

PUTTS AT HALF PRICE

Akron Muni Players Test Idea of Counting Putts Half Stroke

By C. W. HOWARD

TOMMY ARMOUR'S half-stroke putt idea would be a boon to the high-handicap players. Records to prove the assertion are at hand.

Low handicap men as well as high handicap men, in a recent test at the Akron municipal course, discovered that the way to actually score is to count each putt a half stroke.

George Brady, one of the outstanding public linksmen in the Akron sector, fired a tired 80 in the tests—but at half a stroke for putts he was around the course in exactly 62 blows.

Your humble galloper, who has played

from a 12-stroke handicap for y'rs and y'rs, knocked in an 85—but when the half-stroke computation was chalked up, he had carded 37—34½—71½.

Par for the Municipal layout:

Out ... 4 5 4 3 5 3 4 4 3—35
In 5 4 3 4 4 4 4 4 5—37—72

Brady's card at the half-stroke for putts read like this:

Out 3½ 4½ 4 2½ 5 2½ 3 3½ 2½—31
In 5 3 2½ 2½ 4 4 4 3 3—31—62

Jackie Lahrmer, one of Municipal's younger stars, carded 30—31½—61½, while Charley Burns, the Municipal manager, was around the back nine in exactly 29½ knocks. Here is how Burns' card for the homeward tour looked:

In... 4 4 3 3 3 3½ 2½ 3 3½—29½

Ed Harrah, another of the district's star public linksmen, collected a 79, scoring regularly—40—39—79—while at a half-stroke for putts he had 34—31½—65½.

Armour advanced the theory of counting putts at half a stroke, instead of a full stroke, to take some of the premium off putting, and to afford some advantage to the fellow who plays the hole perfectly from tee to green.

How that worked out in the tests at Municipal was proven beyond question on the finishing hole, a tough par 5.

The wind was following the fellows. Burns, Brady and Harrah lashed out beautiful tee shots well up to the 250-yard stake. Harrah, in fact, was in the valley in front of the green, 300 yards from the tee.

Brady hit the green with his second, a spoon. Burns was in the grass trap at the right. Harrah was on with a spade.

Burns chipped and was on the green in three. He sank the putt for a regular four—a 3½ under the Armour system. Brady was down in two putts, for a regular 4, but under Armour's plan, a 3, counting the putts at half a shot each, thus giving him the hole and a half stroke advantage because he played perfectly from tee to green, and was down in the regulation number of putts.

Harrah three-putted, and got a 3½, the same as Burns.

In your correspondent's case the trick scoring proved that he is a better golfer than he had believed. That 37 going out was the result of some three putt holes, due to the slippery condition of the greens—how's that for the old alibi?—but the 34 coming back wasn't half bad.

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Armour's plan probably never will be adopted generally, but from this commentator's point of view it would be a grand thing for the rank and file of the world's golfing army—and it certainly would be an advantage for the fellow who can hit his woods and irons as they should be hit.

At any rate it provides a very interesting feature for a club tournament where the members are looking for a novelty event on the program.

Chinch Bug Control More Trouble for Courses

MANY COURSES this year have suffered damage from chinch bugs. Especially the Philadelphia district has been troubled by this pest. Chinch bugs do not often affect greens, probably because greens are kept constantly moist, but O. J. Noer reports having inspected cases of serious injuries to nurseries and even to trees. The chinch bug is a sucking insect. Its operations cause the grass to become flabby, then wither and turn brown.

So far the following two treatments appear to be effective:

Rotenone ($\frac{3}{4}\%$) has been successful at 10 pounds per 1,000 sq.ft. The material is broadcast over the surface and watered in. About four days are required to effect maximum kill. There is a feeling that it might be well to use only 5 pounds per 1,000 sq.ft. at first application and repeat the application a week later if first application does not effect a clean-up.

The other method consists of hydrated lime and nicotine. These are used at 10 pounds hydrated lime and 1 qt. nicotine (Black Leaf 40) per 2,000 sq.ft. The two materials are dissolved in 100 gals. water and the area sprayed or drenched with the solution.

Business Recovery Item: Jack Fulton, Jr., Gets Married

JACK FULTON, JR., for 7 years a teammate in the Golfdom-Golfing outfit, was married August 23 to Miss Katherine M. Kenny at the University of Chicago chapel. Jack and Kay have been golf playmates for some time and now that they are knotted have begun to play house in the cottage colony at Olympia Fields.

These nuptials register the triumph of love over what the golf business has been for the last two years.

Course Landscaping Need Gives Tournament Prize Tip

HARRY NASH, whose golf reporting in Newark (N. J.) *Evening News* is one of the best jobs of sports handling in the country, tells of a tournament idea that should find a place in many club schedules.

Writes Nash:

"John V. Martin, militant leader of Essex County public linksters, is sponsoring a tournament which may be aped with benefit by a number of clubs anxious to promote the growth of foliage and perpetuate the memory of their tournament heroes.

"John has been campaigning for additional landscaping and the planting of shade trees at Hendricks Field. His pleas have not elicited a ready response from the authorities, so he claims, and he has devised an ingenious method of meeting the contingency.

"Regardless of Martin's original plan or the underlying motives, his tree tournament is a master stroke. The idea is simply this. The caddies at Hendricks Field will engage in a tournament. There will be the customary prizes, but the chief award will consist of a tree. This young sapling will be presented to the tournament winner, who, in turn, will be obliged

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