

GOLF NEWS '86

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GOLF: The Game of a Lifetime

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 4

DECEMBER 1986

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Well its that time of year when we are forced to put our clubs away (except for people like Bob Aumaugher and Doug Hankey) and begin to think about how long it will be before we can once again attack those green slopes and valleys. It is also the time of year when our association must take on the task of electing new officers and board members. In this news letter you will find a nomination blank. I wish you would take the time to nominate a fellow member that you would like to see on our board for the up coming year of 1987.

It is becoming ever more obvious to all of us on the board that we need the input of some new people in order to generate new and better ideas for making our association a better and stronger group. It would be the first and most important step in helping our association grow and prosper.

As this may be one of my last, if not the last, letter I will write as President, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the follow-people for all the help that they have given in helping to make this association and what we have tried to accomplish, a success for the most part:

Bob Aumaugher - Bob is without a doubt the most demanding and self determinating person I know. He is tireless in his pursuit of making everything he touches a success. I would hate to think that much of what Bob has done to date has gone

unnoticed by most. Bob is forever optimistic in his endeavors to make the News Letter and this association a success. Thank you Bob!

Ken Horvath - Without Ken, the Junior Golf Program of last summer would have been a complete mess. Ken knows how to run golf programs and his expertise would have been sorely missed had he not gotten behind the program from the beginning. Ken also keeps us thinking all the time, because when he says something it usually has more than the obvious meaning and is well thought out in advance.

John Clark - John has always been the one that you could count on to do the many things that go unnoticed for the most part. John is also a good friend and golfing partner and I thank you - John!

Burton Smith - Burton is the one person who thinks more of others than he does of himself. He is the peace keeper in our association. He is well liked and thought of by all of us. He is credit to golf and to his parents. Thanks Burton!

Stan Bragg - Stanley is one of those people who seems never to run out of energy. He was at every Jr. Golf lesson, no matter what site. We would have sure missed Stan had he not asked to help in this program. Thank You my friend!

Harold Singleton - Hal is the father image of our board. He never seems to get ruffled and always seems to understand everyone's point of view. He may well be the back bone of our group. Thanks Harold!

Bill Kost - Bill never stops his planning of making the tournaments in this area better. He is basically new to the board, but none the less is a vital part. He will do more and has asked to do more in the future. Thanks Billy!

In order not to make this letter too much longer I would like to thank the following people too - Jim McCune, Phil Klintworth, Clint Overn, and a special thanks to Elliot Thompson who was vital in the tickets and car usage for the Junior Golf Clinic.

I would also like to thank all of you for your interest in golf in the Lansing area.

Jim Donahue - President

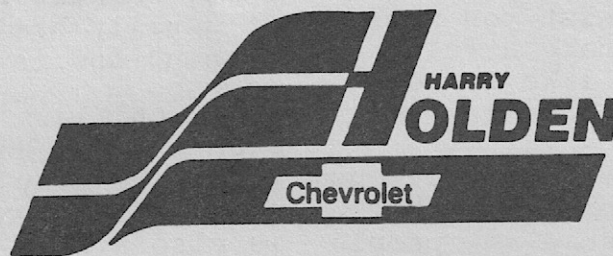
NEWSREEL 1987

The following are bits of information regarding the 1987 golf season. The information was provided by Jeff Rivard, GAM director:

1. The merchandise dollar amount that amateurs can win will

increase from 350 to 400 in 1987.

2. The Michigan Amateur sectional qualifying will be held on 5 different days from May 18 to June 8. The eight sites are; Kalamazoo Elks, Forest Lake, Western, Black River, Kent, Pine River, Gaylord, and Iron Mountain.
3. The Michigan Public Links Golf Association, MPGA, has joined the GAM. Thus the two associations will run the sectional qualifying for the U.S. Public Links.
4. 89-90, 169 was the highest qualifying round shot at the Michigan Amateur last year. This was the lowest high round ever. Perhaps a good effect of the new sectional qualifying. Rivard says there used to be Seedings for qualifying groups but for '86 and again for '87 only the 16 exemptions and the 8 sectional medalists will be placed together. The other groupings will be done randomly.



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TO THE EDITOR:

The newly found interest in Groesbeck Golf Course over the past year is truly refreshing. Mr. Worthington and Co. cannot be commended enough for their effort to make Groesbeck a better golfing experience for all who play it. The reason this letter is being written is because now everybody is interested in what way the course is going to improve and how the money will be allocated. Mr. Jim Donahue's letter in the September issue of the GLAGA is what aroused me to put my ideas on paper.

I truly believe the main emphasis should be put on course conditioning and maintenance during the following years. There is nothing wrong with the layout and design. From an architectural standpoint Groesbeck G.C. is an excellent example of how a golf course should be designed (don't laugh!). The high handicapper should not feel that the course is impossible and the scratch player should find something interesting about each shot he/she faces.

Groesbeck offers an infinite number of bump and run, lob shots, pitches and chips that I have rarely (if ever) found on any single course. Groesbeck is not and should not be a course where you can "play darts" on shots to the greens, that would take the fun out of it! The course should be looked upon as a little piece of Scotland in the middle of Lansing, Michigan.

Why bank #10 green, change #4 into a par 3 and enlarge the green? That would be a senseless waste of energy and money! As written earlier, the layout is fine, don't

change it, - mow it! Sure, some of the holes can be very penalizing if you miss your shot in the wrong area, such as over the green on #10, so be it. The course requires some thought and strategy. You have to use your best judgement sometimes before firing at the pin.

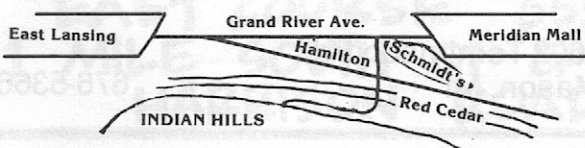
As stated earlier, I believe the emphasis to improving Groesbeck should be on maintenance and conditioning. This does not mean - make the greens hold anything thrown into them. It means mowing, and more mowing of fairways, tees and greens. Leave the rough and let it grow long periodically (before big tournaments, best-balls and city championships). Imagine what Groesbeck would look like with 30 yard wide fairways and rough long and unkept. If we want a course with character and beauty then lets leave the rough grow. Give it the natural look as courses overseas have. All of a sudden we will have a course that people will want to play because it will involve strategy and be more interesting. The golfer may not haul out the driver on every hole if the fairways were narrow and the rough truly penalizing.

I imagine Don Ballard and Co. shaking their heads about slow play and the people hunting for balls in the rough. I don't think it would be that bad, but I can see their side of the story. My answer to that is: do you want a course with a "real" appeal to all golfers or a mill to shuttle golfers through? You really can't have both, give the long rough a try, see what happens. I think you might find some favorable results. People might

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realize that there is a strategy to golf at Groesbeck if they are penalized for missing a shot out of the fairway. Groesbeck would suddenly change from a "flail and chase" munny layout to a course which makes the golfer take the penalty for straying out of the fairway.

Golfers really do notice and care if the greens are mowed when they play, both for tournaments and everyday play as well. The best way to make Groesbeck a course people will be proud of and enjoy playing is to use the allocated funds toward the conditioning and upkeep of the course. In short, Groesbeck has to start looking like a real golf course, mowed and cared for each day. No, it will never look like the C.C. of Lansing and it shouldn't, it doesn't service the same clientele. It needs to receive the care and upkeep it deserves. The course has served the city well, its about time it should have the favor returned to it. The layout is there don't redo any of the holes or greens. Sure, a bunker here and there might be nice, but basically lets concentrate on what we have and making it better. I think we might be surprised how good a golf course we have underneath it all.

Steve Wakulsky

JIM'S REPLY:

Even though Steve and I may have some differences as to how to make our favorite city course better, nonetheless I want to commend him for taking the time to voice his opinions about what should or should

not be done. Better decisions would be made if others would do so more readily.

I cannot agree with Steve's wanting to turn Groesbeck into a European style course. I have been overseas and played many courses while in the service, and in my view Groesbeck neither can nor should be made to play as a European course does. I do agree that perhaps the first move should be to leave the course the way it is and put the first efforts into upgrading the maintainance of Groesbeck. However in Don Ballard's defense, running the course may present a catch 22 situation for a while. He needs play to generate the revenue needed to make the improvements, but at the same time he needs to keep the conditions satisfactory to make people want to play. Here is where we all can help. Lets all be more patient and try to understand what is being done. Give Don the time to make his improvements and try to help him and his people any way that we can.

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KOST AND WAKULSKY WIN

FALL OAK LANE BEST BALL

For the second year in a row Bill Kost and Steve Wakulsky turned back all challengers and won the fall Oak Lane best ball.

Last year they won in a playoff after shooting 69-63, 132. This year they led the field after the first day with a 64. The second day they kostered in with a 66. The 130 total was a stroke off the record. Perhaps the winning feature of their play was that they played bogey free golf for two days. In fact, Bill informs us, he and Steve had only one bogey for the 72 holes of the fall Groesbeck and Oak Lane best balls. Is there a lesson here? How about getting hot is not as important as not going cold? In any case rumor has it that for winning a third year in a row, the prize is Bernie's dog.

CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT-- each

130-Bill Kost, Steve Wakulsky	125
131-Tim Russell, Andy Cusack	100
134-J. Clark, M. Hoevel	75
135-G. Becker, B. Dean	75
-M. Policht, J. Toma	75
136-S. Bakita, S. Green	50
-C. Kennedy, B. Kennedy	50
-T. Kolderman, T. Bieglecki	50

FIRST FLIGHT--

135-Luther Miller, Lee Welch	60
-R. McIntyre, M. Boynton	50
136-E. Abel, D. Passage	40

SECOND FLIGHT--

140-D. Wakulsky, G. Wakulsky	45
141-F. Ridsdale, B. Aumaugher	40

THIRD FLIGHT--

144-J. Mathews, L. Decker	35
146-D. Shumway, M. Pohl	30
147-J. Wakulsky, L. Pulice	20

BOARD NOMINATIONS REQUESTED

Two positions on the GLAGA board of directors will be vacant for the upcoming year. The positions are one year appointments. The board invites the membership to make their interest known to us or to nominate others who you know to have an interest. There are about ten meetings a year with most clustered in the summer. Most of the work involves helping GLAGA set up and run its tournaments and the Junior Golf program. Turn your opinion into a vote--apply for the GLAGA board positions. Get in touch with any of the current members of the board, see telephone list in this Golf News.

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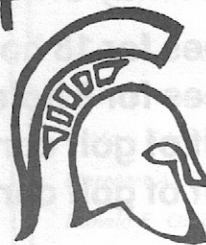
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SANDY'S WISH LIST AND
PREDICTIONS FOR 1987

Before I get into my predictions for 1987, I would like to share some of the things on my wish list with you:

1) I'd like to actually see someone drive No.10 at Groesbeck. Now I've heard all the "Paul Bunyon and Babe - the Blue Ox" tales of great strength that one would ever like to hear, now I'd just like to see someone do it. Both my friends and those golfers that I have contacted, have heard some of the same tales that I have heard, but like me they haven't seen anyone on the sur-

face either. So just once, I'd like to see the "titan" blow that can reach the green.

2) I'd like to see a "best-ball" tournament at Forest Akers Golf Course. I think it would be fun to either see or play in a tournament where "par" actually was important. I'd like to see the course set up a little tougher with the roughs a little longer and thicker, the greens a little firmer and a little faster with the pins set a little tough. This would bring the term "shot - maker" back into the game. With all the scrambles and best-balls

on the easier tracks wouldn't it be a great change to have to fight for a par once in a while?

3) Just once I'd like to hear the person who plays well in a tournament state the following: "I played just about as good as I can and I sure got my share of good breaks." How about "I was scared that I might choke on my last putt - thank God it went in!" It sure would be better the annual "I shot 65 and never made a putt." Or "if I would play with a better partner, I would have won." Think of the contradiction of such a ridiculous statement as that.



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4) Wouldn't be great if one ball was really the "longest" or the "best"? With all the claims of such superior distance, who really knows which ball to play? I know I am trying to convince friends to play the Ping "Strobic" golf ball. It may not be any better, but just think how it might distract your playing partner in the next nassau game you might have.

5) I'd like to see the "rules of golf" (which are and have been written by a group of old men in a dimly lit room while they sip tea through a straw at Far Hills New Jersey), take in to consideration the

fact the "silent majority" of all golfers are those who struggle to play their golf at public golf courses. They seem to write the rules only for the "good ole boys" at the club. Give us some meaningful rules that we can play with - not the "simon pure" conditions at the "club". Give us a break from the many problems that we see such as spike marks and unaked traps.

6) I'd like to see a "low team total" tournament. Then we would know for sure just who carries who in these events. I bet you would see some teams change.

Now for my Predictions - Last year at this time I predicted that rain would hamper every major tournament for the 1986. Well lets see:

- THE MASTERS- YES
- PORTLAND BB - YES
- GROESBECK BB - YES
- OAK LANE BB - YES
- ALL-CITY MEDAL - YES
- MICH AM - YES
- MICH OPEN - YES
- CC OF LANS INV. - YES
- WALNUT H. INV. - YES
- US OPEN - YES
- P.G.A. - YES
- BUICK OPEN - YES
- GROESBECK BB - YES
- OAK LANE BB - YES
- OAK LANE MEDAL - YES
- SPARTAN CLASSIC - YES

Well - what more can I say? It's nice to be right, but it does get boring at times. I think it also should be known that I also stated that

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someone from the Greater Lansing area would win the State Amateur. Now before you think I have finally made a mistake, Danny Olsen won the Indiana St. Am. I just didn't realize what state it would be in. Plus my prediction that our players would do well at the state level was right on the money.

I have given some serious thought to retirement as the challenge seems to have gone. However, I know that my fans would be at a loss with having to put up with the amateurish predictions of people like Bill Kost (who has come under my wing and I will work with him this year) as well as others which are so bad that I won't even bother to mention them by name. So I have decided to make it even

more of a challenge, I've decided to ask my fans to challenge me - If you need to know some thing in advance about golf - just drop me a line - and the answer will be yours.

Now here are a few my predictions for 1987:

We will enjoy a mild winter with less than normal amounts of snow which will see Bob (the snowman) Aumaugher come to the front in the early tournaments next spring.

Burton Smith will become the new President of the G.L.A.G.A..

The Portland Best-ball will be won by a team made up of a past winner and someone who has never won and who have never played together

before.

The Highland Hills Scramble will be won by a team of 3 people who have never played in a 3 - person event before this tournament.

The City Spring Best-ball will see one of the two previous winning teams win again.

The Oak Lane Spring Best-ball will finally see someone break the current record held by Jim Donahue and Denny Rapson (129).

These are just a few of my predictions and more will appear later in upcoming issues.

SANDY BUNKER

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OAK LANE FALL SCRAMBLES REMAIN POPULAR

What would those of us addicted to golf do without the Oak Lane fall scrambles? Some of us think that Michigan is the North's only year round golf state. For many of us the only condition preventing golf is a heavy snow. Thus in recent years we have played well into December. And for those who require a tourney flavor to their affliction, Oak Lane provides such a flavor by having sunday two person scrambles each fall until the first blizzard catches the last foursome on the eleventh hole. And should you think I am talking about only a few hardy souls, consider that on November ninth 28 teams showed up to play in 33 degree temps, 40 to 60 mile an hour winds, wind chill maybe 14, on greens frozen and plugged. And should you begin to think that some of us are crazy, consider that the alternative is watching the Lions. What follows are the October results, through three places.

OCTOBER 5

61--Bob Kempf, Bill Fuller	90.
63--Bill Kost, Steve Wakulsky	53.
--Jim Donahue, Tim Russell	53.
--Morrie Hoevel, Brian Donahue	53.

OCTOBER 12

63--Red McIntyre, Bob Aumaugher	110.
--T. Kolderman, Senkyr	110.
64--B. Breard, Blankenburg	52.
--John Weurding, Todd Colthorp	52.
--Jim Donahue, John Clark	52.
--M. Hugenot, C. Kennedy	52.

OCTOBER 19

60--Butch Miller, Fred Blackmond	120.
61--Joe Allen, Earl Anderson	110.
63--Fuller, Bond	77.
--Watters, Forest	77.
--Blake, Dane	77.

OCTOBER 26

61--Red McIntyre, Mike Boynton	80.
--Steve Wakulsky, Bill Kost	80.
63--Felix Ridsdale, Bob Aumaugher	37.
--Dick Wakulsky, John Wakulsky	37.

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GAM DIRECTOR ATTENDS GLAGA

BOARD MEETING

Golf Association of Michigan director Jeff Rivard (a Spartan) attended the November 14 GLAGA board meeting. His chief reason was to inquire as to whether GLAGA would be interested in joining the GAM. Of the 600 courses in Michigan 100 are private and 96 belong to the GAM. Recently the GAM has made overtures to public courses and associations with 14 now being members. The cost is 100 per association and 7 per member with a minimum of 50 paid members necessary.

Possible advantages to GLAGA members were listed as 1. a GAM approved handicap, 2. admission to GAM tournaments, 3. newsletters, 4. access to GAM's information center, 5. input to GAM decisions regarding amateur golf.

Some members of the board expressed doubts as to whether a GLAGA-GAM relationship would be worth the cost. Others won-

dered whether at least 50 members would be interested, especially since some GLAGA members belong to the GAM through other associations.

The board took the matter under advisement. This in part means that we would like to here from you, the membership, on whether your association should join the GAM. Please call or write any board member to express your opinion and reasons.

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The 1986 All-City Golf Team was selected and announced in November. The selection was somewhat easier this year even though the team was reduced from 15 to 5 players. The fact that three (3) of the selection tournaments were either cancelled or won by a non-area player made the selection process limited to mostly state and/or national events. The 5 man team is:

Fred Behymer Jr. - Fred is a repeat member from last year's team. Fred's 1986 accomplishments include a 2nd place finish in the All City Stroke Play, 10th place in the Horton Smith Memorial, 8th place in the Michigan Medal Play, Low Qualifier in the U.S.G.A.'s Mid - Amateur, Qualifier, at the Michigan State Amateur, Team member of both the Kenny Cup and Atlas Trophy teams, and was 10th in the 1986 GAM Honor Roll. Fred has also been selected as this year's "PLAYER OF THE YEAR" by the selection committee.

Bob Fossum - Bob's repeat victory in the All - City Stroke Play Championship puts him in the company of such elite local players as Lynn Jansen, G. Wakulsky, Bud Reniger, Jack Pitts, as well as others. Bob also had the low round at the

State Amateur (68), and led Michigan Open with a great round of 70 at the "BEAR". Bob ended up 19th place and missed being low amateur at the Mich. Open by 4 shots.

Jon Kosier - Jon who was the leader of 1986 M.S.U.'s Golf Team and selected to the All-Big Ten Team was also a stand out in the state and national tournaments. He was a quarter-finalist at the Michigan Amateur, 26th in the Michigan Open, 11th in the Big Ten Championships and was 7th in the U.S. Amateur Qualifying.

Steve Wakulsky - Steve qualified for both the U.S. Publinx and the U.S. Amateur, losing in the match play part in the Publinx. Steve also participated in the following amateur tournaments: Michigan Amateur, Azalea Amateur, Dunham Hills Medal Play and the North-South Amateur.

Bill Kost - Bill qualified for the Michigan Amateur and won one match. He also qualified for the U.S. Publinx Championship and has won or placed high in all the local best-ball tournaments with Steve Wakulsky.

The other major award this year is "GOLFER OF THE YEAR". This year's award goes to Ken Horvath for his outstanding work

not only with the GLAGA but also with the Golf Association's Jr. Golf Program. Ken was the driving force behind the touring pro Jim Gallagher making what we hope is an annual appearance with his clinic to cap off our venture in the area of Jr. Golf. Without Ken's efforts this program would not have been the success it was.

ALL-CITY HONORABLE MENTION:

Jerome Abood
Bob Aumaugher
Ned Bacon
Brian Donahue
Howard Evans
Jerry Gunthrope
Tom Jamieson
Scott Malaney
Paul Metzger
Chris Nelson
Jack Pitts
Burton Smith
Morrie Hoevel

Other local golfers receive awards are:

Senior Player of the Year:
Ed Abel

Junior Player of the Year:
Chris Rule

Woman Player of the Year:
Kelly Holland

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