

# Build Up Pro Standing With Instruction Uniformity

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**F**OR THE protection of our profession and its high standing, it is absolutely necessary that we eliminate from our ranks the man who is without teaching knowledge and ability and has no right to the title "professional." We must make certain that we are represented only by the highest type of professional, with all of the qualifications necessary to make him a first class teacher and a specialist in every department of the profession.

Merely because they play a fairly good game some men will call themselves "professionals" and apply for a position as such, when they are in no way qualified to teach or handle the other duties of a professional. It is regrettable that they are often successful in securing such positions. It is not long, however, before their members realize how little they know and lose confidence in them. Unfortunately, such an experience tends to shake the confidence of a player in the profession in general. Every one of us knows a number of so-called professionals who are every day doing their bit to create a feeling of mistrust and shatter the confidence of the golfing public in the entire profession. It is quite alarming to think what the result would be if such a situation were allowed to continue.

## Justify Pupils' Confidence

It seems to me that our only salvation lies in our Association sponsoring a movement to standardize teaching so that PGA members hereafter would be looked upon as thoroughly trained, competent teachers, and golfers who are interested in improving their game would consider it as unsafe to consult or receive instructions from anyone but a PGA member as we would to consult a doctor or dentist with no training or knowledge of his profession other than he picked up in daily practice. It is true that golf is merely a game, but it is played for recreation and exercise, both of which are vitally important to

health and well-being. When a player consults a professional he pays for the services rendered, just as he pays fees to his doctor, dentist or lawyer, and he expects and is entitled to receive advice and assistance based on thorough knowledge of every phase of the game, which can only be gained by intensive study and training.

When a player seeks the aid of a professional, pays for his services and then finds that the said professional knows no more about the game than the average golfer, he feels, and rightly so, that he has wasted both his time and money and will hesitate about seeking further assistance from any professional and probably never does so again, merely struggling along and missing the satisfaction which comes from playing the game well. We all know a number of golfers who do not give the professional credit for having sufficient knowledge and ability to help them. While a great many of such people are the type who can never be satisfied or pleased, in many cases, however, such opinion is based on an actual unsatisfactory experience.

I believe that our Association should strive to raise the standard of the pro who stays on the job by building up his reputation as a teacher, particularly now when his volume of shop business has been so reduced that he is being forced to depend on his teaching for a great part of his income. This can only be accomplished by making available to every PGA member a standardized method of teaching, worked out along the most modern and scientific lines and incorporating the methods of the country's best teachers. When this has been done, no professional need lack a thorough and complete knowledge of the best in tried and proven teaching methods.

## Teaching Plan

I have given the matter a great deal of thought and have come to the conclusion that such standardized method can best

be worked out by a group organized as follows:

Each Section represented in our Association to select from among its members a professional who is considered the outstanding teacher and on whom it can rely to ably represent it and contribute some valuable knowledge and theories to the perfection of the selected method. This will give us the benefit of the experiences with proven methods of 25 of the best qualified teachers throughout the country. We could not very well permit just a few chosen professionals to pass on and select a teaching method to be adopted as a standard one by our Association for the reason that the few thus chosen would be subject to accusations of favoritism, whereas, by permitting each Section to have a voice in selecting the theories and method to be adopted, such accusations and any adverse criticism may be foregone. It is natural for all of us to feel that we have a tremendous amount of knowledge and ability, and we like to feel that we are outstanding teachers in our respective sections, but for the good of the profession let us be open-minded in this matter.

### Consult with Others

Each sectional president could call a special meeting for the purpose of selecting representative teachers, at which meeting the members could also select an outstanding doctor in their section who would be willing to contribute to this cause his knowledge as to the benefits derived by the body from playing the game, the muscles used in swinging and how these benefits are increased when using the correct swing and playing the game as taught by a capable professional.

It may also add to the effectiveness of this plan and aid in working out a sound, constructive teaching method to secure, in addition to the services of the doctors, the services of a few engineers to advise on the physics of the game.

It seems to me that it would be quite possible to work out successfully a plan along the lines outlined above. Bear in mind that we cannot afford to go into this thing and cause controversy over the various methods suggested. If we select and receive the benefit of the knowledge, experience and ideas of 25 of the country's foremost teachers, giving each Section the opportunity to have the theories and methods of its own representative incorporated in the method finally worked out

and decided upon, there should most certainly be no room for criticism or complaint. Any method devised and considered sound and efficient by such a representative group cannot help being as near perfect as it is possible to conceive.

In my opinion, the most valuable, important and practical step that the PGA could take at this time would be to improve the quality of teaching, as it would benefit all golf club members by giving them the advantage of the best teaching knowledge available and, when this fact becomes known and the golfing public is assured that when they apply to a PGA member for instructions the methods used will be those devised and used by the country's best teachers, only then will confidence in the professional be restored and our teaching show a tremendous increase.

### Confusion at Present

I do not wish to infer that the golfing public is not receiving the proper instructions, but the methods used are so diversified that they tend to confuse the average golfer. Most golfers are ambitious and desirous of improving their game by learning as much about it as possible and when they meet they compare the methods used by their respective professionals. Then the player who is not doing so well begins to doubt the ability of his teacher.

I believe that every professional has adopted the particular method he is now using because he feels that it is the right one and that it has sufficient merit to warrant its use, but if the methods of doctors, dentists and other professional men varied as widely as those used by the golf professionals, we would have little or no confidence in them and their ability.

Golf, of course, is a game and the work of a golf professional is entirely different than that of a doctor or dentist, but nevertheless this variance of teaching methods is undoubtedly confusing to the golfer who is unable to stay with one professional. If every golfer could remain with the professional who started him off, providing this professional is ambitious, has a thorough knowledge of teaching and loves his work, there would be little need for making an effort to standardize teaching. But as we all know, this is seldom if ever the case.

During my teaching experience I have found no two teachers who use exactly the same methods throughout. Of course,

it must be remembered that the success of teaching depends a great deal on the professional's personality and his ability to impart his knowledge so that the pupil will grasp it readily. A professional may have a thorough knowledge of the fundamental principles of teaching but, due to no fault of his own, he may not have the personality or ability to impart such knowledge. This is something which is hard to overcome but is true in very few instances. However, a standardized method of teaching should greatly assist such professionals as the correct manner of presentation will be outlined in the compilation of the method.

Summed up, my thoughts are as follows: That the formulating of a standardized teaching method, based on sound, logical, proven principles and worked out by a group such as I have proposed, will do more to raise the professional's value to his club and in the eyes of the public than anything yet attempted. Our profession should rate just as high a place as any other profession, but we can only attain such position and demand the respect which our profession merits by making sure that every member is a golf professional in every sense of the word, with thorough knowledge of every phase of the game and with the ability to impart such knowledge to his "golf patients" in a sound and efficient manner.

After all, it is our business to stimulate interest in the game of golf and the first step is to create a feeling of confidence among those desiring to learn to play the game correctly, by assuring them that they will receive the proper instruction from a professional who is a PGA member. We should also impress upon the public that in addition to the recreation and good fellowship involved in the game, golf is a great aid to body-building and good health.

The golf professional should and will be recognized as the creator of new golfers if he keeps the above thoughts in mind and supports this movement.

### Club House Organ Boosts Pro Who Builds Club

**F**AIRWAY FANCIES, the club magazine of the Wood Hill G. C., Kansas City, Mo., is a breezy, interesting four-page affair that has a lot of personal items, general club news and build-up of club spirit.

The house organ gives the club's able

pro, Wolf Rimann, a helping hand. One reason why Wolf is in so strong with his members is because he is active in getting members and building up the club. The following item, clipped from *Fairway Fancies*, shows how this mutual welfare operation is working:

S. O. S.

It is just a bloody shame that it takes money to operate a golf club. Something should be done about it even if it is necessary to amend the economic laws. The darn thing always intrudes and takes the joy out of life. But the fact remains that until something is done we must cope with the problem of getting enough income to match the outgo. Good results have been accomplished in the membership drive during the last month but we still need more members and, to state it specifically, we need the help of each and every member of the club. This is your club and we appeal to you to help put it on a sound financial basis by building up the membership. If you have not done so already talk to your non-member golfing friends, bring them out to play the course and introduce them to Professional Rimann who will be glad to point out to them the many advantages of joining Wood Hill.

### G. B. LEWIS CO. WINS BALL WASHER DECISION

Watertown, Wis.—G. B. Lewis Company, golf ball washer manufacturers, recently won an important decision in the U. S. District Court of Southern California, whereby it was found that the defendants, Messrs. Henry H. Fehrenschild and Ray A. Minkler, had infringed on a claim of the Mollart patent the Lewis company controls. This claim refers to the wooden paddle, with oval beveled slot, having a thickness less than the diameter of the ball.

Decision will give Lewis dealers protection against price cutting, imitation of product, etc.

### HANDI-PACK IS LATEST GOLF TEE PACKAGE

Madison, Wis.—The latest packaging idea for golf tees is now being introduced to players and pros by the Handi-Pack Co., 14 S. Roby Road. Device consists of a small cardboard disk into the margin of which nine wooden tees have been cleverly inserted. The whole pack is small enough to fit easily in shirt or trouser pocket and is said to eliminate fumbling for loose tees. A short piece of string and a brass fastener permits women to carry the disk suspended from the golf bag. Retail price is 2 packs for 15 cents.