

# PLAYER OF THE YEAR

by John M. Ross

If his opponents think that "Black Monday" and Wall Street's subsequent problems might keep George Zahringer closer to his Manhattan ticker tape and out of the Met golf wars—forget it. As he was named the Metropolitan Golf Association's Amateur Golfer of the Year for an unprecedented sixth time, the New York stockbroker indicated that he will be pursuing his normal schedule of tournaments next year and, indeed will soon start preparation for same with a winter condi-

tioning program.

In spite of playing in only seven events in 1987, Zahringer, of Deepdale Golf Club, was able to amass 625 points and top the MGA standing with room to spare. He picked up his first 100 points by breezing to a six-stroke victory in the Hochster Memorial Tournament while shooting a spectacular 66 in the afternoon round over the challenging Quaker Ridge course. His fifth Met Amateur title at Meadow Brook Club on Long Island brought him another 200. The rest were earned in national competitions where he reached the round of 32 in the U.S.

Amateur (175 points), and went to the quarter-finals of the U.S. Mid-Amateur (150 points) for the second straight year.

Young Jim McGovern of Hackensack (N.J.) Golf Club, the surprise winner of the Met Open at Winged Foot, finished second with 538 points, while Mike Kavka of Plainfield West, who won the IKE by five strokes, was third in the point standing with 385.

Now that he has completed his graduate studies at Columbia University, Zahringer's hectic schedule has eased slightly but is still far from tranquil. George lives in Man-

hattan with his wife and children, and puts in a full day stint at his Wall Street desk. He then travels over an hour to practice or play at one of his three clubs (Deepdale or Sands Point on Long Island, or Stanwich in Connecticut).

"I finished my studies at Columbia in the spring this year, so I had a little more time to get ready for the season," Zahringer tells. "I played my normal schedule, and I think I will stick to this pace in the future. Happily, at 34, I don't have any physical problems, but I do realize that conditioning does become more important each year. I



**George Zahringer has won his sixth MGA Amateur of the Year title.**

will work out during the winter, but I think that's something all golfers should do."

"I feel very good about my game. It has improved over the years and I hope to continue to improve mentally and physically down the road. I know the competition is growing, too. I've noticed that more and more of the young players in contention show a greater experience in competition."

And with what may be another warning to his rivals, Zahringer added, "I don't believe my game has yet reached its peak." □