



The Coach Approach

The Newsletter of the Wisconsin High School Golf Coaches Association

Volume XIII Issue 1

September 1998

From the Clubhouse:

Golf Reveals Character

Isn't it wonderful (?!) We're back in school starting another year, and hopefully it will be a successful one for all of us, not only in the classroom, but also on the golf course. Some of us are already out there with our girls, most of us get out there next spring with their boys teams. Most of us being teachers, I'm sure that we start each year telling our students where we're coming from and what we'll be expecting from them in the coming year. "Hey, kids, I want to make sure on the same wavelength as much as possible!"

The above holds true for any athletic team, and golf is no different. The players know what is expected of them in representing their team and their school, and hopefully, they will all take it to heart. One of things I like about high school golf is that it is an individual game within the framework of a team game, and what you shoot is what you get. Some of you also coach basketball. I did until I retired from it this year. I would guess (and I'll bet it is a very educated one), that all of you have had to explain to a parent or parents why Jimmy or Julie wasn't playing instead of someone else. It's much more subjective. In golf, as in cross-country or

track, the numbers don't lie. If my kid shoots a 50 and the kid he's competing against shoots 48, my kid is out of luck. It makes for less hassle and the less hassle the better.

Sorry to say, it also seems as if golf is the last bastion for honesty in professional sports. I can't imagine Glenn Robinson telling the ref "No, no, that wasn't a defensive foul, I really should get the charging foul. It was my fault." Or David Nilsson telling the umpire that he was really out trying to steal second base (Nilsson trying to steal second? Ouch!) It just won't happen. But in golf it should, and does, a lot. Hopefully, that won't change.

Just last week there was an article and Sports Illustrated on how President Clinton takes mulligans and shaves strokes off his scores. This is nothing new, he's been doing that for years. Playing golf that way (cheating?), sometimes (and maybe more than sometimes) can tell you a lot about a persons habits, characteristics, attitudes, etc. I have played with a lot of people over the years, and there were many times you could get a handle on what a person was like by how he conducted himself on the golf course. As high school golf coaches we have a great opportunity to do our part to instill in our students – players the right way to play; not just fundamentals, but also the honesty and integrity of a great game of golf.

Anyway, enough sermonizing. A few reminders for you:

If you know a coach or coaches who aren't members of the WHSGCA, talk

to them and have them get in contact with our membership chairman, Joe Harlow, 1015 Hillside Drive, Kewaskum 53040 – 9107.

Contact Scott Meyer at 920 – 262 – 3166 if you are able to get a prize for this year's raffle, in particular an outing for two with cart at a club. A successful raffle will go a long way towards defraying our expenses for the year.

Spring Clinic: March 13 at Western Lakes, with registration starting at 8 a.m.

Annual Meeting and Clinic: Tuesday, June 15 at Northwood Country Club, just west of Rhinelander on Highway 8.

Now you can go to the first tee and read part two of Kaz and his wife's trip to the British Isles entitled "Honey, tell me, am I really getting senile?"

Have a great school year and golf season.

Bob Lehninger

Coaches:

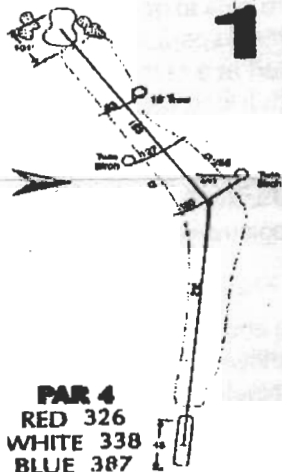
Enclosed in this issue of the *Coach Approach* are various forms for nominations. Please make necessary copies for your needs

The Practice Tee

WHSGCA To Call Northwood Home this Spring

In June, 1999 we will be calling on Northwood Golf Course for our annual meeting and coaches tournament. In this and the following two issues will look at Northwood beginning with the first six holes. Play will be from the blue tees, which are not the back tees at Northwood.

Hole No. 1 is a 387 yard par 4 dogleg left. You can hit your driver off this tee but there are woods both left and right which are marked lateral hazards. The perfect tee shot is a slight draw right to left of about 220 yards

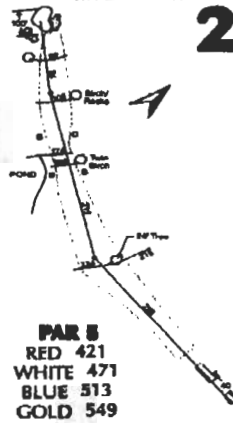


PAR 4
RED 326
WHITE 338
BLUE 387
GOLD 409

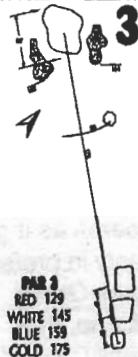
leading to a 170 yard iron to the green. The second shot is uphill all the way and the shot will play longer than the listed yardage, so take a bit more club. The green is 33 yards long with a mound in the middle so beware of your putts. There are bunkers right and back left.

Hole No. 2 is a 513 yard five par dogleg right. A good straight tee shot and straight fairway wood second should leave you a wedge or short iron third to the green.

There is water left and woods on both sides of this hole. There are woods on both sides of every hole on the front nine for that matter, and they are thick enough that you cannot see bordering fairways on either side! The green is 33 yards long with bunkers short left and right. This green is not difficult to putt.



PAR 5
RED 421
WHITE 471
BLUE 513
GOLD 549



PAR 3
RED 129
WHITE 145
BLUE 159
GOLD 175

Hole No. 3 is a 159 yard par three. A slightly elevated tee allows you to see the 2 bunkers left and right of the green which is 30 yards long. Just be sure to select the correct club.

Hole No. 4 is a 380 yard par 4. It is a very, very slight dogleg right. There are thick woods close to fairway on

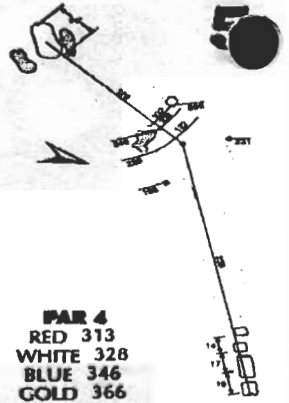
both sides, but the fairway slopes in toward the center to help you. Your second shot will usually be between 150 and 190 yards, sloping downhill to a narrow green and protected by a bunker to right and a pond left. Since the second shot is



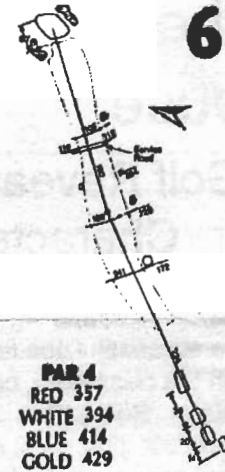
PAR 4
RED 301
WHITE 360
BLUE 380
GOLD 402

to a green well below you, everything is in plain sight. The closer you are to the green off tee, the easier your second shot becomes.

Hole No. 5 is a 346 yard dogleg left par 4. There is a bunker at the inside of the dogleg so a tee shot of about 200 yards is quite satisfactory, leaving a short to middle iron to another crowned green that is protected by bunkers left and right. The straight tee ball positioned in the fairway is the big shot here. The green is 29 yards long but quite narrow, so be careful on that second shot!



PAR 4
RED 313
WHITE 328
BLUE 346
GOLD 366



PAR 4
RED 357
WHITE 394
BLUE 414
GOLD 429

Hole No. 6 is a 414 straight away par 4. A good tee shot should leave you a middle to long iron to a 26 yard long green bunkered short left and back right. Ten times a second shot landing short of the green and bouncing on is ideal. The green is relatively easy to putt.

Well, there you have the first six holes. Lots of trees and crowned greens will make for challenging but fun golf. This is truly one of the most beautiful courses in Wisconsin. You'll enjoy your Northwood experience.

COACHES HOSTING GOLF INVITATIONALS

We want to publish the results of your tournament in the *Coch Approach*
Send your results to:
Lee Kaczmarek
Waukesha South HS
401 E. Roberta Avenue;
Waukesha, WI 53186

25 Years of Coaching

Name _____ Total years coaching golf _____

Home phone: _____

School _____ Years _____

School _____ Years _____

School _____ Years _____

Present school address:

School _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip _____

Principal _____

Return by February 15, 1999
The Wisconsin High School Coaches Association is presenting plaques to all WHSGCA members that have coached for 25 or more years. If you have coached for 25 or more years please fill out the following form and mail it to:

T.J. Dieck; Milton High School

114 W. High Street; Milton, WI 53563

The First Tee

A Vacation to Remember Part 2

At the finish of part one, my wife and I had finally landed at Heathrow airport in London, passed through customs and were on our way to collect our luggage. Both my wife's luggage and my bag came out, but... several sets of clubs came off, but not ours. I asked and was told that all luggage from our flight had been unloaded. I had seen our clubs being loaded onto our plane in Newark, but they seemed to have magically disappeared over the Atlantic. I let the supervisor know of my displeasure as my wife went to the United lost luggage window to fill out a form. After speaking "at" the supervisor, I went to my wife's side to help. After several minutes at the window I suddenly had a feeling and began walking back toward the luggage carousel. Our clubs had suddenly appeared. All other passengers and their luggage were long gone. There was only one United luggage handler around. When I asked him where our clubs had been, he said they had always been there. I told him they had not come out with the other baggage and he just shrugged his shoulders and quickly disappeared into a back room. I yelled to my wife that the clubs had been found so she left the lost luggage window and, quite relieved, we proceeded toward the exit, luggage in hand.

It was just a short taxi ride, in one of those neat British taxis, to our motel. After freshening up, we headed to the tube (subway) for a ride into central London.

What an introduction to the people London! The first person I saw on the tube was a young man, in his early '20s, who was wearing a gray silk top hat with several feathers, a long black leather trench coat and about 42 rings stuck through various parts of his face. I am guessing that he was not a golfer! Our stop was Picadilly Circus, a 40 minute ride. Now, in Central London, we boarded one of the double decker tourist buses to see the historic sights. Having been a World History teacher for 31 years, I was probably more interested in the historical sights than my wife, but she was inter-

ested in places like Westminster Abby. After our flight and the day in London, sleep was easy that evening.

The next morning we loaded our luggage and clubs on a public bus for the one mile ride to the tube. People were very helpful in their efforts to assist us with our luggage as we boarded the tube and then when we exited at Kings Cross Station and had to go up three flights of stairs to the railroad station where we would catch the train to Edinburgh. Several days earlier a Great Northeastern railroad car had wheel failure and the train derailed. Fortunately, there had been no injuries but many trains were pulled from service for wheel checks. The result was severely limited service with six trains combined into one and reduced speed by almost 50 percent. So our 8:00 a.m. train left at 9:15 a.m. and our planned arrival time of just after noon turned out to be 2:20. We found the car rental agency conveniently located, but, because we were over two hours late, our car had been given away! And we had a 3:20 tee time at North Berwick. Well, we got another car 40 minutes later, changed our tee time and soon were on our way to our first Scottish links experience.

Our transportation plan in Scotland was for my wife to drive while I did the navigating, a plan that made sense because of my great interest in maps. Getting out downtown Edinburgh proved to be our first problem and one wrong turn brought us right back to our starting point. A second effort proved more successful and within twenty minutes we had left the confines of the city behind and were headed towards North Berwick. Along away we passed Gullane Golf Club and the Honorable Society of Edinburgh Golfers also know as Muirfield.

We found the North Berwick West Links without any difficulty and proceeded to pro shop to pay our green fees. I was informed by Martyn Huish, the head professional, that I could rent a trolley (pull cart) through him, but in Scotland green fees were usually paid to the starter. I paid the starter our fees after apologizing for being one hour late and he said it was no problem as there were a number of open tee times this late in the afternoon (4:30). I asked if we should be having any difficulty finishing before dark and he informed me that since darkness fell about 10:15 p.m. there shouldn't be any difficulty. After a six yard walk I was on the first tee ready to begin play. Having checked the scorecard, I chose the white

(back tees) with the course playing at 6420 yards.

I immediately made my first mistake by teeing the ball up on the white (back) tee. I was quickly informed by the starter, over the loud speaker mind you, that I was to use the middle or blue tees not the competition tees. I did not mind abandoning the competition tees for the shorter blue (6033 yards) tees, but I was a mere six yards from a starter shack. Did he have to announce to all of Scotland and half of Norway, across the North Sea, that I should not touch their precious competition tees? Boy, talk about another positive start, this was not it!

The first hole at North Berwick (pronounced Bear-ick) West Links is a 314 yard par 4 hole alongside the North Sea. It was playing down wind and I was determined to show that fool starter that Americans know how to play this game quite well! I smashed my opening drive straight at the raised green and it was long! Of course-I then looked at my yardage book and took note of the fact that the fairway ended some 207 yards out and with a huge rock outcrop of some 100 yards in length running to the start of the greatly elevated green. I realized this while walking down the fairway and looking at my yardage book, and I could only imagine the starter laughing at the fool American playing smash mouth golf instead of smart golf. Well I found my ball and had only a short iron out of some of the ugliest grass you could imagine. I wedged my second to the hidden elevated green and two-putted for a par and was on my way.

North Berwick West Links was established in 1832 and lies hard by the North Sea. A typical links course, its front nine goes "out" from the clubhouse, and its back nine goes in toward the clubhouse. It is believed to be the 13th oldest golf club in the world. Being a Scottish course, all paths and walls are in play! Hole No. 3, a 464 yard par four features a five foot stone wall running across the fairway about 330 yards from the back tees and some 315 yards from our tees. With the hole playing down wind and the fairways running quite fast, I was faced with a second shot that was close enough to the wall that I had to think about it during club selection. But a seven iron bounced the ball on and two putts later I had a par.

An interesting feature of all links style courses are their famous pot bunkers. Small in size, they play much larger

because the land 30 yards out slopes toward these bunkers and the ball, which rolls much more in Scotland is often times attracted to them like a magnet. Just watching my wife's shots proved that. Fortunately, I was not forced to visit any bunkers at North Berwick.

At the West Links, holes 1 – 3 and 10 – 15 play closest to the sea while holes 4 – 9 and 16 – 18 play outside the inner holes. The tee for hole 10 is the farthest point from the clubhouse. No sense playing nine holes on a links course! Play over 18 holes is not expected to take over three hours, although we finished in three and ½ hours due to a slow foursome in front of us on the inward nine. We chose not to play through as it was a perfect excuse to be able to walk rather than run.

The course has almost no trees, although there are trees along the South and West borders. It has a number of elevated tees so many of the fairway bunkers can be seen before beginning play. There are 65 bunkers on the course. There are also many grass mounds and swales which can play havoc with your shots. They are features on almost every hole.

Hole No. 4 is a difficult par 3 some 175 yards long. Or at least it was difficult the way I played it. Is there anything worse than having to estimate the distance for your second shot on a par three? On hole 6, a par three some 140 yards in length, a huge grass depression exists from the front of the tee to within two yards of the front of the green. But an easy eight iron put me comfortably on green. Hole eight, a 462 yard par 4 has a bunker some 255 yards out and in perfect position to catch any drive left of the center of the fairway. But the right side of the fairway is no picnic with two swales that run at a 45 degree angle, and located right where your drive ends up. You can play short, of course, but then you have no chance to reach the green in two. Two woods got me pin high right, but a poorly played chip resulted in a bogey.

Hole No. 9, a par five of 510 yards is interesting because there is a bunker 250 yards out in the left center of the fairway on this dogleg left hole. You can play safely to the right but hey, how often do I play North Berwick? I smashed a drive perfectly left of the bunker and played a 4 wood to about 30 yards short. The green was quite elevated and a fair pitch shot and then a missed seven footer left me with a par.

The back nine heads in and begins with a difficult par 3. Hole No. 11 was a dogleg left par five some 550 yards long right next to North Sea, and hole No. 13, a 365 yard par 4 has a stone wall on the left. The wall runs down the left side of the fairway and then across the fairway as the hole doglegs left. The green lies immediately left of the wall so your second shot, a short iron, must clear the wall to hit the green. This centuries old wall lies directly against the right side of the green, presenting you with a most interesting shot to the green.

I found holes 14 – 17 to be the most interesting on the course. Hole 14, a 360 yard par 4 dogleg left lies on a narrow plateau with the land falling off to the North Sea on the left and down to the fourth and fifth holes on the right. The second shot, with a mid to short iron, depending on the wind, is played over high ridge to a totally hidden green. There is a target pole behind the green to aim at. Upon completion of play on this hole you ring a bell to signal those behind you that the green is clear.

Hole 15 is the West Links claim to fame. It is called redan, all holes in Scotland have names, a par three whose design is based on medieval castle placements. At 192 yards it is the longest par three course. The green is 42 yards long and is set at a 45 degree angle, the left front of the green being closest to the tee. There are a series of three bunkers to the right of the green with the first two being short right. To the left front is a huge bunker. There are also two cross bunkers halfway to the green. The hole begs for a draw into the green as it opens up from the right. It is also uphill and quite difficult to see any of the green. A great three par!

Hole 16 is certainly one of the wildest holes I have ever seen. To begin with that stone wall crosses the fairway just 35 yards in front of the tee. Don't hit a low screamer here! Then there is a burn or creek that requires a 214 yard drive to be carried. Oh, there is also an out of bounds just to the right of the fairway. At 370 yards, the hole is not long, but it doesn't need to be! I hit my best drive of the back nine, playing into the wind, and carried the burn. My wife was last seen throwing her ball over the wall. There is, by the way, one small opening in the wall to walk through, or I would still be back on hole No. 3 trying to climb over the thing! An eight iron left me on the front fringe, thank goodness, for this had to be weirdest

green I have ever seen. It was 62 yards long, maybe 10 yards wide and set at a 45 degree angle just as the previous green. The green was perfectly flat EXCEPT that a huge gully separated the front from the back half. It looked as if somebody came through with a drag line and cut a swath 4½ feet deep in the middle of the green. This dip is covered with normal bent grass as on the rest of the green and is about 10 feet wide, but it's two banks are so steep I have yet to figure out how they are cut. You could not putt from one half of the green to the other, the banks are that steep! And because the green is elevated, no ball landing on the front half will probably stay there. It will end up in the gully! You need luck to play this hole.

Hole 17, a 425 yard par 4 with out of bounds to the right has a drop-off from the right side of fairway down to several large grassy mounds. The center of fairway has a bunker that could be reached down wind. But we were playing into the wind, and I managed to hit a great drive down the fairway just short and right of the bunker. The second shot was to a severely elevated green high atop a ridge. A solid five iron second shot left me with a two putt par. This was another great hole.

After holes 14 – 17, hole 18 is very disappointing. A 274 yard par 4 with 1 bunkers and a couple of low swales. Not a good finishing hole, but maybe they felt that after the previous 4 holes, your heart needed a break.

We left the course at 8:05 and headed for Dalkreith House, a huge 300 year old palace now being leased by several University of Wisconsin system schools. It is open to former graduates, teachers and present students year-round. They call it Wisconsin in Scotland. It is located in Dalkeith, just southeast of Edinburgh. For the equivalent of \$17 per person per night, you get a huge room, separate shower room and a great breakfast in the morning. It is somewhat difficult to find, but a great historical experience! If you are headed to Scotland in the near future call U.W. River Falls or LaCrosse for details. For my wife and I, it was a great experience! After a late dinner in town it was back ½ mile to Dalkeith House to begin dreaming about tomorrow, when I would hopefully be playing St. Andrews, the birthplace of golf.

We will save that story for our next issue.