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Lincoln Park High School rolls out bowling program, splits first varsity meet

Varsity and junior varsity teams kick off first season, compete in MHSAA'S Downriver bowling league

Lincoln Park, Mich. – With strikes and spares abound, the **Lincoln Park High School** Railsplitters are the newest bowling team around. LPHS expanded its winter sports offering this year by rolling out competitive bowling for boys and girls.

The Railsplitters, with two varsity and two junior varsity teams, kicked off their first season on Dec. 3 at a meet against Wyandotte High School.

“I am very excited for the inaugural season of Railsplitter bowling,” said **Karl Bosman**, Lincoln Park High School’s bowling coach. “This all came together quickly – we held a three-day tryout that ended on Nov. 26 and we competed in our first match on Dec. 3. We had a good showing in our first meet, with our boys winning and our girls coming up just short against the defending league champions from Wyandotte High School.”

There are nearly 500 schools that participate in the Michigan High School Athletic Association’s bowling leagues. The Railsplitters compete in the Downriver League which competes from December until February. Lincoln Park bowling has 26 bowlers between four teams: varsity boys, varsity girls, boys JV team and a co-ed JV team.

“I have been bowling competitively in leagues since I was eight years old, and I am excited we finally have a bowling team at Lincoln Park High School,” said **Stone Baryla** an 11th grader and captain of the boys varsity team. “We have a really strong team and great coaching. Even in our first year, I think we have a shot to end the season as league champs.”

Bosman has coached high school bowlers for 15 years, including students who have gone on to bowl at the collegiate and professional levels. One former student earned a full scholarship to college.

“Bowling is another opportunity for our students to participate in an extra-curricular activity that will teach them to build camaraderie and develop leadership and communication skills,” **Don McKenzie**, Athletic Director for Lincoln Park Public Schools. “There has been strong support for adding a bowling team and it finally came together this year. Bowling is a great addition to our winter athletic line-up and I look forward to watching the program grow over the next few years.” ###