



How About An Update?

This will not be another update on a relay race. Unfortunately, until fall, running slides down the list of things to do. However, the weather of late has felt like fall! As of June 5, we're going through an unprecedented cool snap. Let's hope the moisture is handy when we need it, and one of these cool days will unexpectedly show up in the dog days of summer that surely lie ahead.

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We would all agree that it's a good idea to periodically step back and assess progress. As we roll into the summer months, I'm going to quickly review some of the MAGCS's activity. We've been keeping close tabs on the Midwest Golf House that officially opened in April. The building was dedicated on June 3 and several MAGCS members were in attendance for the opening ceremonies. I believe that in several years when we look back, we will mark our affiliation with the Midwest Golf House as a turning point in our history. I am sure this opportunity to foster new relationships and strengthen existing ones will serve our Association well in the years ahead.

The 75th Anniversary Committee has been very busy putting ideas into action and you'll see a sprinkling of that as the year rolls on. We recently purchased seven of the commemorative bricks soon to decorate the garden at GCSAA headquarters in honor of their own anniversary celebration; of the Midwest bricks, one recognizes our 75th anniversary and one honors each of our past presidents who have served in the same capacity for GCSAA. The MAGCS past presidents who have presided over the GCSAA include John MacGregor, Raymond Gerber, Robert Williams, Ted Woehrl, Mike Bavier and Bruce Williams. Any chance Bob Maibusch will be next? On that note, I'm sure you have received notice of the big weekend that GCSAA has planned in September. I realize Lawrence, Kansas isn't right around the corner, but we'll all be 25 years older before they put together an event like this again. Strongly consider going to the headquarters and celebrating GCSAA's 75th anniversary with industry leaders and the GCSAA staff. If you have never been out there, I guarantee you will be impressed and it would make a great "road trip."

Of course, (no, it's *On Course*), a spectacular review of our last 75 years is being brought to you monthly through the pages of this magazine. We owe many thanks to John Gurke and his Editorial Committee for this fantastic tribute. By now, you've received your "Superintendent Family Tree" forms. Get those back in to George Minnis as soon as

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possible. This is a neat project and will be a great document to help celebrate our heritage. Gary Hearn, with an assist from Brad Anderson, is behind this, and as Gary mentioned in his column last month, the annual Midwest Turf Clinic will commemorate our anniversary too.

I won't steal Luke Strojny's thunder, but the MAGCS scholarship program is off to a good start. The MAGCS will be awarding two scholarships this summer. Winners have been determined; congratulations to them and to the Scholarship Committee for seeing this vision through. Luke and Greg Thalman spearheaded this endeavor over the past two years and Ed Braunsky and Geneva Country Club have stepped forward to host a fundraising golf outing this fall, so keep October 1 open. Geneva will play to a limited field that day; make sure it includes you!

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If you have not heard, Ray Gerber was recently voted into the IPGA's Illinois Golf Hall of Fame. To clarify for anyone younger than myself, Ray was our *Bull Sheet* editor for many years and our chapter recognizes the top superintendent-written article every year with an award bearing his name. As I understand it, only one other superintendent from our ranks—Bob Williams—has been afforded this distinction. A few of us plan on attending the induction ceremony in October and I think Fred Opperman should sit still for a moment and send an article our way in Ray's honor. (Anyone you've ever pestered for an article is now smiling, Fred!)

As I've mentioned a few times, Mike Mumper and I are participating (to the extent time allows) in the GCSAA Chapter Leadership Institute program. I know Mike has a meeting planned with Employment Committee chairman Luke Strojny and a few other interested MAGCS members regarding revamping that committee's goals. If possible, we would like to provide assistance to clubs looking for a new superintendent and make the transition as smooth as possible. This should include the outgoing superintendent as much as possible when that is appropriate. In addition, I have been making attempts to improve our media relations. I thank the CDGA for including me in their recent media day outing and look forward to seeing some media folks at an event this summer.

Last, we did have a recent and unexpected change on our Board of Directors. Gregg Rosenthal resigned his position and Tim Anderson from Prestwick Country Club was appointed to fill the position. Originally, the Board leaned in the direction of not fill-

ing Gregg's vacancy, as the summer is a difficult time to ask someone to step aboard for what could be a short stay. However, our bylaws guide us in recommending a specific number of directors and in giving an unselected candidate from the previous election due consideration. Tim was the next leading vote-getter and brings several years of committee experience to this position. We appreciate Gregg's efforts in the past seven months and look forward to Tim's future contributions. God knows there is enough work to go around. Welcome, Tim!

Oh yes, and the Casey Martin thing. Let's hope letting a legitimately disabled golfer use a cart doesn't tarnish the integrity of the game. Hello!!! I believe that happened when they introduced those things years ago. Imagine what your course might look like without paths and no cart damage. I read years ago that carts cause 80% of the damage to a course. If we must have them, then Casey Martin ought to be using one.

Also, I read an article this week about soccer and how worldwide, 180 have died in the last three months while attending games. Seems as though you can't attend without trampling over each other once in while. Oh, and I noticed the NBA had huge rock-and-roll, celebrity-studded halftime shows during the championship series. This is the same league that doesn't have much of a drug policy, despite the fact that former players have estimated that 50% of the current players use marijuana. I hope these halftime shows do for the back-door lay-up what the Super Bowl shows have done for the halfback option. Nothing! It's a shame the game isn't the real story anymore. The day after the Super Bowl, the

“fans” talk more about the commercials and Britney Spears’ naked belly.

Recently, a blind man climbed Mount Everest. No, he didn’t do it on his own. However, we’re talking 29,028 feet above sea level where conditions so harsh we can’t imagine prevail and the air is so thin that simply breathing is difficult. Try telling him that he should have stayed home. Try telling a Special Olympics athlete that they should consider staying home with a good book. Playing a game, at the highest level a player can, should never be denied and let’s hope Casey Martin stares down Tiger Woods in the next Major.



Director's Column (continued from page 7)

Congratulation to both Eric and Brenda for a job well done. I hope to have both of them on hand at the July meeting for presentation of their checks.

I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank the Scholarship Committee: Greg Thalmann, Fred Behnke, Ed Braunsky, Mike O’Neil, Damon Soderberg and Paul Yerkes. Their hard work ensured that a complex process went smoothly. Also,

many thanks to the membership for electing me to my current position of vice president and supporting this worthwhile member service.

The MAGCS Scholarship is open to **all** who have been members in good standing for at least two years. Look for the call for applications with your 2002 dues statement.



Mulligans

In the June issue of *On Course*, a caption accompanying the president’s message incorrectly identified Brian Bossert’s wife as Bailey. Brian is in fact married to the lovely Pam; Bailey is their darling daughter. Your editor, who is already confusing the names of her two, young, opposite-gender children, deeply regrets the mistake.

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