

Golfdom

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Art Saunders, pro at Edgewater Golf (winter) and Maxwellton Braes (summer), tutors the lassies of Gulf Park (Miss.) college. A girls' school without golf instruction cannot boast of being thorough these days. The condition augurs well for golf's future.

Workers and School Kids Get Golf Lessons as City's Service

CINCINNATI'S Public Recreation Commission is going at this problem of municipal golf from a new angle not used generally, but one which will enlist hundreds of new golfers and further dispel the idea that golf is primarily a rich man's pastime.

There are three chief divisions of the new "angle" being tried: absolutely free golf lessons in schools and industry, lowering of prices to within the reach of very modest incomes, and an intensive newspaper campaign of education in conjunction with the Cincinnati *Post*, one of the Scripps-Howard chain.

C. O. Brown, Supervisor of Athletics of the Public Recreation Commission, be-

lieves that it is necessary to make a new activity easy to participate in and is taking the golf lessons right to potential players.

Both public and parochial schools have practically thrown open their high schools. Eight weekly group lessons for about 20 in each class are given right in the gymnasium during school hours, the students being permitted to give up one study bell a week for their golf lesson. Where gymnasium space is not available, lessons are given immediately after school.

The same method is in operation in several large Cincinnati industries. No publicity has been given the plan as yet, but simply through word of mouth advertising

the idea has become so generally known that the commission's golf professional, "Red" Strauss, was swamped with requests for after-work classes that could not be accommodated, and an assistant, Willis Headley, has been engaged.

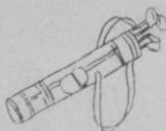
Cincinnati has had but one municipal course, a very sporty but short 18-hole layout of less than 5,000 yards. Until the depression it has been overrun with golfers at a basic membership for unlimited season play of \$20 for men and \$10 for women. Now those amounts have been sliced \$5, and a new course, about 6,350 yards in length and expected to be one of the finest courses in the entire section, will offer nine holes early in the summer, and the additional nine later in the summer, so more playing space will be available for public link golfers.

Pro Credited with Success

The success of the program is undoubtedly due in some measure to the popularity of the pro teacher. Robert Strauss, better known as "Red," holds a flock of Cincinnati course records, was pro champion in 1933, runner-up in 1932, failed to qualify for the finals in the National Open by two strokes last year (his first big time tournament) and is rated one of the longest drivers in the country. "Red" is in his early '20s, has a host of friends in Cincinnati and is sold on this method of promotion rather than that of direct solicitation of membership.

He loads a flock of clubs, mats for protecting floors, cotton golf balls, himself and his assistant into his faithful gas buggy and whizzes away to the schools every day, returning tired but enthusiastic for his industrial classes at five in the evening. Not being a school teacher, "Red" was somewhat staggered by the size of his classes at first, but now could give many school teachers pointers.

He says it is the first time he has ever had a chance to teach golf as he wanted, starting with putting and working up to the longer clubs, as he is convinced instruction should go. The carrot-top thinks that frequently after a potential player smashes a couple of balls very far regardless of accuracy, he becomes bitten by the bug for distance, and spends the rest of his life trying to outdrive the other fellow. "Red" is trying to get rid of that idea right at the start by emphasizing the value of accuracy.



EXTRÉ EXTRÉ //

FREE GOLF LESSONS
NOTHING TO SET
NOTHING TO FURNISH
NOTHING TO JOIN

Sounds like a bargain sale!

Well, there's no catch to it. The point is this:

"Red" Strauss, Cincinnati professional golf champion, and professional at Avon Fields municipal golf course, will give free golf lessons to all employees of the Union Central Life Insurance Company, right here in the building after work one evening in the week and during lunch hour, one or two days a week. Clubs and balls will be furnished without cost to players by the Recreation Commission.

The reason for this large-heartedness is that the Commission thinks more people would like to play golf if they knew how enjoyable it was, how little it can cost and what fine friendships may be developed in the game.

Then, too, lots of players don't like to take precious playing time in the summer to take lessons. Hence, they don't improve their game as they could.

You will not be solicited to join any of the municipal courses. If you wish to join any public or private course AFTER you have decided you want to play, information will be furnished.

Classes are open to all and will begin

If you want to learn the game or improve your game, sign the sheet below.

DO YOU KNOW YOU CAN PLAY GOLF FOR ABOUT ONE DOLLAR A WEEK?
(This includes cost of clubs and balls, not of oddsies.)

PUT ME DOWN FOR THE UNION CENTRAL GOLF CLASS.
(Place an "X" after your name if you wish the Recreation Commission to furnish clubs while you are learning.)

NAME

DEPARTMENT

This sheet, on which applicants for free golf lessons put their signatures, is displayed in Cincinnati offices and factories, where the city's public recreation commission's free golf tuition is being made available.

The commission's equipment consists of 40 sets of clubs, each set being limited to a spoon, mashie and putter; 40 cocoa mats and a lot of Wilson's cotton Par-et balls. Strauss handles a maximum of nine classes of 20 each per day. That daily grind of 180 pupils, practically all of them beginners, wears Red down by bedtime. Before long the Cincinnati commission expects to have four pros teaching.

The Cincinnati plan differs from the idea operated so successfully on Chicago's public fee courses last summer, in that balls are actually hit, rather than in specializing in the mere development of a swing outdoors without a ball to work on. Incidentally, between 85 and 90 per cent of the "pupils" have never played golf, since the beginner is encouraged and the experienced player discouraged in the present work at Cincinnati.

Players are not asked to join any "clubs" nor to sign any document. The classes are to be taken or left as wished. Neither are the students "high-pressured" into



Second annual greenkeeping short course was held at Rhode Island State College, Kingston, Jan. 29-Feb. 2. Unfavorable weather kept down attendance, but a great, practical program repaid those who sat in the R. I. conferences and lectures on course maintenance methods.

Those on the program included Dean G. E. Adams, J. B. Smith, T. E. Odland, H. W. Browning, H. F. A. North, A. W. Dodge, Kenneth Welton, G. B. Durham, L. E. Erwin and Guy C. West.

Among those who attended the short course are those shown above. They are, left to right:

(Bottom row) Johnathan Comstock, P. Tameo, J. T. Sullivan, J. Conway, Everett Pyle, A. Asquino.

(Middle row) Dr. T. E. Odland, L. G. Stott, H. F. A. North, A. Di Lucchio, Manuel Travers, Wm. R. Milton.

(Top row) Matt Partridge, George Lodge, John Conlon, H. D. Hall, W. P. Lewis.

joining either municipal links. The Recreation Commission believes it will obtain its fair share of players from these lessons, and that the entire golf situation will be benefited thereby.

Pros Join in Work

Several of the other leading pros in the city have volunteered their service for the free public lessons, patterned somewhat more closely after the Chicago plan of last year, to begin early in the spring in conjunction with the Cincinnati *Post*, and while only about 750 "pupils" can be accommodated in the present lessons, it is hoped to enlist over 5,000 as soon as the weather permits outdoor activity.

The combination of these three ideas is being watched with interest by Cincinnati private golf interest and it should produce results. Recreation Commission officials have their fingers crossed and are hoping.

J. H. TAYLOR'S proposal to examine British pros on instruction for the purpose of giving competent men official recognition and of eliminating those who the venerable J. H. terms "quacks," continues to stir British professional golf.

Among the bright and the brutal comments printed on the Taylor proposal was one written by Rex Kennedy to *Golf Illustrated* of London. Kennedy, complaining about the British PGA, says; "Then let's have J. H. Taylor's suggestion of an examination; then for sure, if so many places were allotted only for professional engagements in this country, some of the quacks, as he calls them, would eliminate some of his brother members of the PGA."

If the boys keep on brawling there may develop the idea of competitive examinations to fill vacancies as pros, or at least to establish ratings having some appearance of authority.