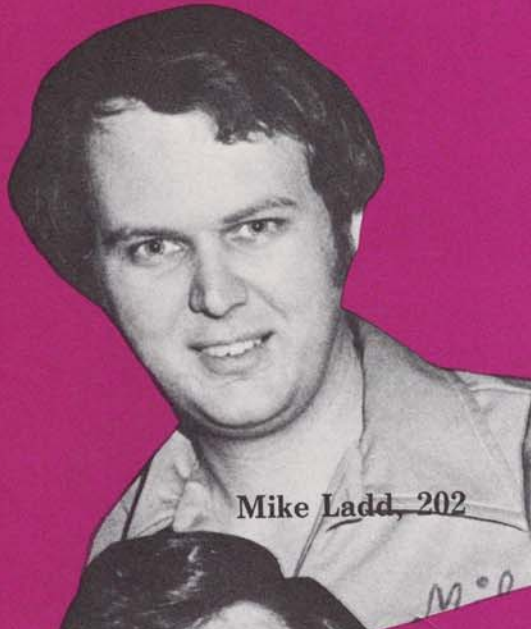




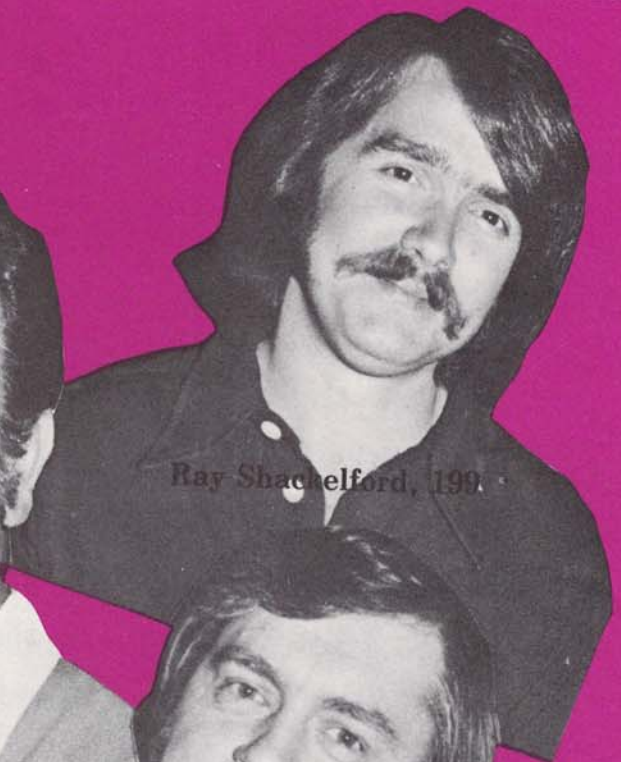
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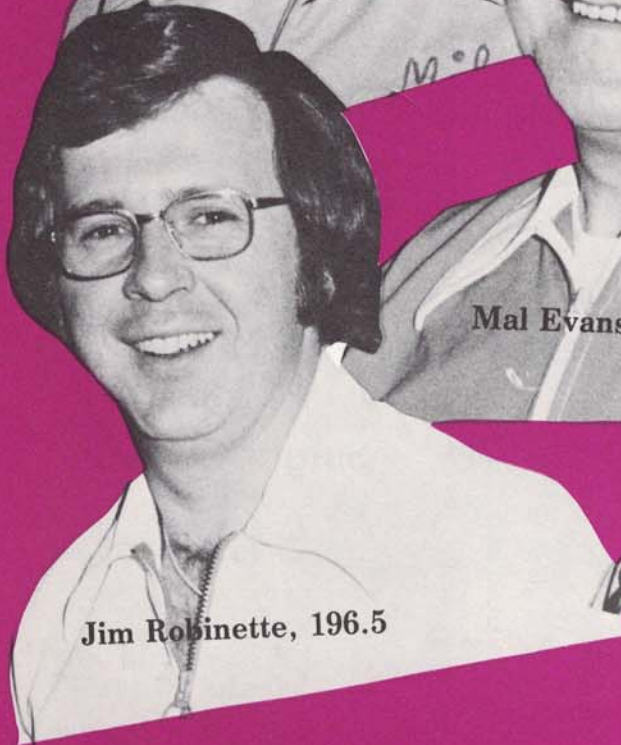
Mike Ladd, 202



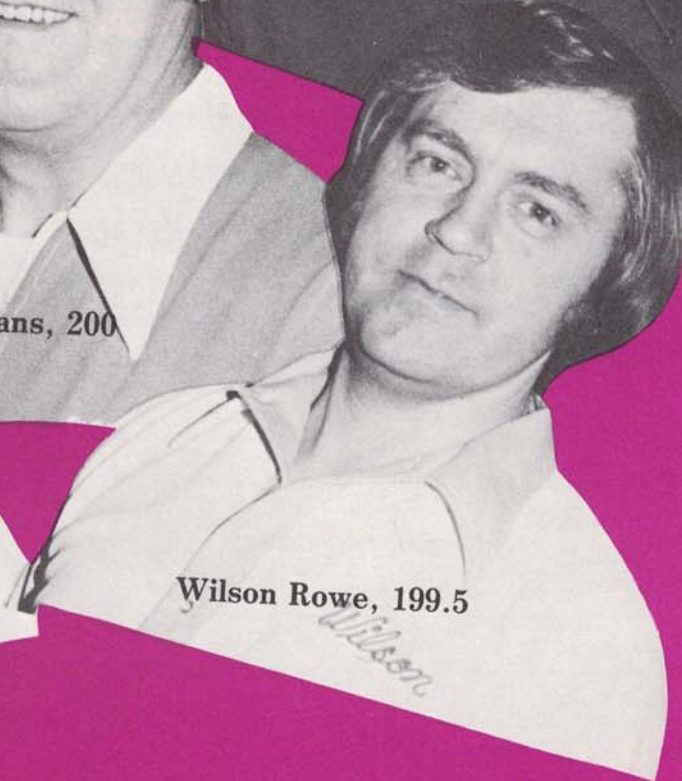
Ray Shackelford, 199



Mal Evans, 200



Jim Robinette, 196.5



Wilson Rowe, 199.5

The Hottest Race in Town

(See Page 5)

Top-Average Race Shaping Up As Pressure Cooker With Five in the Running

As the 1974-75 season begins to wind down to a summer crawl, an interesting situation is shaping up for the annual competition for the Number 1 ranking.

There are five bowlers in strong contention for the number one spot and, ironically, Jim Robinette, who has dominated the rankings for six out of the last seven years, is on the bottom of the ladder.

Currently holding slots within a few mere pins of each other are Mike Ladd at 202; Mal Evans at 200; Wilson Rowe at 199.5; Ray Shackelford at 199; and Robinette at 196.5. Composite averages were taken as of the first part of April.

Mike Ladd of Falls Church bowls in two leagues, the All States Mixed at Annandale and the Virginia Masters at Fair Lanes Springfield. He holds around a 207 at Annandale and a 197 in Springfield.

Mal Evans of Springfield bowls in four leagues and holds 190 each in two leagues at Annandale, the Friday Night Mixed and the Monday Night Men's Handicap. He carries around a 212 in the Virginia Masters and a 208 in the Sinners Mixed, both at Springfield.

Wilson Rowe of Beltsville bowls in

two leagues, the Tuesday Men's Commercial at Capitol Plaza with a 202, and the Masters with a 197.

Ray Shackelford of Fredericksburg bowls in the 875 Scratch at Fredericksburg with a 196 and carries a 202 in the Masters. (Ray commutes every Thursday for the Masters.)

And Jim Robinette of Alexandria bowls in two leagues, the Northern Virginia Men's Commercial at Bowl America Duke with a 195 and in the Masters with a 198.

What makes it an even more interesting situation is that there are several other bowlers in the area who could make a strong run in the last month and squeeze into the top ten, perhaps even into the top five. Larry O'Neill, for example, is currently carrying a 198-plus in the Masters and is always a strong contender. And there may be any number of other as-yet-unknown bowlers with their sights set for a top ranking.

Robinette is not to be counted out, yet, however. He always makes a strong finish.

With a month to go before the leagues wrap up, this ranking race, already the tightest ever, could turn out to be the most exciting event of the season.