



Sports

Salem crowned WLAA champ

BY JANET ARMSTRONG

It put a capital "R" in cross-campus rivalry, when Canton and Salem met at the Western Lakes Activities Association's (WLAA) league meet.

Salem edged out Canton to win the meet for the second straight year. The final standings were Salem 462 points, Canton 454 points.

The Chiefs led the meet by two points going into the last event the 400-yard freestyle relay, but the Rocks rallied for come-from-behind win to take the WLAA crown.

Ron Orris and Mike Hill led the Rocks in their league meet victory. Orris garnered three first-place victories and Hill captured two.

Orris, Eric Bunch, Chris Caloia and Rick Stesek combined for the winning effort in the 400-yard freestyle relay (3:20.71).

In the 200-yard individual medley Orris took a first place with the time 1:59.45 and in the 500-yard freestyle, he also captured a first place (4:53.97).

Hill combined with Mark Ericson, Chris Butzloff and Fred Sidelman for a second place in the 200-yard medley relay (1:42.90).

In the 100-yard freestyle Hill earned his second first-place finish with a time of 48.91.



Splash!

Salem's standout swimmer Ron Orris led the Rocks to their second straight league crown. (Crier photo by Chris Farina)

"They were expected to win," said Hill who serves as one of Salem's team captains. "So we gave it that extra push."

"We should have won it," said Canton coach Hooker Wellman.

Although the Chiefs had to settle for second place in league, they did accomplish a lot, said Wellman.

Not only did the 200-yard medley relay team earn a first place, they also broke a school record and they qualified for the state meet.

Scott Swartzwelder, Jeff Homan, Bryce Anderson and Mitch Timberlake were the members of the first place, record breaking relay, combining for a blistering time of 1:42.63.

Mike Helmstadter captured a fourth place for the Chiefs in the 200-yard freestyle (1:50.51) and also took a third place in the 100-yard freestyle (49.83).

Another Canton school record was broken in Friday's league competition when Homan earned a second place and a time of 2:02.14 in the 200-yard individual medley.

Timberlake swam to a fourth place in the 50-yard freestyle (23.46). Anderson was second in the 100-yard butterfly (55.76).

Homan broke a league record with his first-place finish in the 100-yard breaststroke (1:01.67). Kevin Beech also broke a freshman record in the same event, finishing seventh with a time of 1:04.40.

Jim Hartnett finished off Canton's second-place finishes with a second place in the 100-yard backstroke (58.36).

"It was the closest conference meet in the conference history," said Wellman. "A lot of the kids were emotionally upset after the loss. I learned a considerable amount."

Wellman added that his team finished a lot further ahead than people expected them to at the beginning of the season.

Swimmers from both Salem and Canton will compete in the state meet on Friday.

All-league honors

Coaches in the Western Lakes Activities Association recently announced their selections for all-conference and all-division basketball teams for the 1988-89 season.

Receiving all-conference honors were Brian PauPore, of Canton, and Jeff Elliot, of Salem. All Division honors went to Troy Waldron, of Canton, in the Western Division, and Jake Baker, of Salem, in the Lakes Division. Honorable mentions went to Fernando Johnson of Canton, and Craig Marshall and Jeff Jagacki of Salem.

Rocks lose in fourth quarter

BY JANET ARMSTRONG

It looked like the Salem Rocks had it all wrapped up in the district championship game on Friday against Livonia Stevenson.

But the fourth quarter turned it all around when Stevenson made a comeback and the Rocks were unable to stop them.

Stevenson went on to beat the Rocks by one point, 71-70.

Salem had a 20-point lead in the third quarter, but was unable to hold on when Stevenson came at them in the fourth.

"Somebody put a lid on our basket," said Salem coach Bob Brodie.

Salem was one for 12 from the field in the fourth quarter, while Stevenson capitalized on eight shots of 12 attempted.

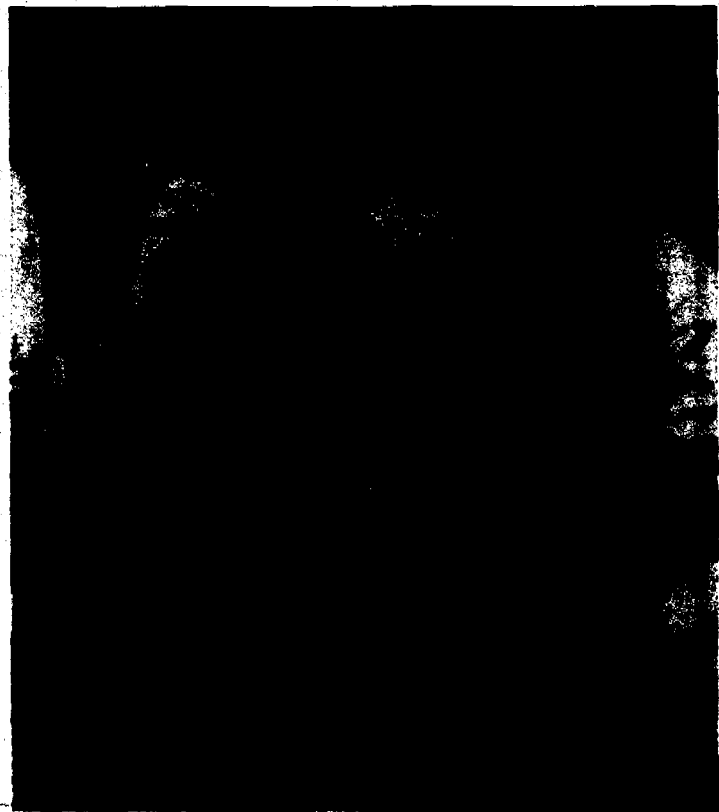
Jake Baker threw in 22 points for the Rocks on Friday and pulled down 16 rebounds. Jeff Elliott and Jeff Gold each contributed 12 points for Salem.

At the end of the first quarter the Rocks were down by two, but that changed in the second and third quarters when Salem gave all it had to give.

"We started getting our running game going," said Brodie. "And we stopped them from scoring, except their big kid in the middle."

"Everybody started celebrating too early," Brodie said. "We had our opportunities, we just didn't capitalize on them."

Brodie said he was pleased with his team for the season they had, but was still hurt by the loss, which ended the 20-3 Rocks season.



Salem's Jeff Elliott is fouled by another player during the Rocks' one point loss on Friday. (Crier photo by Chris Farina)