

**BOWLING:** Legion team keeps rolling through districts again

# No home lanes? No problem

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Mark Fockler compares five-pin bowling to riding a bicycle.

Once you've done either you don't forget.

However, the 49-year-old Stouffville resident was quick to point out if you don't bowl on a regular basis it's just a matter of adjusting to the composition of the lanes.

With no regular local league to bowl in since the closure of Stouffville Bowling Centre two years ago, Fockler and his Stouffville entry of Tom Lehman, 49, Glenn Jackson, 57, Pete Sinclair, 45, and Naz Nicastro, 50, did not let that handicap impede them.

They took to the lanes in Collingwood last weekend for the Royal Canadian Legion District championships and finished first.

In five games, the Stouffville entry compiled a score of 5,026 and won the title by 175 pins over host Collingwood.

"We've bowled for years since we were kids and in the old Monday Night Men's League," Fockler said. "When you bowl five pins and if you haven't

played in a while, you don't lose much.

"The key was in noticing what the composition of the lanes are. When we noticed the lanes in Collingwood were synthetic and not hardwood like they were in Stouffville, we knew that the ball travels fairly straight.

"We just had to make sure when we bowled we had a groove going either one board to the left or right of the head-pin."

With the victory, the Stouffville team earned a berth in the legion provincial championships April 24 in Ottawa.

It's the third straight year Fockler and his team earned that honour.

Also qualifying was the second-place team from Collingwood.

Entering this year's district playdowns, which included a second entry from Stouffville and others from Aurora, Huntsville, Orillia and Collingwood, Fockler felt they could be in contention.

"We've always done well at the districts," he said. "But you don't know who comes from the

other districts and they bowl all the time in their own leagues."

Several individuals on the team earned top honours and will compete in the Legion provincials.

In doubles, Lehman and John White, former Stouffville Bowl proprietor and a member of the second Stouffville Legion team, finished first.

The duo, who also qualified for the provincial doubles last year, rolled a six-game high of 1,225.

Sinclair captured the singles title with a five-game total score of 1,169.

For Sinclair, it marked the first time he advanced to the provincial singles.

"Pete was unbelievable," Fockler said. "In his fourth game, he rolled five strikes in a row."

In winning the team title, Fockler noted they have the honour of hosting next year's district championships next January.

But with no lanes in Stouffville, he said they will conduct them at Stellar Lanes in Newmarket through contacts arranged by White.

## SEASON STOPPED



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Brother Andre (Markham) Cardinal Joey Moncada looks surprised as Stouffville Spartan goalie Kyle Pantone stops the puck and gives up a big rebound in York Region senior boys high school hockey action Thursday at the Stouffville Arena. Brother Andre won 6-3. Stouffville needed a win to advance to the playoffs. Ryan Brown, Trevor Carrick and Mike Bourgeois scored for Stouffville. For more on high school sports, go to yraa.com

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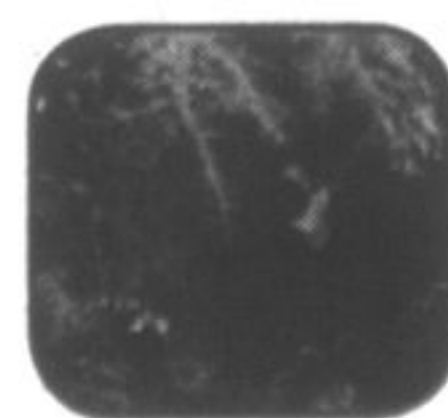
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