

# Churchill's Neff resigns

By Brad Emons  
staff writer

On the heels of Pete Scerri's resignation recently at Stevenson High, Livonia lost another successful soccer coach last week when Churchill's John Neff announced his retirement.

Neff, who compiled a nine-year record of 108-25-12, is also retiring from teaching where he has spent the past 28 years, most recently as a business instructor at Wayne Memorial High.

"There are no regrets, it was a good experience," said Neff. "I loved the kids and it was great. If you don't like kids, you shouldn't be in coaching. I always got along my teams."

Churchill athletic director Larry Joiner said Neff will be missed.

"He was an outstanding person, a top-notch educator," said the Churchill AD. "John saw more than just the soccer player. He kept things in perspective. He was always super organized and highly dependable. We need more like him in high school coaching."

WHEN HE RETIRES from teaching in June, Neff plans to spend more time at his summer home in the Charlevoix area.

"I have a place up north and I'm going to prioritize my time a little differently," he said. "But I'll definitely be back to watch some games in the fall. I can't help but

## soccer

miss it because I've been in it so long."

Neff's teams won several division titles. His 1988 team captured the Western Lake Michigan Association crown outright. His 1989 club shared the title this year with Stevenson.

When Bentley High closed in 1986, Neff inherited a talented group of transfers. Platooning 20 players, the Chargers earned a No. 1 ranking, finishing the year at 16-1-1.

This year's squad was also ranked No. 1 before falling in a shootout to city nemesis Stevenson in the district finals. The Chargers finished 15-1-1.

"This season was one of the nicest groups I've ever had," Neff said. "They were very enjoyable to coach and probably the most talented I've ever had."

IN HIS FIRST season (1981), Neff's team won 13-2-2, reaching the quarterfinals of the state high school invitational tournament.

In 1982, the first year the Michigan High Athletic Association sanctioned a state tournament, Churchill reached the championship game before falling to Stevenson.

Ironically, Scerri, whose teams

won four state titles and finished second two other times, also called it quits at the end of this season, bowing to pressures put on him by overzealous parents.

"John never got one phone call from an unhappy family, even where a player was cut," Joiner said.

Neff, who coached his own children while starting out in the Livonia Family Y's 10-and-under leagues, hasn't ruled out the possibility of getting back into the sport.

"In a couple of years I'll probably move permanently up north and once I settle in, maybe there's a place where I can coach a team," he said.

NEFF'S SUCCESSOR, meanwhile, anybody's guess.

The outgoing coach said he will recommend Marty Caves, the JV coach, for the varsity job.

Caves, a former All-Area standout at Bentley who played collegiately at Central Michigan University, may have the inside track.

The job has been posted internally through the Livonia Public Schools, but Joiner said he'll probably have to go outside the district to find a new coach.

Caves currently teaches at Monroe Jefferson High.

Scerri's successor at Stevenson is also being contemplated.

JV coach Wally Barrett, a former head coach at Southfield, is reportedly the leading candidate for the job.

# Harrison must develop successor to Coleman

Continued from Page 1

Following the euphoria of winning another title, the aftermath was tinged with melancholy since it meant the end of an era at Harrison, Coleman, who is being sought by all the major colleges, led the Hawks to a 37-2 record the last three years.

"I do (feel sentimental) but I feel that way about all my seniors," Harrington said. "I know I'm going to see Mill play football again, and I'm anxious to see how he does in college."

"But I also know there are others who will never play another football game, and I get sentimental over that." The graduation losses include all-state kicker Steve Hill and Matt Conley, both of whom were three-year varsity players, too. In addition, seniors Cres Gove, Joe George and Matt Sperry were two-year regulars, and Mondel Highower, Jon Schaeffer, Mike Saputo, Tim Conlon, Scott Ratus, Jeff Peer and Victor Lajcaj made big contributions in their final year.

THE HAWKS will lose 21 seniors and starters at 17 positions — Gove, Highower, Saputo, George and Hill having been two-way starters. But such losses are commonplace at Harrison, which means the Hawks should have another outstanding team next year, right?

"That remains to be seen," said Harrington, who expects Plymouth Canton, North Farmington and Westland John Glenn to field strong teams.

Harrington has said, tongue firmly in cheek, he was planning to leave to head with Coleman.

"We have a tradition that we always joke with the next team — with them coming back, we're retiring," he said. "Basically, it's to motivate them."

(Assistant) coach (Bob) Sutter and I met (Monday) and went over next year's personnel. We're ready to go right now."

Harrison will return enough talent to be viewed as a contender again, whether that be at the league or state level. But the main concern is finding a successor for Coleman.

THE TOP prospects are sophomore Andy Fitzpatrick and junior Andy Smith, both of whom are 6-2 and 170 — good size for high school quarterbacks. Others are junior Plamen Magdevski and freshman Jeff Cisin.

"It's tough for someone (new) to come in, but it was tough for a tailback to come in after (John) Miller," Harrington said.

"Mill has been so dominant, people don't realize we had the all-state quarterback (Mark Murray) the year before he came here, and we feel the talent is there to develop another quarterback."

The Hawks also will return juniors Blazo Sarcevic and Gary Devine and sophomores Greg Piscopink and Roy Granger — all of whom started this year.

Devine, who played noseguard, will succeed Conley at tailback and might not play defense. Granger will continue to play swingback and cornerback and will be Devine's back-up.

In a couple of surprise moves, Sarcevic (6-3, 212) will move from guard to tight end and return to inside linebacker. Piscopink — "a great athlete," according to Harrington — will switch from tight end to wide receiver and monsterback to free safety.

"WITH DEVINE, we think we'll be more of a running team and will need that tight end who can block," Harrington said. "(Sarcevic) is a good basketball player, so he has good enough hands to help us in the passing game."

Despite the departure of Coleman, who was perfectly suited for the sprintout passing game, there won't be any dramatic changes in the Harrison offense.

"Maybe different plays will be highlighted," Harrington said. "With the type of quarterbacks we have coming, we might use more dropback and draw passes."

"We might use more misdirection for our fast backs (Devine and Granger), but our offense is basically our offense and won't change much."

## Hudson paces SC

Forward Ed Hudson poured in a career-high 30 points Tuesday leading the Schoolcraft College men's basketball team to a come-from-behind 68-60 victory over the host Albion College Junior Varsity.

The 6-foot-4 Hudson, who connected on Royal Oak Shrine High, connected on six 3-point shots.

Down 46-36 with only 10 minutes to play, Schoolcraft reeled off 20 straight points to take control and eventually gain the win.

Randy Waters, a 6-4 freshman from Milford Lakeland, contributed 13 points, while second-year point-guard Ken Fuster (River Rouge), added eight.

SC coach Dave Bogataj also credited the defensive ball-hawking of guards Tony Rumpel (Wayne Memorial), John Moran (Allen Park Cabrini) and Fuster as instrumental in the Ocelots' second-half comeback.

"They did the dirty work, they picked up a lot of loose balls," said the SC coach.

Center Brad Hoopingarum shared game-high point honors with Hudson with 30.

ON MONDAY, SC broke away in the final 10 minutes to rout the visiting Adrian College Junior Varsity, 114-87.

## OCC stays undefeated

Oakland Community College men's basketball team improved to 3-0 on the season Saturday with a narrow, 98-97, victory over host Detroit Jordan Community College.

The Raiders stormed ahead 53-39 by halftime, and led by as many as 20 points early in the second half, 68-48, before Jordan roared back and took a 95-94 lead with less than a minute remaining in the game.

Mike Bailey (20 points) canned a pair of free throws to put the Raiders back on top, 96-95. Ed Pasque (16 points) added a layup with :16 left in the game to seal the victory for OCC.

Tim Robinson paced the winners with 22 points. Jerry Prishner added 15 points and grabbed 16 rebounds for the Raiders. Toine Murphy chipped in with 14 points and Ed Whitaker scored four points and dished off 16 assists.

Jordan's Mike McCormick led all scorers in the game with 27 points and teammate Eric Butler finished with 20 points, including 15 in the second half.

OCC will compete in the Macomb Community College tournament Friday and Saturday. The Raiders open play at 8 p.m. Friday against Lake Michigan Community College. The winner advances to the championship game, slated for 8 p.m. Saturday.

## George stars at Albion

Ken George of Farmington Hills was named to the all-tournament team after leading Albion College to the championship of the Tipoff Tournament on Saturday, Nov. 18.

George, a senior guard, scored 15 points and had six assists in Albion's first-round, 105-56 win over the University of Michigan-Dearborn. In the final, he played all 40 minutes and scored 17 points as the Britons downed Division II opponent Hillsdale 93-81.

George, a 1986 graduate of Harrison High School, needs 200 points this season to reach 2,000 for his collegiate career.

A four-year starter, George has a 14-point career average, has started 60 consecutive games and holds school records for most 3-point field goals made (47) and attempted (110) in one season, most steals in one game (16) and best free throw percentage for a game (nine of nine) and season (86 percent).

## S'craft erodes Erie

After dropping the opening game in the Erie Community College (New York) tournament Saturday, Schoolcraft women's basketball coach Jack Brennan was a bit disgruntled with his team's performance.

"I wasn't overly pleased with our intensity," explained Green. "So I woke everybody up at 7 a.m. to practice our intensity before the second game."

The early wake-up call did wonders for the Ocelots, who crushed host Erie 11-40 in the consolation game.

Lisa DePlanche led all scorers with 23 points for the Ocelots and Tracy Jabrone added 27, including six-of-eight from three-point range.

Barb Krug (Plymouth Salem) chipped in with 15 points, followed by Ann Hardy with 13 and Teresa Parkas with 10.

Erie, which trailed 49-19 at halftime, scored just 18 points from the field while tallying 22 from the free throw line.

In the opening game, Schoolcraft dropped a 75-57 decision to Cuyahoga College (Ohio).

### The Moneysaver EXPLOSION SALE

3 DAYS ONLY

## MICHIGAN STATE FAIRGROUNDS

# FRI-SAT-SUN DEC 1-3

Over 50 Metro Detroit Retailers Offering Up To 80% OFF

<b>Car Phones</b> <b>\$4990</b> <small>Famous Name Brand Cellular Phone • System Wide Paying 15,000 reserve points</small>	<b>UP TO 80% OFF NAME BRAND SKIS</b>	<b>NINTENDO GAME PAKS</b> <b>All Titles \$3295</b> <small>HALL OF GAMES</small>	<b>UP TO 80% OFF TIRES, WHEELS &amp; ACCESSORIES</b> <b>METRO 26 TIRES</b>	<b>UP TO 80% OFF Men's Clothing</b> <b>OSMUN'S</b>
<b>HANEYS</b> <b>Twin Bed Mattresses \$4990</b> <small>(in Sets Only)</small> <b>REDFORD MATTRESS</b>	<b>50" TV \$2699</b> <small>Pioneer 1990 Model • Built-in Sound • Serial Remote</small> <b>NETWORK VIDEO</b>	<b>50% OFF GAMES</b> <small>Purchase any game at sale price &amp; get second game of equal or less value at 50% OFF.</small> <b>HALL OF GAMES</b>	<b>Ceiling Fans \$4995</b> <b>DAN'S FAN CITY</b>	<b>Mountain Bikes \$18900</b> <b>D AND B BIKES</b>
<b>Wool Blend Suits \$9990</b> <small>Regular \$1200</small> <b>OSMUN'S</b>	<b>Wool Men's Sport Coats \$4990</b> <b>OSMUN'S</b>	<b>Sweaters \$1190</b> <small>Reg. to \$500</small> <b>Men's Pants \$6.99</b> <small>(up to \$25.00 value)</small> <b>OSMUN'S</b>	<b>Batman Videos \$990</b> <b>VIDEO MANIA</b>	<b>UP TO 80% OFF Hot Tubs</b> <b>CALLIE HOT TUBS LIQUIDATION</b>
<b>Kenwood Cassette Receivers \$14995</b> <small>KRC 1003</small> <b>HANEYS</b>	<b>In Dash Cassette \$2995</b> <b>HANEYS</b>	<b>Bunk Beds w/Mattresses \$13800</b> <b>REDFORD MATTRESS</b>	<b>Sanders Baked Goods Lowest Prices in Town!</b> <b>SANDERS</b>	<b>Blue Fox Jackets \$29900</b> <small>For Used Leathers \$39900</small> <b>INTERNATIONAL FUR BROKERS</b>
<b>3 DAYS ONLY</b> <b>SHOW HOURS:</b> Friday Noon - 10pm Saturday 10am - 10pm Sunday Noon - 7pm <small>General Admission - \$5.00            and Proceeds by Major Events University of Michigan            1000 Stadium Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48106            (313) 763-3322</small>	<b>UP TO 80% OFF Portable Car Phones \$179</b> <small>Full 3 Watt Power • Number Memory • 1000 Numbers • 1000 Speed Dial</small> <b>CELLULAR ONE</b>	<b>Full Length Mink Coats \$149900</b> <b>INTERNATIONAL FUR BROKERS</b>	<b>50% OFF Admission Price</b> <small>Present this coupon and receive up to four admissions at \$3.00 each.</small> <b>The Moneysaver EXPLOSION SALE</b> <small>(Michigan State &amp; Agricultural Fairs) Valid December 1-3, 1989</small>	

### ALL YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING UNDER ONE ROOF!

AVAILABLE AT: THE MONEYSAVER EXPLOSION SALE • and participating:

- ACO • MONTGOMERY WARD • CECIL'S • METRO 26 TIRES
- MCCRORY • 7-ELEVEN • SAV-MOR • OSMUN'S • CHURCH'S LUMIER

and at their retail locations:

- DALL AND KASTLAND (at Cecile's) • SUMMIT PLACE (Front of Wards) • UNIVERSAL (Front of Wards) • WONDERLAND (Front of Wards) • TWELVE OAKS (at Cecile's) • MACOMB (Front of McCrory) • TEL TWELVE (Front of Montgomery Wards)

ONLY \$2995 Expires Dec 3, 1989