One Million Players in National Golf Day

Since National Golf Day was started 11 years ago, more than 1,000,000 players have participated and about $900,000 have been turned over to golf and other charities and research and education and outside sports projects.

This year’s National Golf Day is scheduled for May 25. Players will match their scores against the total posted by the winner of the match between Gary Player, PGA Champion, and Jack Nicklaus, the 1962 Open winner. They will meet in the “round of the champion” at DAC CC on May 28.

From 1952 through 1955, Life magazine and the PGA were joint sponsors of National Golf Day. In the early years, large sums went to the USO, American Red Cross, the U. S. Olympic Fund and other organizations. In recent years, however, the funds have been set aside for caddie scholarships, amputee and blind players, turf research and education, the PGA benevolent, education and relief funds and similar undertakings.

In each of the last five years, governors of from 25 to 30 states have given official recognition to National Golf Day in their states.

Hogan’s 64 Low

The lowest round Golf Day participants have had to shoot at was a 64 that Ben Hogan shot at Baltusrol in 1954. Dow Finsterwald posted a 67 in 1959 and Bill Casper did the same thing the following year. In 1961, Arnold Palmer shot a target score of 69. In all other years, the champion’s score has been in the 70s. Gene Littler, in 1962, was kind enough to contribute a five-over 75 at Aronimink. That’s the highest score that has been recorded in Golf Day competition.

In the early years, the Open champion set the target score. From 1955 through 1957, the men’s Open and the women’s Open champions posted the scores that men and women golfers competed against. Since 1958, the PGA champion has played the USGA Open winner to determine what the target score will be.

Third annual pro-am for the Chicago Children’s Memorial hospital will be played at Onwentsia Club, Lake Forest, Ill., July 29.