



AVOIDING THE SUMMER SLUMP

By Chad Eberhardt

Remember this your lifetime through —
Tomorrow there will be more to do...
And failure waits for all who stay
With some success made yesterday...
Tomorrow, you must try once more
And even harder than before.

— John Wooden

Congratulations! You've survived **THE GAME**. You should feel very satisfied.

Team spirit is higher than ever. Each and every player worked harmoniously with his teammates for the common good of all throughout the tournament. Competitors, tournament officials, club members, media, and visitors in the galleries all sang praises of the condition of the golf course.

Zero complaints! In our sport, the fewer complaints you hear, the better the job done.

Unfortunately, before you have time to enjoy your feeling of satisfaction, reality comes along and bursts your bubble.

The women can't figure out why you only aerify on their golf days and not "Men's Day". The men don't understand why the practice tees are temporarily closed. And, the senior members are still ticked that they can't hit a wood off such a short height of cut on fairways.

It sure doesn't take long for all your recent success to vanish!

At this point it is vitally important for you to realize that it is time for you, and your team, to move forward.

Congratulate your players one last time for their performance in **THE GAME**. They must be reminded who

they are really performing for from now on—Club members!

After all, the golfers paying your bills don't care how fast you had the greens rolling or how beautiful your mowing patterns were during the week of the tournament. Their main concern is strictly personal: "What have you done for me lately?"

If you still consider yourself a successful coach in our sport of golf course management, remember that coaching is teaching. You sure can't teach for any length of time unless you can motivate your players to want to always do their best.

It's been a long season, and there are precious few surprises left in a coach's and player's bag of tricks. Mental staleness is often a problem as a team goes through the motions of finishing off the season.

Even strong veteran teams need to be motivated near the end of the season to keep their competitive sharpness. Weak teams? Forget it!

If you're a good motivator, you won't have lost control of your team at this stage. You'll still be able to reach your players most of the time—if, that is, you haven't been foolish enough to let your crew think that their success as a team is based upon how they performed in **THE GAME**.

For your motivational slant this late in the season, you should point out the areas in which the team has improved since the season began and describe other areas in which the team must continue to improve if it's to be the kind of team everyone wants it to be next year.

You should strive towards building a winning tradition.
By the way, nice game ... Coach! 🏌️

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