

Carolinas Boost Junior Golf

By John Heller

Sedgefield CC, Greensboro, N. C.

IN THE Carolinas they have the reputation of liking their politics hot, and their golf fast. Indeed, Colonel Golf is now a Carolinian of considerable importance, and he is finding his prestige and standing aptly bolstered during these recent years by his younger son and juvenile player. Junior golf in North and South Carolina is growing constantly and reaches its annual crest in the Carolinas Junior Golf championship tournament, played over the beautiful course of the Sedgefield CC, near Greensboro, N. C.

Junior golf in the Carolinas and the annual junior championship tournament are indistinguishable, and it can be affirmed that the tournament is one of the principal contributing factors to the popularity and progress of the game among the younger generation of Carolinian citizenry.

As every offspring of promise must have its daddy so the Carolinas Junior competition has a devoted originator and promoter in the person of Max T. Payne, of Greensboro. With no children in his own household, Payne is in truth the father of the Carolina Junior championship, and there are hundreds of older boys past the tournament age requirements and young men throughout the two states who think of him only with appreciation and affection as they look back to their exciting times in the battle royal and the big moments it has added to the sum total of their life's experiences.

Meet Began in 1925

The Carolinas meet got its start back in 1925. In that year, when golf courses in North Carolina were confined to several of the larger towns and were few and far between, the aforementioned Payne was responsible for inviting a group of some 12 or 15 boys from several of the clubs in the state to gather for a tournament at the Greensboro CC. The event was highly successful as junior tournaments went in those days, and the meeting was continued over the same course the following year with equal success. In July of 1927, with the newly opened Sedgefield CC layout rounding into condi-

tion, through the suggestion and inspiration of Payne, the club announced and held a junior golf tournament for the championship of North Carolina. The opening state meet drew a field of about 25 boys, gathered from four or five of the larger North Carolina cities, the title being captured by 14-year old Erwin Laxton, of Charlotte.

'28 Tourney Gets Big Publicity

Then came June, 1928, and the arrival at the tournament of young Pete Webb, a gawky country youth from Shelby, N. C. With about 40 players in attendance, the tournament gained considerable publicity and resultant boost, when it developed that Webb, who defeated all the city lads and carried off the top title, had but a year before been knocking the ball around his home fields with an old niblick and brought his first set of clubs to the competition at hand. From this time on, the size of the field, the enthusiasm of the contestants and the caliber of the competition increased in leaps and bounds. And it was about this time that the competition was broadened to include South Carolina, also.

Fred Webb, a 14-year old southpaw brother of Pete, paced a field of some 50 players in June, 1929, to capture the title. Erwin Laxton, of Charlotte, won the title for a second time in June, 1932. With the number of players varying from 150 to 200 during the succeeding years, the other winners of the cherished junior championship title of the Carolinas include Joe Brownlow, Winston-Salem, 1933; Bobby Dunkelberger, Sedgefield, 1934; J. W. Hatcher, Charlotte, 1935; Johnny Palmer, Badin, 1936; Grover Poole, Jr., Raleigh, 1937; and Ed Schreiber, Charlotte, 1938.

The chapters of the Carolinas Junior meet speak their full quota of good golfers and players of note. Fred Haas of New Orleans, former National Intercollegiate and Southern Amateur champion,

Biloxi (Miss.) golf enthusiasts hope to put on a \$5,000 Open to follow the New Orleans Open next year. Resort advertising is the objective.



Ed Schreiber, (left) Charlotte, N. C., being congratulated by Grover Poole, Jr., Raleigh, N. C., just after Schreiber had won the 1938 Carolinas Junior championship. Poole won the 1937 event, and was runner-up to Schreiber in the 1938 tournament. Chairman of the event, Max T. Payne, is shown, center.

was one of the hopefuls swinging a club in the tournament back in 1930. Bobby Dunkelberger, of Sedgefield, the 19-year old youth who added the French Amateur title last summer and the National Champion of Club Champions title the past winter to his other championship crowns, won the Carolinas Junior event in 1934 at the tender golfing age of 14 years. Johnny Bulla, of Chicago, one of the well known younger playing professionals, was never able to win the Carolinas junior championship, but he did play in it for several years and is still the proud possessor of a very small loving cup which he inherited as winner of the second flight somewhere around the years 1929 or 1930.

Younger Contestants Cared For

The nature of the competition in the Carolinas junior tourney is such as particularly to appeal to the youthful contestants making up the lists. The event is held over four days, the first day being devoted to the qualifying rounds. The older boys, from sixteen down to 13 or 14 years of age, are placed in flights of sixteen from their qualifying round, and the smaller boys are grouped in flights of eight. Qualifying and match play is at 18 holes with the exception of the tiny chaps, 10 years and under, who play nine hole matches only. Likewise, the finals of

the championship flight are for 36 holes. A feature of the meet is the pro-junior event held on the opening day in which professionals team with their young charges to compete for cash prizes.

Plenty of Entertainment

Everything is done to assure the players attending the tournament a good time and make it an enjoyable affair. The boys are extended free theatre tickets, free baseball tickets, special rates at hotels and eating houses, and other forms of entertainment. At one time all players in attendance were served a big barbecue on the opening day, but this had to be discontinued because it upset the schedule of play too greatly.

The thirteenth annual Junior Championship of the Carolinas will be played over the Sedgefield Country Club course, Greensboro, N. C., this year from June 19 to 22. Already the Carolinas' large crop of youthful golfers are tuning up their blades and looking forward expectantly to the big occasion. The assemblage will include players ranging from the husky par-shooters around the 16-year age limit showing their wares in the championship flight, to the little fellows hardly as tall as a short shafted putter, down in the last divisions.

And as the shows opens, conspicuous therein will be Max T. Payne, daddy of the event. As his custom, Payne will probably be everywhere at once and you may find him engaged in performing multitudinous tournament chores, ranging all the way from patiently explaining to the eight year old player that he is not allowed to tee his ball in the sand trap, to being sure that the players in the championship flights get off promptly on schedule.

Caddies at the Columbus (O.) CC have constructed themselves a 1,300-yard par-33 course southwest of the clubhouse, beyond the parking lot and tennis courts. The course gets a big play from boys waiting assignments and after they've finished their work. The kids care for the course themselves and take considerable pride in it.