

Timecards, then

They may be amateurs, but they take their game as seriously as the pros

By Rick Remsnyder

Staff Writer

Though they come from all walks of life, the top amateur golfers of the area all have one thing in common. They play purely for the love of the game.

Unlike the professional golfers, amateurs don't make golf their living. Most can't spend countless hours perfecting their golf swings at a practice range, either.

Despite the time limitations, some of the country's top men and women golfers reside in Westchester County and the surrounding area. They have done well at all levels of competition, whether regional, national or international.

George J. Zahringer III of Greenwich's Stanwich Club, the seven-time Metropolitan Golf Association Player of the Year, has qualified for five U.S. Amateurs and has won 26 tournaments in the metropolitan area since 1979.

In 1985, he became the only man to capture the Met Open and Met Amateur in the same year.

Two-time British Amateur champion Dick Siderowf of Purchase's Century Country Club has won the Met Amateur five times and has been on the U.S. Walker Cup team three times.

Historians will have to search long and hard to find a better father-son combination in the metropolitan area than Jerry Courville Sr. and Jerry Courville Jr. of the Shorehaven Golf Club in East Norwalk, Conn. Between them, the

Courvilles have captured eight Ike Championships. The elder Courville has been the Connecticut State Amateur champion and is one of only four men to take both the Met Amateur and Met Open.

Like many weekend golfers who find it difficult to balance work obligations with golf, the area's elite amateurs are constantly struggling to find free time to practice and play.

Making the task even more taxing for the working amateurs is the free time most flat-bellied collegians have to play golf. For the collegians, work is hitting 150 practice balls after an over-par round.

While most businessmen and businesswomen find a way to juggle their work schedules with golf, Westchester Country Club amateur star Karen Durkin has had to change her priorities after starting a job in April as an assistant account executive for Cohn & Wolfe, a Manhattan public relations firm.

She was disappointed she was unable to defend her 1991 Women's Metropolitan Golf Association Match Play Championship in June.

"It's my first full-time job and I've had to cut back my golf dramatically," the 27-year-old said. "I'm working on finding a balance between golf and working. But it's tough because I spend three hours a day on the train commuting between home and work."

Durkin hasn't been able to practice like normal and her few rounds have

been strictly during the weekends.

"My goal is to find more time to spend on my game so I can defend my club championship at Westchester later this summer," she said. "But with a new job, taking off for a four-day tournament in June really wasn't an option."

Zahringer, who made a birdie putt worth \$35,000 for his professional partner Jim McLean of Sleepy Hollow Country Club in the nationally televised 1990 Skins Game, is a partner at Bear, Stearn and Company, a major Wall Street investment banking and brokerage firm.

Zahringer works a regular 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. shift, often working straight through lunch. If he wants to practice at Stanwich, he'll occasionally take off a half hour early to get the jump on traffic.

About seven years ago, Zahringer spent \$2,500 to install a cellular telephone in his automobile, enabling him to call his office or his clients while in transit to the golf course.

"One of the nice things about my business is that it can be done over the phone," he said. "One afternoon I got a call about 10 minutes before the market was closing and I got some news about a particular stock I knew my client was interested in. I made a commission on 50,000 shares of stock that paid for the phone that day."

Since his primary obligation is to his clients' business interests, Zahringer restricts his golf to meaningful tournaments. He said he has little time for social golf, pro-ams and member-guests.

Because his time is limited, Zahringer said he must get the maximum out of his practice time.

scorecards



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Karen Durkin of Stamford, Conn., is an assistant account executive for Cohn and Wolfe in Manhattan. Like any of the area's top amateurs, Durkin, a member at Westchester Country Club, would rather be golfing than working. But the new job comes first.

AUGUST 1992							SEPTEMBER 1992							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

MONDAY • AUGUST 17, 1992
APPOINTMENTS & SCHEDULED EVENTS

DOING TODAY (ACTION LIST)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRESENTATION*
AM - CHANGE -
50 AM - F-BALL TOURNAMENT

WEDNESDAY • AUGUST 19, 1992

229th Day, 140 Days Left
DIARY AND WORK RECORD - EXPENSES

CONFERENCE ROOM

OFF