



# THE GRASS ROOTS

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## WGCSA MEMBERS SERVE ON SELECT COMMITTEE TO STUDY UW GOLF COURSE

Seven members of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association were appointed by Dr. Irving Shain, Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin — Madison, to serve on a Select Committee to study the feasibility of building a University of Wisconsin golf course west of Madison. Roger Bell of North Shore Golf Club, Tom Harrison of Maple Bluff Country Club, Rod Johnson of Sheboygan Country Club, Jerry Kershasky of Westmoor Country Club, Bob Musbach of North Hills Country Club, Pat Norton of the South Hills Club and Bill Roberts of SentryWorld accepted the charge from Dr. Shain in late February. They completed their work and presented it to the Chancellor on May 7.

The interest in a University of Wisconsin golf course goes back to the 1950s and the 1960s. Alumni, faculty and students encouraged the UW Foundation to assist the University in providing a golf course for the University community. In 1966, a faculty planning committee was appointed to provide guidance to the Foundation. After careful consideration, a site was chosen and purchased in 1971. It was a 585 acre tract of land between Madison and Verona, and is the same property that was the

focus of the Select Committee. It is a rolling landscape that offers a lot of variety in elevation and a pleasant combination of wooded and open areas. It has great potential for a golf course.

The University of Wisconsin Foundation selected the golf course design firm of Killian and Nugent in 1972 to develop plans for a golf course and recreational facility at the Verona site. At this time, it was anticipated that the golf course would open for play in the spring of 1974. Financing of the project was to be covered by two substantial bequests to the UW — one from Harry Culver of Chicago and one from Carl Dietz of Milwaukee. Both were former "W" men and avid golfers, and each had expressed a desire that their gifts be used for a UW golf course.

Preliminary studies led to the conclusion that residential development would be necessary if the project was to be financially feasible. Final plans, which included a housing layout on the property, were not completed until March of 1974. As soon as the inclusion of housing became known to the public, objections started to surface. Numerous special interest groups, environmentalists, concerned citizens and the Dane County Regional Planning Commission expressed concern about the golf course project. The principal objection centered around the issue of acceptability of the residential development and its potential impact on the surrounding environment, as well as its impact on local governmental bodies. The opposition was so strong that the University and the Foundation decided not to proceed.

There was very little said or written during the years following 1974. In 1982, several UW alumni made arrangements with the Fazio Golf Course Designers, Inc. of Jupiter, Florida to study the site and address the current feasibility of building a golf course on the property. Fazio submitted a golf course design plan for consideration, and his cost estimates concluded that a golf course could be built with the funds held in trust since 1974.

The introduction of the Fazio plan precipitated a cost comparison between that plan and an update of the Killian and Nugent design. The comparison was done by a panel of UW officials. This study led to the conclusion that

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