

Over hundred years' have gone by us in this organization as fast as this past year's Slovak Catholic Sokol sporting season. Let's take the time to remind you of some of the past accomplishments in 2006.

Our athletic season got started in Pittsburgh, PA on April 23rd with the 19th International Men's Basketball & Women's Volleyball Tournament. The weekend saw much action and Sokol spirit. After the dust had settled the Group 5, Cleveland women and Group 3 East Douglas men swept first place honors. In this year's basketball tournament, Group 17, Youngstown, OH and Group 14, Pittsburgh, PA took second and third places respectfully. Finishing in fourth place was Group 1, Passaic, NJ. The MVP of the tournament went to Adam Petkus of Group 3. The rest of the all-tournament team went to the following: Group 1, Chris Rothenburger, Group 3, Mike Fields, Group 12, Todd Painton, Group 14, Joe Suchy and Group 17 Joe Rivera. In Women's volleyball, in addition to the champions, finishing in second place Group 12, Reading, PA. Cyndi Knis of Group 5 led the women's all tournament team by being named the MVP. The rest of the team consisted of the following: Group 12: Kelly Wojciehowski and Lauren Wojciehowski, Group 14: Jamie Twigg and Ashley Zietak and Group 5: Kristen Knis and Supreme Assistant Physical Directress Julie Laury

In the 3 on 3 tournament, the MVP was Jordan Jennings of Group 14. The rest of the all tournament team was Drew Laury and Matthew Underation of Group 5 and Jay Rush of Group 14.

The next event to take place this year was our 60th International Bowling Tournament held in Rossford, OH from May 19th through the 21st. Taking the team honors for the men was Perryopolis, PA capturing a men's title. This team consisted of Bernie Seruga, Mike Rubish Sr., Thomas Matty, Mike Matras and Mikey Matras. For the second year in a row a group of ladies from Pittsburgh, PA, captured a team title. This team consisted of Lorraine Fanzo, Judy Milius, Joni Masley, Betsy Hitchings and Bobbie Werner. Following Perryopolis in second and third place respectfully was

another team from Perryopolis, Pa with some help from a Milwaukee, WI Sokol and Detroit, MI. On the women's side a team from Canton captured second place while Pittsburgh, PA garnered third place.

On the men's side in the doubles, Len Minnick and Matt Chalfant of Perryopolis, PA finished first followed by a second Perryopolis, PA team consisting of bowlers Bernie Seruga and Ed Kustron and Ed Fischer and Tony Harms of Pittsburgh finishing in second and third places respectfully. On the single side of things, Rick Parashyniak of Toronto took top honors with Len Minnick of Perryopolis and Jeff Harms of Pittsburgh, PA close behind. The men's all-around winners were Len Minnick, Bernie Seruga of Perryopolis, PA and Jeff Szymanski of Rossford, OH. The women's competition was fast and furious as Betsy Hitchings and Bobbie Werner of Pittsburgh, PA took top honors. Following in second place was Marge Valencik and Sue Noga of Parma, OH and Deb Selip and Theresa Shedlock of Lilly, PA finishing third. On the women's singles front, Kris Miller of Pittsburgh, PA took first place with Caroline Gemoll of Milwaukee, WI taking second place and Heather Nielson of Lilly, PA in third place. The women's all-events winners were Theresa Shedlock of Lilly, Kris Miller and Betsy Hitchings of Pittsburgh.

The bowling tournament was topped off with a nice banquet. Receiving the Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award at the banquet was Walter Kazmierczak Jr. of Reading, PA.

Our 19th International Softball Tournament was held in Softball World in Cleveland, OH. A hard and enjoyable weekend of was had by all with beautiful weather all weekend. Declared champions on the men's side were the wily old veterans from Group 6 in Perryopolis, PA. In second place was the gentleman from Group 5 Cleveland, OH. Finishing in third place was the long traveled team from East Douglas, MA. The women's champions were the ladies from Group 5 Cleveland, OH. A combined team from Group 12 Reading, PA and Group 1 Passaic, NJ finished in second

place. In third place was Group 14 Pittsburgh, PA. Receiving the MVP awards this year were Ken Ozanick of Perryopolis and Heather Chewing of Cleveland.

Capping off our sporting season for 2006 was the 51st International Golf Tournament held at the Reserve Run and The Links at Firestone Farms courses in Youngstown, OH August 18th through the 20th. Our members were treated to two tournament days of golf with beautiful weather. After two days winners were determined in all of the flights. In the "A" Flight Vincent Pisano of Ambridge, PA took first place honors with a score of 133. A score of 127 took honors in the "B" Flight for Thomas Majercik of Ambridge, PA. In the "C" Flight Paul Papcun of Detroit, MI shot a score of 132. In the Calloway division, Angelo Ruscetta of Toronto, ON came home a winner with a score of 145. Senior division champion Andrew Petroff of Ambridge, PA scored a 132. The ladies champion this year hailed from Wilkes-Barre, PA, Ms. Danielle Zablotney with a score of 125. At the banquet the Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award was given to Francis Novak of Johnstown, PA who was surprised and honored to receive this award. At this year's tournament a rare feat was accomplished. A hole-in-one was scored during the competition. On Saturday, Paul Pacun of Detroit Michigan scored the ace on the 17th hole at The Links at Firestone Farms. If this wasn't rare enough, on Sunday Gregory Stofko of Reading Pennsylvania did the same thing only this time on the 15th hole at Reserve Run. Congratulations guys and what a great feeling that must have been.

Throughout the year, it has been noticed that our tournaments have become family oriented with husbands and wives bringing their children along for the chance to see true Sokol spirit. This is what a fraternal benefit society is all about. We would like to see more families attend our various Sokol events in 2007. So that you may plan your Sokol social calendar, here are the tentative dates and locations for the 2007 season.

61st International Bowling Tournament May 18th – 20th, Buffalo, NY

20th International Softball Tournament July 7th – 8th, Cleveland, OH

43rd International Slet – July 24th – 28th, Dallas, PA

52nd International Golf Tournament August 24th - 26th , Dubois, PA

Thank you to all that helped with the various tournaments and especially to all those who attend. We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event.