

Local referee paying dues in Big 10

By Brad Emmons
staff writer

JOE KAVULICH has paid his dues. He's refereed his way from CYO basketball games, back in 1967, to the Big 10 Conference in 1984.

"My goal was to work the high school (state championship) final and now the rest is gravy," said the 41-year-old Livonian.

Three weeks ago, Kavulich and two other Big 10 officials worked the nationally televised Oklahoma-Syracuse game in upstate New York.

"It was the highlight of my career," Kavulich said. "It was a great game, one of the best I've ever officiated. You realize that there are so many good kids around the country."

Kavulich and his two partners were not only scrutinized by a national TV audience, but they were also performing in front of 30,000 screaming fans in the Carrier Dome.

"IT REMINDED me a lot of the Silverdome," Kavulich said. "I was prepared for it (the game), but you do have butterflies."

"I was more pumped up, though, than anything. I was not awestruck by the crowd because of my previous experiences."

Kavulich once officiated the wild Operation-Friendship final between Birmingham Brother Rice and Detroit Southwestern in 1981 at U-D's Calhoun Hall.

"The fire marshal had to turn people away for that game," Kavulich recalls.

A counselor at Murphy Junior High in Detroit, Kavulich usually works three games per week.

His schedule this week was hectic. Monday he drove to Big Rapids to do a Great Lakes Conference game. Today he flies to Iowa City and Saturday to Madison, Wis. (both with 4 games).

He also works the Mid-American Conference, Midwestern City, Great Lakes, Junior College and non-league games on occasion (like Syracuse).

"MY JOB (at Murphy) is the most important thing," he said. "This is an avocation."

"But travel is the biggest thing. It can be exhausting."

That's one reason why Kavulich resides in Livonia where he has easy access to the I-275 and I-96 expressways.

"When you're doing major college, time is a major factor," Kavulich said. "The weather sometimes can be plain havoc."

Kavulich once got home at 5:15 a.m. from a trip and had to get ready for school within the hour. On another occasion, a plane delay gave him just 15 minutes before the start of a game in Minneapolis, Minn.

"And then you have to mentally prepare yourself," he said.

Long trips are nothing new to Kavulich. It was a long road even getting to the Big 10. After passing the CYO grade, Kavulich worked his way through the high school and small college ranks.

In 1978 he officiated the Class A state final and in '79 it was the Class B championship.

"I WENT through the ranks slowly," he said. "The thing that helped me the most, and it's my feeling, and I've expressed it at clinics where I've spoken, is that to be a good official, you have to work the good suburban games, the Public School League and the Catholic League to be a well-rounded official."

"To improve, you've got to be willing to go places."

After accumulating numerous small college assignments, Kavulich was spotted by a Mid-American Conference official working a PSL playoff game. That led to assignments in that league and the Midwestern City Conference.

"Tom Rucker (a Big 10 referee) has been my biggest fan," Kavulich said. "He's had a lot to do with

my coming up. "And I want to do the same thing for others. I want to see guys get the same opportunity."

IN APRIL, Kavulich knew there would be openings in the Big 10. He applied and was told by Kevin Danton, the conference supervisor, to work the Sandy Sanders College and Pro Summer League in Ann Arbor.

"It was 104 degrees in that gym some nights, but I got assigned to a regular crew," he said. "The key thing is that I had the exposure. If you don't have that, they'll eat you alive."

Kavulich is now one of 30 Big 10 officials on a regular crew (he's been assigned with Gil Haggard and Bob Showalter). He earns \$300 per game and has all of his lodging, food and travel expenses are

taken care of.

"There are no guidelines," he said. "They (the Big 10) don't tell me what to call."

"We're critiqued every game and required to look at films. It's good because I've had to honestly look at myself."

KAVULICH is not only indebted to Rucker, but to athletic directors and supervisors of officials around the state. That's why he made the long trip Monday to Ferris State.

"I'm fulfilling the commitments I've made," he said. "There have been a lot of people good to me. I'm not going to forget where I came from."

And if Big 10 officiating is not enough, Kavulich supervises PSL officials, officiates high school football and does baseball.

"Officiating is a goofy profession," said the Livonian. "You've got to love it because it takes so much time away."

"I give my wife (Jan) credit. She's been great about it."

On Saturday, Kavulich will reach another milestone as a referee.

"In Madison it will be my first encounter with Mr. (Bobby) Knight," he said, anticipating a meeting with the fiery Indiana coach.

Kavulich realizes that the profession has its highs and lows.

"You can be here today and gone tomorrow," he said. "But even if I don't ref anymore, I got a lot of satisfaction out of it."



Joe Kavulich

PINE CASHWAY LUMBER

WITH PRICES THIS LOW, IT'S ALMOST A
GIVE-AWAY



PANELING
CLOSE-OUT
PANELING CLOSE-OUT
E-OUT PANEL

INKSTER RD. STORE ONLY

Stained Cedar 8.99
Silver Elm

Hand Hewn 11.69
Charred Cedar
Lodgewood

Homespun 9.89
Medallion

Windworn 12.59
Blackstone

Burnished Cypress 10.79
Village Square
Bunker Hill

Blackwatch 13.49
Reg. \$11.29-\$19.99

2X4 STUDS

7 ft. 8 ft.

105 119

& FURRING STRIPS

1X2-8' .35

1X3-8' .49

2X2-8' .59

DOORS

INTERIOR FLUSH -1 3/8" THICK

30" LAUAN 12.99

30" BIRCH 17.99

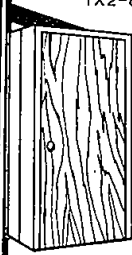
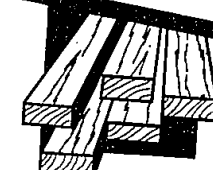
INTERIOR PREHUNG

30"X80" LAUAN FJ JAMBS

24.95

MOSS PASSAGE LOCKSET

6.99



CABINET CLOSE-OUT
CABINET CLOSE-OUT
CABINET CLOSE-OUT

Our loss is your gain - Some cabinets below our cost!

Over 400 cabinets must be sold before inventory

WALL CABINETS Reg. \$63.00-\$142.00

32.00-70.00

BASE CABINETS Reg. \$74.00-\$153.00

NOW 35.00-92.00

Bookcases, drawer units & other accessories at similar savings!

Vicksburg Pine at INKSTER RD. yard only. Richmond Hill Oak at SOUTHFIELD yard only.



INSULATION

KRAFT-FACED 3-1/2X15(88 sq.ft.) R-11

UNFACED 6X15(49 sq.ft.) R-19

1176

FREE!

OLYMPIC TRAINING SHOES BY CONVERSE WHEN YOU BUY 10 OR MORE ROLLS OF OWENS-CORNING FIBERGLAS INSULATION. A \$24.95 VALUE.

Higher R-values mean greater insulating power



LAUAN

4X8-3/8" 3.79

4X8-1/4" 6.99

4X8-1/2" 3.89

DRYWALL

4X8-3/8" 3.79

4X8-1/4" 6.99

4X8-1/2" 3.89

UNDERLAYMENT

4X8-3/8" 3.79

4X8-1/4" 6.99

4X8-1/2" 3.89

PINE CASHWAY LUMBER

Our low prices help you make it.

BRIGHTON
DETROIT
FENTON
LINCOLN PARK
MT. CLEMENS
OWASSO
REDFORD
SOUTHFIELD
SOUTH LYON
UTICA
WATERFORD
YPSILANTI

525 Main Street
5311 East Nevada
14375 Torrey Road
2255 Fort Street
5 South Groesbeck
1315 East Main Street
12222 Inkster Road
22500 West 8 Mile Road
20801 Pontiac Trail
48075 Van Dyke
7374 Highland Road
629 North Huron

227-1831
368-1800
629-3300
386-5177
469-1300
723-9111
937-9111
353-2570
437-4161
759-7463
666-2450
481-1500

Open:
Mon., Tues., Wed.
and Fri.
8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Thurs.
8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Saturday
8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday
10 a.m.-2 p.m.
PRICES GOOD
THRU
FEB. 1-7

Some items may not be available at all locations. All items Cash and Carry - Sole Items marked with *

Youngest Davidson wins junior tournament

Kori Davidson of Farmington Hills and Amy Frazier of Rochester, two of the brightest budding stars of the nation's junior tennis circuit, were impressive winners at the Franklin Winter Junior Championship tennis tournament last weekend.

Davidson, the 10-year-old sister of Farmington Harrison High School standout and nationally ranked junior Kelly Davidson, easily defeated Sherri Vitale of West Bloomfield, 6-0, 6-1 in the Girls 10-year-old division.

Vitale is the daughter of former University of Detroit and Detroit Pistons basketball coach Dick Vitale.

Frazier, ranked No. 2 in the nation in Girls 12, had an equally easy task against Wendy Lyons of Westerville, Ohio, winning 6-1, 6-2. Frazier is the daughter of Carol Frazier, the tournament director at Southfield's Franklin Racquet Club.

THE ASHARE family of Bloomfield Hills had three entries in the tournament and all three made it into the championship match.

Nicole Ashare, ranked 79th nationally in Girls 14, won the 14-year-old division, ousting Tracy Burton (ranked No. 111) 5-7, 6-0, 7-6. Burton is from Cincinnati.

In Girls 18, Kristin Ashare, ranked 14th nationally last year in 14s, lost her championship match to Colinne Bartel (ranked No. 4 in Girls 16) of Lodi, Ohio. Bartel won in straight sets, 6-1, 6-0.

Raymond Ashare lost in the Boys 18 championship. Grand Rapids' Murphy Jensen (ranked No. 8 in Boys 14 last year) beat Ashare 6-4, 6-7, 6-3.

Terry Houston of Birmingham won the Boys 10 division, beating Cullen McMahon of Grosse Pointe Park, 2-6, 7-6, 6-3.

Nicole Rival of Bloomfield Hills finished second in Girls 16 to Meg Boyle of Indianapolis. Boyle won the match 6-7, 6-4, 6-1.

In Boys 16, No. 1-ranked Malivi Washington of Swartz Creek defeated Bloomfield Hills' Mike Herb (ranked 119) 6-1, 6-2.

The tournament, in just its fifth year, attracted 390 participants. Only 240 qualified to compete. Participants came from Canada, Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan.