

APRIL 1939

## Students Have Bargain Golf

Students at Louisiana State University pay a dime to play 18-hole course with complete private club facilities

By M. A. McCalip

LOUISIANA State University is proud owner of one of the country's fine golf courses. It is one of the best 18-hole university-owned courses in the United States, and conspicuous because of the complete country club affiliation it offers the students. The L. S. U. G&CC presents a pleasant picture of management and operation efficiency to the rest of the golfing world.

The course, built in 1922 for the Westdale G&CC, was purchased by the university in October, 1936, for \$25,000. Located approximately four miles from the university campus and one mile from the city of Baton Rouge, the plot includes 100 acres and is completely outlined with moss-draped magnolia trees and pin oaks, the trees being arranged alternately and 50 feet apart. The club is managed by John H. Sanchez, who supervised the construction of the course under the original owners.

### Dime Fee for Students

The university purchased the layout to round out the school's athletic facilities and to make golfing possible for the students at about one tenth the cost students had been paying. This original purpose has been preserved through the cooperation of the university athletic dept. and the numerous non-university patrons.

(The club has 486 outside members, each paying annual dues of \$25 for the use of the course and the club facilities.) Resident non-members pay a green fee of \$1.00 while out-of-towners pay 50c. L.S.U. students pay a green fee of 10c. Rent charged students for a bag of clubs is 25c.

Instruction in golf is a regular part of the curriculum at the university. This training, embracing both the theoretical



John H. Sanchez is in charge of the entire LSU layout.



The clubhouse at the LSU course is more commodious than many an 18-hole metropolitan club can boast.

and practical, is conducted by the physical education department and is attended by over 400 students. The practice on the campus is carefully supervised by Mike Donahue of the athletic department, who is assisted by a number of able student golfers.

At the conclusion of the preliminary training on the campus, the class is transferred to the golf course where further instruction proceeds under the tutorship of the club professional, Jimmie Cole. While undergoing instruction on the golf course the student pays only the regular green fee of 10c.

#### Cushion Greens With Bagasse

The course is kept well groomed at all times. All holes have two tees. The greens, of Bermuda, are topdressed once each month. Finely chopped Bagasse (the pulp and fiber remaining after the removal of the juices from sugar cane) which has been allowed to dry and undergo deterioration to a point where it is about half rotten, is sprinkled rather heavily on the greens before the topdressing is added. The Bagasse, being pithy and porous, tends to cushion the green and prevents rapid loss of moisture under a hot Louisiana sun. This method of treatment was developed by the club manager after several years of experimentation.

The course has a yardage of 6,321, par being 72. The longest hole is 585 yards, while the shortest is 122. The course includes three water hazards and numerous sand traps. On the front lawn of the clubhouse is a 9-hole putting course. The daily average of play throughout the year is 130.

Intramural and interfraternity athletics

induce hundreds of students to participate in golf at L.S.U. each year.

Since the purchasing of the golf course, the university golf team has taken a most prominent position in tournaments throughout the country. Having won the Southeastern conference title numerous times, the team is also proud of the fact that its captain of a few years ago won the national intercollegiate meet. Other titles won by team members since the purchasing of the course include: runner-up in the national intercollegiate, Louisiana state championship, Canadian Amateur and Western Amateur championships. The prominence gained in the past few years has, no doubt, been due to a great extent to the excellent golfing facilities offered by the university.

In January of this year the physical education and athletic departments secured the services of Miss Joy McCann, well known in Southern golfing circles, to aid in the organization of a women's intercollegiate golf team.

#### Other Sport Facilities

Besides golf, the club facilities include six badminton courts with lights, two asphalt tennis courts with lights, and a concrete outdoor swimming pool. These facilities are open to students and members at no cost. The clubhouse is used for fraternity and sorority dances and banquets. A flat rate of \$15 is charged for any university function. Meals and sandwiches are served in the clubhouse at all times.

The club is free of debt and operates on a paying basis despite the fact that some 8,000 university students are able to play golf at low cost.