



The Coach Approach

Wisconsin High School Golf Coaches Association Newsletter

Volume VII Issue 4

May 1995

President's Corner:

WHSGCA Faces Changes, Challenges

In a phone conversation with Kaz, I learned that this issue of the Coach Approach will be eleven pages long. Let me brief you on some late winter early spring happenings in high school golf.

Weather:

What happened?

Spring Board Meeting

The minutes of this meeting can be found in the Coach Approach. (P 7)

One item, the increase in dues can almost be justified by postal increases alone. We did increase the dues to \$15. \$3 of the dues will go to the Golf Foundation, a group, like ours, dedicated to promoting junior golf. This is the Foundation that provides funding for WIAA and WISAA boys and WIAA Girls State Tournaments.

A second item, the resignations of Kris McKichan, Steve Stephens, and Tim Hansen were accepted. I need to publicly thank these people for their service to high school golf and this board. I encourage you to read the section of the board minutes written about them in this newsletter.

Muffet Miller, the girl's golf coach from Glenwood City will replace Kris starting in the fall of 1995. Jackie Hayes, the girl's golf coach at Edgewood has replaced Tim effective April 3, 1995. No replacement for Steve has been named.

Spring Clinic:

Two days before the opening of the WIAA boy's season, WHSGCA spring clinic was held. Manuel de la Torre and Gene Haas greeted 115 Wisconsin golf coaches. At no time in Wisconsin golf history have that many golf coaches EVER assembled anywhere for any purpose! Mr Haas and Mr. de la Torre were outstanding.

Congratulations Wisconsin high school golf coaches for coming! Congratulations Dave Blake, Mary Beth Nienhaus and Lee Kaczmarek for your organization and set up! Congratulations again to Manuel and Gene for a most informative day!

A personal message.

This is the final letter I will be writing to you as your president. The annual

meeting will end my two year term. I need to thank the members of the executive board for the many hours of work they have given to this organization. And I need to thank all of you.

When I joined the board, one year into its existence, we had 220 members. Today there are 267 of you. While we have grown in numbers we have also grown in strength. The 1994-95 golf coaches are the best organized, best informed and most dedicated corp ever. Thank you for being so easy to work for.

Sincerely,

Joe Harlow

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ANNOUNCING

9th Annual Wisconsin High School Golf Coaches
Association Golf Tournament, Clinic, and Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 20, 1995

LAWSONIA

Green Lake

Program:

8:00 - 8:30 am Rolls and Coffee
8:30 - 10:15 am Annual Meeting WHSGCA
10:15 - 11:15 am Clinic (Golf Practice Area)
11:15 - 12:15 am Lunch
12:30 pm Golf (Shot Gun Start)

Entry Fee: \$60.00 Includes coffee, rolls, clinic, lunch, golf, cart and prizes.

Reservations: Entries to this event are limited to the first 125 Members of the Wisconsin High School Golf Coaches Association who complete and return the entry blank, together with the \$60.00 entry fee.

Reservations Must be Postmarked No Later Than Friday, May 26, 1995.

Registration Form

Ninth Annual Wisconsin High School Golf Coaches Association Clinic, and Annual Meeting

Tuesday June 20, 1995

LAWSONIA

Name: _____ School: _____

School Address: _____ City/Zip: _____

Home Address: _____ School Phone: _____

City/Zip: _____ Home Phone: _____

Handicap (or average 18 hole score) _____

YOUR ENTRY MUST INCLUDE: _____ \$60.00 Fee

Entries Must be received by May 26, 1995 and are limited to the First 125 Golfers.

Make Checks Payable to: WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL GOLF COACHES ASSOCIATION

Send Reservations to: C/O Tom Conrad
10660 Dana Lane
Schofield, WI 54476

About Lawsonia

Well reknowned and beautifully designed. Lawsonia's original 18 opened in May, 1930. The unusual elevated greens and steep-faced bunkers give the course its 71.5 rating, the highest of any public course in Wisconsin.

Rated by Golf Digest as one of the top public courses in America, this picturesque setting offers beauty and challenge combined. The new clubhouse, opened in 1991, is available for enjoyment and convenience.

1994 Wisconsin High School Golf Coaches Association Tournament (University Ridge Golf Course)

Scores:	83 Steve Larson, Ulrich	Grossman, Ken	Wendels, Gary White	111 Joni Hanrahan	David Adel, Randolph
71 Mike Hilton	Adams, Howie Ochs	Haagensen	95 Jim Chuchwar, Paul	115 Steve Peterson	<i>Closest to Pin #8</i>
73 Bob Lehninger	84 Everett Edmundson,	88 Jim Fauske, T.	Naumann	117 David Roberts	Jim Bilot Eau Claire
74 Mark Voeller	Dave Sampson	Kickenson	96 David Adel	123 Mike Lane	Memorial
75 Dave Blake	85 Don Marx, Stu	89 Dean Molinaro, G.	97 Jim Bilot, Rollie		<i>Longest Putt #9</i>
76 Lyle Knudsen	Anderson, Mary B.	Singh Grewal, Mike	Sobotta		Mike Sobotta, Arcadia
78 Mark Ryser, Dick	Nienhaus, Doug	Sobotta, John Hoenecke,	98 Gerald Gruszynski		<i>Closest to Pin in 3 #11</i>
McKichan	Freeman	Victor Levine	99 Bill Scherer, Joe Ketter,		Mike Sobotta, Arcadia
79 Tom Conrad, Ted	86 TJ Dieck, Steve Lein,	90 Tom Neal, Gerald	Gayle Wilfong		<i>Closest to Pin #12</i>
Devine, John Loneragan,	Bob Schweder, K.	Hibbard, Ken Kessenich,	100 Ron Lesjak		Garry White, Janesville
Doug Whitely	Schakelmann,	Roy Windhorst	101 Rodger Evans		Craig
81 Steve Hird, David	87 Frank Carini, Bob	91 Doug Bartels, Tom	102 Pat Redmond, Buzz		<i>Closest to Pin in 3 #16</i>
Hughes, Gene Haas	Faherty, Jim Sevals,	Gasner	Guist		G. Singh Grewal, Sparta
82 Lowell Bakken, Joe	Rich Hugill, Harry	93 P. Meeker	106 Dave Kilker		<i>Closest to Pin #17</i>
Harlow	Confare, Gary	94 Larrian Abbot, Mary Jo	107 Edvins [redacted] nis		Ken Kessenich, Pius XI

Friends of Golf Winners Announced

The WHSGCA is proud to announce its 1994-95 Friend of High School Golf Award winners.

In the PGA category, there were two professionals whose attitude and actions towards supporting high school players was so strong that both are worthy recipients.

The first is Dan Buckley, the former head professional at Tuscombia in Green Lake and now the head man at the new and outstanding Northwoods GC in Rhinelander. Mr. Bob Schweder, golf coach at Princeton HS relates that Dan supported Princeton's golf team with clubs, clothing and other equipment and continues to do so even though he is now 150 miles away in Rhinelander. In addition, Dan now also supports the Rhinelander HS Hodags golf team. A native of Madison, it seems that Dan has always been a supporter of high school golf.

The second PGA award winner for 1994-95 is Guy Miller, the golf professional at Sheboygan Town and Country Club. His nominator, John Thome of Howard's Grove HS, indicated that Guy has done anything and everything asked of him to help, not only Howard's Grove HS golfers, but other programs in the area as well. He has done so for over 15 years and is much admired by the youth of that area.

The WHSGCA is proud to be associated with both Mr. Miller and Mr. Buckley and would like to extend its sincere thanks for the many years of devotion to the high school players in the state of Wisconsin.

In the Friend of High School Golf category, three winners were selected for 1994-95. Joan Olson, golf coach at Sparta High School states that Roger Johnson, the Sparta Municipal golf course manager makes available the course to the boys and girls junior and senior high golf teams. He gladly hosts tournaments, allows coaches to use carts to follow their players. He allows junior players to use the course at any time instead of

just during allotted youth times and gives junior lessons and provides a junior program during the summer months. Apparently, Mr. Johnson has made a lot of high school coaches feel at home because Jerry Hibbard of Tomah, Linda Mills of Onalaska, Ron Saur of Holmen, Brent Larson of LaCrosse Central, Krista Walker of LaCrosse Logan helped Joan compose the nomination letter and all of them signed it.

The second Friend of High School Golf award winner is Connie Schulte, general manager of Alpine Valley Resort. Mr. Dennis Thome, golf coach at East Troy HS reports that for over 20 years both the boys and girls golf teams at East Troy, Mrs. Schulte and the Alpine Valley Resort have never charged East Troy for the use of the course. In addition, members of each team are encouraged to play free golf on weekends during their respective seasons. Visiting coaches are provided free use of golf carts to follow their players. With this kind of support, it is no wonder that Coach Thome felt so strongly that Connie Schulte and the Alpine Valley Resort was deserving of this award. The WHSGCA agreed!

The final Friend of High School Golf award goes to the Golf Foundation of Wisconsin. Under the direction of executive director Carl Unis, the Golf Foundation has supported junior golf in the state of Wisconsin for over 20 years. They run, with the Wisconsin PGA section, a junior tour consisting of twelve or thirteen tournaments plus a summer ending Golf Foundation Invitational at Lake Arrowhead for the leading point earners. In addition, they now support the WISAA and WIAA State Golf Tournaments at University Ridge by paying the required green fees to the tune of \$10,000. I know that all high school golf coaches are unanimous in their support of our high school tournaments at University Ridge and we are extremely thankful to the Golf Foundation of Wisconsin for making this financially possible. Finally, the Golf Foundation selects a junior boy and girl player of the year based on points earned in the junior tourna-

ments around the state. (The 1995 winners appear on page 5.)

All these award winners will be presented with their awards at our annual meeting, clinic and golf tournament at Lawsonia, June 20, 1995. A special thanks to all of our award winners.

GFW Needs Our Help

The Golf Foundation of Wisconsin, financial supporter of the WISAA and WIAA State Golf Tournaments, needs our help and support to be able to continue their many programs involving junior golf in Wisconsin. Elsewhere in this issue (P 11) is a "Birdies For Charity" information sheet which we would like you to xerox and present to your golfers. Encourage them to make a pledge of 1 cent per birdie at the 1995 Greater Milwaukee Open. They should send the bottom portion of the form to the stated address indicating their willingness to pledge and the amount. After the GMO, they will be billed for their pledge amount. Your only job is to copy the form and really encourage your kids to support the GFW with it's "Birdies For Charity" program.

Monies brought in will support the WISAA and WIAA state tournaments, GFW/PGA Junior Tour, Sentinel Junior Championship, and other related GFW Junior functions.

Your help and support in this project will help insure that our state tournaments continue at University Ridge. Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic support for this needed fund raiser.

Gaschke, Meeker- GFW Players of the Year

John Gaschke of Heritage Christian HS and Andrea Meeker of Milton HS were named Junior Players of the Year by the Golf Foundation of Wisconsin.

Meeker, of Oak Ridge CC edged out Kim Reid of Madison LaFollette by 40.5 points while Gaschke outpaced Mike Johnston of Oakwood GC by a healthy 294 points. Interestingly, both runnersup were WIAA champions.

Gaschke won the WPGA Junior and the GFW/PGA Junior Tour events while finishing second in the WISAA State Tournament, 6th in the WSGA State Junior, 3rd in the GFW Invitational and 41st in the WSGA Men's State Amateur.

Meeker tied for second in the WPGA Junior, represented Wisconsin in the PGA National Junior as did Gaschke. She tied for 4th in the GFW Invitational, won 5 GFW/PGA Junior Tour events, qualified for the WWSGA State Junior and the Junior Optimist World.

All in all, both are outstanding players who look to have a very bright futures in golf.



Above: Andrea Meeker, Girls GFW Player of the year with Steve Stricker.



Left: John Gaschke, Boys GFW Player of the Year, with Steve Stricker.

The Coach Approach

WHSGCA Board Meeting Minutes

March 11, 1995

President Joe Harlow called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. 1st Vice President Kaz read the minutes from the October 1994 meeting. Ernie Niemann moved approval of the minutes, seconded by Dick McKichan approved.

Treasurer's Report:

TJ Dieck gave his report and stressed the importance of watching our low balances during the summer months. Our treasury did fall below \$200 at one point this summer. TJ also indicated that he had recently purchased a new set of Callaway Big Bertha Irons and stated that if they were as good as advertised he would be giving up his treasurer's position for the senior tour. Ulrich Adam moved acceptance of the report with Ken Kessenich seconding. Motion approved unanimously.

Ulrich Adam moved to increase the 1995-96 dues from \$13 to \$15. Bob Schweder seconded. Passed unanimously.

Chuck Menzel gave the advisory board report from the October 26th meeting and the subsequent WIAA Board of Control Vote (see detailed report on page 8).

Kaz made a motion to recommend to the WIAA staff that the first round of the State tournament be seeded based on sectional team scores. Individual qualifiers would also be seeded based on their sectional scores. The second day pairings would continue to be based on the first round scores. Ernie Niemann seconded. Passed unanimously.

Kaz then moved to seed sectional pairings based on regional team scores. Individual qualifiers would be paired based on regional score unless there were only one or two qualifiers. Seconded by Bob Schweder. Passed unanimously.

TJ Dieck made a motion that we recommend to the WIAA that regional pairings be seeded on the nine-hole average for the season. Seconded by Don Marx. A long discussion was held on the merits of the motion ensued. The entire board looked at this and many other methods of pairing for regional com-

petition. Passed unanimously. There are pluses and minuses to these proposals and it is hoped that coaches will inform the Coach Approach of their feelings after seeing how the system works.

Kaz gave a report on the Golf Foundation and its role in supporting junior golf in Wisconsin. The Golf Foundation of Wisconsin needs our support. It anticipates the cost of green fees for WISAA and WIAA state tournaments will be between \$10,400 and \$11,000 in 1995. On page 11 is an article and form for coaches to xerox and give to their golfers to encourage them to participate in the "Birdies for Charity" fundraiser. Bob Schweder moved to encourage all high school coaches to support this fundraiser. Seconded by Ted Devine. Passed unanimously.

Two resignations were received by the board. Tim Hansen, Green Bay Notre Dame, a short time member resigned as did Kris McKichan, Darlington, an original founding member back in 1987. Kris has headed our awards nominations committee as well as representing girls golf on the board. Her insight and dignity will be sorely missed at our meetings. Kris did promise to help husband, Dick, with the awards nominations in the future. Good luck to both Tim and Kris in the future. Your presence will be missed.

Discussion followed concerning the need for more female representation on the board along with the need for WIAA Division III and WISAA replacements.

A third resignation was received from our small college representative, Steve Stephens of UW Parkside. Steve was able to play an active role in our organization for the last four years often sharing with us his keen insight and perspective from a college viewpoint. His advice, sincerity and sense of humor will really be missed at our meetings. Steve gave generously of his time and money to our organization.

Ulrich Adams made a motion to recommend to the WIAA that they try to equalize, as much as possible, the number of teams in

Division II and III because of excessive numbers in Division II regionals. Seconded by Kaz. A lengthy discussion and information gathering session followed. Division II coaches present reported great difficulty in securing regional sites because there are normally 13 or 14 teams in each regional. Courses don't want their facilities tied up with that many teams. Fairness seemed also to be an issue. A suggestion that divisions II and III be separated similar to basketball was a possible solution. The motion passed 16-1.

A discussion concerning an appreciation award for retiring board members ensued. TJ Dieck made a motion to present a small token of appreciation to board members serving five or more years. Seconded by Tom Conrad. Passed unanimously. It was decided to make the award consistent from year to year.

Board meetings for the 1995-96 school year were established.

Fall - October 22 at Winagamie 12:00

Spring - March 9 at Madison 10:00

Summer - June 17 or 18 (tentative)

A discussion of our upcoming spring clinic followed.

New Business

Don Marx suggested sending a mailer to PGA pros, course managers, etc., indicating the amount of time high school coaches put forth in their jobs.

Bob Lehninger reported that 175 out of 200 GMO Tickets, generously given to us by Tom Strong, executive director of the GMO, were sold by several board members to help fund raising efforts.

Bob Schweder made a motion to adjourn at 2:35. Seconded by Dave Blake. Passed unanimously.

Helping Them Be the Best They Can Be

By Kaz

Part 2

In the first part of the article, we learned about the training mindset which golfers need to develop. In order for golfers to advance their games to the highest possible level, the mind must change gears and proceed from the training mindset to the trusting mindset. This cannot happen until the player has gone through his or her early swing development phase and used the training mindset to create a swing that is somewhat consistent.

The trusting mindset requires the player to develop the discipline to focus the mind which must take priority over the willingness to put forth the physical effort. The self-discipline that allows one to control the mind becomes crucial. It involves focusing attention on the shot and freeing up the body simply to react to the input from the mind and the eyes. It demands trusting one's training. Players must dispose of their fear of making mistakes, their fear of guilt and embarrassment if they don't always play their best. They must eliminate their concern over what others may think of them and realize that the only person they need to prove something to is themselves. This trusting mindset is necessary for tournament competition, to be able to play well when in a position to win, to score better than you hit the ball. Many golfers are never able to reach this level of understanding because of a lack of intelligence, confidence and/or maturity.

The top golfers play by feel and use their creativity to score well. They trust their swing, they are patient and with a non-judgmental attitude can freely play and enjoy a very

competitive tournament. In order to achieve this playing ability a golfer must accept that "golf is a game of mistakes played by human beings who are prone to error." Most high school golfers use energy fighting the game. Many believe that they need to hit every shot perfectly in order to be a successful golfer. This type of thinking will prevent a player from achieving success. "Golf is not a game of perfection. The idea of the game is to see who can score the lowest despite making errors." Great golfers allow themselves the opportunity to hit every shot in a round to the very best of their ability.

Of course, there can be a "big difference between giving yourself a chance to hit each shot perfectly and doing it." The idea in the trusting mindset is to "think in a way that gives you your best chance on every shot and then to accept wherever the ball goes because you know you did all you could."

In golf, it is easy to lose one's confidence, resulting in players becoming tentative and even fearful as the round progresses. Players must find ways to become more confident and trusting as the round develops. This is possible only when the player has real confidence in him or herself and is mature enough to be unconcerned by what others will think of them. Additionally, players must not let their first few shots influence how they will play the entire round. "The typical tendency for most golfers is to let their thoughts simply respond to their experience. If the first experiences with the ball are negative, negative thoughts will follow."

Good golfers will focus on the task at hand rather than on what others think of them. Golfers must learn "that they make a choice on each shot. They may choose to fear making a mistake, such as hitting out of bounds or into a hazard, or they may choose to think about the ball going where they want it to go." If the ball has not gone where the golfer intended to hit it on the previous few holes, the trusting mindset is certainly challenged. But the great players have developed a confidence level that will not allow them to be even slightly tentative. They know they will succeed if they continue to focus positively on their task, to get lost in their own little golf world instead of being embarrassed by a few bad shots. The mind must be totally absorbed in moving the ball to the intended target on the next shot.

Golf coaches can see, during competition, if their golfers are focusing properly, or if they are beginning to lose confidence. "Good coaching" would include a brief reminder to your golfers, between holes, that they need to forget about bad shots on the previous holes and instead encourage them to positively focus on hitting the next shot to the intended target. If they accomplish the task, a simple "nice shot" or a thumbs up signal will reassure the player that they are back on the right track and they can accomplish what they intended to do. Your role, properly played, can dramatically change a negative round into a positive learning experience for your young men or women.

This article is based on the work of Dr. Robert Rotella, University of Virginia.

WIAA Golf Coaches Advisory Committee

October 26, 1994

Minutes

This summary represents the recommendations of this committee and is not to be construed as a change or revision of existing rules or regulations. Final action on all items will be taken by the Board of Control at their January meeting. (BOARD of Control actions presented following recommendation.)

Committee in attendance: Carl Olson (Barron), Diane Fjelstad (Chetek), Charles Menzel (Green Bay Preble), Joe Harlow (Kewaskum), Lowell Bakken (Madison LaFollette), and Ernie Niemann (Watertown). Deb Hauser attended the meeting representing the WIAA. The meeting was chaired by Ernie Niemann and the minutes were recorded by Diane Fjelstad.

Certificates were given to Ernie Niemann, Carl Olson and Diane Fjelstad. A pin was given to Charles Menzel.

I. Season Regulations

- A. Last years minutes were reviewed with no additions or corrections.
- B. Reviewed WIAA Season Regulations.
- C. Concern was expressed about the inability to have a practice round without it counting toward the maximum number of allowable meets at regional/sectional courses.

Motion by Carl Olson, seconded by Joe Harlow to recommend one practice round at the regional, sectional and state sites be allowed without it counting toward the maximum number of allowable meets. Passed - unanimously.

(FAILED unanimously 10-0. Budget Concerns.)

- D. Discussion of Rule 14b (1) - Dress Code. Athlete will not participate if improperly dressed. No penalty

will be assessed as far as strokes, but the host school manager is responsible for enforcing the dress code and not permitting the golfer to play if not properly attired as written in the WIAA Fall/Spring Season Regulations.

Motion by Carl Olson, seconded by Joe Harlow, to recommend that the word "collared" be added to shirt. It is strongly recommended that players not wear jeans. A penalty stroke will not be assessed, but the player would not be allowed to play, or if on the course, the player would be disqualified. The host school would be responsible for enforcing the rule. Passed 6-1.

Motion by Lowell Bakken, seconded by Joe Harlow, to recommend that additional language be added to not allow caps to be worn backwards. passed 5-2.

(FAILED unanimously 10-0. Uniforms are not common in this sport - could have budgetary impact on schools.)

II. Tournament Procedures

A. Reviewed WIAA Tournament Procedures.

B. Discussion of Rule 14f. It was recommended that for the state tournament, all spectators must remain on the cart path, or in the rough when the path ends, at all times. Coaches will be identified by some type of tag.

C. Awards.

Motion by Diane Fjelstad, seconded by Lowell Bakken, to recommend that all players tied for fifth place at sectionals advance to state competition and receive medals in girls competition due to the fact there are no divisions.

(FAILED unanimously 10-0. No interest in changing current procedures.)

Motion by Carl Olson, seconded by Diane Fjelstad, to recommend that if there is a team tie at state for second place, duplicate trophies and medals be awarded. Playoffs would be conducted to identify the first place team only. Passed unanimously.

(PASSED unanimously 10-0.)

Motion by Ernie Niemann, seconded by Joe Harlow, to recommend that individual medals be awarded to the top ten individual places at the state meet in all divisions for boys and girls. Passed - unanimously.

(FAILED unanimously 10-0. Current awarding of six medals deemed appropriate by Board.)

III. Golf playing rules

A. Rule Interpretation Meetings were discussed. Many items were identified for these meetings.

IV. Miscellaneous

A. Motion by Lowell Bakken, seconded by Carl Olson, to recommend that the girls state tournament be held at University Ridge in Madison for 1995 if funding is available.

(Tournament funds have been secured for the 1995 meet at University Ridge.)

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.