



They showed the Texas amateurs that pro golf remains superior. Back row, left to right—Scheider, Estep, Nabholtz, Aulbach (captain), Maguire, and Hogan. Front row—Grout, McGonagill, Penick (president Texas PGA), Lynch, and Ross

Texas Pro Team Gives Playing Lesson to Star Amateurs

TEXAS PROS can be counted on to explode smart fireworks when the need arises. With the National Open Championship in the possession of an amateur and the Texas amateurs all hotter than a seat-waving tropical heat wave, there was some license for the rank and file of Texas golfers to entertain the belief that as players the Lone Star pros were second to their amateurs. That belief is an insidious one, knocking down the lesson business.

For the good of golf the mistaken thought that the pros were not so hot had to be eliminated. Texas did it.

One of the prominent Texas pros is George Aulbach who graduated into pro ranks from amateur golf in Massachusetts. How the Texas operation worked is told by Aulbach. He says:

For the past few years the amateur golfers of Texas have been scoring brilliantly. Their record-breaking scores and tournament records have given them such newspaper publicity that the general golfing public have been led to believe the professionals were second-raters as far as playing was concerned. Conditions became so serious that a pro exhibition foursome could draw only a handful while the amateurs

could attract a large gallery. The pro prestige was in a bad slump.

The Texas PGA went into a huddle on this matter and decided to challenge the amateurs to a team match. The amateurs jumped at the opportunity of licking the pros and a ten-man team with two alternates was selected from all sections of the state under the leadership of Gus Moreland. The championship Brookhollow course of Dallas, measuring over 6,700 yards, was selected for the event. Five foursome matches were on schedule for the morning while ten single matches made up the afternoon program. The idea of bringing together probably for the first time in golfing history an amateur team against a professional team created immense enthusiasm over the entire state. The event was very appropriately named the Texas Cup matches and a handsome cup donated for the occasion. Each player on the two teams received a specially designed gold medal emblematic of the event. This classic also had the approval of the USGA as the ticket sale was given to charity.

Rah, Rah, Die for Dear Old PGA

The pros arrived on the morning of the

event in a rather grandstand style, dressed in white slip-over sweaters on which appeared a blue star lettered in red "Texas Pro Team." Captain George Aulbach gathered the boys together much in the fashion of a football squad and gave the final instructions. The pros were the underdogs, as all newspapers made the amateurs 10 to 7 favorites to win with ease.

The amateur lineup was as follows: Gus Moreland, fifth ranking amateur in the country and Trans-Mississippi and Texas champion; Charles L. Dexter, former Texas champion; Renolds Smith, Dallas City champion; Dennis Lavender, former state champion; Leland Hamman who led the amateurs in the national sectional qualifying test; Jack Jackson Southwestern champion; Louis Nowlin, longest hitter in the state and winner of several invitation tournaments; O'Hara Watts, twice Southwest intercollegiate champion; Gibson Payne, runner-up in Dallas city title event; W. R. Long, qualifier in the national amateur; Bud McKinney who last year led the entire country in the sectional qualifying test for the national amateur; and Peyton Slade, a Dallas star.

The pro lineup, without reputations, was: Francis Scheider, Dallas; Larry Nabholz, Dallas; Francis McGonagill, Dallas; Graham Ross, Dallas; Howard Estep, Dallas; Levi Lynch, Dallas; Ben Hogan, Fort Worth; Jack Grout, Fort Worth; Byron Nelson, Texarkana; Willie Maguire, Houston; Harvey Penick, Austin, and George Aulbach, Dallas.

Before a large gallery the amateur team took a sound licking and lesson from the pros in the art of fine shot-making. The amateurs won only three matches, the final count being 12 to 3.

Rebuilding Instruction Business

It strikes GOLFDOM that the Texas event was especially significant as a constructive influence in rebuilding pro instruction business.

Since the Women's National and National Amateur tournaments of last year we have been wondering why the newspaper sports commentators haven't had words to say on the manifestly superior golf of the women, practically all of whom were steady and conscientious patients of pro instruction. Most of the male amateur contestants were hot enough in their localities to develop a bland disregard for pro instruction and checkup, with the result that some of the spottiest golf ever shot

over American terrain was grunted out. Dunlap, the winner, was an example of what pro instruction steadily administered does in maintaining a consistently sound game.

Games of many of the other contestants went to pieces like a dime store toy at 10 a. m. Christmas morning.

Heart Attack Kills J. M. Lontz, President of F. & N.

JOHAN M. LONTZ, president of the F. & N. Lawn Mower Co., Richmond, Ind., died in his home shortly after noon on Dec. 11, of heart disease. Death was unexpected, as Mr. Lontz had been in his office that morning, apparently in his usual health. He was 71 years of age, and is survived by his widow, Magdalene Petty Lontz, and one son, Harry Russell Lontz.

For almost 30 years, Mr. Lontz was an official of the F. & N. organization. He joined it in 1904 as its secy.-treas., and nine years later was advanced to the presidency, a post he held until his death.

U. S. RUBBER HAS NEW BALLS AS 1934 FEATURES

Providence, R. I.—The United States Rubber Co. golf ball line for 1934 has three 75c balls, the "Three Star," "444" and the standard "Royal"; the "Fairway" at 50c, the "Nobby" at three for \$1 and the "Tiger" for 25c.

The "Three Star Royal," Ed Conlin, US ball sales chief, maintains has more distance with its new paste center, taped by a new method and wound with two types of new threads, giving more compactness and resiliency. This ball, Ed says, is a distance ball that will make them blink. The "444" is a tougher ball, but has distance. Its construction differs from the "Three Star" in having a thicker cover and less tension in the winding.

Standard Royal construction remains the same for the people who swear by it and don't want it monkeyed with for several miles more distance or toughness, enabling it to be played all thru the season.

The "Fairway," which Conlin says is the largest selling 50c ball, has a new center, high-grade thread winding, durable cover and the same finish and paint job as on the higher priced balls.

The "Nobby" is a tough-hided ball, wound with grade-A thread, and well finished. The "Tiger" is two bits of golf ball for competitive purposes and makes it possible for the relief laborers to play after living expenses are paid.