STAFF PHOTO BY JIM JACDFIELD

Sizing up the situation: *Farmington's Derek Fox lines up a putt during the Western Lakes Activities Association golf tournament Tuesday at Hudson Mills. Fox shot 81, one stroke behind teammate Pat Hickey, for the Falcons, who had the best finish among the three Farmington schools.*

Salem captures league title

BY C.J. RISAK
STAFF WRITER

GOLF

It was a typical finish to the Western Lakes Activities Association golf season.

Ho-hum? Hardly.

Down to the wire is how it usually goes, and Tuesday's tournament at Hudson Mills Metropark Golf Course was no different.

Once again, Plymouth Salem was in the thick of things. And, once again, the Rocks emerged with a league title.

Counting last year's tie for the overall WLAA championship with Livonia Churchill, Salem has now won (or shared) in the last three. titles.

"It was close," said Rocks' coach Rick Wilson. "Right to the wire -- again."

As predicted, Salem's overall depth proved decisive. The Rocks finished with 410 strokes, one better than Walled Lake Western.

Livonia Stevenson was third at 415, followed by Westland John Glenn (421), Livonia Churchill (422), Plymouth Canton (426), Farmington and Walled Lake Central (429 each), North Farmington and Farmington Harrison (436 apiece), Northville (437) and Livonia Franklin (451).

Overall medalist honors went to Churchill's Gary Kraus, who shot an outstanding one-over par 72. He and Western's Chris King (75), Glenn's Craig Piscopink (76) and Salem's Brian Fox (77) were named to the all-conference team.

Earning all-division squad honors were the Rockets' Chris Tompkins (79), Stevenson's Brett Reinhart (80) and Justin Kerr (81), Farmington's Pat Hickey (80) and Derek Fox (81), Salem's Jeff Lear (81) and Ryan Deschaw (82), Canton's Ben Tucker (81), and Western's Dave Kaznecki (82).

Entering the tournament -- which serves as half the deciding factor in the final WLAA championship, with dual meet victories filling the other half -- five teams had a chance to win the title.

Western, with a 9-2 dual record (and therefore nine points), was in the best position. Salem (8-2-1, 8.5 points), Stevenson (8-3, eight points), Churchill (8-3, eight points) and Glenn (7-3-1, 7.5 points) also had a shot.

"Any one of them had a chance," said Wilson. "It was the most wide-open tournament ever.

"We knew going in we had to win it to win the title."

That's what the Rocks did; they won the tournament and finished first with 20.5 points, just ahead of the Warriors (20). Stevenson was third (18), Glenn fourth (16.5) and Churchill fifth (15).

Salem's depth advantage: All six golfers shot 86 or better. The other scorers for the Rocks were Adam Wilson (84) and Mark Runchey and Aaron Pawlowski (both at 86).

Western certainly came close, with Jeff Wolf (84), Kevin Jaros (85) and Mike Massey (86).

Stevenson suffered a disqualification, which cost them second place. The Spartans other scorers: Roy Rabe (88) and Jeff Lang (91).

Behind Piscopink and Tompkins, Glenn had Kyle Gierada (85), Justin Fendelet (86) and Brian Bridges (95), while Churchill's scorers other than Kraus were John Grech (84), Matt Van Buren (85), Chris Lavaque (86) and Ryan Green (95).

Canton, 2-9 during the dual-meet season, was a surprise at sixth.

Farmington's next three scorers were John Knight (88), Jeff Thomas (89) and Ryan Wilber (90).

"We did speak to them before they teed off," Baker said. "We had been out there to practice twice, so we knew what to expect going in.

"I thought they managed their games very well. Not one of our guys blew up, and that was the key."

The key to victory, again.

WLAA BOYS GOLF TOURNAMENT
Oct. 8 at Hudson Mills

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Plymouth Salem, 410; 2. Walled Lake Western, 411; 3. Livonia Stevenson, 415; 4. Westland John Glenn, 421; 5. Livonia Churchill, 422; 6. Plymouth Canton, 426; 7. Walled Lake Central, 429 (won tiebreaker); 8. Farmington, 429; 9. North Farmington, 430 (won tiebreaker); 10. Farmington Hills Harrison, 436; 11. Northville, 437; 12. Livonia Franklin, 451.

All-Conference: 1. Gary Kraus (LC), 72; 2. Chris King (WLW), 74; 3. Steve Polanski (LS), 75; 4. Craig Piscopink (WJG), 76; 5. Brian Fox (PS), 77.

All-Division: 6. Chris Tompkins (WJG), 79; 7. (tie) Brett Reinhart (LS), Pat Hickey (F) and Chris Reading (NF), 80 each; 10. (tie) Justin Kerr (LS), Jeff Lear (PS) and Ben Tucker (PC), 81 each; 13. (tie) Dave Kaznecki, Derek Fox (F) and Brian Deschaw (PS), 82 each.

TEAM-BY-TEAM SCORES

Plymouth Salem (410): Brian Fox, 77; Jeff Lear, 81; Ryan Deschaw, 82; Adam Wilson, 84; Mark Runchey and Aaron Pawlowski, 86 each.

Walled Lake Western (411): Chris King, 74; Dave Kaznecki, 82; Jeff Wolf, 84; Kevin Jaros, 85; Mike Massey, 86.

Livonia Stevenson (415): Steve Polanski, (75; Brett Reinhart, 80; Justin Kerr, 81; Roy Rabe, 88; Jeff Lang, 91; Nick Koutsa, DQed.

Westland John Glenn (421): Craig Piscopink, 76; Chris Tompkins, 79; Kyle Gierada, 85; Justin Fendelet, 86; Brian Bridges, 95.

Livonia Churchill (422): Gary Kraus, 72; John Grech, 84; Matt VanBuren, 85; Chris Lavaque, 86; Ryan Green, 95.

Plymouth Canton (426): Ben Tucker, 81; Derek Lineberry, Eric Allen, Miles Meibers, 85 each; Adam Allen, 90.

Walled Lake Central (429): David Nabozychik, 84; Ryan Ratliff and Justin Post, 85; Chris Pyzik, 87; Cory Johnson and Ted Sells, 88 each.

Farmington (429): Pat Hickey, 80; Derek Fox, 81; John Knight, 88; Jeff Thomas, 89; Ryan Wilber, 90; Nick Katcherian, 101.

North Farmington (430): Chris Reading, 80; Brandon Finkel, 83; Brian McCoy, 89; Nick Pfeifer, 91; Derek Spicer, 93; Andrew Wontuck, 94.

Farmington Hills Harrison (436): Jeff Boxman, 84; Adam Teodon, 85; Chad Hines, 87; Chris Scott, 89; Muhamet Sulejman, 91; Dave Bozak, 99.

Northville (437): Rob Rankin, Eric Swietlik and Paul Stachura, 80 each; Andy Vartanian, 88; Scott Scheich, 91; Phil Cowles, 94.

OVERALL STANDINGS

Conference: 1. Salem, 20.5 points (8-2-1 dual meets); 2. W.L. Western, 20 (9-2); 3. Stevenson, 18 (8-3); 4. John Glenn, 15.5 (7-3-1); 5. Churchill, 15 (8-3).

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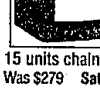

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