

All play and no money for Falls video king

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By JACK ROSENBERY

SENECA FALLS — It's easy to feel gypped by electronic video games that gobble a quarter for a minute or two of playing time.

But 13-year-old Joe Davis of Seneca Falls got his money's worth Saturday as he played Asteroids for more than 11 hours on one quarter, racking up more than 5 million points.

His marathon session at the Playhouse, a downtown pinball and video-game arcade, began about 7 p.m. Saturday and didn't end until nearly 6:30 a.m. Sunday. Davis completed the stretch without a break.

"I was on the machine the whole time," he said.

The object of Asteroids is to pilot a spaceship through an asteroid field without being smashed by one of the flying boulders. The player has one weapon, a laser that will

pulverize the asteroids, rendering them harmless.

Quick reaction is necessary to dodge flying obstacles. "You've got to think fast and move fast," Davis said.

The teen-ager is an Asteroids veteran, having first played the game about a year ago. He said he's played as long as an hour on one quarter before, but nothing approaching his latest marathon.

Davis said the world record for the game is about 25 million points amassed in about 50 hours. He wasn't sure whether he'll attempt to break that mark.

"It's a lot," he said.

Davis said the optimism of onlookers Kurt DePreist, the arcade manager, teen-agers Daryl Leisenring and John Li was encouraging as he completed the marathon.

"They thought I was going to do it (run up a high score)," he said.



Got his money's worth

Joe Davis of Seneca Falls stands in front of the machine he played for 11 hours Saturday at the Playhouse. He played the marathon session using only one quarter. (Times photo by Dale Duquesne)