

50-year fixture

Western's manager sees 3 generations of golfers

By STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

Members of Western Golf & Country Club in Redford Township addressed locker room manager Jim Seller differently, depending on when they first met him.

The 63-year-old Seller has come to know three generations of golfers in 50 years at Western, starting in 1945 when he became a caddie.

"Some call me 'Jim,' some call me 'Mr. Seller' and some call me 'Red,'" said Seller, whose once-red hair turned gray years ago. "The old timers call me 'Red.' Three kids who worked for me, their fathers worked for me. When I get to grandchild, I quit."

Seller's friendly demeanor is as much his trademark as the unlit cigar that usually rests on his lips. Seller doesn't light them anymore because as busy as he is around the locker room, it doesn't make sense.

He never has to worry about running out of cigars, or burning holes in members' towels, for that matter.

"I don't even buy the damn things, people give them to me," Seller said. "I used to smoke them, then I quit. It's like a pacifier."

Who better to ask about Seller's reputation than Bud Erickson, 72, a longtime Western member who publishes the club's newsletter?

"When you come in the club, the first person you meet is Red, and he's a very positive image for Western," said Erickson, a former public relations director of the Detroit Lions. "He's certainly well-liked. The fact he's been there 50 years is a good indication."

Seller, who lives in Redford Township with his wife of 42 years, Rose Marie, grew up in a family of caddies. His brothers Chester, Bob (deceased), Louis and Rick also were caddies at Western.

He stayed with it the longest, eventually being named the club's Caddie Master. The Detroit Redford High School graduate remembers golf balls being scarce back when he started during World War II.

"You couldn't get good golf balls; they used synthetic balls that were re-covered," Seller remembers. "Over by the bridges (on holes) 2, 4 and 7, they had fences to keep the balls from going in the river. Balls were hard to get."

What's odd nowadays, according to Seller, is caddies are becoming scarce. The drop in demand for caddies was the

PROFILE

main reason Seller moved from his job as Caddie Superintendent to his current position in 1979.

Seller remembers summers when up to 300 caddies signed up at the start of the year, and he regularly scheduled at least 100 to work. Today, Western is lucky to have 100 sign up and 30 work regularly, he said.

"Caddies are almost extinct," caddies have pushed them out," Seller said. "Caddies used to extend the season in the spring or fall when the kids were in school, now it's getting to the point where they ride them all summer. You got guys in their 30s who every time they play golf, they get a cart. Do you know how to spell 'play'?"

Seller doesn't know the meaning of the word, working seven days a week in the summer at Western, starting at 7 a.m. and leaving at 6 p.m. He's usually home by dusk.

"If you're organized, you have to stay that late," said Seller, who once had a 6-handicap and won the Michigan Caddie Superintendent Championship.

The last major tournament Western hosted was in 1960 when all the big names on the Professional Golf Association Tour came to play in the Western Open. Seller said he wasn't overwhelmed, because "the only celebrities I know are the ones who sign my check."

New caddies would get labeled "B" caddies, which stood for beginner. It was an apprenticeship experience for new caddies under Seller.

"He'd call us 'Bugs' if you were a 'B' caddie," remembers one of his former caddies, Jim Gibbons, now the Redford Union athletic director. "He'd sometimes say, 'Get me a Bug. I need this place swept.' Every new caddie was terrified of him the first year or two because he wouldn't let you know he was a real good guy right away. He's the best."

There are some fringe benefits, of course, to taking care of a club of wealthy golfers. One of the members, Don Fergot, appreciated Seller's work so much, he lets him use his condominium in Las Vegas for a week each year.

"Nobody here does anything other than like him," said Fergot of Livonia. "He takes care of everybody. He does a better job than any locker room attendant in the country."

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 9, 1995

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Smith at 7:30 p.m. Members present: Bates, Grant, Litchman, Oliverio, Seaver, Smith and Vagozzi. Members absent: None. Others present: City Manager Costick, City Clerk Dornan, Assistant City Manager Brock, Directors Biessell and Lasley, and Attorney Douchie.

COUNCIL TOOK THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

- Proclaimed: October 8-14, 1995 as Fire Prevention Week; month of October, 1995 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
- Postponed consideration of Master Site Plan for single-family housing at Hillside and Green Hill to October 10, 1995.
- Scheduled the October 23rd City Council meeting to October 30, 1995.
- Received update on marketing program for teen skat.
- Received Attorney's report for October.
- Made recommendation to the Oakland County Drain Commissioner to exchange property located at Grand River and Halsted in order to receive dedicated right-of-way for future road improvements.

APPROVED:

- Various appointments to Boards and Commissions.
- Appointments of additional alternate members to the Ice Arena Advisory Committee.
- Contract with Information Access Strategies consultant services to conduct computer applications study.
- Agreement of Department of Social Services for grant to establish a Decentralized Youth Project.
- Contract with Michigan Department of Transportation for Grand River Corridor Improvement Project.
- Public hearing date of November 20, 1995, for consideration of water main installation for Canfield Drive from Eldon Avenue to 1,160 feet north.
- Traffic Control Orders for turn restrictions at various locations and prohibiting parking along Colwell and Bedalia between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. daily.
- Employment in accordance with Section 10.01A of the City Code.
- Special event license for Kendallwood Halloween Parade on October 29, 1995.
- City Council minutes of September 11 and 18, 1995

- AWARDED BIDS FOR:
 - Fall 1995 Tree Planting Program to Tom's Landscaping and Nursery in the amount of \$11,000.
 - Rock salt and sand chlorides for snow and ice control to North American, Inc. in the amount of \$47,700; Morton International, Inc. in the amount of \$31,263; and Construction Materials in the amount of \$33,123.
 - Ice melting materials to Clark Food Service in the amount of \$1,414.40; Lower Huron in the amount of \$6,380.
 - Golf course utility vehicles to WF Miller in the amount of \$1,100.

JOANNE SMITH, Mayor
KATHRYN A. DORNAN, City Clerk

FOOTBALL

ROSEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
FOOTBALL PLAYOFF COMPUTER RANKINGS
(as of Oct. 13)

Region II: 1. Novi (6-0), 102,667; 2. Detroit (6-0), 22,000; 3. Clarkston (5-1), 67,500; 4. Farmington-Ashland (5-1), 16,833; 5. Avondale (4-2), 64,000; 6. Livonia (4-2), 64,000; 7. Battle Creek Central (4-2), 88,500; 8. Battle Creek Central (4-2), 82,332; 9. Ann Arbor Huron (4-2), 64,323; 10. Hazel Park (4-2), 104,000; 11. Redford (4-2), 104,000; 12. Franklin (4-2), 104,000; 13. Detroit (4-2), 94,067; 14. Dearborn (4-2), 80,000; 15. Southfield (4-2), 80,000; 16. Livonia Stevenson (5-1), 78,687; 17. Detroit (4-2), 64,000; 18. Dearborn (4-2), 64,000; 19. Hazel Park (4-2), 64,000; 20. Novi (4-2), 49,833.

CLASS A

Region III: 1. South Lyon (5-0), 98,100; 2. Detroit Chippewa (5-0), 97,333; 3. Royal Oak (5-0), 93,200; 4. South Lyon (5-0), 91,887; 5. Southgate Anderson (4-2), 62,500; 6. Northville (4-2), 61,487; 7. Dearborn Edsel Ford (3-3), 62,200; 8. Taylor Center (3-3), 21,207; 9. Pontiac Notre Dame (2-4), 20,333; 10. Wyandotte Mount Clemens (3-1), 18,517; 11. Taylor (3-3), 18,517; 12. Hazel Park (3-3), 17,200; 13. Clarkston (4-2), 7,333; 14. Hamtramck (3-3), 5,100.

SWIMMING

WESTERN WAYNES
GIRLS SWIM INVITATIONAL
Oct. 7 at Wayne Memorial

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Wyandotte (10-0); 2. 100 points; 3. Livonia Livonia; 4. Westland John Glenn; 227; 5. Livonia Franklin; 128; 6. Redford (147); 7. Grosse Ile (146); 8. Hamtramck (145).

CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

200-yard medley relay: 1. Roosevelt; 2. John Glenn; 202.72; 3. Wayne; 204.84; 4. Livonia; 214.82; 5. Franklin; 214.36; 6. Thurston; 214.25.

100 butterfly: 1. Adrienne Turti (WYD); 100.71; 2. Tammy Raines (WYD); 111.25; 3. Jill McPherson (WYD); 118.15; 4. Kristi Darrow (WYD); 119.15; 5. Kristi Darrow (WYD); 119.23; 6. Rochelle Komar (WYD); 120.23.

100 freestyle: 1. Erin Warden (LJ); 58.20; 2. Kristin Stoeck (LJ); 58.20; 3. Kristin Stoeck (LJ); 58.20; 4. Kristin Stoeck (LJ); 58.20; 5. Kristin Stoeck (LJ); 58.20; 6. Adrienne Turti (WYD); 1.01.55.

500 butterfly: 1. Elizabeth Krieger (WYD); 1.02.09; 2. Kristin Stoeck (LJ); 1.02.09; 3. Adrienne Turti (WYD); 1.02.11; 4. Lindsey Rose (LJ); 1.02.17; 5. Jill McPherson (WYD); 1.02.20; 6. Kristin Stoeck (LJ); 1.02.20.

100 backstroke: 1. Steven Karmak (WYD); 1.01.75; 2. Tammy Raines (WYD); 1.01.77; 3. John Glenn (WYD); 1.02.17; 4. Kristin Stoeck (LJ); 1.02.17; 5. Kristin Stoeck (LJ); 1.02.17; 6. Franklin (WYD); 1.02.20.

100 freestyle: 1. Elizabeth Krieger (WYD); 1.00.29 (meet record); 2. Elizabeth Krieger (WYD); 1.04.86; 3. Janie Fisher (LJ); 1.04.86; 4. Kristin Stoeck (LJ); 1.04.86; 5. Kristin Stoeck (LJ); 1.04.86; 6. Franklin (WYD); 1.04.86.

100 breaststroke: 1. Kristin Stoeck (LJ); 1.00.29; 2. Erin Warden (LJ); 20.61; 3. Kristin Stoeck (LJ); 1.00.29; 4. Kristin Stoeck (LJ); 1.00.29; 5. Kristin Stoeck (LJ); 1.00.29; 6. Franklin (WYD); 1.00.29.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Roosevelt; 1.02.05; 2. Franklin (WYD); 1.02.05; 3. Kristin Stoeck (LJ); 1.02.05; 4. Wayne Memorial; 1.02.05; 5. Franklin (WYD); 1.02.05; 6. Franklin (WYD); 1.02.05.

COLLEGES

COLLEGES

Paris averaged 9.64 assists-to-

kills and 4.07 digs per game. She also had 18 kills, 14 block assists and 11 service aces during the week.

Paris was the second Madonna player to be so honored. On Saturday, at St. Mary's College (South Bend, Ind.) Tournament, Madonna (16-10, 16-15, 16-14) hosted St. Mary's (15-13, 16-15, 15-9).

The Lady Crusaders were busy. But there was no disaster. Indeed, the longer they labored the better the results. On Saturday, at St. Mary's College (South Bend, Ind.) Tournament, Madonna (16-10, 16-15, 16-14) hosted Bethel College (Ind.) 16-9, 16-10, 16-15, 16-14. Paris had 18 kills, 14 block assists and 11 service aces during the week.

Paris is the second Madonna player to be so honored. McCausland was singled out for the week ending Sept. 17 after averaging 4.43 kills, 2.17 blocks and 4.67 digs while averaging 4.21 at attack.

IN THE CRUSADES

In the Crusaders' win over Tri-State, McCausland had 13 kills and 13 digs; Martin had 16 kills and six digs; Gregoire had 14 digs; and Paris totaled 37 aces.

Against Spring Arbor, McCausland collected 12 kills and 13 digs; Gregoire had 15 kills and Paris had 16 aces.

On Tuesday, the Crusaders won their streak going, defeating visiting Alma 15-9, 15-9, 15-3. McCausland again was the offensive catalyst, collecting 18 kills; she also had four blocks. Next best was Comment with seven kills; Martin with six kills and six blocks; Heather Steinheiser with five kills and four service aces; and Paris with 31 aces.

The tourney victory gave the Crusaders four wins in three days, and six wins during the course of the week. Last Thursday at Madonna, they tripped Spring Arbor College 15-9, 15-4, 15-3, then on Friday they traveled to Tri-State University and won in three straight games.

Kelly McCausland (from Redford Union) led Madonna in the tournament victory, collecting 28 kills and 27 digs. Julie Martin (Livonia Stevenson) contributed 27 kills and 16 digs. Erin Comment had 13 kills and 24 digs, and Erin Gregoire chipped in with 23 digs.

Meg Paris finished with 72 assists-to-kills, coming in week that saw her earn NAIA Great Lakes Region player of the week honor.

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PUBLIC SALE YOUR ATTIC OF FARMINGTON HILLS

Your City of Farmington Hills, located at 5407 Grand River, Farmington Hills, MI 48336, will be holding a public sale on Saturday, October 14, 1995, to benefit the following charities:

NAME: Robert A. Fitch
UNICEF
COPPER HILL
AMAZON

The proceeds of this sale will be given to the following charities:

NAME: Robert A. Fitch
UNICEF
COPPER HILL
AMAZON

Telephone No. 412-5111

JOANNE SMITH, Mayor

KATHRYN A. DORNAN, City Clerk

OUTDOORS CALENDAR

Caribou hunting trip successful; fishermen proud

A 28-hour trip into Labrador, N.W. found land, proved to be time well spent for Mike Wills.

The Troy hunter headed north with Jim Robinson, host of the outdoor show entitled "Adventures with Ole Griz" which airs on the PASS cable channel, in search of migrating caribou. They were hunting with Labrador Hunting Safari outfitters.

"It was almost tundra where we were," explained Wills. "The herd is really growing up there, but it hadn't started migrating yet. We saw 30 or 40 each day, but when they're migrating you see 200 or 300 a day."

Hunting with a 50 caliber muzzleloader, Wills had the fortune to fill both of his tags. He took a young bull "for meat" and a much larger trophy bull with a rack with a 36-inch spread.

"It was a long trip, but we had a good time," Wills said. "Overall, it was a great hunt."

Fishing success continues. Eric Johnson keeps himself busy as the owner of the Birmingham Dance Academy, but he likes to sneak away every now and then to partake in a little bass fishing.

Johnson and his friend Brad Kirkpatrick, also of Birmingham, ventured out onto White Lake recently to take a shot at some of the larger largemouths the lake has to offer. It turned out to be an outing well worth remembering.

On a cool, crisp autumn day with morning clouds and very little wind, the two managed to land a total of 14 bass. Using Zara Spooks, spinner baits and Rapala they caught six bass weighing up to 34-pounds in the first hour of daylight and three more before a break for lunch.

The wind picked up a little in the afternoon and Johnson and Kirkpatrick decided to fish the shallows and drop-offs near boat docks. They caught two more bass in the early afternoon before Johnson capped the fantastic day by landing a huge 64-pound largemouth.

The monster bass was released back into the lake. "To give other anglers the challenge, experience and come storming in expecting to find a fight, and you're standing behind a bush with a bow and arrow, it gets pretty exciting."

"Weather-wise the bow seasons are better," said Jerry. "It's nice to be out in the fall rather than in the cold weather. Plus it's more of a challenge. When you call a big bull and he comes storming in expecting to find a fight, and you're standing behind a bush with a bow and arrow, it gets pretty exciting."

Hunters and anglers are urged to report their success. Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send information to Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Fax information to (310) 644-1314 or call Bill Parker evenings at (310) 901-2573.

CURIOUS GEORGE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

Come meet one of the most beloved characters in children's literature. Bring your children and a camera (and maybe a banana for George).

Ann Arbor: Noon - 2 pm Nov: 3 to 5 pm

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