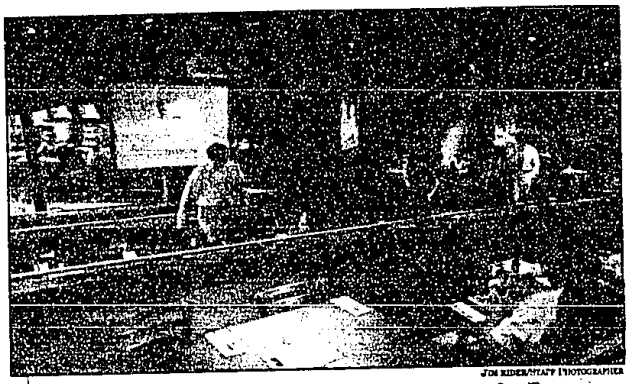
DINING



JON KIDER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sports restaurant: *Metro Detroit's newest stadium — Spectadium Sportsvideo Bar & Grill offers fans everything they're looking for to enjoy sports — food and drink, a great atmosphere, and the best view of the game. With Spectadium's continuous-play sports video library, rain delays will no longer stop the action.*

Spectadium scores with sports fans

BY JUDITH DONER BERNE
SPECIAL WRITER

Nothing of the two-thirds-pound cheese burger was left on his plate.

"It was just excellent," critiqued Don Sherer of Troy, dining for the first time at the recently opened Spectadium Sportsvideo Bar & Grill.

Sherer was having a business lunch with his son, Jon, also of Troy, and Greg Capp of Ann Arbor.

Jon was merely half-way through a huge Mediterranean salad, of beets, Calamata olives, feta cheese, onions, pepperocini, chick peas on mixed greens. He ordered the herb vinaigrette dressing on the side and pronounced the salad full of "great flavors."

Capp had finished a Philly Cheese Steak sandwich which he described as "good and spicy." Their 40-ounce glasses of soda pop and iced tea appeared to need no refills.

At another table, Beverly Hills resident Theresa Dziubek had eaten lunch at her Troy office, but was indulging in one of two desserts on the menu, the deep dish apple pie. "It was exquisite," she said.

Spectadium owners say they are already filling their multi-tiered stadium-setting tables with fans for big games and sporting promotions. The 8,000 square foot restaurant is designed to resemble a miniature stadium. There are three 12-foot projection screen televisions, 20 31-inch televisions, and a state-of-the-art Surround Sound audio system. Linked to three satellite dishes.

But they are hoping the menu that Chuck Williams, former executive chef at Morton's Steak House in Southfield, has put together also will make them a contender for non-sporting types who just like high quality food in a relaxed atmosphere.

And they are eagerly awaiting the November day when the road construction on nearby Big Beaver is supposed to be completed and customers can get to them without a hassle.

"We're a restaurant first," said CEO Mark Alhermizi, a West Bloomfield resident who acknowledges he's had little time lately for his Farmington Hills law practice. "Chuck's a veteran executive chef. It is a genuine American concept — a little more upscale, a little more creative than the average sports bar," Williams says, of the cuisine. In particular, he is stressing "homemade" over "deep-fried."

What Williams likes best is no big secret. He has designated his all-star picks right on the menu:

- **Appetizer:** Maryland crabcake served with garlic Aioli and Hunter dipping sauces ($8.95).
- **Salad:** Mediterranean ($5.95).
- **Sandwiches:** Meatloaf served on potato bread with homemade country gravy ($5.95). (All sandwiches come with homemade Sarasota chips. Fries are $1 extra.)
- **Entrees:** Baby-back ribs — a full slab with Hoisin barbecue sauce ($15.95) including salad and choice of potato.

"I'm in love with our ribs," said Alhermizi. And he says a following is developing for the vegetarian chili.

Williams rib recipe calls for rubbing spices into the ribs themselves, then slow-cooking for six hours.

And the secret to the meatloaf, also offered as an entree, is "personalizing it in an individual one-pound meat loaf pan."

The five different peppers and cumin ketchup give it, he says, "a nice blend."

A few menu revisions have already been made in the several weeks Spectadium has been opened.

A weekday all-you-can-eat deli lunch buffet ($5.95) that can also be carried out has been added to lure the quick business lunches.

All shrimp dishes have been removed from the menu, apparently not proving cost effective.

And a chilled banana strawberry soup is no longer seasonal.

Now that the staff is familiar with the menu, Williams says it's no problem to serve the 500 fans who watched the University of Michigan-Boston College game on a Saturday night or the blacked out Lions on a recent Sunday.

The only hurdle, he says, is the noise: "When the crowd gets excited, they get scared in the kitchen!"

Spectadium Sportsvideo Bar & Grill

- **WHERE:** 2511 Livernois (south of Big Beaver), Troy, (810) 362-4030, Fax (810) 362-2099.
- **HOURS:** 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. Monday-Wednesday; 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Thursday-Saturday; noon to midnight Sunday.
- **MENU:** Home-style American. Weekday lunch salad buffet (11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.) available in addition to regular menu. Vegetarian friendly.
- **CHILDREN'S MENU:** No kid's menu, but things kids like including burgers, chicken wings, and grilled cheese (on request) are available.
- **PRICE-RANGE:** Moderate.
- **RESERVATIONS:** Parties of 10 or more on non-big game nights.
- **CREDIT CARDS:** All majors.
- **DRINKING AND SMOKING:** Five of six tap beers are micro-brews. One-half stadium seating area is non-smoking.
- **DRESS:** Casual.

RESTAURANT SPECIALS

Send items to be considered for publication to: Keely Wygonik, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or by fax (313)591-7279.

New restaurants

Big Surf Cybercafe
Opening Saturday, Oct. 14, 750 S. Woodward, Birmingham. Conceived and created by the Birmingham Internet Group, Big Surf Cybercafe is a place to have a cup of coffee and a snack. Afterward, customers can head over to the other side of the space and sit down at their own computer for $10 an hour to surf the the Internet, see cyberart shows on computer projection screens, participate in Internet training seminars, and play CD-ROM games. (810) 433-3135

Genghis Khan Mongolian Restaurant
Mongolian Barbecue Buffet Style
37546 Six Mile Road, Livonia, Laurel Park.
Hours 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Sundays. (313) 432-9996 or (313) 432-9997

Audie's on the Lake
Family dining restaurant at 8635 Cooley Lake Road, the former sight of Duffy's, Commerce Township. Hours are 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tuesday-Saturday; noon to 9 p.m. Sunday. Menu includes a wide range of appetizers, soups and salads. Main entree choices include veal specialties, pork and beef basics, seafood, chicken classics, and pasta dishes. Sandwiches and the "Audie's Create Your Own Pizza" round out the adult menu fare. Children's menu. (810) 363-9469

Special events

America
Series of regional feasts featuring a different part of the United States in a prix fixe three-course meal. Cost $25 per person, excluding tax and gratuity. Oct. 9, Texas; Oct. 16, Florida/Caribean; Oct. 23, California Vegetarian; Oct. 30, Cajun. Hearty feast on Oct. 19 will spotlight four wines from Silver Oak Vineyard. Cost is $65 per person. The restaurant is on Woodward Ave. in Royal Oak, south of 14 Mile Road. Call for reservations. (810) 549-2000

Palio
Restaurant in downtown Ann Arbor will launch its second popular wine tasting dinner series Oct. 10. Monthly event features six-course dinner with a variety of complimentary wines. Wine fact sheets will be provided. The cost is $110 per couple. Advanced registration and payment required. Space is limited. (313) 668-6062 or (313) 930-6100

Golden Mushroom
Special dinner on Oct. 16 features Creole and Caribbean food with wines. The food and wine Venice will be featured on Oct. 23. All dinners begin with a reception at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. The restaurant is at 18100 W. 10 Mile Road (corner of Southfield Road), Southfield. Call for information, reservations. (810) 559-4230

Brady's
Cigar Night, Oct. 16, Brady's Food & Spirits, 38123 W. 10 Mile Road, in the Holiday Inn, Farmington Hills. Cost $60 per person includes three exclusive cigars, five-course meal, and blend of wines and cognacs. Call for reservations. (810) 478-7760.

Ann Arbor's Real Seafood Company
Second Oyster & Beer Fest, 6:30-9 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 18, 341 S. Main St. Cost $45 per person. Includes fresh iced oysters, clams, mussels and linguine with clam sauce. Call for reservations. (313) 769-5960

Entertainment

Relish
Steve King and the Diddleys bring the music of the 1960s to Relish, 34555 W. 12 Mile Road (between Drake and Farmington Roads) 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. every Wednesday night. Dancing encouraged. (810) 489-8852

Arriva Ristorante
Johnny Trudell's tribute to the music of Stan Kenton featuring the Four Freshmen through Oct. 7. Keely Smith, Sam Butera and The Witnesses, "A Tribute to Louis Prima" Oct. 10-15. Dinner served 7 p.m. show begins 9 p.m. Arriva is in Warren at 6880 E. 12 Mile Road at Van Dyke. Call for reservations, information. (810) 573-8100

Benefits

Too Chez
A select group of the country's finest chefs will cook together at the Wisne family-owned Too Chez Restaurant in Novi 6-10 p.m. Monday, Oct. 9 for the benefit of the Mike Utley Foundation. Tickets $150 per person. (810) 348-5555 or (810) 348-0299

Gleaners Community Food Bank
"(Two-) Steppin' Out For Hunger, Texas barbecue, 4-8 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 8, Gleaners Community Food Bank, 2131 Beaufait, Detroit. Tickets $25 for kids, $125 for adults, to $1,000 Angel Family package. (313) 923-7855

Mr. Z's Steak House
27331 Five Mile Rd. (at Inkster) 537-5600
SWEETEST DAY SPECIAL DINNER FOR TWO $16.95
FREE DINNER (up to $3.00 Value) Buy 1, Get Second Free (of equal or lesser value) Dine in only • Expires 10/31/95

Have you seen Street Scene?
It's hot! It's cool. Check it out. Every Thursday

BRENTWOOD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
2450 Havenwood, White Lake 684-2662
Featuring FRIDAY NIGHT SEAFOOD BUFFET
Salad Bar, Crab Legs, Peel & Eat Shrimp, Cold Poached Salmon, Catch of the Day plus MUCH, MUCH MORE!
ONLY $13.95
Good THRU OCT. 31 5:30 PM 8:0 PM
Come join us for great seafood!

MITCH HOUSEY'S
Open 11 A.M. Businessmen's Lunches
DINNERS from $6.95
FASHION SHOW Thursday Starting at Noon
WORLD'S FINEST PRIME RIB with bone in $10.95 (Dinner includes salad, potatoes, vegetable, hot bread) OPEN SUNDAYS at 4:00 P.M.
NOW APPEARING ..LIVE THE SHOWCASEMEN WEDNESDAY thru SATURDAY
COCKTAIL HOUR MON. THRU FRI. 4-7 P.M. DAILY
NOW BOOKING BANQUETS (small or large)
28500 Schoolcraft • Opposite Ladbroke DRC • LIVONIA 425-5520 OPEN DAILY MON.-SAT. at 11:00 a.m.

Buddy's PIZZA
Ready-To-Go-Favorites Just for your...
TAILGATE PARTY
Groups 15-100 package rates available
LIVONIA 22805 Plymouth Rd. (West of Farmington Rd.) (313) 261-3550
Other Buddy's Locations
FARMINGTON · WEST BLOOMFIELD · ROYAL OAK · BLOOMFIELD COMMONS
Bring this ad in for... $2 Off Any Large Pizza or Large Antipasto or Large Greek Salad
ONE COUPON PER PIZZA

BEST VALUE Package
$213* PLUS TAX
Fri. & Sat. lodging, 4 breakfasts, 4 dinners, 2 movie passes, 4 games of bowling, pizza & beer, ice cream treat
Children stay free in same room. (*Price includes a $25 discount. You must mention this ad. Advanced reservations & a $50 deposit required
1-800-875-7700

Friday Night Seafood Buffet
THE FOLLOWING PRICE IS FOR DINNER ONLY
Buy One Seafood Buffet Dinner at $11.95
Get the 2nd Seafood Buffet Dinner at .... 1/2 Off
ALL YOU CAN EAT
The Botsford Inn Farmington Hills (810) 474-4800

Chinese Kono Restaurant
Rail W. South Blvd. Troy, Mt. Avon
PHONE 879-3232 FAX: 879-1886
10% OFF Any Lunch Or Dinner Order
Dine-In or Carry Out • Exp. 10-19-95
PROUD TO BE A NON-SMOKING ENVIRONMENT

COPPER CREEK GOLF COURSE & RESTAURANT
Contemporary International Cuisine
Italian Nights
Every Monday & Tuesday Evening
Dinners starting at $8.95
Includes Entree, Soup and Salad
Complement your dinner with a choice from our extensive wine list
Elegant atmosphere, superb food and close to home
Copper Creek
27925 Golf Pointe Blvd., Farmington Hills
12 Mile Rd. just East of Haggerty
489-1777

– GRAND OPENING –
PEKING GARDEN 北京園
Szechuan • Hunan • Chinese Cuisine
10% OFF Dinners
Luncheon Specials 7 days a week
Mon-Thurs 11-10:30 p.m. • Fri-Sat 11-11p.m. • Sunday 12 noon - 10 p.m.
(810) 353-7890
Northwestern Hwy. just S. of Inkster Rd. in Arlington Square, Southfield