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Sports

Four CHS bowlers receive honors

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CENTRALIA — For three Centralia High School bowlers, it was an encore performance.

PREP BOWLING

The Orphans' Marcus Miller and the Annies' Shannon Altom and Lindsey Miller all repeated as all-South Seven Conference selections at Saturday's league tournament, hosted by Banks Bowl. Meanwhile, the Orphans' Stephen Campbell — a senior — reaped S7 honors for the first time.

"I thought I did pretty well at first," said Marcus Miller, a junior, who finished second overall to Cahokia's Joseph Marshall. "But then I had a 183 in the last [fifth] game."

While his final-game score was short of his 215 average for the day, Marcus Miller still had enough to

finish with 1,078 pins, topped only by Campbell's 1,106.

Campbell and Belleville Althoff's Derek Allison tied for fourth with 1,053 each, with Campbell nabbing the higher finish on a 254-232 tiebreaker score in the last game.

"As a team, we've practiced a lot and gotten better since last year," said Marcus Miller, who was third at last year's tourney.

Meanwhile, Lindsey Miller — a sophomore — and Altom — a junior — earned all-league honors for the second straight year by virtue of their respective second- and fourth-place finishes.

Both the Orphans' first-place team showing and the Annies' runner-up placing in the team totals will count toward the conference's Gold Cup standings. Each member school receives points for its finishes in league-sanctioned athletic events.

Depth charges: With each team allowed eight eligible bowlers for the tournament, Mt. Vernon's Rams

took near full advantage and had seven different players toss at least one game each.

"It's a neat feature," said Mt. Vernon coach Dave Wagner. "If someone's struggling, you can pull them out, put in a fresh guy, and give them a chance to regroup. It's a good option to have."

Third-place finisher and all-conference selection Maverick Wagner and teammates Adam Jolly and Brandon McPherson were the Rams to roll all five games Saturday.

House and home: While there may be something to the home lanes advantage in bowling, it may not be necessarily so, said Centralia boys assistant coach Yancy Goodin.

"It can be, but when you're bowling five games and change lanes, there's really no advantage for anybody except for maybe the first game," he said. "Other than that, I think it's pretty even for everyone."

Please see **Bowlers**, Page 3B

Bowlers:

Continued From Page 1B

Goodin and girls assistant coach Alex Pracht handled some of the post-tournament duties after head coach Kent Van Cleve left to work at the

Orphans' home basketball game with Mascoutah.

Postseason places: South Seven Conference schools will be divided among two sectionals when it comes to postseason action.

Centralia, Mt. Vernon, Marion and host Carbondale will be joined by Carrier Mills, Freeburg, Harrisburg, Herrin, Johnston City, Mascoutah,

Massac County, Waterloo Gibault and Waterloo High at the SI Bowl for a sectional, while Althoff and Cahokia are entered in the O'Fallon Sectional at St. Clair Bowl with the host Panthers, Belleville East and West, Mater Dei, Collinsville, Columbia, East St. Louis, Lebanon, Salem and Wesclin.

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