Popular Pensacola Junior Program in Second Year

One of the most successful Junior golf programs in the Eastern Seaboard states is the Pensacola, Fla. plan started in 1958. The Pensacola Sports Assn. assisted by the Pensacola Recreation Dept., the Escambia County Dept. of Public Instruction, Pensacola PGA and Fiesta of Five Flags Assn., sponsors it. The program, for youths, 12 through 17, consists of three phases: presentation, instruction and a tournament, the Divot Derby.

Presentation of the program was accomplished by the mayor’s proclamation establishing the first day of the Fiesta of Five Flags (May 13) as Junior Golf Day. The youngsters registered at their respective schools and were given time off to attend the golf demonstration staged by the local PGA. About 1700 children attended the first annual event. Transportation was provided by school buses. The local Ladies’ Golf Assn. provided refreshments for the group.

The second phase, instruction, was accomplished by local pros who gave free group lessons. Balls and clubs were furnished. Each group received twelve lessons. After each lesson, the kids were permitted to play free on the city’s newly renovated Osceola course. About 150 juniors took advantage of the instruction program in 1958.

Climax of the program was a medal play tournament held at the Osceola course in which 121 juniors participated. Local businessmen provided prizes which ranged from one-year scholarships at Pensacola Junior College to golf equipment, trophies, music scholarships, clothing and gift certificates. Following the tourney, a banquet sponsored by St. Regis Paper Company was held at the Pensacola CC.

Due to the outstanding success in the first year, Pensacola will make this an annual affair. May 13 has again been proclaimed as Junior Golf Day.

All Golf Coaching School

The first all golf coaching conference for golf coaches and men and women physical education teachers in high schools and colleges will be held at Fresno (Calif.) State College, July 9-12.

The instruction staff is headed by Bud Finger, Stanford University golf coach, and Les Bolstad, golf director, University of Minnesota, with pros from the Southern and Northern California PGA sections assisting in the teaching sessions.

1959-60 All Star Series Being Filmed in May

Filming of the 1959-60 TV All Star Golf series is getting underway in May at Eldorado CC, Palm Springs, Calif., with Sam Snead, winner of $28,000 in last year’s matches, meeting Garv Player. Winner of this match will meet Bill Casper. Others in the early competition are Ed Oliver and Al Balding. After the first four matches at Eldorado, the scene will shift to Desert Inn CC, Las Vegas. In all, 26 contests will be filmed for the new series. Peter DeMet and Sidney Goltz and a 50-man crew will handle production. Ray O’Brien is tournament director and Jimmy Demaret will be the narrator. Whether Demaret will narrate any match in which he plays hasn’t been announced.

Miller Brewing Co. and Reynolds Metals will again sponsor the series. An estimated 15,000,000 persons saw the matches each week during 1958-59.

1959 Open Qualifying

The double qualifying series for this year’s Open calls for 60 local qualifying rounds and 13 sectional tests. The local meets will be held May 18 (19th in Chicago) and the sectional competitions on June 1.