

THE ROMEO OBSERVER **SPORTS**

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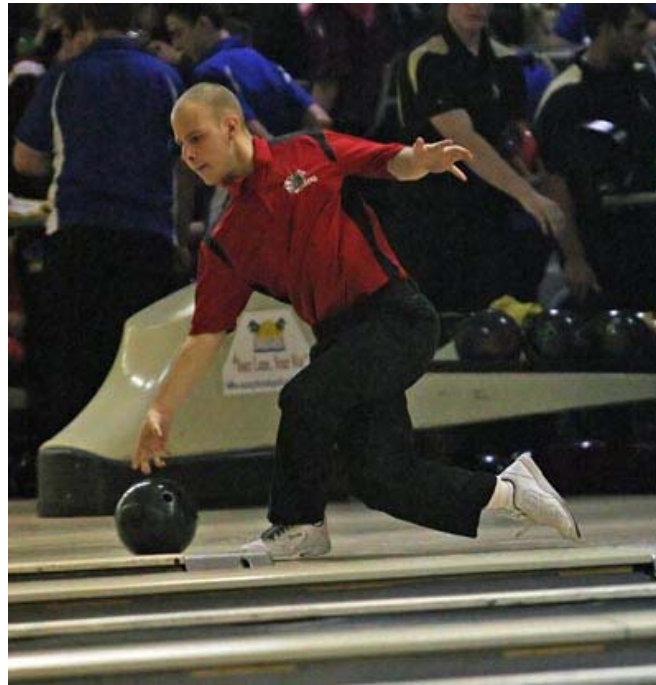
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Above, Corey Wachtmeister balancing as he is releasing the ball on Monday, Feb. 14. Below, Rachel Hayden finishing her form after throwing the ball down the lane.

(Observer photos by Mike Nicley)

Romeo bowlers send six teams to U/E Doubles

The Romeo High School bowling team competed in the Utica/Eisenhower Doubles Championship held Sunday, Feb. 13, at Imperial Lanes. One of the most prestigious tournaments in high school bowling, the doubles hosted a field of over 160 teams in four divisions.

Romeo was represented by four boys' teams and two girls' teams. The best performance of the day for the Bulldogs was turned in by Shannon Kelley and Sarah Kennedy. They qualified with a score of 1,530, placing them in the fifth seed position. They were defeated in the afternoon competition by only two pins in a close loss to Ford II. The other five Romeo teams were Kaylla Koster-Alicia



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Harbin (1,331), Alec Shipman-Matt Fazzalare (1,527), Tyler Culver-Andrew Nelson (1,378), Tyler Stokes-Patrick Brunkey (1,347) and Corey Wachtmeister-Kirk Lightcap (1,275), who did not place in the top 16 positions to advance to afternoon play. Romeo entered two teams in the HeartBreaker Baker Tournament held Saturday, Feb. 12, at Sterling Lanes. The Romeo Varsity A team of Koster, Harbin, Culver and Shipman advanced to the top 16 teams in the all-Baker competition. Their 2,144 score was good for sixth place.



In the afternoon competition, they were matched with eventual tournament champions Sterling Heights Stevenson. The Titans defeated Romeo 198-189 and 208-177 in the first round.

The Romeo Varsity B team of Kelley, Kennedy, Wachtmeister and Nelson shot 2,041 for the 12-game tournament, but failed to qualify for the match play competition.

It was a true team effort on Feb. 11, as the varsity girls were able to beat a very good Ford II team at Shelby Lanes. The Bulldogs won one Baker game and Baker totals shooting 200-141 (341) and led 6-4 going into match play. The girls won both team match games and totals. Romeo shot 850-863 (1,713) to Ford II's 780-732 (1,512). Kelley has returned to form after recovering from a shoulder injury and shot 254-225 (479), winning both of her match points. Koster also won both of her match points with a solid 173-190 (363). Harbin had a very nice set with an impressive 164-257 (421) and won a match point. Stephanie Seefried also won a match point with a 124. Rachel Hayden, Katilin Lowran, along with Kelsey Ruebelmann made great shots during the match and contributed to the team win but did not win any match points. The Bulldogs won 20-10.

The varsity boys were not able to outscore Ford II and ended the season series 1-1 against the Falcons. The Bulldogs once again started sluggishly in the Bakers, losing both games and were down 10-0 going into match play. Romeo shot 973-877 (1,850) but Ford II was too much to handle as they pounded out a nice 1,127-950 (2,077) series. T. Stokes led the Bulldogs with a 196-247 (443), winning one match point. Wachtmeister was able to win an exciting match point with a 275 game as his Ford II opponent, MAC Red Singles champion Frank Radtke shot 257. It was strike for strike until the 10th frame as Wachtmeister put up two clutch strikes to secure the point and had a nice 431 series. Culver, Fazzalare and Shipman battled until the end, but Ford II was on their game this day and the Bulldogs could not win any other match points. Romeo lost 28-2.

The junior varsity boys had another impressive showing as they matched up well to the lane conditions and beat Ford II 20.5-9.5. Romeo won both Baker games with a 185-210 (395) and were up 10-0 going into match play. The Bulldogs lost the first game but recovered with the second game and totals shooting 908-1,004 (1,912) to Ford II's 939-943 (1,882). Dylan Stokes stepped down from varsity due to the illness of a regular junior varsity player and led the team, winning both of his match points with a 213-235 (448) series. Nelson won a match point with a very solid 177-244 (421). Lightcap's 179 and Brunkey's 201 also won match points. Joseph Seefried had no luck as he had a solid day with a 203-183 (386) series but his opponent put up a 214-203 (417) against him.

The varsity boys could not sweep Sterling Heights Stevenson this season, losing their match Feb. 7 at Kingswood. The powerhouse Titans were solid all night long, defeating Romeo 28-2. The Bulldogs lost both Baker games and were down 10-0 once again heading into match play. In the season's first match, Romeo was able to come back from being down 10-0 after the Baker portion to outscore the Titans in match play. Not this time. Romeo shot 872-857 (1,729) to Stevensons' 1,114-950 (2,064). Leading Romeo was Fazzalare with a solid 208-200 (408) series, but he could not outscore his opponent for any match points. Shipman's 202 and Wachtmeister's 181 were good for a match point each. D. Stokes and Culver, along with T. Stokes, did not match up well to the lane conditions and were not able to contribute any match points.

The varsity girls lost to the Titans 26-4. The match was a lot closer than the final score indicated as Bulldogs were very close in the Bakers, losing the second game by only one pin and were

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down 10-0 heading into match play. The Bulldogs lost the first match game by only three pins. Romeo shot 921-841 (1,762) to the Titans 924-977 (1,901). Kelley's 225-212 (437) and Koster's 166-234 (400) won match points. Harbin's 215 - 161 (376) and S. Seefried's 171 were also good for a match point each. Lowran and Hayden competed well but were not able to win a match point.

The junior varsity boys were not able to get by the undefeated Titans, losing 27-3. Losing both Baker games, the Bulldogs were down 10-0 heading into match play. Romeo shot 150-197 (347) to Stevenson's 170-203 (373). Romeo was not able to outscore the Titans as they shot 835-895 (1,730) to Stevenson's 1,030-990 (2,020). Brunkey led the Bulldogs with a 170-213 (383) and won a match point. Nelson won a match point with a 201, as did J. Seefried with a 210. Sophomore Michael Steffens had a solid outing with 190-182 (372) but was not able to win a match point, nor was Lightcap.

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