

## GOLF

## Golf association tackles problem of slow play

Under the best of circumstances, sunny skies, warm temperatures and ideal course conditions, golf is difficult to play.

Slicing, three-putting and failed bunker shots are just a few of the maladies that plague average golfers — no matter how nice the weather. In recent years, slow play at area courses has further increased frustration levels.

Eighteen holes used to take less than five hours to play. Now, it can take up to six hours to complete a round.

"One of the biggest things I see," said Whispering Willows assistant golf pro Mark Peterson, "is players just not being ready to hit the ball when it's their turn."

The problem hasn't gone unnoticed. The Golf Association of Michigan, a state-wide organization of amateur golfers whose purpose is to represent, promote and serve the best interests of

the game, is trying to tackle the problem head-on, according to Director of Communications Tonia Branch.

The association is conducting a series of "Pick up the Pace" days at courses around the state. Branch said new methods of speeding play are being introduced as well as information to help find solutions.

"We're trying to find out what we need to do to help solve the problem," she said.

The first seminar was conducted in mid-May at the Majestic at Lake Walden in Livingtonton. More than 300 golfers took part in the day-long event.

Three ideas emerged from the gathering.

First was "forecaddying." A ranger is placed near the fairway of a hole where balls are routinely lost to help spot tee shots.

Next was positive rangering. Clear course markings, such as where the next hole is located, is

the main component of this idea, Branch said.

"We received the most positive response from that suggestion," she added.

"Pace-setter" tees were also tried at the Majestic. Under this arrangement, rangers would advise slower players to hit from tees 200 yards in front of a hole's forward teeing area.

"This has worked well in Texas," Branch said.

Ideally, GAM would like to see average playing time at about 4½ hours on the state's 759 public courses. Branch said the association will likely make recommendations on speeding play to its members this fall, but will continue to gather data over the next few years.

Livonia's Whispering Willows may be one course willing to listen to GAM's ideas. Peterson said the municipal facility, one of three in the city, has seen a steady increase in golfers the last few seasons.

"It allows our rangers to manage a whole section of the course without necessarily having to talk to each group of golfers," Lauer said.

Playing time at the 18-hole course averages 4 to 4½ hours.

"We pride ourselves on having a good place at St. John's," Lauer said.

Longer time between tee off has kept things running smoothly at the Majestic, said golf pro Ed Cashman.

Instead of eight or nine minutes, which is the norm at most courses, the Livingston County facility has 12 minutes between starts.

"It spreads the groups out a bit more," Cashman said.

Players can help maintain a steady pace, Peterson said.

"When it's your turn to play you should be ready to go," he said.

A lot of time is also wasted on putting greens. Peterson said players should skip etiquette and putt-out.

"Keep putting until you're done unless you're in somebody's line," he added.

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## SOFTBALL

WESTERN LAKES ACTIVITIES ASSN.  
1998 ALL-CONFERENCE SOFTBALL

ALL-WLAA FIRST TEAM  
Pitchers: Gretchen Hudson, junior, Plymouth Canton; Kemi Scott, junior, Walled Lake Central; Alli Auf, junior, Farmington Harrison.

Catchers: Ari Auf, junior, Farmington Harrison.

Fielders: Kelly Hale, senior, Walled Lake Central; Elizabeth Etner, junior, Plymouth Canton; Lynn Livermore, senior, North Farmington; Tracy Azar, senior, Walled Lake Central; Metta Brown, junior, Plymouth Canton; Becky Vosler, senior, Farmington Harrison.

ALL-LAKER DIVISION

Pitchers: Meggan Miller, senior, North Farmington; Kristen Myhr, junior, Farmington.

Catchers: Katie Devereaux, senior, North Farmington.

Fielders: Bridget Quinn, sophomore, W.L. Central; Samantha Crews, sophomore, John Glenn; Kristin Gervi, sophomore, W.L. Central.

Outfielders: Diana Gustkey, senior, North Farmington; Kristin Brown, junior, Farmington; Kalle Miller, sophomore, W.L. Central.

All-league: Samantha McConaughay, North Farmington.

ALL-WESTERN DIVISION

Pitchers: Adrienne Doyle, junior, Churchill.

Catchers: Kristin Deitch, junior, Churchill; Debbie Goss, senior, W.L. Central.

Fielders: Jackie Ziemer, senior, Franklin; Sara Freels, senior, Canton; Paula McKernan, sophomore, Canton.

All-league: Amanda Rice, junior, Northville.

Becky Johnson, senior, Canton; Kristin Vitanic, Franklin; Lori Jendrusik, junior, Franklin.

Frankie Balcon, junior, W.L. Western.

HONORABLE MENTION

Lakes Division: John Glenn: Megan Miller, sophomore, North Farmington; Kristen Myhr, senior, Farmington; Kelly Deffett, senior, Angle Lutman, junior; Tricia Krause, sophomore, North Farmington; Kellee Fournier, senior, Christy King, freshman; Lauren Ouellette, freshman, Randi Tebo, sophomore; Kristin Gervi, sophomore, W.L. Central; senior, Karen Pruzak, senior, W.L. Central; Laura Hunter, senior; Stacy Brinkman, freshman; Theresa McDonald, junior.

Western Division: Harrison: Brittny Martin, junior; Amy Rohr, senior; Lindsay Emerri, sophomore; W.L. Western: Heather Gibson, Maria D'Agostino, Jerry Kosicki, Franklin; Kelly Young, junior; Jamie Linden, sophomore; Terri Morrell, sophomore; Shelly Johnson, sophomore, Franklin; Sarah Stiles, senior, Canton; Erica Hanz, senior; Jenny Fisher, junior; Carrie Kovachich, junior; Northville: Jennifer Caverly.

WESTERN LAKES STANDINGS

Lakes Division: 1. W.L. Central, 9-1; 2. North Farmington, 7-3; 3. (tie) Farmington and Salem, 5-5; 4. (tie) Canton and John Glenn, 2-8.

Western Division: W.L. Central, 14-2; North Farmington, 12-3; W.L. Western, 10-5; Franklin, 3-7; 5. Northville, 1-9.

(overall conference records)

Lakes Division: W.L. Central, 14-2; North Farmington, 12-3; W.L. Western, 10-5; Franklin, 4-12; John Glenn, 2-14.

Western Division: Canton, 13-3; Harrison, 12-4; Churchill, 8-8; W.L. Western, 7-9; Franklin, 6-10; Northville, 2-14.

WLAA champion: Plymouth Canton. Canton defeated Walled Lake Central, 2-0.



Jennifer Borowiec  
Farmington Hills Mercy



Mara Mazzoni  
Livonia Stevenson



Kristen Smith  
Farmington Hills Mercy



Angela Harber  
Farmington Hills Mercy



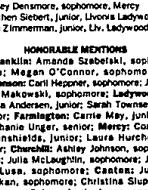
Erin Borowiec  
Farmington Hills Mercy



Cassie Jamison  
Farmington



Jennifer Borowiec  
Farmington Hills Mercy



Mara Mazzoni  
Livonia Stevenson



Kristen Smith  
Farmington Hills Mercy

## Golf honors from page D1

and was medalist in five dual matches this season.

"She remained determined and focused in post-season tournament play."

Mazzone was Stevenson's MVP.

Kristen Smith, senior, Mercy: The four-year varsity letter winner capped an outstanding career with a fourth in the Catholic League (83), sixth in the state (81) and an 88-93 at the state meet.

"Kristen is a team leader who will be missed," said coach Kowalski said. "She was the stabilizing force the past two years as the elder of the squad. Kristen encourages the younger players to shoot their best scores."

Angela Harber, junior, Mercy: Her best effort came at the regional where she carded a 79 to finish third followed by a 20th place finish at the state Class A tournament (83).

In the Catholic League meet at St. John's, Harber finished seventh with a 92. Harber added a fourth at the Oakland County Tournament with an 87.

For the season, Harber averaged 4.1 per nine and 87.1 in tournaments.

She has been an All-Catholic League pick three straight years and is nominated for All-State.

"Angela is just a joy to coach because she has a lot of fun on the golf course," said coach Schubert. "She took forward to one more year as Angela's daughter, smiles and improving scores."

Cassie Jamison, sophomore, Farmington: She attends Harrison where she plays basketball and ran track last year.

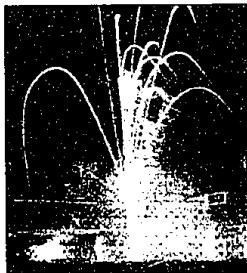
Jamison won the regionals at Oak Point with an impressive 77. She also took fourth in the WLAA with a 93 and scored 89 in the state finals. She also took second in the regional at Oakland County.

Jamison, who averaged 44.2 per nine, was a dual-meet or tournament medalist six times this season.

"Cassie is the first Farmington girl golfer to qualify for the state finals," Farmington coach Ann Marie Sophia said. "Cassie's natural athletic ability and great work ethic has primed her for success. She has improved in her first year of competitive golf."

"Cassie has a powerful, efficient swing and, consequently, is a long hitter. But her putting is perhaps the best part of her game."

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August 14 vs. Oakland Athletics  
September 4 vs. Cleveland Indians



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TIGERS

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