



The Coach Approach

The Newsletter of the Wisconsin High School Golf Coaches Association

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From the Clubhouse

Greetings Coaches!

I hope everyone had a successful conclusion to the school year and the spring boys' season. It's been an unusual summer golf season as far as the weather is concerned, but I bet that hasn't kept many of you from enjoying time on the links. We are coming off another incredibly successful summer clinic. Thanks go out to Mr. Dave Blake and Mr. Brian Scrobel for organizing and hosting a fun, informative, and competitive clinic and tournament at Hayward Golf and Tennis complex.

The Board meeting and the general membership meetings were held at the clinic. The minutes of our Board meeting are included in this issue, so I won't be redundant. I will however, inform you that Mr. Tom Shafransky was gracious enough to attend. His report from the WIAA included a number of important issues. One of which is the reminder that the distance learning sessions are going to be required in the coming school year. Be sure to look for information from you're A.D. The information will also be on the WIAA web site, so be sure to seek out the specifics. Tom also reminded us that the penalties for flagrant misconduct involved in throwing clubs will be implemented next year. Finally, there was a great deal of discussion concerning the appearance of

girls in the boys sectionals and at the state tournament. The WIAA's philosophy is that the best interest of youth golf is to provide opportunities to compete. Therefore, girls should be allowed to compete on a fair playing field. The hope is that competition for girls during the boys' season will encourage schools to provide girls teams.

Speaking of clinics, the 2005 Spring Clinic is slated to be on Saturday, March 12, 2005 at Western Lakes Golf Course starting at 8:00 a.m. And as many of you have probably heard, next year's Summer Clinic will be held at the Meadow Valley Course at Blackwolf Run. The proposed date is Tuesday, June 21, 2005. More details and a sign-up form will be given in the September issue of the Coach Approach. Please make sure your membership is updated and you pay attention to the instructions in the Coach Approach this coming fall. The number of slots will be limited to 100 or fewer, so be prompt.

Congratulations to Division 1 Champion River Falls coached by Paul Meyer. They won the championship with a score of 604 in a thrilling play-off over Steve O'Brien's Homestead team. The individual champion of Division 1 was Tyler Obermueller of River Falls. Tyler won in a play-off with a score of 141. Division 2 was won by McFarland, coached by Gary Oftedahl. The individual champ was sophomore Ryan Carroll of Berlin. Finally, the Division 3 title was captured by Osseo-Fairchild, coached by Jeff Stoik. Ben Sieg of

Osseo was the champion with a score of 151.

Congratulations also go out to the more than 200 young men and women who achieved academic greatness along with golf prowess and who were named to the WHSG-CA All-Academic team. It speaks volumes about the quality of players and coaching throughout the state.

Well, it's time to sign off. I hope to see many of you at the PGA tournament in Kohler this summer. It is exciting to have the eyes of the golfing world be focused on our state. The nation will realize, as we all do that Wisconsin is a golfing mecca. I'm going to keep working on my game. I'm not saying my game is bad, but when I grow tomatoes they come up sliced.

Take care,

Berk

Forms normally included in the Coach Approach are now on the website:

<http://www.whsgca.com>

On the Inside:

Page 2: Common Swin Faults
Page 4: Course Management
Page 7: WHSGCA Board Minutes
Page 8: Boys All-State Teams
Page 9: Kaz's Last Words (?)
Page 9: Results

The Practice Tee

The Most Common Swing Fault Among All Golfers

Having taught about 14,000 people to play golf has given me a unique perspective relating to the most common swing faults among players. Without question the most common and glaring problem among golfers is incorrect head movement. Yes, you can move your head during the swing provided it is done at the proper time and in the proper direction. The ONLY acceptable head movement is away from the target. Some players will move their head during their backswing. The best players often slide their head backward during the forward swing which helps generate additional club speed. It is important to remember that the head may only move backward (away from the target) and only up to one inch. Any other head motion during the swing WILL create miss-hit shots!

If moving the head not more than one inch away from the target either on the backswing or during the forward swing prior to impact are the only correct moves, it follows that any other type of head movement during the swing is incorrect. The most common faulty head movements that I regularly have to correct include a movement forward towards the target and a movement upward before impact. Let's take a look at each of these movements and discuss the causes and possible cures for these problems. Likely, as a golfer you are also guilty of these incorrect fundamentals.

***Staying Down on the Shot
At least 80% of all golfers***

seem to move their head upward during the swing. Doing so after impact with the ball is perfectly permissible, but any head movement upward before impact is a major swing error because it forces the swing plane to change and makes hitting solid accurate shots impossible. It is imperative that a golfer's swing plane remain constant which would necessitate a constant spinal tilt from the start of the backswing until impact. If the head rises during the backswing or during the first portion of the forward swing it also means that the spinal angle has gotten more vertical which forces the shoulders to rotate on a more horizontal plane. Thus the golfer's swing plane has been altered prior to impact. But what would cause the golfer to change his/her spine angle forcing the head up and destroying the shot?

As a golf coach, you would naturally want your players to be the best they can possibly be. As a teacher you would need to understand the fundamentals of the swing and be able to correct faults among your players. So let's take a look at the common causes of the head moving incorrectly upward during the swing motion.

Begin with the lower body. If the right knee, for a right-handed player, straightens out during the backswing it will also force the right hip to move upward and usually force the upper body to straighten up as well. The knees and the hips must stay level during the swing. Keeping them level will eliminate one possible cause of the head moving upward during the swing.

A second possible cause for the head to move up (in reality the spine is straightening up) would be an attempt by the golfer to swing so forcefully that maintaining constant spine angle becomes impossible. Your players must maintain connection during the swing. This means that the sternum and the club must be swung

at the same speed. This concept will usually prevent over-swinging.

A third possible cause is improper shoulder rotation. During the backswing the left shoulder must move down and back, away from the target. Conversely, during the forward swing the right shoulder must move down and forward towards the target. When viewing your players, you should find that their left shoulder is lower than their right at the finish of the backswing, and the right shoulder should be lower than their left at the finish of their forward swing. Often I will see players whose left shoulders are lower at the top of the backswing and at the finish of their forward swing. The only way to accomplish this is to change the spine tilt thus forcing the head to move upward. This incorrect finish is accomplished only by altering the swing plane which will always have a detrimental effect on the flight of the ball.

Notice if the player is taking a divot when swinging an iron. If not, they are probably standing up. Remember that the proper methodology for striking an iron shot is to take a divot.

Finally, if the golfer is standing up on the shot, 90% of his/her shots will go to the right. With a highly accomplished golfer the shot might be a pull-hook left. In any case accurate shots will NOT occur.

To summarize: If you have a golfer who hits the ball high and to the right, rarely takes divots with his/her iron shots or finishes his/her swing with the left shoulder lower than the right, the player is standing up (not maintaining the proper swing plane). There is an easy correction for this swing error. Coach, all that is required of you is to place your hand on top of the player's head until impact with the ball occurs, then quickly remove your hand so that the golfer may complete his/her swing comfortably. Not allowing the head to rise up has the effect of forcing the player to stay down in their original

spinal angle. Other possible cures include encouraging the player to make contact with the turf when swinging an iron, or use a swing trainer like the "Inside Approach" which will allow the golfer to mentally see the proper swing path including the necessity to stay down through the shot.

Keeping the head from moving upward because the player's spine straightens up will result in proper ball contact and much improved shot-making accuracy. Scores will plummet making the player and his/her family and coach happy.

The Head Slide

It is incredible how many players slide their head forward (toward the target) during the swing, except for the touring professionals, of course. Generally, the forward moving head prior to impact with the ball is the product of three swing faults, the first of which is over-swinging.

Especially among younger players who are trying to move the ball beyond what their capabilities allow, over-swingers will often slide their head unknowingly in an effort to generate additional club-head speed. The remedy is to match the speed of the chest turn with the speed of the club. Staying connected is what I call this matching of chest and club turn.

Connection will not only help prevent head slide, but will also help with a player's distance control.

A second cause of head slide is a faulty ball position. Generally, good players should position the ball one inch inside their left heel with the driver, two inches inside the left heel with the fairways woods through the six iron, and three inches inside the left heel with seven iron through the wedges. Adjust these measurements with poorer players by having the golfers put the ball two inches back with the driver and three inches back with all other clubs. When the ball is placed too far forward, (closer to the left foot),

the golfer will subconsciously feel the need to slide the head forward in an effort to make contact with the ball. Proper ball placement is crucial. Don't feel obligated to follow the above recommendations if the person is just beginning the game or is quite young. Beginners should place the ball in the middle of the stance which will allow better initial contact. But, don't allow the player to maintain that ball position as improvement occurs. Why?

Because the further back the ball is placed in the stance, the more inhibited the lower body motion will become. Beginners, with little or no initial lower body motion benefit from a middle-of-the-stance ball position so that they can make contact with the ball. As the player's skills improve change them to the two and three inch positions. Finally, go to the one, two and three inch positions as their experience warrants. Often, because the ball is positioned to far forward, the head slide forward occurs at the beginning of the take-away. This is a real indication that they are not comfortable with their ball position, although they may not realize that the head motion is occurring.

The third major cause of the head sliding forward is a lack of lower body motion during the forward swing. Much of the body's weight must move to the right foot on the back-swing. Conversely, it must shift to the left foot on the forward-swing. The proper weight shift forward must be made by the knees and hips. If, however, the lower body is too stiff, the player will unknowingly shift the head forward in an effort to get the weight to the left foot. Often, when the second or third causes of head motion persist, the solutions are the most difficult. I would recommend moving the ball position back behind the middle of the stance. Insist that the player's head be behind the ball at address. From that position, the player will feel no

need to slide the head forward. In fact, they will usually fear sliding the head forward when the ball is positioned just two or three inches inside the right foot because they can visualize the possibility of completely missing the ball. Have the golfer practice extensively from that ball position until they can feel with certainty that the head is remaining motionless during the swing. Then, one inch at a time, adjust the ball's position forward until the player has the correct ball position commensurate with their talent level.

An interesting side benefit of the above operation will be an iron shot that strikes the ball first and takes a divot after the ball is hit. This is the correct way to hit iron shots.

Whether the head motion is up or forward, the motion of the club-head will be altered in such a way that the player's ability to correctly strike the ball and get good flight characteristics is drastically reduced. Maintaining the proper spine angle, employing the proper ball position in relation to the feet, maintaining connection during the swing and shifting the body weight at the correct time and with the correct body parts all contributes to excellent ball striking characteristics and will result in lower scores for the golfer. Touring professionals do all of the above correctly. That's why they are able to make a living at this greatest of games.

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Course Management For High School Golfers

Have you ever noticed your players hitting good golf shots on the practice area but seemingly unable to produce good scores on the course? More than likely, the real culprit is their ability, or lack there-of, to properly manage their games because of their failure to employ proper thinking skills prior to hitting their shots. In general, almost all players fall into one of the following categories.

1) Players who think through each shot thoroughly before committing to a club and the desired shot.

2) Players who occasionally think through their shots, but not as often as is necessary to produce quality scores.

3) Level three players only partially plan their shots, often not realizing the consequences of miss-played or miss-thought out shots.

4) Level four players never think through their shots prior to playing them. They just "hit it out there."

Obviously, the level four players often record the highest scores because there is no thought about how and where they want to play each shot. Thus, they usually can turn pars or bogies into doubles, triples or worse. In fact it is often quite startling to observe the lack of planning by players who seem to possess the ability to play good golf but who usually don't live up to expectations. I

use the following as one example of the lack of shot planning by a widely respected and highly ranked player whose scores never seem to match the coach's expectations.

Kaz: "What do you intend to do with your next shot?" (The player is facing a shot of about 45 yards in length with trees overhead and two bunkers possibly coming into play. The shot requires the player to hit the ball low enough to stay under the branches, yet is far enough left to stay clear of the first bunker and yet stays short of the second bunker. The correct play is to put the shot into the narrow opening in front of the green affording the player an easy chip shot and possible one putt par.)

Player: "I don't know what I want to do. Usually I just hit the ball somewhere down there."

The above is a true story of a situation encountered during a playing lesson. Here was a good player who had not one wit of an idea about how to think through a situation. No wonder this player had never come close to his/her potential. I proceeded to explain how to think through the situation in logical fashion.

We began by examining all aspects of the shot that might hinder the expected ball flight. The most immediate concern was the tree branches overhead. They would certainly preclude the possibility of hitting a lofted club. Thus, step one resulted in choosing a low lofted club of some sort. Because the ball was in the rough, hitting a three or four iron was not a good choice because the ball might never get elevated enough to clear the rough and get into the fairway short of the green, the ultimate target. I suggested a six or seven iron, putting the ball back in the stance to facilitate a lower shot that would get up out of the rough yet main-

tain a low trajectory in order to stay below the branches.

Next we had to deal with the correct length and direction of the shot. The player, fortunately, had an opening through the trees wide enough to make playing the shot less risky. Of greater importance was the first bunker that blocked immediate access to the green surface. The shot would have to be played to the left of that bunker. Also of concern was the length of the shot. Too short, and the ball would not escape the trees. Too long, and the ball would go through the intended strip of fairway and finish in the second of two bunkers. After determining about how far the ball would bounce and roll, we selected a target in which to land the ball. A couple of practice swings served as a dress rehearsal for the actual shot. Not yet able to mentally visualize the intended shot, the player asked me to demonstrate how I would play the ball. I proceeded to select a seven iron and once again go through all the particulars as I took two practice swings.

During my preshot routine, I looked three times at the intended landing spot and at the desired final target area. My preshot routine is always the same. It will vary from individual to individual, but must be a constant. I then took the necessary abbreviated swing that was designed to produce the desired shot. The ball landed in the proper spot, took several bounces, the last one to the right and ended up rolling onto the green itself. I had been the recipient of a lucky bounce as I explained to my student. The ball could have bounced to the left just as easily, but that would have simply left me with a longer chip shot than originally planned. In any event, I was not about to leave the ball short, still in the rough and under the branches which would have necessitated

playing the same type of shot, albeit from a spot closer to the green than from which the first shot was played. I made sure that my ball was going to stay short of the second bunker. The reason I emphasized staying short of the second bunker and left of the first bunker was that this particular golfer is not an especially accomplished bunker player. Although I have no fear of the bunkers, I was trying to put myself in the player's position, and hitting the ball into the bunker would have compounded the problem.

The student, armed with a clearer image of the necessary type of shot he/she needed to play, hit the ball with relative success. Had the player proceeded to play the shot in his/her typical fashion, that is without and regard for planning, the result could have easily been a double or triple bogey. Instead, understanding the necessary thought process and having a clear idea of the shot that was necessary, the player hit a reasonable recovery shot and then hit a good chip shot before just missing his/her par putt.

The moral of this story is that by understanding the planning process and taking just a few moments to think out the shot, the end result will be a lower score than if no thinking or planning takes place. The above golfer is an example of the level four player who never thinks out the shot ahead of time. A level three player might realize that the branches are a concern and select a low iron without regard for the lie of the ball or the length of the rough. The level two player would think out more of the particulars although he/she may not see all of the problems they are facing. The level one player recognizes virtually all the obstacles they face and are particularly adept at selecting the proper shot and then executing the shot with such

skill that rarely do they add unnecessary strokes to their score. Its not that the level one player never gets into trouble, they are just better at minimizing the consequences.

Armed with the understanding that your players think far less about their shots than previously imagined primarily because they don't know how to think through the majority of their predicaments, you can begin to understand the importance of your role as teacher and coach. Let's quantify the thinking process using all the factors that must be considered and the proper sequencing of those factors.

1. The first consideration must be the immediate obstacles in the path of the intended ball flight. Such obstacles may cause the golfer to consider an alternative route and will also dictate the loft of the club necessary to hit the desired shot. Obvious choices, if tree branches are a factor, would entail selecting a shot that would either go over or under the branches. Then determine if there are any obstacles in the distance that need to be successfully negotiated.

2. Next the player needs to determine the intended target. Is it the green, or is it a safe spot from which an easier follow-up shot may be played? It is especially important for the player to determine the odds of successfully completing the shot. If the odds are against, then the golfer ought to consider alternative options. Often, high school players assume the superman posture in these instances and attempt to play shots that Tiger Woods would be unlikely to hit with success. The usual result is a much higher score than if a safer shot had been selected.

3. The third consideration would be the length of the proposed shot.

4. The fourth consideration would

be the lie of the ball. A ball that is sitting down in deep grass might prohibit hitting the shot the desired length, and may also require a more lofted club be used to simply get the ball up and out of the grass. A ball sitting in the fairway would probably allow any club to be more easily hit.

5. The next important factor involves the environmental elements. The velocity and direction of the wind, the temperature and the amount of relative humidity or heaviness of the air all affect the flight of the ball.

6. Finally, after determining the most prudent shot choice, the player needs to determine which club will most reliably help him/her achieve the desired success.

Interestingly, an experienced player usually needs less than 30 seconds to make all of the above calculations and pick the preferred club. The reason for the shorter time is because the good golfer has probably already experienced a similar situation and can draw on those memories, previously filed away in the brain to help "see" the shot before it is attempted. These visualizations are critical to the success of any shot. A golfer facing a shot with which he/she has little or no experience will usually become mentally terrified and, under those circumstances, the brain will find a way to make the body fail to properly execute the shot. Try convincing your players that all seven iron shots are identical, even if one traverses fairway grass to an unprotected green while the next must carry 155 yards of water to reach the green. Only when the player has successfully hit the seven iron over the water and landed on the green several times will the doubt begin to subside. Therefore, it is a good practice for your players to subscribe to the following mantra:

"Never hit a shot in competition that you have not practiced." Following this rule will help dissolve the superman philosophy that "I can hit any shot, no matter how tough." Teach your players that sometimes a bogey is the best you can make on a hole, therefore, select the easiest recovery shot, make your bogey and get on to the next teeing ground.

How do you as a coach teach proper course management to your players? There are two preferred methods and one may be more useful to your players than the other. Primarily, I like to subject my players to unusual situations in practice. Put their ball in difficult situations and have them explain their thought process prior to playing the recovery shot. Or, have them stand on the tee and explain what they intend to do with their tee shot. Why are they hitting the club they have chosen? Does their rationale make sense, or are they exhibiting too much bravado or too much fear? Counsel them to think properly. I especially like to ask them questions about their choices to better understand their thinking. Instructing during practice rounds takes the pressure off of them should they encounter a similar situation in competition because they will have experienced your counsel previously.

The other method is to wait until situations arise in competition. You can watch their reaction and, after the tournament is completed, question them as to their thought process. However, after the fact learning will usually result in higher scores for your players during competition. I would rather try to cover as many variables as is possible prior to tournaments so I may have a better understanding of how my players are apt to think under pressure. However, since it would be impossible to teach the players how to handle all course situa-

tions because there are thousands of variables, some hard knocks learning will always take place under the duress of competition. Learning under these circumstances is very tough on the golfer, but often the mistakes made are not likely to be repeated.

In either of these scenarios, the high school golf coach is required to be on the course watching his/her players encounter successes and failures. By staying in the clubhouse, or by playing with fellow coaches, you have no opportunity to detect problematic course management techniques by your players. Your players should be learning both during practice and during competition. Even if you don't want to speak to them during competition, you can observe their course management style. Take a clipboard with you and jot down your observations. On the ride home, ask them to explain their thinking in certain situations. You can then praise their good choices or suggest other options that might have proven more successful.

If you use practice rounds at home as an important teaching tool, I would suggest not working with more than two players at any one time. Although the golfers might be playing in foursomes, explain that today you are going to focus on just two of the group, and that the others will be getting their turns in the near future. I would also strongly suggest using a golf cart so that you can quickly move from golfer A to golfer B without slowing down play. Sometimes you may encounter excellent teaching situations several times in the course of one hole, so moving quickly is of paramount value.

Using the previously mentioned techniques will certainly enhance your golfer's ability to produce lower scores and happier personalities. Don't accept

course management descriptions such as "I am just going to hit it out there." Exactly where do you want the ball to go? Why there? Which club are you using to make the ball go to your intended target? Why that club? In what way will hitting this shot make your next shot easier? Have you taken into account the six quantifiable factors prior to making your shot and club selection?" Make them explain their thinking as precisely as is possible. It shows maturity and a good understanding of their abilities. It helps them understand their weaknesses and will encourage them to practice so those weaknesses can be converted into strengths.

To summarize: Teach your players the following prescribed preparation methodology in order to ensure their greatest level of success.

1. Observe the immediate obstacles, if any. Observe the long range obstacles, if any.
2. Based on the observations in number 1, determine the intended target.
3. Determine the length of shot necessary to assure the greatest measure of success.
4. Observe the lie of the ball to help determine the probability of the shot's success.
5. Consider the environmental elements that may influence the flight of the ball.
6. Determine which club will allow the greatest shot success percentage.

Hopefully teaching these preparatory techniques will be of great benefit to your players.

WHSGCA
Executive Board
Minutes

Meeting called to order by president Bill Berkholtz at 6:35. Members present were: Bill Berkholtz, John Lonergan, Dave Blake, TJ Dieck, Steve Lien, Don Marx, Dick McKichan, Chuck Menzel, Scot Meyer, Brian Scrobel, Dick Vruwink. Members absent were: Sandee Johnston, Anna Curtis, Bob Lehninger, MaryBeth Nienhaus, Mark Rechlicz, and Pete Reif. Also present was Tom Schfransky of WIAA.

Minutes of the February meeting were passed around and approved.

Membership Issues: Bill Berkholtz reported that Sandee Johnston has resigned from the board. This leaves a void for the Vice President position. John Lonergan has agreed to move up from the 2nd Vice President position to fill her vacancy. Steve Lien also announced his need to resign. He has agreed to stay on the board and help groom someone for the membership chair duties.

Treasurers Report: TJ Dieck reported that we are holding our own. Our status is the about the same as last year. Money earned is somehow given back to the membership. Everything is going good.

Membership Report: Steve Lien reported that we have 304 members. This is up from last years 289. We will be assigning every member a code #. This will help with various forms and record keeping.

Academic All-State Report: Bill Berkholtz reported that 98 girls and 105 boys have qualified for our Academic All-State Teams. This again is a way to honor some of our fine student athletes.

WIAA Report: Tom Schfransky of the WIAA reviewed some items of importance.

The distance learning on rules that was introduced this spring will be required for all head coaches in 2004-05 school year. Several sites are needed. If your school is possible site, please let Tom know. We are looking into the distance learning at our spring clinic at Western Lakes.

Looking into coaching on the course at the JV/Frosh levels in the 2005-06 year. This would be coaching anywhere on the course except the green. The concern of the WIAA is will this slow down play?

Penalties for throwing clubs will be implemented in 2004-05. Flagrant misconduct!

Pace of play will be enforced 2004-05 year. Attempt to have athletes play within the guidelines throughout the year.

State tournament will be at University Ridge for 4 more years.

15% rule for girls competing during the boys season had a lengthy discussion. The bottom line is that the WIAA wants to promote golf to all.

Co-ops were discussed. All co-op's must be approved by the conference before the WIAA.

Coach Approach: With Kaz retiring, John Lonergan will take over the Coach Approach. The format will change some. There are four issues throughout the year – at the end of September, January, March, July. Any information that individuals would like to have printed in an issue must submit it to John at least by the 15th of the month. We hope to get the Coach Approach on the web-site.

Boy's All-State Teams: Chuck Menzel and committee recommended to the board the 1st Team, 2nd Team, 3rd Team, and Honorable Mention Teams and well as the Player of the Year. After a brief discussion, the teams were approved. A complete list is attached.

June Clinic: Brian Scrobel and Dave Blake have everything set for tomorrows clinic and tournament. We have 60 golfers. We will introduce our Award winners (Hall of Fame, 25 years of coaching, Friend of Golf, etc). We also have several prizes to raffle off.

We are going to be a Blackwolf Run (Meadow Valley) in 2005. The cost will be \$99.00. We will find out in April of 2005 about 2006. We will be limiting the clinic to 90 golfers. Get your entry early.

Special Awards: - Friend of Golf – Northwoods, - Hall of Fame – Joan Olson of Sparta, - Hall of Fame – Singh Gruel of Sparta, - State Champion Coaches Award
- 25 Year Coaching Award, - Hole in One Awards

College Report: Pete Reif was absent, no report.

Web Site: Scot Meyer is attempting to update at soon as possible. If you want results to tournaments or conference standing, send them to Scot and he will get them posted.

Next Years Dates:

Fall Board Meeting – November 13, 9:30 (site TBA)

Winter Board Meeting – Feb. 19, 9:30 @ Bridges

Spring Clinic – March 12 @ Western Lakes

Summer Board Meeting – June 20

Summer Clinic – June 21 @ Blackwolf Run

Old Business: none

New Business: A tree was planted at Viroqua G.C. in memory of Jeff Doan. A Division II state champ.

Adjournment: 9:45

Minutes Submitted by John Lonergan

The Boys All-State Teams

As we have seen for a number of years now, the 2004 version of the Boy's Playing Team is replete with young men who have tremendous golfing ability as is reflected by their excellent scores. Let's start with a look at the First Team members for 2004 and their accomplishments during the recently completed season.

First Team All-State

The First team is led by **Player of the Year, Tyler Obermueller**, from River Falls. Coached by Paul Meyer, Tyler, a junior, recorded two scores under 70 this spring including a 69 during the first round of the WIAA State Tournament. This led to his winning the Medalist honors in a playoff with Dane Krouse of Wausau West. In addition, all of Tyler's eighteen hole scores were below eighty. Among his nine hole scores were two at 34 strokes. His abilities resulted in 9 first place finishes for the season. Since he broke onto the scene as a freshman, Tyler has been one of the outstanding players in the state. Interestingly, 12 of his rounds were played on courses whose length exceeded 6500 yards. In total Tyler recorded eight scores under par for the year. Paul is a lucky coach to have such a talented player back for yet another season in 2005.

Brent Bartels, a senior at Madison LaFollette and coached by Ben Housman, produced three scores under 70 and took home Medalist honors in five events. He finished seventh at the State Tournament with a 146 total and only recorded one score above 79 during the season.

McFarland coach, Gary Oftedahl, must have been extremely pleased with the play of junior **Nick Engen** this year. Four times Nick carried away Medalist honors with all recorded scores below 80 or below 40 except for one. He finished second in the Division II State Tournament with a 146 total.

Onalaska senior **Jeff Kaiser** was the top player for Coach Richard Kyes this year. He earned Medalist honors 9 times during the season and then capped off his outstanding season with a third place finish at the State Tournament with a 74-70, 144 total. Jeff, who is headed for big things in college, has been an outstanding performer for a number of years. Although he had no scores under 70, Jeff had only two scores above 79 and recorded two scores of 70 during the season.

As a junior, Watertown Luther Prep's **Danny Wolfman** finished third in the Division II State Tournament. Coach Paul Bertolus would certainly testify to Danny's magical short game. Although he missed the teams first three meets because of injury, Danny quickly got his game together and recorded 5 Medalist finishes including a 66 at the Phoenix Invitational. Danny's worst score of the year was a 78! At Brown Deer, site of the U.S. Bank Championship he shot a 33! This boy can play golf! He will return in 2005.

Headed for the University of Illinois, **Danny Zimmerman** has been one of the outstanding junior players in the state since his grade school days. Middleton Coach Dewey Stendahl will miss this four year starter who has played number one since his freshman year. This year Danny earned 7 Medalist honors while recording 5 scores under 70, including a season low of 66 at Blackhawk C.C. Danny had no scores above 79 and only two above 75 for the entire season. He finished off his outstanding career with a 73-72=145 at the State Tournament which put him in a tie for 5th place. Look for Danny to be headed for big things in the Big Ten and in the world of professional golf beyond that.

There you have the outstanding six players who were named First Team All-State. Listed below are those skills were so outstanding that they were also honored as Second Team, Third Team or Honorable Mention All-state.

Second Team All-State

Bent Bendtsen	Senior	Racine Park
Ryan Carroll	Sophomore	Berlin
Craig Cerbins	Sophomore	Portage
Ted Gray	Senior	Oshkosh West
Paul Jacobsen	Senior	Racine Park
Elliot Retzlaff	Junior	Kenosha Bradford

Third Team All-State

Pete Gobis	Senior	Racine Park
Andy Hansen	Sophomore	Homestead
Matt Low	Senior	Onalaska
Brett Simonis	Senior	Wabeno
Garrett Thompson	Senior	Mukwonago
Ben Ziemann	Junior	Eau Claire Memorial

Honorable Mention All-State

Cal Carpenter	Senior	McFarland
Ryan Coyle	Junior	Middleton
Andrew Grow	Junior	Homestead
Justin Drossart	Senior	West De Pere
Brian Kopinski	Senior	Kettle Moraine
Kelly Kretz	Freshman	Antigo
Alex Kroeger	Junior	Onalaska
Corey Meyer	Senior	Milwaukee Marquette
Geoff Pirkl	Senior	Stoughton
Derek Strohm	Junior	Watertown Luther Prep
Brant Serchen	Senior	Marshfield

Congratulations to all these fine players and to their coaches who put in long hours to enhance their player's abilities.

The Last Word from Kaz (?)

Epitaph

For over 15 years I have written the Coach Approach. This is my last issue. It has been a fun but exhausting journey. I was never a writer. I majored in Physical Education and History in college! But, when the association came a calling, I took a chance that I could somehow figure out the English language and become a writer. I am not sure I could ever be labeled "writer" as that would do great injustice to those that truly bear that title, but I have worked hard and put in thousands of hours over the years to create a hopefully informative newsletter for your use. This has been a most difficult job for me as I am neither very creative nor clever. But, it has been a labor of love.

For 37 years I have coached golf at Waukesha South. During that time I have had the honor of seeing 60 of my players move on to play at the collegiate level. It is, I think, my most cherished coaching record. Yes, the State Championship in 1989 along with a 1 second place finish and 6 third place finishes are wonderful. But to see that many players move up to the next level has been particularly rewarding.

I am also very proud of the changes that I had a hand in producing for high school golf in Wisconsin. Most enjoyable was seeing the WIAA agree to my proposal which allows coaching on the course. Although I was scorned and ridiculed by many coaches at first, I am quite thrilled to see many of the newer coaches embracing the idea. It can only help the kids. And that is what we as coaches should be all about.

Now, as I finally get an opportunity, in retirement, to finally play a little golf myself, I will remember the wonderful kids that I had a chance to positively influence. I can head down that road to golf heaven, or where ever, and know that my life had meaning here on earth. I had the opportunity to affect the lives of many youngsters. That will give me great comfort.

Till we see each other again, I wish all of you great coaching, great kids and great success. And remember: **Coaching is all about the KIDS!**

Kaz

Results

Ashenfelter Inv. Janesville Riverside:

May 1st

Team Scores: Division 1.

Janesville Craig: 304
Milwaukee Marquette: 307
T3) Arrowhead: 308
T3) Watertown: 308
T3) Racine Park: 308
Kenosha Bradford: 315
Madison LaFollette: 318
T8) Kenosha Tremper: 319
T8) Waukesha West: 319
Madison West: 322
T11) Hartford: 324
T11) Kettle Moraine: 324
Mukwonago: 326
14) Waukesha North: 328
Racine case: 329
T16) Beloit: 333
T16) Racine Park: 333
T16) Wauwatosa: 333
Hartford: 343
Waukesha South: 348

Janesville Parker: 354
Racine Horlick: 358

Top Individuals:

Jacobson: Racine Park: 70
Schmid: Milwaukee Marquette: 72
Gobis: Racine Park: 72
Skelding: Janesville Craig: 73
Kraemer: Watertown: 73
Thompson: Mukwonago: 73
Hosking: Madison LaFollette: 74
Levonowich: Kenosha Tremper: 74
Urban: Arrowhead: 75
Van Galder: Janesville Craig: 75

Waukesha Inv. New Berlin Hills:

May 15th

Team Scores:

New Berlin West: 313
Milwaukee Marquette: 315
Catholic Memorial: 316
Green Bay Preble: 317
Homestead: 318
Arrowhead: 318
Racine Park: 320
Kettle Moraine: 320
Racine Horlick: 324

Waukesha West: 325
Pius XI: 331
Brookfield Central: 332
Wauwatosa East/West: 333
South Milwaukee: 335
Wisconsin Lutheran: 337
Thomas More: 337
Waukesha South: 341
Waukesha North: 342
Whitnall: 346
Racine Case: 348
Franklin: 350
West Allis Hale: 359
Cudahy: 402

Top Individuals:

Brian Kopinski: Kettle Moraine: 70
Bendt Bendtsen: Racine Park: 73
Garrett Gosh: Arrowhead: 74
Paul Rutherford: New Berlin West: 75
Kevin Cruz: Brookfield Central: 76
Andy Hansen: Homestead: 76
Chris Pural: Green Bay Preble: 76
Corey Sheahan: Pius XI: 76
Matt Van Ess: Green Bay Preble: 77
Jack Doherty: Milwaukee Marquette: 77