

HIGH TEMPERATURES IN NORTHERN ILLINOIS AND SOUTHERN WISCONSIN DURING THE SUMMER OF 1980

This summer (in terms of temperature) perhaps might be likened to the charcoals used in one of the famous American summer pastimes - the cookout; slow to get going, but too hot to handle once they do. The months of April, May and June were not particularly noteworthy for heat, but July and August were different stories. At MESOMET's Chicago Area Forecast Center, 35 East Wacker Drive, we have watched as the heat developed. The table below summarizes the number of days on which the high temperature reached or exceeded 90°, for selected weather stations in Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin. The climatological average is shown in parentheses. It reveals the period of July and August to indeed be a scorcher, particularly in Chicago itself, with the total number of 90° days through both months more than doubling the norm.

The excessive heat through the middle and latter part of July, which also included two 100 degree days in Chicago (a situation not witnessed for at least 15 years) was perhaps worse than the August heat from the maintenance standpoint, since the heat was accompanied by dryness (only a little over one inch of rain fell at O'Hare Field through 18 July - the normal for the entire month being about three times that amount). August at least stopped the drought before things got out of hand ... by promptly unloading 8.54 inches of rain at O'Hare Field, more than three times the climatological norm for the month.

TABLE 1. No. of Days on Which High Temperatures Equaled or Exceeded 90°F. (Climatological Average in Parentheses)

	April	May	June	July	August	Total
O'Hare Field	1 (0)	0 (1)	1 (4)	13 (5)	11 (4)	26 (14)
Midway Airport	1 (0)	0 (1)	2 (5)	12* (8)	13* (5)	28 (19)
Lakefront***	1	0	1	6	6	14
Rockford	1 (0)	0 (0-1)	1 (3)	10 (5)	6 (3)	18 (12)
Madison, WI	1 (0)	0 (0-1)	4 (3)	7 (5)	6 (2)	18 (11)
Milwaukee, WI	1 (0)	0 (0-1)	1 (2)	4 (4)	1 (3)	7 (10)

*Midway thermometer out of service, July 11-13 and August 27, 29, 30, it was assumed that max. temperature was above 90°, since all others in the area were.

***No climatological averages available for Chicago's Lakefront.

Of course, there was Dallas-Fort Worth with 30+ days in a row over a 100°F ... so even with all the heat, the Chicago area was only on the fringes of the Great Heat Wave of 1980.

Eric Sawdey - and Dr. Walt Lyons

How often one hears the remark, "So-and-so is a born putter"! In my long experience of thirty years in first-class golf I have never seen a golfer whom I should call a born putter; some have a more delicate touch than others, but how few players gifted with this right touch have made proper use of it! The few that have become real good putters have practised on highly scientific lines.

Jack White from Putting

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