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# HOLE NOTES

Official Publication  
of the  
Minnesota Golf Course  
Superintendents' Association

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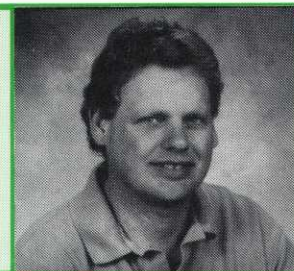
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## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

### Apples to Oranges and other tales of comparative thinking



They do it at the grocery store. They do it at the car dealership. So why shouldn't they do it at the golf course? Do what, you ask? Compare. If you're like me, you wish you had a dime for every time a member or regular at your course approached you with the comment "At the course I played last week, they . . . (you fill in the blank). Why don't we do that?" It seems like every golfer likes to bring back that tid-bit of information from another course that they think you should implement immediately. From rolling greens, to painting the inside lip of the cup hole, to actually having COLD water in the Igloo coolers on the course, there is always an idea lurking around the corner. In a broader scope, the overall condition of the course also gets compared with all the other golf courses that your members/patrons play. It doesn't seem to matter where your course ranks in the hierarchy, or pecking order, of golfdom, someone is there ready to let you know how your course stacks up against the "competition."

**The danger in making such comparisons** (and there are dangers) is that most of the people making the comparisons don't have adequate information to pass judgment. For example, if a golfer from your club plays in the Invitational Tournament at Brokencart CC and returns frothing and gasping about how fast the greens were, the question that will undoubtedly be asked is, "Why aren't our greens like that?" To me, that question begs answers to about twenty questions of my own. Questions like, "What was the actual stimp reading? Were the greens highly contoured? Were the greens specially groomed for tournament play? What is the dominant turf species? What soil is under that grass? How did the greens accept the approach shot? What is the maintenance budget? And the question that generally makes them think the most — How much are the dues?" Usually the answer to these questions range from a blank stare to "I didn't realize those things were that complicated." The reality is that no two courses have the same soil, drainage, maintenance budget, etc., so there will always be differences in the way one course is maintained when compared to another.

I especially enjoy the folks that constantly compare course conditions to those courses that have double the maintenance budget, and at the same time compare their dues structure to clubs that require half the monthly outlay. It's like shopping at Sach's and expecting Kmart prices. Somewhere back in Turf 101 wasn't there an axiom like, "You can't expect a champagne golf course on a beer budget!"

The bottom line for superintendents gets back to educating our members/patrons. When people ask questions, we need to give them answers. If they don't understand, then we have to explain. The urge to compare will always be around, and golfers will always expect their course to improve.

What golfers need to understand is that superintendents are there to provide the best golf course possible, **WITHIN THE CONSTRAINTS OF LIMITED RESOURCES!** If we could make wine from water, we would. If we could make water drain uphill, or seed germinate overnight, or greens that aerify themselves or any number of other money or time saving improvements, we'd do it. We go to great lengths to stretch our maintenance dollars, but here is a point where the dollar ends and common sense begins.

— Fred Taylor  
MGCSA President

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# MGCSA Awards 1997-98 Stodola Scholarships to Four Students

By RALPH TURPINEN

Four students currently attending the University of Minnesota, Anoka-Hennepin Technical College, Pennsylvania State University and Iowa State have been awarded the 1997-98 Harold Stodola Memorial Scholarships.

Recommended from an outstanding field of candidates for the \$1,000 grants were:

**Jeffrey Daniel Bushlack**, University of Minnesota, The Minikahda Club;

**Arik Hemquist**, Anoka-Hennepin Vocational School, Pine Meadows at Brainerd;

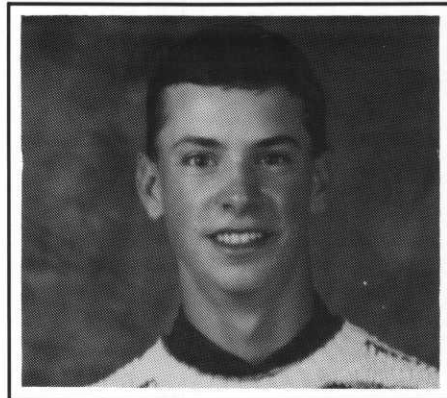
**Jeffrey L. Ische**, Pennsylvania State University, Wayzata Country Club;

**Chad Wilson**, Iowa State University, St. Charles Golf Club.

"We have been very impressed with the calibre of the scholarship recipients and wish them well while

the U of M for two consecutive quarters.

At John Marshall Jeff earned five varsity letters, two in baseball and three in hockey and was an all-conference hockey selection in his



**Arik Hemquist**

senior year. He has continued playing intramural hockey at the University and is a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

From 1992 to 1995 he was employed by Country Green Lawncare doing lawn maintenance in Rochester, then joined Doug Mahal's staff at The Minikahda Club in June, 1996.

A student member of the MGCSA and a member of the student chapter of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, he also has been an attendee at the Minnesota Turf & Grounds Conference in Minneapolis.

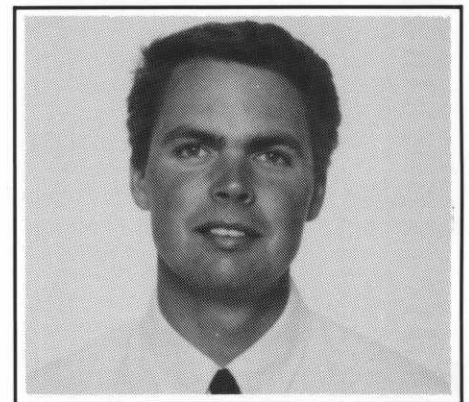
"My interest in the profession came from my father, a turf instructor, so I always had an interest in turf," said Jeff, who also played "a lot of golf as a youngster."

"Now I want to learn as much as I can about turf care, to learn more about diseases and treatments and maybe conduct research to find better ways to manage turf."

In the future he hopes to instill "environmental sensitivity" throughout the profession, to protect and promote the game of golf and "to add to the

high level of integrity that the professional has as a whole."

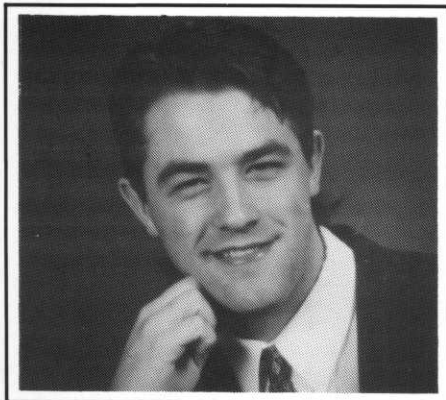
**Arik Hemquist**, 19, a 1996 graduate of Brainerd High School, enrolled at Anoka-Hennepin that year and intends to complete his two-year program in golf course and grounds management next June. He has worked in golf course maintenance since July, 1994 at Pine Meadows in Brainerd, where Richard Williams is



**Jeffrey L. Ische**

superintendent.

At Brainerd High School he was a four-year letterwinner in golf and also won a letter in baseball, was an honor graduate and also has made



**Jeffrey Daniel Bushlack**

they pursue their careers in turf management," said John Queensland, Cedar River CC, chair of the MGSCA's Scholarship Committee.

**Jeff Bushlack**, 21, a 1994 graduate of John Marshall High School in Rochester, is a junior at the University of Minnesota where he is pursuing a four-year degree in horticultural science with emphasis in turfgrass. In high school he received a certificate for perfect attendance and he made the dean's list at



**Chad Wilson**

the President's List at Anoka-Hennepin. He is a student member of the MGCSA and of Ducks Unlimited and also has been awarded a scholarship by the Federated Garden Clubs

*(Continued on Page 7)*

# Welcome to the Future of Turf Equipment Maintenance

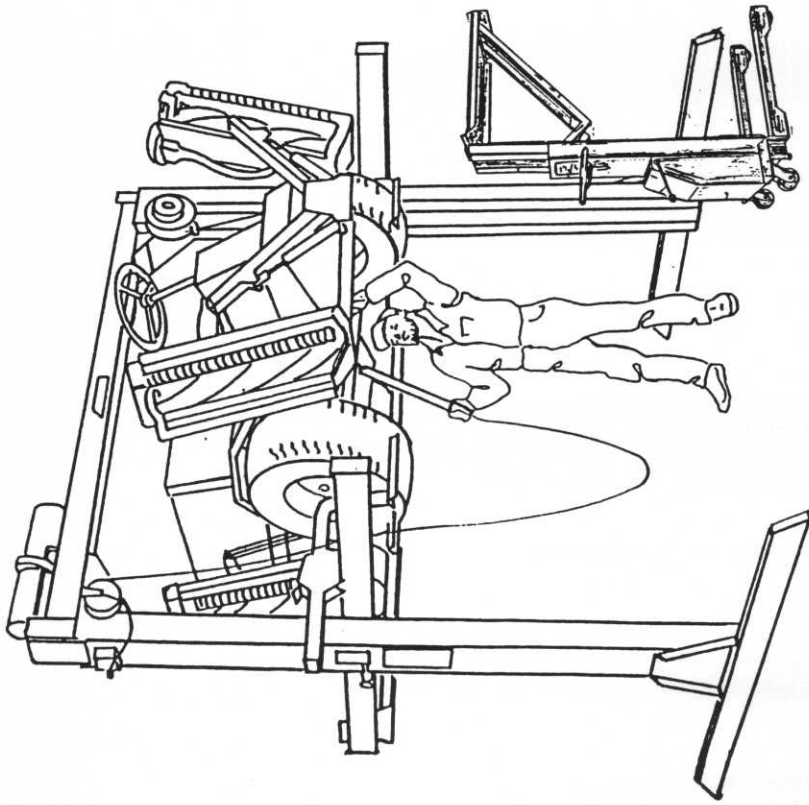
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# Scholarships—

(Continued from Page 5)

of Minnesota, Inc.

"A neighbor boy introduced me to the game of golf at an early age, and I have loved the game ever since," Arik said. "When playing one day I thought that since I love playing and being on a golf course so much, why don't I make a career of it?"

Noting that he "enjoys working outdoors and being with nature," Arik expects a college education "to expand my knowledge in the turf management field and to help prepare me to become a superintendent in the near future." He wants to become a leader in the profession and set an example for others to follow while helping future turfgrass managers gain the skills and knowledge needed for them to become a superintendent.

**Jeff Ische, 26**, is a 1989 graduate of Lutheran High School in Mayer and a 1994 graduate of Macalester College. He also has attended Mankato State University and Normandale Community College in Bloomington. At Penn State he is enrolled in the school's two-year Turfgrass Management Technical Program.

Jeff has worked at Dahlgreen Golf Club in Chaska and in automotive sales in Great Falls, Mont. This past year he became a student intern in grounds management at Wayzata Country Club. In high school he was a member of the National Honor Society and won letters in basketball and football. He also was a class officer, sang in the concert choir, played intramural volleyball and softball and was a member of the Varsity Club and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He also is a member of the MGCSA and GCSAA and the Penn State Turf Club. He is a Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Environmental Education volunteer, a Carver-Scott County Humane Society volunteer and plays community softball. He also has been treasurer of his 4-H Club.

Jeff first became interested in golf when he accepted a nighttime watering position at a nearby golf course

while in high school and began playing a short time later.

"This opportunity to see both perspectives helped me appreciate the skills and knowledge behind a well-kept golf course," he said. "I chose turf management because of my strong agronomic background and genuine enjoyment of the outdoors. I also appreciate the fact that this profession allows the flexibility and creativity of the superintendent to determine appropriate courses of action based on many variables and constraints. I plan on becoming a grounds superintendent at a championship calibre golf course and to help educate the general public about the many environmental benefits a golf course can provide and to promote our industry as a whole."

He expects his education to provide him with the technical knowledge to manage a golf course and to develop the skills necessary to work with people of different backgrounds for a common goal.

**Chad Wilson, 19**, is a 1996 graduate of St. Charles High School, now is in his second year of the four-year horticulture/turfgrass management program at Iowa State University and plans to graduate in 2000.

In high school he was a member of the band, chorus and other musical groups as well as the National Honor Society and Spanish Club. He was captain of his high school golf team for two years while earning three letters, was in the school's Leaders for Life program and played basketball. Other extra-curricular activities include membership in horticulture, turf and ski clubs.

Chad also is a student member of the GCSAA, the St. Charles Area Youth Task Force and the St. Matthew's Youth Group. He also has received scholarships from the St. Charles Golf Club, the Tri-County Electric Coop, the St. Charles Foundation for Excellence, Academic Foundation, the Iowa Turfgrass Institute and an Academic Recognition Scholarship from Iowa State University.

Chad worked in personal lawn

maintenance in Utica from the summer of 1988 to the fall of 1996. He became involved in golf course maintenance at St. Charles Golf Club in the spring of 1995.

Chad began developing his interest in golf when his mother introduced him to the game and "I fell in love with it," he said. "I knew that becoming a professional golfer was not for me, but I knew that I wanted to stay as close to the game as possible. I began working at a summer job at our local course when I was a junior in high school. Once I began this work, I knew that becoming a superintendent is what I was supposed to do."

From his college experience he expects to gain a formal education in turfgrass management. "Through the university I will have the chance to do many internships and the real-world experience that I receive will better prepare me for a superintendent's position. Eventually I will become a Certified Golf Course Superintendent."

## Lucas Mahal, Tamara Johnson Receive MGCSA Legacy Scholarships

Lucas Mahal, son of Doug Mahal, Head Golf Course Superintendent at The Minikahda Club, Minneapolis, and Tamara Johnson, daughter of Bill Johnson, former Head Superintendent at Edina Country Club, have been awarded \$1,250 Legacy Scholarships by the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association.

Mahal is a student at Vermillion Community College in Ely. Johnson, who also received the scholarship last year, is a student at the University of Wisconsin/LaCrosse.

The legacy scholarship program is designed to assist children and grandchildren of Class AA, A, B, C, C, Associate and Affiliate members. The MGCSA provides scholarships to students attending college or vocational programs at any accredited post secondary institution.

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# Stodola Research Scramble Results

September 14, 1997  
 The Preserve Golf Club  
 Pequot Lakes, Minnesota

<b>The Minikahda Club</b> .....	<b>57</b>
Doug Mahal	
Kip Colwell	
Jim Jennings	
Doug Nelson .....	Net 55.18
<b>Pheasant Run GC</b> .....	<b>58</b>
Scott Weltzin	
Shannon Weltzin	
Steve Fessler	
Joe Goetz .....	Net 52.97
<b>Hazeltine National GC</b> .....	<b>58</b>
Jim Nicol	
Mark Storby	
Blair Hawkins	
Mark Hanson .....	Net 54.79
<b>The Pines at Grand View</b> .....	<b>59</b>
Fred Boos	
Lee Horning	
S. Schornack	
Mark Neva .....	Net 55.42
<b>Hillcrest CC</b> .....	<b>59</b>
Michael Brower	
Tom Kristo	
Rob Tennant	
Al Loth .....	Net 57.73
<b>Mankato GC</b> .....	<b>60</b>
Fred Taylor	
Josh Blackman	
Leroy Mamer	
Al Starke .....	Net 53.17
<b>The Wilds GC</b> .....	<b>60</b>
James Gardner	
Mike Regan	
Dan Simpson	
C. Schoenrock .....	Net 57.60
<b>St. Croix National GC</b> .....	<b>61</b>
Kevin Clunis	
Butch Greeninger	
Bob Distel	
Scott Turtinen .....	Net 55.69
<b>Madden's on Gull Lake</b> .....	<b>61</b>
Scott Hoffman	
Tony Kramer	
Tim Trott	
Pat Morstad .....	Net 56.50
<b>Cedar River CC</b> .....	<b>62</b>
John Queensland	
Bruce Bergene	
Mike Schneider	
Jim Thalberg .....	Net 56.87
<b>Pebble Creek CC</b> .....	<b>62</b>
Cary Femrite	
Mike Redmond	
Brad Klein	
Dick Williams .....	Net 59.16
<b>The Preserve GC</b> .....	<b>63</b>
Mike Bohnenstingl	
C. Bohnenstingl	
Jeff Vinkemeier	
Dan Helbring .....	Net 58.00



**THE 1997 STODOLA CHAMPIONS FROM THE MINIKAHDA CLUB**, pictured left to right, are Doug Nelson, Jim Jennings, Doug Mahal and Kip Colwell.

<b>Rolling Green CC</b> .....	<b>63</b>	<b>Manitou Ridge GC</b> .....	<b>66</b>
Patrick Walton		Greg Hubbard	
Larry Olson		Mike Ligday	
Harry Hunt		S. Erickson	
Bill Soule .....	Net 59.00	Mark Foley .....	Net 60.39
<b>Elm Creek Golf Links</b> .....	<b>63</b>	<b>Les Bolstad U of Minn. GC</b> .....	<b>66</b>
Michael Klatte		Charlie Pooch	
David Kirkbride		Russ Adams	
Tom Dargay		Jim Peloquin	
Dave Small .....	Net 60.50	Jerry Bibbey .....	Net 60.96
<b>Long Prairie CC</b> .....	<b>64</b>	<b>The Minikahda Club</b> .....	<b>68</b>
John Monson		Jeffrey Johnson	
Jack Dressen		Jon Pulju	
Fred Dinkel		Tom Little	
Randy Swanson .....	Net 58.97	Mike Kelly .....	Net 62.30
<b>Par Aide Golf Products</b> .....	<b>64</b>	<b>Tartan Park GC</b> .....	<b>69</b>
Mike Hilliard		Joe Moris	
Jeff Langevin		Randy Allen	
Gregg Brodd		Curt Pickar	
Jay Monson .....	Net 59.90	Tom Ryberg .....	Net 58.85
<b>Cannon GC</b> .....	<b>64</b>	<b>MTI Distributing Co.</b> .....	<b>69</b>
Jeff Backstrom		Bob Fredericks	
Joe Tapp		Mike Bentson	
Bob Carnel		David Kirscht	
Dean Lindeman .....	Net 61.44	Dan Evavold .....	Net 60.25
<b>Turf Supply Company</b> .....	<b>65</b>	<b>Benson GC</b> .....	<b>69</b>
John Wiley		Dave Sime	
Don Belkengren		Bill Dethloff	
Tom McCann		Jack Kjos	
Mike Welfring .....	Net 57.10	Mike Kellner .....	Net 61.17
<b>Bunker Hills GC</b> .....	<b>65</b>	<b>Tianna CC</b> .....	<b>69</b>
Brad Hable		Bill Cox	
Len Olson		Jim Cox	
C. Whitcher		John Johnson	
Denny Melland .....	Net 60.79	Troy Nelson .....	Net 62.80
<b>Interlachen CC</b> .....	<b>66</b>	<b>Edinburgh USA</b> .....	<b>71</b>
Eric Peterson		Tom Fischer	
Matt Rostal		Linda St. John	
Rick Carr		Kelly Josephson	
Steve Makowske .....	Net 59.64	Frank Tanaka .....	Net 63.51





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