

# MAJOR TOURNEYS BEING WELL RUN

By GEORGE PECK

**M**AJOR tournament management this year has been something for the books. Tournaments constitute a terrifying problem for most clubs. Because facilities are not generally available for large crowds, the size of the galleries themselves constitute a bewildering risk; weather conditions can likewise throw the whole proposition into turmoil by rains or excessive heat.

Consultation with department heads and other officials of clubs previously holding national tournaments proved tremendously helpful to the Pittsburgh Field club and the Oakland Hills CC. Officials of clubs having major tournament experience freely wrote and talked of their problems and the ways in which they were handled. The result was that provisions were made for routine and emergency matters in a way that enabled the Field club to handle the PGA splendidly and with a profit, and Oakland Hills also to turn in a perfect job on the National Open.

## Advance Sale Well Organized

There was fine organization and supervision of advance ticket sales at both tournaments. Buffet luncheons in the clubhouse and at reasonable prices gave the holders of clubhouse passes good value for their investment. Ingenious use was made of dining room space for swift ser-

vice by Victor Elliot, mgr. At Oakland Hills, Manager John Ingleson, fearful of being swamped by rush crowds, worked out a waiters' routing that handled service with surprising speed. Locker-room service in both establishments was fast. The Field club has buzzers suspended by electric cords convenient to locker-room tables, thus facilitating service.

Pro department care of players' equipment was especially well handled, both Dave McKay of the Field club and Al Watrous of Oakland Hills being veteran competitors and keying up their staffs to the touchy care of clubs required by tournament players. Caddie training and management, players said, was 100%.

Both courses, that a few weeks prior to the tournaments had caused some nervousness because of wet and late springs, were in perfect condition. The Field club had a few showers during the PGA tournament and Oakland Hills had been soaked by heavy rains for two days prior to the beginning of firing on the Open. There were no complaints about shagginess of fairways or of speed or nap of greens at either place.

The USGA was particularly careful about cup location to give the players plenty of leeway for bold, smart putts. Oakland Hills rough was possibly heavier than that at the hilly Field club, but fairways were not unduly narrow. There was some discussion about long grass back of greens at Oakland Hills but experienced competitors agreed that it called for one of the masterly shots of golf so there was no cutting.

There has been evident in recent years a very receptive attitude on the part of the USGA toward players' comments regarding cup location and course conditions.

### Age and Youth in Charge of Courses

An interesting sidelight of the major tourney course condition is that at Oakland Hills, the veteran Herb Shave, one of the most active of America's prominent



Herb Shave

elder greenkeepers, was responsible, while at the Pittsburgh Field club the greenkeeper is John McNamara, one of the youngest greenkeepers to be in charge of a major tournament course in recent years. McNamara was trained on the course under his father.

One of the problems that often are incorrectly and inadequately handled at tournaments, the matter of outside toilets, was engineered in a thoroughly satisfactory, neat manner at Oakland Hills.

At both clubs there was a very happy choice, or luck, in the assignment of official duties to club members, and an absence of officiousness and obvious machinery. Marshaling was well done. That's always a big problem in the Open, inasmuch as the galleries crowd around a few favorite players and the rest of the field has to shift for themselves unless proper provisions have been made.

### Portland Solicits Old Equipment for Oregon Junior Prizes

**JUNIOR** golf is getting a strong boost in Oregon, with the Oregon PGA and the "Oregon Journal" of Portland uniting in a campaign for old golf equipment to provide prizes for the eleventh annual

Oregon junior golf tournament to be held on the Riverside G&CC course the week of July 12. A notice has been sent every member of Oregon clubs asking them to cooperate in the campaign.

Ted Longworth, president of the Oregon PGA section, and vice-president of the Pacific Northwest PGA, has an-

## HELP THE JUNIOR GOLFERS

Oregon Professional Golfers' Association  
and The Oregon Journal

are holding a campaign to provide prizes for the eleventh annual Junior golf championships to be played over the Riverside Golf and Country Club course, July 12.

## TURN OVER YOUR DISCARDED GOLF EQUIPMENT

to your club professional or into Journal Sports department to be reconditioned.

nounced that pros in his section will gladly recondition all equipment worthy of repair and will turn them over to Ralph Tomlinson, who has fathered the junior championship for the last nine years. The "Oregon Journal" sports department is also accepting equipment donations, which will be reconditioned and which will be used as prizes for the tournament of "future greats".

Assisting Tomlinson with plans for the event are A. C. McMicken, of the Pacific Northwest GA, Longworth, and Mrs. Walter Graham, team-captain at Waverly CC where Ted is pro.

This plan for promoting golf for the kids ties right in with the latest step in the Pro Promotion campaign. It is conservatively estimated the poster, "You can't take 'em with you," urging that old clubs be turned in to the pros for reconditioning, then to be passed on to kids otherwise denied golfing privileges, is now being displayed in 1,500 pro-shops throughout the country. The number of old clubs so far turned in to these pros range from 8 to 42 per shop, and if 20 old clubs per shop be used as an average, it can be seen that between 25,000 and 35,000 golf clubs have been made available for furthering the interest of many thousands of kids in the game of golf.

**Von Nida Is New Aussie Flash**—Called the "Phar Lap of Australian golf," Norman von Nida, Queensland pro, is shooting golf which promises to put him into world prominence very soon. He recently won the Queensland Open against a fine field by ten strokes to score 284. Within the past year he defeated both Hagen and Sarazen at match play.