

MAY

1985

# Greater Lansing Amateur Golf Association

Welcome to the Greater Lansing Amateur Golf Association and to this the initial issue of "GOLF NEWS 85". It is our hope that you will find our association and this news letter both interesting and informative.

As the months pass from winter to spring, spring to summer, summer to fall, and finally from fall back to winter again, we will strive to make each passing month more enjoyable for you as a player. We will endeavor to bring you the most complete and up to date tournament schedule and information ever. Our coverage will include the results from the local tournaments as well as the surrounding areas such as Portland and Webberville. We will cover both the Junior and Senior level tournaments as well as those of the Women. If you play, you'll know how you finished.

We also hope to clear up the misconceptions that are rampant at the current time concerning the "All-City Championship". With the help of our veteran players, city officials, and former members of the "Publinx Assn." you will know how the tournament started and by whom and how it evolved to the format we will use this year.

This news letter will cover every aspect of local golf. We will offer a forum for the local golfers to voice their opinions and views on golf in this area. We will try to answer your questions on tournaments, rules, equipment, etc.. We will offer a space for our members to sell or trade their clubs and equipment. In general, we will strive to make this "News Letter" a "tool" for our golfing membership.

## — AKERS HOSTS ALL-CITY —

In an effort to accomodate the ever increasing entry in the "All-City Championship", the City of Lansing, Michigan State University and the Greater Lansing Amateur Golf Association have jointly announced that the 1985 "City Stroke-Play Championship" would be held at M.S.U.'s "Akers" Golf Course.

Slight revisions have been made in order to insure a more enjoyable and faster played tournament rounds, while at the same time being able to handle an increased size (300+ players). In order to accomplish this, both the "East" and the "West" courses will be used all three (3) days of the tournament. Players will play either the "East" or "West" course on Friday, July 12th, (morning rounds will be played on one course, while the afternoon rounds will be played on the other). On Saturday, July 13th, those players who played the "East" on Friday, will play the "West" and vice-versa. On Sunday, July 14th, your 36 hole total score will determine which flight and therefore which course you will play.

In talking with Ken Horvath, the P.G.A. Professional at "Akers", Ken has stated that everything is being and will be done to insure that this tournament will be both enjoyable and a success. Ken also stated that "Our courses will not be altered or tricked up to insure high scores, rather we will do everything necessary to insure that the courses will be fair tests."

It is our association's hope that the six (6) and seven (7) hour rounds are a thing of the past. We also hope that the improvements initiated this year will encourage those players who have refrained from playing in this tournament in the past for what ever reason, to once again participate. We want everyone who plays in this tournament to have a chance. We hope to bring "tournament" golf in Lansing "new life", while at the same time retaining the traditions that have been established over the years.

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## — WITCH-HUNT AHEAD? —

A recent article appeared in the "News" (Detroit) and we feel that it is of great importance that you read and understand it.

It is our association's policy to back and uphold the rules of golf which are set forth each year by the United States Golf Association. Any questions concerning the rules can be answered in the pages of the rule book. If you are still confused or unsure as to how these rules apply, please contact our association and we will be glad to have your question answered by a "rules expert".

Mr. Jeff Rivard, the Executive Director of the Golf Association of Michigan has consented to present a "rules seminar" on May 28th, 1985, 7:00pm. at Foster Street Recreation Center (formerly North Foster Elementary School), 200 N. Foster (just north of E. Michigan Ave.). This seminar is not restricted to our membership, but rather will be open to all golfers, rule buffs and high school and college coaches in the area. This seminar will include a slide presentation on the rules. If you have any question at all concerning the rules of golf, you should attend this seminar.

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## — PLAYER PROFILE: —

GEORGE WAKULSKY

Married - Ruby

Age - 55

Employer - Auto Owners Insurance, Lansing  
Equipment - "Hogan" irons and woods, sand  
iron (Corbra), Acushnet flange  
putter.

- CAREER RECORD - (This is only a partial  
list of George's career  
accomplishments)
- All City Stroke Play (3)
  - Charlotte Best-Ball (3)
  - Walnut Hills C.C. Invita-  
tional (2)
  - C.C. of Lansing Invita-  
tional (2)
  - Portland Best-Ball (2)
  - All City Match Play Champ.
  - Oak Lane (Webberville) G.C.  
Best-Ball
  - Clinton County C.C. Best-  
Ball
  - Highland Hills G.C. Best-  
Ball
  - Class "A", "B", and "C"  
Junior Championships
  - Touraine Open
  - Glenmoor Championship
  - Quarter-finalist (Michigan  
Amateur)
  - Played in NCAA Golf Champ.
  - Played in "BIG TEN" Champ.

\* George Wakulsky has won every "Local"  
tournament at least twice.

\*\* George Wakulsky is the only player to  
have ever won ALL the City Championships  
at every level from Junior to Senior.

George as always, was warm and friendly,  
but even more important, he was very can-  
did in his answers and very straight for-  
ward in his remarks. Here are some ans-  
wers to questions we asked and some of his  
personal observations:

GN: As a past President and Officer in the  
Greater Lansing Publinx Golf Assn., what  
are some of the "pit-falls" that we should  
be aware of as we progress with this new  
organization?

G.W.: I feel that the biggest thing that  
this group has to guard against is "com-  
placency". Too often, as a group grows,  
there is a tendency to have over-dominant  
leaders and few followers. Of course,  
someone has to lead, but more people need  
to be involved.

Make sure that things are followed  
through to the end. When things are done,  
done well, and completely, it gives you  
credibility. Credibility is the most im-  
portant thing as you start. People will  
get behind a well defined and run program.  
So plan diligently.

GN: In alot of people's estimation, you  
are and have been, one of a hand full of  
players who have dominated golf in the  
Lansing Area. To what do you attribute  
this?

G.W.: "Winning"....(laughter), really, we  
used to have good coverage and friends at  
the (State) Journal who really promoted,  
not only the players, but golf in general.  
Writers such as Ladd Slingerland, George

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Alterton, Bob Hoerner, and Fred Stabley Jr. These guys did wonders for golf in this area. Things have changed haven't they!  
GN: What was the first tournament you ever won?

G.W.: When I was about 8 years old, I played in the Class "C" Jr. tournament at Red Cedar G.C.. It was one of about three (3) in a row that we played in at that time. That particular year, there wasn't enough players in the Class "B" section to allow them to play, so they (the tournament directors) moved the older boys back. I was fortunate enough to win.

GN: Of all the tournaments you've played in, which one is the most memorable and why?

G.W.: Without a doubt, the 1961 All-City Championship, which was played at the C.C. of Lansing.

That particular year, the head pro had set up the course very tough. The fairways were soft and narrow. The roughs were long and heavy. The greens were hard. They had tucked the pins in the corners of the greens and, well, it was just the way that Bud Reniger liked it.

Because of the conditions, it really came down to Bud and I on the last day, we had played 36 holes of golf. No one had broke par and no one would either. I think that I shot 75 and won by a couple of shots. The best thing however, was beating Bud on his home course.

GN: Who were some of the other players who were entered in that tournament?

G.W.: There was Otto Schubel, Arlin Dell, and as I mentioned, Bud Reniger.

GN: How would you rate the local players of today with those from the 40's through the 70's?

G.W.: Well, first of all, the players in general are better today. They are "purer" strikers of the ball. However, they are not the all-around shot makers that we used to be. They (today's players) don't think or appear to think as well either. They can't manufacture shots. They have trouble accepting mis-hit or mis-played shots. Plus, the fact that they just don't attack the course. They play too conservatively. It's as if they are afraid to make a mistake.

GN: If this is so....How can they improve?

G.W.: The thinking process is lacking. This is because of conditions, equipment, but more, the fact that they play "winter rules" too much. Playing "winter rules" just leads to the "pure shot" theory. By that, I mean that today's players become so used to the ball sitting perfectly that when it sits any other way, it becomes a hard shot for them. If they would just leave the ball alone, then they would learn how to hit "type" shots.

GN: What about "attacking" the course?

G.W.: First of all, the younger players seem to get a few under par and rather than trying to get even more under par with birdies and eagles, they turn conservative. You can't shoot low numbers when you start laying up and hitting to the middle of the

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greens. Another example of this is when a ball comes to rest behind a tree. Today's players will just chip out automatically. They will more than likely either get mad or just give up. Where the older players from our era will at least try to find a way out and maybe to the green. The younger players need to realize that you don't have to hit every green and fairway to score. They have to learn to "attack" the course.

Just to show an example of this, the great Walter Hagen decided to change his "approach" to his game. He wanted more consistency in his scores. So during his heyday, he did just that. Hitting the

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fairways, approaching the greens well, but putting poorly. But his scores were very good and consistent. This bothered him mentally because he wasn't getting the really "low" scores that he was famous for. So one day, after consulting another pro, he was close to, he went back to his "old" approach. The "let-er-rip", "go-for-broke" game he was used to. Believe it or not, his game was sharper, scores lower, putting improved and the galleries grew. He was back in the "lime-lite". He got more satisfaction out of coming out of trouble and sinking a 30 foot putt for par, than he did when he hit the green in regulation and 2-putted for a conservative par.

GN: Anything else?

G.W.: The increasing amount of cheating that is going on now. This seems to increase each year. It's almost as if these players would be more afraid of having a bad round than they would be of getting caught cheating. There is just no excuse for not knowing the rules and playing by them. Rules are made to help the golfer, so if they use them properly, they will enjoy the game that much more.

GN: Who do you feel was the BEST player to ever come out of this area?

G.W.: Without a doubt, Bud Reniger! Lynn Janson has a better track record, but I feel that Bud was the better player. If they were both in their "prime" and played each other, Bud would win. By Lynn's own admission, he is about 25 yards too short to play on the tour. Bud wasn't! Not only was Bud long, but he had a great short game and could "out-think" most players both then and now. As good as Lynn is, and make no mistake, he is good, Bud was better.

GN: I once heard a story that when Otto Schubel, Arlin Dell, and yourself were in college and playing for Michigan State, all of you entertained the idea of turning "pro". What changed your mind?

G.W.: Otto, Arlin and myself were playing very well for M.S.U. and our team went down south on our spring trip and that trip more or less dashed that idea.

As good as we were playing, when we saw just how good the players from schools like Wake Forest, Duke, Georgia, and Florida were, we knew then that our fortunes would be better made elsewhere other than on a golf course.

But, let me add this.... I honestly feel that if the three (3) of us had come along 20 years later, we would not only have turned "pro", but we would have made money!

Otto and I would have been your "typical" touring "pro", making money and maybe even winning every now and then. Arlin Dell was another story however, he might have been the "Ben Hogan" type of dominating player. He would have always been there at the end.  
GN: Just how good was Arlin Dell?

G.W.: Arlin Dell could have been the "best ever" to come out of this area. He just didn't seem to have the interest or desire.

Playing with Arlin as a partner was easy, as you know. He just never hit "bad" shots. He was always there. He was "that" good.

GN: Finally, is there anything that you'd like to add?

G.W.: I hope that this group makes good on its plans. The interest is there and this area needs a good, strong, and organized group to lead and make sure that golf in general continues to improve. I feel this way because it appears to me that once again, golf could be developing a gap between the rich golfer and the less affluent one. Someone, somehow, needs to prevent that.

THANKS GEORGE -

## — MAJOR COLLEGE GOLF RETURNS —

May 3rd thru the 5th will find the M.S. U. Spartans hosting the "Northern Intercollegiate Golf Championship" at "Akers" G.C.. The "Big Ten" will have all its member schools there as well as those from the "Mid-American Conference". Some of the other schools that will be on hand are: Notre Dame, Marshall, and Illinois State. 18 holes will be played all 3 days. This tournament replaces the annual "Spartan Invitational" which will be played in the fall on October 12th and 13th. This is a good chance to see the outstanding talent that may one day be on the P.G.A. "Tour".

## — WE NEED HELP —

In order to keep abreast of all the possible tournaments, we need to have you keep us informed of the tournaments that you know of that are not mentioned in our tournament listing. If you know of a tournament that anyone in our membership might be interested in playing in, please give us a call at: 332-8332 after 6:00p.m.



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## — TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE —

- APRIL 27th: Highland Hills G.C. 3-Player Scramble (SCRATCH), \$48.00 per team. For more information please call: 669-9873.
- MAY 3rd, 4th, and 5th: Northern Intercollegiate Golf Championship, Akers G.C., M.S.U. (free)
- MAY 11th: "GOLF DAY", Speed Event - 4 person scramble, Entry Fee:\$9.00 per person, for more information please call 483-4232.
- MAY 18th & 19th: PORTLAND C.C. BEST-BALL, (SCRATCH), \$60.00 per team - includes dinner on Saturday. For more information call 517-647-4521.
- MAY 20th: USGA OPEN QUALIFYING, Muskegon C.C. (West Michigan)
- JUNE 1st & 2nd: OAK LANE "SPRING" BEST-BALL, 2-player, (SCRATCH-FLIGHTED). For more information please call 517-521-3900.
- JUNE 3rd: MICHIGAN (GAM) AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING, Jackson C.C. (We have a limited number of entry blanks that we will distribute on a "first-come, first-serve" basis).
- JUNE 4th: MICHIGAN OPEN QUALIFYING, Chemung Hills C.C., Schuss Mtn. G.C., and Vassar G. and C.C.
- JUNE 8th & 9th: ALL-CITY "SPRING" BEST-BALL, Groesbeck G.C. 2-player (SCRATCH) \$ .00 per team. For more information, call 483-4232.
- JUNE 12th: MICHIGAN SENIOR WOMEN'S GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP, Klinger Lake C.C.
- JUNE 17th: USGA SENIOR OPEN QUALIFYING, Gowanie G.C.
- JUNE 21st: USGA PUBLIC LINKS QUALIFYING, Chemung Hills C.C., (We have a limited amount of entry blanks that we will distribute on a "first-come, first-serve" basis")

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## - TOURNAMENT RESULTS -

### 2 TEAMS TIE AT HIGHLAND

#### HILLS 3-MAN SCRAMBLE

After 18 holes of golf Saturday, two teams ended in a dead heat at the finish. In almost perfect weather, the team of Brian Nowosacki, Don Mitchem, and Hub Waite posted the first 62 only to have the team of Nick Nicol, Jim Gonda, and Jack Curry turn in the same score minutes later.

Because of the length of the round and the lack of tee times, no play-offs were in order.

Nowosacki, Mitchem and Waite eagled the first hole and followed with birdies on 2, 3, 4, 10, 15, 16, 17, and 18. Gonda, Nicol and Curry started with a birdie on No.1 and followed with 9 more on holes 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, and 18. The two teams split first and second place merchandise prizes.

Other scores in order of finish are:  
63= Mallet-Wilson-Peterson; 64= Rose-Watkins-Christofferson; 65= Bass-Vlcek-Harper, Donahue-Donahue-Russell, Hankey-Peterson-Aumaugher, Sippola-Franklin-Lillebov, Holloway-Pendleton-Allen, Gimple-McEvoy-Killoran, Miller-Martin-Clevenger, Becker-Johnson-Foreback; 66= Seling-Seling-Kinnison, Daily-Wendrow-Terranova, Park-Dickey-Beekman, Hill-Harvin-Davis; 67= Mathasen-Julien-McIntrye, Bernick-Guinta-Busch, Kawalski-Siefker-Corlett, Gunthorpe-Gunthorpe-Gunthorpe, Evans-Hopkins-Warr Sr., King-Clark-Greely, Cusack-Perry-Litwiller, deCastro-Nyeste-Peot; 68= Sweeney-Bauer-Lubbers, Wakulsky-Kost-Bissell, Ferguson-Overway-Reppenhagen; 69= Lunden-Beardon-Foster, Brace-Burnett-Coscarelli, Clark-Prince-Warr Jr.; 70= Ferguson-Snay-St. Germaine, Carrol-Mondoskin-Janson, Bratschi-Bratschi-McCuaig, Corcoran-Agase-Strolle, Wells-Kelly-Ranko, Marshall-Wilson-Wilson; 71= Varner-Smith-Shattuck; 72= Lewis-Hoffer-Schoomaker, Straubel-Pradmore-Campau, McCune-Gilroy-Ramsby; 73= Foreback-Tucker-Dewey, Davis-Brant-Stickney; 75= Kinsey-Lass-Terranova, Jenkins-Schmiedeknecht; 76= Grubaugh-Daily-Johnson, McGuinn-Petoskey-Graham; 77= Kalchik-Kalchik-Kalchik, Leary-Shuker-McCue; 83= Clisch-Clisch-Clisch; N.C.= Cross-McCumb-Milstead

JUNE 22nd: ALL-CITY WOMEN'S SCRAMBLE, GROESBECK G.C., Entry fee \$36 per team, For more information please call 483-4232.

JUNE 22nd: KATKE BEST-BALL, KATKE G.C., Big Rapids, Mi., 2-player, (SCRATCH-HANDICAP), 27 HOLES, For more information, please contact Ron English at the Golf Course Pro Shop, Ferris State.

JUNE 24th - 28th: 74th MICHIGAN (GAM) AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP, Belvedere C.C., Charlevoix, Mi.,

JUNE 25th & 26th: ALL-CITY "BOY'S" CHAMPIONSHIP, GROESBECK G.C., (STROKE PLAY - FLIGHTED), Entry Fee: \$15.50. For more information, please call 483-4232.

JUNE 25th & 26th: C.C. OF LANSING LADIES INVITATIONAL

JUNE 27th-30th: USGA SENIOR OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP, Edgewood Tahoe G.C., Stateline, NV.

JUNE 29th-JULY 2nd: MICHIGAN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP, Grand Traverse Village G.C.

JULY 8th: USGA JR. AMATEUR QUALIFYING, Fairway Estates G.C., Hudsonville, (WEST MICHIGAN)

JULY 8th-10th: GREAT LAKES JR. MASTERS TOURNAMENT, Meadowbrook C. C.

JULY 9th & 10th: WALNUT HILLS LADIES INVITATIONAL

JULY 10th-14th: 83rd WESTERN AMATEUR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP, Point O' Woods C.C., Benton Harbor, Mi.

JULY 11th-14th: USGA WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP, Baltusrol G.C., Springfield, NJ.

JULY 12th: MICHIGAN JR. SECTIONAL QUALIFYING, Walnut Hills C.C.

JULY 12th-14th: ALL-CITY MEN'S STROKE PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP, Akers GC. (STROKE PLAY-FLIGHTED) 54 holes, Entry



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JULY 15th-20th: USGA AMATEUR PUBLIC LINKS  
CHAMPIONSHIP, Wailua C.C.,  
Kauai, HI

JULY 17th-20th: C.C. OF LANSING MEN'S IN-  
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JULY 20th: WOMEN'S BEST-BALL, GROESBECK  
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JULY 22nd: GAM CADDIE CHAMPIONSHIP,  
DETROIT G.C.

JULY 23rd-25th: CLASS "B" & "C" JR. CHAMP-  
IONSHIPS, Red Cedar G.C.,  
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483-4232.

JULY 23rd-27th: USGA JR. AMATEUR CHAMPION-  
SHIP, Brookfield C.C.,  
Clarence, NY.

JULY 24th-27th: 64th GAM CHAMPIONSHIP,  
Dearborn C.C.

JULY 24th & 25th: GIRLS JR. CHAMPIONSHIPS  
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ED), Entry Fee \$5.50 per  
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please call 483-4232.

JULY 27th & 28th: OAK LANE STROKE PLAY  
CHAMPIONSHIP, (STROKE PLAY-  
FLIGHTED), 36 holes. Entry  
fee to be announced. For  
more information, please call  
517-521-3900.

JULY 29th-AUGUST 3rd: USGA GIRLS JR. CHAMP-  
IONSHIP, St. Clair C.C.,  
Pittsburgh, PA.

JULY 31st-AUGUST 3rd: WALNUT HILLS C.C.  
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AUGUST 3rd: ALL-CITY "SENIORS" CHAMPIONSHIP  
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- AUGUST 6th & 7th: CLASS "A" JR. BOYS CHAMP-  
IONSHIP, Groesbeck G.C.  
(STROKE PLAY-FLIGHTED), Entry  
Fee \$15.50 each player. For  
more information please call  
483-4232.
- AUGUST 12th: USGA AMATEUR SECTIONAL QUAL-  
IFYING, BARTON HILLS C.C.  
AND U. OF M. G.C.
- AUGUST 12th: BUICK OPEN "OPEN" QUALIFYING  
TRAVIS POINT C.C.
- AUGUST 13th: MASTER'S JUNIOR INVITATIONAL  
Alpena C.C.
- AUGUST 15th-18th: BUICK OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP,  
Warwick Hills G & C.C.
- AUGUST 17th-18th: CHISHOLM HILLS INVITA-  
TIONAL, Chisholm Hills C.C.  
45 holes team and individual  
events. Entry Fee \$60.00 per  
team (includes dinner), Entry  
Deadline 8-10-85. For more  
information contact Don Clark  
at 694-0169.
- AUGUST 19th: OLDSMOBILE SCRAMBLE/PGA  
SECTIONAL FINAL, OAKLAND  
UNIVERSITY G.C. AND BLYTHE-  
FIELD C.C.
- AUGUST 19th & 20th: 7th MICHIGAN JR. AMATEUR  
CHAMPIONSHIP, Clio C.C.
- AUGUST 23rd: 4th MICHIGAN SENIORS OPEN  
CHAMPIONSHIP, Atlas Valley  
C.C.
- AUGUST 27th-SEPTEMBER 1st: USGA AMATEUR  
CHAMPIONSHIP, Montclair C.C.  
Montclair, NJ.
- SEPTEMBER 5th: USGA SENIOR AMATEUR SECTIONAL  
QUALIFYING, Lochmoor C.C.
- SEPTEMBER 7th & 8th: ALL-CITY "FALL" BEST  
BALL, Groesbeck G.C., 2-  
player (SCRATCH), 36 holes  
Entry Fee \$50.00 per team.

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per team.

SEPTEMBER 14th & 15th: OAK LANE BEST-BALL  
Oak Lane G.C. 36 holes,  
(SCRATCH, STROKE PLAY-FLIGHTED)  
Entry Fee to be announced.

SEPTEMBER 15th: ALL-LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP,  
Groesbeck G.C., 18 holes,  
Entry Fee \$50.00 per Team.  
For additional information  
please see your league sec.  
or call 483-4232.

SEPTEMBER 16th: USGA MID-AMATEUR SECTIONAL  
QUALIFYING, Essex G. & C.C.

SEPTEMBER 27th & 28th: 3rd MICHIGAN MID-  
AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP, Travis  
Point C.C.

OCTOBER 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th: OAK LANE  
"SUNDAY" 2-person Scrambles,  
Entry fee to be determined at  
a later date. 18 holes.

OCTOBER 12th & 13th: "SPARTAN" INVITATIONAL  
Akers G.C., 36 Holes (STROKE  
PLAY-TEAM).

NOVEMBER 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 27th (weather  
permitting): OAK LANE "SUNDAY"  
2-person Scrambles, Entry fee  
to be determined at a later  
date. 18 holes.

NOVEMBER 9th-14th: USGA MID-AMATEUR CHAMP-  
IONSHIP, The Vintage Club,  
Indian Wells, CA.

## — OFFICERS ELECTED —

At the last meeting of the newly formed  
Greater Lansing Amateur Golf Association,  
the following people were elected to office:

President - Jim Donahue  
1st. Vice Pres. -  
2nd. Vice Pres. - Elliott Thompson  
Secretary - Tim Russell  
Treasurers - Joe and Chuck Pohl

The following people are "Board" members:

Don Ballard (City of Lansing)  
Jim Donahue  
Ken Horvath (Akers G.C. - M.S.U.)  
Phil Klintworth (Tournament Director)  
Clint Ovren (Royal Scot)  
Chuck Pohl  
Joe Pohl (Seniors)  
Carol Rapson (Women)  
Tim Russell (Chisholm Hills)  
Elliott Thompson (Par Makers)  
Larry Sierra (Youth - M.S.U.)  
Harold Singleton  
Burton Smith  
Jim McCune (Highland Hills)

The following members are Directors:

Bill Christofferson - Publishing Dir.  
Phil Klintworth - Tournament Dir.  
Tim Russell - Advertising Dir.  
Burton Smith - Publicity Dir.  
John Watkins - Membership Dir.

Other Positions:

Jim Donahue - News Letter Editor  
Manny Rose - Asst. Membership Dir.

If you should have any questions concern-  
ing our association, please feel free to  
contact any of the above members.



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# USGA scrambles to end amateur 'scandal'

By Jack Berry  
News Staff Writer

It's being called the "Brae Burn Scramble Scandal," and it involved 123 of the best public links, private club and college golfers in the Detroit area, players who regularly appear on the honor rolls of the Michigan Public Golf Association and the Golf Association of Michigan.

They played for cash, which they put up themselves through their entry fees, and that's illegal. Amateurs can receive merchandise "not readily convertible into money" up to a value of \$350 according to the rules established by the U.S. Golf Association. The players could have lost their amateur status for up to two years and been ineligible to compete in the U.S. Amateur, Mid-Amateur and Public Links championships, in college golf and in top state amateur tournaments.

These play-for-pay scrambles, often with Calcutta wagering in which teams would be auctioned off, have been going on for years at different

**"We're tired of guys coming into our pro-ams and hustling. We're going to hold the professionals responsible — he'll be banned from playing in pro-ams or suspended."**

— MIKE KERNICKI  
Bloomfield Hills Country Club pro

public courses in southeast Michigan, but no one made a formal complaint until the Michigan Section of the Professional Golfers Association informed the GAM of the three-man scramble played last Oct. 22 at the course on West Five Mile Road in Plymouth.

THE GAM reported the incident to the USGA, and the USGA Executive Committee discussed it at its annual meeting in Boston. The USGA neatly sidestepped a huge mess by finding the players guilty not of violating the amateur code but of gambling, and it overlooks gambling.

Word of the "scandal" seeped out after Anthony Zirpoli, manager of the Amateur Status division of the US-

GA, wrote each contestant that "any player who participates in a future event offering cash prizes will immediately forfeit his amateur status unless prior to participation the player irrevocably waives his right to accept prize money."

Now the Michigan PGA and GAM want to send a loud and clear message that there will be stiff penalties for offenders.

"We're tired of taking crap. We're taking a hard line," said Mike Kernicki, professional at Bloomfield Hills Country Club and tournament chairman for the Michigan Section of the PGA.

The PGA has been angry about the scores turned in by some amateurs

during the PGA's weekly pro-amateur tournaments. Players report a handicap of 10 and play like Tom Watson. Their handicaps are supposed to be verified by a professional.

"There's been a lot of animosity," Kernicki said. "A lot of pros say why should they take their members who have legitimate handicaps and some guys come in and shoot 52. We're tired of guys coming into our pro-ams and hustling," Kernicki said. "We're going to hold the professional responsible — he'll be banned from playing in pro-ams or suspended. And we'll work closely with Jeff Rivard (executive director of the GAM). If we hear of a scramble anywhere, we'll get a list of the players and turn them in."

"GOLF IS a game of rules, and everyone should play by them," Kernicki said.

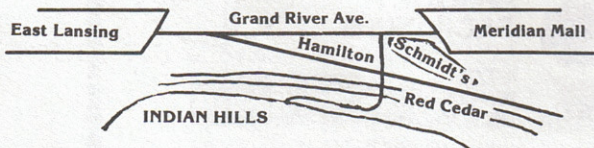
A public course pro who asked not to be identified said, "It's the same old thing — the private clubs against the public courses. Whenever a public course pro wins, they get upset. This has all been blown out of proportion."

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