



The Coach Approach

The Newsletter of the Wisconsin High School Golf Coaches Association

Volume XIV Issue 1

January 2001

From the Clubhouse

New Millenium: Many of the Same Opportunities

The 2000-2001 school year seems to be moving along very quickly. We have already had a successful girls' golf season and we are looking forward to an equally successful boys season in the spring. Congratulations to Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln on winning the WIAA Girls State Championship. Also, congratulations to Melissa Martin of Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln for winning the individual state title and to Jill Ries of Middleton and Jackie Obermueller of River Falls on being selected by the WHSGA as Co-Player of the year!

The WHSGCA has two excellent clinics coming up that you will not want to miss. The March Clinic will be held at Western Lakes Golf Club on Saturday, March 10th and will feature a presentation by John Stabler, co-author with Dr. Deborah Graham, of the golf book entitled *The 8 Traits of Champion Golfers*. Every person attending the Clinic will receive a copy of the book as part of their \$25.00 registration fee.

The June Clinic will be held at Abbey Springs Country Club on Tuesday, June 19th. Those coaches attending this Clinic will get an opportunity to play one of the best golf courses in the State of Wisconsin. A special thanks to Dave Blake, Mary Beth Nienhaus, Tom Conrad, and Lee Kaczmarek for organizing these two events.

Treasurer T. J. Dieck continues to inform us, at our WHSGCA Board meet-

ings, that our organization is doing extremely well financially. This is due primarily to our increasing membership and the success we are having with the annual raffle. This year's membership is expected to increase from the current 323 members and the raffle is shaping up to be another successful one with numerous exciting prizes. One thing that the board is wanting to do is to give back, out of our funds, as much as we can to our membership and support other worthwhile golf undertakings. We are looking for ideas for projects that the WHSGCA could get involved in. If you have any ideas, please let a member of the board or myself know about them. Remember that the purpose of our Association is to serve our coaches and work toward the betterment of high school golf in the State!

Scot Meyer, teacher and coach at Watertown, has resigned from the WHSGCA Board and it should be noted that much of the success of the raffle was due to his leadership. Thanks Scot for doing a great job!

One of the concerns that the WHSGCA Board has is the increasing age of its members. Many of our veteran members have recently retired or are near retirement. Therefore we are looking for enthusiastic and energetic golf coaches who would be interested in joining the Board sometime in the near future. We are currently looking for a coach to join the Board from District 9 Conferences:

South Central, Wisconsin Flyway, Eastern Suburban, and Dual County). Bob Schweder of Princeton was the District 9 representative. Bob has gotten out of coaching and, therefore, resigned his position on the Board. Bob was very helpful in the organization with past June Clinics! Please let us know if you or someone you know would be interested in serving on the Board.

Have you made your reservations for the golf trip to Ireland? My wife, Kris, and I have. We are really looking forward to the June 21st to 28th vacation to southwestem Ireland. Doug Thorn, a fellow WHSGCA member and tour coordinator, has set-up a great line-up of courses for the traveling golfers to play: Ballybunion Old, Tralee, Lahinch, Dooks, Waterville, and Killarney Killeen.

Also, as I understand, you will have the option to play Old Head Golf Links, a course along the Atlantic Ocean with some of the most breathtaking views in the world. It will definitely be a fulfilled, memorable time for all those going on the trip!

Coaches, don't forget the deadlines for getting in your nominations for the Special Awards (February 15th), Girls' Academic All-State (March 15th), Boys Academic All-State (May 15th), and All-State. The Boys All-State Playing nominations must be postmarked no later than the day following the WIAA State Tournament. Please remind your golf coaching friends that the must be a member of the WHSGCA to have one of their golfers selected for the All-State Awards.

Now that the real new millennium (2001 to 3000) is here, best wishes for a great year in 2001!

Dick McKichan
WHSGCA President

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The Practice Tee

The Art of Putting

Putting is an art form in which the player is attempting to put a 1.68-inch diameter golf ball into a 4 1/2 inch diameter hole. If we look at putting in terms of thousands of attempts over a four-year high school career, we will want to see our golfers achieve consistency. In order to achieve consistency, there are certain putting fundamentals that must be followed. The closer our players adhere to these fundamentals, the greater the consistency they will achieve.

The first step in attaining consistency involves the position of the club at address. In order to achieve precisely the same club position on every putt, the putter sole must sit flat on the green. If you will observe your golfers during a putting practice, you will probably notice that almost every one of them sets up with the toe of the putter off the ground. Nobody can address the ball in this manner, with the toe exactly the same distance off the ground, every time. If the putter is not flat on the green, there will be slight changes in the position of the putter on almost every putt. This means that the hands and/or posture are not in the same consistent position, which results in a misaligned putter or an inconsistent stroke. Therefore, it is my strong recommendation that all golfers use a putter with a flat sole. By using a putter with a flat sole, the golfer can achieve a consistent club position at address. This encourages the hands to be in the same position for every putt. There is, however, one problem with this step.

It is very difficult to find putters with a flat sole, as most manufacturers today produce putters with a rounded sole in order to fit a wider variety of golfers. In order for the manufacturer's to provide properly fitted putters, they would need to produce putters with approximately seven different lies. For example, standard lie, two, four and six degrees upright and two, four and six degrees flat. Those choices would probably be sufficient enough to accommodate the needs of 98 to 99 percent of all golfers. In

addition, putters need to be made available in various lengths, from 32 inches to 35 inches. Putter manufacturers need to have a fitting system like they do for their irons. There are numerous fitting systems for the irons because we purchase sets of eight, nine, or ten matched clubs, resulting in acceptable profit margins for the company. But we purchase a single putter at a time. If manufacturers have to provide seven different lies and four different lengths, their profit margins decrease. So they develop putters, which can sort of accommodate a large percentage of players in their effort to reduce their costs. Therefore, golf club companies are making the putting game more difficult for us. There are a few putter companies that produce custom putters that will personally fit each one of us. They are worthy of your attention. You may spend more now, but buying a properly fit putter now means that you will **not** have to purchase additional putters in the future. Can you imagine using the same putter for the next twenty years? Putter companies would **not** like that concept, even though we would be better putters!

Another important putting fundamental concerns the position of the golf ball in relation to our feet and our eyes. Ideally, the ball should be positioned somewhere between the inside of the left heel (for a right-handed golfer) and the middle of our stance. This would result in the golfer's head being positioned behind the ball. Done correctly, it allows the putter face to travel down the intended line for a short distance prior to striking the ball, thus insuring a more accurate stroke. There is a misconception that the eyes must be directly over the ball. That is not true. The putting stroke will be more accurate if the hands are located below the throat. From this position it is easier to take the putter straight back and straight through. If the hands are positioned outside the throat the tendency is to take the putter outside on the back swing. Conversely, if the hands are inside the throat, and this can be measured by dropping a plumb line from the Adams Apple, there is a greater tendency to take the putter back inside the intended line. A straight back and straight through stroke for most putts will result in greater success.

When people are put under a pressure situation in competition, it is the small muscles of the hands and wrists, which begin to twitch. Competitive players will find it beneficial to take those

muscles out of play. Therefore, the putting stroke should be made through a rocking motion of the shoulders. One of the best devices for teaching the proper stroke is called the putting connection, a plastic piece that fits between the arms forming a triangle with the arms and the shoulders. This training device allows the player to really feel the shoulders moving the club. Using this putting technique will go a long way in removing pressure on the putting stroke and result in better putting performances when it really matters, in competition.

Head motion during the putting stroke is a real success destroyer. It is extremely common to see high school golfers turning their heads to see where the putt goes before the putter head strikes the ball. 99 percent of the time this mistake will result in the putter face being misaligned at impact. A good drill would have the coach standing opposite the player and holding his/her head in the proper position for about two seconds after the ball has been struck. Instruct your players to count, one thousand one, one thousand two, as the ball is being struck before they look up to see if they have made the putt. Properly done, short putts, shorter than two feet, should never be seen going into the hole. There will not be enough time for the player to count before the ball goes into the hole from that distance.

Another very important fundamental involves the action of the hands and wrists independent of the putter. That is to say there should not be any independent motion! This independent motion is most often seen on poorer players and almost always results in missed putts. If you were to view videotape of the great modern (1980-) putters, one thing virtually every one would have in common is a stroke in which the hands and wrists are silent. The breaking down of the back of the left wrist by a right-handed golfer is almost always caused by a back swing that is too long causing a subconscious deceleration of the stroke. The hands will stop moving at impact, but the putter head continues moving forcing the left wrist to bend. This will cause a misaligned putter face at impact resulting in another missed putt. There are a number of techniques used to eliminate this wristy stroke:

A) The use of a larger size grip on the putter. Oversized grips will tend to make us focus on using the larger muscles for manipulation. Think of carrying a large, but light, box. We would move the box

using large muscles because the item being moved is large. If we are using a pen, then the use of wrists and fingers, smaller muscles, is natural. Since we want to develop a natural stroke requiring little or no thinking during competition, the oversized grip is extremely logical.

B) The cross-handed or left hand low grip. This grip levels the shoulders allowing the player to keep the putter head close to the ground on the back and through strokes. Additionally, it forces the back of the left wrist to lead the forward stroke, making it easier to prevent the back of the left wrist from breaking down. From those players who have converted to this stroke is a concern that the feel for lagging the ball close on longer putts may be more difficult.

C) Common to almost all good putters using the right hand low set up is the reverse overlap grip. This grip commands the golfer to place the first finger of the left hand over the last two or three fingers of the right hand. The purpose is to help both hands work as a single unit, and, by putting pressure on the last three fingers by the left hand's first finger; it is more difficult to break down the left wrist.

D) Golfers who get very desperate may resort to the long putter. The left hand holds the butt end of the long putter next to their sternum while the right hand holds the lower grip down at arms length. The right hand moves the putter back and forth while the left hand serves as a fulcrum. This version of putting, while certainly different than standard, absolutely prevents the left wrist from breaking down.

E) There is a drill to make sure the hands, arms, shoulders and putter head move through the ball together. Begin by placing the putter head 4" behind the ball at address. From this position move the club back and through using the shoulders. Because the putter begins four inches behind the ball at address, you trick your mind into thinking that the backswing is shorter than normal and you have to move the club head further forward than where it started. The result will be a stroke that goes through the ball towards the target, as is the goal. I have been teaching this technique for over thirty years and it is amazing how many good players in Wisconsin now use this drill in practice and during competition. Try it! It works!

The path the putter takes back and through the ball is a very important fundamental. If the path is not straight

back and through from your intended target, the putter face must be misaligned at impact in order to hole the putt. Since consistency is our desired outcome, proper club path is vital. One method of teaching proper path directionality is to use two clubs laid parallel to each other on the green. Used like a railroad track, you place the ball between them with just enough space for the putter head to move back and forth. The clubs direct the putter head on the proper path. (Make sure you use this drill on putts under eight feet because on longer putts the putter should naturally come inside the intended line on the backswing.) Obviously it is important to make sure the track is correctly aligned at the target. This is also a fine drill to teach the players to get accustomed to making putts, since they certainly will make a lot of these putts. There are also various putting tracks for sale.

Another important putting fundamental is the face angle at impact. If, when using the putting track, a player is still consistently missing the hole, check his putter face angle at impact. This can be simply done by practicing with a striped range ball. Set the ball up so that the stripe is in a perfect vertical position. Challenge your players to roll the ball over with their putter so that the stripe does not wobble. Only with a square putter face can that be accomplished. Combining a square stance with a shoulder motion-putting stroke will make it easier to have a proper swing path and clubface position.

Reading a green is crucial to making putts. Even with a perfect stroke, an incorrectly selected target results in missed putts. Most high school players will "low line" their putts. That is they will select a line of less break then hit the ball firmer than necessary to achieve a correct result. Usually this results in putts that miss the hole on the low side and end up much farther from the hole than the hoped for "a couple of inches." You realize how our players three putt so often. If you could teach your golfers to play breaking putts a little higher and use the slope they are hitting into to slow their ball down, they might not make quite as many long breaking putts, but they will reduce their three putts dramatically. When playing a breaking putt, imagine that the putt is straight. Pick a spot hole-high, which allows the ball enough room to break. Then mentally think of the putt as a straight putt to the desired spot. Your focus is on the target, not the hole. If you

have picked the proper spot and if the ball speed is correct, then the putt should go into the hole. But, not always.

Because of the vagaries of greens caused by footprints, spike marks and ball marks, perfectly struck putts will go in the hole anywhere from 30% to 85% of the time. Therefore, it is important to teach our youngsters to be accepting of these facts as part of life without blowing up! **Not all perfectly struck putts go in! Live with it!**

Finally, when all is said and done, putting is probably 15% fundamentals and 85% mental. In 1988, my son Brent played his state tournament practice round with Bill Heim of Green Bay Preble. There was not much difference in their ball striking ability, but Bill's putting was certainly superior. In talking that day with Bill's coach, Chuck Menzel, a real gentleman among the state's coaches, I learned that Bill figured that any putt inside sixty feet should go in. Now he did not rant and rave if he missed, but is it any wonder that he is the only male high school golfer to win three consecutive state championships? Imagine figuring that any putt sixty feet or less should go in! No wonder he was a great putter. All he visualized was the ball going into the hole. Brent learned much from Bill that day and parlayed a new putting attitude into a sixth place finish that year and became the state champion the following year. We all know about Tiger Woods prodigious length off the tee, but what makes him one of the greatest players of all time is that he hits greens (#1 ranked on the PGA Tour in 2000) and he is a great putter. (#2 ranked on the PGA Tour in 2000) What Bill, Tiger and Brent could do is visualize the ball going into the hole before they struck their putts. And I am sure that most successful high school players do the same! And Tiger does it better than probably anybody in the world. Some of our players are actually afraid to make putts. Others use putting as an excuse for scoring poorly. As if hitting the ball from tee to green was a manly thing, but putting was for wimps. Putting well is only for real "players" who want to be successful golfers and are not afraid of success!

Putting Drills That Work:

A) *Purchase a properly fit putter that instills confidence and allows for consistently proper strokes.*

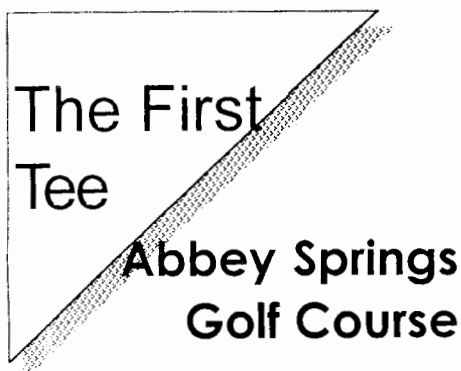
B) *Use the putting connection to develop the proper muscular motion*

C) *Use the putting track to develop proper club head path.*

- D) Use striped range balls in practice to develop the proper face angle.
- E) Have your golfers spend at least 35% of their practice time on putting.
- F) Develop or use games or competitive situations in practice, which encourages the golfers to focus.
- G) Have your golfers end most of their practice sessions by having to make ten three foot putts in a row before they can go home.

Keep accurate putting records, for each of your players, which indicate:

- A) The total number of putts per round.
- B) The number of three putts.
- C) The number of putts on those greens hit in regulation.
- Emphasize that "real players" are good putters, and note any improvement your golfers make in the above statistics.



The W. H. S. G. C. A. will be visiting Abbey Springs Golf Club in 2001 and 2002 for its annual meeting, clinic and tournament. Abbey Springs is a Ken Killian and Dick Nugent design. It is, to describe it in only one word, "beautiful." This is an exciting layout, and those of you who have never had the pleasure will thoroughly enjoy your experience. It is a layout I could play six days a week and never get bored or sick of. Quite honestly, I can hardly wait to once again experience Abbey Spring's temptations and seductions. You too will find it to be a beguiling sensation!

Hole Number 7: A short par 5 which measures 472 yards in length. There are two large bunkers, one on either side of the fairway, which requires the golfer to choose one of the following options on his/her tee shot. A) Hit a driver, which carries at least 250 yards in order to fly over the bunkers. B) Hit a driver into the 20-yard opening between the bunkers.

Or, C) Play a fairway wood or long iron short of the bunkers. Water protects the entire right side of and the front one-half of this green. Therefore, length off this tee is an advantage, because the golfer then has the option of going for the green with a lofted fairway wood or a long iron. If you lay up short of the bunkers from the tee, your second shot will be over a rise creating a blind shot. There is a small red leaf maple tree that you will need to stay **well** left of on your second shot. Usually, an easy fairway wood or long iron will leave you safely short of the water with an easy approach shot of less than 100 yards to the green. The entire left side of this hole is marked as a lateral hazard. While this is a relatively short par 5, it does require some strategic planning in order to be successfully navigated!

Hole Number 8: This is a dogleg right par four which measures 400 yards. The entire left side wooded area is marked as a lateral hazard. There is a pond to the right, which can be seen from the elevated tee. A good drive down the fairway will leave a middle to short iron approach shot to a severely sloped green from back to front. The second shot, slightly uphill, must negotiate two bunkers in front of the green. Depending upon the holes location, this can be a very difficult green to putt

Hole Number 9: Measuring 356 yards, this par four plays slightly downhill. A bunker on the right and a water hazard to the left protects the fairway. It is 200 yards to the bunker and requires a tee shot of 235 yards to carry the bunker. You'll need to carry your tee shot 260 yards to go over the water, which begins about 230 yards from the white tee markers. Therefore, the smart play is a tee shot of not more than 200 yards, which leaves you short of the bunker right and hazard left. This will then necessitate a second shot of slightly more than 150 yards. Medium-sized trees to the right and a bunker to the left protect the green. Beyond the bunker left is a second water hazard. The green itself is fairly flat and therefore relatively easy to putt.

The front nine is generally more difficult to score on than the back.

Hole Number 10: A heavily wooded par 5 measuring 520 yards. A dogleg left hole, the tee shot lands into a hill reducing the shot's distance. The second shot landing area is quite narrow and often times will present the player with a third shot from a downhill lie to a dramatically elevated green, unless the second shot is long enough to reach the start of the hill leading up to the green. The entire left side of the hole is heavily wooded and is marked as a lateral hazard. That's about the only break you get on this hole. The green is severely sloped from back to front. It is a necessity to stay below the pin because it is very easy, if putting downhill, to putt right off the front of the green. This is a very challenging par 5.

Hole Number 11: Smart players use one more club than the holes yardage would indicate. This is a 141 yard par 3 that is slightly uphill to a long green that has a bunker on the left front of the green. The key for success here is to select the right club for the tee shot. The rest of the hole is not very difficult.

Hole Number 12: An absolutely beautiful hole from an elevated tee providing a view overlooking Geneva Lake. This short par four, measuring approximately 336 yards long, plays much shorter than its listed yardage because it is dramatically downhill. It is a slight dogleg left with thick woods, marked as lateral, down the entire left side of the fairway. The right side has very large mature trees somewhat spread out. Although short, the hole can be difficult because the tee shot is tight, so using a fairway wood or long iron for the tee shot is a wise decision. The second shot, usually played with a short iron, is severely downhill. **Beware**, this green slopes from front to back and from left to right so your second shot should be played well short of the flagstick because the ball will run once it lands. There are bunkers both left and right of the green. A great short hole!

At the Turn

WHSGA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 5, 2000 WINNEGAMIE GOLF COURSE

President Dick Mckichan called the meeting to order at 10:10 am. Singh Grewal, Lee Kaczmarek, Joe Meloy, Mike Sobotta and Cindy Lansgaard were not present. Dick requested that each board member update an information sheet. Dick read a letter from former board member Muffet Miller who is currently a learning consultant for the University of Minnesota, which was informational and called for strong direction from the board.

Mark Rechlicz, the girls golf coach from Madison Edgewood, was introduced as a new board member and PGA advisor.

TREASURERS REPORT; T.J. DIECK. T.J. reported that our current checking account balance was \$10,400 and that we also have a current CD of \$7,800 returning 7.75%. It was noted that we are currently gaining about \$2,000 above expenses annually, a product of the raffle income for 2000 and the growing annual membership which was a little over \$6,000. T.J. asked how we can distribute these monies to our 300 plus members. He noted our biggest expenditure is awards, of which we spend about \$3,000 annually. A suggestion on how to redistribute our excess treasury involved state wide scholarships that are currently offered from the PGA and the Wisconsin Golf Foundation, providing us with name recognition and no additional work, was brought up by Mark Rechlicz. John Lonergan suggested the development and maintenance of a golf coaches web site. Roger Prickette stated that a minimal web site could be set up a few hundred dollars although a professional web site would cost much more. Randy Allen, could be another contact for the web site design. A members only section on the coaches site would be required. John Lonergan, Bill Berkholtz and Roger Prickette will investigate the web site issues. T.J. asked that we always provide a substantial gift for the summer clinic. Dave Blake sug-

gested that we direct funds annually to support the State of Wisconsin's First Tee Program and that the Winnegamie GC project be the first recipient. Joe Harlow suggested that we establish a member services committee to redistribute our excess income back to our members. Bill Berkholtz moved to accept the treasurers report, it was seconded and approved.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: JOE HARLOW. Joe stated that we currently have 81 girl coach members and 137 boy coach members. Joe stated that there are 530 golf coaches in the state and that we must try to increase our member numbers significantly. Joe uses a member application in the late summer Coach Approach, he sends letters to all of last years members and he also e-mails to all coaches who have had players advance to the sectionals, informing them of our All-State selection requirement. A discussion centered around how can we create more incentives for coaches to join our association, and how we can make it more attractive. Joe finished by stating that we should have about 400 coaches in our association. A motion was made by Scott Meyer to approve the report, it was seconded and approved.

COLLEGE REPORT: KRIS SCHOONOVER Kris noted that their conference had played 6 golfers counting the best 4, while the Division 3 Championship played 5 and counted the best 4. The conference will now play 5 and count 4 and she expressed her disappointment stating the more players the better. Kris stated that the current Collegiate girls teams in the state are Eau Claire, Oshkosh, Stevens Point, Whitewater, with Platteville and Superior sending individuals. Oshkosh won the Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, Concordia College won the Lakeshore Conference, Millikin University won the Wisconsin - Illinois Athletic Conference, Eau Claire has the only men's program. Kris asked the coaches to forward any interested players to her.

GIRLS ALL STATE: ROGER PRICKETTE. Roger stated that there were 29 nominees and suggested that the first and second All state Teams be comprised of 6 players each. The team is listed on page 9 of the newsletter. During the selection of Player of the Year, T.J. motioned that we have Co Players of the Year. The vote for co players was 9 to 7. Jill Ries (11) Middleton and Jackie Obermueller (12) River Falls are Co Players

of the Year.

IRELAND GOLF TRIP: DOUG THORN (guest). Doug stated that he sent a mailer/flyer in October to over 300 coaches. Doug stated he had received 6 deposits and will hold on to them until he receives 30 deposits which is the minimum. He stated that there is a maximum of 40 spots available. He will send a post card to all the schools soon asking for a decision by Christmas. The deposit is \$350. He is optimistic that the trip will fill. In Doug's 20 years of being involved in the tour business he stated that this trip for \$1,875, is one of the best values he has ever put together.

RAFFLE REPORT: SCOTT MEYER Wenetted \$3,100 this year. Scott thanked T.J., asked everyone to promote and get involved with the raffle. It was suggested that Doug Thorn and the board would each offer one Ireland trip or comparable location, creating a trip for two for our raffle for 2002. Scott then handed each board member his letter of resignation. John Lonergan stated we must fill Scott's position quickly and Joe Harlow stated we were also short a district 9 representative. Roger Prickette will work with Scott Meyer to insure that this years raffle will be successful.

PUBLICITY REPORT: DICK MCKICHAN. Rob Hernandez stated that he could not sit on our board. Rob would like to see improved golf coverage and improved WIAA follow up on Advisory Committee recommendations. He sees sports on internet web sites as the future with detailed information. Dick reported that a pace of play policy had been instituted by the Milwaukee County Public Links Association, under the guidance of WSGA representative Arnold Walker. The method for speeding up play and reducing the stretch is a 14 minute per hole limitation totaling 4 hours and 12 minutes per round. The pace of play policy would involve monitors on the course. You are considered behind if you either fall behind the 14 minute per hole location on the course or you are not ready to hit your approach shot to the green once the pin is in the cup.

SPRING CLINIC: DAVE BLAKE, MARY BETH NIENHAUS. Dave reported that John Stabler of GolfPsych Inc. will present a 6 hour seminar for the spring clinic at Western Lakes Golf Club on Saturday, March 10th, 2001. John Stabler and his wife Dr. Deborah Graham, have worked with over 200 touring

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of the Year.

IRELAND GOLF TRIP: DOUG THORN (guest). Doug stated that he sent a mailer/flyer in October to over 300 coaches. Doug stated he had received 6 deposits and will hold on to them until he receives 30 deposits which is the minimum. He stated that there is a maximum of 40 spots available. He will send a post card to all the schools soon asking for a decision by Christmas. The deposit is \$350. He is optimistic that the trip will fill. In Doug's 20 years of being involved in the tour business he stated that this trip for \$1,875, is one of the best values he has ever put together.

RAFFLE REPORT: SCOTT MEYER Wnetted \$3,100 this year. Scott thanked T.J., asked everyone to promote and get involved with the raffle. It was suggested that Doug Thorn and the board would each offer one Ireland trip or comparable location, creating a trip for two for our raffle for 2002. Scott then handed each board member his letter of resignation. John Lonergan stated we must fill Scott's position quickly and Joe Harlow stated we were also short a district 9 representative. Roger Prickette will work with Scott Meyer to insure that this years raffle will be successful.

PUBLICITY REPORT: DICK MCKICHAN. Rob Hernandez stated that he could not sit on our board. Rob would like to see improved golf coverage and improved WIAA follow up on Advisory Committee recommendations. He sees sports on internet web sites as the future with detailed information. Dick reported that a pace of play policy had been instituted by the Milwaukee County Public Links Association, under the guidance of WSGA representative Arnold Walker. The method for speeding up play and reducing the stretch is a 14 minute per hole limitation totaling 4 hours and 12 minutes per round. The pace of play policy would involve monitors on the course. You are considered behind if you either fall behind the 14 minute per hole location on the course or you are not ready to hit your approach shot to the green once the pin is in the cup.

SPRING CLINIC: DAVE BLAKE, MARY BETH NIENHAUS. Dave reported that John Stabler of GolfPsych Inc. will present a 6 hour seminar for the spring clinic at Western Lakes Golf Club on Saturday, March 10th, 2001. John Stabler and his wife Dr. Deborah Graham, have worked with over 200 touring

pros and John will bring one of the finest mental game presentations available in the golf industry. Mary Beth reported that she had discussed future speaking engagements with several LPGA Professionals at a recent LPGA anniversary gathering that she attended. T.J. made a motion that the board will cover all additional speaker costs for the spring clinic and that the board will graciously supply every member in attendance at the spring clinic a copy of Deborah Grahams and John Stablers book "The 8 Traits of Champion Golfers" a \$12.95 value. Based on 100 attendees at the spring clinic, a \$47.95 entry fee would be needed to cover our costs, although T.J. and Joe Harlow with the complete agreement of the board, stated that we would charge our normal \$25 spring clinic fee, thus giving back to our members some of the previously stated surplus.

SUMMER CLINIC: TOM CONRAD. Tom stated that the 2000 event was held at the Northwoods in Rhinelander and that 67 coaches plus 7 guests attended the meeting, clinic, and played in the Tournament. Tom stated that the annual Summer Clinic will be held next year at Abbey Springs in Lake Geneva, on June 19th and that the cost will be \$80. Dick mentioned that the special awards should be presented at the February meeting to be held in Madison. Don Marx suggested that we nominate U. Ridge Golf Course in Madison.

WIAA HEPORI: DICK MCKICHAN Dick stated that Mike Sobotta of Arcadia Joan Olson of Sparta. Dave Roberts of Brookfield East, Jake Orlovski of DePere and Kathy Kiger from Hortonville were present. Deb Hauser attended the meeting representing the WIAA. The meeting was chaired by Dick McKichan and the minutes were recorded by Dave Roberts. The committee reviewed the WIAA season regulations and the scheduling of meetings. A discussion on how to count the 14 allowed meets was held. It was decided that the meet contract should specify which team was invited to a given invitational, e.g., varsity teams only, jv, etc. Accurate scorekeeping by players was also discussed. The following procedure will be recommended as a way to verify the accuracy of score cards following the completion of play.

1. Have foursome sit down as a group with an adult following the completion of play.
2. Each player shall verify his / her hole by hole score.

3. The card shall be signed properly and turned in to the committee.

4. Once submitted to the committee, the score shall be official.

If a score keeping error is noted by a parent, the committee shall thank the parent for the input but the player shall not be disqualified. If a coach sees an error being made on the course, it shall be dealt with immediately. This summary represents recommendations only at this time. Our board recommends tear away score cards for regional, sectional and state competitions. Mark Rehlicz indicated that the WSGA Star Plan could print the cards. Kaz sent a letter stating that the start of the girls golf season should be moved back 1 week. The board indicated they liked the schedule as it currently exists. Visits for all schools in the state, to be called scrimages, to the state tournament site, was not approved by the board.

After this discussion, adjournment was motioned and seconded at approximately 2.25

PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Blake Vice President

Coaches advisory committee October 25, 2000

This summary represents the recommendations of this committee and is not 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 the January meeting.

Committee in attendance: Dick McKichan (Platteville), Mike Sobotta (Arcadia), Joan Olson (Sparta), Dave Roberts (Brookfield East), Jake Orlovski (DePere), and Katy Kiger (Hortonville). Deb Hauser attended the meeting representing the WIAA. The meeting was chaired by Dick McKichan and the minutes were recorded by Dave Roberts.

Katy Kiger received a WIAA pin as recognition of her first year of service on this committee. Joan Olson, Dave Roberts, and Jake Orlovski received certificates of appreciation for the three years of service on the committee.

1999 meeting minutes motion by Mike Sobotta, seconded by Joan Olson, to approve the minutes of the 1999 golf coaches advisory committee meeting. Passed unanimously.

Season regulations
review of WIAA season regulations

Scheduling of meetings

Discussion of how to count the 14 allowed meets was held. It was decided that the meet contract should specify which team is invited to a given invitational, e.g., varsity teams only, varsity reserve, etc.

Accurate Scorekeeping by Players

The following procedure will be recommended as a way to verify the accuracy of score cards following the completion of play.

1. Have foursome sit down as a group with an adult following the completion of play.

2. Each player shall verify his / her hole by hole score.

3. The card shall be signed properly and turned in to the committee.

4. Once submitted to the committee, the score shall be official.

If a score keeping error is noted by a parent, the committee shall thank the parent for their input but the player shall not be disqualified, If a coach sees an error being made on the course, it shall be dealt with immediately.

Start of the Girls Season

Following examination of calendars through 2008, it was determined that there is not a need to modify the starting of the girls season. Rationale: Many coaches use the days prior to the start of school to schedule all-day 18 hole matches. Schedules for 2001 are already in place. The early start avoids loss of school time during the first few weeks of the season. The Golf Coaches Association will discuss this issue at their spring clinic.

Competition on State Meet Site

Motion by Joan Olson, seconded by Kathy Kiger, to prohibit regular season competition on the state tournament site beginning in the fall of 2002. Passed unanimously.

After considerable discussion, it was felt that the state tournament site needs to be a neutral site for all golf schools. By allowing local schools to play matches on the course, it was felt they have an advantage. This policy will make the state tournament site equal for all schools.

Tournament Procedures

Honors

Future mailings detailing tournament information need to indicate that during regional, sectional and state tournament play, the players having honors will tee off first on the next hole.

Greens Fees - Sectional Sites

It was recommended that sites hosting sectionals be able to guarantee greens fees rates that are comparable to the sec-

tional rate for teams wishing to play a practice round on the course. Further, all regional and sectional sites need to be accessible to spectators wishing to watch play.

Motorized Carts - State Tournament

Motion by Dave Roberts, seconded by Jake Orlovski, to not allow anyone, with the exception of a coach who has physical limitations, access to a motorized car. Passed unanimously. This has been the policy for the last two state tournaments and has worked great. A request to allow coaches of teams a motorized car for use during play was discussed extensively. The negatives far outweigh the positives. Many using motorized cars have no regard for others and thus are disruptive to play. University Ridge staff prefers that we do not allow motorized cars.

Motion by Dave Roberts, seconded by Joan Olson, to recommend the addition of a sectional girls tournament series. Passed unanimously. With the increase in the number of girls golf schools, regional groupings have reached 10 and 11 teams making for a long day at the regional level. The number of girls teams has increased 8 this fall from 113 to 121.

This would increase the number of teams qualifying for the state tournament to 14 rather than 12 and the number of individuals from 18 to 21. It was felt this would not negatively impact the state tournament schedule.

Considerable discussion about the possibility of splitting the girls tournament series into two divisions was held. Geography and the lack of daylight in October were pointed out as negatives. It was felt that relief could be provided to the issue of 10 and 11 teams at a regional by adding a sectional.

Illegal Clubs

There are several new clubs on the market which are illegal by USGA standards. It was noted that we play by USGA rules, we too would not allow these clubs to be used in competition.

Miscellaneous Items

Committee Replacements

The following individuals were suggested as possible replacements for the 2001 committee: Cindy Langard, Westby; Kevin Kravik, Sparta; Gail Kuhl, Amery; Bob Mellinger, Marinette, and Roger Prickette, Watertown. Dave Blake will be the new Coaches Association President.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.

The Year That Was: 2000

The previous year was a most interesting one for me. It began with a new driver from my children for Christmas. An

Orlimar Trimetal Plus 10.5 degree loft driver with a deep face. It has a True Temper EI 70- stiff, ultra light weight graphite shaft. All senior players should be required to use this club because, even if you hit it only 180 yards, it **sounds** as if you just out hit Tiger! I received all kinds of compliments from the young bucks (flat bellies) when hitting this driver, but then why am I 40 yards or more shorter than they? I am hitting this driver longer than the previous one I used.

Then I special ordered a set of Tommy Armour 845 oversized, reduced offset irons. I don't like much offset in my irons because all of my sets of irons over the last 50 years have had straight hosels and I don't figure to change now! These clubs were special ordered with the new True Temper Tri-Gold graphite shafts in a stiff flex. These unique shafts have a flexible tip on the longer clubs to help the ball get up, and have increasingly stiffer tips in the shorter clubs to help keep the ball down. It meant giving up on my Taylor-Made ICW-5 irons with the Dynamic Gold stiff steel shafts. Shafts that I could no longer handle. When I was younger they were great clubs, in fact they were my first set of player improvement irons. But in 1999 I needed a nine iron to hit the ball 100 yards, and I had to struggle to attain that distance! Where oh where has all my distance gone? With my new clubs I can hit my wedge about 114 yards! I feel like a geriatric Tiger Woods! Can't believe how much better I was hitting the ball!

When I called the company salesman to order the irons, he asked me what I had been playing. When I told him, he laughed hysterically and asked if I was aware that there were new developments in irons since the ICW-5's had been first introduced. Real funny guy!

Finally, I got a new putter, A "YES" II putter that allowed me to make a total of 11 birdies in my last four 18 hole rounds. I am finally getting the ball up to the hole on putts. Sad to see my Tommy Armour flange blade putter (circa 1947) put into retirement, but its much more fun to make putts than to constantly come up short.

Well, that leaves me with my old Texas sandwedge, about 25 years old, and a newer Taylor-Made lob wedge with 61 degrees of loft and only 3 degrees of bounce. With this club having virtually no bounce I can get the ball up from bare dirt, so tight grassy lies are a piece of cake. I wonder why club manufacturers make lob

wedges with a lot of bounce built into the sole, since that makes it much more difficult to slip the club under the ball in tight lies?

With the new equipment I averaged 1.6 birdies and shot an average score of 79.52 over 25 eighteen hole rounds. Not exactly your "I put fear into Tiger Woods" stat, but golf has become much more fun to play again. This was the most golf that I have played in the last ten years.

WHO SAYS THAT YOU CAN'T BY A GAME?

By the time you read this far, you must be bored, I will be able to set off the security gates at the airports. I will have undergone complete knee replacement, probably in my left knee this time, with the right to follow next year. (Three golfers screamed because the titanium of the manufacturers were going to use for their drivers will now be used for my knee. But I figure to be longer off the tee with my knee!) With no cartilage behind my knees, the doctor said that I walked it off over 50 years on the golf course, and the pain growing each year, it is time. I wonder if I will ever be able to shoot or average scores below forty again? Well I am certainly not going to give up the greatest game ever created because of some faulty knees. **Hope you had the greatest holidays ever!** See you at the Spring Clinic at Western Lakes on March 10th, 2001. The program could well be the finest one we have ever had! I will be the gimpy one hobbling on my new knee!

The
Scoreboard

Fourteenth Annual Wisconsin High School Golf Coaches Association Tournament, Clinic, and Annual Meeting Results

The 14th annual Wisconsin High School Coaches Association Tournament, Clinic, and Annual Meeting was again held at Northwood Golf Course in Rhinelander, Wisconsin. The day's program started with a greeting from our new WHSGCA President Dick McKichan who greeted some 70 Wisconsin High School Golf Coaches Association members for the annual WHSGCA meeting. At the completion of the meeting, PGA Professional Bill Helverson, teaching professional at Northshore CC presented an interesting clinic on developing a good golf swing and answered many of the coaches questions on how to make our young golfers into better