

# Wisconsin

The Official Publication of the Wisconsin State Golf Association



# Golfer

# PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

**NELSON AND CAHILL REPEAT IN '16** PAGE 10

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## Highlights from IAGA annual conference

WSGA recognized with national award

Earlier this month, I attended the International Association of Golf Administrators (IAGA) 50th Annual Conference along with Director of Rules & Competitions Bill Linneman and Director of Members Services & Communications David Cohn. If you've never heard of the IAGA, you're not alone. The IAGA is essentially an association of golf associations from across the country with several international members as well. The conference is a great opportunity to network with colleagues from across the country, share best practices and hopefully learn a few things from the breakout sessions.

The conference kicked off with a state of the industry panel with Mike Davis (USGA), Scott Simmons (Golf Canada), Jay Karen (National Golf Course Owners Association) and Rhett Evans (Golf Course Superintendents Association). It is always good to hear from the leaders of the golf industry and get their take on the health of the golf industry. Other sessions included how to communicate and run meetings more effectively, leadership, golf and modern lifestyles, junior golf, women's

golf and reaching and engaging the non-championship player.

One interesting note from Mike Davis was on the USGA and R&A's rules modernization project. There's even a page for the project on the [USGA web site](#). The primary objective of the project is to make the rules of golf easier to read, understand and apply by golfers at all levels. It sounds like good progress is being made and that a draft of the new rules should be available for feedback sometime in 2017, although implementation is probably several years away.

Another highlight from the conference was the Gold Tee Awards dinner recognizing association achievements and best practices. The WSGA won an award for best education program for a large association for our rules of golf webinar series.

With the conference over, we shift our focus back to getting ready for the 2017 season. Don't forget to check out the January/February issue of Wisconsin Golfer for the release of the 2017 WSGA tournament schedule.

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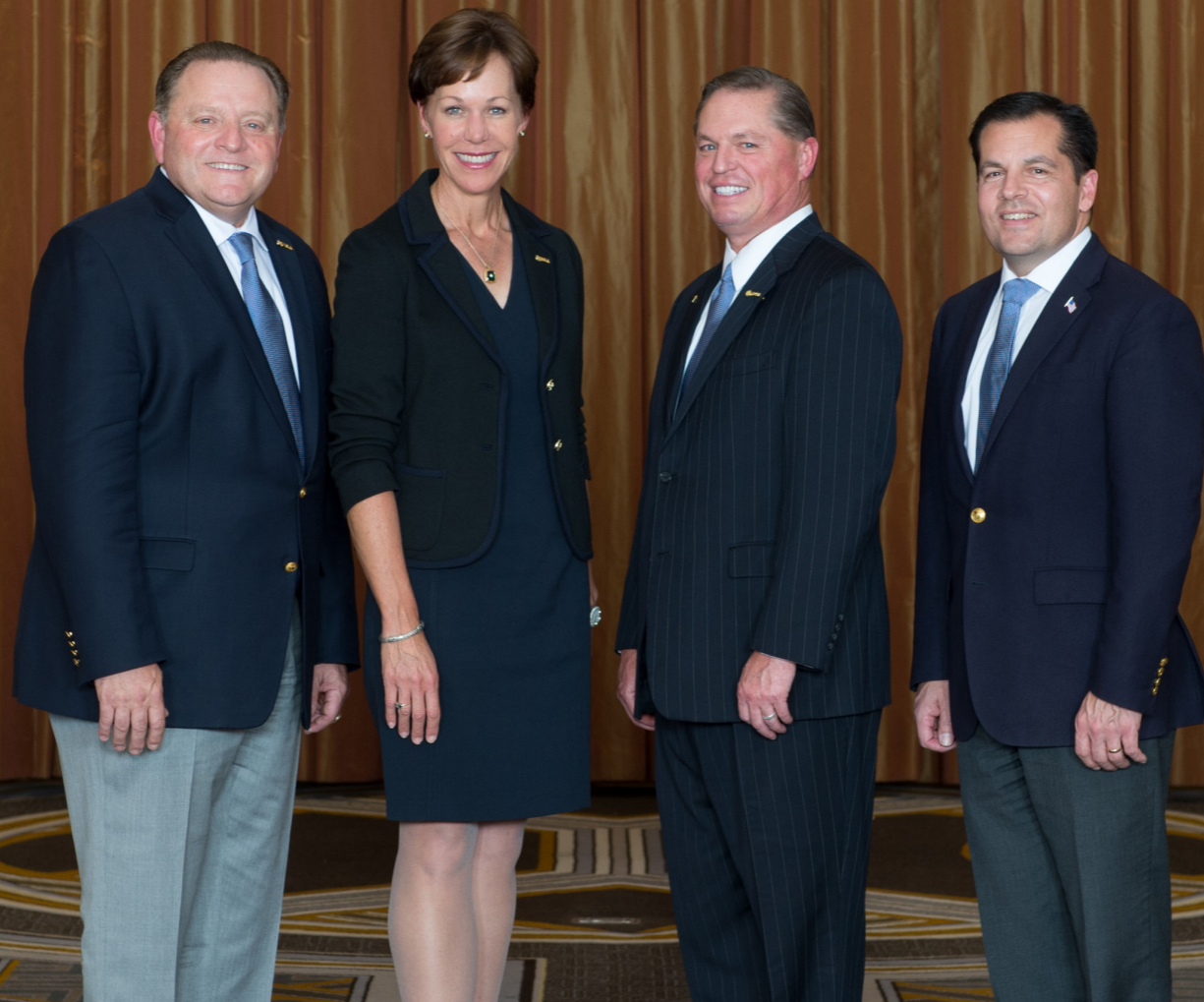


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PGA of America President, Paul Levy, PGA of America Vice President, Suzy Whaley, PGA of America Secretary, Jim Richerson and PGA of America Honorary President, Derek Sprague gather for a photo during the 100th PGA annual meeting held at the Grand Hyatt New York.

## Kohler's Jim Richerson elected national secretary of PGA of America

Kohler's Jim Richerson was elected national secretary of the PGA of America on Nov. 11 during the 100th PGA Annual Meeting in New York City, putting him in line to become PGA president.

Richerson, general manager and group director of golf for Kohler Co., received 60 of 112 votes to beat out Russ Libby (45), the 2015 PGA Horton Smith Award-winner from Jacksonville, Florida.

He currently oversees Kohler's global golf operations at Destination Kohler – home to championship courses Whistling Straits and Blackwolf Run – and The Old Course Hotel, Golf Resort & Spa (St Andrews, Scotland) – home to the revered heathland course The Duke's and host hotel

for the 2015 Open Championship. Richerson has served on the Board of the Wisconsin State Golf Association since 2009.

Recently completing a three-year term on the PGA of America's National Board of Directors, Richerson said at the outset of his candidacy he looked forward to the next steps in strategically helping grow the game and the overall business of golf.

"I've had the great honor to serve in a variety of leadership roles on the local, state, regional and national levels, and alongside some of the best and brightest in the industry," Richerson said earlier this year in announcing his candidacy. "I'm eager to put my experience to work for

the organization, further fostering love for the game of golf and serving the dedicated people behind it."

Paul Levy, of Indian Wells, California, was elected the 40th president of the PGA of America at the meeting. Levy is president of Club Operations and Development for Sunrise Company, and also is the CEO and general manager at Toscana Country Club. Prior to being elected PGA president, Levy served as PGA vice president and PGA secretary.

Succeeding Levy as vice president is Suzy Whaley of Cromwell, Connecticut, who served the past two years as secretary. Whaley is the first woman ever to be elected as an Officer of the Association.

– Courtesy of Rob Hernandez at wisconsin.golf

## Roesch honored with Hall of Fame induction ceremony

David Roesch and Sue Ginter are the two newest members of the Wisconsin Golf Hall of Fame. They were **selected for induction** over the summer, but now is the time for their formal induction ceremonies. Roesch is up first.

Roesch, a resident of Germantown who played at the University of Wisconsin, officially joined the Hall on Nov. 5 at North Hills CC in Menomonee Falls. PGA Tour veteran and fellow Wisconsin Hall-of-Famer Mark Wilson, who now lives in the Chicago area, introduced Roesch. Wilson and Roesch are friends and contemporaries from their time playing amateur golf in Wisconsin in the 1990s.

Roesch, 42, is now a respected PGA Professional in the Milwaukee area tasked with coaching some of Wisconsin's best young talent. He was named teacher of the year by the Wisconsin PGA Section in 2013.

Roesch was the Wisconsin amateur player of the year in 1997 and won the WSGA Match Play Championship in consecutive years (1996 and '97) before turning pro. Roesch played various mini tours for several seasons and advanced to PGA Tour Q-School Finals twice, but never earned full privileges on the PGA Tour.

Roesch won the Wisconsin State Open in 2004 and is currently one of the top players among state PGA professionals.

Ginter – formerly an LPGA Tour player and currently a teaching professional in Jupiter Hills, Florida – will be inducted into the Wisconsin Golf Hall of Fame in December. Ginter grew up in Appleton.





Jamie Young

COURTESY OF JAMIE YOUNG

## Young and speedy

Jamie Young of Kenosha has turned a spotlight on a niche sport by winning the 2016 World Speedgolf Championship, an event that requires a player to go low while playing fast. The 52-year-old Young topped a field of 28 competitors at The Glen Club in Glenview, Illinois, in October by shooting an even-par 72 in 50 minutes and 13 seconds on the first day, followed by a 77 the second day in 51 minutes, 10 seconds. Young, who has been competing in Speedgolf for five years, finished sixth in last year's world championship. [Click here](#) for Dennis McCann's column on Jamie Young.



Princeton Valley GC

COURTESY OF PRINCETON VALLEY GC

## Princeton Valley GC for lease

Princeton Valley GC, a nine-hole course on the northeast side of Eau Claire is available for lease heading into the 2017 season.

The rolling par-36 course measures 3,325 yards from the tips and has four sets of tees. It was designed by Dr.

Gordon Emerson and opened for play in 1976. The property also includes a pub, grill and banquet facility open year-round, and full practice facilities.

Any interested parties can contact Haselwander Companies, Inc., at (715) 834-9997.

## Hole-outs

The albatross recently landed – not once, but twice – in Madison. On Oct. 19, two members of the same informal golf league at Odana Hills GC made double eagles on separate holes.

First, Jim Troia scored a 2 on Odana Hills' par-5 sixth hole. A couple hours later, Dan Wubbels did the same on the par-5 15th hole. Both players are Madison



Odana Hills GC

residents and Odana Hills members.

Then, it got even weirder. Later in the day, Mark Woodruff of Madison did them one better. Well, sort of. Woodruff made a hole-in-one on the par-3 fourth hole.



## Giveaway winner announced

The September/October winners of a year's supply of Titleist golf balls were Todd Milykovic, of Madison and Kent Flanagan, of Hayward. Look for details on the next giveaway in this issue of *Wisconsin Golfer*.

## Billows exhibit opens



Ray Billows

The accomplishments of Wisconsin State Golf Association Hall-of-Famer Ray Billows are the subject of a new exhibit at the USGA Golf Museum.

The Wisconsin native moved to New York at the age of 18 and went on to a remarkable amateur career there, which included two Masters Tournament appearances.

Billows is best known for advancing to the championship match at the U.S. Amateur Championship three times



(1937, '39 and '48) and losing all three title matches. His three U.S. Amateur silver medals are currently on display at the museum, as is the ball he used to ace the 16th hole in the third round of the 1940 Masters.

For more on Billows and the exhibit, [click here](#).

## Young girl shines at PGA Tour event

Audrey Crowley is a little girl with big dreams and a ton of athletic ability. She was also born without a right hand, but she's not letting her disability get in the way of her dreams.

Fortunately, she has a team of doctors and scientists from Shriners' Hospital in Minneapolis to help her overcome her obstacles.

Crowley, a nine-year old from Grafton, is a competitive skier, but she also plays other sports including golf. She is able to compete and play at sports thanks to the prosthetics made just for her at Shriners' Hospital.

Crowley had a chance to say thanks the first week in November, as she was selected to serve as a standard bearer

Minneapolis facility.

"We were lucky enough to get into the Shriner's Hospital in Chicago pretty early – she first went down there at six months," said Audrey's dad, Steve Crowley. "We transferred to the Minneapolis hospital because they made prosthetics there. It's really an



**"We were lucky enough to get into the Shriner's Hospital in Chicago pretty early – she first went down there at six months. We transferred to the Minneapolis hospital because they made prosthetics there. It's really an amazing organization."**

**– STEVE CROWLEY**

at the Shriner's Hospital for Children Open, a PGA Tour event in Las Vegas. Twenty-two kids – all Shriner's Hospital patients – were selected for the honor, one for each hospital in the Shriner's network. Crowley represented the

amazing organization."

The prosthetic Audrey uses for skiing is specially designed so she can use two ski poles, and also so that the pole pops out of her right hand if she crashes on the slopes, reducing the chance of injury. She has different prosthetics for other sports like golf and biking.

Crowley probably wasn't awed by the hoopla of a PGA Tour event, as she is already a nationally known athlete. She has been featured on Good Morning America and in *Sports Illustrated*. Outdoor Wisconsin did a nice story on her, too, which included footage of her hitting golf balls at the Kohler Golf Academy.

For more information about Shriner's Hospitals and the PGA Tour event sponsors, [click here](#).



American Family Volunteers

## Volunteers needed

It may seem like golf's off-season is approaching, but now is the time for volunteers to sign-up for next summer's American Family Insurance Championship at University Ridge in Verona. The second annual PGA Tour Champions event will be held on June 22-25, 2017.

American Family Insurance recently sent out notices to everyone who volunteered at last year's tournament, but the company is still looking for willing participants. For more information, or to sign-up, [click here](#).

Kirk Triplett won the inaugural American Family Insurance Championship in June.



Emily Lauterbach

## Girls all-state team

Emily Lauterbach of Hartland Arrowhead and Alexis Thomas of Middleton have been named co-state players of the year by the Golf Coaches Association of Wisconsin. They lead the seven-player First Team All-State squad announced this fall.

Lauterbach and Thomas are joined on the First Team by Sarah Busey of Racine St. Catherine's, Abby Cavaiani of Kettle Moraine, Speedy Kent of Homestead, Ashley Kulka of Beaver Dam and Mia Seeman of Milton.

Thomas, Kent and Kulka were also First-Teamers in 2015.

Forty-two players were classified by the GCAW as First Team, Second Team, Third Team or honorable mention selections. [Click here](#) to see the full list of players.



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# 2016 PLAYERS of the YEAR



**NICK  
NELSON**

DAVID COHN

## **NICK NELSON**

**WSGA Amateur Player of the Year  
Brown Deer Park GC**

Last year, between his junior and senior seasons at Marquette University, Iowa native Nick Nelson earned Wisconsin State Golf Association player of the year honors for the first time. This summer, between his MU graduation and his beginning law school at Marquette, he did it again.

Nelson, 23, who hails from Decorah, Iowa, and plays out of Brown Deer Park GC, gathered most of his player-of-the-year points in July at the Wisconsin State Amateur Championship sponsored by West Bend Insurance, which he won by three strokes over Thomas Longbella. Nelson shot tidy rounds of 68-70-69-69-276 at par-70 North Shore GC,



Nick Nelson

JIM KELSH

finishing off the championship with 10 straight pars as others fell back in the fading daylight.

Nelson was the only player in the field to record four rounds of par or better at the State Amateur.

Nelson also finished 10th at the WPLA Ray Fischer Championship in June and 11th at the Wisconsin State Open in

August.

In June, Nelson won the Blackhawk Invite, a 36-hole, single-day tournament that brings Wisconsin's top amateurs, pros and high school players together in Madison, making it sort of a mini-State Open. Nelson shot 136 on the day, including a hole-in-one on No. 16 his second time around Blackhawk CC.

Also in June, Nelson defended his 2015 title at the WSGA Match Play Championship sponsored by TaylorMade. This time, he shot 71 in qualifying at Oconomowoc GC, but lost his first round match, 2-up.

Nelson attempted to qualify for the 2016 U.S. Amateur Championship but shot 75-68-143 at the qualifier at Wauertown CC. He did play the Western Amateur, missing the cut in August at Knollwood CC in Lake Forest, Illinois.

In May, Nelson led Marquette to a fourth-place finish at the Big East Golf Championship, finishing ninth among all individuals. He finished his career with the sixth-best stroke-average in program history (73.38).

Nelson is the second recent player to earn WSGA player of the year honors in consecutive seasons. Jordan Niebrugge did it in 2013 and '14. The last player to do it before that was Bob Gregorski in 2000 and '01.

Nelson finished the 2016 season with 995 points. Second on the list is Charlie Maleki of Ozaukee CC with 910 points,



**REBECCA  
KLONGLAND**

followed by Gene Kiela III of Pine Hills CC (799.16). [\(Click here](#) for the full list.)

**REBECCA KLONGLAND**

**WWSGA Player of the Year**  
**University Ridge GC**

Rebecca Klongland of University Ridge GC played her best in Wisconsin's most prestigious amateur golf championships in 2016, and as a result she is the Wisconsin Women's State Golf Association player of the year.

A junior on the University of Wisconsin

golf team this season, Klongland won the WWSGA State Amateur, tied for third at the Wisconsin State Women's Open and won the Badger Mutual Insurance Women's Amateur in record fashion. In 2016, the WWSGA State Amateur was held in Michigan's Upper Peninsula at Riverside GC, just across the border from Wisconsin. As the two-time defending champion, all eyes were on Klongland, and she didn't disappoint. Klongland shot 75-73-77-225 for a two-shot win over Abby Dufrane.



Rebecca Klongland

The following week, in early August, Klongland teed it up in the BMI Women's Amateur at Brown Deer Park GC, a tournament supported by the WWSGA. Klongland won the title, shooting scores of 67-75-142, the lowest score in the 17-year history of the event.

Klongland shot 80-72-152 at Mascoutin

GC in June at the Wisconsin State Women's Open, finishing five strokes behind champion Tess Hackworthy.

Teaming with partner Jessica Staed, Klongland won the gross title at the WWSGA Bestball Championship. The duo combined on a round of 67 for the win.

Klongland also advanced to the semi-finals of the WWSGA Match Play Championship, where she lost, 4 and 2, to eventual champion Mikayla Smith. She finished fourth in stroke play qualifying at the event on the Pines Course at Lake Arrowhead GC, shooting 76.

Klongland finished the season with 850 points. Her UW teammate Gabrielle Curtis of University Ridge was second with 555 points. Smith of Fox Valley GC was third with 540. [\(Click here](#) for the full list.)

**KEVIN CAHILL**

**WSGA Senior Player of the Year**  
**The Legend Clubs**

Like Nelson, Kevin Cahill of The Legend Clubs won his second consecutive player of the year award. Cahill, 56, was the top senior amateur in Wisconsin again this year on the basis of numerous high finishes in a variety of tournaments – statewide and national.

One of the highlights of Cahill's summer quickly became a painful memory. In September, Cahill made a spirited run to the semifinals of the U.S. Senior Amateur Championship at Old Warston CC in Missouri. Cahill arrived on the 18th

tee 1-up in his semifinal match against Matthew Sughrue. But Cahill missed the fairway with his drive and made bogey, before losing in 19 holes.

Cahill, who advanced to the quarter-finals at last year's U.S. Senior Amateur, tried to qualify for the 2016 U.S. Senior Open, but he tied for seventh at the qualifier at North Hills CC with an even-par 72 (the same score as PGA Tour vets Skip Kendall and Carlos Franco).



JIM KELSH

Cahill, who lives in Waukesha, also finished third in Wisconsin's Senior Amateur Championship at the end of August at Pine Hills CC, shooting twin rounds of 71. And he shot 77-73-150 to finish eighth at the WSGA Mid-Amateur Championship at La Crosse CC in



DAVID COHN

September.

He had another tie for third place, along with partner Ramiro Romo, at the WSGA Senior Bestball Championship at The Club at Strawberry Creek, where they shot 66-73-139.

Cahill also made the cut at the Wisconsin State Amateur, tying for 52nd, and the Wisconsin State Open, tying for 24th. And he finished fourth among senior players at the WSGA/WPGA Summer Showdown at West Bend CC with a round of 73.

Cahill tallied 1,509.17 points on the season. Ed Dzirkik Jr. finished second with 1,292.50 points, and Paul Zarek finished third with 1,067.50. ([Click here](#) for the full list.)

## MAGGIE LEEF

### WWSGA Senior Player of the Year The Legend Clubs

For a few years now, Maggie Leef and Sydney Wells have handed the WWSGA Senior Player of the Year Award back and forth to each other. The game of hot potato continues in 2016.



ROB HERNANDEZ

Leef, of The Legend Clubs, finished just ahead of Wells on the 2016 senior player of the year list. She's now won the award four times, most recently in 2014.

Leef, who lives in Pewaukee, tied for second place at the WWSGA Senior Championship in early June. She shot

75-78-153 at The Club at Strawberry Creek, finishing – no surprise here – one stroke behind Wells.

At the WWSGA Match Play Championship, Leef shot a solid 75 in qualifying and advanced to the semifinals, where she lost to Gabrielle Curtis.

She also finished seventh at the Wisconsin State Women's Open, where she shot 75-81-156.



USGAWATT SULLIVAN

Leef teamed with a fellow member at The Legend Clubs, Amy Schubert, at the WWSGA Bestball Championship in June at The Bull at Pinehurst Farms. Leef and Schubert shot a gross score of 68, which placed them second in that division, but they also emerged as net champions when their score converted to a net 62. Leef ended the 2016 season with 900 points. Wells, of Riverside GC, was second with 845 points, and Pat Roisum of Lake Ripley CC was third on the list with 365 points. ([Click here](#) for the full list.)

## HUNTER EICHHORN

WPGA Junior Boys Player of the Year  
WPGA Junior GC

Hunter Eichhorn, a 17-year-old resident of Carey, Michigan, who plays his summertime golf in Wisconsin, got used to seeing his name on the tops of leaderboards in 2016. Check out this stat line: In the 11 events Eichhorn played on the WPGA Junior Tour this year, he won six of them and finished second three more times. His worst finish in those 11 tournaments was a tie for sixth place.

Eichhorn demonstrated this season the ability to go super-low. He shot a 65 on July 26 at Thornberry Creek at Oneida



USGADAVID CARROLL PHOTOS

**HUNTER  
EICHHORN**



Hunter Eichhorn

to win a WPGA Junior Tour event, and he recorded rounds of 71-65-136 at the Meadow Valleys Course at Blackwolf Run to win a two-day WPGA Players Tour event in June.

Eichhorn authored an unusual two-fer at the WSGA Junior Boys Championship in August at The Bull at Pinehurst Farms, finishing runner-up in both the tournament and the annual long-drive contest held after the second round. In the championship, Eichhorn put together rounds of 76-69-68 to finish at 3-under 213, four strokes behind medalist Brady Sarauer. In the long drive contest, he smacked a drive of 350 yards that somehow wasn't the long shot of the afternoon. (Thomas Longbella's best went an astonishing 361 yards.)

Eichhorn, who has committed to Marquette University, also finished fourth

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at the Lake Arrowhead Invitational in June, shooting scores of 73-78-151.

On the national level, he shot 72-71-143 at The Honors Course in Tennessee and earned the 14th seed at the U.S. Junior Amateur. But he lost in the first round of match play.

Eichhorn tallied 1,675 points on the season. Emmet Herb of Blackhawk CC was second with 1,527.50 points, and Brock Hlinak of Fox Valley GC finished third (1,176.05). ([Click here](#) for the full list.)

### TAYLOR McCORKLE

WPGA Junior Girls Player of the Year  
Foxboro GC

Taylor McCorkle, a senior at Oregon High School and resident of that Dane County community, won three tournaments on the WPGA Junior Tour this season, including a two-day event at the

Golf Courses of Lawsonia in July. She shot 77-74-151 on the Links Course for that victory.

McCorkle, who plays out of Foxboro GC, also won the overall girls title

at the Wisconsin Junior Championship, held on the Milwaukee County courses at Brown Deer Park and Dretzka Park.



TAYLOR  
McCORKLE

McCorkle shot 75 at Brown Deer and 68 at Dretzka, the latter highlighted by five birdies and an eagle.

In her final high school appearance for Oregon, she tied for 11th place among Division 1 individuals at the WIAA Girls Golf Championship, serving as the team's No. 1 player. Oregon finished fifth in the D-1 team championship.

McCorkle also finished eighth at the Lake Arrowhead Invitational, shooting 82-83-165. And she tied for 10th place at the Wisconsin Women's State Open (83-78-161).

McCorkle, who has committed to play at North Dakota State next season, finished 2016 with 1,374 points, followed by Emily Lauterbach of The Legend Clubs (1,260) and Jo Baranczyk of the WPGA Junior GC (1,180). ([Click here](#) for the full list.)



Taylor McCorkle



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## Be careful with those Christmas presents

Don't let your new "toy" get you penalized

With the holidays upon us, many golfers look to Santa to bring them some new equipment in the never-ending quest for a few more yards off the tee, fewer putts per round, or just better contact with the ball. When it comes time to play that first round of 2017, take care to ensure that your new clubs don't place you in breach of the fourteen-club limit imposed by the Rules of Golf.

Rule 4-4a allows a player to start his round with no more than fourteen clubs. That limitation seems simple enough, but players at even the professional level can run afoul of it. Remember the 2001 British Open when Ian Woosnam, in contention, started his final round with fifteen clubs, including two drivers? What, then, are the penalties and procedures when a player realizes he is in breach of this provision?

In both match play and stroke play, as soon as a player realizes that he had started his round with more than fourteen clubs (whether the discovery takes place in the 1st fairway or the 12th tee), he must immediately declare the excess club(s) out of play and not use the club(s) for the rest of the round. For example, if on the 4th tee a player counts that he has fifteen clubs and that he had started the round with that many, he must declare one of those clubs out of play. In this specific example, any of those fifteen clubs placed him over the limit, so he may declare any club out of play. He



must inform his opponent or fellow-competitor of his decision. He may continue to carry the club but needs to ensure that he does not use the club again.

After declaring the offending club(s) out of play, the player then needs to determine the

penalty. The penalties for match play and stroke play are very different, and we will start with match play.

In match play, the penalty is not the standard loss of hole. Rather, it is a deduction from the status of the match, with a one-hole deduction for each hole at which a breach occurred, with a maximum deduction of two holes for the round. When a player discovers his breach, if he is in the process of playing a hole, he will finish the hole and then apply the penalty. This penalty is best understood through two examples:

- (1) In the 1st fairway a player discovers that he started the round with sixteen clubs. He declares two clubs out of play and then finishes the hole, scoring a 5 to his opponent's 4. The ruling is that the player is now 2 down after the 1st hole (he



Ian Woosnam was informed on the 2nd tee of the 2012 British Open that he was carrying 15 clubs

lost the hole based on score and then had one hole deducted for his breach).

- (2) On the 6th fairway a player who is 1 up after five holes discovers that he started the round with fifteen clubs. He declares one club out of play and finishes the hole, scoring a 3 to his opponent's 4. The ruling is that after the 6th hole the match is now all square (the player was 2 up based on score and then deducts the maximum of two holes).

In stroke play, the penalty is more straightforward: two strokes per hole, with a maximum penalty of four strokes for the round. If the two above situations were to occur in stroke play, the player in (1) would add two penalty strokes to his score for the 1st hole and in (2) would add two penalty strokes to his scores for the 1st and 2nd holes (for four total penalty strokes).

The lesson? With great Christmas gifts comes great responsibility! ■

John Morrisett is the Chairman of the WSGA's Rules Committee and the Competitions Director at Erin Hills.





## Start hitting a perfect draw

### And stop hitting the pesky slice

The dreaded slice. The bane of many a golfer's existence. Slicing the ball robs golfers of both distance and control and is a calling card of mid- to high-handicappers worldwide. In contrast, there is one shot that is the bread and butter of skilled golfers: the draw. The question then becomes, how can the amateur golfer stop hitting that pesky slice and start hitting a draw like the pros on Tour do? Let's explore. The typical slice is a result of the club swinging over the top relative to the plane, creating an outside-to-in club path. This is the exact opposite of the inside-to-out club path needed to hit that perfect draw. There are several ways to try to achieve this desired inside-out motion.

Often one of the most effective methods is to focus on getting your hands in the correct position at the top of the backswing. A common issue for many golfers is their hands tend to be too high at the top of their swing, almost directly above their heads. This prevents your swing from achieving enough "depth" (distance your hands are behind your feet in your stance) with the club, making it extremely difficult to achieve the desired inside-to-out club path.

Lowering your hands in your backswing will help to increase the "depth." To visualize this, imagine looking at your own swing from the side. When your backswing has enough depth, you should be able to draw a straight line down from your hands to your heels.

When your hands are too high and thus your backswing to shallow, this imaginary line would run from your hands down to your toes. The difficulty in solving this problem is that making this change will feel very awkward and unnatural at first. This is where the aid of video and still images of your swing can help you better visualize what is happening in your backswing and what changes you need to make.

Another helpful change to make in the quest for the perfect draw focuses on the downswing. The best players in the world initiate their downswing with their lower bodies, by driving their knees, hips, chest, arms and club through the ball in that order. When it comes to the amateur golfer however, many do the exact opposite, starting their downswing with the upper body before allowing the lower body to follow. This often results in that outside-in club path which leads to the dreaded slice. By focusing on initiating your downswing at the knees amateur golfers can begin to create the bottom-up downswing motion in their swings that will combat a slice and facilitate a better draw.

Of course, all of this is just words on a page. If fixing a golf swing was as easy as reading an article then the world would be full of scratch golfers. However these tips can help you to start better understanding what is keeping you from drawing the golf ball and provide a better base from which to improve upon. That being said, the best method of playing like the guys and gals



GOLFTEC

you see on TV is to practice like them. That means using motion detection technology, video analysis and launch monitors to map the exact movements your body makes during a golf swing and how that subsequently affects where the ball travels.

At GolfTEC, students can combine this technology with the knowledge and experience of GolfTEC's certified instructors to improve their game and in many cases improve it drastically. In fact the average GolfTEC student shaves seven strokes off of their average. So if your game is lacking that consistent and reliable draw, head over to your local GolfTEC center and finally start playing like the pros. ■

Brendan Locke is a member of the PGA of America and a franchise owner for GolfTEC in Wisconsin. GolfTEC is a WSGA Corporate Partner.



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**WIAA GIRLS**

Hartland Arrowhead had the motivation going into this fall's WIAA Girls State Golf Tournament, thanks to a one-stroke loss last autumn at the WIAA meet to Division 1 champion Middleton.

The Warhawks channeled those emotions perfectly over the first round this year, running out to a 26-shot lead over Middleton after opening with a team score of 308, the lowest single-day score in state tournament history.

Arrowhead shot another fine team score (318) on day two to wrap up the Division 1 championship with a final score of 624.

The top four spots after round one remained unchanged at the end. Middleton finished runner-up with scores of 334-341-675. Onalaska finished third (335-348-683) and Mequon Homestead was fourth (339-348-687).

Arrowhead, which finished second in Division 1 each of the last two seasons, was led by sophomore Emily Lauterbach, who wrapped up medalist honors with two exceptional rounds at par-72 University Ridge GC. Lauterbach opened with a 70 – after starting with two bogeys – and closed with a 72 to finish at 2-under-par 142.

Middleton senior Alexis Thomas came out even hotter in round one, blistering U-Ridge for a superb round of 68. But Thomas struggled on the back nine during the finale, shot 79 and fell back to second place behind Lauterbach. She finished at 147.



Alexis Thomas

JIM KELSH



Division 1 Arrowhead Golf Team

ARROWHEAD HIGH SCHOOL

Ashley Kulka of Beaver Dam finished third in Division 1 with scores of 78-72-150.

[Click here for Division 1 results](#)

In Division 2, Racine Prairie School claimed its second straight WIAA state championship thanks to a balanced team effort. (All five Prairie players finished among the top 17 individual players.)

Like Arrowhead, Racine Prairie got off to a fast start, shooting a team score of 333 in round one to take a 34-stroke lead into the final round. Racine Prairie which eventually finished at 687, extended its lead the following day and won by 50 strokes over Spooner, which



Division 2 Racine Prairie Golf Team

THE PRAIRIE SCHOOL

moved into the runner-up spot thanks to a score of 369 in round two.

Spooner shot 368-369-737. Hayward finished third (377-364-741) and Aquinas, which was second after round one, finished in the fourth spot (367-386-753).

The top three finishers in Division 2 all advanced to the state meet as individuals. Sarah Busey lead the way with scores of 75-76-151 to earn medalist honors by four strokes over Lori Meyer of Freedom (74-81-155). Grace Welch

of Madison Edgewood finished third (83-81-164).

[Click here for Division 2 results](#)

**STATE SENIOR OPEN**

It got woolly and wild in northern Wisconsin when the state's top seniors gathered at Timber Ridge GC for the State Senior Open – first, with a delayed start, later with an extended finish.

Inclement weather in the Minocqua area on Sept. 6 delayed the start of



John Freeman

CHRIS HOEL

the 36-hole event, but Steve Krause of Hales Corners and Dave Spengler of Sobieski eventually took the day-one lead with rounds of 69.

However, they took a backseat to John Freeman of Muskego and defending champion Jim Schuman of Scottsdale, Arizona, the next day. Freeman shot a tournament-low 66 in the final round, ripping off eight birdies in a 12-hole stretch. Schuman merely shot 68, capping the round with a hole-out for eagle from about 180 yards on the par-4 18th.

That left Freeman and Schuman tied at the top at 138 after 36 holes, so a sudden-death playoff using the 10th and 18th holes at Timber Ridge commenced. Round and round they went, matching pars, until Freeman stuffed



ROB HERNANDEZ

Jim Schuman

a wedge shot from the rough inside 3 feet on No. 10. Freeman made the birdie putt for victory on their fifth playoff hole.

Krause closed with a 73 to finish in third place.

There was a tie for low-amateur honors between Mark Bemowski of Mukwonago and Rocky Sperka of New Berlin, who tied for sixth place at 145.

[Click here for complete results](#)

**WSGA TWO-MAN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP**

The scoring can get kind of crazy at

the WSGA Two-Man Team Championship. But, really, isn't that what makes the tournament so much fun?

Josh Dirks and Joe Weber certainly had a good time in September at The Legend at Bergamont, winning the championship for the second time in three years and setting a crazy-low all-time mark. Dirks and Weber looked like former champs, too, following a tried-and-true formula at the Two-Man Championship: Play great in all three disciplines.

Dirks and Weber, members at La Crosse CC, began with a score of 66 in the fourball round on the afternoon of Sunday, Sept. 18, good for third place. They shot 68 in the alternate-shot round the next morning, matched by just one other team. And they finished off the championship with a 61 in the scramble round, which tied with seven teams for the low score in the afternoon.

Dirks and Weber, who also won the Two-Man title in 2014, finished at 21-under-par 195, five strokes beneath the former tournament-low score – accomplished twice since 2012. In 54 holes of play, they recorded just two bogeys.

Runners-up Gene Kiela III of Pine Hills CC and Thomas Wettstein of Reid GC also broke the 200 barrier. Kiela and Wettstein, who were one of the teams that shot 61 in the scramble round, finished at 196, one stroke behind Dirks and Weber.

Daniel Benedum of North Hills CC and Blake Seider of Washington County GC finished third at 202.

[Click here for complete results](#)



Nick Cocalis

GEOFF PIRKEL

**WSGA MID-AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP**

Thirty-one-year-old Nick Cocalis of Hawks Landing GC won the WSGA Mid-Amateur Championship sponsored by Reinhart Partners, a tournament for amateurs 25 and older. La Crosse CC hosted the event on Sept. 12-13.

Cocalis shot steady rounds of 72-70-142 to finish at 2 under par, and that's exactly what he needed to do considering the players nipping at his heels. WSGA Hall-of-Famer Bob Gregorski, who plays out of North Shore GC, finished one stroke behind at 143, as did Joe Weber of La Crosse CC (both

shot 71-72). Three more players tied for fourth at 146.

Gregorski claimed the overall net title, with Cocalis finishing second.

Various age division competitions, in both gross and net, were also held.

[Click here for complete results](#)

**NET PARTNERS CHAMPIONSHIP**

After earning their spots at 12 qualifying tournaments held season-long, 52 teams of golfers – men and women – gathered at Nakoma GC on Oct. 14 for the WSGA Net Partners Championship



Francesco Accomando and Dennis Vinger

GEOFF PIRKEL

sponsored by GolfTEC. The Stableford competition was postponed for an hour while some frost cleared, but conditions

where ripe for scoring when players took the course.

Making the most of those conditions was the Viroqua Hills GC duo of Francesco Accomando and Dennis Vinger, who tallied 127 points to win the title. Randy Tylke of Oakwood Park GC and Steven Tylke of Ironwood GC finished second, nine points behind, with 118 points.

There was a tie for third place. Chad Schmitt and Ryan Fochs of The Golf Club at Camelot finished as 115, and so did Andy Peters and Rory Burk of Crystal Springs GC.

[Click here for complete results](#)

### WSGA SENIOR TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP

Mike Murphy of Hawks Landing GC won the Senior Gross division at the WSGA Senior Tour Championship in mid-October at Wild Rock GC. The annual event brings the top players from 19 qualifying events to a season-ending championship. All the events are conducted under the Stableford scoring system. Murphy won the title with 36 points.

Mike Bistodeau of The Club at Cedar Creek finished second with 34 points. In the Senior Net competition, Daniel Mueller of Brighton Dale Links also won with 38 total points, but the outcome was incredibly tight with 13 players tallying 35 points or better.

Fittingly, there was a logjam for second place (37 points) among five players. They were: Nader Pakroo of Brown Deer Park GC, Carl Anderson of North Hills CC, Mark Duerst of Nakoma GC, Rick DeBano of Evansville GC and Murphy.

In Super-Senior competition, for



players 65 and older, Bob Zarter and Jeff Simonson tied for first with 34 points. Al Walschinski of Chaska GC scooped up the Super-Senior Net title with 44 points. Greg Moline of Hidden Glen at Bentdale Farms was one point behind at 43.

[Click here for complete results](#)

### USGA STATE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

Team Wisconsin missed the 36-hole cut at the United States Golf Association State Team Championship in September, while our neighbors to the east walked away with their first victory in the biennial tournament. In fact, Michigan had never finished in the top 10 before this fall.

Michigan won the title at The Country Club of Birmingham in Alabama with



422 strokes. North Carolina and Arizona tied for second at 425.

Kyle Driscoll, who shot 75-75-150, led the Wisconsin effort. He was joined on the team by Robert Gregorski (82-77-159) and Kevin Cahill (83-77-160).

The USGA State Team Championship features three-player teams from all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia and

Puerto Rico. Over 54 holes, each team's two lowest individual scores count toward the team score.

[Click here for complete results](#)

### WWSGA STATE HUSBAND-WIFE CHAMPIONSHIP

Ann and Jeff Olson of North Shore GC won the overall titles in both gross and net at the Wisconsin Women's State Golf Association Husband-Wife Championship in September. The event combines bestball, alternate-shot and scramble formats in a single 18-hole round.

The Olsons shot a gross score of 1-under 71 at par-72 Hawks Landing GC, which translated to a net score of 13-under 59.

[Click here for complete results](#)

### WWSGA STATE SENIOR BESTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Patti Pelischek of the Golf Club at Camelot and Jane Umland of Quit Qui Oc GC survived a playoff to win the WWSGA Senior Bestball Championship at Reedsburg CC.

Pelischek and Umland were tied at 151 after 36 holes of bestball with Sandra Nass of Johnson Park GC and Amy Gehrke of Muskego Lakes CC, who eventually took runner-up honors in the overall gross division.

In net competition, Jeanne Whitish and Mary Byrd of The Meadows of Sixmile

Creek shot 128 to take the overall title.

[Click here for complete results](#)

**WIAC CHAMPIONSHIP**

The University of Wisconsin-Stout won the 2016 Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Association Women's Golf Championship at Reedsburg CC in early October. In doing so, UW-Stout wrapped up a berth in the NCAA Division III championship next May in Texas.

UW-Stout finished the three-round championship with 980 strokes, just ahead of UW-Oshkosh at 985.

UW-Whitewater finished third at 1,005.

Ashley Hofmeister of UW-Whitewater



was medalist, but just barely. Hofmeister shot rounds of 81-77-80-238, just one stroke lower than Rachel Hernandez of UW-Stout, who shot 85-78-76-239.

[Click here for complete results](#)

**STATE LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP**

The Smurfs, a team that plays at Kettle Hills GC, had nothing to feel blue about after winning the WSGA State League Championship on Oct. 11.

The tournament, held at North Shore

CC in Mequon, is a competition among teams from leagues that use the WSGA league management system. Fourteen teams participated this year.

The Smurfs (Brad Rake, Gary Anderson, Chuck Wierschem and Stephen Hoffman) shot 127 to win by two strokes in the net bestball format – with each four-player team using its two lowest net scores on each hole.

[Click here for complete results](#)

For more information on all the Wisconsin State Golf Association tournaments [click here](#).



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## Even par golf in under one hour

Speedgolf requires unique blend of golf ability and stamina

When I called Jamie Young to talk about his Speedgolf world championship in October, I mentioned, perhaps a bit gratuitously, that I was a big proponent of fast play.

"I'm a fan of fast play as well," he said, "whether it's Speedgolf or regular golf."

No kidding. In winning the 2016 Speedgolf showdown at The Glen Club, Young shot an even par 72 in the first round in 50 minutes and 13 seconds, which means (warning: journalist doing math here) he played 18 holes in less than three minutes per hole. More precisely, in 2.78 minutes per hole on average, which is about how long it takes a lot of players to take three practice swings and hit a 100-yard duck hook.

Young's second day round of 77 was five shots higher and took almost a minute more but his combination of scores and speed bested 28 Elite division competitors, making Young the Michael Phelps of the fairway, at least for this year.

Young, 52, is no stranger to competitive golf – he played college golf at the University of Oklahoma in the 1980s – and carries about a 1 handicap at Kenosha's The Club at Strawberry Creek,

where he also lives and has won multiple club championships. But Speedgolf is a whole different game, and not just because elite competitors play 18 holes on foot faster than most golfers could play five in a cart. Just imagine standing over a shot while breathing hard, sweating profusely and trying to muster the concentration to strike a nearly perfect shot. I mean, I play with guys who breathe hard and sweat profusely over a one-foot putt but they don't go racing to the next tee to hit it again seconds later.

In some ways Young is the prototype for his sport. When he found out about Speedgolf from a friend about five years ago he was already an accomplished endurance athlete, having competed in marathons and even five Ironman Triathlons that combined swimming, running a marathon and biking for 140.6 miles. Next to an Ironman, what's a little golf in a hurry?

"When I found out about it it hit both of my hot buttons," Young said. He made his Speedgolf debut in Richmond, Virginia, and was hooked, especially after his performance beat all competitors who were playing as professionals.

Young, playing as an amateur, went home with a trophy, while Ireland's Rob Hogan took home \$10,000.

After that Young turned pro, winning about \$5,000 in a couple of events. But in 2015, when the Richmond event was cancelled and several other tournaments looked questionable, Young appealed to the USGA and regain his amateur status so he could compete in regular golf tournaments at home.

"I learned the hard way (about playing professionally)," said Young. If a Speedgolf tour ever develops, he said, he might consider turning pro again but for now the money is less an issue than the competition.

A lot of people express interest when they first hear about Speedgolf, Young said, but there are obvious limits on its growth potential. "The one obstacle... is the golf course has to be wide open. If you're averaging three minutes a hole you can't be playing through everybody."

That's where living just off the first tee of a private club comes in handy, because if his schedule permits Young can be first on the tee every morning and get his 18 holes in before the dew has

even dried. Young often plays with his friend Adam Mannerter, who also lives at The Club at Strawberry Creek and who won the 39-and-under age group at last month's event.

"We play as a twosome," he said. "We hit simultaneously and run together to our balls. We play most of our rounds in an hour and five minutes at Strawberry Creek."

In competition, players carry their clubs and play along, with a timer and scorer. In this year's event, Young carried six clubs in "a super minimal standup carry bag. It's got a little pouch so I carry five balls and a couple of tees." In Speedgolf all hazards are played as laterals so when a ball is lost it's best to drop a new one quickly and move on. As would seem obvious, focus on breathing is imperative. But in this year's world championship, Young said, he also focused on shooting a good score.

And get this: "I probably hit more fairways playing Speedgolf than when I'm playing regular." ||

Regular contributor Dennis McCann's latest book, "This Superior Place: Stories of Bayfield and the Apostle Islands" – is in bookstores now.



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