

O&E THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1991

IN BRIEF

Named Lions fellow

JACK KAVLAKIAN, a Farmington Hills resident and a member of the local Lions Club, has been designated a Melvin Jones Fellow by Lions Club International Foundation in recognition to his commitment to serving his community.

Kavlakian owns Westbrook Cleaners in Farmington Hills. "He's been active in our (Lions) club and he's been a district officer," said Dick Carvell, secretary of the local Lions Club who helped make the choice. "He's been active in fund-raising projects."

Named for the founder of Lions Clubs International, Melvin Jones, the fellowship is the Foundation's highest honor. It is conferred on those who demonstrate practical application of the service club's motto: "We serve."

Kavlakian, a member of the Farmington Area Lions Club, District 11-A-2, recently received a plaque and lapel pin acknowledging his service. With the award, he becomes part of an international network of more than 33,500 recipients spanning nearly 80 countries worldwide.

Attends Albion course

INSTEAD OF standing in front of the class teaching, Richard Curp, a teacher at Farmington High School, sat in the class learning.

Curp attended Albion College's Intensive Course for High School Teachers this summer.

The four-week program offers graduate level courses for secondary teachers of college-bound students in accelerated for enriched classes, independent studies and advanced placement courses.

After taking classes in psychology, Curp, a Northville resident, hopes he will be better prepared to teach high school seniors who want to take the national Advanced Placement examinations to obtain college credit in specific courses.



Jack Kavlakian

WL Western gets field of dreams

By Tim Smith
staff writer

It took 22 years, but Walled Lake Western High School finally has a "home" football field.

Instead of loading onto a school bus bound for cross-town Walled Lake Central, the Warriors on Friday simply will walk out of their locker room and trot out onto a brand new field — to be washed in bright lights for the first time.

Under four light banks of 10 bulbs each, the Warriors and Novi will square off at 7:30 p.m., after a 7 p.m. dedication ceremony featuring dignitaries and alumni players.

Two of those former athletes talked Tuesday about being somewhat envious of the 1991 team's new surroundings.

"It's great, but I wish I could have had a (home) field when I played football," said 1990 graduate Corey Pierce, 19.

"It seemed like we always had away games."

AGREEING WAS 17-year-old Kevin Vought, a 1991 Western graduate.

"I'm a little envious, just graduating (this) year, that we couldn't start the tradition."

Several school officials said anticipation was growing for Friday's field dedication and the football game.

"They're just looking forward to the opportunity as a student body and a school community to establish some pride in ownership," said principal Dennis Champnella.

"I can assure you there's going to be a great turnout for this."

Assistant principal Bill Calhoun has been around the high school since its doors opened in 1969. Since then, only twice have the Warriors actually played their home games at their school.

"To the kids there's a real significance to having a home field," Calhoun said. "We've always been a visitor."

Western athletic director Bob Atkins said having a bonafide facility would boost school pride and have a spin-off effect on the football team itself, coached by Chuck Appa.

"I THINK you'll find the student body will have a much more positive feeling that 'This is our facility, it's our home game.'"

Atkins said it could be tough mentally for the players to travel to another school for home games. Vought agreed, adding that the set-up took something away from the varsity football experience.

"You couldn't walk out of your school and onto the field," he said. "You had to take the bus over there."

Sophomores Dan Rester and Amy McGee, both 18, said anticipation among students for Friday's events was growing and that the new field should draw more Warriors fans than the Central site did.



SHERPINE BUZZBY/staff photographer

Walled Lake Western High School principal Dennis Champnella (from left), athletic director Bob Atkins and assistant principal Bill Calhoun

say anticipation is growing for the school's first ever "home" night-time football game, 7:30 p.m. Friday against Novi.

Work on the project, which Atkins said was part of a \$49 million bond issue passed in 1988 to renovate schools across the district, began in late 1990 and was almost complete by June.

BESIDES THE light banks, the facility includes a completely new playing surface, underground sprinkling system, new press box and bleachers with a capacity of 2,000-2,500.

Calhoun said efforts for a lighted Western gridiron during the early 1980s failed because fund-raising attempts fell short.

"At that point, the district was not in a position to even attempt a bond issue for something such as a football field," Calhoun said.

A decade later, the hopes became reality. With the field ready, Atkins said all that now needs to be determined is whether the Warriors will have a championship year. "Hopefully it will all fall into place."



Kevin Vought said he's envious that he wouldn't be playing in the school's first football game under the lights.

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