 Bowl.

While the 35-year-old Stouffville resident came close in that outing at the alley, he didn't let another opportunity for immortality slip away from him on Tuesday, Nov. 17 during a weekly Unionville Ten Pin Classic League outing.

On that night, Plein rolled his second perfect score at Club 300, and became the first kepler to accomplish such a feat in the weekly Tuesday night league.

"It's a dream come true for anybody to shoot a perfect game," Plein said. "It's like a golfer getting a hole-in-one. For bowling, getting a 300 is the same thing. For me to do it a second time, I'm bowling well now."

In attaining his second perfect game, Plein said he had no inclination that something special was about to happen when he started the evening.

Plein began the night by rolling a 177 in the first of his three games. But during that game, he said he was developing a feel for the lanes.

Paying attention to fine detail paid off for Plein in his second game as he ran off eight straight strikes. It was at that point that notions of a perfect game began to enter the back of his mind.

"I started taking deep breaths. I said

to myself that I've gone this far and I'll try to go all the way," Plein said.

He continued his hot hand by hitting strikes in the ninth, 10th and 11th frames. The 12th frame, he said, was gut-wrenching as everyone in the alley was aware of his bid for perfection.

With all of the attention at Club 300 focused on Plein, he delivered the ball down the lane.

Unlike the other 11 balls which went in the pocket, this offering went in the side. But when the ball struck the pins, each one went down. "I slid across the lane and let out a big yell," Plein said.

The American Bowling Congress will send Plein a commemorative ring for his perfect game.

That ring will join two other ABC rings which Plein already has, one in recognition of his first perfect game, and the other for his 299 score.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



BETH WIGHTMAN

Competing in an advanced age group category did not deter Beth Wightman from faring well at the recent Ontario Cross Country Championships in Waterloo.

The 17-year-old Markham native, who is a juvenile-aged competitor for the Markham Track Club, ran in the junior women's four-kilometre race and finished a strong fourth overall.

A Grade 12 Brother Andre Catholic High School student, Wightman will be part of a five-member Markham contingent scheduled to compete at the national championships in Vancouver this weekend.

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