

Player of the Year

King George

*Although George Zahringer had been out of action for several years, **Richard J. Cerame** reports, no one was too surprised when he won a record ninth MGA Player-of-the-Year title*

MOST OF THOSE WHO KNOW AND COMPETE against George Zahringer have come to realize that anything is possible. So when the 48-year-old member of Deepdale Golf Club on Long Island made a full-time return last year to the competitive amateur golf circuit he dominated in the 1980s and early '90s, the Met Area golfing community didn't so much wonder if he would win again, but rather when it would happen.

It happened this summer. After compiling one of the most impressive all-around seasons in recent history, including four victories, Zahringer returned to the top of the mountain by capturing his record ninth MGA Jerry Courville Sr. Player of the Year Award, and his first since 1992. Zahringer also became the award's oldest recipient.

Shortly after returning from Ireland, where he represented the MGA as a member of the eight-man Carey Cup team which competes bi-annually against the Golfing Union of Ireland, Zahringer began his record run. He reached the final of the Travis Memorial at Garden City Golf Club on Long Island before succumbing to three-time Walker Cup team member David Eger.

He then headed to Quaker Ridge Golf Club in Westchester County for the Hochster Memorial, a tournament he won consecutively from 1987-'91. After closing with a stellar final-round 67, he found himself knotted with Jerry Courville Jr. of Shorehaven Golf Club in Connecticut, winner of four of the last six MGA Player of the Year Awards (which is named after his late father).



ON A ROLL: Zahringer locked up Player-of-the-Year honors by reaching the finals of the U.S. Mid-Amateur in October.