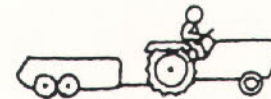


Spreading the Breeze

By Rod Johnson



"Oh, Sweet September!" Shorter days, long cool nights and visions of the first killing frost. This summer, although cooler and slightly wetter than last year, was not without its trials and tribulations. A late July "Spot Check" found that most Wisconsin superintendents charged with the maintenance of Poa/Bent had sprayed at least once for the dreaded "P". I wonder if Dr. Vargas still subscribes to the theory that Pythium is not a threat to northern turfs. Threat or not, anyone trying to purchase Subdue on or about July 26th found some empty shelves.

Grouse about the weather, lousy growing conditions, unreasonable golfers, or even a broken wrist and you get no sympathy for the Editor. "Stop griping and stop stalling. If it was easy anybody could do it." Thanks for the words of encouragement buddy!

1989 will go down as another banner year for Wisconsin golfers. The number of rounds of golf played in the past two years is staggering. You just don't hear of many courses begging for play. Those who are still looking for play might profit by looking around home and taking a hard honest look at their facility. Well maintained golf courses with a competent superintendent, usually a WGCSA member, are successful.

Speaking of golf, who invented the shotgun start? Our club schedule shows no fewer than 47 shotgun starts in 1989. These starts can vary from 7:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. with several two-a-days. One week was packed with six of them. The superintendent's friend — a six-pack of shotguns!

I think it probably was a golf pro, a shirt and shoe pro no less, who came up with the shotgun start. This devious plot was contrived to get the Wednesday morning golfers out of the sweater racks and onto the golf course as quickly as possible. The polyester pal then claimed hero's gold, claiming full credit for the increased number of chicken salads sold after these shotguns.

The shotgun plague continues to grow. Tuesdays and Thursdays have fallen easy prey. In the never ending

search for additional revenues, Mondays were a sure target of the disease. Lunch, dinner and a cocktail hour sandwiched around a shotgun start are now the standard fare on a day when the course used to rest. I wonder what the USGA's views are on shotgun starts and when they'll start using them for the Open.

Recently I've heard some griping and read some strong editorials on Fuzzy Zoeller's promoting golf equipment sales at K-Mart. This bombastment leads me to ask, "What's good for the game in the long run?" The real concern lies in what has any PGA Tour member done for golf lately. While watching the Buick Open I was appalled to watch a tree-stymied golfer take a beaver tail the size of the tenth green at Stevens Point Country Club. Neither golfer nor caddy bothered to replace the pelt while a national audience looked on. It sure would be nice if one of those walking advertisements would decide to have an impact on the game and take a bold step. Visualize Curtis Strange stalking down the 18th at Medinah wearing a Nike shirt imprinted with this logo "Caution — I stop to replace divots." Now that's impact and that's for the good of the game.

Our happy group who, incidentally, never fails to repair a ball mark, repair a divot or rake a bunker, continues to enjoy an excellent monthly meeting schedule. **Mark Keinert** is to be commended for continuing to come up with sites and games. The Ridges meeting was so creative that it took Mark 45 minutes to sort out the damages and even then the locals took home the bacon. Great job, Mark. Now learn how to spell H-A-M-B-U-R-G-E-R.

Two more opportunities remain in 1989 to take the WGCSA challenge and beat the "Sandbaggers". A quick check with **Gene Haas** at Handicap Central, found that some of our regular winners have not recorded a score at their home courses during this decade. Is the thrill of victory really a sleeve of yellow Topflites?

The remainder of this year's calendar includes stops at two runs — Blackwolf and Willow. The Kohler event

is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13 and will be hosted by the always smiling **Marc Davison**. Regular readers know why Marc is always smiling. For the others, Marc now has three less than four with the most recent a baby boy born on May 21st.

The Willow Run event is scheduled for Monday, October 2nd with hosts **Lee Merkel** and **Dewey Laak** promising a superb fall day. This course, named for every superintendent's favorite tree, is located in the near western suburbs of Milwaukee, affording the opportunity to some of our members from that area to attend a meeting in '89.

Belated congratulations are due to **Karl and Joy Wehausen** on their baby boy. Karl is the long time assistant superintendent to Ozaukee and we all know he's the oil that makes the wheels turn. Congratulations, Karl and many happy changes!

At last word, the **Spindlers** were still waiting for their little Milorganite Maker. The **Witowski's** have joined the couples in wait hoping for their second tax deduction. And finally the Parents are to become parents. **Tom and Molly Parent** are expecting their first, another year 'round resident for Door County.

There is still time to get in on the previously announced Devinger Deal. To date the response has been underwhelming. With fall close-out sales at hand I would expect more entries. Remember X — XL knows no season.

In a parting shot, hats off to the WGCA (course owners), on a totally new concept. The leadership of this young but highly successful group has started taking Memberships Recruitment Field Trips to Northern Wisconsin. Golf clubs are of course mandatory on these strictly business trips. In all sincerity, congratulations on what your group has accomplished in a relatively short time.

Adios Amigos

Remember:
Sept. 25 - WTA Outing at West Bend
Oct. 21 - WGCSA Dinner Dance
at Elkhart Lake