

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

George J. Zahringer, III, the metropolitan area's leading amateur competitor for nearly a decade, once again compiled an outstanding playing record to capture the MGA's Amateur Player of the Year Award for an unprecedented fifth time. The 33-year old stock broker who plays out of Deepdale Golf Club staged a remarkable come-from-behind charge late in the 1986 season accumulating 745 points to edge out New Jersey's Bob Housen of Manasquan River who led throughout most of the summer.

Zahringer's bid for a fifth Player of the Year title began with a second place finish in The Ike Championship in early August for which he earned 125 points. Prior to The Ike, Zahringer had played only ten rounds of golf all season, none competitively, due to family, business and school commitments. Yet, the long hitting champion took little time in establishing his familiar form and followed up his performance in The Ike with a fourth victory in The MGA Amateur (200 pts.), finished low amateur and in a tie for 8th in the Met Open (145 pts.), and before the month was out would qualify on-site for his fifth U.S. Amateur (125 pts.).

Zahringer took over the lead in September after qualifying for his second U.S. Mid-Amateur, but it was his incredible performance in the Championship which clinched the title. He not only qualified on-site, but played the next 30 holes in 11 under par to win second and third round matches, and went 18 holes with Bill Loeffler in the quarter-finals before losing to the eventual champion 2-up. He earned an additional 150 points for his efforts and was firmly established as the year's top player—once again.

Finishing second was New Jersey's Bob Housen who had a remarkably consistent season marked by a fifth victory in the New Jersey State Amateur (175 pts.), a tie for 3rd place in The Ike (88 pts.), second low amateur in The Met Open (75 pts.), and 4th in the Hochster (30 pts.). He was

equally impressive in match play, making the finals of the Met Amateur (175 pts.) and Richardson Memorial (75 pts.), semi-finals of the Travis Memorial (50 pts.), and quarter-finals of the Nassau Invitational (20 pts.).

Third place in the standings went to Westchester Amateur Champion Jon Doppelt of Brae Burn with 450 points, while John Baldwin of Meadow Brook captured fourth position with 340 points. Other top finishers included Eastern Amateur Champion Ralph Howe of Middle Island, Pat Fogarty of Pine Hills, MGA Public Links Champion Charlie Cowell of Preakness Valley, Scott Hawkins of Spring Lake, Chris Czaja of Hubbard Heights and Greg Carlin from Tam O'Shanter.

The Player of the Year Award will be presented at the Association's Annual Meeting on December 4th at Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY.

1986 Player of the Year Honor Roll

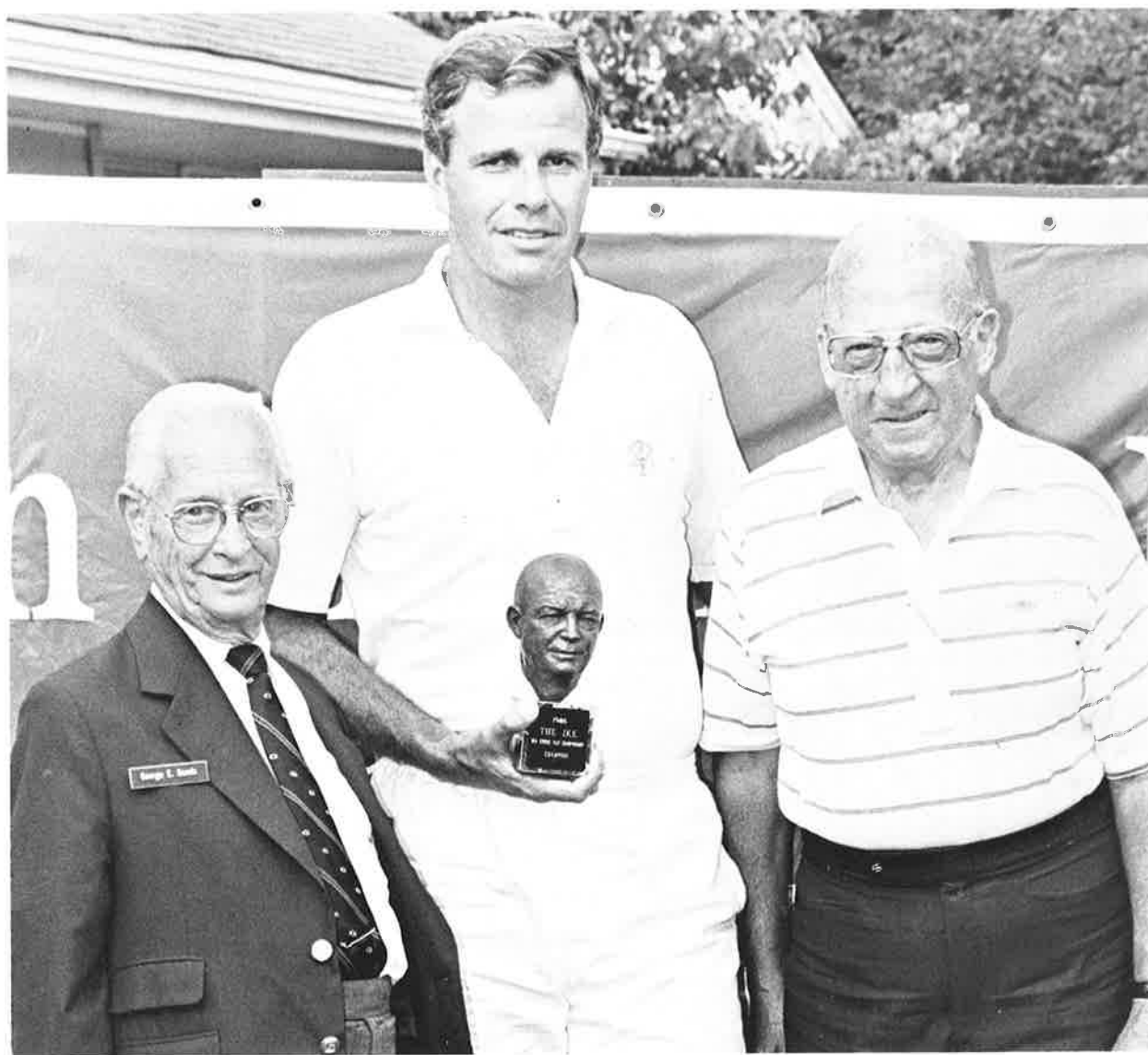
George J. Zahringer, III	745
Bob Housen	637.8
Jon Doppelt	450
John Baldwin	340
Ralph Howe	300
Pat Fogarty	290
Charlie Cowell	275
Scott Hawkins	250
Chris Czaja	212.3
Greg Carlin	195



George J. Zahringer, III — a lot to smile about.

Past Champions

1976	Richard Siderowf
1977-78	Jimmy Dee
1979-80	George Zahringer, III
1981	H.P. Van Ingen, Jr.
1982	George Zahringer, III
1983	Jonas B. Saxton
1984	Jonas B. Saxton
	George Zahringer, III
1985	Mark D. Trauner



John Baldwin celebrates Ike victory with George Sands (l.) and "Ike" founder Dana Mozley (r.).

Excitement peaked in August as the skies cleared and **"THE IKE"** returned to the met area calendar as the MGA Stroke Play Championship. Sporting a new sponsor, Metropolitan Life Insur-

ance Company, the tournament made its debut as an MGA event at The Tuxedo Club in Tuxedo Park, NY on August 4-5, just as this gracious old club celebrated its 100th Anniversary. As always,



Ivar Quigley, Manager of Sports Programs for Metropolitan Life, with David Eisenhower, guest speaker at The Ike.

the event drew a premiere field of amateur talent and appropriately, it was one of the game's most appealing and consistent players who captured the title. While most of the field found par an illusive goal over Tuxedo's Robert Trent Jones layout, former MGA Amateur champion, John Baldwin of Meadow Brook Club, posted a 2-under total of 73-69-70=212 to lead the field by four and claim his first major MGA title in 19 years. Four strokes behind was 1985 MGA Open and Amateur champion George J. Zahringer III who posted a three-round total of 216, followed by Chris Czaja and Bob Housen who finished in a tie for 3rd at 217. In the team competition, the father-son duo of Claes and Anders Johncke of Winged Foot, came in with identical rounds of 74-74 to take the team title with 148. Adding yet another historic and prestigious touch to the event was David Eisenhower, grandson of the late President, who helped in the presentation of the 1986 Championship trophies.

Two days later, the dismal, wet weather returned as many of the same players convened at Quaker Ridge Golf Club for the 84th playing of the **MGA AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP**. Ike Champion John Baldwin continued his superb play capturing the 36-hole stroke play medal with rounds of 70-70=140 and breezed through early round matches against Adam Spring and Charlie Cowell. In the semi-finals, Baldwin met defending Champion George Zahringer who had advanced with victories over David Clarke and Brent Studer. Baldwin continued his sharp play in the semis and stood 3-up through 12 holes until Zahringer, displaying the characteristic drive that has earned him three Met Amateur titles, reeled off a string of birdies to win the 13th, 15th, and 16th holes to pull even. They halved the 17th, but when Baldwin's second shot found the greenside bunker on 18, Zahringer had the hole and the match.

The final was a 36-hole Classic, with Zahringer facing New Jersey State Amateur Champion Bob Housen who had survived tough matches against former champion Dick Siderowf, and 1985 Met Amateur finalist Clem Miner. Despite three days of heat, humidity, rain delays and the demands of Quaker Ridge, both played superbly until nearing the final nine, where each began to provide openings for their opponent. All even after 33 holes, Housen failed to get up-&-down on the 34th, and fell behind to leave Zahringer 1-up. On the next hole it was Zahringer who faced a difficult up-&-down but this time he proved up to the delicate chip and five-foot putt to hold on to the lead. When the two split the 36th, Zahringer had claimed the match and his fourth Met Amateur title in five years.

The following week, two more MGA titles were determined and both went to players named Soldon. On August 12th, sixteen year-old Brian

Soldon and his Father Bob, became the 46th **MGA FATHER & SON CHAMPIONS** following an 18-hole playoff with Alpine CC's Richard and Andrew Zorn at Rockville Links Club. Playing Pinehurst format, the two teams tied for the Championship with 70, forcing the playoff on July 28th.

Three days later, the younger Soldon successfully defended his **MGA/METROPOLITAN LIFE BOYS CHAMPIONSHIP** title at the Garrison Golf Club in Garrison, NY, and became the first player to defend this crown since Don Edwards in 1980. The win came after a 3&2 victory over James Fisher of Oakland, NJ in the finals.

On August 18th, heavy rains forced postponement of the **MGA/METROPOLITAN LIFE CADDIE SCHOLARSHIP PRO-AM** at Nassau Country Club, but subsided for the opening days of the MGA's 71st **OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP**. In the first round, fifty-two year old Bob Bruno of Rye GC struck a blow for veteran players posting a 4-under par 66 to tie amateur Dick Siderowf for the 18-hole lead. After 36 holes however, it was Tom Joyce of Glen Oaks grabbed the lead with steady rounds of 69-67=136 while former champions Jim Albus of Piping Rock and David Glenz of Morris County stood three shots back. The final round was another classic, and a light steady rain which greeted the 63 players who survived the 36 hole cut, did little to dampen the excitement generated by the final threesome. Albus and Joyce traded the lead several times throughout the day, Albus taking over on the 7th and Joyce coming back to tie it on the 9th, until a 35 ft. birdie putt on the 14th and a bogey by Joyce gave Glenz the edge for the first time. Glenz held on through the 17th but after dumping his second shot into a bunker 40-yards short and to the left of the green, it appeared certain he would slip back into a tie with Joyce. Then came the shot of the day, the tournament and maybe the year, as the gifted Glenz blasted out of the bunker and watched his



1986 Amateur Champion George Zahringer (l.) and runner-up Bob Housen with MGA's Dr. Richard Silver.