

# IT'S GEORGE AGAIN!

*Following yet another spectacular season, George J. Zahringer III claimed an unprecedented seventh MGA Player of the Year title, broke a few more records and clearly left his mark as the best area amateur of the 1980s.*

**F**ollowing his victory in the Met Open, champion Bobby Heins, who had just defeated George Zahringer in a play-off for the title, graciously accepted his trophy, thanked everyone involved for a great tournament and then told the audience that George Zahringer was the best golfer in the Met Area. This was high praise indeed from the two-time Met Open champion—and higher still when you consider both the quality of Met Area players and the fact that George is an amateur with a full-time job as a stockbroker in Manhattan and a family. But few would argue, particularly in amateur circles, that Zahringer is simply the best, and he proved it unequivocally this year by capturing his *seventh* MGA Player of the Year title and becoming the first golfer to reach 1,000 points in a season.

Breaking records is not new to Zahringer who holds numerous course records and was the first man in history to win the Met Open and Met Amateur in the same year (1985). This year, however, Zahringer seemed destined to break a few more when he jumped out of the starting gate with victories in the Richardson, Have-meyer and Hochster Memorials, qualified locally for the U.S. Open and followed up with his first Ike (MGA Stroke Play) title in June where he set an amateur course record of 68 at Stanwich.

In August, Zahringer went in search of his sixth Met Amateur title but was stopped by another local legend, 52-year-old Dick Siderowf, who defeated George on the 37th hole of a gruelling final



George Zahringer earned a record 1,055 points in the 1989 MGA standings.

at Metropolis CC. Two days later, George qualified for his sixth U.S. Amateur Championship.

In mid-August, showing no signs of slowing down, George leaped out in front of the Met Open field with opening rounds of 67-69 over the punishing Black Course at Bethpage State Park. He held the lead through the 49th hole of the 54-hole Championship when some shaky putting on the last few holes allowed Bobby Heins to make his move and force a play-off. Unable to settle down, he bogeyed the first two of the three extra holes and lost the play-off, but his low amateur, second-place finish was remarkable nonetheless. Zahringer closed his season by qualifying on-site and

winning two matches at the U.S. Mid-Amateur.

George singled out The Ike as his most significant victory this year because it was the one that had eluded him for so long. "And," noted Zahringer, "there was the added pressure of playing on my home course. Winning The Ike anywhere would have been great, but being able to win at Stanwich, where I was expected to do well, made it that much more gratifying."

Like any true champion, Zahringer is already looking ahead and setting new goals. One of the items atop his wish list is establishing himself on a national level and winning a national championship. He has already knocked at the door with some impressive showings in both the U.S. Amateur and the U.S. Mid-Amateur and few doubt that a national title is in his future. □

## 1989 HONOR ROLL

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| George J. Zahringer III<br><i>Stanwich</i> | 1055 pts. |
| Jon Doppelt<br><i>Brae Burn</i>            | 443 pts.  |
| Jerry Courville Jr.<br><i>Shorehaven</i>   | 380 pts.  |
| Jeff Thomas<br><i>Plainfield West</i>      | 350 pts.  |
| John Baldwin<br><i>Meadow Brook</i>        | 337 pts.  |
| Jim Kilduff<br><i>Plainfield</i>           | 300 pts.  |
| Robert Housen<br><i>Manasquan River</i>    | 285 pts.  |
| Robert Fisher<br><i>Bowling Green</i>      | 263 pts.  |
| Allan Small<br><i>Fairmount</i>            | 260 pts.  |
| Jerry Springer<br><i>Brae Burn</i>         | 248 pts.  |