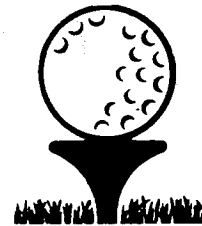


Published by the Greater Lansing Amateur Golf Association

# GOLF NEWS



GOLF: The Game of a Lifetime

March, 1991

## Newsletter Undergoes Facelift

### *New Format to Include Photos, Diverse Articles & Larger Staff*

As you have noticed, *GOLF NEWS* has undergone some changes in both appearance and content.

From a production standpoint, the newsletter is printed on a more alluring paper stock, utilizing a new type of printing process which we hope brings a more professional look to the piece and an "easy to read" format.

In addition, you'll see more utilization of photographs to bring you closer to the messages we're trying to convey, and you'll see articles of a more "offbeat" nature which we hope will provide unique perspectives on this game we all love (and hate on occasion). And as always, we welcome submission of articles by amateur scribes with something to say.

We also have a new and expanded newsletter staff:

**Jim Donahue**  
**Bob Aumaugher**  
**Brian Donahue**  
**Bill Christofferson**  
**Tim Russell**  
**Jon Hayes**  
**John Peakes**  
**Mike Boynton**  
**Ed Brown**  
**J.C. Peterson**  
**Burton Smith**

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*Circulation Director*  
*Seniors Correspondent*  
*Research/Educational Correspondent*  
*Golf Equipment Technical Advisor*  
*Women's Tournaments/Left-handed*  
*Equipment Correspondent*

## PUTTING: HOW DO WE COMPARE TO THE PROS?

*by Jim Donahue*  
*Senior Writer*

Harrison Smith faces a six foot putt on the 18th hole to win the "Reniger" at Forrest Akers West. For the past 35 holes he has made this type of putt with regularity.

While he is somewhat nervous, he sees the line very clearly. The hole looks like a wash tub. He thinks, "Smooth and solid. Smooth and solid."

He strokes . . . he misses. Should Harrison consider himself a) a choker; b) cursed with bad luck, or c) just an average putter who failed.

The right answer is "c", but there is more to it than just a failed attempt. Remember, only 54 percent of six foot putts are made by PGA "Tour" professionals . . . and

they play for a living. So failing to hole this critical putt is not the final blow that should cause Harrison to slash his wrists.

Last Summer, both my son and I missed putts that would have tied us for first place in a best-ball tournament. As we left the green, both of us overheard a spectator who watched our failure state, "What a couple of chokers!"

My first reaction was, "Where the hell did his team finish!" I was also miffed enough to find out just how poorly or how well we should have been able to perform under these conditions. Here's what I was able to find:

A study was recently underwritten by *Sports Illustrated* to gather data on how the best golfers in the world perform on the putting green. SI selected 15 tournaments in 1988 and picked a green at

each course that was smooth and relatively flat.

During the four days of tournament competition, every putt was measured using the triangulation method (measuring the distance to the nearest foot from the ball to the hole) and results were recorded as follows: a) number of birdie putts made; b) number of birdie putts missed; c) number of par putts made; d) number of par putts missed, and e) total number of putts taken.

All tap-ins of a foot or less were eliminated from the study, as were all the putts from more than 25 feet because of the difficulty in measuring them.

In total, 11,060 putts from 2 to 25 feet were measured. At least 118 putts were stroked at each of the one foot intervals

*please see PUTTING on page 2*

## PUTTING, continued from page 1

which gave statisticians enough data to work with. The pros' results were:

- 83 percent of 3-foot putts were made.
- 54 percent of 6-foot putts were made.
- 33 percent of 10-foot putts were made.
- 16 percent of 15-foot putts were made.
- 10 percent of 25-foot putts were made.

An unusual fact was that these pros made more putts for pars than they did for birdies at the footage measured. When asked, most pros felt they were better putters than they actually were. Dave Barr felt most pros were making 85 percent of all 6 foot putts they had. When told the actual percentage was only 54 percent, he had trouble believing it. So did Billy Mayfair, who thought the total was more around 80 percent.

One player who was very realistic about the percentage of putts he made from various distances was Ben Crenshaw. Maybe being more realistic about what he expects to make from various distances accounts for his success on the greens. Most tour players rank Crenshaw as one of the best, if not the best, putters on tour. He feels most 15 foot putts are "freebies". If he makes them it's a bonus. "I just put a good stroke on it, and if it goes in, it's a bonus," he said. "You just can't expect to make those."

"In golf, there is a huge disparity between perception and parity," says Dave Pulz, author of *Putt Like the Pros* and an expert who has made a living out of studying the short game and putting. Pulz has determined that no matter how perfect you stroke a putt or how positive you are mentally, your chances of making the putt are limited at best. "There's a lot of serendipity in the game of golf," he states. "Anytime the ball is rolling along the ground, even on what appears to be a perfect green, the ball can do something unpredictable."

Pulz's "Tru-roller", a machine designed to put a perfect roll on a putt time after time, could only make 70 percent of its putts from 12 feet. Grain, spike marks, slope, speed and even wind must be taken into account when putting, Pulz said.

Pulz also disputes the myth that 10 year old kids make the best putters because they have not learned to miss or have negative feelings about putting. "Putting takes athletic ability," he says, "the kind that is manifested in great hand-eye coordination, precision and touch. It takes great mental discipline because putting is hard."

There is a mental side to putting that must also be taken into consideration. While mechanics and technique play important roles in putting, they alone do not make a good putter. Tom Weiskopf states, "A lot of guys with great strokes aren't great putters because they have never had the nerve to be one."

Most good putters have a strong mental attitude. Dave Stockton, who won the 1976 PGA and who is considered a great putter, said, "I think that I deserve to get the ball to the hole every time I stand over a putt."

Most good putters feel that way. They would not want anyone

other than themselves to have to make a putt. The reverse is also true. Take Mac O'Grady for instance. Putting, or the lack of being able to putt well has all but driven him off the tour. "Putting has driven me out of the game," he said. "It's just too painful. You can do everything perfectly and the ball still won't go in the hole."

Thought processes like Stockton's win championships. Those like O'Grady's don't. It's that simple.

Remember, this study showed that more putts were made for pars than for birdies. In some cases it was dramatically different. At five feet it was 25 percent higher; at 11 feet it was 17 percent higher, and at 21 feet it was 21 percent higher in accuracy. According to the researchers, this fact alone set off a great debate among tour players. Both Tom Kite and George Archer, better-than-good putters, felt that they tried just as hard on birdie putts as they did on those for pars. Archer said, "Actually, I feel that the most difficult putt to make is the one for triple bogey, because at that point you have lost your composure."

Others felt there were physical reasons for the higher par putt efficiency. First, par putts are usually second putts and if the first putt went past the hole, the pro would know the break coming back. Second, if the green has been missed, the pro will try to leave himself with the easiest putt he can, usually uphill.

Even this last statement can be misleading. Dave Pulz states that a slightly downhill putt is the easiest putt you can have.

So how do we rank the pros? In the coming year, this reporter will conduct a study that will determine the following:

1. How do we compare with the pros on putting greens.
2. Who are the best putters in the area.
3. What advice do these players have for the rest of us.
4. What are the best types of putters to use and why.
5. Who has the best practice putting greens.
6. How can you make yourself a better putter.

Each future issue of *Golf News* will cover a different aspect of putting, and hopefully by next year, we will all be better putters.

### BOOK REVIEW

#### *The Master of Putting* by George Low

This may be the best of all books out on the art of putting. Dave Pulz's book is very detailed on why you make or miss putts and what you should do to correct problems, but Low's book is more of a "show and tell" on putting. Low explains his theory of putting, then shows you in pictures how he putts and why. He is very detailed in why he does what he does, and he explains why he doesn't do something and why you shouldn't do it either. Everything makes sense and appears to be logical and fundamentally sound. This is one book you'll wish was on video. At \$10.95, it's more than worth the money and is a MUST for your book collection.

## G.L.A.G.A. HONOREES FOR 1990

Even though the 1990 All-City Golf Team has already been announced, several very important awards now need to be made known, so here they are:

### GOLFER OF THE YEAR

For the first time since this has been presented, the award goes to two people -- Harold Singleton and Elliot Thompson. These two gentlemen have done so much behind the scenes to insure the success of our Junior Golf Clinic, it would be difficult to imagine how it would be without them.

*H. Singleton*

Free passes, (Buick Open) car use and other donations are all the result of these two men. While Elliot's job has limited him, Harold has continued to always be there with a helping hand when it is needed most. GLAGA is proud to award *Golfer of the Year* to both of these fine men.

*E. Thompson*

### TEACHER OF THE YEAR

This is the first time this award is presented, and GLAGA will continue to recognize both pros and amateurs alike who spend their time making golf more enjoyable for everyone.

This year's award goes to Sheila Kiefer. Everyone knows Sheila. She has taught in this area for 20 years. Sheila got her start in golf from Art Prior, the pro-owner of Par Mor Golf Course. She has tried to get on the LPGA Tour twice, once in 1971 and again in 1973.

*S. Kiefer*

Sheila now teaches golf at Lansing Community College, Waverly Community Education, the YMCA, and, of course, Royal Scot Golf Course. She started the biggest women's golf outing at Royal Scot. Now in it's seventh full year, this tournament routinely draws a maximum field of 144 players. Sheila is married (Husband Kim) and has two sons (Kevin - 12 and Kyle - 9). We hope that her family is as proud of her as we are in giving her this award.

### SENIOR OF THE YEAR

This year's recipient is Mike Boynton who ran away with the "senior" division in the 1990 All-City Stroke Play Championship. After two rounds, Mike had a six shot lead and increased it over the final 18 holes. With Mike's victory in the first year of this flight, we hope more seniors will challenge Mike for leadership in 1991. Congratulations, Mike!

*M. Boynton*

### GIRL'S JUNIOR PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Our award winner is Lori Schliissberg. What can we add to her accomplishments last year? Lori has won every junior tournament in this area and is also on the State Girl's "Dream Team".

*L. Schliissberg*

Better yet, Lori will be a Senior this fall.

### BOY'S JUNIOR PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Earl Eckenroe is our pick for this award. Earl was runner-up for this prestigious award the last couple of years, and because of his consistent play over that period and his success at Haslett High School last fall (selected to all-city and all-state teams), the committee felt this choice was long overdue.


*E. Eckenroe*

### WOMEN'S PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Jennifer Hecht is the committee's selection for this award. Her victory in the 1990 Women's All-City Medal Play demonstrated the character for such an honor. Jennifer is a worthy champion -- one the committee is sure will make a valiant run at a "repeat" in 1991. Congratulations, Jennifer.

*J. Hecht*

There you have it, good members, our "Pride of 1990". 1991 promises more great competition for these recognitions.



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# G.L.A.G.A. Announces "Sell, Swap and Trade Days" Event

The Greater Lansing Amateur Golf Association will hold its popular "Sell, Swap and Trade Days" on Saturday and Sunday, March 23 & 24 at GOLF USA in the Frandor Shopping Center.

The event will continue on through March 30th, but these additional dates must be arranged with GOLF USA.

The location will offer GLAGA members a better chance to both purchase and sell equipment. It is strongly suggested that if you have more than a couple of individual clubs to sell, you should reserve space by calling 337-0100.

Representatives of GLAGA will be on hand to take new memberships for 1991.

Also, any new member will be able to pick up a copy of this issue of *GOLF NEWS* which, as you have already noticed, contains our annual "Tournament Schedule".

GLAGA looks forward to seeing you March 23 & 24 at GOLF USA.

## What's New In Equipment for 1991

At this year's PGA of America Annual Merchandise Show nearly 600 exhibitors displayed all the new equipment for 1991. It would be virtually impossible for us to tell you about everything, so we will highlight what we feel are the most important "new ideas" for the coming year. Here they are:

**FORGED CLUB HEADS.** In the last two years, there has been a move to incorporate forged heads and cavity back designs into one head. Hogan (Edge) and MacGregor (JNP) lead the way, but now almost every other manufacturer is quickly following.

**LONGER CLUBS.** From what we understand, most manufacturers are trying to coax the average golfer to go from a standard 43 inch driver to one with a 45 inch shaft. The companies are claiming the average golfer will find extra distance with this change.

**OVERSIZED CLUB HEADS.** What has been long considered a joke is now a serious matter to many manufacturers. Not only are we going to see oversized club heads made of laminated wood and graphite, but now Calloway Golf is leading the way with an oversized metal head.

**MILLED PUTTER HEADS.** It seems every manufacturer offers a new putter with a milled head. Hogan, Cobra, Ray Cook, Spalding, Dunlop and Bullet (to name a few) all offer one, with a great PGA pro putter designing them like Norman and Archer. But, who knows if they really work?

**STRONGER LOFTS.** We have long suspected that the newer clubs that have come out recently have stronger lofts, and manufacturers are admitting it. You'll now notice that fewer tour players will carry one irons, leaving space for the newest market item -- the 3rd wedge.

**3-WEDGE SYSTEMS.** Ram has had a "Tom Watson 3-Wedge System" for years, and now Hogan has the "Tom Kite 3-Wedge System" and most manufacturers have followed the trend. Titleist, Wilson, Spalding, MacGregor and Cobra are but a few of the companies that offer 3-wedge systems.

**SPECIAL CLUBS.** Last year, the "J Professional Weapon" by Bridgestone was the "in" club. The cost? Only \$400 plus. So now Mizuno, MacGregor and Toney Penna are also coming out with clubs in this area. The MacGregor model sells for \$475 (it contains a graphite shaft that has titanate ceramic crystals in it).

Other "new inventions" this year include light weight, water resistant golf shoes, golf bags specially designed for carts and all purpose cotton shirts. Manufacturers have also been advertising graphite shafts with boron shafts, but from now on, boron/graphite shafts really using boron the way it is intended will have a diamond-shaped label clearly stating "Boron Certified" on it.

Happy shopping in 1991.




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## WE WANT SANDY!

*With quite a bit of arm twisting, GLAGA was able to convince Sandy Bunker to write his well-liked and often very accurate column once a year. He's using his crystal golf ball to give you insight into the coming season. Here's Sandy:*

To be honest, I never thought I'd be writing this column again. Oh, I knew that Jim and Bob would get back into doing the newsletter, but I never figured I'd get pressured into writing again. Anyway, here are my predictions for 1991:

**The Portland Best Ball:** This year's tournament will be won by a team no one really considers a favorite. These two players, while fairly decent in their own right, wouldn't normally be considered a strong team. This "odd couple" will lead right from the first hole on, and while they won't set records, they will forge new modern standards for this tournament.

**The Oak Lane Spring Best Ball:** This tournament will be played under ideal weather conditions, and unlike Portland, it will be won and/or lost on the 18th hole. I see a player holing out a chip shot for the title. The winning team will be one of experience and youth, with the older player coming to the front late to win.

**All-City "Spring" Best Ball:** In this tournament I see youth clashing with experience and youth winning in the end. I don't see Gary Domagalski winning any city tournament until July, and even then I have my doubts. What I see here is youth showing its strength.

**All-City Match Play:** It won't be Domagalski winning here. With the factories laying off their employees in April, more players will have their games ready for this tournament. I look for an older player with a gray receding hairline to win this one.

**All-City Stroke Play:** Once again, youth comes to the forefront as players such as Ian Peakes, Hank Schliessberg and other young college-trained individuals come forward to challenge the "Great Gary" for the throne.

**All-City "Fall" Best Ball:** Look for a "tried and true" team to win here. These two will play along, almost unnoticed until the final score is posted.

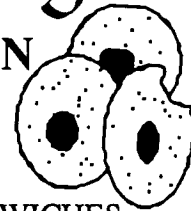
**The "Reniger":** Playing at Forest Akers gives Domagalski the edge here — an edge nobody in this area can overcome. The "Great Gary" wins again.

**Oak Lane "Fall" Best Ball:** A surprise team always wins here. I look for this tradition to continue. Look for a score posted 6th or 7th on Saturday to win.

**Non-Tournament Predictions:** 1) Look for Bob Aumaugher to overcome his "shank" problems this year. 2) Weather this season will be almost perfect except for the All-City Stroke Play which will be hindered by rain and wind. 3) More of Lansing's better players will switch back to forged irons this year, and some will return to "real" woods. 4) The "Senior Classic" will not take place this year, but will return in 1992. 5) The GLAGA will continue refining the "All-City" Golf Team selection process.

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## THE STATE OF JUNIOR GOLF IN THE LANSING AREA

by Jim Donahue, Senior Writer

While reviewing several golf publications for article ideas for this year's *GOLF NEWS*, I really became aware of just how little impact the golfers from Michigan have had on the national amateur scene.

Of the top 300 ranked male amateur players in the country, only one player (Jon Morgan of West Bloomfield) was rated and he was in the bottom 5th of the rankings. As for women, only one player (Kelly Robbins of Mount Pleasant) was ranked in the top 100. No Michigan Junior players were ranked.

Why? Well, I believe the answer lies in our basic lack of good junior golf programs. Sure, Flint has a good program and Detroit has a decent one, but for most of the state, programs have started to deteriorate or have never really had an impact.

There is a new USGA program called "Hook a Kid on Golf". This year, the program will reach 26 cities all over the country . . . except in Michigan. In 1991, the USGA will match contributions up to \$90,000 for the program.

I knew of this program and decided to see how much support could be generated in the Lansing area for Junior golf. I wrote 80 letters to people in the Lansing area who were golfers, businessmen and who were in a position to possibly donate funds to the cause.

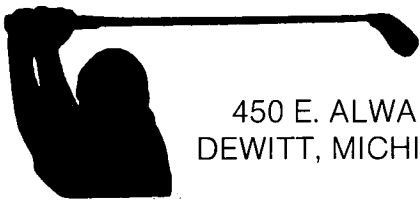
I asked for donations from \$1 to \$100. I received 8 replies totalling \$535 in contributions which will be used to help the program in 1991 (one reply politely informed me that it was against club policy to present this request to the board). But the supporters are far too few, and the \$535 will not bring our Junior Golf Program to a point where it should be. The seven who contributed know the worth of Junior Programs, and I applaud their generosity. I just wish more people felt the same way.

I am painfully aware of the shortcomings of Lansing's Junior Golf Program. We had hoped to get the kids who participate to a point where they could go on to more advanced lessons and thus become more competitive on the high school and college levels. We have accomplished the very basics in this task, but as our participants become younger and younger, it has dawned on me that even though we meant well, we have created a "gap" in Lansing Junior Golf.

Once we give these kids the basics, where do they go? If they are old enough to participate in the "Coach's Program", then they go on. If they have the money for individual or group lessons, then they go on. But if they are too young for the "Coach's Program" or don't have the money necessary for lessons, then I guess they are essentially finished.

It could be said we are just another program offering "false hopes" to these kids.

*Please see JUNIOR GOLF on Page 7*



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## JUNIOR GOLF, continued from page 6

You only need to look at the City's Junior Tournaments to see what the future of golf could become. These tournaments are being dominated by youngsters from the country clubs. As always, there are a few exceptions, but for the most part, the kids who come from the clubs dominate. They have equipment, a place to play and parents who can afford lessons for them. Unless there is a change, golf could once again become a game for the privileged few.

I don't blame anyone for this problem. If there is any blame, I will take it. While I have tried to promote golf in general and Junior Golf in particular, I still can't help but feel that I somehow have failed. It has been said to me that our program is "better than nothing", but it is of little condolence when we had such lofty expectations to begin with.

For those of you who aren't familiar with our Junior Golf Program, in the past four years we have had more than 1,200 kids participate. We have brought in such "Tour" players as Jim Gallagher Jr. and Ray Barr Jr., as well as trick shot expert Tom Mullenix. No child has been turned away for lack of money, while at the same time each participant has received a t-shirt and golf hat/visor.

As this will be my last year in the GLAGA, I will encourage someone who is a better organizer and a better promoter to take over this challenge. My biggest fear about the future of the Junior Golf Program is that almost all of the recommendations that have been made to me always include a cost increase to \$35 or \$40 per child, and this scares me because they could be right.


This program needs more than the verbal support that it has been given. It takes money and unless this program gets it, it will soon be a thing of the past. When it goes, the future of golf for anyone but the privileged few could go with it.

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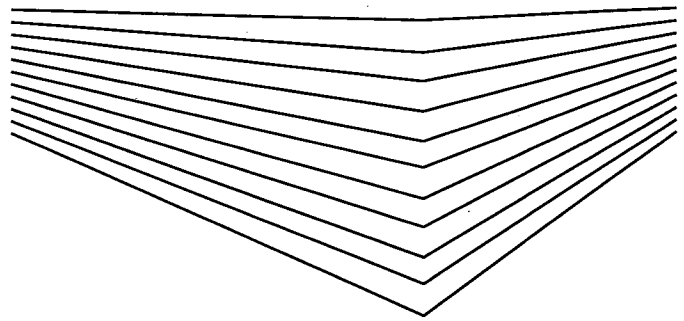
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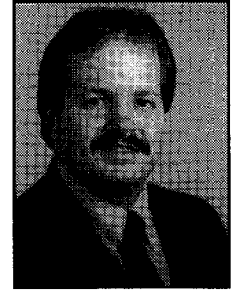
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## CONDOLENCES

Ron Radway, Member of the Country Club of Lansing and strong supporter of GLAGA and its Junior Golf Program, passed away in early January. Ron, a long-time partner of Marty Schlissberg in the Country Club's Member-Quest Tournament, will be greatly missed by the Lansing Golf Community. We extend our sympathies to his wife and family.

## TEE TO GREEN

**Planning on going to Scotland to play golf?** Beginning this April the cost of playing golf at the Old Course at St. Andrews' is going up (just like in Lansing). A round of golf will now cost about \$60.00 (up from \$45). Also, the interval between tee times will be increased from 8 to 10 minutes (just as we do for the All-City Medal). The change is to "insure that the famous course will remain in prime condition."

**Did you know that Bo Schembechler is now branching out into golf?** Bo, former U of M football coach/athletic director and president of the Detroit Tigers, has been named honorary chairman of the 1991 Senior TPC Tournament in Dearborn. Wonder if any sweeping changes are in store for golf in Michigan?

**How straight could Ben Hogan hit his driver?** According to Lindy Miller, Ben Hogan's former caddy at Hogan's Shady Oaks Country Club in Fort Worth, "Mr. Hogan could hit a driver straighter than he could hit his 7-iron." Miller continued: "You could stand in one place and catch shots off his driver. You'd have to move a little sometimes on his 7-iron shots. On days when there were cumulus clouds, those white puffy clouds, you'd lose the balls up there and couldn't see them. You knew they were coming at you though. You could hear them whizzing by your head. Sometimes, it was scary, but luckily, I never got hit." (*Golf World*, Jan. 11, 1991)

**Lee Trevino drops Taylor Made and Toyota.** For those who missed the Senior Skins Game and the Tournament of Champions, we noticed two distinct changes by Lee. First he is carrying Spalding Clubs and a Spalding Bag, and he is now wearing a "Top Flite" hat and a shirt with a Cadillac emblem on it. If Lee plays in the Buick Open this year, his reception at No. 17 should greatly improve.

**Fire Ants suspected in the death** of golfer in Florida. Nicholas Zyla (46) was covered with biting fire ants after hitting a shot from the rough  
*Please see FIRE ANTS on Page 9*

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## FIRE ANTS, *continued from page 8*

on the 8th hole at the PGA National Golf Resort in Palm Beach Gardens, FL. After being bit numerous times, he soon became short of breath, collapsed and died. No one is sure if he died of the ant bites or a heart attack. A law suit is pending.

**Grand Rapids Senior Open changes it's name.** Since the First of America Bank Corp. has become the title sponsor of this year's tournament, the name has been changed to "The First of America Classic." The tournament will be held the week of September 2nd through the 8th.

**The City of Lansing has announced rate increases** at all of their golf courses for the 1991 season. The rate increases range from 50 cents per nine holes at Groesbeck to the \$100.00 increase for "Senior Passes."

Don Ballard, Golf Director for the City of Lansing has told *Golf News* that he hopes to keep price increases to a minimum even after the renovations are completed at both Waverly and Groesbeck.

**In an article that appeared in** the December 1, 1990 issue of *Golf Week*, the national Golf Foundation listed the top "50" hot spots for public golf course development. Not one Michigan county, city, or area was listed.

**For 1991, Karsten manufacturing Corp. (Ping)** has announced that it will use Sandvile Titanium "Ti-shafts" in its putter lines. Ping has also incorporated graphite shafts as well.

**For those who use the "Long Putters",** Mattzie Golf has introduced a new "Long Putter Grip" which is 24 inches long and which does conform to the new USGA rules. The rule requires that all putters have a single grip, starting this year.

**Hank Schlissberg plays well in the "Dixie Amateur".** Playing in a field of 220 players Hank qualified 20th (out of 64) and proceeded to the Match Play Segment. In his first match he won 3 and 2, in his second, he was victorious winning 1-up in 20 holes. Hank's success ended in the "round of 16" when he was defeated 3 and 2. We in the Lansing area are proud of his success and wish him more of the same in the future.

## SCRATCH GROUP PLAYERS SOUGHT

Dennis Shumway, a member and advertiser, has asked that we put an article in the *Golf News* relating to the possibility of forming a "Scratch Golf Group."

Dennis has been in contact with MSU Forest Aker's Golf Course and he feels very confident that things can be worked out on the "West" course for this group. The group would be composed of between 16 and 24 players who would compete with each other without handicaps being involved.

Group play would begin in April. Anyone who wishes to participate in this group should contact Dennis Shumway at 332-1331 between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.



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### WHERE'S HARRY "SLICK" GREEN?

Any member who would like to write a column or article for *Golf News* should do so and mail it to: **GLAGA, P.O. Box 25091, Lansing, MI 48909**

We are always looking for different points of view, newsworthy articles and new ideas for our newsletter. Everything that is sent to us and which is in good taste will be printed.

So Harry—if you're still out there—we miss you! Write soon!

### Publishing Dates for *Golf News* '91

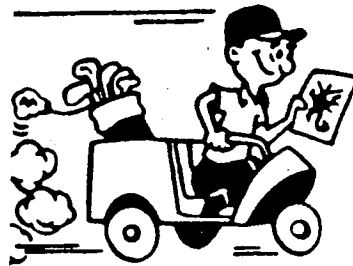
**Spring Preview Issue - May 15, 1991:** This issue will cover anything that is new in the way of golf, golf equipment and how it concerns Lansing Area Golfers, as well as cover new balls, clubs, putters, bags, shoes, etc. We will also review several new publications, new videos and new TV programs. You'll get previews of the Portland CC Best-Ball, the All-City and Oak Lane "Spring" Best-Balls, and the All-City Match-Play Tournament. In addition to interviews, there will be an article about Indian Hills, "What's in the Bag", and a fictional match between the public course players and the country club players.

**All-City Preview Issue - July 5, 1991:** This issue will deal with the All-City Championship. Historical facts, player interviews, predictions, and profiles of each course will be presented. We will also review of all tournaments played to date.

**Fall Update & Reniger Preview Issue - September 4, 1991:** This issue will cover the results of the All-City Medal Play Tournament, the Country Club Invitationals, the Chisholm Hills Invitational and the Michigan Open and Amateur results. We'll also preview both the All-City and Oak Lane "Fall" Best-Balls as well as the "Reniger Memorial."

Please see *GOLF NEWS ISSUES* on Page 11

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## GOLF NEWS ISSUES, *continued from page 10*

**Season Summary Issue - November 4, 1991:** This final issue for 1991 will review all the tournaments for the year with detailed coverage given the "Reniger Memorial." We will select the 1991 All-City Golf Team, all the special awards that our association gives out, and preview possible changes for 1992.

### GLAGA MEMBERSHIP FEE INCREASES

For the first time since the inception of the Greater Lansing Amateur Golf Association, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to increase the membership fee to \$10.00. The Board also announced that there would no longer be reduced rates for Junior or Senior Members.

According to one Board member, the increase was made in order to offset the tremendous rise in mailing costs and gradual increase in printing costs. The Board feels "that even at \$10.00 per year, the membership is still a good bargain."

### INDOOR GOLF . . . GREENS ARE BROWNS

*by Jim Donahue, Senior Writer*

For the second time since the Winter Greens G.C. in Flushing opened, I made the trek to play this "indoor" 9-hole course. While I was somewhat impressed the first time, I was quite disappointed the second.

First, the rates have already been increased (\$12.00 during the

week and \$18.00 on weekends). Second, the greens have been pounded to dirt by the constant traffic.

Ken Horvath (MSU Golf Coach), Mike Griffith (State Journal Writer) and myself all felt that some serious problems must be overcome for these types of courses to succeed. Our ideas range from more study and experimentation by the people at MSU to letting the grass grow a whole summer before putting the dome over it.

Would I ever go back again? I didn't think I'd go a second time and I know that I will never go back for a third. Here's why:

1. The people who work there are only fairly courteous and the PGA Pro looked as if we were all in his way.
2. The greens were and are in terrible shape.
3. The sign that states you can go in a look for 5 minutes for \$5.00 pretty well tells you that this place is in business strictly to make money.
4. The holes are set up short and the pins are often in unfair spots.
5. The 35 to 45 minutes it takes to play this course, hardly seems worth the money.
6. Finally, the little plaid bags that they force you to take are a "pain" at best.

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## Three New Tournaments Possible for 1992

Over the past few months, several of our Board members have received telephone calls concerning the possibility of having a "Team Match-Play" Championship. At our next Board Meeting I will request that our Board look into holding three new tournaments for 1992. These tournaments would include a "Team Match-Play" Tournament.

The tournaments that I will make the request for are:

**The All-City Team Match-Play Championship.** This tournament would be a 2-person team, scramble, match-play tournament. The entry fee would be \$30.00 plus green fees. The field would be limited to 64 teams and would be played over two weekends. Prizes would range from \$700 to the winning team to \$100 to each of the losing teams in the quarter finals. This tournament could be played at the same time as the country clubs hold their invitationals.

**The Senior Classic.** This tournament would be a three day 54 hole tournament with 18 holes being played each day. Flights would be determined by the total score for the first two rounds (as is the All-City Medal). Flights would be determined by score -- not by age. Courses would be selected that would promote

### NEW ALL-CITY MEDAL PLAY TOURNAMENT CHAIRPERSON NAMED

The GLAGA is proud to announce that the Tournament Chairperson for this year's All-City Medal Play is Harold Singleton. Harold has worked on the Tournament Committee for the last four years and with this experience we feel that the tradition of well-run All-City's will continue.

Other tournament Chairpeople are:

All-City Match Play--Bob Aumaugher  
Women's All-City Medal Play--Burton Smith  
Reniger--Jim Donahue/Ken Horvath

At this time the Board of Directors would like to express our sincere thanks to Scott Walker for his work and organization in the last two All-City Medal Play Championships. His efforts non only bettered the tournament, but created standards that will be difficult to match. Thank you Scott.

### HOW GROESBECK GOLF COURSE HAS CHANGED

For those of you who are interested, the proposed changes for Groesbeck GC are not the first for this stately old public golf course. We took the time to research how Groesbeck has changed over the years. Don Ballard, Golf Director for the City of Lansing furnished us with a layout of how the course looked until the 1950's. We thought you'd be interested so we have included this layout (next page).

Jim Donahue, staff historian, had the following remarks about  
*Please see OLD GROESBECK on Page 13*

better scoring for "senior" players. There would be four flights and the field limited to 64 players.

**Challenge Cup.** This event would have the 12 best "country club" players (8 regular and 4 senior) playing against the 12 best "public course" players (once again 8 regular and 4 senior). There would be three 18-hole rounds. The first round would be 2-man teams--alternate shot. The second round would be 2-man teams--best ball match play. The third round would be individual vs. individual medal play. Winners of each match would receive 2 points. Matches ending in a tie would receive one point.

A non-playing captain would be selected by the clubs and a public course players' selection committee. The first 6 players (regular) and 2 players (senior) would be selected for each team by their point totals for the All City Golf Team. The remaining four players (2 regular and 2 senior) would be selected by the non-playing captains. The site of this event would alternated between a public course one year and a country club the next.

This event would be played the second weekend following the "Reniger" or the following spring.

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**OLD GROESBECK, from pg. 12**

how the "old Course" once played and some of the other changes that have been made in the past. Jim said, "I never played much on the old set-up, but I did caddy there a lot. The biggest things that I remember and I'll try to go by hole order, are:

#1 (now #11) - This hole was a fairly easy par 5. The trees at the corner weren't as tall as they are now and you could easily hit your tee shot over the trees and down in the valley. I've seen many tee shots on the up slope.

The one person who I remember having the most success on this hole was a guy named Ron Pernay. Ron would not cut the corner as much as most payers and because the fairways weren't watered, the ball would always end up in a flat spot in the rough between #1 (now #11) and #3 (now 13). From this spot he was able to see the whole green, so he very seldom made a score higher than 4.

#7 (now #5) - This hole was very easily driven from the tee. Many players often used irons off this tee. Kids from the local neighborhood used to sell Kool Aide and Lemonade over the fence here.

#9 (now #7) - There was not a fairway trap on the right and the pine trees on the right weren't there either. This par 5 was very easily reached with a driver and an iron.

#11 (now #9) - First of all, all the trees on the right weren't there. There were a couple of smallish trees there, but not a whole row of them. The green was simply a horror story. The face of the hill leading to the green had two huge traps in it. You could get some nearly impossible lies in these traps. Everyone really feared this hole.

#13 (now #2) - The half-way house was on this hole. You could only play 18 holes at this time. Players easily drove this green.

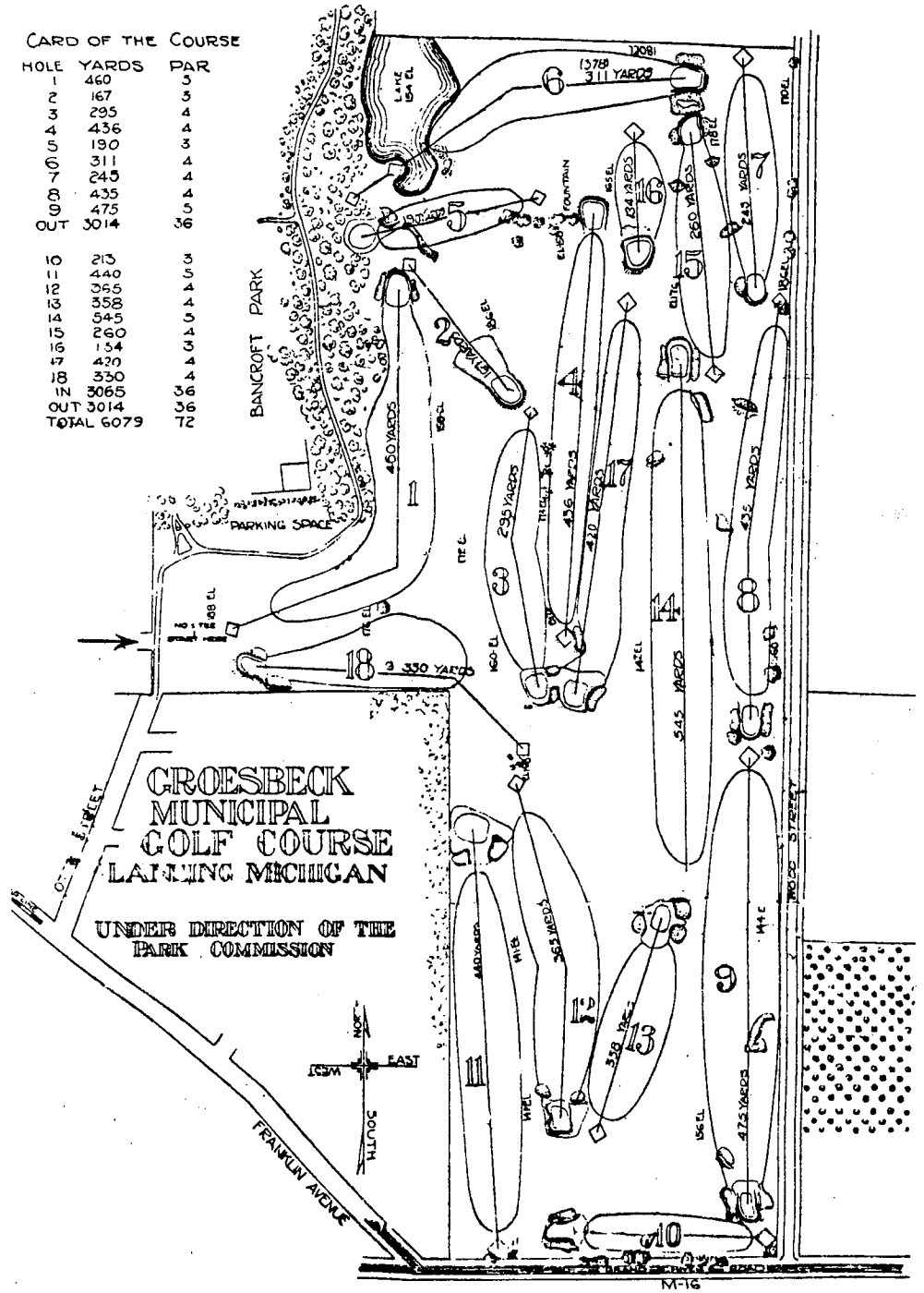
#14 (now #3) - Players played this hole by hitting a hard hook into the right rough. The ball would hit and roll to the up-slope of the mound. This green could be easily hit in two shots.

#17 (now #18) - What I remember about this hole is the long uphill walk to the 18th tee.

#18 (now #10) - What a finishing hole this was. First of all, there wasn't a fence behind the green. The trees in front of the tee were not nearly as tall and most players went over them. The second shot was something else. As much as players feared #11, they feared this hole

CARD OF THE COURSE

HOLE	YARDS	PAR
1	460	3
2	167	3
3	295	4
4	436	4
5	190	3
6	311	4
7	240	4
8	435	4
9	475	5
10	3014	36
11	213	3
12	440	5
13	365	4
14	358	4
15	545	5
16	260	4
17	154	3
18	420	4
19	330	4
IN	3065	36
OUT	3014	36
TOTAL	6079	72



even more. Going over this green would mean that your ball would go all the way down to the bottom of the hill. My late father may have stated it best when he related this story to me some years ago. "In those days, we used to have to qualify to get into the All-City Medal Play. I hit a pretty good tee shot. I had an easy 9 iron left to the green. Art Kirchen came up to me in the fairway and told me that I needed four to qualify. As I watched my playing partner's balls bounce over the green and probably down the hill, I could hardly hold my club. My shot hit just short and barely stopped in the fringe in the rear of the green. I got down in two shots for a par and felt like I had just won the U.S. Open."

In the middle 1950's Herb Kipke, the Recreation Director, came up with the plan to make Groesbeck into two separate nines. He had the old starter's shack torn down and changed the course to it's present set-up. He built a new club hours (which was really never used as it was designed) and he made other minor changes. Some other things that might be of interest are:

- o The old maintenance shed was moved from #11 (a road came off the
- Please see OLD GROESBECK on page 14*

**OLD GROESBECK, continued from page 13**

- Bancroft Park Drive) to where it is now.
- The half-way house was torn down.
- Otto Schubel built a rain shelter near #7 green.
- The traps in the face of #9 were removed.
- The greens for both #8 and #15 were rebuilt.
- The tee at #5 was moved back as part of a plan that one of City's Landscape Architects and I had come up with (The other parts were to remove #4 green and use #16 green for #4. This would allow us to move #17 tee back

- into what is now #16 fairway. A green for #16 was built and is now being used for as nursery green).
- Finally, the "Pat Rinke Memorial Parkway" was built around #12 green.

These are a few of the changes that have been made, and if you have other stories of interest--please let us know and we will reprint it with your permission.

## How to Caddie Your Way to College

The Western Golf Association, founded in 1899, is a national organization with the purpose of sponsoring three national golf championships and providing general service to the game of golf. For more than 50 years, the WGA has sponsored the Evans Scholars Foundation which provides college scholarships to deserving young men and women from the caddie ranks. There are two such existing caddie programs in the Lansing area. At Walnut Hills Country Club and at the Country Club of Lansing it is the GLAGA's pleasure to inform its readers about the Evans Caddie Scholarship Program, including qualifications, policies and terms.

Who is eligible to apply for an Evans Scholarship?

To be nominated for a scholarship, a candidate must: a) Have completed the junior year in high school and rank in the upper 25% of the class; b) have superior caddie record for a minimum of two years and be recommended by club officials; c) require financial assistance, and d) have outstanding personal character.

Scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis, taking all these factors into consideration.

The policies of the Evans Scholars Program are: a) Required residence on the college campus; b) an Evans Scholarship is a one year grant which can be renewed for four years at the Foundation's option; c) an Evans Scholarship covers tuition and housing at the 13 universities where the Foundation owns and maintains an Evans Scholar Chapter House (these are: Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Marquette, Miami [Ohio], Michigan, Michigan State, Minnesota, Missouri, Northwestern, Ohio State, Purdue, Wisconsin, and Northern Illinois University); d) in other states tuition and room rent are costs covered at the candidate's state university, and e) an Evans Scholarship is limited to the candidate's state university in those states where an Evans Scholar Charter House is maintained.

How does a candidate apply for an Evans Scholarship?

1. Obtain a standard "Scholarship Application Form." This is available from the club or sponsoring association. Applications should be submitted to the WGA as soon as possible after July 1, following completion of the junior year in high school.

Please see CADDIE on Page 15

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## CADDIE, continued from page 14

2. Submit a letter of recommendation from each of the four following officials at his/her club: President, Caddie Committee Chairman, Golf Professional, and Caddie Superintendent.
3. Arrange for high school to submit a transcript of grades through the junior year.
4. Request from WGA a "Financial Aid Form," which must be completed and submitted by candidates parents.
5. Arrange to take the morning Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) of the College Entrance Examination Board in spring of the junior year in high school, or fall of the senior year. Request that the scores be sent to the Evans Scholars Foundation (code 0153), Golf, Illinois, 60029.

When is a scholarship awarded?

1. Candidates who reach the finals in scholarship competition will be asked to appear before a Scholarship Committee at selection meetings held in late fall or early winter. Each finalist will be considered on the basis of over all record an financial need.
2. Each candidate is advised promptly thereafter of the decision of the Scholarship Committee.

## Facts and Figures About the Evans Scholars Foundation

Chick Evans, the golfing great who died in 1979, was the father of the caddie scholarship program which began in 1930 under the administration of the Western Golf Association. Various golf organizations throughout the country sponsor such programs and 20 of these are affiliated with the Evans Scholar Foundation.

The "Chapter House Concept" and many benefits of fraternal living make this program unique. Most of the Evans Scholars live in the Chapter House maintained by the Foundation at 13 major universities. These Evans Chapters (and when they were activated) are located at the following universities:

Michigan State (1955) (Located at 831 East Grand River Avenue, East Lansing); Northwestern (1940); Illinois (1951); Michigan (1952); Wisconsin (1953); Marquette (1955); Minnesota (1958); Ohio State (1962); Purdue (1967); Colorado (1967); Missouri (1968); Indiana (1969), and Miami (1974).

There are more than 4,600 Alumni who have graduated from college as Evans Scholars. Alumni play an active role in the present program. They contribute financially to the Foundation, and serve as volunteer consultants in career counseling to present scholars. Alumni also assist WGA in many of its activities, including the annual Western Open Championship.

The Evans Scholars Foundation is the largest individually

supported scholarship program in the world. Some 100,000 golfers contribute from \$10.00 to \$25.00 each year to the Foundation through its Bag-Tag program.

WGA's Par Club whose members contribute at least \$100.00 annually is a major source of support for the Foundation.

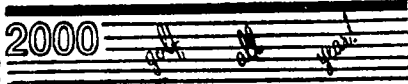
If you have any further questions or are interested in making a donation, the GLAGA encourages you to contact the WGA at:

**Evans Scholar Foundation**  
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Red McIntyre and Brian Donahue are Evans Scholars and GLAGA members.

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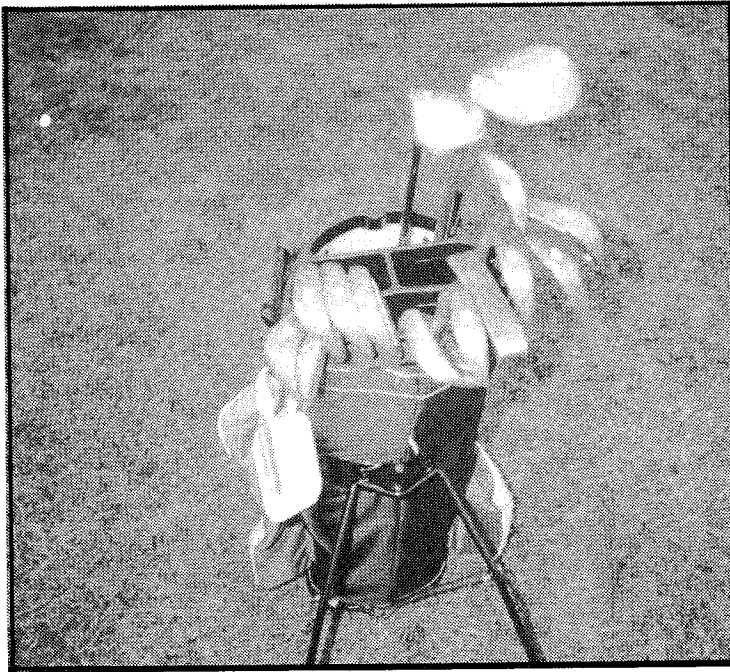
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## WHAT'S IN THE BAG

**NAME:** Steve Penski

**AGE:** 50

**WORK:** Lindberg Heat Treating Company

**MARRIED:** Wife -- Judy

**CHILDREN:** 3 Sons -- Steve, David & Erik

Steve Penski is a lifelong resident of Lansing. Along with his partner, Sam Sherman, Steve has won the 2nd flight of the Plowman Best Ball twice and finished second once.

Last year was Steve's first year in GLAGA. He feels the association's Junior Golf Program is "great", and stated, "People should realize the importance of Junior Golf. I really feel that the things you learn in junior programs of all types really helps young people to develop properly. I really wish they would have had a Junior Program when I was young. They didn't and I didn't start playing until I was 20 years old."

"I love the game of golf," Steve added. "It's one of the great things in life to go out on a weekend with a good friend and play 18 holes of golf."

**STEVE'S EQUIPMENT:** Ball -- Wilson Staff TC2; Putter -- Master Grip Ping Copy; Driver -- Dynafite Metal (J.C. Petersen) with a boron graphite shaft; 3-Wood -- Palm Springs Metal with stiff steel shaft; Irons -- 2-iron is Palm Springs Desert Classic while 3-iron to pitching wedge are Palm Springs "TRDs" with stiff steel shafts; Sand Iron -- Doug Sanders 60 degree sand wedge; Grips -- Driver is Victory half-cord, 3-wood to SI are Green Victory.

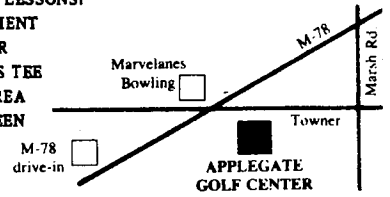
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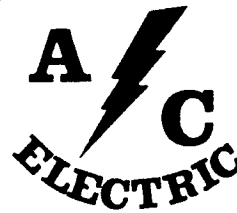
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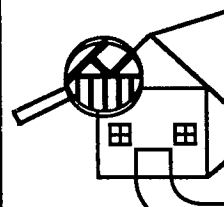
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## Spring is Here! (Well, almost) So Why Aren't Those Golf Courses Open Yet?

by John Johnson,  
Golf Maintenance Supervisor  
City of Lansing Golf Courses

The first signs of Spring are here — the chirping birds, longer days, daytime temperatures creeping above the freezing mark, and that immediate urge to drag those golf clubs out of the basement and get them polished up for another season.

It's sunny and 45 degrees as you and your best golfing buddy near your favorite course. As you approach, you notice the flagsticks are not in place and the course is closed. You mumble a few expletives and wonder why in the world you can't tee it up . . . after all, it's 45 degrees!

Believe me, your course would love to take your greens fee if they possibly could. But in order to make and keep the course playable

for the season, it is sometimes better to keep it closed when conditions might cause more harm than good.

The biggest problem with allowing play too early in the spring is the damage caused by traffic on very wet, saturated soil. This damage comes primarily in the form of soil compaction. Not only is the soil very prone to compaction in a saturated state, but it is very prone to rutting from carts, footprints and high flying golf shots.

As the soil becomes more compacted, there is less pore space and consequently poorer water infiltration, percolation and greater surface runoff. Compaction decreases the overall quality of the turf by restricting the root system, decreasing the soil's water holding capacity and increasing soil density, which

allows greater soil temperature extremes and the resulting stress which goes along with it. Traffic over "Too wet" soil will leave it lumpy and bumpy. This condition is especially critical on greens.

All of these factors, and many more, are considered by the Golf Course Superintendent in order to give you quality playing conditions for the entire season.

Some courses in your area may be able to open earlier than others due to differences in soil types, drainage and differing maintenance strategies. But be assured, all will eventually open their gates as soon as they can. Your patience will pay off with better playing conditions throughout the upcoming season.

So hang in there . . . it won't be long!

### WHAT ARE THE LANSING AREA'S BEST TEN PUBLIC GOLF COURSES?

The Greater Lansing area has 19 public, 18-hole golf courses, and GLAGA is constantly asked, "Which is the best 18-hole course in this area?" In order to be fair in our selection, we would like GLAGA readers to rank their 10 best courses from the list below and mail it back to us. We'll publish results in our next issue. Here are the courses:

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Forest Akers "West" | 2. Forest Akers "East" |
| 3. Groesbeck           | 4. Oak Lane            |
| 5. Timber Ridge        | 6. Mason Hills         |
| 7. El Dorado           | 8. Centennial Acres    |
| 9. Ledge Meadows       | 10. Highland Hills     |
| 11. Branson Bay        | 12. Royal Scot         |
| 13. Butternut Brook    | 14. Glenbriar          |
| 15. Prairie Creek      | 16. Chisolm Hills      |
| 17. Portland C.C.      | 18. Grand Ledge C.C.   |
| 19. Pine Lake          |                        |

YOUR RANKING:

- |     |    |    |
|-----|----|----|
| 1.  | 2. | 3. |
| 4.  | 5. | 6. |
| 7.  | 8. | 9. |
| 10. |    |    |

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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## TREES, TREES, TREES

If you have either played Groesbeck GC or driven by the course in the last six months, you can't help but notice all the new trees that have been planted. In conversations with Don Ballard, Golf Director, City of Lansing, it is our understanding that the planting of these trees is just the beginning of many changes that you will see in the next few years.



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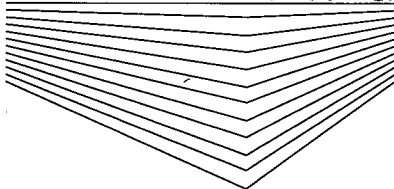
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