

UNOH Racers joining the bowling conversation

I read recently that bowling pins and other bowling equipment have been discovered in the grave of Egyptian children dating back to 5200 BC. This seemed pretty amazing to me as well as to different individuals with whom I shared the information.

For those who feel these findings are interesting, imagine what archaeologists will think in another 5200 years or so when they have a "dig" around Lima and unearth bowling articles on the grounds of The University of Northwestern Ohio.

This concept became one step closer to reality when the Board of Directors of the school authorized President Jeff Jarvis to proceed with the development of a bowling program as the newest intercollegiate sport at UNOH.

Jarvis and his athletic director Chris Adams are very excited about the opportunity they have been given to bring the sport to the university. Each see the challenge of competing for the school as an opportunity of added growth for the students at the school. They strongly feel it will have a positive impact on the student body because it will give more students the opportunity to be involved in campus life.

Adams pointed to the fact that in recent American Midwest Conference meetings there has been

an increased amount of conversation on the needs for more of the member schools to focus on the development of bowling.

Needless to say, Adams is appreciative he has an administrator in Jarvis who wants to be as far ahead of the game as one might expect to see in their High Performance Motorsports program.

Jarvis in many ways reminds me of his late father, Loren Jarvis. Loren was always on the lookout for what could be done to strengthen the workforce of our community. It is for that reason many of the UNOH programs are designed to make the student job-ready.

His son has been as progressive, working with the board to create classes the working public needs to be successful in life. His father would indeed be proud as the school has really grown the last several years.

It can be anticipated that this same passion and drive will carry over to the development of the bowling program. The fact he has a man of energy and integrity such as Adams in the mix will help the growth of the program.

One of the strengths of the two

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men is they know what they can do and what they cannot. They continue to meet with members of the bowling community to see what will enhance

their program. Recently they witnessed the student-athletes of the Western Ohio High School Conference and spoke with Rick Hartings, the commissioner of the league. Additional "scouting trips" are being planned as they hope to field a team by next season. Jarvis envisions having as many as four men's and women's teams.

Jarvis is on his way to Florida to be with his Motorsports crew, but it is his intent for interviews for the coaching position to begin upon his return. He is planning on the interviews to happen on Feb. 22, 23 and 24, his first three days back in the office.

Those who are interested in the position should contact Chris Adams via his e-mail, cadams@unoh.edu.

Home-grown talent?

This area is loaded with incredible bowling talent. The Western Ohio Bowling Conference is very strong. Wapakoneta and Coldwater have each won state titles in recent seasons and could compete for another

this season as could a handful of other teams in that conference.

Lima also has a very strong grouping of college-aged bowlers such as Brent and David Miller, Wes Hawk, Michael Ball, Geoff Newland and McKenzie Boat, to name a few. Graduates of the WOHSBC Tyler Sosby and Wes Steinecker are among others still in the area.

I imagine Jarvis, Adams and/or their representatives or coaches will be on hand March 21 when the first annual Junior/Senior All-Star scholarship battle will be in Lima at either Westgate or Northland Lanes.

You do not have to be a high school league bowler for this event. It will be great to see Kody Perrine rolling with the best of the WOHSBC. Perrine over the last two YABA league weeks has rolled 732 and 782.

The potential college student athletes does not end with those mentioned above. Doug Shaffer, Bailey Arthur, Dominique Cruz, Jamey and Ashley Ebeling, Drew and Abbey Ambroza and any number of Riepenhoff kids will continue to be heard from in the future.

The source of student-athletes for UNOH should be neverending in our area. That being said it can be anticipated that Jarvis and Adams will continue to recruit outside of this area as well.