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October, 1955
It might be better for you to incorporate this new sawdust into a compost heap with a little rich loam soil and calcium cyanamid in order to make old sawdust out of new in a matter of a couple of months. I believe this will enable you to get the same results that you had with the old sawdust.

Q — How thick should sod be cut when moving it from the nursery to a tee? (Ks.)

A — As thin as possible. With modern sod-cutting equipment it is possible to cut sod as thin as 1/4 in. Thin-cut sod will knit more quickly than thick sod. We have seen bent and bluegrass sod (thin-cut) send roots down into the seedbed in 24 hours. Thick sod sometimes takes a week or more before it strikes root.

In the nursery you will find that thin-cut sod leaves more rhizomes in the soil which more quickly will re-establish a new sod even without reseeding or replanting. This is particularly true with bluegrass and Bermuda.

Also, you can haul much more thin-cut sod on a load and the men like to handle it better.

Q — Some of my members have been asking me about Emerald zoysia. Would you comment on this grass (1) for lawns in this area and (2) for my fairways? (N.J.)

A — A solid turf of Emerald zoysia has the appearance of a Manilagrass (Zoysia matrella) sod. The texture is about the same but the color tends to be slightly darker. It can be described as "slow-spreading" as compared to Meyer zoysia, for example. It is a hybrid between Z. japonica (coarse) and Z. tenuifolia (very fine). Its winter hardiness comes from the coarse parent but its northern limit has not been determined. It should cover about the same territory as Manilagrass.

The short stiff leaves tend to be prickly, especially when growth is slow, which appears to discourage any direct bodily contact with the mowed turf. This may possibly limit its use to lawns that are made for looks. In my opinion it is likely to produce a fairway turf that could become rather cushiony which players describe as tiring. This occurs with Bermuda that is not properly managed.

Further practical research on management may indicate that it can produce a desirable fairway turf but tests thus far are very limited.

Q — Have had a lot of trouble with pythium this season. Do you think that the soil has to be extremely wet to have the disease? It seems to me that hand-watering during the days seems to bring on the trouble. (Ia.)

A — The usual experience is that the use of set sprinklers is more likely to encourage pythium than hand watering.

It is necessary to hand water to stop wilt, even when soil is soaking wet (wet wilt), also when the soil is bone dry (dry wilt). When soil is too wet the grass plants cannot get enough water because there is not enough oxygen in the root zone.

There is a direct relationship between wet soil and pythium but high temperatures are needed too.

If we can get the root systems good and deep early in the season we can keep the greens drier and avoid some of the disease troubles. By having a porous soil the water applied on the surface will quickly filter down into the soil leaving the surface drier.

Dusting hydrated lime (2 lbs. to 1000 sq. ft.) is a good simple home remedy for sick grass. Spraying chemicals keeps the green wet when what we want is less water. Lime dries the grass and checks most diseases.

Tournament Pros Plan To Hire Manager

A PGA Tournament Bureau manager with full authority over PGA tournaments and the responsibility of scheduling tournaments, increasing prize money, handling publicity and administering discipline, is contemplated by the playing professionals.

Approximately 50 PGA tournament circuit players at a meeting during the Sponsors' tournament at Charles River CC (Boston dist.) agreed to begin the hunt for a qualified man. A salary of $20,000 a year and annual expenses of $10,000 is to be paid by deduction of three per cent from tournament purses.

Jerry Barber, chmn., PGA Tournament committee, says the PGA Tournament Bureau costs now run about $75,000 a year. The PGA now is having expense headaches and at its forthcoming meeting will consider a change in location of the association's headquarters in an effort to reduce expenses.

A Division of expenses between home club pro and tournament pro requirements has long been a subject of PGA controversy. The matter of taking a percentage off the top of tournament purses to finance the Tournament Bureau has come up several times but previously has been voted down by tournament players.

The proposed arrangement would continue the services of Ray O'Brien, Tournament director.
THE old spirit of golf is ablaze again. What accounts for that revival I don’t know but I am sure that it is the big factor in the prevailing golf boom.

Population increase, the “new leisure” and a more general distribution of wealth undoubtedly have contributed greatly to an increase in golf interest and play beyond the capacity of courses to handle the demand in many locations.

But beyond those material factors there has been a return of the lively spirit that accounted for the great growth in golf in the ’20s and early ’30s.

Older professionals who have had extensive experience see and feel this revival of the old spirit. I certainly see it at Stevens Point CC, which I believe is representative of many of the desirable smaller towns.

I broke into pro golf under Tom Vardon, brother of the noted Harry, when Tom Kidd, Jock Hendry, Norman Clark, Bill Barrett, Ernest Penfold and a few more of the pioneers of the Twin Cities were training young professionals.

They taught us well. I did my hitch at designing courses and modernizing old layouts, in addition to handling the customary pro duties. That helped me get deeply implanted the policy of the old boys which was that golf must be fun for everybody at the club and not exclusively the reward of the par-shooters.

Fun for All in Golf

Now we’re back again to the idea of every member of the club getting big value in enjoyment and that’s the reason for the solid spurt in golf. You and I as professionals know we can improve the games of those who score over 100 and we wish they’d give us more of a chance to help them, but regardless of their scores we want to be sure that they have keen delight in their club.

When I came to Stevens Point I felt the community was on the verge of a brisk advance in its golf development. I made

Get Club Spirit Fired Up; Rest of the Job Is Easy

By ED LANDEEN
Professional, Stevens Point (Wis.) Country Club

October, 1955
myself acquainted in person and by letters to the members, got beginners and juniors classes going, wrote a golf column in the local paper with the assistance of Matte Otte of the Stevens Point Daily Journal and was on radio with Al Mayer of WSTP.

The PGA movies were shown as a spring golf party feature.

These promotion activities met with the sort of response that cheers and inspires a pro. Sometimes a pro can work hard and try everything to spark golf interest and get nowhere but when his work receives attention and cooperation then the job richly rewards his planning and energy.

The response depends on the spirit of the membership.

The population of Stevens Point is 20,000. The course has 9 holes. Construction of another 9 is contemplated soon. The original design by architect Wm. E. Jackson called for 18.

New Clubhouse Gets Action

When the new spirit began flaming at the club the decision was made to build a new clubhouse. Now we have one of the most attractive and serviceable clubhouses you’ll see in any city of 20,000 in the country. The lockerroom, dining, grill and kitchen facilities and the pro shop are excellent. On the second floor is an apartment for the professional and superintendent.

One thing at our club you don’t see often enough at other clubs in smaller towns and cities is adequate, well laid-out and well maintained parking space, with good lighting.

The club has been foresighted in its landscaping, planting pines 25 years ago and now having this planting fit into the course and landscape architecture as though the trees had been there forever. We also have a large Norway pine nursery from which the club sold trees last Christmas.

Under consideration are a swimming pool, tennis courts and a curling rink.

Membership Large, Active

With the lively spirit that prevails at the club and the inviting facilities it is no wonder that the club’s membership of 392 is the largest of any club in the Northwestern Wisconsin Golf Assn.

Local businesses are staunch and vigorous supporters of the club, with the Hardware Mutual Insurance Co. being especially active. The local Chamber of Commerce considers the club one of the many fine assets of the community.

Our president, M. H. Kraus, our green chmn., Bobby De Guire (who was club pro for 16 years), our Sports committee chmn., Nick Zei, and our Ladies’ committee head, Mrs. Dave Pfifner, have programs that keep the members continuously enjoying the club. Here the committees work as teams instead of letting a few carry the load.

When pros, course supts., and managers get together and compare notes on how they can aid the progress of their clubs they usually conclude that the main and first thing any club needs is money.

I can tell you after seeing the way the Stevens Point CC has developed recently that an enthusiastic and resolute club spirit is the primary need of any club. When the spirit is there the money comes.

BOOK REVIEW


This is a collaboration by Armour, Hogan, Snead and Middlecoff, with chapters from the books of each. Armour leads off by telling the reader why he (the reader) may hit good shots now and then but scores badly. The Armour advice on gearing one’s game to one’s capabilities has become a classic since Armour’s book was first published, two years ago. Then Armour handles the grip subject.

Hogan’s material is on the unity of the full swing which is properly started by the recoil from the forward press. Snead contributes instruction on how to get more distance, and adds a number of sound tips.

Middlecoff presents two excellent chapters; one on the use of the various clubs and the other a treatise on putting.

Phil Galvano writes on “The Psychology of Learning.” Gene Gregston describes what he believes to be “The Five Finest Rounds of Golf.” Gene Little, in the introduction, says “All of us on the pro circuit have learned a great deal from each of the four authors of this book.” And so will any other golfer studying this book.

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EDWARD P. BRADY, director of golf for the City of New York’s Dept. of Parks, is responsible for the care of ten courses that get the heaviest golf traffic of any group of courses in the world.

The courses handle around 700,000 rounds per year, and probably will hit a new high this year as Brady kept open one course in each borough all through the winter, instead of operating them on the usual April through November schedule. Dyker in Brooklyn, Clearview in Queens, Mosolu in the Bronx and La-Tourette in Richmond were kept open and no signs of undue damage have appeared. Brady got pretty near the mild winter he expected.

Robert Moses, New York’s commissioner of parks, long has been noted for getting good men and allowing them to handle their jobs to the utmost of their abilities and energy, without political interference. The park and golf course problems in New York are many and serious as the vast population must get recreation or go nutty. This means, of course, that on the New York courses the players outrank the turf in importance so Brady and his staff adjust themselves and their operations to conditions much more severe than face golf course maintenance organizations at private clubs. Considering the abuse the ten New York courses get they’re generally in remarkably good condition.

**Nursery and Soils Labs**

The golf division has an experimental nursery under the supervision of Bill Doyle where newer strains of grasses are tested and when found satisfactory are in numerous cases produced for use on the city’s courses and parks.

The department also has what started out as a soils testing laboratory, directed by Arthur E. Bartlett, and which now not only tests soils but has expanded greatly to become a general testing laboratory.

Brady was a civil engineer who got into golf work as supervisor, in charge of maintenance and operation of the 36 holes of the Pelham-Split Rock courses of the New York park dept. from 1936 to 1952. His interest and performance in golf course turf management received high recognition from his colleagues in this work by their election of him to the presidency of the N. Y.-Conn. Turf Improvement Assn. for two terms, and in his election to the vice presidency of the New York State Turf Assn.

In 1947, Bill Doyle, who had been supervisor at Mosholu, became Brady’s assistant at Pelham-Split Rock, and transferred from that post in November, 1953, to be Brady’s deputy in charge of turf.

Besides being Director of Golf Brady also is Director of Special Projects which includes New York City’s land reclamation program.

**New Course From Sea**

Under this program there will be reclaimed many thousands of acres of what now is tidal wasteland. At present, the site of the future Marine Park course in Brooklyn is being reclaimed. Bert Musser of Penn State, Jesse De France of Rhode Island, Fred Grau, Marshall Farnum and others well known as golf turf authorities, have been amazed at this job which involves the manufacture of synthetic topsoil, utilizing sewage sludge previously dumped into the sea.

The project in high gear utilizes about 2,000,000 gal. of sludge a week, sprayed on the area at the rate of 1000 gal. per minute.

New York’s municipal courses begin registering a half-hour before the starting time which, officially, is sunrise. Over the municipal radio station WNYC the length of waiting time on city golf courses is broadcast.

The New York program includes entertaining and instructing public course golfers with such films as “Keep ‘Em on the Fairway” and DuPont’s “Enemies of Fine Turf.”

Brady and his team are determined optimists in their policy of educating public course players to cooperate in keeping the courses in good condition for all. They want every player to enjoy the courses and continuously try to put across the idea that the effort to approximate private course conditions at New York’s ten public courses is a two-way deal requiring
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October, 1955
the players to act as intelligent golfers should—but often don’t.

The way the Brady staff looks at the problem is that it’s one of constant education, with so many new golfers continuously appearing on the scene. Players can’t be blamed if they’re not informed about what is expected of them on a golf course and this essential education isn’t to be effectively done by accenting “forbidden” details.

Diplomatic Education

An interesting way in which this attitude is put into action appears in some green areas. As at many other courses, golf carts have caused considerable damage to aprons of N. Y. public course greens.

This misuse of the carts was greatly reduced by signs similar to golf carts, erected in vicinity of affected areas.

These signs have one wheel of a golf cart at the bottom and a cart handle at the top. Instead of the bag there is a red board, the size of a bag, on which appears “Please Don’t Take Carts Upon Greens or Aprons.”

Equipment Use Wisely Planned

Equipment is a tremendous buying, operating and maintenance problem at the New York City courses. Due to heavy traffic mechanized maintenance is vital and operating schedules are tightly planned on a time basis. That’s not easy in anything involving weather, but Brady’s men do it astonishingly well.

Thomas F. Gilligan is the golf department’s director of mechanical equipment, and Frank Coughlin is supt. of automotive equipment. They see to it that all possible equipment to save operating expense and time in maintaining courses in satisfactory condition is available for the work, and that each piece of equipment is in correct order for operation on the job.

The New York City golf department management and operation is one that superintendents of private, public and semi-private courses in the east rate highly as demonstration of ably organized and conducted big business in a most difficult field of golf course maintenance.

New York City’s public course golfers naturally don’t realize what an enormous and demanding job it is to provide them with well-maintained courses, but other course superintendents do, and from their viewpoints say it’s one of the top performances in the great jobs done by the Bob Moses organization in providing and operating public recreation facilities.
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Seek "Fundamentals" In Teaching Methods

Les Bolstad, professional at the University of Minnesota, is very much of the opinion that the search for "fundamentals" in the golf swing should be paralleled by exploration for basic elements in teaching golf.

In teaching golf to university classes and in comparing notes with other teachers on the Minnesota faculty Bolstad has been directed to some conclusions he has presented to fellow professionals. Several of his conclusions apply especially to group instruction.

Professionals at university and college courses often have remarked to Golfdom's editor that their teaching has been greatly aided by teaching principles generally apply in education and which they have learned from men and women with whom they are associated on school staffs.

The outline that Bolstad sets forth as basic instruction elements he has found effective:

1. Developing a golf swing takes time. Whole learning speeds up the learning process. Work to a pattern. Stress pattern, movement, posture and getting set. Bring the details in later.

2. Group instruction inevitably leads to individual instruction within the group.

3. Group instruction offers a means of increasing pro revenue. You can charge more for the same time.

4. Much embarrassment disappears in groups when pupils see others having their troubles.

5. The group approach demands that you have a system which you explain over and over again.

6. The fact of individual differences shouldn't stop you from having a system and teaching plan of your own. Many individual differences take care of themselves. Some basic swing points help everyone.

7. Twenty golfers might as well hear your explanation and see your demonstration as well as one. There are certain elemental understandings every golfer needs.

8. Swing faults fall into a pattern. Some few wrong tendencies predominate and come up with great frequency. They are: (a) the slice which comes from the open clubface, (b) presenting the heel of the club to the ball, (c) the indirect backswing.

9. There is a great deal of repetition in group instruction as you make your telling points over and over. The individual problems provide the variety.

10. Habit breaking is one of the toughest problems. Some golfers tend to be habit bound; others, habit free. Before you can create a new swing habit you first have the break the old one.

11. The ability of the pupil to intelligently observe what goes on in a golf swing must be developed. This can be done in "correction sessions" where the group comes together. One golfer hits while the instructor interpolates and asks for constructive criticisms.

12. Habit formation should be one of your aims; in a golf swing you should relegate to habit as much as you can. This is where group drills come into the picture.

13. There is a language barrier. You have to learn to say each point in different ways so as to be sure to penetrate the understanding of your listener.

14. The same rules of learning which apply to the development of any motor skill apply likewise to the learning of a golf swing. An understanding of the principles of learning is as necessary as a knowledge of golf.

15. A forceful swing eventually looks easy if accompanied by the proper balance, an easy "let go" feeling in the body, and a rhythmic flow of motion.

16. The counter-clockwise exercise and the development in the swing which come from it are a necessity. You have to establish a control over the clubface. You have to know how to switch gears at the top of the swing.

17. A golf swing implies torso control. You can't develop a good swing on a poor base. Posture, body control, and correct body action are required assignments.