

## Sports scores/ news

### Gateway Mixed Bowling League

By SADIE WOLFSON, secretary  
Weekly high scores - week of January 28  
**HIGH TRIPLE**  
MEN: Ken Sylvester 577 (232-189); Al Ruhr 501 (183).  
WOMEN: Elaine Yamron 555 (189-190-176).  
**HIGH SINGLE**  
MEN: Chuck Rubin 207; Pinnie Faintuck 189; Sid Zipursky 180.

### Jewish Women International 10-Pin Bowling League

By LIBBY GREENFIELD  
Weekly high scores - week of January 31  
**HIGH TRIPLE:** Maxine Benditt - 538 (174, 200, 164); Kay Sera - 499 (175, 172); Joyce Rosenhek - 496 (188, 162); Sadie Wolfson - 495 (183); Janice Levine - 491 (180, 161); Rennie Elfenbein - 489 (169, 184).  
**HIGH SINGLE:** Charna Gilman - 182; Annette Axelrod - 171; Simma Kraitberg - 171; Sheila Kleiman - 168; Rochelle Pincovich - 167.

### Recreation Men's Bowling League

By SAUL LONDON, secretary  
Weekly high scores - January 31  
**HIGH TRIPLE:** Harvey Appelle 560 (195, 192); Gary Granzberg 541 (190); Jack Buchalter 538 (191); Herb Singer 537 (194); Avery Spigelman 535; Rube Helman 519 (224); Sheldon Globerman 519 (191); Saul London 519 (195); Jack Lichtman 517 (193); Joe Elfenbaum 516 (191); Saul Greenberg 516 (202); Alan Freedman 514 (201); Morris Cantor 508; Terry Robinson 501.  
**HIGH SINGLE:** Chaim Raber 190; Hersh Doctoroff 190; Phillip Baker 186; Murray Katz 185; David Bloomfield 184; Chuck Rubin 182; Gary Kay 182; Ken Sasley 180.

### Olympic coach trains fighters at Bathurst JCC

By PAUL LUNGEN  
TORONTO - There was a time in Canadian sports history when Jews were among the top boxers in the game. Sammy Luftspring, Maxie Berger, "Baby" Yack and Albert Roher were among the more notable Jewish practitioners of the sweet science.

In the Former Soviet Union (FSU), it was pretty much the same, only more so. National champions who were Jewish abounded, including Leo Segilovitch, Leonid Shenkman, Leonid Boguslovsky, Vladimir Kogan and Yakov Brown. In the 1950s, during the heyday of Soviet boxing, hardly a year would go by without a Jew rising to the national championship in one weight division or another, said Boris Gitman, himself the 1952 lightweight champion of Ukraine.

Becoming the best in the FSU was no mean feat when you consider that at the sport's peak, there were more than 350,000 registered boxers and more than 12,000 coaches.

In Canada today, there are only three full-time coaches, Gitman said.

Boxing today ain't



Boris Gitman (centre, and inset pic, at right) works with two of his fighters at the Bathurst JCC.



what it used to be, either here or in Russia, but that doesn't mean it's extinct. Gitman, for seven years national coach of the FSU, has a stable of fighters he trains regularly at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre (JCC) who rank among the best in this country to offer.

Mark Simmons is Canadian and Commonwealth heavy-weight champ, he was a silver medalist at the 1999 Pan Am Games and a finalist at the 1997 World Championships.

Troy Amos Ross is Canadian light-heavy-weight champion, he was a silver medalist at the 1997 Commonwealth Games and a bronze medalist at the 1999 Pan Am games. Gurik Kagramanians, a 16-year-old junior, is Ontario bantamweight champion and is ranked second nationally.

Eugene Bloomenfeld, the only Jewish fighter in the bunch, is an up-and-comer and, though unranked, has the potential to be a national light-middle-weight champion, Gitman believes.

The fighters meet

the "sweet science" of local fight aficionados. "It's not just technique," said Gitman who works part time in the JCC health club. "You must know body structure, physiology and psychology."

Like other coaches in the FSU, Gitman studied at university, where the subject matter went way beyond the jab and the uppercut. Courses in physiology, anatomy, biomechanics, biochemistry and sports history were all on the curriculum.

There were 17 physical education and sports universities in the FSU, plus faculties of sports in other schools.

At the school Gitman attended in Lvov, Ukraine, military lectures and training were part of the curriculum. By the time he graduated as a master of sport, he had also jumped as a paratrooper.

Born in Odessa in 1934, Gitman spent the war years fighting for survival.

"During the war, when we evacuated the Ukraine and anti-Semitism was high among the local people, the Jewish kids would organize," he said. "They were together always and we defended ourselves."

"I fought all my life, for me, my brother and for my friends."

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## Why I'm in Israel now.



Photographed at Masada, on January 28, 2001

"This isn't my first time in Israel. But it's by far the most meaningful.

"My friends back home asked, 'Why Israel, there are so many other places to go?'

"But I'm so glad I came! The evening news back home isn't showing the Israel I'm seeing.

"I have my hiking shoes on and I'm rediscovering Masada. Then I'm off to a spa at the Dead Sea.

"The Chagall windows look more beautiful than ever.

"And yesterday, I visited the Western Wall and left a very special prayer.

"In Tel Aviv, I plan to go to the Philharmonic, visit the museums and enjoy the beach.

"I've never felt so alive as I do now. And I'm gathering memories that will last a lifetime."

*Sarah Schwartz*

Sarah Schwartz

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