

## SPORT STATISTICIAN SHOWS AGAIN

# Golf Outdraws Baseball

### WITH YEARLY LEAD INCREASING

PROFESSIONAL golf may have its troubles, but are nothing compared with those of professional baseball, as the last world's series clearly revealed. Great glee was registered by many of the meek and lowly in fandom when the failure of the world's series to go the limit entailed the clerical expense of a ticket refund and thus visited poetic justice on the magnates who figured that by making the fans buy three tickets instead of allotting one game's tickets separately they would be able to reduce the office expense of handling the ticket sale. Due to this naive plan the baseball barons worked out to "meet the wishes of all our friends" many of the fans in the hinterland who like to visit the big cities and get a slant at the world's series spectacle were denied any sort of a chance of getting to see a game. The allotment by draw brought forth such sights as a Chicago store window decorated with rain checks indicating attendance at many Cub games, together with the acknowledgment card expressing the Cub's regret at being unable to give this patron any favorable action on his world's series ticket application. The sardonic and reformed baseball fan labeled his wonder display "The Reward of a Fan."

Difficulty experienced by Hans Wagner, eminent player of yesteryear, in getting into the Athletic park was given national and unpleasant publicity. To those entrusted with the management of golf's public affairs the handling of the last world's series is practically an encyclopedia of what not to do. But, what does it matter? As a Chicago newspaper columnist commented after the last game at Philadelphia, it's just as well there wasn't another world's series game played at Chicago for, if the day was any good, all the fans would be out playing golf.

#### Golf Lead Increases

That this wise crack had some justification in fact is obvious in the story by Harland Rohm, golf editor of the *Chicago Tribune*. Turning statistician for the moment, the *Tribune's* red-headed golf-writer

compares golf and baseball play figures and shows a major league baseball attendance for the year in Chicago of two and a quarter million against six million rounds of golf played during the season in the Chicago district. Rohm's findings:

"The gate, which at one time was the sole concern of promoters and participants in professional sport, has come to interest even the casual fans. Those gates grow bigger and bigger, yet golf outgrows them all. A recent check of baseball attendance in the major leagues showed that more rounds of golf were played through the season than fans attended baseball games. Yet that bare statement only tells half of the truth.

#### Ten Courses Draw 705,498.

"The Cubs, National League champions, set an all time record for drawing power in Chicago in the last season in Chicago. In their 77 home games the Cubs drew 1,485,000 fans, far more than any other club in the league ever have had enter the park gates in a season.

"Contrast that with golf and the result is amazing. According to figures compiled by Frederick Rex, librarian of the municipal reference library of Chicago, 705,498 persons played golf on the ten municipal and forest preserve courses in 1928. Figures for this season are not yet available.

"Chicago has about 50 municipal and daily fee golf courses and about 140 private courses. In other words one-twentieth of the golf courses drew half as many persons in the course of a season as the winning ball club drew.

#### 3,500,000 Play Fee Courses.

"Naturally, such a limited comparison as this is unfair for the municipal courses get heavier play than private clubs, and there is the addition of the American League fans who watch the White Sox through the season. But the White Sox hardly drew 750,000, which means a total of 2,250,000 'gate' at major league baseball.

"The fifty daily fee courses would be but little short of the forest preserve courses in drawing power, so an average of 70,000 per course would mean

3,500,000 rounds of golf played on the pay as you play basis.

"Added to that are the members of private clubs and their guests. According to the estimates formed from checking play at various private clubs the average would be more than 20,000 rounds on each course in a season. These figures are put on a basis of courses rather than clubs, for the multiple course clubs naturally would have much heavier play. On the 130 clubs a fair estimate of 2,600,000 rounds of golf seems conservative at least and probably low.

#### Play 6,000,000 Rounds.

"In other words, two major league ball clubs in Chicago drew barely more than 2,000,000 fans to their games in their heaviest season. In the same season more than 6,000,000 rounds of golf were played.

"Other cities only serve to make these estimates more emphatic. Exact figures are available only for the 1928 municipal courses, which in most cases means less than one-tenth of the total play. Detroit had 264,219 rounds of golf on municipal courses, Cleveland 164,876, Washington, D. C., 283,742 and even Milwaukee 258,922.

"Just as a sidelight 20,000 rounds on a course in a season is probably far short of the real total rounds played. Yet on that average the United States played 120 million rounds of golf last year."

## Ohio and Illinois Spur P. G. A. Work

By Herb Graffis

WITH the advent of the lull in golfing activities there comes the time given over by the leading minds in professional ranks to the problems and promises revealed by the recent season.

Two of the P. G. A. sections in particular are coming to the front of the stage with aggressive and deliberate plans for pushing pro progress. The Ohio P. G. A., which with more than 100 Class A members, stands as one of the strongest of the pro groups, has taken a stand for \$50 annual dues with the idea of getting a pro commissioner financed so adequate and expert attention may be given to the multitudinous details of the pro organization's activities. Even with policies that are sound and foresighted the pros generally are up against the serious difficulty of lack of clerical facilities necessary to

handle the P. G. A. contacts and keep the boys acquainted with the plans and developments of national and state bodies. The individual professional's business organization unfortunately has no stenographer available. The business man in other lines would be lost without one to handle the mechanics of his correspondence but the pros have struggled manfully despite this handicap.

To this writer's way of thinking, the pros are overlooking this lack of clerical facilities as one of the serious drags on their combined advancement. It seems a ridiculously simple factor to be given so much importance but consideration will confirm the opinion. As the Ohio case shows, the professionals are not adverse to financing an organization that has a definite program and gives some substantial promise of substantial results.

The Illinois P. G. A. has launched an ambitious program for the year's administration of the newly elected president, Jim Carberry. The retiring president, Laurie Ayton, and the secretary of his administration, Jim Meehan, who carried over to the Carberry regime as a vice president, spotted the lack of clerical facilities as a besetting evil endangering the P. G. A. ambitions and proposed to the publishers of *GOLFDOM* that they handle these details of the Illinois P. G. A. operations according to decisions made by the executive committee of the association. Carberry, Ed Gayer, the new secretary and Al Espinosa, who with Jim Wilson is a vice president of the new administration, have had good acquaintance with the workings of the southern California professional band. They have great admiration for the way that Willie Hunter and his coadjutors conduct pro operations out there and have resolved to take some pages out of the *Sunkist* book and to show their winter associates some speed.

At the Illinois annual meeting the boys debated increasing the dues to \$27.50 a year to defray the expenses of the new plans. It is expected that even less than this amount will handle a lively state campaign, according to the estimate of expenses presented by *GOLFDOM*'s publishers, who are contributing their services without cost to the association.

It is basic in the Illinois plan that the standard of membership be quality. There will be no sacrifice of the membership eligibility requirements in the drive for new members.