NATIONAL GOLF DAY DESERVES SUPPORT

National Golf Day needs just one hell of a lot of revitalizing right now.

It is unique in professional sport—it gives.

It has golf professionals working for nothing with their amateur friends, who have the distinction of being cheerful givers.

National Golf Day is the largest source of funds for the Golf Course Superintendents Assn. of America turf scholarships, although National Golf Day is a Professional Golfers' Assn. operation. It is that kind of an unselfish deal for the good of all in golf.

National Golf Day is the largest contributor to the women's volunteer organizations providing golf therapy in veterans' hospitals. You haven't any idea of the tremendous amount and value of that help now.

National Golf Day is the largest contributor to the National Amputee golf tournaments. This is an amazing program putting strong new hearts into men, women and youngsters.

National Golf Day is a substantial and crucial contributor to the nationwide coordinated turf research program, which distributes National Golf Day revenue among 18 agricultural experiment stations all over the country annually. Results of this research is worth millions to golf courses alone and is one of the important factors in keeping America beautiful.

National Golf Day distributes about 20 per cent of its revenue to 26 sectional amateur golf organization caddie scholarship funds. The National Golf Day allotment is a small percentage of the money that this year is sending about 2,000 fine young men through college in the finest public service of professional and amateur sports.

The Tournament Players Division of the PGA is the lowest contributor of any PGA section to National Golf Day. Yet most of the tournament purses come from tax exempt charity or welfare fund-raising events. At the small rate the caddie scholarships get from National Golf Day, a $200,000 tournament would raise $1 million for the sponsor.

It isn't that the tournament players are tight. They just haven't been told they should contribute to the unique and generous job the home professionals do with National Golf Day.

Since 1952, this event has raised more than $1.8 million. Too few home professionals and the players at their private or pay-play courses participate in this unusual and generous performance in pro sport.

There is no National Baseball Day, no National Football Day and no National Tennis Day on which professionals, who are more concerned with their players' games than their own, ask for a dollar as a public service contribution and as a fee for competing on a handicap basis against Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player, Kathy Ahearn and Suzie Maxwell Berning in the Round of Champions, played May 29, at Canterbury GC, Cleveland.

At any golf course where National Golf Day isn't a well-advertised event, players are missing some of the fun and glory of golf.

Election of Ellis Maples to the presidency of the American Society of Golf Architects again honored a family who long has had a
beneficial influence on American golf.

Maples' father and uncle, Frank, were early to show what a golf course builder could contribute to the fundamentals of golf course architecture.

When the famous Donald Ross was professional at Pinehurst—and its golf architect and golf director as well—Frank Maples was course builder, greenkeeper and pretty much in charge of the Pinehurst grounds.

Maples had a keen vision for beauty, a practical sense for construction that could be well maintained and an appreciation of what cunning ideas the excellent designer, Donald Ross, was trying to present to the thoughtful or thoughtless golfers.

The sandhills of the Pinehurst area invited Ross and Maples to sculpture the earth that made greens and fairways works of art.

When Pinehurst changed from those old oiled sand greens to grass, Maples was ready with the bermudagrass and the maintenance that suited the Pinehurst course.

Contouring the greens and finishing the bunkers so they were picturesque and testing and not expensive to maintain was the Maples' part of the collaboration with Ross. Those deceptive swales guarding greens were some of the Ross-Maples teamwork that often was reflected in the approximately 500 courses Ross designed.

Age has not withered many of the holes Donald Ross designed with the Maples' brand of construction and maintenance. That pioneer team at Pinehurst discovered something you see today: A first-class golf architect becomes third-rate unless he's got a good builder working with him.

Mini tournament circuits are doing so well and growing so swiftly they're looming as competition to the Tournament Players' Division of the PGA. Somebody may come up with a sponsorship publicity angle of a charity tax deduction idea that could make the TPD satellite tournaments trail behind the mini tournaments like caddie contests. How to knock out the mini tournaments is a delicate problem that could involve clashes with Federal laws.

Whatever there is to be said against women in golf course maintenance work, seldom has come to me. In the dozen or so cases I've heard about, superintendents say that women generally are the more careful workers and usually follow instructions better than men.

The women, of course, can't handle the very heavy jobs, but on mowing and operating other power equipment and in chemical applications, they are hard to beat, their employers testify.

Possibly the superintendent who employs the most women on course and grounds work is Arlin Grant, superintendent of the three superbly conditioned courses at Innisbrook, Tarpon Springs, Fla. There are 960 acres in the Innisbrook development. The apartment buildings and individual homes are framed by beautiful landscaping.

Grant came to Innisbrook two years ago from the Royal Poin-

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RESEARCH CRUCIAL
Managing turfgrasses in the transition zone is a serious, demanding, but rewarding business, and those involved should be commended for their fortitude in tackling the task.

Once those of us in research and teaching can catch up with the demands for information made upon us by those in the field, quality of turfgrass areas will increase even more than in the past. The gap between where we are in research and where we should be is colossal, but it is narrowing. Financial assistance for research and graduate students from sources supported by turf managers is critical if the gap is to be further narrowed. Much of the work that has been done was the result of assistance from organizations supported by turf managers.

Those of us in turfgrass research acknowledge your efforts and hope that they continue.

BIBLIOGRAPHY