

Dear Fred,

Enclosed please find an article written in the Aurora Beacon-News, January 26, 1984. Phil Torza was abt more than "The Pro's Pro" as he was often referred to; I knew and worked with him for twenty six years and I must honestly say that he helped our profession as Superintendents equally as much. I would greatly appreciate you incorporating parts of this article into one of our **Bull Sheet** publications. As the title of this article states, Torza had it all together. I have seen no other words printed about "Phil" so I'm hoping we as Supts. could very nicely say a few parting words thanking him for all he has done for our profession too.

Thank you buddy.

Carl G. Hopphan

Torza had it all together

Nobody ran a golf tournament better than the late Felice J. (Phil) Torza.

Torza, the soft-spoken little gentleman who was head golf professional at the Aurora Country Club, left us two days before Christmas, another name on cancer's long list of victims. He ws 63.

If there is only one thing Torza will be remembered for, it's organization. The little Italian had it all together. His tournaments were run with such perfection, he often was called upon to give clinics for other golf pros.

Torza could not only put on a good tourney — he was an excellent teacher and a truly great player. Among his peers in the pro golf ranks, he was affectionately known as "The Pro's Pro."

Although only a little guy — he stood but 5-6 (and that's with golf spikes on while standing on concrete) — Torza could generate great distances off the tee on his drive. His fluid swing was as picturesque as Ted Williams taking a swing at a low fastball.

Torza's exploits as a golfer are well documented.

- Torza was a perennial member of the Illinois Radix Club Team, which is comprised of the 10 finest club playing pros in the state each year.
- He won the Illinois Open two times and twice won the Illinois Match Play title.
- He played in four U.S. Masters tournaments.
- In 1952 he was runnerup to Walter Burkemo in the National PGA tourney.
- In about 1969 he was the first-round leader in the Western Open.

Torza was a dapper man who was as organized in his appearance as he was in running club business. And he was quiet, although never at a loss for words. He was always very cordial and eager to help promote the club, or golf in general.

But Phil Torza will be missed. He has left a legacy of charm and excellence that will be hard to beat.

Excerpts from Aurora Beacon-News
Jan. 26, 1984 — by Gary Stutzman

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