Each contestant's score is displayed on a special card in the section to the left of the Northland Invitation scoreboard. At the extreme left are posted cards for those in the championship and second flights. From past experience pro Harold Clasen puts scores of 82 or less in this section. It will handle 40 cards.

The blackboard middle section will handle 204 cards. To the right is a sheet giving starting times for match play first round. To the far right are the medal score sheets on which Clasen's assistant, Bill Shaw, is working. The smiling lassie at the left is Mrs. Clasen.

**Invitation Tournament That Runs Smoothly As Planned**

*By HAROLD CLASEN*

Professional, Northland Country Club, Duluth, Minn.

In an invitation tournament a club is confronted by many problems that must be solved so completely and satisfactorily that every member and guest will remember the day as a perfect golf affair and at no time have the slightest idea there is a lot of work back of planning and operating the tournament.

These affairs always are tests of the pro's management of his department and often, due to new members of the committees arranging the invitation events the pro must discreetly but thoroughly see to it that his club committee's efforts are highly successful and pleasant.

For 27 years the Northland CC of Duluth, Minn. has held an annual invitation tournament that we all are pleased to learn is regarded by guests as the most smoothly conducted affair of its sort they ever have attended. Something else very pleasing to us is the favorable comment of newspapermen on how quickly flights are arranged and results are made available.

For the help we hope our work may give other clubs who are planning invitation tournaments this year, I'll describe our operations.

Our 1952 Invitation was our largest. We had 255 entrants from Minn., Ill., New York, Ind., Iowa, Ariz., Mich., Wisc., So. Dak., Pa., Wash., Kans., Ohio, Mo., Okla., and Cal. The entry fee was $10. We feel that this is too large an entry and next year will cut it or limit it to 208. This will give us 22 flights of eight plus a championship flight of 32. With
Dear Member:

The 27th Annual Invitation Tournament will be held August 7, 8, 9 and 10. There will be a flight for everyone, champ or dub. Each flight will consist of eight players with the exception of the Championship Flight and the First Flight. The Championship Flight will consist of the 32 low qualifiers, and the First Flight of the defeated 16 of the Championship Flight.

In order to avoid last minute congestion, and to accommodate our out-of-town guests, many of whom will have to play Thursday afternoon, it is requested that wherever possible members arrange their starting times Thursday morning. As in the past, qualifying scores will be accepted on Tuesday or Wednesday preceding the actual tournament date from any entry not aiming at the Championship Flight.

All players who hope to make the Championship Flight must tee off before two o'clock on Thursday, thus insuring ample time for a play-off, if necessary.

Those who have enjoyed this fine tournamen-
out only eight foursomes per hour and spaced as follows, 8:00-8:07-8:14-8:21-8:30-8:37-8:44-8:51 etc. Seven minute intervals are OK but getting that extra two minutes each half hour does the trick. In the 1952 event we never had more than one foursome on any tee at the same time, even on the par threes.

About ten days before the championship starts, starting times for the qualifying rounds are set and each player is sent a card telling him of his starting time and the members of his foursome. This card is enclosed with a letter signed by our president which expressed the club’s pleasure at having the entrant accept the invitation and giving all details of the program, which includes a dinner dance Saturday.

We have a PA system of our own and I keep the mike on the first tee and have speakers in the locker-room, grill room, practice tee and practice green.

Handling the Clubs

As the players arrive we have two boys getting the clubs out of the cars. They bring the clubs to the shop where they are tagged with the players’ name in large letters and the tag is tied to the top of the bag.

Clubs are cleaned after each day’s play and are placed alphabetically in corners of the shop. In the morning the clubs are lined up alphabetically outside the shop and are given to the caddies as the players are ready. We have learned from experience not to store the practice balls but have the players keep them in their lockers.

Scoring Is Organized

As players tee off in the qualifying round their names are put on the medal play sheet, also each name and home town is printed on a 5 in. by 3 in. card. As the scores are turned in they go up on the medal play sheet hole by hole and then the total is written on their card and placed on the special blackboards you will see in an accompanying picture.

I had a large board made at a local shop. It is simple as it is just reinforced wall board with notched strips of wood to hold the cards. The championship flight board is just plywood with clips nailed on to hold the cards. These boards get a lot of compliments as the players can see how they stand as to flights etc.

As scores come in cards are constantly shifted and when the qualifiers are all in the cards are in order according to scores. Then the boards are unhooked from the big score board and carried into the shop. In making the draw for the flights it is very simple as we just take them off the board in order.

This year we made the draw for 32 in the championship plus 27 flights of eight in less than one hour.

Starting times for the matches are then posted in the clubhouse and players know who they play and at what time before they leave the club. Of course it is also published in the morning paper. I feel that the success of our tournaments has been in the speed in which the draw is made.

In order to eliminate the possibility of a play-off for the championship flight in the dark Thursday or early Friday morning we make the qualifying championship hopefuls tee off before 2 p.m. on qualifying day. As a rule there is a play-off and we make quite a show out of it. This year eight played off for two places and as they were announced over the PA they teed off and quite a gallery followed.

The beaten 16 in the championship flight make up the first flight and the losers in the second round of the championship and first flights go into the consolation flights.

We award prizes for the winner and runner-up in each flight and to the consolation winner in each flight. With the (Continued on page 109)
have done together," — and he emphasized "and the Lord."

"Yes," replied the perspiring gardener, "but ye should've seen it when the Lord had it by Himself."

You, gentlemen, you and your predecessors, going back even beyond Old Tom Morris — you, together with the Senior Partner of us all — have literally taken a cow pasture and transformed it into a lovely garden. You have, in the words of Isaiah, made the desert blossom as the rose. You have thereby helped to enrich your fellow-man in body and spirit.

For this you have the profound thanks of the world of golf.

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exception of the championship flight all flight and consolation prizes are identical.

After the championship final match has teed off we set up a table with white cloth on the first tee and put the medalist and championship flight prizes on it. The Northland President makes a little speech at the conclusion of the match and awards the boys their prizes. This adds dignity to the thing and winds it up in good style.

The regular flight prizes are picked up at the golf shop.

Of course a lot of this operation costs money and perhaps some clubs could not afford all of it but many of the ideas here could be carried out in a smaller way with home-made signs, etc.

The instructions to committee chairmen and members and to key men and women of the club staff set forth every detail of operation and definitely place responsibilities.

Arrangements are outlined, points that were not completely satisfactory in previous Northland Invitation tournament operations are noted and methods to avoid recurrence of such mistakes are presented.

All points have been thoroughly discussed in committee meetings and coordinated before the letter of instructions is prepared and mailed. Operations and facilities in the clubhouse and on the course are described in detail. Special house rules are given for the event.

The details pertaining to actual play...
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