

# BOOSTS SCHOOL GOLF

## Pro Pioneer Work Followed by New Book for Instruction

ONE PHASE of the PGA plan for uniformity in golf instruction that has not received much mention is the growing possibility that golf may become a standard subject in grammar and high schools as well as in colleges. The responsibility for correctly starting youngsters on the road to golf is one that the pros must assume. A study of instruction methods therefore becomes a general problem for pro golf.

There is an argument among the pros over the chances of establishing uniform instruction methods. It seems manifestly impossible to apply one method of instruction for individual cases, but the necessity of teaching classes, which looms as a result of the growth of golf in schools, is going to call for some approved and uniformly satisfactory method of group instruction. However, for group or individual instruction the main job of the PGA is aptly described by the organization's secretary as that of supplying uniformly good instructors rather than a uniform instruction method.

One of the most recent instances of successful group instruction done by the pros who have been trail-blazing for golf's general adoption in schools has been that done by Al Houghton, pro at Kenwood G&CC, Bethesda, Md. Al tutored the championship Georgetown university team which developed from the class instruction he gave at that institution. The work was so well done and so favorably received by the pupils that there is a move afoot to make golf instruction a required detail of the athletic curriculum in the public schools of the District of Columbia.

Houghton's method is to treat all pupils as beginners at the start of the series of class lessons. He grounds them in the fundamentals and the reasons. After he has had an opportunity to discover the most apt pupils he divides the entire group into two or three classes according to ability.

It is Houghton's belief that the present objection that expense handicaps the widespread introduction of golf into schools is something that could be handled

easily by concerted work of pros and golf enthusiasts in each community. The expense he does not consider as much of a handicap to leap. Canvas backstops are adequate, with a few mats, when the pupils have progressed far enough to hit the ball. Clubs he believes can be supplied by an organized effort to retire surplus or obsolete clubs from established players' service, either as outright gifts or by allowances on new sets, in which case the traded-in sets will be sold at low prices to the youngsters.

In this teaching development of a sport that retains its value to pupils over a long period of years, foresighted professionals see a promising opportunity for partially solving the winter unemployment problem of the pros in central and northern states.

### New Book on Group Teaching

That golf instruction by classes in schools and at public playgrounds is advancing swiftly is evident from the forthcoming publication by A. S. Barnes & Co., New York, of *Group Golf Instruction*, by Helen B. Schleman.

The Schleman book is elementary and is intended for physical culture instructors. It is an excellent job of its kind. Miss Schleman has tackled a task that probably is tougher than she imagines, that of teaching golf by type, to beginners who must in turn instruct other beginners. But the pros wish her well for the book undoubtedly is going to bring a number of athletic instructors to competent pros as students. The book is written specifically for those who have to handle group instruction of girls, which is another tip-off to the rapidly growing market among women golfers. The author mentions that the old ideas of expense in individual golf instruction and in the cost of playing no longer should handicap the extension of golf. She says:

"It is the realization that much of the golf that now is being taught to high school and college women is being taught by regular physical education instructors, who in no way claim to be expert golfers or expert golf teachers—and the thought that it is highly desirable to have the golf taught as a regular physical education activity by a regular staff member, providing it can be competently taught this way—prompts the organization and writing of this book."

Miss Schleman also says: "Many people hesitate to include golf in their programs

because of a scarcity of equipment, although the equipment may be no more plentiful for the other activities which they do offer. Taking turns using the golf equipment is, perhaps, less hard on the interest and spirit of a youngster, if learning to play golf is what she wants, than waiting to touch the one volleyball or basketball in a large class may be. Further usefulness of the skill acquired would seem to outweigh present inconvenience of scarcity of equipment."

In a number of instances Miss Schleman refers to the wisdom of enlisting pro golfer aid, and proves that she means it by a statement on the title page of the book, where she acknowledges the aid received from Virginia Hayes, pro at Arcadia Brook GC, Kalamazoo, Mich. Miss Hayes verified all technical facts in the Schleman treatise.

For Miss Schleman's pioneering book the pros, we dare say, are happy to give the little gal a hand.

## HOT-SHOTS HUDDLE

### Tournament Players Discuss Code, Conduct, Schedules and Costs

**B**ETWEEN 50 and 60 of the leading tournament pros sat in at the New Colonial hotel, Washington, D. C., Nov. 11, with George Jacobus, PGA president; Bob Harlow, tournament bureau manager and Horton Smith, tourney players' front man, on the platform.

The players' code governing conduct of the tournament players was approved. The newspaper comment on the anti-profanity item of the code turned out to be off-side chatter as the lads ruled out that clause, considering it covered by the first responsibility of the tournament player, conduct becoming a gentleman.

Players decided to enforce their self-made tournament code by disciplinary action, ranging from suspension from tournaments to expulsion, depending on the judgment of a committee of the PGA. This code will affect all players whether or not PGA members, inasmuch as it is in the interests of clubs and other interests conducting the events, the galleries and the good of the game.

Announcement was made of the Radix trophy, a new prize to be given the play-

er with the best medal score throughout the tournament schedule. The trophy is donated by Harry Radix, wealthy Chicago goldsmith, president of the Chicago District Golf Assn., and a guardian angel of pros.

One thing that the boys agreed on was to adhere strictly to the regulations governing tournaments as set up by organizations staging the affairs. If there are legitimate complaints against some of the rulings, these are to be settled by the PGA representative with representatives of the organization sponsoring the tournaments and not to be individually settled.

There was a discussion of the 1933 summer schedule which was hard on the boys because of the time they were kept away from their clubs for the home and foreign major events. The boys all were conscious of their duties to their clubs and the necessity of staying on the job to make some money during the busy part of the season.

Announcement was made privately that the PGA 1934 tournament would be in Buffalo, but public announcement was withheld for a later release by the Buffalo Junior Chamber of Commerce to the newspapers.

Arguments were set forth on the code clause prohibiting free equipment to any tournament players other than those on the staffs of various manufacturers. Some of the boys who hoe around in tournaments to make up the field and seldom hit in the prize money requested Jacobus to ask that free balls for their tournament play be provided in the code. The other side of the debate was that pro business received about \$1,200,000 guarantee of increased business from the code as it stood, which was a deal that justified the surrender of free golf balls for tournaments, these balls not being edible.

Al Houghton, pro at Kenwood where the Capital City Open was being played, told of the work and risk a club undertakes when it puts on an event. Houghton was a prime-mover in establishing this event which this year made money but which always has given the club valuable advertising.

Clarence Clark and Bob Harlow discussed the need of the troupers stopping at the same hotel in each tournament city so rates might be obtained. The Colonial hotel house physician brought the boys back into shape to continue the meeting after they heard that some of the California tournaments had put on a rap of \$2 a round for caddie fees at their tour-