



Seventeenth fairway on OSU's Scarlet course, taken from upper tee. The hole measures 220 yds. Lower tee, in foreground, is 180 yds. from green.

OHIO STATE'S NEW COURSE READY

By FRANCIS J. POWERS

WHEN the great recession occurred and citizens snatched the hen out of the pot and put it to work laying eggs, Ohio State university was an anomaly among institutions that went in for higher athletics on a major scale. One of the largest state universities in the country, Ohio State had no bonded indebtedness on its athletic properties.

The Buckeyes built the first modern football stadium in the Middle West, and the plant, that was dedicated in 1922, was free of all liens in 1926. Unlike so many universities, Ohio State did not immediately go in for a field house, intramural sports buildings and other knick-knacks, the plasters on which still are bowing the backs of many athletic directors and the tendons of football players.

That Ohio State never suffered from bank bruises is due to the business sagacity of Lynn W. St. John, for 26 years its director of athletics. "Saint" always has been a fellow who believed that athletic plants should be built in the order of satisfying the greatest good of the greatest number. As Ohio State football teams, annually among the country's greatest money earners, piled up a surplus, St. John built first a three pool natatorium, and second a golf course. That the Buckeye basketball team plays in the horse pavilion and the track team

performs of winters in a sheep barn on the state fair grounds, is satisfactory to St. John. Basketball, track and other indoor intercollegiate games will get modern accommodations after the needs of the majority of students are satisfied.

This is a ring around the buttercup manner of starting to tell that Ohio State will open for play 27 holes of one of the nation's finest golf courses, early in May. Here it also might be added that this third unit of Ohio's athletic properties was built, like the others, without cost to the tax payers. The football stadium was built on contributions and gridiron earnings; the natatorium was paid for entirely out of football receipts and the golf course financed from the same source plus a W.P.A. appropriation.

A university golf course long has been the dream of St. John. A tract of 297 acres of fertile pasture land, three miles north of the campus and between the water sheds of the Scioto and Olentangy rivers, was purchased in 1929, when a dol-

lar was something you paid for an old fashioned. Desiring only the best in architecture, St. John consulted with George Sargent, Bob Jones and other friends and finally decided upon the late Dr. Alistair MacKenzie, whose Cyprus Point, Augusta National and Bayside stand among the great courses of the land. MacKenzie drew plans for two courses but died before the actual construction work was started in the fall of 1925.

Inasmuch as MacKenzie regarded the plans for the Ohio State course as one of his masterpieces, St. John insisted that it be built according to the master's specifications. That this might be accomplished, John S. McCoy, Ohio State '19, an expert in golf course construction, who had frequently worked with MacKenzie, was hired and the course built without any change from the revered Scotchman's topographic map.

The inside or championship course is known as the Scarlet, and the outer, of which only 9 holes are constructed, is the Gray, those colors being the university's oriflamme. The Scarlet course measures 6,800 yards with a par of 72 and is testing enough for any championship event; although comfortable enough for the average player. The Gray course is considerably shorter and admirably suited for beginners.

Greens Grouped Where Possible

The course was built with the customary MacKenzie idea of economy in upkeep. Wherever possible the greens of the two courses are grouped and even W.P.A. workers will not find it fatiguing to drag their tools from one to another. The tees are large, averaging 5,500 sq. ft., to stand the wear and tear of student swings, while the greens average some 7,000 feet in area. The fairways are sowed to Cheewing's fescue and the greens to Washington bent.

The irrigation system is the most modern high pressure center line system, Cast

iron mains, three to six inches in diameter, spaced 100 feet apart, run from tee to green through the center of each fairway. The water is supplied from a 9-acre lake that is fed from Turkey Run, while a 12-in. well capable of throwing 350 g. p. m. offers an auxiliary supply. The drainage system is one of the most complete in the country, with a network of tile lines 25 to 35 feet apart covering the entire course, including the rough.

The first and tenth tees and ninth and eighteenth greens of both courses are adjacent to the clubhouse, which is more elaborate than found on the customary college course. The clubhouse will contain a large locker-room for students and two for faculty members, and also has a comfortable lounge.

Course Allows Other Activities

The course also will serve as a community playground for the university. The 9-acre lake has been stocked with bluegills for those who cast rather than strike their hooks, and picnic spots equipped with tables and ovens, are located in the several wooded sections. A faculty group has installed facilities for trap-shooting and in another corner the archers will play Robin Hood. A cross-country course has been mapped and in the winter Arctic-minded students will find the lake available for skating.

Since golf is a part of the university's intramural and physical education program, the course will be restricted to students, faculty members and their families, and campus employees. Alumni may play upon payment of a greens fee but not more than five times per year. Cost of play for students and other eligibles will be very nominal on either a yearly or daily basis.

A yearly membership for students will cost \$20, and \$30 for faculty members and employees. For a faculty man and wife it will be \$50 with an additional \$20 for faculty children over seventeen and \$15 for those under that age. Daily fees for students will be fifty cents except on weekends and holidays, when it will be seventy-five cents, while for the others it will be seventy cents and one dollar. Student locker privileges cost \$5 per year, and \$6 and \$8 for faculty members and employees.

This schedule of membership costs is quite in keeping with those of other universities investigated by the Ohio State



One of several shelter houses built for convenience of O.S.U. golfers.



Attractive service barn at Ohio State is designed for efficient operation.

golf committee. Here is the comparison with Iowa, Stanford, Yale and Minnesota. Michigan, the other Midwestern university with golf accommodations comparable to Ohio, operates on a straight greens fee basis and does not provide similar locker-room and clubhouse facilities:

	Ohio	Iowa	Stan- ford	Yale	Minne- sota
Faculty	\$30	\$20	\$90	\$40	\$20
Students	\$20	\$15	\$90	\$25	\$20

Transportation to the course from the campus will be by busses, operated free for students by the university. At the start, two busses will be used but others may be added if the traffic demands.

Robert Kepler, a former Ohio amateur champion and graduate of the university, is a full time instructor in the department of physical education, and is assigned to golf. Kepler has a potential class of 15,000 and as soon as the course is in play will have an assistant. Bob began his golf instruction this winter but his eight classes filled so rapidly that it became a problem to satisfy the demand. Kepler will give group instruction on the course, as well as coach the varsity golf team, and these lessons will be free as a part of the physical education program.

As a feature of the course opening, it is likely the Spalding exhibition troupe of Horton Smith, Harry Cooper, Lawson Little and Jimmy Thomson will be the first to test the caliber of the Ohio fairways. There also is a chance that no less a personage than Robert Tyre Jones, jr., may join in the celebration.

In the words of the late Dr. MacKenzie, "an ideal golf course must be pleasurable to the greatest number of players. It must require strategy as well as skill, otherwise it cannot be enduringly interesting. It must give the average player

a fair chance and at the same time require the utmost from the expert, who is trying for sub-par scores. All natural beauty should be utilized and a minimum of artificiality introduced."

That is the Ohio State course. And the course will stand, in time, as a monument to the foresight of Lynn W. St. John, who saw in golf a finer instrument for the physical and mental betterment of the greatest number.

Don McKay Elected to Head Connecticut Supts.

I 1938 officers of the Connecticut Assn. of Golf Course Superintendents who were elected March 7 at the annual meeting held at the Brooklawn CC, Bridgeport, are: Pres., Don McKay, Hartford GC; V. Pres., H. Grahame, Putnam CC; Secy.-Treas., Charles Traverse, Mill River CC; Asst. Secy.-Treas., A. Lentine, Tumble Brook CC. Wm. E. Perkins of Yale U., New Haven, was elected to the board of directors for a term of 3 years.

Sixty-six members and guests heard the speakers, who followed an exceptionally fine dinner with some very interesting, informative talks. Dr. M. F. Morgan, Conn. Agricultural Exp. Station, New Haven, spoke on the relationship of fertilizer against the use of arsenate of lead in the control of the Japanese beetle. C. W. Baker, of F. H. Woodruff & Sons, Milford, addressed the group on putting green grasses; other speakers included H. Cliff, Bridgeport Supt. of Parks; R. A. Leckie, Bridgeport, and Robert Pryde, Racebrook CC, who spoke on his trip around the world and showed moving pictures of his travels.

Twenty-five of the Connecticut Assn. attended the Massachusetts Recreation Conference this year, Secretary Traverse reported.