



# The Coach Approach

The Newsletter of the Wisconsin High School Golf Coaches Association

Volume X Issue 2

May 1998

## From the Clubhouse:

### Wisconsin Golf represented on tour

Well. It's that time of year again when we can quit putting on the rug and start putting on real grass. By the time this gets to you, over half the high school season will be over. I hope none of your players (or you) have had to take too many putts.

The importance of putting was again all too evident at this year's Master's Tournament, one of the best I can remember watching, and I've watched virtually all of them since the late 50's. Mark O'Meara has been one of the best putters on tour for quite some time, which is what I told my brother-in-law as we watched the last few holes, little realizing how prophetic that would be. What a great finish and what a greater testimonial to the importance of the flat stick.

Speaking of the Masters, it was nice to see that "long ball" was not the reason for somebody win-

ning, but a good, solid, all-around game like O'Meara's.

While we're on the Tour, isn't it nice to see 4 Wisconsin boys making cuts and money on a weekly basis? Skip Kendal (Nicolet), Steve Stricker (Edgerton), Jerry Kelly (Madison), and JP Hayes (Appleton) are all doing well in a very tough profession. Most people don't realize how tough it is to make it out on the tour, even with all the perks available. I'm particularly happy for Kendall, a "graduate" of the Milwaukee Publinx and as tough a competitor as you'll want to see. Here's hoping we keep seeing all 4 of them successful out there on the tour on a regular basis.

Hopefully, another up and comer (I certainly hope so, since he used to play for me) is Mark Wilson, who so far this year has won one Hooter's Tour Tournament and is 4<sup>th</sup> on it's money list. One thing all this tells me is that high school golf in Wisconsin has never been better than in the past few years. It used to be in high school girls basketball that rarely did you see a team with more than 1 or 2 good players. Not so anymore. And the same holds true, I think, with a lot of golf programs today. Having just

1 or 2 good players isn't good enough anymore. You need depth, and that's what a lot more programs have today than in the old days.

For a long time a bane of golf has been slow play. High school golf this year seems to be no exception. I think part of the problem is that the players are still in the process of learning golf etiquette, and what are some of the little things to do to help speed up the game. Some of you, I'm sure, have some good suggestions in this regard. Maybe this could be a topic at our June meeting, or, send in your comments to the *Coach Approach*. I think this is a subject we could work on.

Speaking of the June meeting, clinic and outing, it is again at the beautiful Springs Resort just south of Spring Gree. Hopefully a lot of you will be able to make it on Tuesday, June 16. Hope to see you there.

Good luck to all of you the rest of the way.

Bob Lehninger

ALL STATE FORMS INSIDE.  
Deadline is May 25th for Academic All  
State

## The Practice Tee

### Follow through critical to swing

In our final installment of our series on swing drills, we are going to emphasize the follow through, problems relating to it and drills to develop proper technique for finishing a swing.

One of the major problems that high school golfers have on the follow through is balance, especially among freshmen and sophomores. Watch your young charges carefully, you may notice that on impact they have moved their weight forward, but onto the left toe, actually lifting their left heel off the ground. AT the same time, they have correctly lifted their right heel off the ground resulting in their body being supported with their toes. It is imperative that, on the forward swing, the weight be moved into the forward heel, not the toe. Only in this way can proper balance be maintained and good shot-making result. The cause, generally, for this swing error is an attempt to gain more distance, overswinging! Usually the player can sense that they are falling over, but have no idea what is causing their problem. The resulting shots, of course, are either mishits or very inaccurate. Because the golfer is unaware of the problem, the first step is to stop the player from hitting golf balls and have them practice swing, feeling their weight going into their forward heel on the forward swing. As a second step, have them hit wedges, concentrating on putting their weight into the heel. It is essential that the player learns to feel the weight going into the forward heel, for only then can shots be struck accurately and solidly. Remember, as the club gets longer, the urge to overswing is greater, so when the golfer can move his weight properly with the driver, they will be cured.

Another important aspect of the forward swing is the extension of the club toward the target. To strengthen this important swing part, drill your golfers regularly in half swings, teaching them to extend back and through towards the target. In the forward swing the elbows should not bend but remain straight with the arms pointing toward the target. This half swing drill will teach extension resulting in much more accurate shotmaking.

A full follow through is an important swing ingredient. Begin by having your golfers put their hands on their hips, then towards the target making sure they lift the right heel, for right-handed players, and pivot the foot fully 1/4 turn so the laces are facing the target. 98% of the body weight should be on the left heel and outside of the left foot with the other 2% placed over the right toe. The right toe is used only as a balance point. Proper footwork at impact and through the swing results in solid, accurate shotmaking.

Finally, one of the real secrets of the golf swing, keeping the separation between the elbows, the same distance apart throughout the swing. This forces both sides of the body to turn equally throughout the swing. The best way to teach this technique is to use a commercially developed product called the Smooth Swinger, available from Golfsmith and other golf catalog companies. This elastic device is shaped similar to a figure 8. Putting the arms into the openings forces the correct swing because the elastic will not allow much separation. Here is an example of an inexpensive device that yields great rewards. Have enough so that your players can use one every time they practice, even if for only 5 minutes.

Thus we conclude a series on drills to improve your young golfers. Obviously there are hundreds more, extremely useful drills that have not been mentioned. If you have one or more particular favorites that you would like to share with your fellow coaches, please drop us a line. We would love to include them in a future *Coach Approach*.

## The First Tee

### Dealing with the young mind

Having coached high school golf for 31 years, I have had the privilege of working with many diverse personalities. This column will attempt to focus on a number of them and possible ways to get the best from each of them. In no way does this article attempt to provide all the effective solutions to personality problems of youngsters, but hopefully will serve as an inspiration to many of you to share your ideas with the *Coach Approach* so we may share them with other coaches. Please write to us, we'd love to hear from you!

Peter Perfect: Peter wants to hit every shot perfectly and will settle for nothing short of perfection. He becomes very discouraged, sometimes even with very good shots, if they do not meet his standards. As a result, he puts undo pressure on himself early in the round which causes more poorly hit shots leading to more high scores. Peter needs to learn that, in competition, an ugly par counts the same as a perfect par. He needs to read Dr. Bob Rotella's book, *Golf is Not a Game of Perfect*. An excellent teaching device is to play nine holes of "difficult shot" golf where, after the players hit their tee shots, you pick up their golf balls, place them in difficult lies or positions, then see if they can make pars. This is a fun game that challenges your players creativity and patience. As they successfully make a few pars, you can emphasize that pars can be made from anywhere, not just after perfectly struck shots. In competition, I like to comment after Peter makes an ugly par, "that sure was an ugly par, I love it!" It usually brings a smile to the players face and a sense of accomplishment, proving that ugly pars are as great as a pretty par.

**Harold Hesitant:** Harold wants to reach his comfort level. He normally shoots \_\_\_ (you fill in the amount) over par. Even after warming up properly before a match, he always seems to start poorly on the first three or four holes. Then, after reaching his comfort level, Harold finishes strong to shoot his accustomed score. Every team has players like Harold, but how do we change his comfort level to fewer strokes over par? Coach Al Pirk of Racine Case always checks his players score card to see how strongly they play their final three or four holes. Let's borrow his idea but turn it around and get Harold to focus on his first three or four holes. Point out that you are going to determine what position he will play based on his scores after three or four holes. Get him to open by playing hard and with confidence. By focusing, and doing well on the opening holes, Harold may feel uncomfortable and play poorly in the middle or closing holes, so you will have to focus on these holes. All your efforts should be lowering Harold's comfort level to fewer strokes over par. Playing easier courses in practice once in a while, where scores will almost always be lower, does help. Mostly, Harold has to see himself as a better player capable of producing lower scores in order to change his expectations of himself.

**Al Knowitall!** Al thinks he knows a lot about golf, certainly more than the coach. He may even be brazen enough to argue with you. Remember, unless you are a new coach with very little experience coaching or playing golf, just common sense alone will allow you to see and know more than your golfers. They are, after all, kids, not adults. Al, however, thinks he knows more than you and all his teammates. You need, therefore, to lay down specific goals and a well developed map for achieving those goals. Kids need to understand that you are there to help them. They also need to understand that you have developed this plan to allow them to play their best golf, and the plan must be followed by all golfers, including Al. Included in your plan should be a personalized practice and play

strategy for each individual on the team. You need to be able to recognize weaknesses in their swings, their course management and their mental approach. If you feel somewhat inadequate with swing techniques, try to obtain the help of a local pro for three or four sessions a season so you can concentrate on the other two areas. Al needs to understand that you are still the captain of the ship and are trying to steer a course for success.

All kids need to work on their mental approach to the game. Often I hear players making boastful statements concerning their ability or how they are going to "tear this course up." Even more common are statements predicting what score they are going to shoot. These types of statements should never be made. They are counterproductive to the team and individual development. Statements like those are never made by mature players but rather by those whose confidence level is not very high. So, instead of "letting their clubs do the talking," they open their mouths and usually end up looking like fools. Your players should have ideas about what kind of golfer they are and we should be constantly trying to get them to raise their self-image and expectations. But predicting scores puts additional pressure on them, and we should be trying to find ways to relieve pressure in competition. Players should enter a competition with internal confidence that they are going to hit good shots and play well. Add up the scores after the round, not before!

Teach your players to focus on each shot as it comes up, then after the shot is hit, forget about it and focus on the next shot. Playing golf is actually like traveling from island to island. On each island you strike one shot, then travel to the next island for the next shot. Once you leave an island you forget about it and focus on the next island and the next shot. Sometimes Al can be very hard on himself yet very pleasant to others. Remind him to treat himself as nicely as he treats others. If you don't feel good about yourself, golf becomes a very difficult game to play.

If you have other suggestions

or methods of treating these or other teenage personalities, please share them with the *Coach Approach* for inclusion in a future issue.

## WPGA Pace of Play Policy

Rule 6-7 states in part: "The players shall play without undue delay." It is hoped that no slow play penalties are necessary, but players are asked to review the following guidelines.

### Definition of "Out of Position"

The first group to start will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, the group is behind the prescribed schedule. Unless otherwise posted the schedule is four hours & twelve minutes a round; an average of fourteen minutes per hole.

Any following group will be considered out of position if it (a) is taking more than the allotted time to play and (b) reaches any place on the course where there is an open par-3 or par-4 hole, or when the preceding group is on the putting green of a par-5 hole when the group in question arrives at the teeing ground.

**Note:** Both (a) and (b) must apply for a group to be out of position. It is the responsibility of the player to note whether their group is out of position.

### Timing

The timing of a player's stroke will begin when it is his turn to play and he can play without interference or distraction. Any time spent determining yardage will count as time taken for the next stroke.

On the puffing green, timing will begin after a player has been allowed a reasonable amount of time to mark, lift, clean, and replace his ball, repair his ball mark and other ball marks on his line of puff and remove loose impediments on his line of puff.

**Note:** An extra 10 seconds will be allowed for: (a) the first player to play a stroke on a par - 3 hole; (b) the first player to play a second stroke on a par-4 or par-5 hole (when attempting to reach the putting green); (c) the first player to play a third stroke on a par-5 hole; or (d) the first player to play on or around the putting green.

### Penalties During the Round

Any player in a group out of position who exceeds 40 seconds to play a stroke on three occasions during a round will be informed as soon as practicable that he has been penalized one stroke. If the player in question exceeds 40 seconds to play a stroke on one more occasion (a total of four) during a round, he will be informed as soon as practicable that he has been penalized an additional two strokes. If the player in question exceeds 40 seconds to play a stroke on one more occasion (a total of five) during the round, he will be informed as soon as practicable that he has been disqualified. Note: Any timing(s) exceeding 40 seconds will be carried over throughout the round.

### Summary of Penalties

First Offense: Three occasions exceeding 40 seconds to play a stroke - **one stroke penalty**

Second Offense: One more occasion (a total of four) exceeding 40 seconds to play a stroke - **two stroke penalty**

Subsequent Offense: One more occasion (a total of five) exceeding 40 seconds to play a stroke - **disqualification.**

### Appeals

Any appeal of a penalty must be referred to the on-site Tournament Director immediately upon completion of the player in question's round. The Tournament Director's decision shall be final.

(adapted from the PGA Tour Guidelines)

## Nominations for All State Teams Reminders

Just a few reminders from the All-State nomination committee on filling out the All-State nomination forms.

1. Print or type the entire nomination form. Many of the forms are not legible.
2. Fill in all names, addresses and newspaper addresses at the top of the form. This information is used to send

all-state certificates to the player's home address as well as sending press releases to the local newspaper.

3. List all invitational results for the nominated player not just the invitationals where the player finished high. Fill in all the information asked for and list the individual finish not the team finish. DO NOT LIST BESTBALL OR SCRAMBLE EVENTS unless individual scores are kept.
4. List the average nine hole score figured to the nearest tenth of a stroke.
5. List conference, regional, and sectional results completely, and as in the invitationals you should list the individual finish, not the team finish.
6. **FOR THE WIAA STATE TOURNAMENT RESULTS, These can be omitted due to the nomination deadline. WIAA State Tournament results will be filled in by the committee. WISAA coaches are asked to accurately fill in state results.**
7. Make sure you are a member of the association. Nominations are not accepted if the player's coach is not a member of the WHSGCA.
8. Mail forms to the proper committee member:

GIRLS: Don Marx  
5319 Frosty Lane  
Madison, WI 53705

BOYS: Chuck Menzel  
529 Edelweiss Dr  
Green Bay, WI 54302-5115

## New Inductees to the hall

Mr. Al Forsythe and Mr Paul Naumann will be inducted into the WHSGCA Hall of Fame at the annual meeting, June 16th at the Springs Golf Resort.

Coach Forsythe of South Milwaukee was the head coach there for about 30 years. His 1974 team was runner up at the WIAA State tournament.

Coach Naumann coached boys and girls golf for over 25 years. His 1978 team won the Boys State while his 1975 team was runner-up.

## Springs Represents Wisconsin Experience

One of the truly great golf experiences in Wisconsin is available to you at the Springs Golf Club Resort. Those of you that played in the Coaches Annual Tournament last June raved about the course and its setting "amidst the rocky bluffs and rolling hills of the Wisconsin River valley." Here in "God's Country" you can enjoy a wonderful round of golf over 27 holes, eighteen of which were designed by Robert Trent Jones, Jr. and the other nine designed by Andy North and Roger Packard. Rates, depending on the season, vary from \$50 to \$70 for 18 holes, including cart. Significantly reduced twilight rates are available for walkers or riders beginning at 3:00 pm.

The Springs is a full service resort with special package plans available year round. Golf packages begin at just over \$100 per person, including 18 holes and a luxury two-room suite. Additional amenities can include a spa, staff who can expertly pamper you with massages, body wraps, mud treatments and salon services. Packages include unlimited use of the Springs state of the art Fitness and Aquatic Center, racquetball court, sauna, steam room, locker facilities, and hiking and biking trails.

There are some 10 different packages designed to meet your every need. For further information, please call 1-800-822-7774. The facilities are superb, the golf course tremendous. Why travel elsewhere, when you can enjoy a world class resort and golf experience right here in Wisconsin.

### ALL STATE NOMINATION FORMS ARE INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE.

Playing nominations must be **POST-MARKED THE DAY FOLLOWING THE STATE MEET.**

Academic nominations must be post-marked by May 25th.

# Announcing

## 12TH ANNUAL WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL GOLF COACHES ASSOCIATION GOLF TOURNAMENT, CLINIC, AND ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 1998



### PROGRAM:

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 1998

8:00 A.M. - 8:30 A.M.	JUICE AND COFFEE
8:30 A.M. - 10:10 AM	ANNUAL MEETING WWSGCA.
10:05 A.M. - 11:15 A.M.	CLINIC (GOLF PRACTICE AREA)
11:15 A.M. - 12:15 P.M.	LUNCH
12:30 P.M.	GOLF (SHOT GUN START)

**ENTRY FEE:** \$80.00 INCLUDES COFFEE, CLINIC, LUNCH, GOLF,  
CART, AND PRIZES.

**RESERVATIONS:** ENTRIES TO THIS EVENT ARE LIMITED TO THE  
FIRST 75 MEMBERS OF THE WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL  
ASSOCIATION WHO COMPLETE AND RETURN THE  
ENTRY BLANK, TOGETHER WITH THE \$80.00 ENTRY  
FEE.

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED NO  
LATER THAN MONDAY, MAY 25, 1998.**

# The 18th Hole

## February WHSGCA Board Meeting

The WHSGCA's meeting was held in Madison at Babe's on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. President Bob Lehninger called the meeting to order at 9:40 am. Thirteen board members were present. They were Dave Blake, Tom Conrad, Ted Devine, TJ Dieck, Singh Grewal, Joe Harlow, Bob Lehninger, Don Marx, Dick McKichan, Chuck Menzel, Scott Meyer, Muffet Miller and Bob Schweder.

Vice President Dick McKichan handed out the minutes from the last meeting and they were accepted by the Board.

TJ Dieck gave the treasurer's report and commented that the WHSGCA's treasury balance is where it usually is at this time of year. Revenue from the raffle ticket sales and membership fees increase has offset the loss of GMC ticket sales. The treasurer's report was accepted by the Board.

Joe Harlow, membership chairman, indicated in his report that current membership in the WHSGCA is 240 (down 20 from last year). The WIAA Membership Directory list 406 head coaches in golf. The Board members continue to update district membership lists and encourage non-members to join. A motion was made by TJ Dieck and seconded by Bob Schweder to have a reduced rate of \$15 for retired coaches was passed by the Board.

Bob Lehninger gave the Golf Foundation report. He commented that the Golf Foundation of Wisconsin is interested in having rules meetings at five or six different sites around the state for coaches and players. The Board felt that these rules meetings should be coordinated with the WIAA

rules meetings and be held in April.

Bob Lehninger gave the President's report. He announced that Katie Connelly of Beloit Memorial had been added to the Girls All State Team (Honorable Mention). He also mentioned that Louie Patscot is encouraging more high school golfers to play in the US Public Links Golf Tournament. It was noted that all Board members are planning to stay on the Board. The Board is planning to increase its number from 18 to 20.

There was no college report as Joe Meloy and Kris Schoonauer were absent. However, it was noted the the University of Wisconsin-Platteville is adding women's golf to its athletic program.

The WIAA Advisory Committee is represented by two Board members: Lee Kaczmarek and Muffet Miller. Kaz reported, by letter, that much was accomplished at the fall meeting. Two positive changes announced were: (1) 3 individuals, not on the qualifying teams for the Sectional and State Tournaments, will also qualify and (2) increase from 5 to 6 sectionals in the girls competition. These new changes will go into effect this fall. A practice round at the Regional site, not counting as one of the 14 official contests, was turned down by the WIAA.

Scott Meyer reported on the progress of the raffle. He noted 2,800 tickets are out and about 1/2 of them have been returned back sold. The drawing for the raffle winner will take place at the Spring Clinic on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. Tickets for next year's raffle will be sold at the June clinic. The plan is to make the raffle more attractive by having 3 to 5 quality prizes rather than one.

Dave Blake talked about the upcoming Spring Clinic to be held at Western Lakes on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. The Clinic will start at 8:30 and be divided into four parts: (1) panel of 3 state championship coaches, (2) Bob Burns, PGA Professional and clubmaker, (3) Tony Coleman on the Mental Game of Golf, and (4) Gene Haas on the rules.

Bob Schweder and Tom Conrad reported on plans for the June

clinic. It will be held on Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at the Springs near Spring Green, Wisconsin. The entry fee was changed by the Board from \$75 to \$80. Also, it was decided that a WHSGCA's folder similar to the popular one handed out a few years ago, will be given out to members attending this year's clinic. On the day before the clinic, the All-State Selection Committee will meet at the Springs at 2 pm to select the Boys All-State Team. Chuck Menzel will FAX out material to those people on the committee prior to the meeting. Singh Grewal has been added to the committee. In the evening, the entire Board will meet. It was recommended by the Board that a letter should be sent to the host club thanking them for the use of their outstanding course and facilities. This would happen at the end of the host site's two year hosting of the Clinic. The June Clinic for the next two years will be held at Rhinelander.

Dick McKichan announced the nominations for the Coaches Hall of Fame, PGA Friend of Golf, the Friend of Golf. After much discussion, the Board selected Al Forsythe and Paul Naumann to the Coaches Hall of Fame and Racine Country Club, Meadowbrook Country Club and Rhinelander CC/Ron Bosi as Friends of Wisconsin High School Golf. The special awards will be presented at the June Clinic.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dick McKichan  
Vice President



# The Scorecard

## Lake County Golf Invitational

1. Homestead	310
2. Brookfield East	322
3. Marquette	325
4. Mukwonago	326
5. Catholic Memorial	327
6. New Berlin West	331
7. Racine Case	337
8. Slinger	339
9. Arrowhead	340
10. Kettle Moraine	344
11. Muskego	345
12. Brookfield Central	347
13. Oconomowoc	349
14. Watertown	355
15. Kenosha Tremper	358
16. Kewaskum	358
17. Mukwonago #2	359
18. Waukesha South	363
19. West Bend East	369
20. Racine Park	370
21. Racine St. Catherine	370
22. Menomonee Fa11s	371
23. Kenosha Braford	374
24. Waukesha West	382
25. Wauwatosa East	388
26. Wisconsin Lutheran	393
27. West Bend West	394
28. Hartford	400
29. Sussex Hamilton	403
30. Mayville	406
31. Cedarburg	459
32. Nicolet	DQ
33. Waupun	DQ

Medalists	
Reuter, Homestead	73
Hurab, Brook Central	73
McNamara, CMH	75
Pilgreen, Brook East	76
Baackes, Homestead	77
Nelson, Homestead	78
Pajewski, Marquette	78
Holmes, NB West	78
Honkamp, Marquette	79
Gaeth, CMH	79
Noelke, Racine Case	79
Everson, Muskego	79

## SPRINGS INVITATIONAL

313	Prairie du Chien
318	River Valley
331	Platteville
341	Cuba City
350	Lancaster
359	Darlington
366	Beloit Turner
371	Fenimore

377	Richaland Center
381	Iowa Grant
381	Viroqua
312	Madison Edgewood
317	Madison Memorial
329	Madison West
332	Fond du Lac
336	Waukesha South
337	Madison East
345	Madison LaFollette
347	Sun Prairie
349	DeForest
367	Monroe
71	Carl Hottman, River Valley
73	Joel Leonard, Mad LaFollette
74	Dave Possin, Mad Memorial
74	Brian Geise, Prairie du Chien
75	Joel Rechlicz, Mad Edgewood
76	John Poehling, Mad Edgewood
76	Mike Peterson, Prairie du Chien
77	Jake Jones, River Valley
78	Dallas Diener, Fond du Lac
78	Jeb Grueneberger, Kickapoo
79	Chris Burns, Mad East
79	Mike Brusberg, Beloit Turner

Below: The luck of the Irish was with Mary Lewicki on St. Patrick's Day as she became the winner of the VHSGCA first raffle. Lewicki, a Fort Atkinson HS secretary, one a set of Taylor Made titanium woods, graphite shaft irons and a bag valued at \$2,500. Opposite page: Alicia Strassman of Hartford Union HS hit a hole-in-one on the 7th hole at Old Hickory in Beaver Dam at an Interconference Quadrangular. Alicia used a pitching wedge.

