



The Coach Approach

Wisconsin High School Golf Coaches Association Newsletter

Volume VI Issue 1

September 1991

From the links to life ...

A Message from the President

As I sit writing this letter it occurs to me that not only is the boys golf season history, but that we are, at present, half way through the girls. It seems that we spend many months waiting for green grass, warm breezes and sunshine; and upon their arrival, they seem to disappear instantly. Hopefully, the gods of autumn will delay snow and wind and give us an Indian summer reprieve.

Successful for high school golf and for our association. We willingly accepted the challenge of not only maintaining a state-wide program of playing and coaching excellence but have rededicated ourselves to that which we know to be important aspects of our sport. Wherever I go, I never cease to be amazed at the dedication we as coaches share with young people entrusted to our care. I'm proud of the way we cherish and emphasize friendship, sportsmanship, and enjoyment of the game rather than let winning become the most important thing.

It is our responsibility to use our sport as a vehicle for teaching

our players values that are transferable from the links to life. In that, my feeling is that you are owed a well-deserved "thank you" for a job well-done.

In terms of jobs well-done, it is well-known that organizations are only as successful as their leaders. Each year we face a monumental task of not only preserving our past accomplishments but accepting the challenge posed by new ones. We have been fortunate to have a "monument of a man" to help us deal with our monumental task over the course of the last two years. Lee Kaczmarek of Waukesha South has provided quality leadership as the president of our organization and I want to take this opportunity to thank him for his efforts on our behalf. He is responsible for Wisconsin high school golf taking another big step forward and leaves behind big shoes to fill. As his successor, I will nonetheless try to continue the progress he has begun. Thanks, Kaz!

I also want to recognize the

members of our board of directors. They have done an outstanding job with very little recognition.

Their dedication has made our state association one of the best in the United States! Thanks, Board of Directors!

I hope this letter finds each of you in good health and having enjoyed or enjoying a successful season. I very much look forward to working for and with you during the coming two years for the betterment of the sport we all love.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Nienhaus

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Tournament Results

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FIFTH ANNUAL WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL GOLF COACHES ASSOCIATION TOURNAMENT, CLINIC AND ANNUAL MEETING RESULTS

The fifth annual Wisconsin High School Golf Coaches Tournament and annual meeting was held at the beautiful Lake Arrowhead course. The days program started with rolls and coffee and a greeting from WHSGCA president Lee Kaczmarek who greeted some 70 Wisconsin high school golf coaches association members for the annual WHSGCA meeting. At the completion of the annual meeting Head PGA professional John Junker and his two assistants gave a very interesting and informative clinic on proper shot alignment. After a very tasty noon luncheon it was time for all coaches to tee it up on the 6,624 yard par 72 layout designed by Ken Killian and Dick Nugent.

For the third straight year the long ball hitter from Merrill High School, Joe Mertens, once again showed the states high school golf coaches how to play the game of golf by shooting a 3 under par 33 on the front nine. With some trouble on several of the holes on the back Joe managed to finish with a 18 hole score of 75 (33-42=75), four shots better than second place finisher Tom Conrad (40-39=79) of D.C. Everest High School. In third place was 1986 champion Howie Ochs of Portage High School with rounds of 39-41=80. Nancy Phipps from Tremper High School won the lady coaches trophy for the first time by shooting rounds of 39-42

for an 81.

The low net winner was Ulrich Adams of Union Grove with a 72. Rich Hugill from Dodgeville and Howie Ochs of Portage tied for second place low net with 73's.

Course event winners for the tournament were:

Closest to the Pin Hole No. 4 -

Rich Hugill Dodgeville HS

Closest to the Pin in Three,
Hole No 7 - Dennis Phipps

Tremper HS

Longest Drive Hole No 8 - Jan
Steber Two Rivers

Closest to Pin in Three, Hole No
9 - Kent Wickman Johnson
Creek

Longest Drive Hole No 11 - Dan
Amundsen Racine Park

Closest to Pin Hole No 14 - Dirk
Anderson Bay View HS

Closest to Pin Hole No 17
Chuck Miller Westby

Closest to the Pin in Two, Hole
No 18 - Kent Wickman Johnson
Creek

Raffle Prize Winners:

Dan Chubrilo - Kenosha St. Joe's

Jim Chuchwar - Cumberland

Allan Haacke - Homestead

Leo Kerschitz - Union Grove

Don Marx - Madison Memorial

Ernie Niemann - Watertown

Jerry Persak - Greenfield

David Roberts - Brookfield

Tournament Scores

- 75 - Joe Mertens, Merrill HS
- 79 - Tom Conrad, D.C. Everest HS
- 80 - Howie Ochs, Portage HS
- 81 - Nancy Phipps, Tremper HS Ulrich
Adam, Union Grove HS
- 82 - Bob Talajkowski, Hartford HS John
Loneragan, Hartford HS Dan
Amundsen, Racine Park HS
- 83 - John Hoenecke, WI Dells HS
- 84 - Mary Sjolín, Nellsville HS Doug
Lockrem, Racine Park HS Rick
Hugill, Dodgeville HS Evertt
Edmundson, Burlington HS
- 85 - Dorris Killian, Cochrane - Font. City
Vince Morrone, Watertown Doug
Whiteley, Racine Wash. Kent
Wickman, Johnson Creek
- 86 - Dan Chubrilo, Kenosha St Joe Don
Marx, Madison Memorial
- 87 - Dennis Phipps, Tremper
- 88 - Dirk Anderson, Bay View Dennis
Kresse, Greendale Tom Neal,
Brookfield Chuck Miller, Westby
- 89 - Mark Olson, Westosha Gary
Schwerke, Osseo-Fairchild
- 90 - Harry Confare, Wrightstown Jerry
Persak, Greenfield Joe Harlow, Ke-
waskum Bob Johnson, Fond du Lac
Tom Nadean, Oshkosh Ernie
Niemann, Watertown Chet Polka,
Berlin
- 92 - Terry Hanke, Eau Claire North Gerald
Hanrahan, Hartford Glen Nyboe,
Racine Park
- 93 - David Ferk, Crandon Roger Prichette,
Watertown
- 94 - Steve Hird, Madison Edgewood Phil
Jacobs, Milwaukee Tech Steve
Larson, Lancaster
- 95 - Pat Hauswald, Adams- Friendship
- 97 - Erv Benka, Hartford Jim Fauske, New
London G. Singh Grewal, Sparta
George Howenstine, Appleton East
Jan Steber, Two Rivers
- 98 - James Sjolín, Nielsville
- 99 - Allan Haacke, Homestead
- 101 - Rod Anderson, Augusta Joan Olson,
Sparta
- 102 - Gerald Hibbard, Tomah
- 105 - Leo Kerschitz, Union Grove
- 107 - Karen Krueger, Sparta
- 112 - Jim Noltner, Homestead
- 113 - Ron Sauer, Holmen
- 114 - Glenn Johnson, Delavan-Darien
- 115 - David Roberts, Brookfield

Psychology of Golf Creating a Champion

by Kaz

Tournament golf, be it at a professional level, national amateur level or a high school level, produces champions who are seldom flukes. These champions will have met a tough challenge in the tournament and will overcome it in order to win. How does a player become a champion? How are the challenges of winning overcome?

To win a tournament, even at the high school level, requires a combination of physical and mental training. The preparation for the win starts years before with countless hours of practice to have the physical skills, but it is the psychological and emotional battles that will be the most challenging and the most difficult to overcome.

Many psychological problems face a golfer during the four to five hours they are on the course completing their 18 holes. Fortunately in Wisconsin, our golfers are able to communicate with their coaches who can help the players overcome negative thoughts. "Golf brings forth a tremendous inner battle because there is so much free time for thinking. The mind is free to wander, worry or even catastrophize." (p 19) How easy to begin to feel sorry for oneself or to rationalize excuses. Champions are the ones who have the strength to overcome these temptations. Temptations include bad lies, fast green speeds, inclement weather, good playing partners and nerves.

Champions are able to overcome these obstacles rather than deciding that the obstacles are larger and more forbidding than they can handle. Good coaching techniques to help players overcome these difficulties include practicing out of bad lies, putting on fast greens, practice session in inclement weather, lots of tournament competition and coaches on the course to talk to your players between holes, encouraging them and reminding them that they are well prepared for the difficult situations they are facing so the problems do not appear larger than they are.

In order to become a champion, the golfer will have to play within herself or himself. The player must play one shot at a time, without reflecting on the past or too far into the future. If the player hits a 5 iron 175 yards, then no matter where they are playing, Augusta National, Lake Arrowhead or on a practice range, a 175 yard shot will require a 5 iron. Basically only weather conditions would alter that club selection. Champions have the ability to isolate each shot and play it without concerning themselves with the tournament circumstances under which they are competing. After all, does it really matter if, when facing that 175 yard shot, you are 4 under par or 40 over par? That 175 yard shot is still 175 yards! It should not make any difference what course you are playing on, if you

are playing under tournament conditions or what your score is at that time. A 175 yard shot is a 175 yard shot! Most high school players will allow those conditions, other than weather, to influence their pre-shot thinking which creates additional tension, making the 175 yard shot more difficult to manufacture. As a coach, you should try to teach your players to play each shot as a separate entity not connected to any other shot nor connected to their score at the moment. This is difficult to do, but constant reminders in practice and reminders on the golf course will help. As will lots of tournament experience.

Finally, a champion "will not become scared when the win is about to be realized. They will not be scared by the possibility that it might get away. Instead of getting tentative, over-thinking and or backing off, the champion will keep playing his game, ever gaining confidence, and letting go more fully." (p 20) This requires mental toughness which is developed through tough practice sessions and tough tournament conditions. It is most important to remember that "every player who wins the battle with himself, regardless of whether or not every putt drops can look at himself and know that he or she is a champion in his or her own right." (p 21) This is really what golf is about. It is why golf is the greatest game of all. In many ways, golf is like life!

Quotations from: *Introduction to Sport Psychology*, Dr. Bob Rotella, Univ of Virginia Press.

The Mental Game

by DeDe Owens

After your players learn the physical skills of golf, they get the real test when they try to execute these skills during competition. Sometimes the excitement (and anxiety) brought on by actually keeping score, or competing, can cause golfers to lose control and not be able to execute the skills they can perform in practice.

By learning to control thoughts and use them to improve performance, your golfers learn to perform to their potential. One technique particularly useful for young golfers is thought stoppage. This involves recognizing counter-productive thoughts and replacing them with positive thoughts. For example, a golfer who thinks "I've got to win or Dad will be very disappointed" needs to stop that thought and replace it with one that is more confidence raising, such as "This is my chance; I have practiced hard, and I know I can do it."

Another key to effective shot execution is being sure that each shot starts in the same way. By developing the habit of a precise preshot routine, golfers gain confidence in the shot about to be hit. A preshot routine is a precise sequence of movements and thoughts used before every shot. By making this preparatory action the same for each shot, the golfer sets up his or her body for success. When each shot starts the same way, it triggers a sense of self-confidence that leads to more

effective play. Just as a good basketball player goes through a specific set of actions before a free throw, a good golfer follows a specified routine before each shot. The technique is a skill, like any other skill, and can be learned through practice.

These mental techniques will greatly enhance the physical skills of your golfers. They will also benefit your golfers in other ways. Learning to control their thoughts helps students not only in their golf game but also in their schoolwork and social interactions. Similarly, individuals who develop a solid preshot routine in golf are likely to understand the importance of developing similar routines in other physical skill situations; thus they are likely to improve their performance in other sports and physical activities on the basis of the good habits they acquire on the golf course.

THE MENTAL GAME

Helping golfers realize that they have control over their golf skills is a very important aspect of coaching golf. Unlike many other sports, golf lets the player decide both how and when to hit the ball. This can be not only a blessing but also a burden if doubts and second thoughts get in the way.

To hit a good shot, golfers must get the mind "out of the way" of the swing. If your golfers have practiced well, they will be able to hit the shots if they let themselves swing fully. Unfortunately, many

golfers either start thinking too much about their shots or get so excited they hit the ball without thinking at all. The challenge for a good coach is to teach the skills of finding the happy medium - to teach golfers to think effectively.

Learning to control thoughts is a skill just like being able to hit a particular shot. The basic strategy involves the following:

Positive thinking.

Learning to identify negative thoughts

Thought stoppage

Practice drills

POSITIVE THINKING

In the spirit of the claim that we are what we eat, we can also say that we play only as well as we think! If players think positively about their abilities, they will improve execution. Conversely, doubt gets in the way.

As you teach your golfers the physical golf skills, be sure also to teach them the mental skills. Start by emphasizing "be nice to yourself."

Talk to yourself the way you want others to talk to you.

Do not say anything negative unless you follow it with something positive.

Never hit a golf ball while thinking negatively or doubting yourself.

Like "The Little Engine That Could," your players should "think they can." As they practice, remind them of the good shots

they have hit. Help them focus their practice on areas needing improvement, but when they play or compete encourage them to think about things they already are able to do.

LEARNING TO IDENTIFY NEGATIVE THOUGHTS

We all talk to ourselves. The important thing is to talk positively. Get rid of negative or demeaning thoughts. Learning from mistakes is important, but focusing on mistakes is counter-productive. By teaching your players to identify negative thoughts, you help them learn to use their thoughts to their advantage and not their disadvantage. Just as you taught them to learn from ball flight and correct their own errors, you can teach them to control their thoughts.

Most golfers have negative thoughts at one time or another. Negative self-talk like the following is never helpful:

"Oh no, not another water hazard up ahead!"

"I can't believe I hit another big slice!"

"If I three putt this green, I'll break my putter in half!"

"If only I had made those last two putts, I would be leading this tournament.!"

Instead of focusing on the negative (the problems), golfers should focus on the possibilities. The previous statements can all be turned into possibilities instead of problems:

"Look at that wide-open fairway to the left of the water!"

"Oops, I forgot to use my routine. When I use my set up rou-

tine, I hit the ball well!"

"I've really been practicing reading greens. I know I can putt here!"

"The only shot I can control is the one I'm about to take. If I focus on this one, I can hit a good shot."

Good golfers know that negative thoughts always get in the way of a good swing. Negative thoughts:

Focus on the undesirable, introduce doubts, second guess decisions, or direct attention away from the present shot.

THOUGHT STOPPAGE

Everyone needs to learn to control their self-doubt without feeling guilty. Thought stoppage is an excellent skill for this. A player with a self-defeating thought should simply say "stop." This simple 4-step technique works wonders:

1. Recognize the negative thought.
2. Tap your side and say "stop."
3. Take a deep breath and exhale fully.
4. Say something good to replace negative thought.

The important thing is to interrupt and stop negative thoughts. Negative thoughts are mental garbage and produce rotten shots! Good golfers get rid of them before taking the shot. Teach your golfers to stop their negative thoughts, blow them out of the mind with exhaled breath, and then replace them with positive thoughts.

THOUGHT ENHANCEMENT

After learning to identify nega-

tive thoughts, golfers need to learn to exchange them for positive thoughts. Remember, in golf the doubts or "what-ifs" become "whiffs". There are many good practice techniques to help thought enhancement. Have your golfers make a list of their most common negative thoughts. Then, in the same way they keep track of the physical skills they want to practice, they can identify the mental skills they need to practice.

CONTROLLING THOUGHTS:

Practice Drills

Negative Thought Identification Purpose. To learn to identify negative thoughts when they occur.

Directions. Golfers put about 15 paper clips in one pocket. Each time they think a negative thought, they move one clip to the opposite pocket. At first, help players identify each negative thought they say aloud. Later have them switch paper clips only if a negative thought or statement goes uncorrected.

Thought Exchange

Purpose. To learn to stop negative thoughts and replace them with positive thoughts.

Directions. Golfers make a list of their most common negative thoughts (this can be a written list or a tape recording). Then for each of those thoughts, they list a positive counterstatement. For example, "I haven't hit a good drive all day" can be countered with "I practiced at least 100 of these drives this week, and I know that if I can relax and use my

The Mental Game

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routine I can hit this drive straight."

Have your golfers list their negative thoughts and positive counterthoughts in two columns.

Partner Thought Exchange

Purpose. To expand options for substituting positive statements for negative statements.

Directions. Working in partners, each golfer writes a list of his or her negative thoughts and statements. Partners then switch lists and write self-enhancing statements to replace each negative statement. By having your partners write positive statements for each other, you provide each golfer a chance to see how others think.

Experiencing Negative Thoughts in Action

Purpose. To experience the results of negative thoughts on the golf swing.

Directions. While hitting the ball, golfers make negative statements, constantly berating themselves, thinking about what might have been or describing what they hope will happen several shots later. Have them hit one shot during this barrage of negative thoughts. Then have them use thought stoppage to interrupt this flow of negatives, make a positive statement, and hit the next ball. Have them observe the differences in the feel and the results of these two shots. Repeat the sequence 10 times in a row: Negative thought and hit, then positive thought and hit.

DeDe Owens is a teacher of golf including for Golf Digest. This article is excerpted from one of 5 golf instruction books she has written.

Actions of Some Golf Coaches Puzzling

The actions, or more correctly the inactions of some high school coaches are very puzzling. Last spring a number of very fine players were not nominated by their coach for the all state playing team or the all state academic team. Especially conspicuous by their absence were WISAA stars Aivars Erhmanis of Greendale Martin Luther, Dave Roesch of Whitefish Bay Dominican, Matt Morgan of Marquette, Mark Wilson of Wisconsin Lutheran and Andy Podokik of Racine St. Catherine's. On the WIAA side players such as state champion Eric Goldapske of Sun Prairie, Ryan Clark of Wauwatosa East, Ryan Koski of Eau Claire North, Brian Dow of Shorewood, Jeff White and Tim Wilmot of Brown Deer, Travis Reineking of Elkhart Lake, and Jon Olson of Belleville were not nominated. These and others were certainly qualified to be nominated for the all state playing team but their coaches neglected to do so. Why? The all state teams list is seen by college coaches across the country. It means exposure and the possibility of a scholarship. Can we as coaches afford not to serve our players to the very best of our ability. Remember, we are all coaching for one reason, to help high school students!

WHSGCA looks for Directors

The WHSGCA is looking for candidates for the Board of Directors. If you might be interested contact Mary Beth Nienhaus at Appleton West HS

Shimanski Accepts WHSGCA Award

August 15, 1991

Dear WHSGCA Board Member:

I've just received notification of my induction into the Wisconsin High School Golf Coaches Hall of Fame. I was most thrilled to receive this notification and am writing to express my gratitude to you for bestowing on me this most humbling honor.

Coaching high school golf was truly a great experience for me. The many fine memories of the years I spent will remain with me for a long time. Although the wins and losses are one of the focal points of any coaches memories, the most memorable thoughts of my experience in coaching are centered on my fellow coaches.

The won/loss records are soon forgotten, but the memories of the relationships last forever. My induction with this prestigious group of men and women is one that I indeed do cherish and want to express my thanks to you and the members of the WHSGCA for honoring me with this exceptional award.

Best wishes to all of you and I look forward to renewing my acquaintances with many of you in the future.

Sincerely,

Gregg Shimanski

Results:

Wisconsin PGA GFW Junior Championships Lake Arrowhead

Boys Division

| | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. David Formisano , Blackhawk CC | 76-75 = 151 |
| 2. Justin Hill , Brown County CC | 73-79 = 152 |
| 3. Jeff Blake , Yahara Hills GC | 78-75 = 153 |
| 4. Mark Wilson , Oconomowoc CC | 74-79 = 153 |
| 5. David Kopp , Stevens Point CC | 78-76 = 154 |
| 6. Brian Prisbe , Odana Hills GC | 78-77 = 155 |
| 7. Brad Hanson , North Shore CC | 78-77 = 155 |
| 8. Brad Nelson , Blackhawk CC | 78-77 = 155 |
| 9. Ryan Koski , Eau Claire CC | 75-80 = 155 |
| 10. Andrew Hahn , Stevens Point CC | 78-78 = 156 |
| 11. Keith Dory , Oakwood Park GC | 80-76 = 156 |
| 12. Jason Allen , Stevens Point CC | 82-75 = 157 |
| 13. Andrew Podolak , Johnson Park GC | 80-77 = 157 |
| 14. Mark Peterson , Westmoor CC | 78-79 = 157 |
| 15. Brent Wileman , Towne CC | 76-81 = 157 |
| 16. John Shipshock , Nagawaukee GC | 80-78 = 158 |
| 17. Matt Dusenbery , Ridgeway CC | 76-82 = 158 |
| 18. Chris Caulum , Nakoma GC | 80-78 = 158 |
| 19. Eric Goldapske , Yahara Hills GC | 83-77 = 160 |
| 20. Scott Carlson , Lake Arrowhead GC | 78-83 = 161 |

Girls Division

| | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. Joellyn Erdmann , Fox Valley GC | 74-75 = 149 |
| 2. Erika Brown , Cherokee CC | 75-79 = 154 |
| 3. Shelley Wendels , Rolling Meadows GC | 76-80 = 156 |
| 4. Kerri Sawvell , Prairie du Chien CC | 82-76 = 158 |
| 5. Dana Tzakis , Maple Bluff CC | 75-83 = 158 |
| 6. Darby Schnarr , Blackhawk CC | 79-79 = 158 |
| 7. Rheba Mabie , Timber Ridge CC | 81-78 = 159 |
| 8. Leslie Grant , Blackhawk CC | 85-79 = 164 |
| 9. Melissa Sucher , North Shore CC | 84-83 = 167 |
| 10. Brandy Ferdinand , Nakoma GC | 84-84 = 168 |
| 11. Jackie Tyler , Butte Des Morts GC | 86-85 = 171 |
| 12. Kim Grade , Hayward CC | 86-85 = 171 |
| 13. Breinan Pirk , Kenosha CC | 80-91 = 171 |
| 14. Laura Tzakis , Maple Bluff CC | 87-85 = 172 |
| 15. Molly Jacobsen , Cumberland | 88-90 = 178 |
| 16. Jamie De Wulf , Ozaukee CC | 83-95 = 178 |
| 17. Katie Lockrem , Johnson Park GC | 83-100 = 183 |
| 18. Brooke Krause , Watertown CC | 96-88 = 184 |
| 19. Tanya Lohr , Pine Valley | 92-94 = 186 |
| 20. Amy Palmgren , Johnson Park GC | 91-96 = 187 |

Appleton West Invitational

| Team Results | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| 1. LaCrosse Central | 360 |
| 2. Nicolet | 362 |
| 3. Madison West | 381 |
| 4. Madison Edgewood | 381 |
| 5. Madison Memorial | 385 |
| 6. Appleton West | 388 |
| 6. Divine Savior/Holy Angels | 388 |
| 8. Fond du Lac | 392 |
| 9. Sun Prairie | 398 |
| 10. Waukesha South | 400 |
| 11. Watertown | 407 |
| 12. Madison East | 409 |
| 13. Mukwonago | 410 |
| 13. Marinette | 410 |
| 15. Oconomowoc | 416 |
| 16. Brookfield | 426 |
| 16. Homestead | 426 |
| 18. Appleton West (Orange) | 435 |
| 19. Green Bay Preble | 441 |
| 20. Sheboygan | 444 |
| 21. Oconto Falls | 466 |
| 22. Neenah | 494 |
| Madison LaFollette | INC |
| Notre Dame | INC |

| Individual Results | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| 1. Brooke Krause, Watertown | 76 |
| 2. Laura Tzakis, Mad. West | 81 |
| 3. Melissa Sucher, Nicolet | 82 |
| 3. Darby Schnarr, Mad. Mem. | 82 |
| 5. Jenny Betz, LaCrosse | 84 |
| 5. Brandy Ferdinand, Edgew. | 84 |
| 7. Ann Penn, Sun Prairie | 85 |
| 8. Alexa Antonio, Nicolet | 86 |
| 9. Monica Martens, Mukw. | 87 |
| 10. Meaghan McCormick, M.W. | 88 |

Mukwonago Invitational

| Team Results | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Top 10 Only | |
| 1. Nicolet | 358 |
| 2. Racine Horlick | 383 |
| 3. Mukwonago | 407 |
| 4. Fond du Lac | 411 |
| 5. Watertown | 414 |
| 6. Waukesha South | 416 |
| 7. Homestead | 417 |
| 8. Delavan | 419 |
| 9. Racine Case | 427 |
| 10. Oconomowoc | 442 |

Important Inserts En-
closed!

This issue of the *Coach Approach* contains several important inserts. These inserts are useful to you as members of the WHSGCA to direct honors and awards presented by this group. Enclosed are:

- Membership Forms,
- All State Nominations, Award,
- PGA Friend of the Year Award,
- Friend of High School Golf Award,
- Coaches Hall of Fame Nomination.

These forms are for your use, do not discard them.

RULES CORNER

According to Rule 21, a ball on the putting green may be cleaned when lifted under Rule 16-1b ("Lifting Ball"). Elsewhere a ball may be cleaned if it is lifted legally (in order to take relief from casual water or ground under repair, for example), except in the following cases:

- 1) To decide whether it's unfit for play (Rule 5-3);
- 2) For identification, in which case it may be cleaned only to the extent necessary for identification (Rule 12-2)
- 3) Because it is interfering with or assisting play (Rule 22)

If a player cleans his ball during play of a hole except as provided by this rule, he incurs a penalty of one stroke, and the ball if lifted must be replaced. If however, a player has already incurred a penalty for failing to act in accor-

dance with Rule 5-3, 12-2, or 22, no additional penalty under Rule 21 should be applied.

Here are some cleaning tips from the Decisions on the Rules of Golf:

Q. Through the green, is it permissible to remove cut grass adhering to the ball?

A. No. Loose impediments may be removed, but because the grass in adhering to the ball it is not considered a loose impediment.

(decision 21/2)

Q. A ball comes to rest on the apron of a green. Mistakenly believing that the ball is on the green, the player marks, lifts and cleans the ball. The player incurs a penalty stroke under Rule 18-2a for lifting the ball without authority

under the rule. Does he incur an additional penalty stroke for cleaning the ball?

A. No. Rule 21 states that a ball may be cleaned when lifted except when lifted in accordance with Rule 5-3, 12-2, or 22. (Decision 18-2a/13)

Q. May a player clean his ball after play has been discontinued because of bad weather or for some other reason?

A. Yes. When play has been discontinued under Rule 6-8a, the player may lift and clean his ball or substitute another one at any time before he addresses the ball--or, if he does not address it, before he makes his next stroke at it when play resumes.

Wisconsin High School Golf Coaches Association

c/o Lee Kaczmarek

Waukesha South High School

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