

Silver Pen letter: Thank Nienhaus for all she's done

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Recently, we've read about an outstanding woman in the Fox Valley, Mary Beth Nienhaus. The accolades are well-deserved. I've known Mary Beth since 1966, when we both became physical education teachers in Kaukauna. Along with her full-time teaching job, she accepted the challenge of coaching the girls' teams (intramural, at the time) and even the cheerleaders.

Her knowledge and drive soon became known by teams and coaches in surrounding schools. She demanded discipline and hard work from her players, as she did of herself.

After four years at Kaukauna, she left to earn her masters in Illinois. She continued her summers at Winagamie Golf Course and, when she returned, became a co-owner of Winagamie, as well as gave lessons. I was lucky enough to assist her at the junior lessons. Many of you, now parents yourselves, know the quality of those lessons and have become better golfers because of it, along with her golf teams at Appleton West.

My favorite remembrance of those lessons was that, on the last day of classes, Mary Beth directed a session on etiquette on the golf course. The students learned what not to do and why, without being bored.

Pick up pen and paper, folks, and drop Mary Beth a line to thank her for all she did and is doing. I hope that those of you who have chosen to continue her legacy will look to her for guidance and knowledge so this gift will bring continued success. Let her know that she's still important in the endeavor to keep Winagamie Golf Course and its environment a class act, as she has been, and is.

As those from Appleton schools and Fox Valley Technical College benefit from the learning experiences in environmental, agricultural and other fields, remember who made it possible.

Godspeed, Mary Beth. You are a gift.

Chick Nirschl,

Appleton