
GLAGA Golf News

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May - July Tournament Summaries

With his flat stick working more like a magic wand than a putter, Paul Nieratko defeated Jerry Gunthorpe in this year's All City Match Play on the 17th Hole of Groesbeck. He started with a 30 foot putt for birdie on the 1st hole and never looked back. Paul made the turn at 3 up and held off Jerry with a 2 and 1 victory. By the end of the match Jerry was one under par, but Paul was five under par.

Other notable matches - in the semifinals, Paul defeated Vic Vanderboss who had defeated Dick Walkulsky in the quarter finals. To get to the finals, Jerry defeated Dave Reynolds who had won over Tony Keim in the quarter finals. Other quarterfinalists were Duffy House and Jamie VanRavensway.

In the Spring Best Ball Jerry Gunthorpe teamed up with Bob Fossum to win the tournament going away. This was the first time the two played together in competition, but they played like a veteran team. The pair shot a two day total of 128 or 16 under par. Their closest competitors and defending champions, Jack Weyers and Jeff Olsen, were four shots back at 132, a score that would have won the tournament the year before. But with Fossum holing

two eagles from the fairway on the 7th and the 18th holes, there was no stopping them. Carter Briggs and Renny Uppal finished third in the tournament with a 36 hole score of 133. Tom Jamieson and Kevin Miller, winners of Oak Lane's Spring Best Ball, shared fourth place at 134 with Jason Hartman and Mark Seyka.

Oaklane's Best Ball, which coincided with Portland's Best Ball saw Bob Aughmagher and Jim Donahue taking second behind Jamieson and Miller with a 138 total. The team of Hanes and Peters finished third all alone with a 139.

Portland's Best Ball Tournament was won by Ryan and Craig Simon with a two total of 131. Dave Greeley and Brian Kennedy finished three stokes back at 134 and Bill and Warren Hengesbach took third by themselves with a score of 134.

Carl Bond won the inaugural **GLAGA medal play tournament** at Centennial Acres in May with a score of 154. Dave Seehase, Jim Westwood and Ryan Simon tied for second in the Championship flight with a 156 total and Randy Trierweiler took fifth place all alone with a 158 two day score.

The first flight winner was Royce Wolverton, who shot 167. Mike Winter took second with a 169 and Pat McCaffrey and Royce Dorer tied for third place

with a 172 score. A total of 45 players signed up for the spring event.

With the outstanding help of John Nagel, the pro at Centennial Acres, the course proved to be a challenging introduction to the 1995 golf tournament season.

Oaklane renewed its two day flighted medal play tournament in June. Tony DeKroub won the Championship Flight with a two day score of 135. Brian Kennedy placed second with 138, Tony Keim and Bob Davis took third with 139 and Carl Bond finished fifth all alone with a 141 total. Jerry Blake was sixth with a 142 and Mike Mason and John Avery tied for seventh with a 144 score. Eric Morfe and Bill Kost shared ninth place at 145.

The first flight was won by Tom Murtaugh with a 145 total. Marcel Holloway, Matt Pryer and Brit Schultz tied for second with a 149 while Scott Savage and Earl Anderson shared fifth place with a 150 total. Doug Kahl placed sixth with a 151 and Dick Diana, Bryan Stewart, Paul Oi and Steve Hanes rounded out the top ten with a 152 total.

Fall Medal Play

On September 23 and 24, GLAGA will hold its third two day meal play tournament for members. The host course for this event will be Brookshire Golf

Course. With an additional 9 holes designed by the renowned Matthew's family, Brookshire offers golfers both a target and a links venue to test their skills. The entry fee is \$60. As with the Spring and Summer tournamnets, the field is open to the first 75 GLAGA members who sign up.

Teaching Turtles to Fly

Rarely does a golf book with such compelling wisdom and insight into the mystery of this game we all love to hate come along. The genre originated at the turn of the century supposedly when the golfing professional community learned that there was money to be made in eagles teaching turtles to fly. Little did these stalwart strikers of the straight and long ball realize that someday there would come, like a descending God from the machine, a Golf Channel on Cable - but I get ahead of myself.

Today's tale is about that little tome of wisdom called *Leslie Nielsen's Stupid Little Golf Book*. Leslie may be better known for his Naked Gun escapades with Michael Jackson's Mother-in-law and O. J. Simpson. But to me Leslie will always be the guru of hack, the Moses of mishiters, the sultan of shank.

Here's just a sample of what you can find for only \$17.50, (apparently there is now money in turtles thumbing their noses at the eagles).

Leslie on the Rules of Golf: *Casual Timber - There's an old saying that trees are ninety percent air, but every time I've tried to hit through them, it has seemed to me that if those proportions are indeed correct, there's been some*

misunderstanding all these years, and what we've been breathing is actually called "wood".

But what golfers often forget is that trees like many other things, really and truly are ninety percent water.

Now as far as I'm concerned, quibbling over that last ten percent is just hairsplitting. It may look like a sold oak, but if ninety percent of that thing standing between you and the green is water, it's water, period, or, to be more exact, it's a "temporary accumulation of water visible to the player when he takes his stance" which, of course, is the definition in the Rules of Casual Water.

Obviously it's temporary, because no tree lives forever, and it certainly is visible when you take your stance, so you're allowed a free drop. Two club lengths away is the distance you get in the casual water rule, but considering the extreme nature of the obstruction, and the difficulty in determining precisely where it begins and ends, what with all the roots and branches, I really think one tree-length away is fairer.

Who can argue with such pure reason? But Leslie isn't merely a master adjudicator. He has a foolproof way of knocking at least six stokes off your score and reducing your handicap - "Skip the last hole." This advice is right up there with his sure fired way of adding fifty to one hundred yards to your drive - "Tee off from the ladies tee." As Leslie says, "It's much better to be Big Bertha than to swing one."

As someone who looks for the spiritual dimension in things, I treasure Leslie's contribution to the spirituality of golf. Sooner or later, any golf writer worth his salt ends

up waxing poetic about the mystical qualities of the game and its strange hold on those who play it.

What golfer's heart doesn't beat a little faster as he remembers the time when, on a mere whim, he stopped at a golf shop along the highway in an unfamiliar city and found a \$1,200 set of clubs he had long coveted in the pro shop of his home course on sale for \$699.

Who hasn't gone to the first tee with a little extra spring in his step, even at six-thirty in the morning, thrilled by the knowledge that the guy who edged him out of a parking space right by the bag drop has left his lights on?

And who can forget the sweet feeling of elation that comes over you as you discover that a member of the super-slow foursome in front of you that won't let you play through has left his sand wedge on the edge of the green, just a few short yards from the largest water hazard on the course?

Yes there is a spiritual side to the game of golf.

But perhaps what separates Leslie from all of these wannabes who have written the "How to" book on golf is his penetrating insight into golf technique. Be sure to check out Leslie's treatise (too long to print here) on *the eight bad shots of golf and how to make them work for you*. These include the sliced drive, the skied drive, the topped fairway wood, the shanked iron, the sclaffed medium iron, the bladed wedge, the chippitch or pitchip and the stubbed putt.

My favorite - *the Chippitch or Pitchip* which Leslie describes: *Stand away from the*

ball, shift your weight to your right foot, lock your knees, tighten your elbows, and make a jerky, loose-wristed swing that keeps your hands behind the ball. Swing thought: "Smother the Bug".

Purpose of the Shot: To take the guesswork out of whether to chip or pitch the ball by always making an indecisive, poorly timed "halfway" shot. The ball never goes straight up and lands short, and even if hit thin, it has too little power to sail over the green.

Ah, I know that shot. It has drained my wallet on more occasions than I want to count.

So if you are a ready student, the teacher has finally come.

Park Board Votes to Sell Waverly

The future of the Waverly Golf Course is very much up in the air. By a vote of 6 to 2, the Lansing Park and Recreation Board decided to recommend to the City Council and Mayor that the course should be sold for development and a new golf course built somewhere else. But according to published accounts in the Lansing State Journal, there are not enough votes on the City Council to turn Waverly over to developers. And no one has taken a pulse of the voters in Lansing who ultimately must decide the golf course's fate.

The issue of developing Waverly into a shopping center and replacing it with another nine hole course drew close public scrutiny when the Park and Recreation Department solicited development proposals through a Request for Qualifications Process. This process resulted in the selection of two proposals by a

committee of city administrators. The first step in the public's review of these proposals involved a meeting of the Park and Recreation Board where representatives of both proposals were invited to make detailed presentations of their plans.

One proposal came from Strategic Property Services, (SPS) with the local endorsement and involvement of Lansing area auto dealer, Ralph Shaheen. The SPS proposal included an Auto Mall along with a Power Center, the new concept in retail development. A Power Center provides space for a major retailer like Wal-Mart or Builders Square surrounded by smaller retail operations. Under this proposal, the park adjacent to Waverly Golf Course running along Michigan Ave. would be converted into a 9 hole lighted pitch and putt course.

During the presentation of their Power Center proposal, Southfield Developer Vincent Pangle said he would work with the City to develop a metro park in the county where an 18 hole championship golf course could be built at a cost of \$2 million. A detailed plan including course design for this metro park was not part of the proposal submitted by the SPS group, however.

Lansing based developers, American Realty Corporation, presented the Board with a proposal that would involve the development of a nine hole golf facility on Waverly Road just north of Jolly Road. Located near the Fine and Theo Fulton parks in Lansing, the Francis Fine Golf and Teaching Facility is a Matthews and Associates design which includes nine holes with multiple tees, a three hole practice course for juniors and a driving range - all adjacent to the Grand River. In

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addition, ARC would develop a 10,000 square foot Clubhouse and Senior Citizen Community Center, winter skating ponds and cross country ski trails, and summer jogging trails and picnic areas.

From a golf perspective, the design is intriguing. It would be an asset to the golf community if such a course were added to the area's current number of golf facilities; but at this juncture there are no plans to build it unless Waverly is sold for development.

The proponents of this second proposal have vigorously lobbied for their plan. They have offered to pick up the cost of renovating Groesbeck as well as pay the city golf fund \$750,000 for the time that Groesbeck is closed down. They have taken Park and Recreation members on a tour of the site they are proposing to build their new course on. They have met with representatives of the CAWGA and GLAGA Boards to review their proposal in detail. And they have hired impressive talent to help them lobby the Council and the Mayor as well as publicize their plan to the general public.

GLAGA Neutral on Waverly Sale

Before the first Park and Recreation Board meeting in May, the GLAGA Board had elected to remain neutral on the issue of selling Waverly for development. Instead, the Board has chosen to frame the issue of Waverly's future in terms of what is good for Lansing area golfers.

First and foremost the Board wants to see more golf opportunities in the area. If anything is to be done with Lansing golf facilities, GLAGA

would like to see the addition of nine holes for public golf. If Waverly is sold, the City should replace this facility with no less than 18 holes and not merely a replacement 9. If Waverly is not sold, the Board recommends that it be upgraded and expanded to 18 holes.

The Board is critically concerned about the impact of closing down two public golf courses at the same time. Next year Groesbeck will undergo substantial renovation. The City hasn't decided yet whether all 18 holes of Groesbeck will be shut down during this process or just 9 holes at a time.

If Waverly is sold, development would begin next year. The replacement course for Waverly would come on line at the earliest in 1997. In his presentation to the Park and Rec. Board, American Realty's spokesperson Richard Walker said that he felt this minor inconvenience to the golfers in the area would be tolerable given the new course they would receive in return. Perhaps from his point of view shutting down 27 out of 36 municipal golf holes (Sycamore's play has fallen to almost nothing) for perhaps as long as two years is a minor inconvenience to Lansing area golfers. From the GLAGA Board's point of view, this would be a disaster.

The Board is equally concerned about the impact of selling Waverly and opening a new golf course on the cost of municipal golf in the Lansing Area. Lansing already has the highest green fees for public golf facilities of any comparable city in the state. No fees have yet to be set for either Groesbeck or the new course after it opens. However, even with the revenue from a sale

of Waverly picking up the cost of Groesbeck's reconstruction, green fees at Groesbeck will go up, or so Don Ballard reported to the Lansing Park and Recreation Board in June.

The GLAGA Board is concerned that the golf community served by Waverly may be left by the wayside in the aftermath of development. There needs to be an accessible, affordable and playable course for the seniors, beginners and juniors who call Waverly their home course. No survey of Waverly golfers appears to have been done to determine if a Matthews and Associates river front course located on the South side of the city will meet the niche that Waverly now serves? Before a final decision is made about the sale of Waverly and its replacement, the Board wants the decision makers to keep in mind that Waverly does serve a segment of the golf community which cannot be left behind or left out of the final plan.

Editorial Comment

The following opinion is that of the author and does not represent GLAGA's position or the opinion of any other member of GLAGA.

Golf in Lansing is changing. Groesbeck will return with more than just a face lift. The devilish number 10 hole will be gone and in its place will be a driving range. Number 9 will contain water hazards to capture an errant drive, (as if this hole isn't difficult enough.)

I am looking forward to playing the new course. I'm especially grateful that I'll be able to warm up my tired old back with a bucket of balls before I tee off. I really won't miss hitting my second shot over the 10th green and into oblivion.

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Waverly is under the microscope. As a golf course, it could stand improvement. The effort to upgrade it and convert it into 18 holes died for lack of a second a few years back, even though the City spent a fair amount of change developing plans for its redesign. Perhaps in recognition of this inertia, the Park and Recreation staff turned to developers to come up with a plan for improving public golf in the community.

Clearly the idea of selling Waverly and replacing it with a more up to date and playable facility has stirred public passions like few other recreation issues have. I personally want to see Waverly upgraded to an 18 hole facility, but my position is not universally shared on the GLAGA Board or in the golf community.

The risk we all face in this debate - residents of affected neighborhoods, golfers, developers and retailers with a stake in the future of commercial retail space in the Greater Lansing area - is that this passion over "our park" will give way to inertia once again.

Failure to act now will not put the issue to rest. We all deserve a decision, even if it isn't one with which we agree.

Golfers deserve to know what the future of public golf is for the Greater Lansing area. Retailers in Delta and Lansing Townships deserve to know what the future of their investment in customer traffic will likely return. Residents of Lansing's Westside neighborhoods deserve to know if their green space will be replaced with the factory giving way to the shopping center all the way from the Cadillac plant on West Saginaw to Grand Ledge to see if they want to remain living and raising a family

in the heavily industrialized area. Even the birds and wildlife who live in Waverly's wetlands deserve a decision on whether they will have to share their protected ponds with asphalt parking lots instead of grass.

Stu White

The Cost of Play on Our Public Courses

In a presentation before the Lansing Park and Recreation Board on June 21, Lansing Golf Manager Don Ballard presented three scenarios for the future cost of golf on our public facilities. In scenario 1, Waverly golf course is retained, kept at nine holes but upgraded at a cost of \$1.2 million and Groesbeck is remodeled at a cost of \$2.5 million. In scenario 2, Waverly is retained and made into a 6,000 yard 18 hole course at an estimated cost of \$2.2 million which includes a clubhouse and Groesbeck is remodeled as well at a cost of \$2.5 million. In scenario 3, Waverly is either sold or leased, existing facilities are improved including Groesbeck's \$2.5 million renovation and a new 9 hole replacement course is built. Depending upon which scenario comes to pass, green fees on Lansing's public golf courses could increase from 9% to 82% after the renovations are complete.

Under scenario 1, 9 holes at Groesbeck would rise from \$8.50 to \$14 while 18 holes would go from \$16 to \$23, (a 44% increase). The senior and junior rate would increase from \$6.50 to \$10 for 9 holes and from \$12 to \$18 for 18 holes. The twilight rate would rise 43% from \$7 to \$10.

Waverly would see similar increases under scenario 1. Nine hole play would cost \$11 compared to the current fee of \$7 for general players. Seniors and juniors would pay \$3 more for 9 holes and the twilight rate would go from \$5.50 to \$9.

The increases at Waverly would be even higher under scenario 2. A 9 hole green fee on an 18 hole Waverly facility would cost \$13 and 18 holes would cost \$23 for general play. Seniors and juniors would pay \$9 for 9 and \$17 for 18 while twilight play would increase 82% to \$10.

The cost of play on Groesbeck under scenario 2 would be the same as under scenario 1 - roughly a 44% increase in fees for general play and a 50% increase for discounted players.

While Park and Recreation officials had told one GLAGA Board member that green fees would probably not increase if Waverly were sold, under scenario three the cost of play at Groesbeck would increase. For 9 hole play the cost would rise from \$8.50 to \$10 for general play, from \$6.50 to \$8 for seniors and juniors, (a 23% increase) and from \$7 to \$9 for twilight play, (a 28% increase). For 18 hole play, the cost would be \$18 for regular players, a 9% increase. Only 18 hole play for juniors and seniors would remain at the current rate of \$12.

No fees for a replacement course for Waverly have been made public.

A review of the green fees at public facilities in Flint, Grand Rapids, Battle Creek, Jackson and Kalamazoo shows that Groesbeck's \$16.50 green fee for 18 holes is the highest already for municipal golfers. Mott Park in Flint charges \$14 and Pierce Park

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charges \$10. Binder Park in Battle Creek costs \$13 on the weekend and \$12 weekdays for 18 holes, while Milham Park in Kalamazoo is \$15 for 18 on both weekdays and weekends. Indian Trails in the Grand Rapids area charges \$12.50 for 18 holes and Ella Sharp Park in Jackson has an \$11 green fee for weekday play and a \$12 fee for weekend 18 hole play. Jackson County residents can play 18 holes on Cascades Golf Course for \$14. Cascades has consistently been ranked by golf publications as one of the top 100 Public Golf Courses in the country.

Lansing doesn't compare favorably with other communities when it comes to discounting the cost of golf either. Seniors and juniors in Flint pay between \$4 and \$5.50 for 9 holes. Seniors and juniors at Binder Park can play 9 for \$5 before 2. Ella Sharp allows juniors and seniors to play 9 holes for \$3 and 18 for \$6. Indian Trails charges \$5.50 for 9 and \$9 for 18 for juniors and seniors before 3 while Milham Park has a \$7 senior/junior fee for nine holes played before 3 on weekdays. Groesbeck charges seniors and juniors \$6.50 before 2 and Waverly and Red Cedar cost \$5 for 9 before 2 pm.

In Lansing, Seniors can purchase an annual pass for \$425 (residents) or \$525 (nonresidents) which allows unlimited play before 2 pm on weekdays and after 4 pm on Saturday, Sunday and Holidays. The annual pass is good on all courses for persons 60 and older. A less costly annual pass is available for play on Waverly and Red Cedar only. Like Jackson and Grand Rapids, Lansing does not sell memberships or passes to juniors or residents. However, Flint's municipal courses have memberships, resident passes, a

junior pass for sale along with a senior pass. Kalamazoo provides for a junior pass and a general player pass along with its senior pass. Junior passes in Flint are \$125, in Kalamazoo they are \$200 for residents and \$225 for non-residents. A general player pass for Milham Park is \$325 for residents and \$350 for non-residents.

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The Lansing Park and Recreation Department's Golf Manager has proposed three scenarios for the future cost of public golf in the Lansing area. Each one of them involves an increase in green fees.

It may be time to consider a fourth scenario. The first principal of this fourth scenario involves a return to the original principal behind the creation of the Golf Enterprise Fund in August of 1986. The original resolution #0374 that created the Fund states:

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Lansing:

Whereas, two committees of City Council have studied the concept of changing City of Lansing golf operations from a General Fund Budget item to an enterprise account so that program revenues may be restricted to operations expenses and golf facility improvements; and

Whereas the enterprise account will permit progress to be made on the Council's goal of improving Groesbeck into a first class golf course;

Now, therefore be it resolved the Lansing City Council hereby authorizes the Mayor to establish an enterprise account for

City of Lansing Golf Operations, with use of program revenues restricted to operational expenses and golf facility improvement.

Resolution #0374 was approved unanimously by the city council and to my knowledge has never been amended or otherwise modified.

As I read this language, the Fund's revenues were to be spent exclusively on golf operations and on capital improvements to our public golf facilities. In other words, golfers were expected to pay for maintaining the courses as well as for any changes made to our public courses and expansions of golf facilities.

But somewhere in the less than historical consciousness that is the American political process, the original intent of the Enterprise Fund was forgotten and a new concept was formed. The golfers who use our public courses were expected to pay for the cost of City Hall's daily operations as well.

In recent years green fees have risen higher and faster than inflation to pay what appears to be the City's administrative expenses which it bills to the Park and Recreation Department through the budget process.

Let there be no misunderstanding. The original concept of the Enterprise Fund was to privatize public golf. The revenues from the fund were to be used for operating the courses and for making needed capital improvements starting with Groesbeck. Somewhere along the line, the city's elected officials agreed to charge golfers using the public golf courses 21 cents out of every dollar they spent there to run city government. This practice of assessing all government programs

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a 21% administrative charge back is not uncommon in public administration. Universities do it. State and federal governments do it. But the language of Resolution #0374 seems to exempt the Golf Fund from this practice by stating that the revenues are to be used exclusively for the operation and capital expenses of Lansing's municipal golf courses.

In spite of what the language implied to its supporters at the time who thought that golf fees were to be used to run the city golf courses, the 21% administrative charge back which the City imposes on the Enterprise Fund now means one our golf facilities now must be sold in order to pay for needed improvements in Groesbeck, or so the Lansing Park and Recreation Advisory Board has concluded.

Even with the \$6 to \$11 million in revenue this sale could generate, golfers will still be asked to pay more for the daily operation of our public courses

These decisions are not the responsibility of faceless bureaucrats. The budget and accounting practices of city government are determined by elected city council members and an elected mayor.

If golfers are tired of paying the highest green fees in the state for comparable municipal golf options; if Lansing residents are concerned that broken political promises made in the past may translate into raw deals for their parks and recreational facilities in the near future, then they need to tell their elected officials enough is enough.

Ask these public stewards to keep the promises of the past before they entertain the development of grandiose schemes

promising new jobs, greener pastures to play on and additional city resources in the immediate future.

Ask the Mayor and the city council to use green fees and other course related revenues as they were originally intended - for golf course operations exclusively and for the capital improvements now needed to make Groesbeck, Waverly, Red Cedar and Sycamore suitable golf facilities for the 1990s and beyond.

If Lansing insists on charging a premium to use its golf courses, then they should be premier venues for play.

Don Ballard estimates that the capital construction cost to upgrade Groesbeck will be \$2.5 million and \$2.2 million to upgrade Waverly to 18 holes with a new clubhouse. The annual debt relief to cover this \$4.7 million capital construction would be about \$340,000 a year or roughly 26% of the \$1,283,134 deposited in the Enterprise Fund in the 1994-95 budget year.

After restoring the city's 21% administrative charge back to the Enterprise Fund, Lansing area golfers would still need to come up with \$70,542 in 1996 to make these improvements. In 1994, there were 64,879 rounds of golf played on Groesbeck and 30,000 on Waverly. Assuming a 75% increase in rounds played on Waverly once it becomes an 18 hole facility, the Park and Recreation Department could increase green fees at Groesbeck and at Waverly by 60 cents a round to recoup the additional \$70,500 needed to improve Groesbeck and preserve and enhance Waverly for the 21st Century.

Part of the debt relief on this \$2.5 million for upgrading

Groesbeck should be paid by the County Drain Commission since it will include changes to help the County and Lansing Township control storm water drainage. These estimated cost for these changes is \$750,000 out of \$2.5 million.

Since Mr. Ballard's three green fee scenarios involved the Enterprise Fund paying for the debt relief on the entire \$2.5 million associated with Groesbeck's renovation, this fourth alternative assumes the same conditions Mr. Ballard presented to the Park and Recreation Board.

The point is, however, that green fees may not have to rise at all under this alternative to Mr. Ballard's three scenarios if the Groesbeck cost to the Enterprise Fund is \$750,000 less.

Under scenario four there can be many winners. Golfers can have a public golf course system for the 21st century at a nominal increase in fees.

Westside residents and businesses keep their green space and avoid traffic congestion problems that could destroy residential home values from Waverly Ave to Martin Luther King Blvd..

The residents of South Lansing will have a mechanism in place to assure that growth in golf will return capital construction revenues to the Enterprise Fund. These additional revenues in the near future can be used to build the Matthew's facility on Grand River for future generations of golfers and our Southside seniors to enjoy.

The losers the developers who want to spin tales of a rosy future based on political gimmickry that sold Lansing area

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golfers down the Enterprise Fund's prim rose path in the past.

I won't lose any sleep if Ralph Shaheen has to sell cars in Portland and Wal-Marts has to find some other land upon which to compete with Fred Meijer. But I promise this, before the dust settles their public relations experts and their high priced lobbyists are going to try to get us to believe that we can't win anything unless we let either Ralph Shaheen or the ghost of Sam Walton turn what little green space we have left in this community into a parking lot.

In the final analysis, it is not the responsibility of the Lansing Park and Recreation Department to promote a fourth alternative. They are sincere people doing their job as they think it should be done. But if we want the public to consider a different viewpoint, it is time for the golf community to speak up.

We know where affected Lansing residents stand. We know where retailers adjacent to Waverly Golf Course and Delta Township stand.

We know that the Park and Recreation Advisory Board has concluded that, unless Waverly is sold, there will need to be *hikes* in green fees (*that would be usurious if they were loans*) to improve the City's golf courses.

What we don't know is where Lansing golfers stand.

Let me know what you think. I will share your opinions with our readers. You can write me in care of GLAGA, fax me at 517-485-8013 or E-mail me at stuart@sojourn.com.

I can't think of any issue more central to the future of golf in our community than this one. That's why I have endeavored to

get as much of the facts on this issue as I can and why I have taken such a strong position of my own.

But your voice is just as important both here with our readers and in the deal makers chambers. So let it be heard.

Stu White

The Ten Simple Steps to Golf in the Nozone

Golf writer Nick Mastroni has compiled a list of the *ten best ways to play lousy golf when you really, really, really want to win* which is must reading for golfers heading into the competitive showdowns of league finals, club championships and other amateur tournaments at the end of the season. They are reprinted here albeit without permission in the belief that universal truths must be shared:

1. Think constantly about how much you want to beat your opponent.

2. If you mess up the first hole, go to work immediately on your mechanics. Experiment with all of them until you hit upon what's wrong.

3. Take an extra 15 to 20 seconds over every shot to make absolutely sure your alignment is square and that you know just how important this shot is.

4. If it's a handicapped match, always check before you tee off whether you're giving a stroke. If so, go all-out for the big drive.

5. On every hole in match play, constantly check your opponent's position. Plan every shot based on how he or she is faring.

6. Make sure to hit at least one club shorter than your opponent(s) on the par 3s. This subtle ploy will let everyone know who's boss.

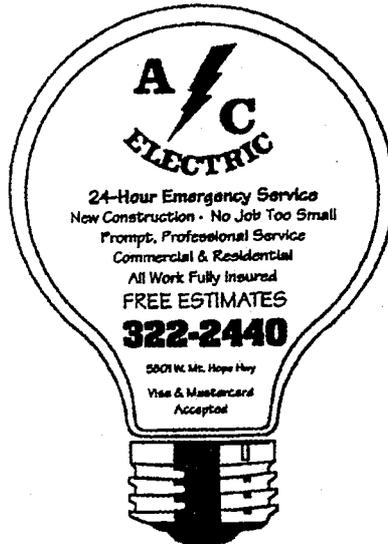
7. Be obsessive about yardages. Don't just know it's 166 to the middle. Insist on also knowing that if you don't carry it 148, you'll bury it in the front bunker, and that it's 181 to reach the embankment over the green.

8. Play holes with water or OB extra carefully. Keep that swing short and tight.

9. Spend a few extra seconds over all your two and three footers. You might spot a last-second adjustment in your read that makes all the difference.

10. Play by the "big picture." If you're four up with eight to go, play defensively from there in (see point no. 8).

Works for me.



Steve Russell - Owner

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Joining a Country Club

In the last issue of Golf News, erroneous information about the cost of joining Walnut Hills. was published. *Golf News* apparently overstated the actual cost.

Rather than try to confuse the issue further, I urge any of our readers who are interested in joining the Walnut Hills Country Club, to contact the Club's membership director to see what it has to offer you.

Stu White

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I want to remind our readers how generous John Nagel and the members of Centennial Acres as well as Kirk Sherman and the owners of El Dorado have been to our members. Without their support and help, we would not have been able to hold GLAGA's two day medal play tournaments in May and July. A number of you have told me how grateful you are that GLAGA has undertaken these new tournaments. The Board appreciates your support and encouragement and I would urge you to share your gratefulness with John and Kirk the next time you are playing on their course.

Stu White

El Dorado

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Golf Swap in the Fall Newsletter

If you have some old clubs or hardly used new clubs lying around your garage, attic, basement or trunk that you want to try to sell, you may want to consider placing a two line ad in GLAGA's fall newsletter. Tell us what the equipment is, how much you want for it and a phone number where you can be reached and we'll print it, that is if you are a 1995 member of GLAGA.

The cost for this service is \$3. You can either send GLAGA a check or you will be billed with a \$.50 service charge to handle the cost of billing you.

I love rotten weather. The founders of the game accepted nature for what is gave, or what it took away. Wind and rain are great challenges. They separate real golfers. Let the seas pound against the shore, let the rains pour.

Tom Watson

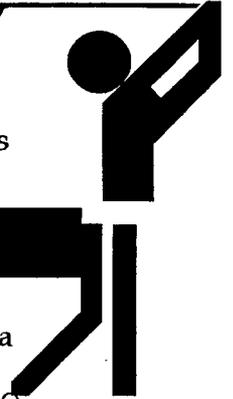
Well Tom, come up to Michigan this October for a little sleet golf and let the yips fall where they may.

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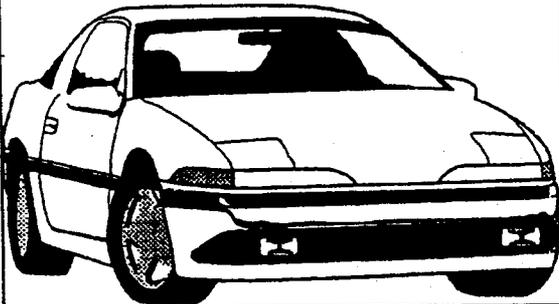
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Greater Lansing Amateur Golf Association

Members' Fall Medal Play Tournament

WHERE: Brookshire Course in Williamston, MI

WHEN: September 23 and 24

WHO: Open to 1995 GLAGA Members Only

COST: \$60 Entry Fee*

The Fall GLAGA Member's Medal Play Tournament is open to the first 75 GLAGA members who enter. For questions about the tournament, please contact Stu White (517-485-8013) or the Brookshire Golf Course (517-655-4694). The first tee time will be 8:00 am; for tee times, contact Brookshire after September 20.

* Entry Fee covers Green Fees for Saturday and Sunday and a Prize Fund. Prize certificates will be awarded with all certificates redeemable at the Brookshire Pro Shop only. Cart fees are not included in the entry fee. If you need a cart, please indicate on the entry form so we can pair up persons wanting carts. You will be responsible for renting a cart at the course, however. No pre-registration of carts will be necessary. Entry fees are not refundable. Checks returned with insufficient funds will result in an automatic disqualification. *If you have not already joined GLAGA for the 1995 season, enclose an additional \$15 for 1995 membership dues*

Complete this **ENTRY FORM** and Return it with Payment to:
GLAGA, 1215 N. Genesee, Lansing, MI 48915.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY & ZIP _____ PHONE _____

Avg Score _____ Course _____ Cart _____ Championship Flight _____

This is a medal play tournament. However, this tournament will be flighted prior to play on the first day according to handicap. The number of flights will be determined after applications are received. If you do not have a USGA or League Handicap or if you do not supply a handicap, you will be placed in the championship flight. If you wish to be flighted prior to play on Saturday, please provide the following:

USGA HANDICAP _____ Course Where Handicap is Maintained _____

League Handicap _____ Course Where League Is Played _____

League Secretary _____ Phone # _____

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Inside - The Guru of Hack, the Moses of Mishits, the Sultan of Shank

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