

Sherman anchors Cougars in defense of state title

By KEVIN FIDDLER

When he was young, Coronado junior Bobby Sherman was diagnosed with asthma, forcing him to give up many outdoor sports.

Instead, Sherman took up the sport of bowling and for the past nine years, he has been knocking over pins here in town.

The anchor for Coronado's defending state champion boys bowling team, Sherman has become arguably the top bowler in town.

"I have a new coach and I have matured a lot," Sherman said. "I've learned to just relax and take each frame one at a time. When I have to go up and strike out, I just don't think about what is on the line. I do what I have to do."

A varsity letterman since he was a freshman, Sherman is averaging more than 200 pins per contest. The Cougars are in first place with one match remaining in the regular season and are one of the favorites to compete for their second straight state title in early February.

"We have confidence in ourselves," Sherman said. "But we're not going to be overconfident or cocky. We won't overlook anyone and what



RON MARTINEZ/NEWS STAFF PHOTO

Coronado anchor Bobby Sherman is a big reason why the Cougars are favored to defend their state bowling title this year.

happens, happens.

"There are four or five teams that could win. We don't want to be overconfident."

Sherman's presence in the Coronado line has made all the difference for the Cougars, although his scoring isn't the only thing that makes him valuable.

"He's the one we count on the most now," Coronado coach Bob McKee said. "We lean on him because he has the most emotion. When you see Bobby bowl, you know what I'm thinking."

"He's good for all the kids because not only does he help them but he sets a good example for them. He's real serious about his game."

Sherman says his leadership is simply a matter of focus.

"I just let my teammates know to just bow their game and do what they have to do," Sherman said. "As long as they stay focused, they can bowl their games. If everybody bowls their game, I think the five we have are better than any team out there. All we need to do is win our game."

The Cougars' biggest accomplishment so far this season was a clutch 7-0 win over perennial

See **SHERMAN** on Page 2

SHERMAN from Page 1

Asthma doesn't limit ace's game

power Green Valley.

"I think that was a great accomplishment for this team," Sherman said. "I think it was the first time we swept Green Valley. It gave us a taste of what the playoffs are going to be like. It made us more confident ourselves and it told us that we still have it."

Sherman has come a long way since he first took up the game. He says his asthma doesn't bother him too much while he bowls despite the smoky atmosphere at the bowling alleys.

"Growing up, I couldn't play any other sports because of my asthma," he said. "When I was younger, it was kind of bad. Now I have my asthma

more under control and as long as I have my inhaler, I'm fine."

While much of his success is due to his solid work ethic, Sherman also cites the dedication of McKee as a reason for his and the team's success.

"(Coach McKee) has gone above and beyond the expectations," Sherman said. "I think we've had over six practices this season. I don't know of any other team that practices more than we do. If we need help with schoolwork, he's there to help us. He goes above and beyond for us."

With state experience and one state title run under his belt, Sherman says the experience has paid off. He says he understands what it expected of him as the anchor, a lesson learned from last year's Coronado anchor, Greg Garafalo.

"It was amazing to be a sophomore leading a varsity team to victory," said Sherman, who averaged more than 215 pins per contest during postseason play. "I've learned a lot from last year's anchor (Garafalo). He taught me a lot. I used to get angry and he has helped me calm my temper down."

"There's a lot on the line with being the anchor and he let me know my responsibilities to myself and my teammates. I just want to follow in his footsteps and be as good a leader as he was."

The junior anchor says the only thing he would consider success in another state title.

"Our successful season is to win state again," he said. "I feel as long as we take each night and not overlook anyone, we should be alright."

Kevin Fiddler is a sports writer for the News. He can be reached at 990-2661, or at kevin.fiddler@shreveport.com.

OPEN!

Everything For Your
Gameroom!

- Pool Tables
- Bars & Bar Stools
- Game Tables
- Ping Pong
- Foosball
- Air Hockey & Darts
- Juke Box

over 40 Pool Tables on Display!

- American Made
- Life-time Warranty

N. Stephanie, Henderson
434-0989

BILLIARD FACTORY D

Gameroom Furniture