Sweepstakes for the club pro

Hole-in-one contest gives him a chance to win $1,000 without even swinging a club

It's not often that a golf pro gets a chance to win $1,000 without even swinging a club. But, by validating an entry blank in the Rusty Nail Hole-In-One Sweepstakes, he can pocket a cool grand.

The rules of the contest, which is now in its eighth year, are simple. The pro signs the entry blank of any one of his members who has scored a hole-in-one at any time during the year and mails it in.

At the end of the year, the winning name drawn receives a trip to Scotland for two plus $1,000. The winner's pro also gets $1,000.

The contest is unique in that it gives professionals a stake in the winnings. In fact, pros that score holes-in-one are also eligible for the drawing. And, if a pro's name is drawn, he gets the trip and $1,000. His entry should be validated by the assistant pro, who would then get the other $1,000.

Aces, it might be noted, are not that uncommon. Last year the contest had approximately 12,000 entrants. True, the odds on winning are slim, but the good will and talk the contest creates at the clubs seem to be reward enough.

Individual stories on each person who gets an ace are written and sent to home-town newspapers, giving not only the entrant, but his club, local publicity.

The Sweepstakes gets its name from that combination of Scotch and Drambuie so popular at 19th holes, called the Rusty Nail. Drambuie, by the way, is the contest's sponsor.

The sweepstakes, which is growing in size annually, is open to any person who scores a hole-in-one on a regulation public or private golf course in the United States, the Caribbean Islands, Bermuda or Puerto Rico.

The winner for this past year, is Lt. Col. Floyd F. Campbell, Ret., of Yorba Linda, Calif. Dale Andreason, of Yorba Linda Country Club, Yorba Linda, Calif., was his lucky pro.

Other pros who have won in the past are: Otto Greiner, Knickerbocker Country Club, Tenafly, N.J.; Hal Cahoon, Concord Country Club, Concord, Mass.; Fred Austin, Marion Golf Club, Ardmore, Pa.; Lou Sabo, Old Orchard Country Club, Arlington Hgts., Ill.; Ben McMullin, Yankee Run Golf Club, Brookfield, Ohio, and Robert Shields, Quincy Country Club, Quincy, Ill.

The details are organized, and the publicity is generated, from Ted Worner Associates in New York. Colorful display posters and supplies of entry blanks are periodically mailed to golf professionals throughout the country. The pros are also consistently reminded to get their entry blanks in, via postcards and letters.

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