



The Coach Approach

The Newsletter of the Wisconsin High School Golf Coaches Association

Volume XI Issue 2

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From the Clubhouse:

New Season Brings Problems, Opportunities

By the time this edition of the *Coach Approach* hits the newsstands, all of us will be well into our golf seasons. It never ceases to amaze me how the number of students trying out varies so much from school to school. Some of you have upwards of 100 trying out, others have in the 10-15 range. This year, I had an all-time high of 35. What usually happens, and this year was no exception, is that approximately 1/2 of them come out thinking that they'll be getting golf lessons and learn how to play, not realizing that, just like any other interscholastic sport, you're supposed to have some "expertise" before the first day of practice. Their reply is usually, "Gee, I didn't know that!" My reply to them is usually "Well, now you do." I always encourage them to "get into" golf and maybe down the road they'll not only like it, but become pretty good at it. I have had a couple of players in this category who by their senior year were good enough to play on the varsity. It's always nicer to see

kids stick with something and not give up, and end up seeing some success. Anyway, good luck this spring, and I hope all of you will be seeing kids who will continue to improve as the season goes along.

At the last board meeting, I mentioned that maybe it would be a good idea if we had a media representative on the board, like we did this past season with the basketball coaches' board. About three weeks ago, I called Gary D'Amato of the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel and asked him if he would be interested. His reply was an enthusiastic "yes". So, we now have a media representative on the board, and this will hopefully help us in the area of media relations. If you have any questions or comments regarding this, please don't hesitate to contact a board member. (Regrettably, Gary decided that the President of the WHSGCA was NOT eligible to accompany him to Augusta for the Masters Tournament.)

June will soon be here, and that means (along with many other things, of course) that our annual meeting, clinic, and outing is just around the corner. Once again, it's at Northwoods Golf Course just outside Rhinelander on Hwy 8. More information will be found elsewhere in this *Coach Approach*, but hopefully many of you will be able to make it June 15th. Remember, the raffle will be held on

Tuesday morning. I don't know the exact number of prizes this year, but there will be quite a few of them. (One of them won't be Kaz discussing in detail his trip to Scotland. We don't have enough time!)

Between now and the end of May there will be quite a few invitationals. We would like as complete a list as possible for the *Coach Approach*, so if you are hosting please send results in. Also, if you have a "tee line tip" or interesting story, please don't hesitate to send that in as well.

The spring clinic was again a success. Thanks to the coaches who participated in the coaches' forum, and to Carl Unis for his fine presentation, and to the WCGA for their rules workshop, the first time they have tried that particular format.

I hope all of you have successful seasons. Stay warm, stay dry, hit all the fairways and greens and post low scores. And, most importantly, I hope all of your players will show respect towards each other and towards this great game that we play. Play away!

President Bob Lehninger

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

The Practice Tee

Proper Turn Keys Swing

One of the frequent problems associated with the golf swings of junior players involves the failure to turn the club properly into the top of the backswing so the golfer is in position to make the correct motion forward towards the target, striking the ball in the process. What is often seen is a lifting of the club with the hands and arms instead of a turning of the swing center or sternum. Sometimes the player will begin the swing properly but because of a lack of flexibility, the turn will end before the finish of the backswing. Yet the player will continue the motion of the club back by just lifting the club. Players demonstrating these movements are easy to spot because at the finish of the backswing the golfer's wrists will flop as if they have no muscle tissue. Watch the shaft of the club as it will usually go beyond parallel. Now John Daly certainly swings past parallel, but he also moves into his backswing position by turning, not by flopping. Whereas most players turn their shoulders between 70 and 90 degrees, John turns his between 120 and 130 degrees.

The problem with not turning the club to the finish of the backswing is the handsy motion that results. Unless the golfer is an extremely gifted hands swinger, the result is mishit shots, usually fat, but sometimes thin. In addition, accuracy becomes a casualty because the handsy swinger cannot return the

clubface to a square position at the moment of impact on anything resembling a consistent basis. Also, if you look closely at the three fingers closest to the butt end of the grip, at the top of the backswing they will usually be off the club resulting in a loss of club control. Correction of this problem is usually a rather long drawn out process often involving two separate procedures.

First, the player will usually have to do some flexibility work, so that he/she can correctly turn the club into a proper position. There are several exercises available that can help increase flexibility. Second, there is a drill that can be employed to help the player feel firmer hands and at the same time also feel how the swing center turns the club into proper position. Have the golfer get into their set up position then have them set the club into a horizontal position making sure that the hands are still directly below the chin. In effect what we are doing is pre-setting the wrists in a 90 degree position in relation to the arms. Now tell the student to TURN the club back away from the target making sure that the hands and wrists DO NOT move from their already set position. They will feel that their hands are really squeezing the club as they reach the top of the backswing. They will also really be able to feel the swing center turning the club instead of a lifting by the hands and arms.

Have the student hit 75% of their practice shots using the drill swing. Muscular habits need to be changed, and since the flopping of the wrists takes place behind the golfer's head, correction becomes more difficult. When you feel that the player is really feeling the changes taking place and seems to be able to feel what is going on behind his/her

back, then proceed to step two. Step two consists of using the drill swing on alternate swings on the practice range, and regular swings otherwise. By alternating, you are continually reinforcing the muscular change that is the goal. The final result will be a powerful swing where the large muscles of the body control the club. Quiet hands will result in much better scoring.

Since this change will be worked on during the competitive season, remember that the golfer should NOT be thinking about this change on the golf course. This change should be worked on ONLY on the practice range!

The First Tee

Old Friends
Remember, Celebrate

Feb. 20, 1999
Dear Lee,

Old coaches never die, they just go to Arizona to live and play golf. The picture enclosed was taken after a round of golf by four former Wis HS golf coaches. We were standing in front of my house celebrating my first hole in one, a par three, 168 yd. hole at Hillcrest Golf course. The coaches were myself, Harry (call me coach) Evans, Bob Collins of Nicolet and Tom Spearbraker of Homestead. I just had my irons refitted by Ping, and the first shot I took with my 6 iron went in the hole.

I work at Hillcrest and last week the first person I saw there in the afternoon was Al Forsythe, who was playing the course. As I finished

talking to him I heard someone call, Paul, and I turned around and there was Tom Kabler (Westmoor) who was making the turn. Tom Puls also lives down here, as well as many other teachers and coaches from Wis



Its a great place to be, temp today is 80, no wind, no clouds, no bugs. We have 8 courses in Sun City West that we can play.

I read your *Coach Approach* and although I can't make the March meeting, I'll be there in June at Northwoods. Your trip sounded great.

Have a good spring clinic and say hello to anyone who might remember me.

Regards,
Paul Naumann

1999 WISCONSIN PGA The U.S.G.A. Wants You!

This year, the U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship qualifying round for Wisconsin will be conducted at

the Arthur Hills designed Washington County Golf Course.

The W.H.S.G.C.A. would love to have one or more of our high school players qualify, but that can only happen if they are entered!

The Washington County Board has officially extended a special rate of \$25.00 per round for the qualifier with free practice balls. Practice rounds will cost the same for those who entry has been officially received. Entry blanks can be obtained from most public courses or by calling our president, Bob Lehninger at (414) 774-1036.

This is an excellent opportunity for your players to tee it up with the big boys among the state Publinx amateurs. Even if they don't qualify, their experience should make future competition that much easier! In addition, the Washington County Course is one of the most talked about and highly praised layouts built in the last 20 years! It has re-

ceived VERY HIGH praise from all good players who have tested its yardage.

In short, this is an excellent opportunity for your players to step up their competition level while playing a GREAT course in Hartford. Encourage them to participate!

Golf Instruction Available

Pat Gorman of Tiziani & Gorman Golf Academy passed on this information that may be of interest to your golfers.

5 Half-Day Junior Teen Academy

This features 20 hours of instruction over five days. The weeks itinerary Will focus around giving each junior/teen a sound understanding of the fundamentals of the game along with proven techniques to help build proper practice habits and develop mental toughness skills. The week will provide a great balance between teaching, coaching, and competition. Topics covered will be the long game, scoring game, the practice game, and the strategy game with on-course instruction from proven tournament champions. Each graduate will receive; a personalized take home tape complete with voice-over analysis and recommended drills, workbook, sleeve of balls, rules book, lunch at the conclusion, and class photo.

Age: 12-18 years old

Class size: maximum of 6

Dates: June 14-18, July 12-16, August 9-13

Time: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Cost: \$450~00 per junior/teen

Student to Teacher Ratio: 3:1

Raffle Pays WHSGCA Bills

When you get your raffle tickets, consider the following, then sell those tickets!

- our membership dues cover only two thirds of our expenses.
- the other third was covered by GMO tickets we no longer get.
- the raffle replaced the GMO tickets.

Every coach is asked to sell a minimum of one book of tickets or return the book. Extra books are available from Scott Meyer at (920) 262-3166 or e-mail at ksmeyer@execpc.com.

There are over \$4000 in prizes this year. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5 or a book for \$20.

The Last Six

This is the third and last article describing the Northwood Golf Course, site of the 1999 W.H.S.G.C.A. annual meeting and tournament to be conducted on Tuesday, June 15th. This article will focus on the final six holes.

#13 483 yard par 5

Hit your tee shot into the fairway on this hole. To the right of the fairway, some 183 yards from the tee is a hidden pond. While not large in size, the surrounding land slopes toward the water drawing the ball to it as if it were magnetized. To the left of the fairway is an even larger pond which is somewhat visible. Additionally, to the right of the 150 yard marker is another very small pond with even the fairway terrain sloping towards the water. Both sides of the fairway are also covered with trees.

The smallish green, 28 yards deep, is protected by a bunker short right and short left. There are no additional bunkers on the hole, but where would you put one anyway?

#14 391 yard par 4

Forme number 14 is the most difficult hole on the course. I have never pared the hole, and have made only one bogey! I do, however, remember lots of sixes and sevens. The hole doglegs slightly to the left with a bunker about 240 yards off the tee on the left side of the fairway. A second shot must clear or skirt a pond which lies at the base of a hill some 60 yards short of the green. The uphill shot is to a very shallow green about 26 yards deep on the left side and only 18 yards deep on the right side. There is a mound on the left side of the green making putting very difficult. The left front and right front of the green are each protected by a bunker. In my estimation, hitting this green in two shots (which thus far I have found to be impossible) means that you should not make more than a six on the

hole, especially if the hole is cut on the left side. By the way, did I mention that this hole is lined with a thick woods?

#15 200 yard par 3

A longer par three with a large green and a bunker on the left and right front, but not too close to the green. Both sides of the fairway are tree lined, but if you can at least hit a tee shot near the green, you have a chance to make a par! This hole is probably the second easiest hole on the back side. Saying that about a 200 yard par three sounds silly, but it's true!

#16 501 yard par 5

A very narrow but both sides slope toward the center of the fairway thus directing wayward shots back into play. I believe it is important to hit a driver as far as is possible off the tee because you must carry a pond on your second shot requiring the tee shot and second shot to total at least 395 yards. If you hit a fairway wood or iron off the tee, it almost requires a lay-up shot short of the water. You are then left with a 190 yards or more for the third shot to the green. There is a bail out area to the right of the pond, but it is extremely narrow, almost impossible to hit. The pond itself is some 40 yards across. The fairway from the pond to the green is not real wide. For a short par 5, this is a very good hole requiring well thought out shots and a good amount of courage and confidence. But then, shouldn't all good holes be designed this way? There is a lone fairway bunker 88 yards from the green on the right side of the fairway and two fronting greenside bunkers on either side of the putting surface. The green is 25 yards deep. A well designed small green, but your third shot should be a short iron.

#17 383 yard par 4

What an absolutely great

hole! A dogleg left, but you don't need to hit a drive longer than 215-230 yards. A 227 yard straight tee shot leaves a 150 yard second shot, over water, to a peninsula green. It does not pay to hit a longer tee shot because you will still have that 150-160 yard second shot. If your tee shot is to the right of the left center of this fairway, a longer second shot will result. Do Not hook your tee shot around the trees on the left side in the mistaken thought that it will shorten the second shot. It will only get your ball wet! You can, by the way, play short shots around the right side of the pond, if you cannot confidently play a 160 shot over the water, but it will result in a probable score of seven or higher.

The green has one back bunker and is about 26 yards deep. It is quite difficult to putt. So your work is far from done once you reach the putting surface.

Good luck on this one! I wonder what the highest score will be here?

#18 349 yard par 4

An anti climatic finishing hole. Not real exciting but, maybe we need a breather after playing the previous seven holes. There are two fairway bunkers guarding against slightly wayward tee shots. The right hand bunker can be reached with a 233 yard tee shot, while it takes a poke of 252 yards to reach the left hand bunker, so most of us can aim at that bunker and feel safe. A good tee shot leaves from 150-115 yards to a long (34 yards deep) green with large bunkers on either side. Not an especially difficult green to putt. You may actually leave this green with a smile on your face!

Coaches, this is a GREAT golf course! You will enjoy your day in the north woods when you visit Northwood Golf Course.

The 18th Hole

WHSGCA Spring Meeting Minutes

The WHSGCA met at Babe's restaurant in Madison on Saturday, February 20th. The meeting was called to order by President Bob Lehninger at 9:35 am. Eighteen of twenty-one Board members were present. Those missing were Singh Grewal, John Lonergan, and Kris Schoonover.

Vice President Dick McKichan presented the minutes from the last meeting and they were approved by the Board. Treasurer TJ Dieck gave a positive treasurer's report as he indicated that the current balance in \$9,251. The raffle has generated more money for the Association than the selling of GMO tickets. It is anticipated that the raffle will do even better this year with the addition of more prizes. The treasurer's report was approved by the Board.

Joe Harlow, the membership chairman, indicated to the board that the current membership is 283 and could grow to over 300 by the time of the Spring Clinic. It was noted that more assistant coaches and retired coaches are joining the association.

Scott Meyer, Don Marx, and TJ Dieck are preparing the 1999 raffle and it should be bigger and better than last year's. There will be approximately fifty prizes. Each member of the association will be sent a book of twenty tickets to sell, buy, or send back. The tickets will sell 1 for \$2, 3 for \$5, or 20 for \$20. The raffle drawings will take place at the June Clinic at Northwoods Country Club (Rhinelander) on June 15th. There will be a coaches' raffle within the raffle for a free round of golf for three at Green Bay Country Club. Last year, the raffle made \$2,700 for the WHSGCA.

The next order of business was the Spring Clinic report by Dave Blake and Mary Beth Nienhaus. The clinic will be held at Western Lakes Country Club on Saturday, March 13th and begin at 8:30. The format will include a coaches' forum, a session with golf professional Carl Unis, and a WSGA rules workshop. Also, there will be a WIAA rules session conducted by Kaz.

Tom Conrad and Bob Schweder gave a report on the progress of the June Clinic. It will be held on Tuesday, June 15th at Northwood Country Club. The cost of the clinic was set at \$80. Part of the entry fee always goes for a gift. Kaz recommended that Dave Blake look into ordering an item. The annual meeting of the WHSGCA will precede the June Clinic. The Board will also meet the night before at 6 pm.

Next on the agenda was the selection of the Coaches' Hall of Fame, Friend of Golf, and PGA Friend of Golf. After much consideration, Deb Hauser, Charles E. Paetz, Dan Seymour, and Ridgeway Country Club were selected as Friends of Golf and Guy Miller was selected as a PGA Friend of Golf. Those prestigious awards will be made at the June Clinic. Dick McKichan and TJ Dieck are working on an awards committee.

The WIAA report was given by Kaz. He thoroughly discussed the most recent Golf Coaches' Advisory committee meeting. This discussion is highlighted in the January *Coach Approach*.

Joe Meloy gave the college report and again emphasized that golf at the college level in Wisconsin is growing. Tentatively, Joe Meloy and Kris Schoonover are planning to be a part of the coaches' forum at the Spring Clinic. This will give the coaches in attendance an opportunity to ask questions about college golf in the state.

Arnold Walker's proposal for a rules of golf workshop was discussed.

Walker represents the WSGA and will be at the Spring Clinic to talk about the workshop.

Public relations's ideas were discussed by the board. The Board was encouraged to promote the USGA Public Links Tournament. Also, it was noted that important upcoming dates, such as the two clinics, should be included in the WIAA Bulletin. Discussion also centered around such topics as a web site, state rankings, and a news media person on the Board.

Gayle Wilfong suggested to the Board that the Girls' All-State nominations be submitted by March 1st. There was discussion on the idea, but no action was taken. Kaz was looking for unusual rules' situations, from the board, to put in the upcoming coach's rules test.

Don Marx brought up the issue of golfers with an athletic code of conduct violation not be eligible for the All-State team. The following motion by Bob Schweder and seconded by Scott Meyer was voted on: **A player who misses one or more matches for an athletic code of conduct violation may not be nominated, in that school year, for the all state playing and academic teams, starting next school year. The board passed the motion unanimously.**

Roger Prickette brought up the topic of coaching on the course. Currently, coaches may give advise to their players only from holing out (walking off the green) to teeing off (entering the tee box) on the next hole. After discussion on this topic, President Lehninger adjourned the meeting at 1pm.

Respectfully submitted
Dick McKichan
Vice President.

The Scoreboard

JUNIOR TOUR SCHEDULE

June 10	WPGA Junior Tour, Event #1, Fox Hills Resort , Mishicot
June 11	WPGA Junior Invitational, Butte Des Morts CC , Appleton
June 14	WPGA Junior Tour, Event #2, Hillinoor CC , Lake Geneva
June 15	WPGA Junior Tour, Event #3, GC's of Lawsonia , Green Lake
June 17	WPGA Junior Tour, Event #4, Golden Sands GC , Cecil
June 21-22	Maxfli PGA Junior Championship, Yahara Hills GC , Madison
June 24	WPGA Junior Tour, Event #5, Castle Rock GC , Mauston
June 25	WPGA Junior Tour, Event #6, LaCrosse CC , Onalaska
June 28	WPGA Junior Tour, Event #7, Tree Acres GC , Plover
June 29	WPGA Junior Tour, Event #8, Washington County GC , Hartford
June 30	WPGA Junior Tour, Event #9, Johnson Park GC , Racine
July 1	WPGA Junior Tour, Event #10, Reedsburg CC , Reedsburg
July 5	WPGA Junior Tour, Event #11, Andgo Bass Lake CC , Deerbrook
July 6	WPGA Junior Tour, Event #12, Greenwood Hills CC , Wausau
July 6	WPGA Pro-Junior, Golden Sands GC & Muskego Lakes CC
July 8	WPGA Junior Tour, Event #13, Kettle Hills GC , Richfield
July 9	WPGA Junior Tour, Event #14, Irish Waters GC , Kaukauna
July 16	WPGA Junior Tour, Event #15, Waushara CC , Wautoma
July 19-22	WPGA Junior Golf Academy, Sentry World GC , Stevens Point
July 19	WPGA Junior Tour, Event #16, Whispering Springs GC , Fond du Lac
July 20	WPGA Junior Tour, Event #17, Monroe CC , Monroe
July 22	WPGA Junior Tour, Event #18, Old Hickoiy CC , Beaver Dam
July 23	WPGA Junior Tour, Event #19, Meadows of Six Mile Creek , Waunakee
July 27	WPGA Junior Tour, Event #20, Foxhoro GC , Oregon
July 30	WPGA Junior Tour, Event #21, CCof Beloit , Beloit
Aug 2	WPGA Junior Tour, Event #22, Baraboo CC , Baraboo
Aug 24	WSGA State Junior Championship, Brown County GC , Oneida
August 6	WPGA Junior Tour, Event #23, Koshkonong Mounds CC , Ft Atkinson
August 6	Wisconsin-Minnesota Cup Match, Stillwater CC , Stillwater, MN
August 9	WPGA Junior Tour, Event #24, Stoughton CC , Stoughton
August 11-12	GFW Junior Invitational, Lake Arrowhead GC , Nekobsa
August 23	WPGA Junior Tour, Event #25, Hillcrest G & CC , Altoona

Junior Packets will be sent out in the middle of April

To be added to our mailing list simply call 414-365-5816 and leave the following information: Name, Address, Phone #, M/F, Date of Birth. You can E-Mail the Wisconsin PGA at WISC@pgahq.com and leave the information there.

Tournament Results?

Send the results of your tournament for inclusion in the *Coach Approach*.

Send results to:

Kaz
Waukesha South HS
401 E. Roberta Ave
Waukesha, WI
53186

HOLE IN ONE

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Send Checks to: Dave Blake; Rt 6 Box 6567; Hayward WI 54843