

Golf For the Undergraduate

How the University of Iowa provides this popular recreation in its curriculum of sports

By A. A. WIRT

GOLF for the undergraduate had its inception at the University of Iowa in 1923, with the opening of the first all-university course, Finkbine Field. Prior to that time college golf was a game for the talented few rather than for the aspiring many, and resolved itself largely into the building of teams for intercollegiate competition.

Under the direction of Charles Kennett, coach and greenkeeper at Iowa University, Iowa City, Iowa, the university constructed the first eighteen hole course open to any student, be he beginner, duffer or budding expert with a nodding acquaintance with Old Man Par. Beginning with a modest nine holes, the course was soon increased to eighteen, when Charles and William Finkbine, lumber merchants of Des Moines, donated a large tract of land for the purpose. Upon this tract, afterwards named "Finkbine Field," Kennett constructed one of the longest and sportiest courses in the middle-west, having a total yardage of 6,638.

Ground is Rolling and Hilly

THE contour of the ground is rolling and hilly, and lent itself readily to the laying out of a course having natural hazards as well as the usual man-made barriers. Kennett who was born in England, began his golfing career as a caddy at the Royal Eastbourne course. During his career in that country, he devoted his talents largely to course construction and maintenance. He had a hand in laying out twelve courses in England, and this experience and ability as a golf architect stood him

in good stead at the University of Iowa.

Charles Kennett has had a remarkable career. The oldest of a family of nine boys, six of whom are now professionals in the United States, and three playing as amateurs in England, Kennett at the age of twelve attracted the attention of Peter Paxton, who accepted him as an apprentice.

In 1894 he became assistant to Bob Munro at Old Deer Park, Richmond, Surrey; and in 1897 he became professional at the Willingdon Golf Club, Sussex. He was later professional at Hampstead Golf Club, London; at Luton Hoo, Bedfordshire; and at Faversham, Kent. In 1923 Kennett came to the United States, going to the Olympia Fields Country Club at Chicago.

Iowa Course Started in 1923

IT was in 1923 that the University of Iowa decided to put golf in its curriculum, and selected Kennett as the man capable of planning and laying out the course. Coach Kennett faced many obstacles in bringing golf into the fold of college sports, for the University of Iowa was the first great educational institution to adopt golf as an exercise for the garden variety of student.

Coach Kennett has been an untiring worker for the cause of golf. In addition to looking after the course, he coaches varsity teams and gives instruction to beginners as well as advanced players. He has helped to spread the idea of the small-town golf course, and frequently tours the country to plan small courses and to give instruction in the maintenance of grounds.



A GOLF CLASS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
Coach Kennett, lower left first row, has made golf a very important sport at Iowa