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GOLF NEWS



GOLF: The Game of a Lifetime

AUGUST, 1991

1991 RENIGER TO HAVE SMALLER FIELD

Because of the closing of Forest Akers "West" Golf Course, the Bud Reniger Selection Committee has been requested to limit the size of this year's field to no more than 60 invites. The Selection Committee is currently working out the details of how the selection of invitees will be made. The selection requirements will be announced in our next "Golf News".

ARE THE WORLD'S BEST PLAYERS GETTING BIGGER?

During each television broadcast of P.G.A. Tournaments, you will hear one of the broadcasters explaining that the reason for the longer drives, closer iron shots, and lower scores is that players are getting bigger and stronger. They will point to the fitness trailers and special workout programs and diets as an aide to these players. But, is this statement backed by fact?

A recent study in Golf Digest listed the 5 leading money winners from the last six decades, including the average height of each group:

1930's

Sam Snead - 5'11"
Harry Cooper - 5'8"
Horton Smith - 6'3"

Henry Picard - 6'1"
Johnny Revolta - 5'8"
(Average Height - 5'11")

1940's

Byron Nelson - 6'1"
Sam Snead - 5'11"
Lloyd Mangrum - 6'0"

Ben Hogan - 5'9"
Jimmy Demaret - 5'11"
(Average Height - 5'11")

1950's

Doug Ford - 5'11"
Julius Boros - 6'0"
Sam Snead - 5'11"

Cary Middlecoff - 6'2"
Dow Finsterwald - 5'10"
(Average Height - 5'11 1/2")

1960's

Arnold Palmer - 5'11"
Billy Casper - 5'11"
Doug Sanders - 5'11"

Jack Nicklaus - 5'11"
Gary Player - 5'8"
(Average Height - 5'10 1/2")

1970's

Jack Nicklaus - 5'11"
Tom Watson - 5'9"
Hubert Green - 6'1"

Lee Trevino - 5'7"
Hale Irwin - 6'0"
(Average Height - 5'10 1/2")

1980's

Curtis Strange - 5'11"
Payne Stewart - 6'1"
Ben Crenshaw - 5'9"

Tom Kite - 5'8"
Tom Watson - 5'9"
(Average Height - 5'10")

To me, all these figures and names tell me is that for the past 60 years, the best players have averaged 5'11" in height and that the average height seems to be dropping (if only slightly).

So, it's not necessarily how tall you may be that plays a significant role in your development as a golfer (don't we all know that!).

(Golf Digest - April 1991)

RULINGS BY T.V. VIEWERS

by Jim Donahue

In an effort to stem the tide of "arm-chair rule experts", the P.G.A. Commissioner Deane Beman has ordered a rules official to monitor telecasts of P.G.A. Tour tournaments.

This effort comes in the wake of Paul Azinger's disqualification

at the Doral Open. It has been hinted that the P.G.A. will ask the U.S.G.A. to modify rules of disqualification so that such a rule breach would be reviewed before the application of the disqualification penalty.

please see T.V. Rulings, page 2

T.V. Rulings, continued from page 1

According to David Eger (executive director of tournament administration for the P.G.A. Tour), "Such a modification of U.S.G.A. rules is rare, but not unprecedented".

Personally, I think any rule change is just opening a can of worms that will never be able to close again. I think Bob Aumaugher said it best when he stated: "In this year's All-City, we ought to have an 800 number, Televiser the tournament, and we wouldn't need a rules committee". While this may be an exaggeration of the situation, it simply states the problem.

TOUR PLAYER'S BAG COULD HELP MISSING CHILDREN

Tim Simpson, in a cooperative effort with ProGear, Inc., and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, will have a picture of a different missing child on his bag at each tournament he plays in this year. The toll-free hotline number - 1-800-843-5678 - will be shown right under each picture.

In an interview with Larry Bush of Golf Week, Tim Simpson

What must be realized is that if these players were not on T.V., no penalty would have been called.

The players on the P.G.A. Tour are some of the most honest athletes ever grouped for any sporting event. To believe that Craig Stadler was actually "building a stance" by putting a towel down to kneel on is ridiculous. In my opinion, these people who call in are frustrated and jealous and want to show their superiority by having a player penalized.

explained: "I just can't imagine what the parents must go through in losing a child. If it happened to me, I would probably never play golf again. It would destroy me."

We at Golf News applaud Mr. Simpson's efforts and are glad to see that Tour Player's Bags are finally becoming more than just a walking billboard.

FEUD ON THE TOUR!

First it was Tom Weiskopf and Fred Couples, now it is Ken Venturi and Curtis Strange. This feud started during the Doral-Ryder Open when Ken Venturi made some remarks about one of Curtis' shots during the last round.

All these remarks did was to inspire Curtis to tie Rocco Mediate after the regulation 72 holes. After losing to Rocco Mediate in a playoff, Curtis made the following remarks: "I guess if you listen to some people, I should be happy to be sitting here. It amazes me how he (Venturi) can sit up there and think that he can get inside my head. I wanted to win this tournament so bad I could taste it after hearing what he said. I was always told if

you can't say something nice about someone, not to say anything at all. I don't think he realizes how detrimental comments like that can be to players."

It's not good for this type of condition to exist on the tour. It amazes me that more of these confrontations have not occurred. When T.V. announcers are interviewing players during their rounds or telling viewers what the players are probably thinking, it is going to happen. Golf on T.V. is pretty much 2nd rate and if they (the networks) would spend as much time and money on upgrading the T.V. coverage as they do on Football and Basketball, everyone would benefit.

WHAT'S NEW IN EQUIPMENT?

Ram Golf introduces an evolution in its Lazer club called the Lazer ZX. It is a parabolic design which is an anti-slice concept (originally brought out in 1988) featuring a high crown for the metal wood and a powerful hitting appearance.

The ZX woods are available in 9 degree and 11 degree drivers, 17 degree 3-wood, 22 degree 5-wood and a 27 degree 7-wood.

Ryobi-Toski Corporation has the new VEC 960 cavity-back

iron. The VEC is engineered to produce the highest moment of inertia while being resistant to twisting.

Also new to Ryobi-Toski Corporation is its new putter line. The "Hero" Line is a trio of hand-made putters that mimic the classic George Low, Wilson 8802, and MacGregor IMG Tommy Armour putters. The suggested retail price for these putters is a staggering \$1,000.00 each.

CAN GRAPHITE SHAFTS HELP YOU HIT IT LONGER?

Last summer, just prior to the British Open, The First World Scientific Congress of Golf was held at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. While most studies dealt with design, testing, and the improvement of golf equipment, one study caught the eye of *Golf News*.

The study was done by Dave Pulz and he presented as a featured

speaker. He called this "A simple scientific shaft test: Steel versus graphite." But before we give you the results of this presentation, let's take a look at the many claims that are made in an average monthly golf magazine.

Yonex A.D.X. -Recently, a Yonex A.D.X. Driver was used to hit
please see Graphite Shafts, page 3

Graphite Shafts, continued from page 2

the longest measured drive in a P.G.A. sanctioned event. To be exact, 412 yards. Long enough to get into the most respected book of world records. The Guinness Book of Records 1991.

Power Bilt - The newly designed TPS metal woods offer stronger lofts for increased distance, while improved perimeter weighting keeps that power under control.

Wilson Ultra Firestic - Burn up the course with the extra distance of Firestic. While other graphite shafts only offer different flexes, Firestic shafts go further. And much farther.


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Cobra - Cobra was the first to put high technology to work. Specifically designed to give you every technological advantage, Cobra's clubs feature extra long, lightweight, graphite shafts which increase clubhead speed and distance.

Bridgestone - Suddenly all other drivers are a distant second. A very distant second. Thanks to J's Professional Weapon by Bridgestone. This is the same J's Driver that's outdistancing every other driver on the tour.

Ryobi-Toski -The Unifix Plus+ has a metal head that's 20% larger than our standard driver and an extra-length graphite shaft.



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U.S.G.A. AWARDS \$45,000 IN INTERNSHIP GRANTS

The U.S.G.A., in an effort to introduce minorities to golf administration and management, has awarded \$45,000 in grants for 1991. This funding is designed to assist state and regional golf associations who are seeking interns to help with junior golf, public golf, and tournament administration.

Associations that were allotted grants for this year are: Alabama Golf Association/Southern Golf Association, Arizona Golf Association, Colorado Women's Golf Association, Georgia State Golf Association, Hawaii State Golf Association, Kansas Golf Association, Keystone Golf Association, Minnesota Golf Association, South Carolina Golf Association, Sun Country Golf Association, Texas Golf Association, and Utah Golf Association.

There are programs available to help Golf associations and, maybe in the future, our association can grow to a point where we can apply for these types of things.

THE 1991 MEN'S ALL-CITY GOLF TEAM CRITERIA:

The 1991 Men's All-City Golf Team will be selected on a revised point system that has been devised by the G.L.A.G.A. Selection Committee. The top six (6) leading players, by total points, will comprise this year's Men's All-City Golf Team.

Listed below are the tournaments and points that will be awarded based on finish:

INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENTS:

Local:

All-City "Stroke Play" Championship (Championship Flight Only)

1st Place	-	150 Points
2nd "	-	75 "
3rd "	-	70 "
4th "	-	65 "
5th "	-	60 "
6th "	-	55 "
7th "	-	50 "
8th "	-	45 "
9th "	-	40 "
10th "	-	35 "
11th "	-	30 "
12th "	-	25 "
13th "	-	20 "
14th "	-	15 "
15th "	-	10 "
16th "	-	5 "

* A minimum of 5 points will always be awarded.

All-City "Match Play" Championship

1st Place	-	150 Points
Runner-Up	-	75 "
Semi-Finalists	-	60 " (2 eliminated)
Quarter-Finalists	-	45 " (4 eliminated)
"Sweet 16"	-	30 " (8 eliminated)

Bud Reniger Memorial Invitational

1st Place	-	150 Points
2nd "	-	75 "
3rd "	-	70 "
4th "	-	65 "
5th "	-	60 "
6th "	-	55 "
7th "	-	50 "
8th "	-	45 "
9th "	-	40 "
10th "	-	35 "
11th "	-	30 "
12th "	-	25 "
13th "	-	20 "
14th "	-	15 "
15th "	-	10 "
16th "	-	5 "

* A minimum of 5 points will always be awarded.



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State and National:
Qualifiers:

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U.S. Amateur:	State: 75 Points
U.S. Mid-Amateur:	State: 75 Points
Buick Open:	Local: 75 Points
Western Amateur:	Local: 25 Points; 1st 36 holes: 25 Points; 2nd 36 holes: 25 Points
Michigan Open:	Local: 25 Points; 36-Hole Cut: 50 Points
Michigan Amateur:	Local: 25 Points; Qualifier Rounds: 25 Points; Sweet 16: 25 Points; Quarter Finalist: 25 Points; Semi-Finalist: 25 Points; Finalist: 25 Points

Best-Balls

* The following Best-Ball Tournaments will be given equal points for the "Top 10" finishes as listed below:

Portland C. C. Invitational
Oak Lane Best-Ball (Spring and Fall)
All-City Best-Ball (Spring and Fall)
Chisholm Hills Invitational
Centennial Acres Best-Ball/Scramble

Championship Flight Only:

1st Place	-	75	points	per	player	per	team
2nd "	-	50	"	"	"	"	"
3rd "	-	45	"	"	"	"	"
4th "	-	40	"	"	"	"	"
5th "	-	35	"	"	"	"	"
6th "	-	30	"	"	"	"	"
7th "	-	25	"	"	"	"	"
8th "	-	20	"	"	"	"	"
9th "	-	15	"	"	"	"	"
10th "	-	10	"	"	"	"	"


* A minimum of 5 points will always be awarded.

You may have noticed that the following tournaments have not been included in this year's qualifying tournaments: C.C. of Lansing Club Championships, Walnut Hills C.C. Club Championship, U.S. Public Links Championship, Michigan Public Links Championship, and G.A.M. Championships.

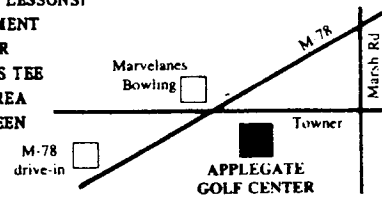
The reason that these tournaments, as well as similar ones, have been omitted is that they all have restrictive entry requirements. We will no longer use these types of tournaments as qualifying events; however, if you play in these events and have a high finish, you can petition the selection committee for consideration. This also applies to all players who play in events not listed. You can petition the committee (in writing and with proper verification) for consideration. Points will be awarded at the discretion of the G.L.A.G.A. Men's All-City Golf Team Selection Committee.

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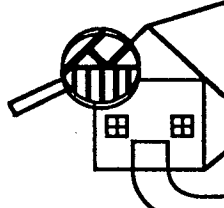
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FOREST AKERS "WEST" IS NO. 1 WITH OUR READERS!

Based on the results of the survey printed in the last issue of "Golf News", Forest Akers "West" is the best 18-hole public golf course in the Greater Lansing Area. While Timber Ridge Golf Course received the most 1st place votes, it ended up being ranked 3rd in the final results.

Akers' "West" received almost all first and second place votes of the 68 readers who replied. The surprise course in the top three was Webberville's Oak Lane Golf Course.

Listed below are the actual standings according to our readers:

1. Forest Akers "West" Golf Course
2. Oak Lane Golf Course
3. Timber Ridge Golf Course
4. Centennial Acres Golf Course
5. Groesbeck Golf Course
6. El Dorado Golf Course
7. Forest Akers "East" Golf Course
8. Royal Scot Golf Course
9. Mason Hills Golf Course
10. Highland Hills Golf Course

It must be remembered that this is just a poll of our readers and the results are just a slight indication of how the people who play golf in the Lansing area feel about the courses they play.

This time we would like you to rank the "Top 10" nine-hole courses in this area. The nine-hole courses are:

- A. Chardell Golf Course
- B. Four Winds Golf Course
- C. Huckleberry Creek Golf Course
- D. Indian Hills Golf Course
- E. Lake O' The Hills Golf Course
- F. Red Cedar Golf Course
- G. Waverly Golf Course
- H. Sycamore Golf Course
- I. Pine Hills Golf Course
- J. Bonnie View Golf Course
- K. Brookshire Golf Course
- L. The Player's Club
- M. Three Oaks Golf Course
- N. Clinton County Golf Course

1. _____	6. _____
2. _____	7. _____
3. _____	8. _____
4. _____	9. _____
5. _____	10. _____

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Remarks: _____

In the next issue, we will print the results and let you determine the "10-Best" courses in the area according to service, friendliness, conditions, etc.

LIKE MANY BEFORE ME

by Ed Brown

St. Andrews at the crack of dawn is a mystical experience. The mist rolls in off the Firth of Forth, the seagulls wander about and the ghosts of the city are pretty much asleep, waiting for the golfers to come forth. They of course do. Probably Michael Murphy in his classic, *Golf in the Kingdom*, spent many such mornings there in preparation to writing what I consider one of the great books in my golf library. He seems to delve to the core on man's golfing soul. If you haven't yet read it, please do so.

What acceptable excuses can I offer for my poor showing the first time I stepped onto St. Andrews' hallowed Old Course? I did arise at 5:00 a.m. at our campsite at Musselburgh, yet another story unto itself, for a 7:30 tee time. Upon arrival, everything seems strangely quiet and deserted. Parking was even available. As my wife and I arrived at the starter's box, I had none of the overwhelming feelings I've read about. We were joined by a gentleman from San Francisco who was on his golfing pilgrimage and had played the course the day before. In fact, he birdied #1 with a nifty pitch over Swilcan.

Many of my recollections I retain are of my caddy, a brash, outspoken lad of 25. I got what I paid for as all I wanted was a tour guide. He first was on my wife's game with obnoxious comments but soon found much to criticize about my game. Although I broke 100, I wasn't spectacular and he began making comments like "we have 8-year olds who could beat you" and on #15 he informed me that "I had found the smallest bunker on the course" and lastly, as an American wearing the latest in plus fours played through, he extolled, "now there is a golfer".

Had I been carrying an extra wedge, he might have had it as a necklace by the Road Hole. I did, in front of many spectators, par #18. We did play in 3 1/2 hours. I, like Bobby Jones, wasn't particularly impressed with the place at first glance, although I didn't tear up my card. I wanted to keep my 94 for the record.

After playing, do visit the historic city, rumored to contain bones of the apostle Andrew. The city is dominated by golf and this sense hangs very heavy. Don't neglect a trip to the ruins of the cathedral where, if you look closely, you will find the shrine to Young Tom Morris. It's an easy city to walk about and a place to purchase golfing memorabilia for the friends back home.

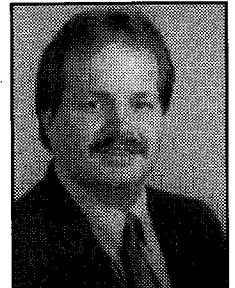
An official St. Andrews ballmarker is rather unique as are maps of the course and even wooden putters from Auchterlonies. Don't leave just being frustrated by the first trip around the course and an occasional caddy.

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TOM OCHSNER -- YOU'LL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN!

by Jim Donahue

When I first received the news that Tom Ochsner had passed away, my feeling of sorrow tempted me to sit down and write an article on how much Tom would be missed by those of us who knew him. However, I decided to wait a little bit because I wanted to be very sure that everyone who reads this would know what a great loss this is.

I was caddying for my father when I first met Tom. His unusual swing caused me to question my father about how well this guy could play. My father's answer was something that I never forgot - "Jim - it's not how your swing looks - it's how well it repeats itself that counts".

Well, now, looking back - Tom's swing wasn't the only thing that repeated. Tom's character was something that could always be counted on. If he didn't like something - he told you. If he felt there was an injustice - he told you. Unlike some people - he would also tell you what was right about things. This alone set him apart.

I could go on and on telling you about his great points as a man, a human being, and a golfer, but I'd rather tell you about what I liked about Tom and what I'll miss most about him.

If there is one common thing that Tom and I shared, it was our search for the perfect set of golf clubs. This was a rather unique quest because both of us knew deep down - no such set was ever built. However, the quest went on.

From time to time, we would share our information and trade our sources, but just once - did I ever get the upper hand on Tom. Quite by chance - when graphite was new - I had J. C. Peterson re-shaft a driver with a "green" graphite shaft. I don't know what it was about this shaft (maybe the color), but it had a great feel and was so easy to hit.

Tom and I happened to run across each other at Groesbeck and, as was our custom, I showed him this driver. He hit a couple of shots with it and stated "Where did you get this?" I explained and he drove straight out to see J. C. According to J. C., Tom had at least 10 shafts put in and nothing seemed to be right. I even dropped off my club and they weighed the head, checked the flex on the shaft, but could never match this club. Tom finally gave up and said to me - "When you get ready to get rid of that driver - call me!" What Tom never realized and I knew - was that I was ready to move on to another driver anyway. After a period of time, I relented and sold the club to him. It wasn't the money that was important to me - it was the fact that I finally had something that Tom couldn't get.

Well, now Tom has gone one-up on me. I'll bet lots of money that the very first thing Tom did when he got to heaven - was to go and select the perfect set of clubs. Right now he's probably playing with Al Wendrow, Bud Reniger, and my father. Tom - you're gone, but not forgotten and I'll miss you very much.

P.S. When I finally get there, there better not be ball marks on all the clubs!

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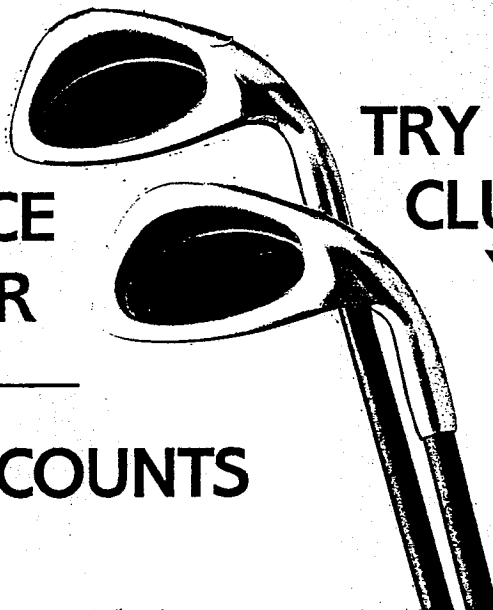


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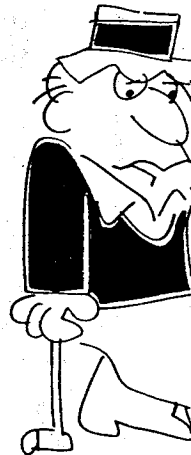
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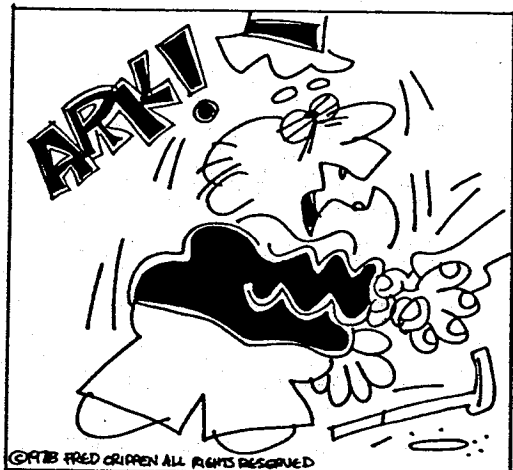
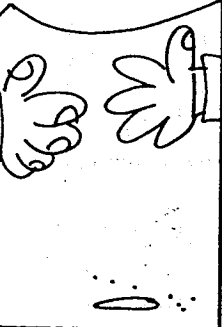


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By Fred Crippen

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- 5) A properly struck ball may travel in any direction.
- 6) The wind always blows harder into ones face.
- 7) The distance a golf ball travels is inversely proportional to the accuracy in which it was hit.
- 8) All golf balls are hit straight, it's the earths rotation under a ball in flight that gives the appearance of a slice or hook.
- 9) The larger the sweet spot on a club, the more often you will strike the ball dead-center.

or

- 10) The smaller the sweet spot on a club, the more often you will strike the ball on the toe or heel.

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PUTTING

How do We Compare to the Pros? PART II

by Jim Donahue

Who is the best putter in Lansing? Well, the names of those thought to be the best putters vary as much as the stroke and equipment they use.

Before we discuss who is the best putter and why, we should decide on just what makes a good putter. I feel there are things that set a great putter apart from those who are average or less. These things are:

1. A good putter must have confidence and be almost fearless. You can pick this guy out in a hurry. He always wants an important putt to be his; he usually putts last in scrambles, and people often concede him putts that they wouldn't anyone else.
2. He will often practice by the hour. He constantly works on his stroke and will try different approaches to see if they can help him.
3. A good putter will make more than his share of 3 to 5 foot putts and will practice more than others.
4. He will have one of two basic philosophies concerning equipment. He will either have a putter he has had for years and will never change or he will have 30-50 putters and will change anytime he feels uncomfortable with what he is using. He will either feel that the fault lies with him or the putter has betrayed him and he will go to another. What you will also find about the latter type is that even though he may change putters, he will usually stick to the same three or four putters (especially in tournaments) regardless of all the putters he may own.
5. A good putter will have a reputation as a good putter. No matter who you talk to about putting, his name will come up.

Now, without naming myself, here are my 10 best putters in Lansing and why:

1. **JOHN CLARK.** John knows he's a great putter. He has a simple stroke that repeats with uncanny accuracy. He's at his best from 5 to 10 feet and loves to practice. John usually uses an old blade putter that he's had for years.
2. **GARY DOMAGALSKI.** You don't play at the level that Gary has without being a great putter. Like John Clark, Gary has a simple stroke that repeats; has a great short game that climaxes with his putter, and changes putters a few times each year.

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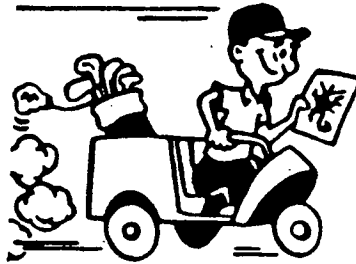
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3. **BRUCE ARCHER.** While Bruce isn't the "name" player that several of the others on this list are, but he still belongs. Bruce owns almost as many putters as I do and will change when the mood strikes him. Bruce carries his hands lower than most great putters and his stroke tends to be on the short side, but the ball still goes in the hole. Just like both Gary and John, Bruce knows how good a putter he is.
4. **JERRY GUNTHORPE.** Jerry is a very hard worker on his putting and the results he gets are a tribute to his efforts. Jerry's putting seems to rise to the level of the tournament. Jerry has been using the same "Old Master" putter for years, using a copy of the 880Z.
5. **BILL BROOKS.** Using a cross-handed grip has made Bill an even better putter than he once was. Bill makes a great many "pressure" putts (the true test) when needed, and he also uses a few different putters during the year.
6. **TOM JAMIESON.** Tom's putting, just as his game, has improved over the years. He didn't finish as high and as often as he does if he couldn't putt. He uses a short stroke with a "stik" putter that looks like a branding iron.
7. **KEN HORVATH.** While his work as golf coach and PGA professional has deteriorated his play in general, his putting still is as good as I've seen. Ken uses a blade putter and uses a longer stroke than any of the players on the list.
8. **TED BEEKMAN.** They call him the "Scramble King" but even though his handicap helps, his putting helps more. Ted uses a Ping B-69 and has a slight outside-in stroke that can make reading putts very difficult if you don't watch him closely. Ted uses a short stroke and pops the ball.
9. **DOUG HANKEY.** Doug underestimates just how well he putts. He has a very smooth arm and shoulder stroke which he works on constantly. Doug has been using the same Bullseye putter as long as I've known him.
10. **FELIX RISDALE.** Felix has been told that he makes more putts with a bad stroke than anyone in this area. Felix uses a B-69 putter just like Ted Beekman, and while his stroke is longer than Ted's, it still reminds me of Ted's with his outside-in stroke.

There are several others I could have named, and because of this I would like readers to send me their best 10 local putters. I publish the top 10 along with some secrets that may help you.

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A Westmoreland County employee who called in sick in order to play golf got a real surprise when he got to the 18th green. His personnel director was there waiting and suspended him for ten days without pay.

Roy Valosik, a buyer for the county's purchasing department, was caught by Betsy Griffin, the county's director of human resources. Betsy explained that she had been tipped off that

Valosik was playing golf at Latrobe Country Club. After checking the tee time registration list and finding his name, she went to the 18th green and confronted him.

According to commissioner Richard Vidmer, "The suspension is intended to send a message, and an indication of how the commissioners evaluate the performance of administrative personnel."



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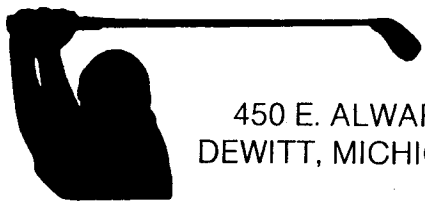
TOMMY BOLT - "SENIOR TOUR IS UNJUST!"

Terrible Tommy is really upset with the senior tour and maybe with justification. According to Tommy, "You need to have won close to \$1 million to be on the tour. But they're using inflated dollars. The guys who came 15 to 20 years after me won \$4 million. Their criteria doesn't make sense."

"I think I should be eligible because of the number of tournaments I won. But in some, I won only \$2,500."

When Tommy Bolt won the U.S. Open at Southern Hills in Tulsa, Oklahoma, he won only \$8,000. We feel he has a point because this year's winner will get about \$180,000, which is (according to Golf Week) more than half the total of \$320,792 that Bolt made for winning 11 tournaments during his career.

It is *Golf News'* opinion that the total number of victories and possible high finishes should be taken into consideration. In Tommy's case - if he wants to play they should let him.



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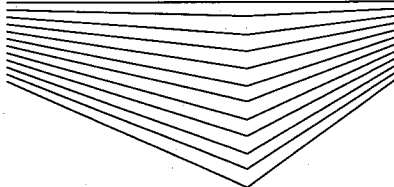
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