

# Don't overpower wood shots

It's time for our third lesson. This week I'll concentrate on woods, both fairways and the driver (tee shot). First, keep in mind that if you are hitting a nine-iron, a five-iron, a five-wood or a driver, the grip does not change. Hold the clubs in the same hand position.



**golf**  
**Gary Whitener**

Golfers tend to put much more effort into a wood shot than an iron. This is wrong. No more than 75 percent of the player's strength should be utilized.

Keep your balance. A common fault among golfers attempting to hit long wood shots is that they force the shot and lose their balance.

Here are some tips on hitting the driver or tee shot:

My recommendation is to all beginners or for any golfer experiencing trouble hitting the driver is to tee off with a three or five wood. Keep the driver in the bag until you develop enough confidence to use it.

● First, stand erect, with a slight flex in the knees and no weight on the toes.

Next: trouble shots and adjustments.

● Second, position the ball left of center, near the left heel or instep.

Gary Whitener is the golf pro at Whispering Willows Golf Course in Livonia, the site of the Observer & Eccentric golf tournaments, and serves as secretary for the Michigan PGA. Whitener's column appears weekly in the O&E sports pages.

● Third, favor the left foot with your weight, never the right.

● Fourth, feel as though you are sweeping the ball and tee out to your target.

The target is most important. As you follow through to it, your weight should be shifting onto your left leg and foot.

At the finish of all your wood shots, you should have pivoted to, and be facing, your target.

FAIRWAY WOODS are played from much the same position as the tee shot.

## Women's, Men's golf tournament sponsored by O & E/Whispering Willows

Women's 18-hole medal play: Wednesday, Aug. 22. Entry fee is \$15. Handicap maximum is 40.

Men's 36-hole medal play: Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 22-23. Entry fee is \$30. Handicap maximum is 36.

Women's entries close Wednesday, Aug. 17 at 6 p.m. For starting times, call 476-4493 after 10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 20.

Men's entries close at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20. For starting times, call 476-4493 after noon Thursday, Sept. 20.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Send entry blank with check (not cash) payable to tournament director Gary Whitener, Whispering Willows, 20500 Newburgh, Livonia 48162.

Pairings will be made by the tournament committee. No requests for individual pairings will be taken. No changes will be made.

Open to all residents of Livonia, Plymouth, Canton, Garden City, Westland, Redford Township, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield, Lathrup Village, Birmingham, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Franklin, West Bloomfield, Bloomfield Township, Bloomfield Hills, Troy, Rochester and Avon Township.

## Waz wants starting assignment at MSU

Continued from Page 1

have been six more points for the East — who won the game 24-7.

BOTH WAZ and Herrington still believe MSU is the right school.

"We were going to throw more in the second half, but with the help of the coaches decided to keep the ball on the ground," Waz said. "This was such a disappointment."

"I think I have an advantage over Dempsey," Waz said. "He's only 5-foot-8 (Waz is 6-3) and I'm just as fast. I think I'll have a great chance."

Waz is looking forward to playing for Perles when he is signed last year. Waz was touted as being one of the top offensive recruits for the Spartans. Then, a week later, MSU signed a speedy All-American receiver out of Chicago named Norm Dempsey. Suddenly, Waz was scarcely mentioned among MSU recruits.

Dempsey, though, is already being touted as the next Anthony Carter. Waz knows he'll have to work hard, but he's confident he'll be ready to accept the challenge.

"I've never really had to give 100 percent effort before," Waz said. "I'm giving it all I have in the fall."

Indeed, it will be the biggest test of Waz's athletic life. Look for him in the green and white jersey next fall. He'll be wearing No. 15 on his back.

## A shocker in men's soccer

The Livonia Wolves, undefeated throughout the Great Lakes Mens Soccer League regular season, were stunned Sunday by the league's eighth-place team.

U-M and Livonia Florists will meet at 6 p.m. Sunday at Whitman Field for the championship.

Craig Pickar scored the lone goal for Livonia. "We just got caught flat-footed," Mancini added. "I hope we have learned a lesson."

"Since we beat them so bad earlier, I think we thought they would just roll over and die," said a shaken Wolves manager Joe Mancini.

## Amy Austin named to all-star team

Amy Austin, a graduate of North Farmington and the 1984 Farmington Observer Athlete of the Year, has been selected to play in the prestigious Michigan High School Softball All-Star game.

The games will be played Saturday at Ranney Field in East Lansing. The Class C-D game will get under way at 1 p.m. with the A-B game following at 3 p.m.

Austin will be joined by All-Area performer Liz Gargaro from Livonia Stevenson on the East squad. Stevenson pitcher Lisa Bokovsky was also selected to the East team but had to withdraw because of a scheduling conflict.

Also on the East team will be Belleville's two-year all-state pitcher Judy Wisniewski and outfielder Jill Pezco — both key figures on the Tigers' Class A state championship team.

AUSTIN HAD a remarkable softball career at North. In her three-year varsity stint she batted .405, striking out just six times in nearly 200 at-bats. She swiped 71 bases in 74 attempts, was a smooth-fielding shortstop and owns every offensive record at the school.

Gargaro, a deft outfielder, hit .385 for the Western Lakes champion Spartans. She has displayed good power, slugging four home runs, five doubles and two triples.

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