

# SPORTS

**B**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1993

## Salem 3rd in Western Lakes meet



STEVE KOWALSKI

*New sod worth wait; CC-Traverse City should meet halfway*

For one Saturday in August, the boys and girls soccer players from Plymouth Canton and Salem forgot about being rivals.

Players and parents from both schools worked together in the scorching heat, laying down the new sod on the soccer field at Centennial Education Park. The finished product is a great improvement over the old turf, which would become a sloppy mess after a little rain.

It's hoped the new sod will make the facility, which is only a couple years old, one of the best in the state. A hefty donation from the Canton Soccer Club and fund-raisers by the soccer teams helped pay for the sod.

And some people paid the price for helping put it in place.

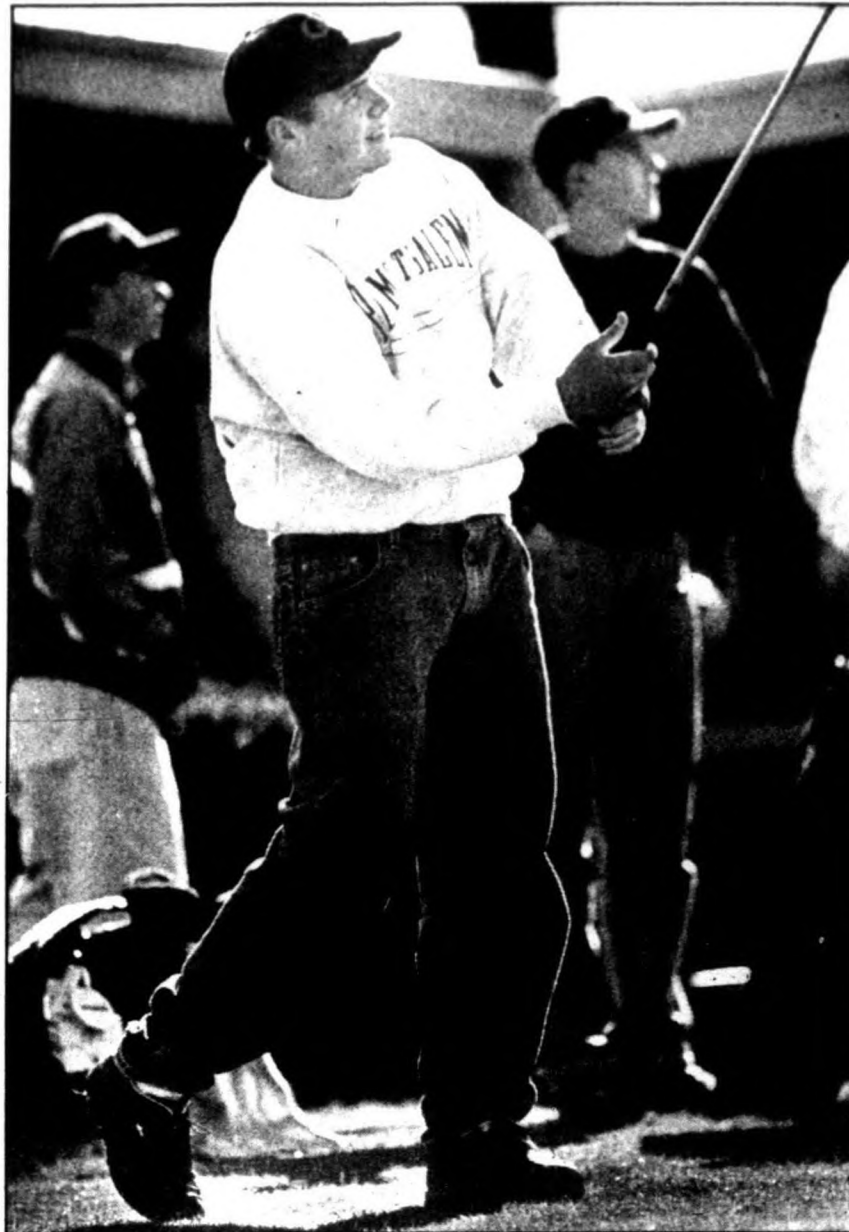
"A couple of fathers told me the next day they couldn't get out of bed," Salem coach Ken Johnson said. "A lot of work went into it. There's a big affection for it."

"I kept looking up to see if we were getting closer (to being done) — that's one big lawn," said Canton coach Don Smith, whose sodding experience is limited to his own yard. "It'll be worth it. It's a beautiful field."

Let's just hope the new sod wasn't forced into action too soon. Several games, including junior varsity, have been played on the new turf. But a few were postponed after a steady rain for fear that the field would be torn up.

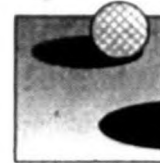
So far, so good.

See KOWALSKI, 3B



BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Tee shot:** Plymouth Salem's Mark Wesner follows his drive Tuesday at the Western Lakes Activities Association golf meet at Brae Burn Golf Course. The Rocks took third in the team standings.



Plymouth Salem's golf team, undefeated through the regular season, placed third in Tuesday's Western Lakes Activities Association meet at Brae Burn Golf Course.

BY STEVE KOWALSKI  
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Churchill found a fall sport in which low scores can produce positive results.

Churchill's football and girls basketball teams are struggling to put points on the board but the golf team is experiencing success while keeping its scores low. The Chargers on Tuesday capped a successful Western Lakes Activities Association season with a league championship at Brae Burn Golf Course.

Churchill, with three players in the top 12, took first place with 418 strokes, three less than second-place Walled Lake Central. Churchill was tri-champion of the Western Division along with Northville and Plymouth Canton at 4-1.

The league championship was the first for Churchill since 1986 when the Chargers took second in Class A.

"We don't get a whole lot of trophies (as a program) in the fall, so this is good for the school to pick up two trophies (league and division) and three (individual) medals," said Churchill's fourth-year coach Kirk Osler. "We knew we had as much depth as anyone and it showed since we were the only team in the tourney with six players breaking 90."

Plymouth Salem took third (427), followed by Northville (432) and Canton (444).

Salem was undefeated in 12 duals and the favorite to win the WLAA after going 11-0 in league play.

Mike Hjelmstad led Salem with 82 for eighth place and Bryan Proctor (84), Jeremy Fox (85) and Ryan Andrejewski (86) just missed taking

home medals. But the next two Rocks, including Mark Wesner, finished the course with 90s.

A 90 was uncharacteristic of Wesner, who had a string of five meets where he broke 40.

"If everyone had shot their average, I felt we had a pretty good opportunity to win tourney," Salem coach Rick Wilson said. "That happens in a one-day, one event kind of thing."

Central's Jason Malczewicz took medalist honors, shooting an 18-hole total of 76 (39-37). North Farmington's Drew Sopha was one shot off the pace, followed by Churchill's senior Jason Samek with a 79.

"Drew had a pretty consistent round," said North coach Daryl Case, whose team placed sixth with 461 points. "The way Drew played today it would be an outside possibility he could qualify for the state meet (at

### Statistics, 5B

Friday's regional at Pontiac Country Club). In the middle of the season he slumped but today he peaked, after playing his best golf in the last couple of weeks."

Senior Andy Uthoff was Canton's best golfer, taking sixth place with an 81.

But the Chiefs' next best scores were a trio of 90s from senior Adam Gilles, sophomore Brian Carlson and senior Todd Blakeney 90.

"Kids didn't play real well," Canton coach said. "Four matches last week really dragged them down and dragged me down with them. They probably just weren't up to it today."

## Double dose

### Salem wins 1st; Canton wins again

Plymouth Salem's girls cross country team won its first championship of the fall Saturday, taking the Pioneer Invitational at Ypsilanti's Buhr Park.

The Rocks had seven of the top 16 runners to take first place with 42 points. Utica Stevenson placed second with 54 points, and host Ann Arbor Pioneer was third (57).

Salem coach Mike Krafchak said the Rocks haven't done as much speed work in practice and their rested legs allowed for faster times at the invitational. Leah Retherford showed the most improvement over last year, taking third place overall in 20 minutes, 17 seconds, exactly a minute faster than 1992.

"We don't usually run very well at that course, but we ran very, very well this time," Krafchak said. "We changed our workout scheme a little, were a little less intense in practice, and the kids made nice adjustments during the middle of the race."

Krafchak praised Stacy Moore, Emily Farrell, Kathy Jost and Lyn Sebestyen for holding off challenges from opposing schools.

Moore was seventh overall (20:27), followed in eighth place by Farrell (21:17). Jost took ninth (21:20), and Sebestyen came in 13th place (21:48).

Kelly Stankov took 15th place

### HARRIERS

(21:54), and Courtney Sheldon was 16th (22:02).

The Rocks ran their dual meet record to 3-1 with last Thursday's 15-50 victory over host Walled Lake Central.

Salem had the top seven runners.

Retherford was first (19:55), followed by Moore with a personal-best time (20:02).

Farrell was third (20:31), followed by Stankov (20:38), Jost (20:44), Sebestyen (21:00) and Sheldon (21:04).

### Chiefs reign

Senior Lana Boroditsch placed first by one second Saturday, leading Plymouth Canton to a landslide victory in the nine-team Gibraltar Carlson Invitational.

The Chiefs scored 25 points, 20 fewer than second-place Brighton. Wyandotte Roosevelt was third (81), and Livonia Churchill finished fourth (131).

Boroditsch won her first invitational by finishing the course in 19 minutes, 26 seconds, one second faster than Roosevelt's Becky Caldwell.

Boroditsch's time was a personal best and the Chiefs' best ever time at Lake Erie Metro Park, according to coach George Przygodski.

"It was a four-person race for 500 meters," Przygodski said. "They (Boroditsch and Caldwell) were side-by-side the whole race. Lana was just stronger at the finish, and she kept her form. That's what made the difference."

Canton's Kathleen Landelius placed fourth (19:43). Laura McWilliams was fifth (20:03), and Becky Wolf from sixth (20:10).

Beth Knight took ninth (20:35). Meghan Barresi placed 16th (21:40), and Tracey Cavin came in 18th (21:42).

### CC takes 3rd

Redford Catholic Central earned third place out of 21 teams in Saturday's Haslett Invitational boys cross country meet.

State-ranked Brighton took first with 37 points, followed by Ann Arbor Huron (87) and CC (96).

Joe Leo finished fourth for the Shamrocks with a time of 16:34 in the 5,000-meter race.

Other CC finishers included Jeremy Short, 20th (17:34); Matt Sroczyński, 22nd (17:37); Phil Camilleri, 24th (17:42); and Brian Smith, 26th (17:42).

The Shamrocks went without Mark Leo, who is nursing a foot injury.

## Rice out to snap CC string

BY BRAD EMONS  
STAFF WRITER

This is the bye week for the Detroit Lions.

Good thing, because if they were playing this Sunday in Pontiac, it would be only the second most important game in town.

It's Wisner Stadium, not the Silverdome, where the action will be as Boys Bowl foes Redford Catholic Central (4-1) and Birmingham Brother Rice (5-0) meet for the 27th time. Kickoff is 2 p.m.

Needless to say, this is the top game this weekend in Observerland.

### GRID PICKS

Rice, considered the state's top-ranked team in all classes, leads the series 14-13. (There was also a 0-0 tie in 1968. CC also won a state playoff game).

CC, however, has captured seven of the last eight meetings, including the last three.

Rice won the 1989 encounter, 31-14, with a star-studded cast that included Steve Morrison and Gannon Dudlar, both defensive starters at Michigan; tight end Pete Mitchell, an All-American candidate at Boston College; Bob

Utter, the starting quarterback at Iowa State; and Chris O'Brien, a starter at offensive tackle for Central Michigan.

As for the prep prognostication race, yours truly correctly picked 13 of 15 games last week to raise his overall season record to 60-14 (a blistering 81 percent).

Meanwhile, arch-rival Dan O'Meara went 11-4 to slip to 55-19 overall (74 percent). O'Meara is on vacation this week (he needs it), but he still faxed in his picks from way out in Westland. Which way to the beach, Dan?

See GRID PICKS, 3B

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