



The Coach Approach

The Newsletter of the Wisconsin High School Golf Coaches Association

Volume XIV Issue 1

September 1999

From the Clubhouse:

New Leaders in Wisconsin Golf

It is a great honor to be the new president of the WHSGCA and I'm looking forward to working with the membership and seeing the association continue to grow.

I will be fifty-seven this month and have been involved in coaching high school golf since my first teaching position at Iowa-Grant High School back in the 1965-66 school year. Currently, I'm coaching at Platteville High School. Also, I teach History and previously coached basketball and cross-country.

Like most high school golf coaches, I'm an enthusiastic golfer and student of the game. In the upcoming *Coach Approaches*, I plan to share with you my number one hobby: collecting golf books. At the present time, I have approximately one thousand books in my collection that I started putting together back in the late 1950's. My five all-time favorite instructional books are as follows: *On Learning Golf* (1946) by Percy Boomer, *Swing the Clubhead* (1952) by Aronset Jones, *Five Lessons: The Modern Fundamentals of Golf* (1957) by Ben Hogan, *Bobby Jones on Golf* (1966) and *Harvey Penick's Little Red Book* (1992). If you haven't already done so, I highly

recommend that you read these classics.

This will be another great year for high school golf in Wisconsin! While watching, on television, the recent PGA Tournament at Medinah, I was thrilled to see Skip Kendall, Jerry Kelly, JP Hayes, and Steve Stricker doing so well. And, at the same time, I was even more excited to watch Sherri Steinhauer win the prestigious British Open for the second straight year. Obviously, Wisconsin produces great golfers and there will continue to be many more developed from the state's junior programs and our high school programs. Our programs are not only developing elite golfers, but also introducing the game to many young men and women who are learning a game that they can play for a lifetime. The epitome of an excellent high school golf program in the state, in my opinion, is Dewey Stendahl's Middleton boys' team. Not so much because they have won three straight WIAA State Championships, but more importantly because they have such a large number of student athletes participating in their program. This is a great program combining excellence and participation.

As we begin the 1999-2000 school year, I encourage you to play an active part in the WHSGCA. The association has one main overriding objective and that is to continue to improve the status of high school golf in the state of Wisconsin. We are striving for excellence! If possible, don't miss the March and June clinics. They are two outstanding clinics to learn and exchange new ideas. The March clinic will be held at Western Lakes (Pewaukee) on Saturday, March 11th and the June Clinic will be held

at Northwoods Country Club (Rhinelander) on Tuesday, June 13th. Northwoods is a fabulous northern Wisconsin golf course that will humble the most serious golfer unless you have near radar accuracy. Those of us that played the course at last year's June Clinic will attest to the previous statement.

As a Wisconsin High School golf coach, be sure to voice your opinion(s) and let the various members of the Board know of your concerns. The current members of the board are presented in this issue of the *Coach Approach* on page 7.

Best wishes for a great year! Hopefully, your team will be composed of dedicated golfers striving to be the best that they are capable of being. And, hopefully, your own personal golf game will be at its all time best.

Dick McKichan
WHSCGA President

Coaches:

Enclosed in this issue of the *Coach Approach* are various forms for nominations. Please make necessary copies for your needs

The Practice Tee

Better Ball Control with Low Trajectory

The very best high school players generally have a lower shot trajectory than poorer players. This ability to keep the ball down enables the better golfer to keep the ball under the wind and maintain more efficient control. Even in calm conditions, a lower trajectory shot means better ball control than the same shot hit with the identical club but with a higher ball flight.

To demonstrate, imagine that you are playing catch with one of your players. Can you make more accurate throws by keeping the ball on a line or by making high looping throws? Of course, keeping the ball on a line is more accurate. Golf shots are the same, but with the added concern of stopping the ball shortly after it lands for more control since there is no catcher in golf.

How is it possible that some players can hit their shots lower than others? Why is it that players who can swing their club at a faster speed than others can still keep their shots down when, according to the laws of physics, their shots have more backspin normally causing the ball to fly higher. Let's explore the various methods to create lower shots that are more easily controlled and stop quickly when they land on the green.

The goal is to consistently lower the ball flight with all clubs except possibly the one, two and three irons where higher flying shots are needed to stop the ball more quickly on the green. To begin, we must remember that the angle of attack coming into the ball will greatly influence ball trajectory. If the club is coming into the hitting area in a steeply descending motion, the ball will rise in a steep trajectory, taking into account the loft of the club. But, if the player brings the club into the hitting area with a shallow angle of attack, the ball will have a lower trajec-

tory, again taking into account the loft of the club. So how does one develop a more shallow attack angle?

Let's begin with the address position. The higher the hands at address, the higher the ball flight! The hand position for all clubs should be just above the knees. I tell my players to "get down and dirty" when they begin to get too "high" at address. In order to have the hands several inches above the knees, the player must assume a correct posture position by bending forward from the tops of the legs rather than flexing the knees to get the club down to the ball. Additionally, the golfer should set up so that (for a right-hander) the left shoulder is about even with the ball. Often I see players setup with their left shoulder to their left of the ball. That is the left shoulder is closer to the target than the ball. From this position, the player will have to lift the club more abruptly on the backswing. They will then return the club to the ball with a sharply descending motion causing the ball to rise quickly into the air, as if throwing a pop fly to someone. But, by setting the upper body (above the waist) at an angle to the right, thus having the left shoulder in line with the ball, the player can more easily start the club back lower to the ground and keep it lower for a longer period of time into the backswing. This will allow the forward motion of the club to attack the ball from a shallower angle insuring a lower trajectory and better control.

With a more shallow angle of attack, the forward motion of the club can extend longer and lower toward the target which will also cause a lower and a more accurate ball flight. There is yet another physical motion that, while difficult to learn, will help lower the trajectory.

The most difficult trajectory lowering movement is what I call the **lag**. Because it is done at the top of the backswing, and because its timing is so crucial, it is usually a move that should be taught to only the most accomplished of players. In order to correctly make this move, the player must be taught to keep their hands **ultra quiet** on the way up. At the top of the backswing the wrists should be ideally set at a 90 degree angle, that is the angle from the left arm to the shaft is 90 degrees. The first move forward is to shift some weight to the left by sliding the hips

about three inches left. Thus the lower body has moved slightly before the upper body. The second sequence involves a sliding and turning of the swing center from sternum to the left, but the hands do not move until a split second later. This will create a situation whereby the hands and club are the last to move forward. This must be done **after** the lower body has begun moving forward, not as a flopping of the wrists as the club nears the top of the backswing as in so many players. A proper lag will allow the wrists to increase their angle to more than 90 degrees **on the forward swing** resulting in the hands being well ahead of the club head at impact, thus delofting the club face. The resulting shot in effect traps the ball between the club face and the turf resulting in more backspin and a lower trajectory at the same time. Most touring professionals use this method to help keep their shots down but to also produce higher spinning shots to the green.

Interestingly, many golfers think that placing the ball back in the stance will result in a lower trajectory, but that is not necessarily true! With the ball to the right of the middle of the stance, most golfers will now have their left shoulder far left (forward) of the ball resulting in their picking up the club on the backswing and returning it steeply into the ball. This will result in higher shots and less accuracy as the shot will usually go right. The only way this technique will bring about a lower trajectory is if the hands are well ahead of the club face at impact. The hands should **always** lead the clubhead into the ball, but because the player's head is in front of the ball, a pushed shot will result!

Finally, there are additional ways to hit lower shots including buying a set of clubs with lower than standard lofts, and using golf balls with a dimple pattern that helps prevent a ballooning trajectory.

A proper posture and a proper upper body angle resulting in the left shoulder being about even with the ball are techniques that should be taught to all players. The lag, however is a technique that should be taught to only the best of players, and only if, after making sure that the posture and upper body angle are correct, their ball flight is still too high. Have fun with these ideas!

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At the Turn

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

WIAA District 1: Dave Blake, Hayward:
(715) 634-2616 & Muffett Miller, Glenwood City.

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

Amery, Baldwin-Woodville, Barron, Bloomer, Chetek, Chippewa Falls, Cameron, 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, St. Croix Falls, St. Croix Central, Superior, Turtle Lake, Unity, Webster.

WIAA District 2: Tom Conrad, DC Everest:
(715) 359-6561.

Cloverbelt, Wisconsin Valley, Lumberjack, Northern Lakes.

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

WIAA District 3: Singh Grewal, Sparta:
(608) 269-2107.

Dairyland, Coulee, Mississippi Valley, Senic Bluffs.

Alma, Arcadia, Bangor, Black River Falls, Blair, Cochrane-Fountain City, Eleva Strum, Gale-Etrick, Gilmanston, Holmen, Independence, LaCrosse Aquinas, LaCrosse Central, LaCrosse Logan, Lincoln, Melrose-Mindoro, Onalaska, Onalaska Luther, Sparta, Tomah, Trempealeau, Viroqua, West Salem, Westby, Whitehall.

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

Six Rivers, Southwest, State Line.

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, Pecatonica, Richland Center, Schullsburg, Southwestern, Spring Green.

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

Capitol, Badger, Southern Wisconsin.

Beloit, Columbus, DeForest, Janesville Craig, Janesville Parker, Lake Mills, Lakeside Lutheran, Lodi, 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, Union Grove, Waterford, Westosha, Whitewater, Wilmont, Oak Creek, Racine Horlick, Racine Park, Racine Case, Racine St. Catherine's, South Milwaukee, Kenosha Tremper, Kenosha Bradford.

WIAA District 7: Kaz, Waukesha South:
(414) 970-3748.

Milwaukee City, Woodland, Classic Eight

Arrowhead, Cudahy, Greendale, Greenfield, 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, New Berlin Eisenhower, New Berlin West, Waukesha North, Thomas More, Waukesha South, Waukesha West, Wauwatosa West, Waukesha Catholic Memorial, Pius XI, Whitnall.

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

North Shore, Wisconsin Little Ten, Parkland, Greater Metro

Beaver Dam, Brookfield East, Brookfield Central, Brown Deer, Divine Savior- Holy Angel, Dominican, Cedarburg, Germantown, Grafton, Greendale Martin Luther, Hamilton, Hartford, Homestead, Marquette, Menomonee Falls, Milwaukee Lutheran, Nicolet, Oconomowoc, Pewaukee, Port Washington, Shorewood, Slinger, St. Francis, Watertown, Waupun, Wauwatosa East, West Bend East, West Bend West, Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin Lutheran.

WIAA District 9: Bob Schweder, Princeton:
South Central, Wisconsin Flyway, Eastern Suburban, Dual County.

Adams-Friendship, Baraboo, Cambria-Freesland, Cambridge, Campbellsport, Deerfield, Dodgeland, Fall River, Green Lake, Horicon, Hustisford, Johnson Creek, Laconia, Lomira, Markesan, Marshall, Mauston, Mayville, Montello, Necedah, Nekoosa, North Fond du Lac, Oakfield, Pardeville, Portage, Princeton, Randolph, Reedsburg, Waterloo, Westfield, Wisconsin Dells, Williams Bay.

WIAA District 10: MaryBeth Nienhaus (Appleton West), Chuck Menzel (Green Bay Preble):
(414) 832-6215 & (414) 391-2450.

East Central, Fox River Valley, Fox Valley Association.

Appleton East, Appleton North, Appleton West Berlin, Fond du Lac, Green Bay Southwest, Green Bay East, Green Bay Preble, Green Bay West Hortonville, Kaukauna, Kimberly, Little Chute, Manitowoc, Menasha, Neenah, Notre Dame, Omro, Oshkosh North, Oshkosh West, Ripon, Sheboygan North, Sheboygan South, Waupaca, Wautoma, Winneconne.

WIAA District 11: Ted Devine, Ashwaubenon:
(414) 497-4216.

Bay, Central Wisconsin, Marinette-Oconto, Packerland.

Algoma, Ashwaubenon, Bay Port, Bonduel, Clintonville, Crivitz, De Pere, Gibraltar, Kewaunee, Luxemborg-Casco, Marinette, New London, Niagara, Oconto Falls, Oconto, Pulaski, Sevastopol, Seymour, Shawano, Southern Door, Sturgeon Bay, West DePere, Wittenberg-Biramwood.

WIAA District 12: Joe Harlow, Kewaskum:
(414) 626-2166.

Olympian, Central Lakeshore, Eastern Wisconsin.

Brillion, Cedar Grove, Chilton, Denmark, Elkhart Lake, Freedom, Hilbert, Howards Grove, Kewaskum, Kiel, Kohler, Manitowoc Roncalli, Mishicot, New Holstein, Oostburg, Ozaukee, Plymouth, Random Lake, Reedsville, Sheboygan, Falls, Two Rivers, Valders, Wrightstown.

WISAA:

Appleton Xavier, Edgewood, Fox Valley Lutheran, Lourdes Academy, Pacelli, St. Mary Central, St. Mary's Springs, Sheboygan Lutheran, Brookfield Academy, Burlington St. Mary, Dominican, Holy Name, Kettle Moraine Lutheran, St. John's Military, Wayland Academy, Beloit Catholic, Northwestern Military, Northwestern Prep, Racine Prairie.

WHSOCA 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

The Scoreboard

Part Two

WHSGCA Raffle Winners

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Titleist Irons: | The Greens Golf Course, Sparta |
| Titleist Driver: | Joe Harlow |
| Staff Bag: | John McClelland, Beloit HS, lives in Rockford |
| Titleist Balls: | Mike Bashez, Madison |
| Titleist Balls: | Leo Kerschitz, Union Grove |
| Titleist Balls: | Brian Jensen, Black River Falls |
| Titleist Balls: | Joe Golichnik, Neenah |
| Titleist Balls: | Jim Gruber, Neenah |
| Titleist Balls: | Bob Schweder, Princeton |
| 18 w/cart for 2 at Thornberry Creek: | Mike Schroeder, Kiel |
| 18 w/cart for 2 at Mystery Hills: | Tom Hau, Kiel |
| 18 for 4: | |
| Reedsburg CC: | Jerry Hibbard, Tomah |
| 18 w/cart for 3: | |
| Green Bay CC: | Jim Sjolín, Neilsville |
| 18 w/cart for 4 at Pleasant View: | Don Rebne, Park Falls |
| 18 w/cart for 2: | |
| Turtleback: | Tom Conrad, Schofield |
| 18 for 4: | |
| Evansville CC: | Eric Nelson, Cottage Grove |
| 18 for 4: | |
| Evansville CC: | Jerry Layton, Wausau |
| 18 for 4: | |
| Evansville CC: | Ken Haagensen, Edgerton |
| 18 for 4: | |
| Lake Lawn Lodge: | David Vanlieshout, Green Bay |
| 18 for 2: | |
| Lake Lawn Lodge: | Norm Henning, Wauwatosa |
| 18 for 2: | |
| Lake Lawn Lodge: | Tom Schoonover, Eau Claire |
| 18 for 2: | |
| Lake Lawn Lodge: | Carlotta Miller, Kenosha |
| 18 for 2: | |
| Lake Lawn Lodge: | Jimi Paul, Woodburg, MN |
| 18 w/cart for 4: | |
| Abbey Springs: | Lee Libby, Racine |
| 18 for 2: | |
| Meadow Springs: | Steve Lenz, Waupun |
| 18 for 2: | |
| Meadow Springs: | Dan Keuler, Horicon |
| 18 for 2: | |
| Meadow Springs: | Bryan Kuhl, Amery |
| 18 for 2: | |
| Meadow Springs: | O. Furot, Rothschild |
| 18 w/cart for 4: | |
| Stoughton CC: | Mark Cardinale, Lodi |
| 18 w/cart for 4: | |
| Stoughton CC: | Pat Westphal, Neenah |

An open letter to all golf coaches.

During the 1998-1999 golf season, 328 Wisconsin golf coaches invested \$20 to enhance their professional coaching career by joining the Wisconsin High School Coaches Association. There are however over 400 golf coaches in the State. We need to reach more of our fellow coaches. If you are or soon will be a member please get the word out to coaches in your system (both assistant and retired coaches are encouraged to join) coaches in your conference or coaches you know who are not presently members. We think 375 members is an attainable number in 2000.

Why join? Recognition... the 25 year plaque for member coaches who have served children by coaching golf for 25 years; WHSGCA All-State teams for boys and girls; the WHSGCA All-State academic team, the Friends of Golf and the PGA friends of golf awards. Professional development... the annual Coaches Clinic, WIAA advisory board representation. Information... four *Coach Approach* issues filled with information from executive board meetings to invitational golf meet results.

WHSGCA is the only professional coaching organization dedicated to help

you, the high school golf coach. This organization has direct representation with the PGA, the WSGA, the WIAA, the NCAA and the State's largest paper, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*.

The *Coach Approach* that you just received symbolized the end of the 1998-1999 golf season and NOW it is time to renew your membership for 1999-2000 or if you were not a member in 1998-1999 join for the first time. The girls golf season has begun. The time is

NOW!

Each year we get calls from coaches in April, May and June that have questions. They want to know when the Spring Clinic is, or where are the forms for All-State or All-Academic teams, or where do I send the forms, or who should I call if I'm eligible for the 25 year coaching award and etc. You will find the answers to these questions in this issue of the *Coach Approach*. The problem is that the coaches who are asking these questions did not join the WHSGCA in September and have missed one or more issues of the news letter. Remember that even though your season may not begin until March the flow of information you may need begin with the first *The Coach Approach* in September.

Please do not put off your decision... become a membership today!

Mukwonago Invite

Steve Larsen Passes Away

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of one of the finest golf coaches and gentlemen in Wisconsin. Steve Larsen, long time golf coach in Lancaster, passed away in late August after suffering from cancer for quite some time. Steve was a most valued member of the W.I.A.A. Golf Coaches Advisory Board and often had great insights into the game and how it should be played by our high school golfers. In addition Steve was a real gentleman. He always seemed poised and under control. No matter how poorly his players might play a hole or two, Steve always seemed to find one or more positives for his golfers to build on.

He leaves behind a wife and children who will sorely miss Steve as will the children of Lancaster and the entire coaching profession. Steve, you were a credit to the human race! Make lots of birdies playing the "big" course!

TEAM RESULTS

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| 1 Arrowhead | 351 |
| 2 Homestead | 368 |
| 3 Madison Edgewood | 371 |
| 4 Mukwonago Blue | 374 |
| 5 Brookfield Central | 383 |
| 6 Catholic Memorial | 400 |
| 7 Divine Savior | 408 |
| 8 East Troy | 408 |
| 9 Kewaskum | 415 |
| 10 Oconomowoc | 415 |
| 11 Racine Park | 420 |
| 12 Racine Case | 427 |
| 13 Madison West | 428 |
| 14 Fond du Lac | 428 |
| 15 Madison LaFollette | 430 |
| 16 Wauwatosa East/West | 430 |
| 17 Kenosha Tremper | 431 |
| 18 Kettle Moraine | 433 |
| 19 Delavan-Darien | 433 |
| 20 Mukwonago Gold | 434 |
| 21 Janesville Craig | 436 |
| 22 Beaver Dam | 442 |
| 23 Brookfield East | 442 |
| 24 Milton | 443 |
| 25 Racine Herlick | 443 |
| 26 Waukesha South | 466 |
| 27 Watertown | 466 |
| 28 Beloit Memorial | 473 |
| 29 Sun Prairie | 489 |
| 30 Kenosha Bradford | 493 |
| 31 Nicolet | 510 |
| 32 Madison Memorial Inc | |