Up 10 to 50 Per Cent

Eastern Figures
Point to Big Increase
in Municipal Golf

By HARRY C. ECKHOFF

That 1959 will see the heaviest golf play in history on Eastern Area municipal courses is indicated by preliminary reports which show increases ranging from 10 to almost 50 per cent over 1958.

Washington, D.C.'s five 18-hole courses had a total of over 120,000 18-hole rounds played in 1959 by June 30. The figure for the same period in 1958 was about 100,000. Says S. G. Leoffler, Jr., of Leoffler Inc., lessee of Washington's courses: "During July we had 19,033 customers at our East Potomac course (36 holes); in 1958 during the same month there were 17,938. Overall, our golf play is up about 16 per cent this year over last."

Comparative statistics for golf play on Philadelphia's five 18-hole muny courses for the first quarter of 1958 and 1959 show a gain of more than 18,000 18-hole rounds of play (over $20,000 in receipts) in 1959 over 1958. According to Garry Renn, city dir. of golf, rounds played in the first quarter of 1959 were 55,535; in 1958 - 37,138. Golf play has been increasing consistently each year in Philadelphia, according to William Capman, secy. of Fairmount Park Commission. Total play in 1958 was 210,649 rounds; in 1957 - 200,740 rounds; in 1956 - 181,616; in 1955 - 161,300. Total receipts for 1958 were $239,273 and for 1957, $226,247.

Range for Waiting Players

In commenting on this year's golf play at Westchester County's (N. Y.) five 18-hole golf courses, Charles E. Pound, general supt., says, "New 4th of July weekend golf play records were established with 5,738 rounds being played during the 3-day holiday. At mid point of the current season, 182,191 rounds had been played on the five courses; last year's total at the same time was 169,233 rounds. This is justification for including in the future park development program additional golf facilities. This year at the Mohansic golf course, we have opened a golf driving range limited to golfers awaiting their turn at the first tee. It has proved very successful and satisfying to golfers." Westchester County's golf courses had 261,960 rounds of play in 1958. Total for 1957 was 238,595 rounds.

Don Lachez (r), Borger, Tex., who won driving contest at Jaycee Junior tournament, Elizabeth Manor CC, Portsmouth, Va., gets Spalding trophy from Bob Hughes, company sales rep. Young Lachez's prize winning blow measured 268 yards.