Sports Physics

Tuesday—March 4, 2008

Noon-1:00 pm—Dow 641

Refreshments and cookies will be available

Sponsored by the Department of Physics, the Department of Exercise Science, Health & Physical Education and the Department Geological and Mining Engineering and Sciences

My Affair with Physics and Sport: The Mechanics of Bowling and Springboard Diving

Much of the scientific literature describing many sporting activities is authored by sportsmen who don't understand physics or physicists who don't understand the sport. I will discuss my two sports, springboard diving and bowing, where my experience as a participant provoked me to undertake some physical analysis. For diving, I explain how divers initiate twisting in midair, appearing to violate angular momentum conservation. For bowling, I evaluate the relative importance of various factors that make balls curve or 'hook'. I conclude with some advice for physicists who might wish to publish about other sports.

IRIS/SSA Distinguished Lectureship

Dr. Cliff Frohlich

University of Texas at Austin

For more information about this talk , please contact the Department Geological and Mining Engineering and Sciences—487-2531

MichiganTech