Golf's a great game, but what's the attraction?

By C.J. RISAK

At long last . . . spring has arrived.

Never mind that it's a month late. We know who is to blame for that — some stupid ground hog. Little cowardly rodent sticks his head up through the snow at the beginning of February, on the first sunny day of the year, sees his shadow and runs back into his hole for another six weeks.

One day I'll even the score with that pest, for all those extended winters and late springs.

But, at least now we can safely say that spring is here. The bleacherites are back in force at Tiger Stadium, basking in the sunshine, underneath a new scoreboard that advertises everything but scores.

High schools have their springtime sports underway, too. All around the schools, the whack of baseball-on-bat, or the twang of tennis racquets, can be heard.

Track teams and joggers alike can be seen running on every thoroughfare in the land. Everywhere, people are coming out of hibernation to celebrate the coming of spring.

But no one welcomes it more than the most fanatic of sportsmen, the golfer. All winter long, they are pent up in their homes, with nothing to do but read texts on how to improve their swing.

When the first thaw comes, they waste little time in getting out the clubs and hitting the nearest golf course.

"WE'RE PREPARED TO open as early as March 1, weather permitting," Gary Berschbach, of Glen Oaks Golf Club, said last Wednesday.

Glen Oaks was recently purchased by Oakland County. The growth in popularity of this game has led to the County buying two courses (including Glen Oaks) and a driving range in the past year.

The growth of the game has, indeed, been astonishing. The day I talked to Berschbach, the temperatures were in the low-50's and the sky was clear. How many golfers were on the course?

"Well, it's a weekday, but we'll still have about 240," he answered. Capacity at Glen Oaks for golfers playing 18 holes is about 450 in a single day.

I guess the big question is, why? What's the attraction that lures men and women, regardless of race, creed or color, out to a course with temperatures in the 40s, to hit a small white ball from one hole to another?

I won't pretend to know the answer. But I will try to clear up some of the misconceptions of the game.

First, it's been said that golf has no value as a form of exercise. That is false. Going hand-in-hand with that premise is the one about golf not being a contact sport. That, too, is untrue.

Golf contains both of these elements, each essential if a sport is to be successful in America. But I think I know where the misconceptions come in.

People watch golf on television and think that's how it's really played. Wrong. Real people get a lot more out of the game than those pros on TV. But the interesting thing about golf, the thing that separates it from all other sports, is that the exercise comes when one is really not playing the game (swinging and actually hitting the ball). It comes inbetween swings.

People watch golf on television and think that's how it's really played.

AS IN ANY contact sport, exercise and the contact come at the same time (in most cases). And there are basically three types of contact.

The first and most common is called the club-on-tree, or club-on-grass. It occurs when the player drives his ball into a lake, or into the woods, or misses it entirely and doesn't drive it anywhere. The end result is the golfer becoming violent and making his club pay for its mistake by wrapping it around the nearest tree or just throwing it or pounding it on the ground.

The next form of contact is one that, sadly enough, is becoming more and more evident in our society today — self-abuse. It often occurs in the same type of situation as that listed above. Only, instead of pounding a tree or the ground, the golfer may be seen punching himself in the forehead, or stamping his foot on the ground or against a tree.

Other methods have been used, but, in the interests of taste, I won't mention them.

The last form of contact happens in a different type of situation. It is called ball-striking-human, and most frequently occurs when a slower group is playing in front of a faster group. The foursome behind, either blind or blindly drunk, hits away into the group in front of them.

This is not always accidental. For example, when a group of ladies is playing in front, and their longest drive of the day has been 15 yards, the foursome behind may try to convince them to move a little faster by aiming a ball into the ladies. Usually, if the player hits a target, he wins a beer from his comrades.

But he may have to run to get it, if the woman he struck decides to get her exercise by chasing him around the golf course with a seven-iron.

Those are some of the simple attractions of the game of golf. The key to getting the most out of it is to see how frustrated you can get. The more frustrated, the more exercise you'll get out of the sport.

I should know. I've played golf all over Oakland county — one afternoon while I was playing the seventh hole at Glen Oaks. I got my money's worth that day. Of course, none of golf's attractions or exercise have helped me improve my game much.

But, hey, who cares?

Lahser tops WB netters

Bloomfield Hills Lahser won the decisive No. 3 doubles match and defeated West Bloomfield, 4-3, Monday in a non-league high school tennis match on Lahser's courts. The meet opened the season for both teams.

In the No. 3 doubles contest, Lahser's Mike Perilch and Craig Pyne needed three sets to overcome Todd Plaunt and Tom Rosenbaum, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2. The No. 1 doubles match also went three sets with West Bloomfield's Brad Stevens and Mike Rosenbaum stopping Mike Lee and Rob Weisman, 6-3, 6-7, 6-2.

West Bloomfield plays Thursday at Birmingham Groves. On Friday, West Bloomfield entertains Waterford Kettering in a Greater Oakland Activities League meet. Both meets begin at 4 p.m.

LAHSER 4 — W. BLOOMFIELD 3

SINGLES — Marco Lorenzetti (Lahser) defeated Scott VanDorn, 6-3, 6-2; Frank Hatchett (L) defeated Steve Lakind, 6-2, 7-'67; Craig Lee (L) defeated Dave Brown, 6-3, 6-2; Dave Berne (West Bloomfield) defeated Craig Berry, 6-4, 6-2.

DOUBLES — Brad Stevens and Mike Rosenbaum (WB) defeated Mike Lee and Rob Weisman, 6-3, 6-7, 6-3; Mike Brown and Todd Dennenberg (WB) defeated Art Kelsey and Mike Rivera, 6-2, 7-6; Mike Perilch and Craig Pyne (L) defeated Todd Plaunt and Tom Rosenbaum, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2.

STATE OF MICHIGAN. THE PROBATE COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF OAKLAND. 136,700

Estate of SIDNEY LEE MONCHER, Change of Name

NOTICE OF HEARING

TAKE NOTICE: On the 15th day of May, 1979 at 8:30 A.M. in the Probate Courtroom, Oakland County Courthouse, Pontiac, Michigan, before the Honorable BARRY M. GRANT, Judge of Probate, a hearing will be held on the petition of Sidney Lee Moncher to change her name to Cyd Moncher.

Dated: April 11, 1979

Petitioner: Sidney Lee Moncher, 33203 Oakland, Farmington, Michigan 48024

Newspaper: Farmington Observer & Eccentric

Publish: April 26, 1979

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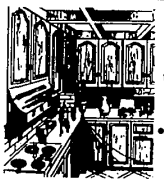

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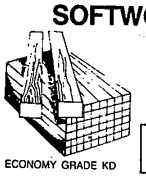

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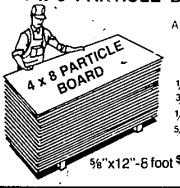

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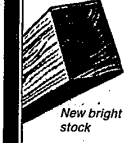

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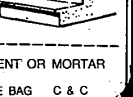

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