Philly Pros Stage
Another Big Show

By JOSEPH W. DRAGONETTI

There was something for everybody at the eighth annual Golf Show sponsored April 12th by the Philadelphia section of the PGA. A record crowd attended the program in the ballroom of Philadelphia’s Sheraton Hotel.

About 150 pros had an opportunity from 9 a.m. to noon to renew friendships, talk shop and view the latest in equipment and apparel from about 50 exhibitors.

For the general public, the show provided an opportunity to meet, talk to and take free lessons from outstanding pros. Visitors could also attend panel discussions and learn ways of improving their techniques.

Pro Jerry Pisano headed a clinic on basic golf and Ed Tabor handled putting instructions. About 40 other pros gave personal golf instruction.

Awards Presented

The show was the occasion for the PGA to make some awards for outstanding contributions to the game. Leo Fraser presented a citation to John P. Crisconi, Philadelphia business man and general chairman of the $125,000 Philadelphia Golf Classic.

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Another award was made by Joe Aneda, Jr. to Eugenia Slaymaker, president, Women’s Philadelphia Golf Assn. In other years the PGA has also honored national and local golf association officials.

A big repeat attraction this year was the Catch-On tournament, where whiffle balls were chipped against an adhesive sheet rigged like a dart board target. Prizes were awarded for the best scores in a competition that ran for 12 hours. The Catch-On tournament was held in the very center of the ballroom and there was never a lull in the whole period. Its simplicity attracted many people who had never had a golf club in their hands before. This unique game was supervised by Pros Marty Lyons, who is observing his 50th anniversary in golf, Ted Bickel, Sr., Joseph C. Hunsberger and Ted Bickel, Jr.

Pro Harlan Will again attracted big crowds with his helpful tips on sand shot problems, in which he used a specially constructed bunker.

Marilynn Smith, “Miss Personality of Golf” and a special representative of A. G. Spalding & Bros., Inc., made a return appearance. She conducted an afternoon swing analysis clinic. Later, in the evening, she participated in a panel with pros Gary Nixon, Henry Williams, Jr., Stan Dudas, Willie Polumbo and Leo Fraser.

Pros at a central microphone in the ballroom made announcements, keeping visitor participation at a high pitch, and introducing guests. Participating in this phase of the program in addition to Paul Fraser and Nixon, were Henry Poe, Denny Walters, Al Nelson, Henry McQuiston, Frank Clark and Bob Ross.

There has been talk of taking the show to a bigger hall in order to accommodate more visitors, but this has been turned down by the Philadelphia Section for fear that the show will lose its intimate appeal. There have also been offers to turn over the event to outside promotion, but the membership insists it remain a PGA event.