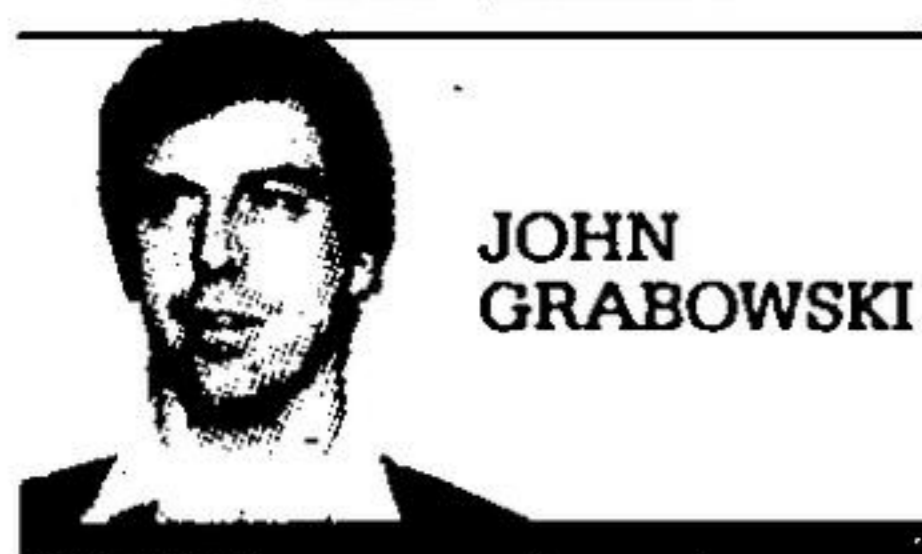


How the PGA follows leaders

STAT SHEET



JOHN GRABOWSKI

1990 marks the start of the second decade of the official PGA Tour statistics. This program compiles figures in nine golfing categories: scoring leaders, driving distance, driving accuracy, greens in regulation, putting leaders, par breakers, eagle leaders, birdie leaders and sand saves.

Designed to help touring pros identify the parts of their game that need the most work, the totals are compiled by "walking scorers," who pass them on to the Tour statistician. The data is then sent to the main computer in the Tour headquarters in Florida, which issues weekly updates of the standings.

Who had the best stats for the past 10 years?

The scoring leader, among players with a minimum of 350 rounds on the PGA Tour in the 1980s, was Tom Kite, with an average of 70.57 per 18 holes. He was followed closely by Tom Watson (70.67).

Not coincidentally, they also rank 1-2 on the PGA Tour's all-time money list. Going into 1990, Kite had won \$5.6 million in his career; Watson had taken home nearly \$5.2 million. By the way, Watson won 16 tournaments in the past decade (a figure matched by Curtis Strange). Kite was first 11 times.

The honors in driving distance in the 1980s went to Davis Love III, the youngest of the decade leaders. Love, who will not turn 26 until this April, averaged 279.7 yards per drive. The runner-up: Greg Norman (276.5).

On the other hand, a veteran won the driving accuracy title in the 1980s. Calvin Peete, who did not take up the game of golf until age 23, has dominated in this category. 1989 marked his ninth consecutive year as the leader. His overall mark of .813 is 44 points ahead of Mike Reid in second place.

To get a better idea of Peete's dominance, consider that a difference of just 48 points separates the next 10 players on the list!

Peete also took first place in greens in regulation, making him the only pro to lead in two categories in the 1980s: He narrowly edged Bruce Lietzke, .709 to .705, with John Mahaffey third at .704.

San Diego-born Morris Hatafsky set the pace among putters. On greens hit in regulation during the past decade, he averaged 28.51 putts per round. Willie Wood, the former two-time All-American from Oklahoma State, trailed Hatafsky with an average of 28.77.

Aussie Greg Norman was the decade leader in par breakers with a percentage of .216. Tom Watson once again finished second, at .207. By the way, Norman was one of only three players to finish in the top 10 during the 1980s in four of the nine categories. Kite and David Frost were the others.

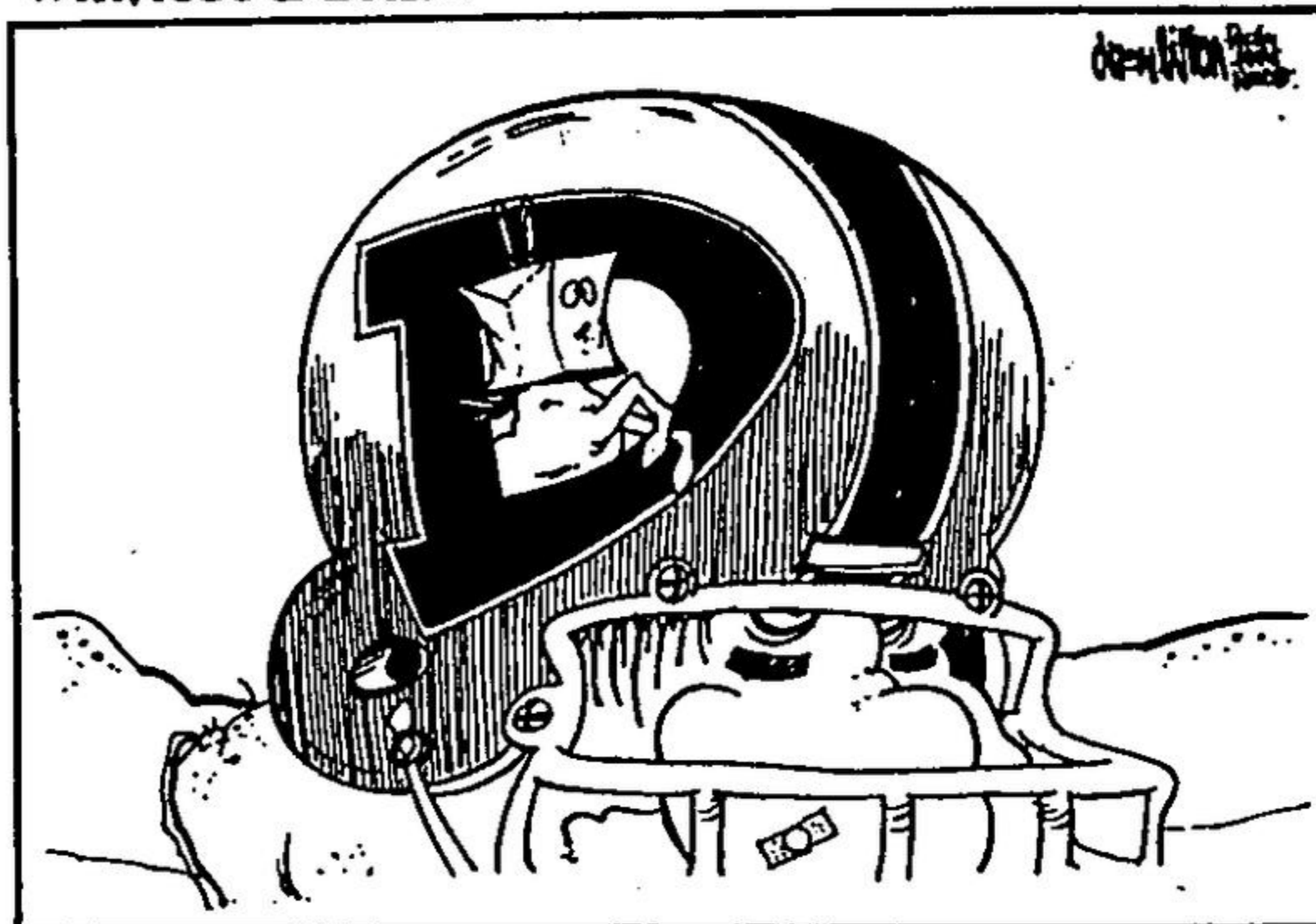
Since par breakers represent the average of total birdies and eagles out of total holes played, you might expect to find Norman's name among the leaders in one, or both, of those other categories.

Surprisingly, he does not even make the top 10.

In eagle leaders, Fred Couples led the way, with a total of 81, or one more than Craig Stadler. Bobby Wadkins took first place among Birdie Leaders, with 3,502 during the past decade. Curtis Strange finished second with 3,341.

The final category — sand saves — is the only one in which there was a tie for first place. Two foreign-born players — Isao Aoki of Japan and David Frost of South Africa — finished in a dead heat with identical marks of .043.

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SATURDAY HOCKEY
 Major Pee wee "AA" OMHA playdowns. Georgetown Bodanis Bruins vs Stoney Creek, 2:30 p.m. at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena.
 Third round OMHA major midget "AA" playdowns, Georgetown Sunny Acre Farms vs either Milton or Chinguacousy, 4 p.m. at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena (tentative).
 Central Ontario Junior "B" Hockey League. Georgetown vs Milton, 7:30 p.m. at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena.
 OMHA Juvenile playdowns. Acton Rotary Club vs Wasaga Beach, in third game of best-of-five series, 8 p.m. at the Acton Community Centre.

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SWIMMING
 Public swimming at Acton and Georgetown Indoor Pools from 2-4 p.m. Wear something red to gain free admission.
LACROSSE
 Acton Minor Lacrosse Association registration day for boys and girls, aged 4-16 years. From 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Acton Community Centre.
SUNDAY HOCKEY
 Mid-Ontario Junior "C" Hockey League playoff game. Acton vs Caledon, 1:30 p.m. at Acton Community Centre.

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MONDAY BRIDGE
 Duplicate Bridge, open competition. Starting at 1 p.m. at Georgetown Royal Canadian Legion Branch 120, on Mill Street.
TUESDAY BASKETBALL
 North Halton Public Schools Boys League - Sam Sherratt at Centennial, 3:30 p.m.
 East Halton Boys League - Acton Redmen senior and junior boys vs Bishop Reding High School at AHS. Games start at 3:30 p.m. Acton Redmen midget boys team vs Oakville-Trafalgar High School, 6:15 p.m. at AHS.
 North Halton Public Schools girls basketball. Brookville at Stewarttown, 3:30 p.m.

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VOLLEYBALL
 East Halton Senior Girls League. Oakville-Trafalgar High School vs GDHS Rebels, 4:30 p.m. at GDHS.
WEDNESDAY SENIOR ATHLETES
 Meeting 9:30 a.m. at Civic Centre Committee Room, 1 Halton Hills Drive, for those wishing to participate in the 1990 Regional Seniors Games competition. For further information contact Jeff Bitton, 873-2600, ext. 262.

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THURSDAY HOCKEY
 Central Ontario Junior "B" Hockey League, West Division, opening round playoff series. Georgetown Pontiac-Buick Raiders vs Streetsville Derbys, 7:30 p.m. at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena.
FRIDAY HOCKEY
 Central Ontario Junior "B" Hockey League, West Division, opening round playoff series. Georgetown Pontiac-Buick Raiders vs Streetsville Derbys, 7:30 p.m. at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena.

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