

OCC sailors conquer wind and water

By C.J. RISAK

The theory was simple enough. As McPhillips put it, "Our philosophy was to teach on the lake whenever we could."

Seems logical. After all, the best spot to learn to sail would be in a sailboat on a lake.

But that wasn't the way most colleges or recreation programs ran their

sailing programs. According to McPhillips, most programs were "90 percent classroom, 10 percent on the lake."

McPhillips' and Wade's method has turned into a winner. Since its inception, the sailing program has grown to become the biggest in the Midwest.

"We certify 800 people a year," McPhillips said of the highly successful class. The certification is in basic sailing, which, as McPhillips explained, means "we try to teach them enough so that when they finish they can sail a boat."

The sailing program is run out of Wade's Beach and Boat Club on Elizabeth Lake. OCC offers six different sec-

tions with about 25 students per class.

But that isn't where the program ends.

McPhillips runs 18 more classes through the Northwest Parks and Recreation department, which includes all P & R departments in northwest Oakland county.

That totals 600 people per session. There are two sessions — late spring and summer.

PART OF WHAT makes the program successful is who teaches it. McPhillips does the in-class instruction from a clubhouse at the Beach and Boat Club. Once he's finished, it's into the boats for some practical experi-

ence on the lake.

His instructors are, for the most part, students who have gone through the class themselves. If a student shows an interest in sailing during the basic instruction, McPhillips "nabs them to become instructors."

The instructors go through a much more demanding and intensive training program, which includes a five-day trip to a lake where they are put through drills on whatever could happen to a sailboat on a lake.

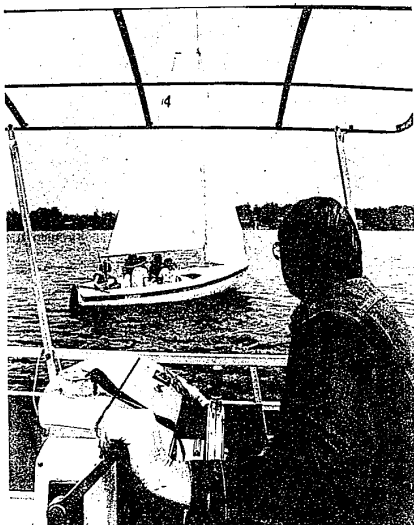
These are the people who do the instructing on the lake. McPhillips oversees classes from a motored pontoon boat, just to be certain everything goes right.

Presently, the class has five sailboats. By the second class session, the students are in charge of the boat — the instructor may tell them what needs to be done, but it's the students who take charge.

Despite the relatively small boats and the usual calmness of Elizabeth Lake, McPhillips said it isn't easy to learn to sail.

"It takes more skill to sail that little Phantom (a small, two-person boat) than it does the American Cup winner," McPhillips said.

And, after all, that's what OCC's sailing program is all about — developing a skill to sail.



Tom McPhillips keeps a close watch on a boat load of novice sailors. (Staff photos by John Stano)



A couple of novice sailors run before the wind on Elizabeth Lake as part of Oakland Community College's sailing program.

Bud Stevens talks . . . golfers listen

By DOUG FUNKE

When Bud Stevens talks golf, people listen.

One look at the Plymouth resident's credentials will convince people that Stevens is an accomplished athlete in one of the most difficult of sports.

• He has won three Michigan Ama-

teur championships and has competed in the premier tournament for non-professional golfers in the state every year since 1958.

• He has qualified for four United States Open championships as an amateur and played in the Open in Brookline, Mass., Rochester, N.Y., St. Louis, Mo. and Birmingham Mich. (Oakland Hills).

• He has won the Golf Association of Michigan championship six times. Members of private clubs compete for that title.

• He has championship flight winner in the first Observer & Eccentric Golf Tournament, shooting a 67 the first time he ever played Whispering Willows Golf Course in Livonia, site of the O&E Tournament.

Stevens, 47, is still an amateur and currently plays out of the Washtenaw Country Club.

Stevens is co-owner of Guardian Manufacturing, a tool shop in Livonia, which may enable him to get out on the course a bit more frequently than the average working man.

He first took to the game as a caddy at Plum Hollow in Southfield when he was 10 years old. Stevens has never had a formal lesson.

Stevens doesn't profess to be a know-it-all with all the answers. However, he does have some thoughts about the game of golf which he isn't afraid to express candidly, if asked.

"I think it's wrong to let anyone buy a set of clubs and walk out and start playing," said Stevens. "I think 40-50

percent of the people out there have never had a formal lesson of any kind.

"But this is public golf and how do you do it?" he continues, expanding on the problem. "If someone has the money and you have a municipal course (and need the revenue to keep operating), who's going to tell them they can't play?"

ON THE STATE of developmental programs for beginning golfers:

"I think junior golf programs today are excellent," Stevens said. "When I was growing up, they didn't have such programs. You learned in the caddy ranks and had caddy tournaments against other clubs."

"I hate to see caddies go," Stevens continued. "Unfortunately, it's happening. In the old days that's where the professionals came from. Now, they come from college."

It's a matter of economics, Stevens said, that carts — both electric and pull — are replacing caddies.

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Legion stickers blister foe, 15-1

Pfecker Mike Tetreault retired the first nine batters he faced last Wednesday as Farmington's American Legion battered Waterford Chief Pontiac, 15-1, in an 18th District game at Township High.

Tetreault, a righthander who played for Farmington Harrison High School this past spring, ended up throwing a two-hitter with five strikeouts and five walks, three coming in the seventh inning when Waterford scored its run.

"He was really sharp right up until the last inning when he walked those guys," said Farmington nager Wally Christensen. "He has a nine fastball and he was keeping it low so they were beating it into the ground."

Farmington, now 10-6 in Legion play, supported Tetreault (3-1) with 14 hits. The winners got off to a good start with a four-run first inning.

Farmington's Pete Thompson, another Harrison baseball standout, had a couple of hits, including a two-run single in the first, and drove in three runs, bringing his season total to 20 RBIs. Teammate Dave Schultz went three for five, including a solo home run in the fifth.

Dave Hall and Rob King each went two for three and scored three runs for Farmington.

Farmington plays next on Wednesday against Lake Orion. The game has a 6 p.m. start at Lake Orion High School, 455 E. Scrips Road.

Angel kickers rip Plymouth

Nancy Glenn scored seven goals, and Laurel Klepinger added four more as the Farmington Angels routed the Plymouth Saints, 15-1, last Wednesday in a Great Lakes Women's Soccer League game at Plymouth's East Middle School.

The victory left coach John Magee's Angels with a 6-0 record this summer.

Patty Larsen scored three goals for the winners, and Colleen Farrell had one to round out the scoring. Farmington plays next on Wednesday, July 16, against the West Bloomfield Avengers. The game begins at 6:30 p.m. at Orchard Lake Middle School, 6000 Orchard Lake Road.

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