A Note from the Director

**Golf’s Resurgence**

*Mel Blasi, Director of Golf*

Two thousand and twelve has been a wonderful year for golf in Macomb. A very early spring and a dry, hot summer made golf early and often the story of the year. We were blessed with the warmest March on record, and play was up 25 percent early in the season. Then, the heat of the summer settled in and midday golf slowed to a halt. Overall, golf was up more than 10 percent at the Harry Mussatto Golf Course in 2012. But will it continue? Was the golf resurgence this spring and summer just a result of the weather?? In a challenging economy it is difficult to tell what the future of golf holds.

There are things each of us can do to help promote and build the game. Research shows most people are introduced to the game through a friend or relative. Inviting people to play in leagues and scramble outings is another good way. Free golf lessons and instructional classes are a very good introduction. WIU now offers classes in the spring and the fall for college credit. Sharing the holiday newsletter, which contains season pass rates and highlights our social events, can also be a positive influence.

I think we should all set a goal for 2013 in introducing one new player to the game. Perhaps someone who played golf in the past, but for whatever reason gave it up. Maybe a new retiree looking for ways to fill up their new schedule. The perpetuation of the game is dependent on new players who recognize the recreational and competitive values golf encompasses. If you have any questions about how you can help promote the game of golf, please contact Mel Blasi at (309) 255-5575.

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**HMGC Welcomes Hainline and Nickel...**

Kevin Hainline, a veteran of our golf course grounds crew for over 24 years, was hired as the Head Greens Superintendent on April 1st of this year. Following Kevin’s hiring, Jeremy Nickel was hired as the Assistant Greens Superintendent. Other than a brief stint at the TPC Deere Run Golf Course in Silvis, Hainline has spent the past 24 years in Macomb at the O.L. Champion and Harry Mussatto Golf Courses. Nickel has worked previously as an Assistant at the Macomb Country Club and also with Midwest Grass after completing his degree at Western Illinois University. Jeremy left his most recent position as Head Greens Superintendent at Long Bridge Golf Course near Springfield, Illinois. Both Kevin and Jeremy spent countless hours at the golf course this year, making sure the greens were kept cool during one of the hottest summers on record. We had numerous comments during the summer about how great a condition our golf course was in comparison to others. A big thank you goes to Kevin, Jeremy, Bob Lambert and the rest of the grounds crew in making the Harry Mussatto Golf Course such a great place to play golf.

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Our 2013 Season Pass rates held to same affordable rates as last year!
Save even more with our Holiday Rate and purchase your Season Pass by Friday, January 11, 2013!
See insert for details.
Necrology

Chuck Nicholson, a staple in our Senior Golf League and at The Harry Mussatto Golf Course, passed away June 3, 2012. Chuck was an enormous asset to the golf course, always volunteering to help with any thing we needed. Chuck made all of The First Tee hole signs when we started the program in 2000. Chuck loved to build golf clubs and help with grips, shafts, etc. He was one of the first officers for the WIU Senior League and was an avid player up until the last couple of years. We will really miss seeing Chuck at the golf course.

Scramble Winners

Memorial Day

Matt Woolam  Sue Owens
John Owens  Becky Allen

4th of July

Mike Lukkarinen  John Maguire
Ken Durkin  Bob Bowen

Labor Day

Darcy Plymire  Ryan Thornton
Janet Wigglesworth  Chris Kellerman

Chili Scramble

Nate McGraw  Ryan Hansen
Tyler Sanders  Greg Hansen

2012 Hole in Ones

Earle Cramer  Hole #3
Rick Moore  Hole #3
Greg Dailey  Hole #3
Dave Mohr  Hole #8
Ron Peterson  Hole #12
Dave DeBoeuf  Hole #17

Congratulations!

Harry Mussatto Match Play Championships

Women

1st ---------------------- Kathy Veroni
2nd ---------------------- Janet Wigglesworth
3rd ---------------------- Kathy Orban
4th ---------------------- Darcy Plymire

Men

1st ---------------------- Bud Sacket
2nd ---------------------- Richard Sample
3rd ---------------------- Mitch Waller
4th ---------------------- Brian Sullivan

Illinois Senior Women’s Golf Championships

Kathy Orban
Overall Low Net Score (120 golfers)
6th Place Gross Score

Kathy Orban
Low Net Score Age Division
2nd Place Gross Score

Western Illinois Amateur Golf Championship

Sean McNamara

LP Collegiate Championships

Men’s---------------------- Peter McKinzie
Women’s------------------- Beth Wagner

Congrats to our Junior Golfers!

Bryce Carper
Country Youth Classic Champion
West Central Conference Champion
Hailea Hadsall
West Central Conference 2nd Place
IHSA Regional 3rd Place
IHSA State Tournament - 21st Place

West Central Conference Champion

Congratulations to the Macomb Bomber Boys Golf Team and Jim Miner for winning their 4th consecutive West Central Conference Championship!

HMGC is on Facebook!
Log in to your Facebook account and “Like” us!
facebook.com/HarryMussattoGolfWIU
Western Illinois Senior Traveling Golf Leagues

The Macomb Country Club (MCC) Team won the Regular Division of the Western Illinois Senior Traveling Golf League this fall defeating Wee-Ma-Tuk II in a playoff held at the Macomb Country Club on Monday, September 17. Wee-Ma-Tuk I captured 3rd place in a playoff over the Harry Mussatto Golf Course (HMGC) team. The seven team league is composed of eight golfers per team and plays a seven week schedule at area courses each spring and fall. Pictures of the MCC and the HMGC team are attached.

Golf Course Employees 2012

Pro Shop
Heather Higgins    Emily Brink
Lia Lukkarinen    Tyler Thorman
Brian Sullivan    Connor Jachino
Jon Stockton      Jimil Everitte
Richard Sample    Kwan Kim
Jacob Roberts     Nico Haeflinger
Dayna Heaton      Jeff Straub
Rachelle Boston   Mel Blasi
Lindsay Wandrey

Grounds Crew
Kevin Hainline    John Owens
Jeremy Nickel     Matt Woolam
Bob Lambert       Mike Estes
Paul Reuschel     Justin Crabtree
Greg Reuschel     Ryan Cody
Jim Miner         Gary Medhurst
Jon McSperritt    Jeff Stockton
Chris Green

Thank You
Gary Saunders     Earle Cramer
Chuck Gosnell     Ron Ray
Rich McCann

The First Tee of Western Illinois University

Lia Lukkarian, Assistant Director

The First Tee Program had a great year! One hundred and two area children participated in our twice-weekly summer sessions for six weeks. Despite the very warm weather, we managed to stay cool and have a great time on the course.

During the winter months, The First Tee Target Program is taken to area schools. Last year we reached over 1600 children in their gym classes and plan to increase that number this year. The indoor golf class exposes the students to putting, chipping, and the ever popular snag baseball.

The First Tee was created in 1997 to introduce young people of all backgrounds to the game of golf. The Life Skills Experience sets The First Tee apart from other junior golf programs and ultimately strives to instill in participants The First Tee Nine Core Values: honesty, integrity, sportsmanship, respect, courtesy, judgment, confidence, responsibility and perseverance.

HMGC team (L to R)
Western Illinois Senior Golf League

The WIU Men’s Senior Golf League had a great 2012 season. Attendance increased over the 2011 season and the weather stopped us only once all year. The top money winners last year were Jack Carle, Dick Keene, and Larry Rawlins. A special feature this year were free monthly golf lessons presented by golf professional, Mel Blasi. The first Tuesday of each month featured a luncheon following golf.

The WIU Senior Men’s Golf League is open to all golfers over 55 years young. We play in a scramble format every Tuesday morning from April through September. Tee time for April and May is 9:00 a.m. Starting the first Tuesday in June, the tee time is moved back to 8:30 a.m. Each month we will have a luncheon following golf. We use a scramble format with teams of four playing 9 holes, alternating weekly between the front and back 9’s. The objective is to have fun, meet new people and oh yeah play a little golf.

Dues are $5.00 for the year and $1.00 each week. The money goes for weekly prizes and the end of the year steak luncheon. We are always looking for new members and ideas to make the league grow. If you are interested in joining the WIU Senior Men’s Golf League, please contact one of the following committee members:

Rodger Bainter           (309) 255-1853
Email: rodgerbainter2010@comcast.net

John Brewer               (309) 221-3042
Email: bevbrew35@comcast.com

Dick Keene                 (309) 221-2500
Email: dkeene111@gmail.com

Larry Rawlins             (309) 333-2536
Email: lrawlins@logonix.net

Earle Cramer              (309) 252-1336
Email: cramerel@yahoo.com

The league committee would like to thank Mel Blasi, Lia Lukkarinen, Heather Higgins and the Pro Shop Staff for all their help and support. We look forward to seeing you next April. Have a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year!

Women’s League

The Harry Mussatto Women’s Golf League began play the beginning of May. League play started at 5:00 p.m. with a variety of formats used. Most formats involve the use of handicaps, so all levels of players are welcome and can enjoy this league. There are approximately 20 members with weekly attendance around sixteen.

The season ended the last Wednesday in August with a dinner at the Red Ox. The officers for 2013 were elected at the dinner.

Shirley Woolam-President
Nancy Sackett-Vice President
Kathy Orban-Treasurer
Janet Wigglesworth-Secretary

If you are interested in joining the league, please watch for information posted in April on the women’s bulletin board in the club house.

No Increase in 2013 Season Pass Rates!

Harry Mussatto Golf Course Season Pass Guidelines

Family Pass: Limited to spouse/domestic partners and dependent children, including full-time college students to age 24

Senior Pass: 62 and older

Student Pass: Full-time undergraduate student taking a minimum of 12 semester hours & full-time graduate student taking a minimum of 9 semester hours

Student Package: Available to grade school, junior and senior high school, undergraduate, and graduate students

Each season pass includes a WIGA membership with a reciprocal card good for reduced rates at over 20 area courses.