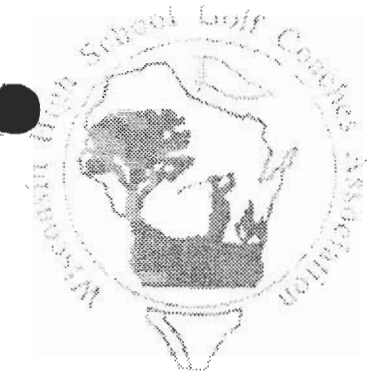


The *New* Coach Approach



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President Berkholtz's
Message

Greetings Coaches,

As difficult as it is to believe this, by the time you read this the girls fall season will be nearing completion. What a wonderfully competitive game girls golf has become in the state of Wisconsin. It says a lot about the expertise of coaches and teaching professionals in our state when you have freshmen such as Lindsay Solberg of Middleton shooting scores in the 60s during tournament competition. The level of play all across the state is astounding.

Speaking of astounding golf, wasn't it great to be at the center of the golf world during the PGA tournament at Whistling Straights this summer? If you were lucky like I was to be able to attend the tournament you were able to observe the unbridled enthusiasm that Wisconsinites have for the game. In addition, we were treated to an exciting finish of a well-run event. Here's hoping that Mr. Kohler gets to host other major championships in the near future!

And speaking of Mr. Kohler, I'm sure you are all aware that next

summer's clinic will be hosted at the Meadow Course at Black Wolf Run. The process to register for that clinic will be explained in this issue of the Coach Approach. Please read the instructions carefully. The clinic will be limited to less than 100 coaches, so get your registration in promptly.

The communications I've received from Tom Shafranski of the WIAA seem to indicate that the state of high school golf in Wisconsin is going well. The distance learning sessions have gotten off to a good start. He indicated that the WIAA is interested in feedback from the coaches and from this organization. If you have any suggestions please let your district representative know or contact me via e-mail. Tom did indicate that there were some eligibility issues with some of the girls this fall, especially relating to participation in non-school events. Please review the amateur status rules in WIAA publications and on their web site.

Remember, in this presidential election year, the difference between golf and politics is that in golf you can't improve your lie! Take care and think golf.

Berk

MIKKI DUNANT
APPLETON EAST



WIAA Report
From Tom Shafranski

Welcome to the 2004-05 school year and golf season. What a great summer for golf we had here in Wisconsin. Although the weather may have stayed a little cool the WIAA Boy's State Championship Meet and the PGA Championship certainly warmed all of the golf enthusiasts to new levels. Excitement for golf at the high school level seems to be higher than ever before. As coaches, you have a lot to do with this high level of enthusiasm, I encourage you to keep it going and continue to invite new girls and boys to enjoy this great sport.

The summer really got off to a great start with the WIAA Boy's Championships. If you happened to miss the conclusion of the 2004 WIAA Boy's State Championship meet, it was simply outstanding. If you are not aware, we had a playoff for the Division 3 and Division 1 Individual Championship and the D1 Team Championship.

In D1, River Falls defeated Homestead on the first playoff hole to win the State D1 Championship. Tyler Obermueller of River Falls also won the D1 playoff on the first playoff hole to take the D1 Individual Title.

The D2 Team Championship went to McFarland, while Ryan Carrol of Berlin was the Individual Medallist. The D3 Team Championship was won by Osseo-Fairchild as Ben Sieg of Osseo-Fairchild defeated Shane Kwaterski of Gibraltar in a playoff to win the D3 Individual Championship. It was truly an outstanding championship with excellent scores and outstanding sportsmanship.

The 2004 boy's season also saw over 60 girls participate in golf during the spring boy's season for the second year in a row. In addition, two new girl's programs were accepted into the WIAA Girl's Golf Tournament Series. We all need to continue to promote girl's golf programs in our schools. It is evident from these numbers that there is a high level of interest in girl's golf throughout Wisconsin.

As we head into the 2004 girl's golf season, two new WIAA rules will bring interest to participants, coaches and spectators. The first is the addition of a one-stroke penalty for golfers who do not make the time-par for a round or are out of position during a round. Thus far, there have been no reported problems with the implementation of this Pace of Play regulation. The same can be said for the Unsportsmanlike Conduct Act of throwing a club which now may bring a two-stroke penalty if a thrown club happens to strike someone.

Both of these new rules, along with numerous others were part of the discussions during WIAA Sport Meetings held via Distance Learning Meetings in August. These were the first required golf sport meetings conducted. Coaches seemed to appreciate not having to travel very far for these meetings and the content helped explain a variety of situations. The Distance Learning concept is currently being reviewed. Any coaches who would like to provide additional feedback are welcome to do so. Additional meetings will be scheduled for the spring boy's season.

The WIAA Girl's Golf State Championship Tournament Series will begin with Regionals on Wednesday, September 29 and Thursday, September 30. Sectionals are scheduled for the following week on Tuesday, October 5 and Wednesday, October 6. The WIAA State Girl's Golf Meet will be held at University Ridge on Monday, October 11 and Tuesday, October 12. For the second year, there will be two divisions of play.

All of us at the WIAA look forward to a very exciting 2004-05 school year and golf seasons. Best of luck to all our school teams.

Tom Shafranski, WIAA Assistant Director, is the Golf Liaison for the WIAA. He can be reached by calling (715) 344-8580 or via email at tshafranski@wiaawi.org.