



# The Coach Approach

The Newsletter of the Wisconsin High School Golf Coaches Association

Volume XVIII Issue 1

September 2003

## From the Clubhouse:

### New President offers hopes for year

Greetings Wisconsin golf coaches! My name is Bill Berkholtz and I am the new president of the WHSGCA. I am currently the head boys coach at Burlington High School, but have coached the girls as well. I have been involved in coaching golf for twenty years. During that time I have come to the conclusion that the coaching profession in Wisconsin is on a par with anywhere in the country. I am equally impressed with the quality and dedication of the Board of Directors of this association. They are truly committed to improving the nature of high school golf and coaching in the state of Wisconsin. It will be an exciting time representing the board and you as members. It will also be a challenging time in that a number of the founders of the association have, or will in the near future, retire from the ranks of coaching. The board's wish is that a number of the younger coaches across the state take the challenge and become more actively involved in the association.

Congratulations go out to all of the champions of the boys' season. Congratulations to the 31 members of the Boys All-State team. In addition, congratulations to the 217 scholar-athletes who made the WHSGCA All-Academic teams for the 2002-03 school year.

One of the issues of concern to the

WHSGCA Board and to the general membership, as well as golf coaches who are not members, is the process and manner in which the WIAA institutes policy changes. All of us as coaches are concerned that the WIAA maintains and administers policies that promote fairness in our sport. As coaches, there are a number of conduits through which you can get your concerns heard. First, is this organization, the WHSGCA. The suggestions for rule changes and perhaps even WIAA Constitutional changes are taken by the president to the Golf Coaches Advisory Committee. Any proposals coming out of that committee are then sent to the WIAA Executive staff for review. The next step is the Sports Advisory Committee, and then to the Advisory Council. Finally, any proposals that make it that far are submitted to the WIAA Board of Control for approval. The make up of the various committees are listed in the WIAA 2003-04 Senior High School Handbook. Our board, Assistant Director Tom Schfranski, and the Golf Coaches Advisory Committee are all places to go if you have concerns about the rules of Wisconsin High School golf.

Be sure to check the minutes of our board meetings in the *Coach Approach* to stay abreast of the latest issues being brought to our attention.

Finally, it is with a good deal of regret that I inform you that Lee Kaczmarek has tendered his resignation from the WHSGCA Board of Directors and retired from teaching. "Kaz" has come to epitomize high school golf in Wisconsin. A charter member of the Wisconsin High School Golf Coaches Association, Lee has coached golf in the Waukesha school

district for 36 years. He has served as the WHSGCA President for four years. He has been on the All-State committee since its inception. He has almost single-handedly put together the *Coach Approach for many years*. In addition, Kaz has been instrumental in pushing for and achieving many of the rules and policies that make our high school game great. In short, Kaz has been Mr. High School Golf in Wisconsin and he will be greatly missed by our organization and by the coaching ranks in general. It's about time that Mrs. Kaczmarek gets to enjoy his company. Thanks Lee for all that you have done!

Well, have a good fall and winter and I look forward to hearing from you all. As Harry Vardon once said, "Don't play too much golf. Two rounds a day are plenty."

Bill Berkholtz

**On the Inside:**  
**Checklist for Coaches p2**  
**WHSGCA Districts p4**

**NOTICE:**  
The *Coach Approach* is looking for an editor. If you have any interest, contact Bill Berkholtz

**Coaches:**  
Forms normally included in the *Coach Approach* are now on the website:  
<http://www.whsgca.com/>

# The Practice Tee

## A Check list for New Coaches

There are new coaches replacing old ones all the time. The following is an attempt to help new and relatively new golf coaches with a list of obligations that should be done to head up a well organized and successful golf program.

### Preseason

1. Hold a preseason meeting to determine the number of players who are trying out for the team and to briefly inform the golfers of your expectations.
2. Contact the local course to determine which of their facilities the team can use and when they may be used.
3. Have a meeting with the athletic director to determine the school's cut or no cut policy and to establish a budget for the season. You will also have to get the schedule for the season if you are a new coach. (The previous years coach should have established a schedule for the upcoming season) Get information on transportation availability for practices and matches from the athletic director.
4. Place any equipment orders, preferably with your home course, in order to have golf balls, golf bags, etc. available when needed.
5. Join the Wisconsin High School Golf Coaches Association. It provides many, many advantages for a very small price.
6. Contact the course again to set dates and tee times for any home matches or tournaments you may be hosting. You will also need to set tee times for practice rounds at your home course. The course management needs to know when you are bringing the team to the golf course and how many players will be playing.
7. It is strongly recommended by the Wisconsin High School Golf Coaches Association that you NOT host a WIAA regional or sectional or a multi team

invitational without two or three years of coaching experience. There are numerous preliminary tasks, responsibilities and expectations for which the host is responsible. You will learn about these policies and expectations by watching more experienced coaches. Host coaches often may need to be the rules committee during competition if the course has no professional. Much experience in rules decision-making is necessary for the tournament to be successful. Watch others who are experienced and successful and learn from their expertise.

8. Determine the number of players you will carry on the team and communicate to them how they will be transported to and from the course.
9. Decide on the methodology that you will use to determine your starting five players. Inform your players of this methodology prior to the start of the season and stick to the method throughout. If you want to change your methodology as the season nears its finish, (end the playoffs and use their match average as your determiner) that change should be communicated to your players before the season has begun. (Generally, it is best to allow the players to determine which are in the top five using their match scores or by playoffs rather than you determining. There will be fewer political problems that way)
10. Create a calendar which indicates practice times and match locations and times. Try to stick to this schedule closely for the convenience of both player and parent. It sends a message that your program is well organized. This does not mean that, under unusual circumstances, changes cannot be made, but reasons for changes should be communicated to the players and their parents in a timely manner.

### During the Season

11. If you have to host matches, call the course about a week prior to double-check and confirm tee times previously established.
12. Determine the time that you will need to leave school each day to meet your match or tournament requirements. Inform your attendance office of players who will need to be released from school earlier than normal. Make arrangements to secure a substitute

teacher, if needed well before the required date.

13. Make sure you return entry forms for invitationals, conference championship, regionals, etc. in a timely manner.
14. Make sure you have contacted the person responsible for writing entry fee checks well before they are due. You MUST send a check before the tournament is played or have a check with you the day of the tournament or match. It is most important that payment be made for the greens fees by the tournament day. In most situations it would be better if you took the responsibility for mailing the check ahead of time or brought the check to the event. Little frustrates the tournament manager or the golf course management more than the response "Oh didn't they send the check to you? As a golfer you cannot go to the pro shop and check in prior to playing and tell the cashier that you will pay them for your round at some time in the future. You cannot do that with your high school program either.
15. You might want to keep a record of your team's play throughout the season. You could keep a record of their nine or eighteen hole scores, or you might want to go further into depth and record their hole by hole scores for matches, tournaments and practices. You might even want to record the scores for all the participants at every event. Make a complete season booklet for each of your players and hand them out at the completion of the season.
16. Be sure to nominate deserving players for the All-State Academic team, and the All-State playing team. Nomination forms are available on the web site at [www.whsgca.com](http://www.whsgca.com) There are specific dates when these forms are due. These dates are absolute. Nomination forms that are not completely filled out or are not sent by the due date will be rejected.
17. Have an end of the year banquet to honor your players. Parents should be invited. It is a wonderful way to end the season in a positive manner.
18. Write thank you notes to all the tournament hosts for their hard work in hosting an event. Write a thank you note to the home course management for all their assistance during the season. They will remember you for it

and welcome you back again next year.

Hopefully this list will be of great help to all coaches who are new or relatively new to the sport. If any grizzled veterans have additions that would be of help to the youngsters please let us know. We would be most appreciate and will add them to the list.

## Reflections on the Past

A short story by David Gates

I have been trying to master this game for over 40 years now, but I don't believe I am much closer to mastery than when I began this odyssey. My journey has allowed me to observe many interesting things along the way. I will begin by letting you know that I began golfing at the relatively young age of nine. Several years later an incident occurred that we (my many warped friends and I) have discussed and laughed at for some years, until our motley crew parted company after high school graduation.

As youngsters, it was our custom after an early morning 18, (we usually teed off about 6:45), to repair to the second story clubhouse porch to consume the bag lunch our mothers had made. Our group usually numbered some three to four foursomes and we were occasionally a bit rowdy, because I recall the club secretary having to come out onto the porch to frequently scold us for being too noisy and disturbing the golfers below who were trying to tee off on hole number one.

One day a twosome of women appeared on the tee while we were comparing the quality and scope of our bag lunches. It is amazing just how much nonsense can be conjured up by 12 year old boys, but nevertheless, amidst a great deal of gastronomic hyperbole several in our party noticed one of the women swing and miss the ball. It was apparent, even to the future Einstein's among us, that she was a beginner. The other woman was demonstrating all manner of "good" golf fundamentals while constantly reminding the beginner to "keep her head down." The poor woman was quite determined to follow instructions yet several more misses followed. By this time her chin must have nearly touched the ground, so intent was she to "keep her head down." On about the fourth or fifth

swing and whiff, several of us began to count her misses out loud. With each whiff, the count grew louder. I am quite sure that total frustration was setting in, not that any of us delinquents seemed to care. Too make a long story short, on swing number 24 we rose as one and gave the woman a standing ovation. She had finally made contact! Never, I am sure, was any one person more relieved to put her club in her bag and leave the first tee area. Never did she look up at us, or in any way acknowledge us, although she certainly heard our counting after every whiff. Funny thing, though, I don't recall ever seeing either one of them at the club again.

After college graduation I accepted my first job in the banking industry. I joined a privately owned public course and really began to work on my game. It had suffered from several years of neglect during my undergraduate years, but now, being single and living in a strange town with a bit of time on my hands, I began to spend as much time as my job would allow at the club. Playing and practicing several days a week after work plus Saturday afternoon and Sunday mornings certainly had a wonderful effect on my handicap. It began to plummet. My scoring improved considerably because, in my newly adopted state, I could easily play 10-11 months a year. Even in January, there were always a few somewhat nice days to take advantage of and possibly play a quick nine. How strange it seemed to play golf shortly after the Christmas season.

Fortunately, the bank president and vice-president as well as most of the board of directors were all avid golfers, so I was afforded multiple opportunities to accompany them to their private clubs. This was the life! As I reflect back, it seems that it was at this point in my life that I really became a very good club player. My handicap went downward to a three. If only my compatriots from middle and high school could see me now!

At the club to which I belonged, the greens superintendent (Ken) was a wise old man who, I believe, had a personal relationship with each blade of grass and whose work ethic really demonstrated how much he cared about the condition of the course. Our members often heard from the private club members that our playing conditions were as fine as theirs. One observation I had made concerned the cup placements on our greens. I

noticed that the middle of our greens were never threadbare by the end of July, like so many other courses I had played. I began to understand why after questioning Ken about our course conditions. He indicated that his crew never put the cups more than 15 feet from the edge of the green, and often they were placed considerably closer! This almost insured that most foot traffic on the greens stayed away from the center of each surface. "How very clever", I responded. Ken then confided in me that he had learned this and another neat little trick from an old Scottish greens superintendent whose course in Scotland had been open almost year-round, even though it was usually cold enough from November through February that there was very little grass growth taking place.

The other flagstick setting rule he employed was to diagram each green as if it were a clock, with the front edge representing 6 o'clock, the back center edge representing 12 o'clock. On any given day, the man cutting and setting the cups had one of 12 cup positions to determine based on the 12 hour positions on a clock. For example, today, the diagram might have indicated that the hole on number 1 should be placed at 10 o'clock. The man would walk from the front edge of the green, (6 o'clock), back toward the 10 o'clock edge. He would then locate a somewhat flat area anywhere from 8 to 15 feet in from the 10 o'clock edge and begin cutting the cup for that day. He would then proceed to hole 2 where the cup might have to be set at 3 o'clock for that day.

Ken pointed out that setting cups in this manner allowed his crew to mimic tournament conditions on a daily basis. He was right! I had grown accustomed to flagsticks nestled anywhere from 8 to 15 feet from the green's edges. As I thought back to when I had first joined this course it had then struck me as odd that the flagsticks were never very close to the green's center. But after a while you become accustomed to such situations and never really think about them. Although I certainly learned that short siding myself, missing the green on the same side as the flagstick, usually resulted in recovery shots that were near impossible to get close.

Playing, on a daily basis to flagsticks always placed near the edges forced me to develop almost all aspects of my game

Continued Page 5

# At the Turn

## Wisconsin High School Golf Coaches Association District Structure: WIAA & WISAA Schools

### WIAA District 1: Dave Blake, Hayward: (715) 634-2616.

Heart O North, Lakeland, Middle Border, Dunn-St. Croix, Big Rivers.

Amery, Baldwin-Woodville, Barron, Bloomer, Chetek, Chippewa Falls, Cameron, Clear Lake, Cumberland, Durand, Eau Claire North, Eau Claire Memorial, Ellsworth, Frederic, Glenwood City, Grantsburg, Hayward, Hudson, Ladysmith, Luck, Menomonee, Mondovi, New Richmond, Northwestern, Osecola, Prescott, Rice Lake, River Falls, Siren, Somerset, Spooner, Solon Springs, St. Croix Falls, St. Croix Central, Superior, Turtle Lake, Unity, Webster, Winter.

### WIAA District 2: Dick Vruwink, Marshfield

Cloverbelt, Wisconsin Valley, Lumberjack, Northern Lakes.

Altoona, Antigo, Ashland, Augusta, Crandon, D.C. Everest, Eau Claire Regis, Eagle River, Elcho, Fairchild, Lakeland, Laona, Marshfield, McDonnell Central, Medford, Merrill, Mosinee, Neillsville, Owen-Withee, Park Falls, Pembine, Phelps, Phillips, Rhinelander, Stanley-Boyd, Stevens Point, Thorp, Three Lakes, Tomahawk, Wabeno, Wausau East, Wausau West, Wisconsin Rapids.

### WIAA District 3 Anna Curtis, Holmen

Dairyland, Coulee, Mississippi Valley, Senic Bluffs.

Alma, Arcadia, Bangor, Black River Falls, Blair, Cochrane-Fountain City, Eleva Strum, Gale-Ettrick, Gilmanton, Holmen, Independence, LaCrescent, MN, LaCrosse Aquinas, LaCrosse Central, LaCrosse Logan, Lincoln, Melrose-Mindoro, Necedah, New Lisbon, Onalaska, Onalaska Luther, Sparta, Tomah, Viroqua, West Salem, Westby, Whitehall.

### WIAA District 4: Dick McKichan, Platteville: (608) 348-2681.

Six Rivers, Southwest.

Albany, Argyle, Barneveld, Belleville, Blanchardville, Boscobel, Cuba City, Darlington, Dodgeville, Fennimore, Iowa Grant, Juda, Lancaster, Mineral Point, Monticello, Muscoda, New Glarus, Platteville, Prairie du Chien, Richland Center, Schullsburg, Southwestern, Spring Green.

### WIAA District 5: Don Marx, Madison Memorial: (608) 829-4000

Capitol, Badger, Southern Wisconsin.

Beloit, Columbus, DeForest, Edgewood, Janesville Craig, Janesville Parker, Lake Mills, Lakeside Lutheran, Lodi, Madison Abundant Life, Madison Memorial, Madison East, Madison West, Madison LaFollette, McFarland, Middleton, Monona Grove, Monroe, Mt. Horeb, Oregon, Poynette, Sauk Prairie, Stoughton, Sun Prairie, Verona, Waunakee, Wisconsin Heights.

### WIAA District 6: Bill Berkholtz, Burlington

Southern Lakes, Rock Valley, Southeast, Lakeshore

Beloit Turner, Big Foot, Brodhead, Burlington, Clinton, Delavan-Darien, East Troy, Edgerton, Elkhorn, Evansville, Fort Atkinson, Franklin, Jefferson, Kenosha St Joe's, Lake Geneva Badger, Milton, Muskego, Palmyra-Eagle, Park View, Union Grove, Waterford, Westosha, Whitewater, Wilmont, Oak Creek, Racine Horlick, Racine Park, Racine Case, Racine St Catharine, South Milwaukee, Kenosha Tremper, Kenosha Bradford.

### WIAA District 7: Brian Scrobel, Brookfield Central (262) 253-0273

Milwaukee City, Greater Metro, Classic Eight

Arrowhead, Kettle Moraine, Milwaukee Washington, Milwaukee Custer, Milwaukee Bay View, Milwaukee Vincent, Milwaukee Madison, Milwaukee King, Milwaukee Juneau, Milwaukee Marshall, Milwaukee Pulaski, Milwaukee Hamilton, Milwaukee South, Milwaukee Tech, Milwaukee Riverside, Mukwonago, Waukesha North, Waukesha South, Waukesha West, Waukesha Catholic Memorial, Pius XI, Brookfield East, Brookfield Central, Divine Savior- Holy Angel, Hamilton, Marquette, Wauwatosa East, West Allis Central, West Allis Hale.

### WIAA District 8: John Lonergan, Hartford and Robert Lehninger, Wisconsin Lutheran: (414) 453-4567.

North Shore, Woodland, Wisconsin Little Ten, Parkland, Midwest Classic.

Cudahy, Greendale, Greenfield, New Berlin Eisenhower, New Berlin West, Thomas More, Wauwatosa West, Whitnall, Beaver Dam, Brookfield Academy, Brown Deer, Catholic Central, Dominican, Cedarburg, Germantown, Grafton, Greendale Martin Luther, Hartford, Heritage Christian, Homestead, Kettle Moraine Lutheran, Menomonee Falls, Milwaukee Lutheran, Nicolet, Oconomowoc, Pewaukee, Port

Washington, Shoreland Lutheran, Shorewood, Slinger, St. Francis, St John's NW Military Academy, The Prairie School, University School, Watertown, Watertown Luther Prep, Waupun, Wayland Academy, West Bend East, West Bend West, Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin Lutheran,

### WIAA District 9: Steve Lein, Baraboo 608- 355-3960

South Central, Wisconsin Flyway, Eastern Suburban, Dual County.

Adams-Friendship, Baraboo, Cambria-Freesland, Cambridge, Central Wisc. Christian, Deerfield, Dodgeland, Fall River, Green Lake, Horicon, Hustisford, Johnson Creek, Lomira, Marshall, Mauston, Mayville, Montello, Nekoosa, North Fond du Lac, Oakfield, Pardeville, Portage, Princeton, Randolph, Reedsburg, St Mary's Springs, Waterloo, Westfield, Wisconsin Dells, Williams Bay

### WIAA District 10: MaryBeth Nienhaus (Appleton West), Micki Duran : (414) 832- 6215.

East Central, Fox River Valley, Fox Valley Association, Valley 8.

Appleton East, Appleton North, Appleton West, Berlin, Clintonville, Fond du Lac, Fox Valley Lutheran, Freedom, Green Bay Southwest, Green Bay East, Green Bay Preble, Green Bay West, Hortonville, Kaukauna, Kimberly, Laconia, Little Chute, Manitowoc, Markesan, Menasha, Neenah, Notre Dame, Oconto Falls, Omro, Oshkosh Lourdes, Oshkosh North, Oshkosh West, Ripon, Sheboygan North, Sheboygan South, Wautoma, Winneconne, Xavier, Waupaca.

### WIAA District 11: Chuck Menzel (Green Bay Preble)

Bay, Central Wisconsin, Marinette-Oconto, Packerland.

Algoma, Ashwaubenon, Bay Port, Bonduel, Crivitz, Denmark, DePere, Gibraltar, Green Bay New Lutheran, Kewaunee, Luxemborg-Casco, Marinette, New London, Niagra, Oconto, Pacelli, Pulaski, Sevastopol, Seymour, Shawano, Southern Door, Sturgeon Bay, West DePere, Wittenberg-Birnamwood.

### WIAA District 12:

Olympian, Central Lakeshore, Eastern Wisconsin.

Brillion, Cambellsport, Cedar Grove, Chilton, Elkhart Lake, Hilbert, Howards Grove, Kewaskum, Kiel, Kohler, Manitowoc Roncalli, Mishicot, New Holstein, Oostburg, Ozaukee, Plymouth, Random Lake, Reedsville, Sheboygan Area Lutheran, Sheboygan Co. Christian, Sheboygan Falls, St Mary's Central, Two Rivers, Valders, Wrightstown,

## WHSGCA Competition Hole in One Award

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Course: \_\_\_\_\_ Hole # \_\_\_\_\_ Club: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Event: \_\_\_\_\_ Score: \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose a photo for the *Coach Approach*.

Requirements: Any player on a high school boys or girls team making a hole-in-one during competition. Coach **must** be a member of the WHSGCA at the time of the hole-in-one. Please use this form to report the hole-in-one. Send to TJ Dieck, Milton High School, 114 W. High

Street, Milton, WI 53563

to a much higher level than I ever thought necessary. I had to learn how to control my driver. No longer was the concept of "just try to bash it as far as possible" going to be effective. I had to learn to divide the fairway into halves in order to give myself the best angle into the flagstick. Of course, learning which angle was preferable was only a small part of the battle. I also had to learn how to drive the ball into that position. My iron play had to improve because no longer was I just trying to hit the green. That philosophy resulted in far too many long putts and resulted in numerous three-putt greens. So I worked especially hard on developing a swing that would give me better pinpoint iron play.

Short siding myself was a frequent by product of trying to aim more at the flagstick rather than the middle of the green. Thus I had to develop a much better short game using a variety of shots that I never dreamed possible. Thank goodness our club professional was a great teacher and extremely knowledgeable. Without his direction, I would have really struggled to find ways to succeed. He showed me the options and the best way to determine the proper option. Even my putting needed improving, especially my lag putting at first. As my iron play improved and my ball began to find the green surface nearer the hole, I was able to change my putting focus, emphasizing putts under 20 feet in length.

As I look back on those days, it amazes me that a simple concept of placing flagsticks near the edges of greens to spare the grass on the middle had such a multifunctional effect on my game. Ken sure knew a great deal more about this game than the vast majority of unsuspecting golfers could ever hope to understand.

After several years of steady improvement, I decided to become more involved with competitive golf. A new position among the decision makers at the bank allowed me increased opportunities to be away from work at times. After experiencing some success at a local level, I decided to tackle the state amateur. But first, I found out that I had to survive a qualifier. As luck would have it, that year the regional qualifier was at our club, a decided advantage for me.

Qualifier day dawned bright and sunny with a good breeze blowing. It would certainly affect the ball flight, not something, with which I was unfamiliar. Taking

advantage of home course knowledge, I qualified, but also experienced a loss of confidence because of my unfamiliarity with competition at this level. Consulting our professional about the experience, he gave me some ideas that might alleviate the problem in the future.

On my way to the state's biggest and most important men's amateur tournament, I was determined to acquit myself well because I expected much more from myself than before. I really wasn't concerned about what others might think about my scores, for I had learned the only person you really needed to satisfy is yourself. With a much-improved golf game and a better mental approach I was ready to deal with whatever obstacles the tournament course would place before me. At least I knew that this would be a test of how well I would deal with those obstacles. I was eager to discover how effective my learning and improvement had been.

The state tournament was being played at a relatively new club in the western part of the state. It was designed by a famous architect and had a lot of holes where the fairway dropped off precipitously to the rough thus presenting a somewhat terrifying look from the tee of most par four and five holes. The fairways were generous, however, and we were able to frequently use our drivers. The flagsticks were set for tournament conditions, quite similar to those at our club on a daily basis. My goal, to make the cut, was achieved. In fact I placed much higher than I thought possible. Who was it, Winston Churchill, who said, "the only thing to fear is fear itself?" That's what I was reminded of after completing the fourth round. Playing the tournament wasn't near as tough as I had expected. It was really like playing back home, but with just a bit more pressure that I applied to myself, for no good reason, as I discovered.

During the tournament I played with or met several interesting players. One who stands out was a player named Barry. He had played in the tournament for over 15 years. Obviously a good player, it seems he was also a consistent complainer. One of my playing companions in the third round explained that every year Barry complains vociferously about the cup placements. I was under the impression that the idea of a state championship was to identify the best players. Therefore, the course should be set up

for that purpose. But, every year Barry complained. Paired with him in the last round, by the back nine I could no longer stand his insufferable whining and actually suggested that he should not play if he didn't like the way the courses were set up. Maybe it was because I was excited to be playing better than I had expected, or maybe it was because I was so thrilled to be in the tournament to begin with that I had summoned the courage to tell him to stop complaining. When Barry reacted angrily to my suggestion, I countered with a comment that it was stupid to play in the tournament year after year knowing what the course set up would be like. And in addition the rest of the players were sick of listening to him. Apparently shocked that an upstart would talk to him in that manner, he kept quiet for the remainder of the round.

I believe that Barry had two problems. One, he was a member of one of the most prestigious clubs in the state. He truly believed that he was better than the rest of the players, and when his scores didn't reflect it, he decried the course set up as his excuse. His other problem was that his course superintendent did not set up his private club in the same manner as Ken did to ours. The course set up that poor Barry experienced only four or five rounds per year, I experienced every time I played. The course set up at the amateur was nothing out of the ordinary for me. I hardly paid attention to those cup placements except to concentrate on the best side of the fairway to approach the hole from and where to try to place my iron shots. Barry was too busy whining and complaining to concern himself with good course management.

Good old Ken. His intellectual decision-making based on years of experience helped the games of all his members, not just those who took advantage in competitive venues.

Seems as if we have a local high school coach who really understands the game and is successfully imparting his wisdom to his youngsters. Wonder how much better player I would have been if afforded a similar situation. Can't understand why kids today don't want to go out for the team. Don't they realize the tremendous opportunity they are missing? A number of local players who have gone on to play at the collegiate level have remarked that, whether it was at state college or any number of out-of-state universities, their coaches were no

where near as knowledgeable or attentive as their high school coach had been. We need to insure that this man stays around. Our community needs him. Good man. Very effective!

As a player, you never know from where help can appear. When it presents itself it is important to listen and learn. The information we receive provides individual benefits and helps propel us to greater accomplishments. Why not listen. Sure wish today's kids understood. Ah well, as they get older they may think back and realize how foolish they were to not take advantage of great opportunities. Youth is sometimes wasted on the young. They think they know so much but in reality they understand so little.

As for myself, I am forever grateful to both Ken, our greens superintendent, and also to our head professional for the help they have provided. It's important to remember those who have taught and helped us along the way. They have enriched our lives far more than they can possibly imagine. Without individuals like those who teach we would be so much poorer. Both the greens superintendent and head professional have made my golf experiences much more enjoyable. For that I am forever grateful.

## The Clubhouse

### What Are the Commonalities of Excellent High School Players?

Have you ever been really impressed with a player and thought he/she was going to be very successful? But sometimes that player never seemed to attain the success you predicated he/she would achieve? We wonder why the success doesn't follow. Yet, there are other individuals that fail to impress anyone, but they seem to achieve success far beyond what was seemingly possible. There are numerous reasons for these occurrences, but more often than not, physical failures take a back seat to mental insufficiencies. Successes follow for the same reasons. Let's take a look at reasons for these successes and failures.

The player must have a certain level of physical ability. While most players we notice have the coordination and strength to succeed, they may not possess the grasp of basic fundamentals necessary to really play consistent competitive golf. An oft repeated statement, "in competitive situations, you are only as good as your worst fundamental" has more truth to it than most coaches really

understand. No player can successfully hide his or her biggest weakness. Poor fundamentals have a way of rearing their ugly head at the most inopportune time causing problems that may result in big numbers on individual holes or may cause the player to go on the bogey train during every round. In any event, the end results are quizzical looks by coaches when the player reports his/her score. "How could his/her score be so high? I saw great shots by that player on the course. What happened?"

What could be the problem, physically, are poor fundamentals, but even more important is the manner in which the player handles his/her poor shots and poor scores. Thirty-seven years of high school golf coaching in addition to teaching the game to more than four thousand juniors have taught me that the most important determiner of golfing success is the player's mental maturity and work ethic. In other words, does the player really love the game and have a burning desire to succeed and is he/she willing to work as hard as is necessary to achieve his/her goals.

Proper focus plays an incredibly important aspect in this game. How well does the player prepare for competition? Does the player focus on fundamental swing changes that you have coached them to improve, or does the player forget about what you have taught shortly after you move on to work with another player? The practice tee is the place to work on swing fundamentals. If players do not want to focus on the swing changes necessary to improve, then their improvement will be slow or nonexistent. The course is the place for players to focus on their target, and your opportunity to view how well the swing changes are being adhered to during competition. It is frustrating for a coach to work with players who then refuse to attempt to improve. You have to wonder why they came out for golf in the first place.

Proper focus during competition is a key to scoring success. On the course, the target is to be the player's focus. However, after a poorly hit shot, can they put it behind them and think about the next shot, or do they get so focused on their failures that thinking about the next shot becomes impossible. Great teachers of the game emphasize the necessity of playing in the present. The only shot that is important is the next one. Previous shots and all shots beyond the next one should not be part of the thought process. Remember, there is nothing you can do about the past. History is unchangeable. The ability to forget poorly played shots is crucial to golfing success because it is vital that great players think positively at all times. Focusing on bad plays defeats the positive and accentuates the negative.

Proper attitude probably separates more golfers than ball-striking skills. It is imperative that players maintain a high level of confidence. When a number of PGA and LPGA touring players hit poor shots they refuse to acknowledge that they are at fault. They will blame the grass conditions, wind or other environmental elements, the crowd, a slippery grip, etc. While I would recommend that players are better off if they simply acknowledge that they are not perfect and forget bad shots, it does show how far some good

players will go to emphasize the positive and refute the negative. However, golfers that are embarrassed by their poorly hit shots and then overreact to them in order to cover up, lack the necessary maturity and confidence to succeed at a high level. It's important for golfers to be able to accept their bad shots and move on. Golfers who overact in anger, loose confidence and fear playing the next few shots or get so wrapped up in how to swing the club instead of just forgetting and moving on to the next swing are heading for disaster.

As a coach it is imperative that you teach your players to deal with problems in a constructive rather than destructive manner. I have had girls crying after a poorly played round or even after several poorly played shots. I would encourage them to understand that the act of crying does not correct the problems that caused their feelings. They need to address their problems and work through them in a logical manner so they do not become continuing problems. The same can be said for boys whose anger over bad shots prevents them from playing any number of the following shots or holes well. Their anger does not get at the root of the problem. They need to move beyond their feelings and focus on their target, trusting that you, their coach, have seen the true cause of their poor shot making and can help them successfully correct the problem in practice. No individual round, save their last two rounds as seniors at the state tournament are so important that corrections can't be made.

It is important for coaches to make sure their players realize that every shot can be crucial. A wasted shot, caused by anger or frustration, is a shot thrown away. Players who have shown the ability to follow a poorly played shot with a great shot, or a poorly played hole with a well-played hole have the necessary maturity and understanding to persevere in a very demanding game. Those players will be successful beyond what we may envision their athletic ability might be.

What then may be the most important determiner of success in this game? I believe it to be poise. Great players recognize that "golf is not a game of perfect" to quote Dr. Bob Rotella. All golfers hit poor shots, but only those who have the ability to quickly analyze the cause then renew their focus on their target for the next shot, with NO loss of emotional control, are best suited to achieve the highest level of success. For without emotional control, all the physical talent in the world will be of no value, because their brain will find a way to cause failure within the body.

The world is full of people with unfulfilled ability because they lack the poise, mental toughness and intelligence to understand how to be successful. Their frequent bouts of frustration will diminish their commitment to being the best they can be. Their lack of poise will subsequently prevent them from working hard enough to reach their true potential. As coaches, it is our duty to try to get each of our golfers to understand the need for patience and poise. In order to maximize their potential and achieve their highest level of success they must recognize that the game is difficult and nobody can be on top all the time. This does not mean being accepting of failure.

Rather it means understanding causes of failures and working confidently to eliminate them in order to become stronger. That can only be accomplished using a calm, logical mind that can think clearly in situations of stress. But then, that's what successful businessmen, doctors, judges, educators, politicians, scientists and all others who use their minds have learned to do! Since golf is played primarily with the mind, correctly using the mind will ultimately be the determiner of success.

# The Scoreboard

## Boys 2003 Academic All State Team

Brian and Terri Bartman	Mark	Ashwaubenon
Bennie and Kathy Kumbalek	Nic	Ashwaubenon
Tom and Lizz Jayne	Kevin	Ashwaubenon
Mike and Kathleen Ponik	Joe	Beaver Dam
Victor and Patty Caceres	Tommy	Beaver Dam
Robert and Laura Banike	Ryan	Big Foot
Larry and Debbie Hagel	Brian	Bonduel
Ron and Connie Dombrowski	Mike	Bonduel
Donald and Ann Roach	Brian	Brookfield Central
Reno and Margie Cruz	Kevin	Brookfield Central
Eric and Cindy Van Vugt	Timothy	Brookfield East
Michael and Carol Glisch	Jeffrey	Brookfield East
Craig and Daye Fox	Derek	Burlington
Dr. Charles and Janice Puntillo	Chas	Burlington
Susan Winters	Dan	Burlington
John and Kiren Allen	Michael	Cambridge
William and Marion Baggott	Chris	Catholic Memorial
William and Marion Baggott	Tim	Catholic Memorial
Doug and Carla Swenson	Caleb	DeForest
Rick and Jean Grinde	Billy	DeForest
Bill and Linda Stelzer	Keith	DePere
John and Karen Erickson	Matt	DePere
Milton and Maureen Oldenburg	Mike	DePere
Ron and Lori Snapp	Brandon	Weissinger Durand
Tom and Kathy Gianforte	Peter	Durand
John and Susan Johnson	Ricky	East Troy
Mike Kujak		
Steve and Jane Thompson	Kyle	East Troy
John and Kathy Ozga	John	Edgerton
Kurt and Ginger Buehner	Kyle	Elkhorn
Claude and Cindy Lewis	Jeff	Franklin
Lynn and Dennis Mehring	Kurt Wagner	Franklin
Mr. and Mrs. James Frost	Robert	Franklin
David and Sherry Hintz	Chad	Germantown
Roy and Kris Luecht	Jason	Germantown
Bruce and Cheri Kitts	Chris	Green Bay East
Henry and Patricia Schultz	Dylan	Green Bay East
Randy and Roxy Carley	Ry	Green Bay East
Tim and Mary Denissen	Ryan	Green Bay East
Mark and Jean Verbeten	Alex	Green Bay Preble
Steve and Pam Rosenow	Jesse	Green Bay Preble
Marcy Merner	Casey	Rozmarynoski Green Bay SW
Jeff and Mary Hoffman	Seth	Green Bay West
Tom and Marilyn Tewes	James	Green Bay West
Steve and Anne Merkw	Dave	Hartland Arrowhead
Drew and Marilyn Thiet	Brian	Homestead
Mike and Mary Sluzinski	Matt	Homestead
Terry and Dena Grossman	Mike	Homestead
Scott Valenstein and Marla Koenig	Justin	Howards Grove
Randy and Dixie Edge	Aaron	Iowa-Grant
Scot and Sue Oellerich	Michael	Iowa-Grant
Steve and Bonnie Jones	Garrett	Iowa-Grant
Pat and Diane Kleinstreiber	Trevor	Johnson Creek
William and Denise Nelson	Ryan	Johnson Creek
Paul and Susan Zeeck	Kevin	Kenosha Tremper
James and Susan Dunham	Andy	Kettle Moraine
Joseph and Margaret Neuworth	Joey	Kettle Moraine
Tim and Betsy Zikeli	Ryan	Kettle Moraine
Steve and Kathy Larsen	Doug	Lancaster

## 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, 2003  
 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**

Bill and Jan Haupt	Kevin	Lodi
Rick and Patti Lorenz	Geoff	Lodi
Vincent and Kim Niesen	Matt	Lodi
Rick and Jean Schroeder	Riley	Madison East
Tom and Sandy Solheim	David	Madison East
Rick and Patty Steinhofner	Adam	Madison LaFollette
Jeff and Lynn Younger	Ryan	Madison Memorial
Jim and Peggy Possin	Mike	Madison Memorial
John and Vicki Cocalis	Nick	Madison Memorial
John and Cindy Strohm	Peter	Madison West
John Harting and Maureen Mullins	John Harting	Madison West
John and Mary Gryskiewicz	Dan	Merrill
Dave and Karen Zimmerman	Danny	Middleton
Mike and Jenny Coyle	Ryan	Middleton
Pete Kirchner and Lynn Christophersen	Eric	Andrew Milton
Brian and Susan Krueger	Dan	Mukwonago
Dan and Sue Maloney	Dan	Mukwonago
Jeff and Linda Strzelecki	Josh	Muskego
Leon and Debbie Vanderhoef	Zach	Oak Creek
Ed and Mary Alt	Chris	Oshkosh Lourdes
Tom and Donna Altepeter	Andy	Oshkosh Lourdes
Paul and Victoria Mroczkowski	Steve	Pius XI
Michael and Connie Moran	Corey	Platteville
Paul and Victoria Bergmann	Dave	Platteville
Stanley and Donna Graney	Ray	Platteville
Tim and Patti Fink	Scott	Platteville
Joe and Vicky Serketioh	Andy	Plymouth
Randal and Laurie Gutschow	Brandon	Plymouth
Dave and Cathy Robinson	Ty	Portage
Kevin and Mary Rak	Brian	Portage
Greg and Deb Hartwig	Jake	Princeton
Larry and Nancy Trotter	Mike	Princeton
Steven and Liz Otto	Brad	PrincetonSchool
Dan and Kathryn Gobis	Peter	Racine Park
Gary and Beth Giessel	Jeff	Rhineland
Jack and Pat Meyer	Travis	River Falls
Richard and Marilyn Zangl	Zach	St. Mary Springs
Wayne and Mary Matzke	Eric	St. Mary Springs
Brian and Mary Denzin	Andrew	St. Mary Springs
James and Mary Hoffman	Tim	St. Mary Springs
Bernie and Theresa LOesperance	Rene	Tomahawk
Bill Steigerwaldt	Marcus	Tomahawk
Tim and Mary DeBels	Brad	Tomahawk
Alan and Paula Jaspersen	Jacob	Union Grove
Jeff and Tamara Butler	Tyler	Union Grove
Robert and Nancy Wang	Dan	Union Grove
Thomas and Lee Maurer	Ric	Union Grove
Dr. Edward and Jan Hoy	Kevin	Watertown
Jeff and Vicky Allen	Ben	Watertown
Mike and Suzanne Weihert	Andy	Watertown
Bob and Deb Baker	Paul	Waukesha North
Mark and Sally Drezdon	Sam	Waukesha North
David and Kathleen Mack	Steve	Waukesha South
Odin and Connie Thorpe	Chris	Waukesha South
Steve and Sally Schoepke	Aaron	Waukesha South
Tom and Mary Beth Nytes	Brendan	Waukesha South
Bob and Jane Gay	Brandon	Waupaca
Rick and Vicki Groth	Alex	Waupaca
Dave and Maureen Lloyd	Dan	Wauwatosa East
Robert and Kim Slotterback	Coxy	Wauwatosa East
Ian and Kim Nishimoto	Justin	West DePere
Ken and Lori Wirtz	B. J. Anding	West DePere
Phillip and Mary Ann Coe	Erian	Westosha Central