

**The Lesson: You can NEVER over communicate**

Mike used to talk about going to Board meetings and facing 'the music' for whatever was happening outside on the golf course that he felt was bothering the membership at that time. This was usually things like: green speed, green speed and green speed. I joked that he should wear his glasses (for those of you who haven't seen them, they are thick enough, I think, to see into the future) for surely no one would yell at someone wearing glasses. Mike's response was: "How about you go &#x26; yourself".

**The Lesson: A sense of humor is a good thing**

It might sound like a bad place to work from hearing these stories. At the time I might have agreed somewhat. Life can only be understood backwards but must be lived forward. Looking back I never learned more, I was never given the opportunity to do more, I was never given that much responsibility, I was never asked to be a leader before, I was never more aware of a larger picture. Many people ask me what it was like to work at Butler National and what it was like to work for Mike Sauls. My answer has been the same since the day I left. I tell people: "Mike Sauls is the best golf course superintendent I know. Working at Butler National is only as difficult as you make it on yourself". I use these lessons and many more in the way I do my job today and they will stay with me for the rest of my career. In my time at Butler National, Mike Sauls taught me a great deal about golf course management, working with memberships, peers, vendors, and the crew but to NEVER lose sight that family comes first. I try and emulate that today now that I have a family of my own. Thank you, Mike, for the chance to learn these things and I am glad the membership of Butler National Golf Club has recognized Mike today for the work he has done for the club for the last 22 years. It is my understanding that Mike and Errie Ball are the only employees to win this award. I don't imagine we'll see Mike mowing rough here at Butler when he's 99 years old! Thank you.



*The other side of the ball had Mike's pic on it, not sure why anyone would want to strike that side of the ball.*

OK, I'm back now. Don't forget to sign up for the 11th Annual John Buck Memorial Golf Outing which takes place on July 12th at Marengo Ridge Golf & CC (**Luke Roth** host). This event is always a blast with its 4-person scramble format and its post-golf feast, and benefits not only the MAGCS Scholarship Fund, but also the NWIGCSA's and the Kane County Farm Bureau's funds. Call J.W.Turf at 847-683-4653 to sign your team up.

As a public service, we offer the following helpful hint so you may hopefully avoid this...



When you repeatedly haul a heavy piece of equipment around a bouncy, bumpy golf course, and are usually going too fast to try and stay ahead of play, you may want to check the tow hitch periodically for signs of stress or fatigue before a catastrophe occurs. Tow-behind turbine blowers are another susceptible item (not that I would have any personal experience with that—I'm just sayin')



*Mike's known as a man of few words, apparently the two imprinted onto the outing balls are a favorite with the membership.*

*(continued on page 23)*