

goofey. The sucker pays. Even the sucker crop gets a blight now and then. The suckers either run out of dough or, more rarely, get smart. Therefore it is sweet news to the racing racket to learn that pro golf contributes some bell-wether suckers to lead others to the slaughter.

The little corner groceryman sometimes is more philanthropic than smart. He lets the folks get on the cuff to him because he has a kind heart and hates to see the kids go hungry. But this small tradesman is an intellectual giant alongside the pro who encourages horse-racing interest at his club. The little groceryman along with the big people in the community who struggle with the current human miseries, are putting up a howl against race betting.

It is reducing the buying power of their neighborhood. That reduction of golf buying power apparently is something never considered by the pros whose enthusiastic and thorough attention to horse betting induces susceptible members to play their money on the ponies instead of the pro shop.

What makes the whole thing laughably silly if it were not so sad to those poor pros is the simple arithmetic. Say that there is a 10% cut on the pari-mutuals. That merely means that by the tenth race the folks, even if every one won, would be playing with only a little over 30% of their original investment.

Maybe that's not a bad idea, taking 70% of the customers' money in well short of twenty minutes running time, especially when you see figures like the nearly \$20,000,000 as the amount handled by the totalizer at Rockingham Park, Salem, N. H. during its 1934 season. It all depends on who ends up with the money. One thing that stands out clearly now is that the pros who are neglecting their own business for the ponies are not getting any of that 70% profit in ten races.

LAUDS PRO

Teaching Is Keystone of Pro Value to Golf

By PAUL HARGRAVE

I HAVE stood off and watched the exchange of verbal combat between various parties concerning the professional golfer for many months without feeling any urge to reinforce either side with my support. On one side he is upheld, while the other side pushes him down.

In my opinion, the instructor—or pro—is about the best appeal the game has for

the masses that go to make up the golfing world. Of course there are rolling fairways and luxurious clubhouses, but where would these be without a pro, the one man on the premises who can teach the game without necessarily having to boast of a consistent sub-par game.

The low handicap club member who is eternally willing to improve the game of the gentlemen whose locker is adjoining his own, means well but he cannot put over an idea without employing the "watch me" method. He hasn't the patience, moreover, to stay with his subject until the latter's coordinations of mind and muscle in some fashion emulate his own. Why should he? He cannot accept monetary remuneration for his efforts. He is what Webster calls an amateur, although he is may be referred to by various other names when he blows up on the ninth hole of a pro-amateur event.

Male for Co-ed Teaching

That the game is best taught by a male instructor is a statement that would never be made by me without sufficient reason and basis. The golfing public and the citizenry of the nineteenth hole in this country decided that. Before I knew any better I used to wonder why a club that offered memberships to both genders did not retain the services of a male and a female professional. I was told that such a plan was once tried with disastrous results to the marital relationships inside the club, because the male members were prone to confine their training to instructions from the female teacher, and the female members, vice versa. Naturally, complications arose as complications will. Possibly that is one of the reasons why a club north of Chicago, which does not operate on a co-educational basis and limits its membership to men only, does not salary a woman professional.

I have yet to see a pro connected with a well-known club who does not embrace the good-will of the members at large. His business experience may not always be high enough to rate him an official's job in the U. S. mint, he may owe money to golf manufacturers and think they are dispensers of unjust form letters, but he is still the kind of a creature a man with a good social standing will pay money to for a golf lesson.

While the pro is not necessarily the highest paid employee on a golf club's staff, the fact still remains that the good pro has proved he is requisite, at every first class club.