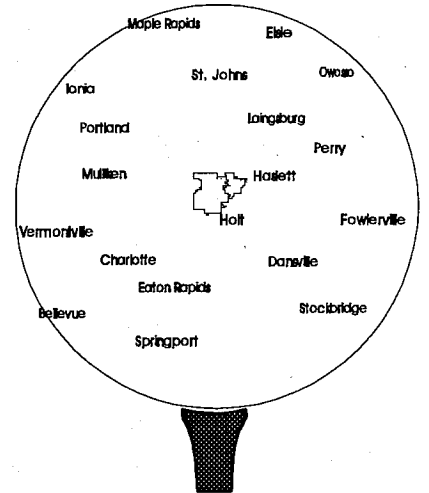


Fall 1994

Greater Lansing

Amateur

Golf Association



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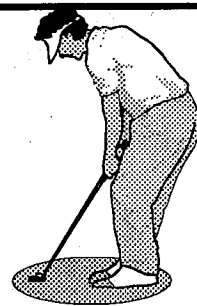
Course Reviews

And More!





FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



GLAGA concludes another golf season with an impressive list of accomplishments. The All City Match Play Tournament was conducted in June with a full field of 64 players. Hats off to Bob Aumaugher and Paul Nieratko for a well run event. Congratulations to our 1994 winner Jim Dickey. He leaves Lansing the champion he has always been. Again the All City Medal Play Tournament dodged a rain out for the more than 250 area golfers who played. Dr. Tom Jamieson proved once again that in golf the race doesn't always go to the young and that a "Senior" golfer can go toe to toe with the area's promising youngsters and win.

I want to thank Jim Donahue and the staff at Michigan State University for their tireless assistance in making this year's All City Medal Play Tournament a rousing success. We are in the process of selecting the courses for next year's tournament. Groesbeck will play host along with another site. We are also looking at the possibility of changing the playing dates from July to August because of the near misses we've had with foul weather the past few years. Look for a Board decision on this in the next newsletter.

Many of you may not know that the All City Match Play and the All City Medal Play Tournaments are the only two tournaments GLAGA organizes and runs for adults each season. The Board has decided to expand upon GLAGA's two events with a modified Adult Tour for GLAGA members only. The GLAGA Board feels that there are not enough individual medal play tournaments during the season. Scrambles and best ball tournaments abound. But individual stroke play tournaments have been in short supply. It is therefore good news that Oak Lane is reviving its two-day flighted stroke play tournament next June.

Starting next spring, GLAGA will hold 3 two-day medal play tournaments throughout the spring, summer and fall months. The initial GLAGA medal play tournament in 1995 will be held at Centennial Acres in May. Subsequent tournaments are planned for August and September, two months in which there are no conflicting medal play tournaments scheduled. The field for each tournament will be open to the first 75 GLAGA members who apply. Applications for the May tournament will be mailed out in the Spring 1995 Newsletter along with membership applications for the 1995 season.

Each tournament will be flighted using either League Handicaps or USGA Handicaps. Handicaps will only be used to determine flight placement, not score. In order to keep the flights as fair and as balanced as possible, we are working out a system to adjust a person's flight placement when their score improves dramatically over their handicap. Players without handicaps as well as anyone else will have the option of playing in the Championship Flight.

I encourage you to check out Ed Brown's article on Junior Golf in this newsletter. We are indeed grateful to have Ed. He has worked diligently over the past few years to build a Junior Tour that can rival any in the state. Ed is always looking for volunteers to help him continue to add improvements to the Junior Tour.

We are also looking for volunteers in the community to serve on the GLAGA Board. Our Board currently consists of myself, Jim Donahue, Bob Aumaugher, Mike O'Connor, Jim Riley, John Peakes, Ed Brown, Larry Meirndorf, Paul Nieratko and Stu White. If you are interested in serving, please let anyone of us know.

Harold Singleton



Winter Golf in the Greater Lansing Area

by Jim Riley

There's no need to head to warmer climates to keep your golf game in shape this winter. You can play the famous courses of Florida, South Carolina and Hawaii with merely a short drive to any one of the Lansing area's four facilities featuring computer simulated indoor golf - DeWitt Family Golf Center, Ledge Meadows Golf Course, Royal Scot and Trippers.

According to Harold Weeks of Ledge Meadows, computer simulated golf, in which the golfer hits all the shots used on an actual course, helps golfers keep swing muscles in tone as well as maintain the proper balance and timing acquired during the golf season. Weeks also believes that simulated golf improves the short game by making golfers more conscious of the swing needed for a fixed distance, as contrasted to relying on feel for the distance based only on visual perception.

Ledge Meadows, located three miles west of Grand Ledge on M-43, offers three golf simulators, all manufactured by Par Tee Golf. The simulators project onto a screen the eighteen holes of such well known courses as Doral, Pebble Beach, Spyglass and St Andrews. Expect to pay between \$16 to \$24 per hour with the higher rates applicable during the evenings and weekends.

While indoor golf leagues are popular and place heavy demand on the simulators, Ledge Meadows keeps one simulator open for play at all times. All three simulators are available for open play Fridays through Sundays and weekday mornings, with reservations recommended at all times.

According to Weeks, expect to see announcements of upcoming tournaments at Ledge Meadows in the Lansing State Journal.

On the north side of Lansing, P.G.A. professional Jim St Germaine has recently opened Lansing's latest indoor facility, the DeWitt Family Golf Center. The Center is located on US 27 approximately two miles north of I-69. In addition to two Full Swing simulators featuring computer generated images of such courses as Banff Springs, Mauna Kea, Firestone and Harbour Town, St Germaine has developed eight covered and heated outdoor golf range stalls which will be open throughout the winter. Two indoor nets will also soon be installed. Rates for the simulators range between \$20 to \$24 per hour, with bag storage also available for \$20.

DeWitt Family Golf is also in the process of establishing leagues and monthly tournaments. St Germaine has plans for five 36 hole, two man best ball tournaments for the first weekends of November through March. The first place prizes for each tournament will be round trip airfare to Las Vegas and up to four nights lodging for the winning twosome.

Royal Scot has two golf simulators, both manufactured by Ingolf, with recent modifications by Virtual Golf. These modifications will provide the player with the option of using a "mirrored" ball or a regular ball. According to Todd Kwicien, director of golf at Royal Scot, the mirrored ball offers the most realistic play and accurate feedback regarding velocity, direction, flight pattern and spin, but is somewhat less convenient to use than a regular

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ball. Players will now have a choice.

Rates at Royal Scott will vary between \$20 to \$24 per hour for the simulators. Reservations are suggested but at least one simulator is held for open play during league play and both machines are available Fridays through Sundays and most weekday mornings. Additionally indoor nets will be available periodically through the winter at nominal rates, according to Kwiecien. Royal Scot is one mile west of Capital City Airport.

Trippers, a sports bar and restaurant in Frandor, has recently added two Full Swing golf simulators. Information regarding rates, leagues and tournaments can be obtained from manager Don Tripp.

Golfers near Jackson, Springport and Brighton may want to visit Hole In One Golf, Country Town Golf Course and Golf-O-Rama respectively, all of which offer indoor computer simulated golf.

The View from Majestic by Larry Meirndorf

As a recommendation for a course to play, try *The Majestic* at Lake Walden in Hartland, Michigan. The course is only about 50 minutes from Lansing and well worth the travel. It opened up this year and promises to be a premier course. *The Majestic* is part of the same group of investors of Timber Ridge and El Dorado, and if you're familiar with these tracks, you know *The Majestic* is a fine course. The eighteen holes are

placed around Lake Walden. From start to finish it covers about 9 miles (no walking allowed) with different elevations and marvelous views.

For a new course, the fairways and greens are in good condition with very little bare areas. The tees are placed at 5045, 6035, 6475, and 7035 at the tips. Every skill level can enjoy this course. It is a good test of golf but not too penal.

There are a variety of holes from open to doglegs in the trees like at Timber Ridge. Lake Walden is in view most of the time, and by keeping your eye on the American flag at the east end of the lake, you have a good bearing on your travel around the lake.

Hole number 6 has a memorable view from the tee to the green. It is a short par four but all up hill, with a menacing looking tree on the left and fairway bunkers on the right. The green and flag are over the hill and sit in a bowl. The view from the green back to the tee is awesome.

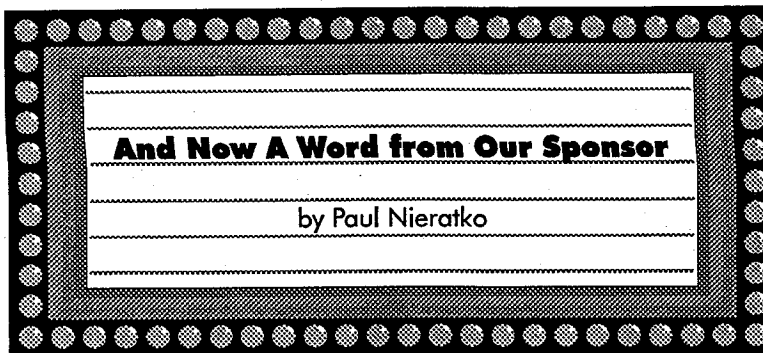
The back nine takes some extra thought on your tee shots. Fair warning on number 11, stay to the right and do not try to cut off too much of the dogleg.

Even though you have to ride, you will still get plenty of exercise. Carts, stay on the paths please. Green fees are a little steep - \$50 with cart included, but compared to some northern courses, it is not all that bad. In the fall with the color, it is a must see.

To reach *The Majestic* take I96 to M59 (at Howell) east to Old US 23, turn left to Crouse road, turn left on Crouse to the course.

Golf Digest, Golf for Women, Golf Magazine, Golf World, Golf Week, Golf Journal, the Links, Executive Golfer, Golf Travel, the Golfer, and more. So many golf publications, so little time -- so damn many advertisements. Ugh!

Why all the advertising? OK, OK. It's very expensive to produce a weekly or monthly publication and the advertisements are a necessity to keep subscription rates for "Joes" like you and me down. I, and I presume you, don't want to pay exorbitant rates. So we put up with advertising. But the format seems all wrong. I can't easily leaf through any publication without advertiser information cards falling all over the floor and special advertising supplements opening the magazine by themselves. I rip them out and throw them away in my own personal protest. So a suggestion to the editors of all the magazines of golf ... give me editorials and letters to the editor. Give me stories and fables. Give me golf news and tournament results. Give me reviews of courses, old and new, and course maintenance and management procedures. Give me new equipment reviews and tournament previews. Give me travel stories with lots of pictures and course routing plans so I can fantasize about where I might hit my shots if I could ever afford to go to them. Give me a table of contents so I know which page each feature is on -- all of this in the first half of your



magazine sans advertising. Put the advertising in the second half of the magazine. Leave it there. Give it its own table of contents so that if and when I have the desire to go shopping for gloves, balls, clubs, shoes, carts, real estate,

vacation hotels, polo shirts, pleated khaki pants, sweaters, Jaguars, Big Berthas, blazers, rain suits, single malts, bourbons, hats, Mitsubishis, golf schools, life insurance, and investment/brokerage firms, watches, bricks, cellular phones, communication companies, Chevrolets, Oldsmobiles, Advil, Excedrin, credit card companies, rental car agencies, cognac, exercise equipment, (GIVE ME ONE OF THESE EXCEDRIN !!!) I can turn to the advertising section and find what I need. I can do comparative shopping (unimpeded by all those editorials and golf stories) and make a semi-informed decision when I go to my local discount golf outlet or pro shop.

So which are the best and worst when it comes to flagrant disregard for the readability of the product? The USGA's own *Golf Journal* is by far the most readable. It has little or no advertising in it. The USGA does market their own products (USGA calendars, art prints, rare books on golf and videos of their own championships). But these are innocuous, confined to one or two information style pages. The *Golf Journal* is available only to those who become members of the USGA. The \$25 per year fee gets you a bag tag, rule book and a



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year's subscription to one of (in my humble opinion) the best magazine style publications on golf. Unfortunately it's only published 11 times per year.

Other publications with limited advertising, good articles and great news are the "weeklies", *Golf World* and *Golf Week*. Excellent, if somewhat belated, tournament results and national tournaments schedules are features of each.

And the worst? The standards, *Golf Digest* and *Golf Magazine* have become so overwhelmed with advertising that I don't generally bother with them anymore. It's only during the coldest depths of January and February when every other morsel on golf has been devoured that I can say I actually read them. Too bad for what used to be staples in my literary diet.

The other publications mentioned in opening seem to fall somewhere in between. *The Links* with the best golf course reviews and critiques of golf course architecture, *Executive Golfer* and *the Golfer* with solid writing and the highest quality photography, (*the Golfer's* premier issue, by the way had a stunning review of the Pebble Beach Golf Links), all have what I consider moderate amounts of advertising. The writing and course reviews in *Golf for Women* are expertly targeted at women in golf and women's issues. Alas it is also published by the *Golf Digest* family and tends to be over run by those same ads.

Stacked in the corner of the basement all those non-essential, ad filled pages, but for now the weather is still passable in Michigan and it is off to the course to play until dark. Happy Reading Folks!

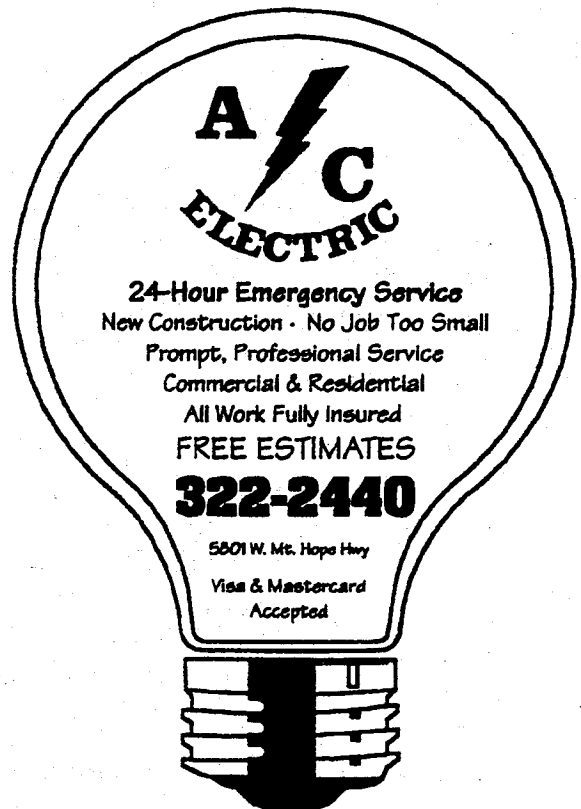
Editors Note: Sorry Paul but the cost of printing and mailing the GLAGA Newsletter dictates that we juxtapose your insightful comments on golf publications and the advertising jungle with our own advertisements. Of course, we appreciate our local advertisers, many of whom are members of GLAGA, and we encourage our readers to patronize them before going shopping in Golf Digest, etc.

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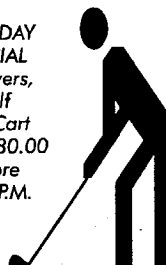
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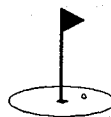


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Should You Play What the Pros Play by Jim Donahue

Any avid golfer (and I assume that includes you if you're reading this) who has entered the equipment buying maze in the holy quest for the right equipment, has asked themselves this question: "Should I play what the pros play?" Well you can answer this question by breaking it down into two parts.

Part 1: What do the pros really play? If you're like me, you've seen the ads which tell you that "Harry Hack" plays Spaulding's new iron on the tour. You've seen the articles in two of the prominent golf publications that not only tell you the make of club a specific pro plays but also the lengths, the swing weights and even the types of grips. That's all well and good - but they don't tell you everything. As I can only go by what I've personally seen I will tell you what my observations have been.

Lee Trevino - The Spaulding ads tell us that Lee had almost complete control in designing the new Spaulding iron and the "Thunder Heat" metal woods. At a recent "Senior"

event, I looked into Trevino's bag and here's what I saw: Irons - 1960's vintage Spaulding Executive irons; Sand Iron - Cleveland Classic; Driver - "Spaulding Thunder Heat". Now you must understand that according to Lee Trevino, he put this driver together in his garage.

Bob Murphy - During the 1993 Bank One tournament in Grand Rapids, Jim Dickey and I were lucky enough to look into Murphy's Calloway bag and this is what we saw: Irons - Founders TV1 irons with lead tape over the Founders logo; Driver - Calloway Big Bertha.

Mark Calcavecchia - Mark may carry a Bridgestone bag; he may play the Bridgestone ball; but his irons are Ping Eye II made of beryllium copper.

Payne Stewart and Lee Jansen started the season using perimeter weighted irons by Spaulding and Hogan respectively. Both started poorly and Stewart has changed to a set of custom made Spaulding "forged" irons and it is my understanding that Jansen has left the Hogan company altogether.

Even the various company area representatives seemingly get caught up in this. At King Par in Okemos recently, the Mizuno rep stated that Davis Love III had switched to their clubs. I then turned on the TV to watch the Peter Jacobsen tournament and there stands Davis Love with a Tommy Armour hat on and his caddy carrying a Tommy Armour bag. It turned out that Davis Love had tried a set of Mizunos - nothing more, at least as I write this.

Part 2: Can I even get irons like the pros play? In most cases - yes. But as with most things, there are some strings attached. First,

you must be willing to spend the money on these customized clubs. I don't know of one pro on tour or even many good club pros who play "stock" clubs.

Second you must have patience to wait for these custom clubs because in most cases the custom departments take care of the tour players first, the club pros second and general customer orders third. Now we've all been told that custom orders only take 2 or 3 weeks, but the custom work that they refer to is custom "lengths", "lies",

with Ken Venturi pictured in them? Look closely at his Wilson shaft irons and see if you've ever seen that grind before? McGregor used to offer "custom grinds" on heads, but no longer. In fact, McGregor used to have a "custom" book that listed all your options, but that's all gone now.

Last year I tried to order a set of either Ram or Wilson Staff irons and go through the *custom departments*. Both companies told me that their "custom departments" were for Staff Tour players only. So to answer question 2 - Yes



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"grips", "shafts" and in some cases "custom swing weights" or maybe "custom lofts". You must also take into consideration that *custom lengths* are limited to plus or minus 1 inch; *custom lies and lofts* are limited to plus or minus 2 degrees and *custom shafts* are limited to what the respective companies normally stock.

A few companies might try and get what you want - but it will take time and it *will* cost you. Have you ever noticed the Golf Pride ads

and No! Yes - if the player uses the basic stock club with just custom lengths, lofts, lies etc. No - if you want custom grinds, etc.

Now there are companies like Ping and Tommy Armour that offer many other custom options, but you are limited to their basic head designs and these custom options do take a lot of extra time. As an example of this - in June I ordered a set of Tommy Armour 855s' *less progressive* offset irons with some custom

grinding and 3/4 inches longer than standard. In order to get them before November, I had to agree to get standard lengths instead. Which leads me to the third point. You must be ready to compromise or be ready to send them back if they are not what you ordered.

As to cost, let's take Mizuno. Let's say you want the same head Nick Faldo plays. You want it bent 2 degrees strong through the set and you want the 1, 2 and 3 irons 1 degree upright, the 4, 5, 6, and 7 irons standard and the 8, 9, Pitching Wedge and Sand Iron 1 degree flat. You also want *Tour Wrap* Neuman Leather grips and *True Temper* graphite shafts one inch longer than standard. Can you get them and what will they cost?

Nick Faldo plays with Mizuno European MP-29 iron. It is an expensive forged blade. With steel shafts, the wholesale cost is \$90 per club. They don't offer *True-Temper Graphite*; so you have to compromise and take Dynamic S-300 shafts. You also want leather grips which add another \$18 per club to the cost, The "custom" length, loft, lie are no charge, but because the MP-29 is a forged model, you are looking at delivery in 8 to 10 weeks with a cost to you (wholesale plus 10% markup) of roughly \$1325 if you include shipping. If you eliminate the \$180 for leather grips, you're now looking at about \$1,100 and this still doesn't include the 6% tax which will add another \$66. \$1,166 for a set of irons that you might not hit well or even like. Is it worth it to you? Not for me!

When you begin to look at clubs - look for something that will help your game. Pros practice daily - do you? If you're like me you need all the help and advantages that modern equipment can give you. Go to any Lansing area golf shop - they're all very capable of fitting you properly. Ask questions, find out just what game improvement options each iron offers. Try out a demo club. If after you do all that and you still like the small-headed forged iron that Nick Faldo plays - God bless you!. Go for it!

Editors Note: If you want customized clubs made in a timely fashion and at a fraction of the brand name manufacturers cost, you might want to check out some of the local area golf club makers.

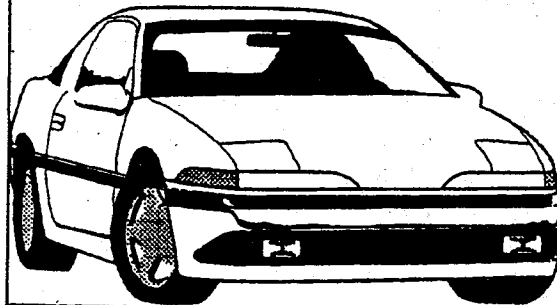
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A Taste of the Scottish Master in Our Backyard

by Stu White

This past fall I was approached to join a friend and his buddies on their autumn pilgrimage to Pinehurst. Another friend asked me to travel to Boyne to play the Don Ross Memorial before the first snow fall. The demands of my schedule made it impossible to oblige either. To my great surprise, I found that I didn't have to travel hundreds of miles north to play a Don Ross clone or caravan to North Carolina at a cost of hundreds of dollars to humble myself on the greens of Pinehurst Number 2. For seven dollars (a special fall nine hole rate which included a cart) I could drive to Ionia to test my skill on a Don Ross original - the Ionia Golf Course.

Anyone who has played this course can recognize immediately what made Don Ross such a genius. While the course is only nine holes and less than 3,000 yards in length, you will not overpower this course unless you are one of the handful of players who can hit the ball over 280 yards. But even if you can reduce the two par fives to long par fours with your unconscionable length off the tee, you better bring your A putting stroke to play or Don Ross' fairway greens will reduce you to quivering jelly. He who is master of the short game will win on this track every time.

The first hole is innocent enough. Only 380 yards in length, the hole drops off drastically at about 260 yards. Only those who can hit the ball over 280 really have the option of wailing at a driver, unless you like hitting approach shots off the side of a cliff. The more level landed golfer, is left then with a lay up from about 140 yards. This elevated second shot descends to a small green that slopes from back to front. Hit your approach shot above this hole on a fresh cut green and you'll be looking for brake fluid before you hit your first putt.

The second hole is a 240 yard par three back into a predominant northerly wind. The green bowls into the center. How do you control a driver with such precision that you keep your drive below the hole? Three is a good score.

The first par five, hole number 3, is a dogleg that you can't fly unless you're John Daly. Only 451 yards, the hole turns at about 250 yards with trees that look like they've been standing in place since before the Civil War blocking your way. If you hit a driver down the fairway to the cut,

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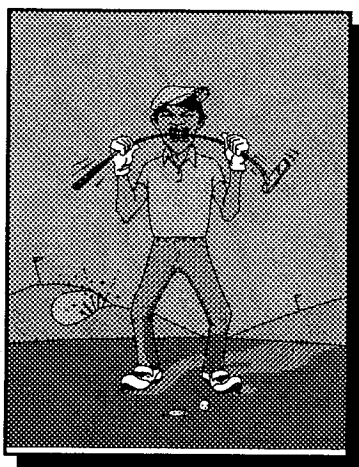


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which leaves you about 220 yards to the hole, you run the risk of finding one of the few sand traps on the course. While the course is not severely bunkered; it is strategically bunkered. The green on number 3 seems benign compared to 1 and 2. But don't let the momentary respite lull you into a false sense of achievement.

The next hole, a 170 yard par three, waits for a wind swept misshit to send you back to that earth slamming, God cursing madness only fellow



golfers can truly appreciate. The fourth hole calls for an uphill shot to a postage stamp green bunkered left and right. The green sits on a bluff kitty corner to the seventh green. Both are susceptible to wind gusts that sweep across the green but go undetected in the valley tee box. If

you are fortunate to make the green in regulation, don't let the seeming flatness of the green seduce you. These greens have been maturing since the 1920s when the course was built. If you think Groesbeck has subtle breaks, you haven't seen anything yet. There is nothing level about Don Ross' slippery slope approach to putting.

Number 5 seems innocent enough - a 370 yard par four. All you have to do is hit your drive about 230 yards to the bottom of a hill before the hole starts its ascent to the green. Oh by the way. Don't fade or slice your drive. If you miss the bunkers right you will still be blocked by a towering tree that sits on the fairway upslope at about 80

yards from the green. No problem just aim your drive left. If you hit the ball through the fairway, which is easy to do since the fairway rolls away from you on any drive with a slight draw or hook, you are now faced with navigating your approach shot over a towering tree that blocks the left side at about 40 yards from the green. Never mind that the fifth green is one of the smallest on the course, just get up there and slam your drive if you dare. Those who pride themselves on their course management skills will be hitting a fairway wood or long iron to about the 150 yard marker and hoping that they've centered their drive in the narrow fairway enough to hit a mid iron approach unimpeded by overhanging tree limbs. Pete Dye and his penchant for green blocking trees has nothing on Don Ross when it comes to this hole.

There is no reprieve in number 6, a short (152 yards) par three. The tee is significantly elevated. The drive requires a measly nine iron for the long knockers; a seven iron for the rest of us, unless the wind is blowing in your face from the west or the pin is up. Trees and a drainage ditch frame the entrance to the green on both the left and right. Bunkers sit innocently enough to the side awaiting either a ricochet off an intruding tree limb or a poorly hit shot. But none of these factors defines this hole. You will not believe that a green can be so severe from back to front and still be called a green until you play this hole. I played it in October when the green hadn't been cut for days. Any putt above the hole still fell off the face of the earth if it missed the hole. Even a three foot side hill putt ended up more than 25 feet away when I didn't sink it. The only way to play this hole - for a three, forget two - is to hit your drive short and right of the pin. Take your two putts (if you don't foolishly hit your first putt above or to the side of the hole) and race don't walk to the next tee. I promise you, if this green were mowed to

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tournament length, the average score in the field would be above four. Play this course three times in one day, and you'll understand why they identify evil with the number 666.

After you've ruined your score, your serenity and your self-confidence on number 6, number seven seems like heaven. A simple enough 359 yard par four. Just hit your drive down the right side of the fairway and let the slope of the bluff send you back into the center of the fairway. Misshit the ball to the right, however, and you're back in tree city. Aim at the center of the fairway and you will end up in the rough with trees and long grass to contend with. You can still recover from a missed drive if you can carve a short iron approach through trees to another postage stamp wind swept green. Miss the green right and you will bounce downhill toward the eighth tee. Miss the green long and you may have newly planted pine trees blocking your pitch. In other words, all you have to do to bring this trifling seventh hole to its knees is hit a drive down the right side without cutting, fading or slicing it and then hit an approach to an elevated target with wind sweeping steadily, or worse, gusting across the green. As the Scots say, "If they're nae wind, they're nae golf". And Don Ross was a Scot who has combined the wind with the earth and the mighty oak of Ionia as only a master can. It goes without saying that your straight looking putt will confound you with its twisting and turning departure from the line you chose to put you in the hole.

Hole number 8, a 404 yard par four, is somewhat of a repeat of number 7. The fairway slopes drastically from right to left. Pull or hook a drive off this valley tee to a blind landing area and you will end up out of bounds. It is a strange feeling to be looking up at the sky from the tee and aiming your shot back where you came from - namely the seventh rough. You have to trust in physics and geometry but a well struck drive into the right rough will feed back into the fairway or, at least, the edge of the rough. Now you are left with another blind shot from about 160 yards to a slightly elevated green. The wind is not so much a factor on this hole, since the green is well protected by trees behind and to the left. In fact, you aim your shot off one of the trees that towers behind the green. The green seems larger than many of the others, but then I never did get my approach shot

close. This green doesn't seem as contoured as the rest of the course. Either the soil was too constipated to contrive contours to confound all but the alliterate or there was some mercy in Don Ross' soul unlike to soulless sadism of modern golf course architects. If Arthur Hill were asked to redesign the hole, he would most certainly elevate the green by digging a trench all around it and filling it in with a combination of sand and grass. Pete Dye would move the green in among the trees and shore up a newly created peninsula green with railroad ties. Robert Trent Jones would lengthen the hole by another 70 yards, place a lake between the green and the player and still keep it a par four.

What I love about Don Ross' design of Ionia Golf Course is that each hole offers a different challenge. There is no repetition in this course with the exception perhaps of the two par fives. In fairness to Don Ross, how could he know that in 1994, the modern equipment and the dimpled balls would propel the ball more than 250 yards in the air. With a drive that can travel this far in the air, number 9 becomes a par four. But for most mere mortals, a 462 yard slight dogleg left with towering trees blocking the left side is still formidable. The real risk on number 9 is the approach shot. If the long ball hitter attempts to reach the green in two, they had better not miss the hole left. The course drops off to nowhere. You are looking at a double bogey in a heartbeat if you pull or hook your long approach. The green is so humped that even if you hit the green in two, you will have a corpse or two to putt over on your first putt. The player who lays up and hits a well placed short iron to the correct side of the cup will have as good a chance at birdie as the long ball knocker who's looking at a forty-five to fifty foot body bag putt.

When you step off the ninth green you are back again at the first tee. You can tuck tail between your legs and dog it back to the parking lot or throw caution to the wind and tee it up again. As for me, put me back in coach. I can't imagine getting bored very quickly on this course. And in October with my friends off at Pinehurst or grinding it out in northern Michigan, I counted my blessings that I had a Don Ross original to keep me occupied in Lansing while I laughed all the way to the bank.

Reniger Has a New Champion by Harold Singleton

Ian Peakes held off charging Bob Fossum over the final nine holes to capture the 8th Annual Bud Reniger Memorial invitational. Almost every kind of weather that Michigan is known for hampered play during the last round. However, realizing that perhaps all the scores would be higher, Ian played steady golf and regained his lead that he had held after Saturday's round and captured the title. Ian was awarded the Reniger / Richard Donahue Trophy and a \$500 gift certificate for his efforts.

In the new "Senior Division", Gary Barrett passed first round leader Jim Donahue and tied earlier finisher Tom Jamieson at 150. The tie was settled when Tom Jamieson, Lansing's 1994 All City Medal Champion, was not able to be at the playoff because of some prior personal commitments. Gary Barrett was awarded the "Reniger Rocker" to signify his victory along with a \$500 gift certificate.

Following the awards presentation, Jim Donahue, the Invitational Co-Chairperson, told me some of the changes he foresaw for next year's Reniger:

In 1995 we hope to expand the entire field to a maximum of 90 players. It is also our hope that at least half the field will be in the "Senior Division". It is also our desire to reward not only those players who participated in this year's event, but also those players who took the time to reply either in person, by telephone or mail as to their inability to play this year. It is my feeling, as well as my co-chairperson's, that if a player couldn't take the time to reply, he obviously doesn't care to participate any longer. His name will be dropped from the invitation list and replaced by a person from the waiting list.

Next year the Reniger will have a pre-tournament banquet, which will be held the Friday prior to the event. Donahue said that at the banquet all past champions, all past honorees and

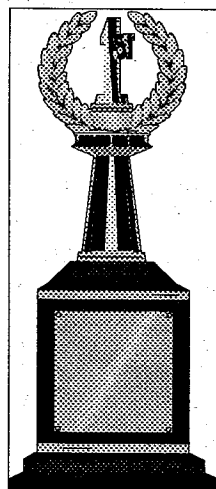
the 1995 honoree - Arlin Dell- will be honored. The banquet will also provide a opportunity to hand out the "Reniger" favor, the rule sheets, pin placement sheets and other communications with the field. "It is our feeling that we can no longer do this just prior to the round because of the size of the field. The banquet is an ideal time," Jim said.

When I asked him if there were any problems that needed to be addressed, Jim was quick to note, "the weather - but other than that, just two things: 1) slow play and 2) unbecoming conduct on the course. The individuals concerned will be contacted and warned. If they fail to comply with tournament officials' requests, they will be dropped from the 1996 event.

As someone who assisted with running this year's Reniger as well as playing in it, I recognize that it is not the tournament organizers' intent to single anyone out, however they are concerned when they receive complaints from playing partners in both their Saturday and Sunday pairings. They appear to be taking appropriate action to correct the situation for everyone's benefit.

Listed below is the 1994 Reniger finish through 10th place in each division.

Regular Division



1st	Ian Peakes	145
2nd	Bob Fossum	146
3rd	Brian Kennedy	148
3rd	Jason Hartman	148
5th	Jim Westwood	149
5th	Jerry Gunthorpe	149
7th	Mike Mason	150
8th	Howard Wejers	152
9th	Gary Domalgalski	153
10th	Rick Whitters	154
10th	Chad Risner	154
10th	Wayne BensonII	154
10th	Jim Olsen	154
10th	Steve Martin	154

Senior Division

1st	Gary Barrett	151
2nd	Tom Jamieson	151
3rd	Don Passage	153
4th	Ron Leseney	155

4th	Jim Donahue	155
6th	Bill Brooks	156
7th	Ron Parsons	158
8th	Doug Kahl	159
9th	Ken McIntyre	160
9th	Brian Vanderbos	160

Well done, guys. As for the rest of us who played, there's always next year.

Junior Golf Update by Ed Brown

GLAGA's Junior Tour has completed its third season in the Lansing area and its health seems quite good. As with the case in the last two years, between 120-130 golfers aged 7 to 18 participated with 127 playing in 1994. As has been the case for all three years, a qualifier was played in mid-June to ascertain whether the youngsters were to play 9-hole or 18-hole venues. Scores were the indicator with the higher scores playing 9 holes every other Monday, low scores 18 holes.

Special thanks go out to the golf course proprietors for the generous donation of their courses each Monday morning - Don Ballard of the City of Lansing; John Nagel of Centennial Acres; Don Shirley of Branson Bay; Dave Mahaney of Brookshire; Ken Horvath at MSU; the Finks at Glenbrier and J.C. Peterson of Indian Hills. The approximate 65 golfers per venue tee off at 8:00 AM and are done in two or four hours, depending upon the number of holes played. Speed is preached by adult supervisors, along with sportsmanship and care of the course.

What seems like confusion at 8 AM as all golfers await teeing off boils down to an organized method of play. On each venue, the better golfers play first, thereby speeding play. It has been suggested that we assign tee times but with the

irregularity of showing up, this seems quite unfeasible to us. The kids themselves are responsible for accurately recording scores, maintaining the course and handling any questions while playing. Although adults do monitor play, adults do not accompany players. Several of the adult monitors don't even have kids playing but do fervently believe in junior golf with its potential and hope for the future.

After qualifying at Glenbrier, the 9 holers played at Red Cedar, Indian Hills, and Brookshire. Sycamore again was closed due to water. Several other courses are being considered for next year. The 18 holers played Groesbeck, Branson Bay, MSU East and Centennial.

Our youngest golfer was only 7 years old! This year golfers came from as far away as Ionia and Flint. We are promised more female golfers from our contact in Ionia.

The Lansing State Journal has been most cooperative. They publish the scores each week. They may even do a feature article on the tour in the spring.

All our golfers receive a tee shirt and a meal after the last outing.

This year balls, clubs and bags were provided for several golfers. Medals are awarded for improvement and for consistently low scoring.

As was mentioned earlier, the golf course owners have made it all possible, along with the adult supervisors and the many parents who faithfully drop off and pick up their children each week.

The concept of the Junior Tour is a good one. As with anything, improvements are constantly being sought. These include: more girls, (only 10% of this year's golfers were female); more golfers from the city of Lansing (we are trying to model our efforts after what Todd Martin is doing with inner city tennis); and finally the chance to play against golfers from junior programs in Grand Rapids, Flint, Jackson, Kalamazoo and Battle Creek.

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