

# The Columbus Dispatch

## Outstanding "Athletic Families" in Columbus, Ohio

### South Side Bowlers

### Leslein Brothers



Big-Up Bowlers

## LESLEINS STAR AS PINMEN

RALPH

FRANK

CLARENCE

WALTER

(Editor's Note: This is the 14th of a series by Jack Keller on outstanding "athletic families" in Columbus.)

**OF ALL THE "DUTCH" NAMES** that besprinkle the athletic history of Columbus, none is more familiar than those South Side bowlers—the Leslein brothers.

Most of them began hooking the ball into the New York side when they were in their early 'teens. Today, after more than 30 years, the name Leslein is synonymous with expert kegeling.

Frank, the oldest of the foursome, has turned in the family's best scores. He racked a 708 three-game last January and a 277 single in 1936 for his all-time highs. Walter has a 668 and 269 both rolled at Parsons Recreation where Frank got his highs. Clarence scored a 578 and a 236 and Ralph marked up a 267 and 671.

Individually, their athletic history includes bowling, softball and horseshoe pitching. Here's the man-by-man story:

**FRANK:** Bowling for 20 years, has lifetime average of 190. Bowls with Onized Five team at Swan, Helds Undertakers at Burkholz and Leitwein at Parsons. Has

rolled in two ABC's, Indianapolis and Columbus. Placed second in father and son tourney at Parsons last year.

Attended Siebert-st. and South high schools where he played second base in baseball and helped win intermediate championship for Siebert. Best average at bat: .386.

Beginning in 1927 he played three years with Columbus Auto Parts' industrial softball champions. Played on the Owens-Illinois team, managing it in 1937, 1938 and 1939. In 1938 they were state champions and played in the nationals at Chicago, winning first game before being eliminated.

From 1930 to 1939 played with various Owens-Illinois intramural teams, one of which, Shipping-Decorating, was 1938 intramural champs.

Was chairman of Onized Club two years, is horseshoe pitcher, pool shark and likes table tennis. He is 35.

**WALTER:** Attended Siebert-st and South High and won letters in baseball and basketball. Joined brother Frank on Auto Parts team in 1927, 1928 and 1929, playing second base and also on the Onized

team. South Side Industrial champs in 1935, in 1934, 1935 and 1936. Has been chairman of Onized athletic board for two years.

Bowling since 1923, he was member of the Leslein Five which won the Burkholz League championship. Bowls with Held Undertakers at Burkholz and in Onized Loop at Swan. Won South Side industrial headpin championship in 1934 with 117. He is 33.

**RALPH:** Attended Barrett and South high schools. Is the champion horseshoe pitcher of Owens-Illinois plant and was always a contender in the annual tournament sponsored by The Citizen.

Like his brothers he is a softball player, having served on the Onized team in 1935 and 1936. He started bowling when he was 11 years old. Last three out of six years, has been plant headpin champion. He is 29.

**CLARENCE:** Attended Barrett Junior High, plays softball with South Side teams. Is a good bowler and learns it the hard way, working as pin boy in the Swan alleys. Is a member of the Pin Boys League and rolls spare in Burkholz League on Monday nights.