



THE COACH APPROACH

Wisconsin High School Golf Coaches Association Newsletter

Volume IV Issue 2

February 1990

Coaches Association DOES have a purpose

From the president:

The Wisconsin High School Golf Coaches Association has been in existence for several years now. It was founded by a number of concerned high school coaches because they shared a concern for the state of high school golf in Wisconsin. Why did these forward looking coaches create our organization? What is our purpose?

First and foremost, the major purpose of our organization is to educate the goal coaches of the state so they can be more successful in their coaching. As our knowledge of coaching grows, so does our ability to educate the youngsters for whom we are responsible. It should be every coaches aim to develop a love and respect for the game of golf. Additionally, it is our job to try to mentally and physically develop our young men and women into the finest competitive golfers that they can become. The more knowledgeable we can become, the more information we can pass along to our players, the more successful they will be. In order to achieve this, at present our coaches organization conducts two coaching clinics, one in February, and one in conjunction with our annual meeting and golf outing in June. Through attendance at these clinics, by reading the "Coach Approach", and by making use of the videos, books, and other educational options available, the opportunity to improve one's coaching techniques certainly does exist.

At our February 23 clinic at Madison West high school, sessions were held on relationships and communications between the coach and golf course management, coaching philosophy and practice techniques, and golf swing techniques featuring some exciting and nationally known speakers.

Those of you that have joined our organization have done so because of your love of the game and your concern for extracting the best from your players. Hummm, I wonder what those who have not joined are concerned with? Lee Kaczmarek. President

New rule and regulation changes to go in to effect with girl's fall 1990 season

Beginning with the girls fall season 1990, several new W.I.A.A. golf rules and regulations will go into effect including two major changes that are long overdue in Wisconsin High School golf.

The first change will involve the W.I.A.A. tournament series which will be conducted using summer rules. This rules change will involve regionals, sectionals, and the state tournament. Presently, state regulations allow the use of summer or winter rules for the regular season (conference play, etc.), but only winter rules for W.I.A.A. tournament play.

That will change this fall as the tournament series goes to summer rules. Schools may still choose to employ winter rules for their regular portion of the season. However, it would make sense to try playing some meets at summer rules to mentally prepare your golfers for regionals, etc.

Coaches express strong, positive reactions to use of Summer Rules.

There were strong positive feelings for the necessity of this change by all parties involved, from the coaches advisory board to the board of control. In recent years a number of coaches have taken advantage of the so called winter rules policy and allowed players to move their ball in the rough, in the woods, and in bunkers. That certainly is not within the spirit of the game and absolutely does the high school player a disservice by not allowing them to reach their full potential.

By allowing winter rules in the rough, for example, there is no premium paid for accuracy off the

Tournament series to play summer rules; coaches may talk to players or coach on the course beginning in the Fall of 1990

tee, certainly a primary skill necessary for the good player. That serves only to equalize the various skill levels rather than to try to distinguish the skilled player from those who are not as talented. It would be similar to forcing a highly skilled football team to make 15 yards for a first down, but allowing a less talented team to make just 7 yards for their first down.

Playing the ball as you find it everywhere on the course will mean that not every lie is perfect, but players must learn that there is no guarantee that every break will be a good one in this great game. Players must be taught that good comes with bad and the true sportsman overcomes the bad break with good skills rather than moving the ball or complaining about the bad break. That's what competitive golf is all about!!

Additionally, playing out of less than perfect lies once in a while will make the players more skillful because it forces them to improve their hand-eye coordination and it necessitates a more aggressive go down and get it type of swing that imparts more backspin and less sidespin for better ball control. Over a period of time you will actually see better ball striking abilities from your golfers.

Weather conditions could call for an exception to summer rules play.

It is important to remember that within the rules of golf, as found on page 90 of the rules book, there is a section which states, "Heavy snows, spring thaws, prolonged rains or extreme heat can make fairways unsatisfactory and sometimes prevent the use of heavy mowing equipment." It is under these conditions that the host coach and the professional could decide to revert to "winter rules" for a regional or sectional. This should happen only under very unusual circumstances and would probably only exist in the very northern portion of the state which greens up later in the spring.

Coaches feel that by regionals even Northern course are ready for summer rules.

But in talking with northern coaches, they indicated that it is rare when, by regional time, their courses have not shaped up well enough to make use of summer rules. Host coaches of regional and sectional competition should carefully select sites that are in good condition and very playable under summer rules conditions. Also remember to practice and play some meets under summer rules prior to regionals so that your golfers can improve their skill level and get mentally prepared. By the way, if conditions force a regional or sectional site to institute winter rules, they can only be used in the players own fairway, not rough, by moving the ball with the clubhead not more than six inches and not closer to the hole.

A second major change for 1990 allows the golf coach to talk to or coach his players during

Rule, regulation changes (continued from page 2)

competition. This rule will affect all competition, not just the W.I.A.A. Tournament Series. The major reason for this rule change is twofold. First, coaches must be out on the course during practice and competition to control their players.

Recently many problem, mostly during the boy's season, have surfaced including swearing and unsportsman like behavior. In an effort to stop this before it gets out of hand, the W.I.A.A. has decided to allow coaches to talk to their golfers during competition so we can eliminate this aberrant behavior without incurring any penalty on ourselves for illegal coaching.

Coaches must be careful not to interfere with the play of others in the group

Coaches should remember that it is extremely important that any exchange between coach and player be done out of earshot of the other players in that group so that you do not interfere with their play. Players not use to coaches being around during play may initially feel intimidated, but they will quickly acclimate themselves to a coaches presence so long as their play is not interfered with

during a round. Any coach who violates the spirit of this rule by purposely interfering with or intimidating opposing players should be reported to your conference officials or to the W.I.A.A. If our coaching fraternity will simply follow the spirit of the game, as I am sure all of us will, then no problems will occur and we will be allowed to do our job and coach our golfers.

Rule change brings us in line with other states and college coaches

A second and far less important reason for this change is that it does bring us in line with a number of other states that allow their coaches to do their job, and it brings us in line with the college coaches who have allowed this for years. In a number of situations, golf courses may not allow the head coach to wander the course. If that is a problem in your area then it is recommended that coaches play and their groups be interspersed among the high school players so they can still monitor their golfers. Your Wisconsin High School Golf Coaches Association will conduct a survey in 1991 to obtain your observations on the rules changes.

Setting up your schedule: The multiple team tournament philosophy

by Lee Kaczmarek

There seems to be two divergent scheduling philosophies in high school golf. The first involves setting a schedule primarily around dual or triangular meets while the second emphasizes multiple team tournament play. I am a proponent of the multiple team competition and have a number of reason for my beliefs.

In today's world of tournament golf (past the high school stage) most competitions are conducted with a large number of player. High school tournament play closely approximates these multiple player tournament competitions that our high school graduates will be involved in later. The state's two biggest tournaments, the State Amateur and the State Open feature many players. By emphasizing your high school schedule on tournaments, you are better preparing the golfers for tournament life after high school.

A second reason for emphasizing multiple team tournaments involves the mental development of a team. Many times I have seen high school

(story continued on page 4)

1989 ALL WSUC GOLFERS

Jon Higley (SR); UW-Stout; Eleva-Strum H.S. (Coach Mark Ryser)

John Staehler (SO); UW-Whitewater; Racine Case H.S. (Coach Al Pirk)

Joe Stippich (SO); UW-Whitewater; Waukesha South H.S. (Coach Lee Kaczmarek)

Jim McGuire (SR); UW-Stout; Green Lake H.S. (Coach Gerald Sonnleitner)

John List (JR); UW-Stevens Point; Sun Prairie H.S. (Coach Riley McCormick)

Dan Thomas (JR); UW-Oshkosh; Oshkosh Lourdes H.S. (Coach William Renninger)

Todd Cernohous (SR); UW-River Falls; River Falls H.S. (Coach Dave Cronk)

Charlie Brown (SR); UW-Stout; Racine Horlick H.S. (Coach Bill Weinstock)

Craig Geerts (JR); UW-Oshkosh; Little Chute H.S. (Coach Bob Van Gompel)

Jim Lonbardo (SR); UW-Eau Claire; Wausau East H.S. (Coach Jeff Lange)

Multiple team tournament philosophy continued from page 4

teams compete in nothing but dual meets and when appearing at the regional site, these players get psyched out because there are now 40 players to compete against, not 10. Our program involves a number of Saturday tournaments where as many as 160 players are present, so when appearing at the regional, sectional, or even the state tournament site, the large number of golfers, 40 or more players, does not intimidate our players. This psychological advantage can be extremely important at the tournaments at seasons end.

A final thought involves a social advantage. By competing in multiple team tournaments against teams from the entire state, our golfers have the opportunity to meet and establish friendships with golfers from many areas not just with local golfers. That experience provides the opportunity to broaden their horizons.

For the above reasons, my program involves three quads and the rest of the season emphasizes multiple team competition. Would you like to share your ideas with the "Coach Approach" audience? We would enjoy hearing from you.

Send your letters to:
Lee Kaczmarek
Waukesha South High School
401 East Roberta Ave.
Waukesha, WI 53186

Marshalling at the GMO can be fun claims Milton Coach T.J. Dieck

Five years ago I saw an ad for marshals in the paper. I wrote and asked if I could work just Saturday and Sunday as I was a high school teacher and golf coach, and had to work Thursday and Friday. They agreed, and I have worked every year since!

This opportunity is available to all golf coaches. Last year we had over twenty. To qualify you have to attend an instructional meeting and purchase a uniform, which includes a sweater, a shirt and a visor or hat that has GMO on it. These items are available at cost, about half the real price. They are made by Titleist, and they are top quality.

" One reason I keep going back is because you feel like part of the tournament"

Why do I keep going back, or why is it such a fun experience? You're in front of the ropes and you feel like you're part of the tournament. You bring a lawn chair and a small cooler and spend the day watching golf. Every time a group approaches, you must be up with your "Quiet" sign ready. While golfers are hitting or putting, you try to make sure the crowd doesn't move or talk. If you work by a green, plan on moving the ropes and the crowd back a dozen times for errant shots. Oh yes, they do it too!

If you are assigned to the first few holes, you have to be there around 7:30 A.M. If you are on one of the last holes, you don't have to be there until around 9:30 or 10 A.M. After the last group is through your hole, you can follow the tournament or leave. The final group finishes up by 5 P.M. They are through the first hole by 1, if that is your assignment.

Even the pros can surprise you with their actions.

One year I walked to the 18th hole to watch the finish and ended up marshalling a four hole playoff! Was it exciting! Not as exciting as the year Andy Bean and the rules official could not agree where Andy should drop his ball on number 17 after hitting it into the bleachers. Was I shocked to see Andy overrule the rules judge and create an advantage for himself.

At \$50,000 a stroke the pros don't want to be distracted.

Most fans are usually cooperative. Sometimes the pros will say a few words although this is very rare. I guess at \$50,00 a stroke, they don't want to be distracted. What do I enjoy the most? Sharing the excitement with the gallery.

If you are interested in being a marshal next fall at the GMO, drop me a line, and I'll send you the forms.

T.J. Dieck Golf Coach
Milton H.S.

ANSWERS TO RULE TEST #3

1.A 2. C 3.B 4.B 5.B 6.B 7.A 8.D 9. D 10. A 11. D

12. A 13. C 14. A 15. C 16. A 17. A 18. B 19. B 20. A

21. E 22.B 23. D 24. A 25. C

The Golfer's Pocket Notebook helps the coach to coach and the player to play better golf

How often have you worked with your golfers only to have them forget what and how to practice? How often has one of your players been golfing well only to self-destruct in mid-round? How often has one of your players taken a foolish gamble on a critical hole which cost your team a match? Can your players pinpoint their shot locations for their last round? Their last five rounds?

Tom Hau and Paul Mix, of The Creative Source, Inc., believe that their Golfer's Pocket Notebook is a tool that can help solve these and other problems. Developed by two golfers with a total of 39 years of teaching and coaching experience at the elementary, high school, and college level, the concepts in the notebook have been used and refined over the course of many years.

According to Hau and Mix, The Golfer's Pocket Notebook provides a unique round analysis charting system that allows players to

pinpoint the landing location of each stroke for twenty 18 hole rounds. Once charted, you and your players can analyze results. Playing characteristics and tendencies can be identified and steps taken to correct or improve weaknesses.

This can then make practices more productive as the players record ball striking patterns and ball flight tendencies. This section of the notebook can make the coach's help and the player's practice more effective.

The Golfer's Pocket Notebook affords you the opportunity to be with your players on the course. By means of the course mapping system, worked out between the coach and the player, the proper strategies for each hole can be worked out in advance, especially those that might occur during critical junctures of their matches.

Hau and Mix go on to say that their goal is to help players look at themselves critically. The Swing

Thought section of the notebook allows the players the opportunity to record thoughts, feelings, and adjustments that they discover while playing. As with most of us, these discoveries are here now but gone on the back nine or the next day, week, etc. Thus this section provides a "First-Aid Kit" to refer to when trouble arises.

"We believe that The Golfer's Pocket Notebook is an innovative, useful tool that is long overdue, state Hau and Mix.

If you are interested in ordering these pocket notebooks for your team, use the order form below.



Bill to (Please Type or Print Clearly)

Name _____
School/Organization _____
Street Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
School Phone No. () _____ Home Phone No. () _____
Ordered By _____
Signature _____
(order must be signed)

Qty. _____
The Golfer's Pocket Notebook @ \$5.95 _____
(available in Brown only)

Deluxe Pro Shop _____
Model @ \$11.95 _____
 Black Burgundy Brown

Payment Method:
Your Purchase Order No. _____
 Bill School Check Enclosed

Return address: The Creative Source, Inc.
22633 Ucker Point Road
Kiel, WI 53042

Shipping	2.95
Handling	1.95
Tax (if applicable)	_____
Grand Total	_____

ANNOUNCING

**Wisconsin High School Golf Coaches Association's
Fourth Annual Golf Tournament, Clinic and Annual
Meeting Tuesday, June 12, 1990
at Sentry World in Stevens Point**

Program:

Tuesday, June 12

8:00-8:30 Rolls and coffee

8:30-11:00 Annual Meeting WHSGCA (Summit Room)

10:05-11:00 Clinic (Golf Practice Area)

11:05-12:00 Lunch (High Court Room)

12:00-2:50 Tee Times SENTRY WORLD GOLF

**ENTRY FEE: \$ 55.00 includes coffee, rolls, clinic, lunch, golf, cart,
and prizes.**

**RESERVATIONS: are mandatory for this event because of the limited
prime tee times at Sentry World Golf. Entries to this
event are limited to the FIRST 72 MEMBERS of the
Wisconsin High School Golf Coaches Association who
complete and return the entry blank, together with the
\$55.00 entry fee.**

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER
THAN FRIDAY, MAY 24, 1990**