

# "Keeping At It" Gives School Thrifty Golf

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**T**HERE are two reasons why the University Golf club, a nine-hole course on the University of Washington campus at Seattle, Washington, has suddenly gained a place in the public eye as one of the most economically run semi-private courses in the country.

That is, there are exactly two reasons for the club's phenomenal success as I see it, and as the club's professional for the past seven years I feel that I have a fairly accurate perspective.

First, the University Golf club members do not believe it to the best interests of the club to change officers every twelve months. In the seven years that I have been here, the club has had but two presidents, the second one having been re-elected each year for the past six years. And in all that time we have had one and the same chairman of the greens committee.

In other words, members of the University Golf club have figured, and wisely so, that if big business does not change its officers and board of trustees every twelve months why should a golf club that is trying just as hard to make money.

And second, the University Golf club, when it hired me, stipulated that I was to be a non-playing professional; that I was to look after the course and the members, but that I was to forget about my own golf score.

It didn't sound so good at first. But now that I look back on the past seven years and view the results, I am satisfied with the wisdom of that decision. In seven years since I have been here I have not once played around the course. But I have walked around it a thousand times supervising the construction work and maintenance and seeing to it that the money of the club members is being spent wisely and frugally.

## A Crowded Schedule

When any member comes to our club and asks to see the professional he is not told that the pro is out having a little game. He is on the job twenty-four hours of the

day. And that is almost literally true, because right now a good share of my nights are taken up with laying plans for the following day.

When I first assumed the duties of professional here I was engaged by the University to devote a part of my time to the instruction of girl students who are given credit in the university for their progress in golf. In the beginning there were but three classes of twenty girls each. Today I have seven classes—a total of 140 co-eds whom I meet and instruct for fifty minutes twice each week. Seven classes twice a week with fifty minutes to each class keeps me busy twelve hours a week.

Just recently University authorities announced that beginning next summer boys' classes will be given me for instruction.

In my teaching I lay the greatest emphasis on the action of the shoulders. There has been altogether too much talk about keeping the head down and the eye on the ball. Keeping the head down is all well enough, but if it is emphasized that the shoulders must be kept down then the head can't do otherwise.

I am a strong believer in stressing the underneath action with both shoulders—that is, keeping the shoulders underneath the chin on the backswing and on the follow through. If a student's shoulders are working right underneath, his head is going to stay still. And if his right shoulder stays down underneath his chin on the follow through he can't come up on his toes. If I can keep my students balanced until they hit the ball, then let the club-head pull the body to the left so that the right shoulder will windup over the top of the left foot, then all is well.

As regards iron play, I am a great believer in shoving the head of the club toward the flag on the follow through.

## Club Is Unique

When the University of Washington was established on its present site on the shore of Lake Washington, a number of acres of the large campus were set aside for the express purpose of developing a golf course

for students and faculty. Dean Milnor Roberts of the University laid out the course, but it was a very much run down course when the world war came along as the University had not sufficient funds to maintain it.

When the United States entered the war the course was taken over by the government for the establishment of a naval training station. And after the war was over it was returned to the University golfers who with difficulty were able to recognize the scarred face of the borrowed child.

Realizing that money was needed to lay out the course anew—more money than the University was able to give—officials of the institution decided to invite the downtown business men of Seattle to go in "halvers" with them on the proposition. And this resulted in the unique position now held by the University Golf club among other golfing organizations of the country.

In eight years there has taken place a metamorphosis that even the most optimistic golfer in the University at the time of the war would not have dared to predict.

### Financial Set-Up

Now there are 220 downtown business men enrolled in the membership of the club, the maximum number set by the by-laws, and there are sixty-five on the waiting list. The initiation fee is but \$50 and the dues \$3.00 a month—the cheapest golf to be obtained at any semi-private club in the entire Northwest.

On top of this there are students and faculty members, the students of the University limited to 90, the faculty unlimited. On the board of trustees are five faculty members and four of the downtown business men, the faculty always having the deciding vote.

Faculty members are given their golf for the nominal sum of \$10 a year and the students approximately \$20 a year.

The students are divided into three classes. Thirty play three days a week for \$3.00 a school quarter which is equal to about 10 weeks. Another 30 play on the alternate three days in the week for a similar time and amount. The remaining 30 are allowed to play five and one-half days a week (Saturday afternoon and Sunday excepted) for \$5.00 a quarter. In this way the students are getting their golf at the rate of ten cents a day.

Besides this fall and spring champion-

ships are conducted by the students from which a ten-man varsity golf team is selected and these ten are allowed to play throughout the year with no expense.

Of course it can be seen readily that in a university of over 7,000 students many times 90 would like to take advantage of this unusual opportunity to get their golf at such a nominal cost. But with a nine-hole course a limit must be set somewhere and so the first 90 to sign up after school opens are the ones accepted.

But the Associated Students of the University through their graduate manager, Darwin Meisnest, are going to provide in the near future for those other 6,910 students—that is, the ones from that number who wish to satisfy their golfing desires.

On the campus adjacent to the University Golf club and bordering on Lake Washington are a number of acres of swampy land which Mr. Meisnest has decided if drained would make a splendid course. By purchasing 20 additional acres the University now has room for twenty-seven more holes on the campus. Work of clearing has already commenced and by 1930 this institution will have a thirty-six hole course on its campus.

The University Golf club has a greens fee at present of fifty cents in the mornings, \$1 in the afternoons and \$2 on Saturdays and Sundays. Last year \$30,000 was spent on improvements to the clubhouse, construction and maintenance of the course. The normal outlay, however, is only about \$12,000 a year, while \$19,000 annually comes into the treasury. Of this amount \$11,000 is averaged from green fees, \$7,200 from the dues of downtown members and about \$810 from students.

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McWane Cast Iron Pipe Co., Birmingham, Ala., has issued a new catalog on its precalced joint cast iron pipe and fittings which will be sent on request to those concerned with golf course water supply.

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### An Expert's Idea on a Moot Topic

“**P**ROPRIETARY remedies with the directions on the container are handy on a golf course or any other busy place, whereas buying the ingredients and mixing them yourself to save a little money does not pay in the long run.”