

# Schools Hold Answer to Golf's Biggest Development

**E**NTHUSIASM over the possibilities for developing more golfers and more golf play through group instruction classes, is voiced by Maurrie O'Connor, pro at the Branch Brook GC, Belleville, N. J., in a letter to GOLFDOM. Golf educational classes for those of high school age and above O'Connor believes to be the greatest single factor in developing new golfers since the advent of the driving range. Maurrie says of his experiences with group classes:

"One of the classes I had at the start of the term at Belleville High School was a group of 50 new golfers. I did not let them hit a ball for the first three lessons, with each lesson lasting one hour each. After that time, a net was put into use and the students were given an opportunity to hit the ball. In most cases they did surprisingly well—simply because I had given them the more important fundamentals in the preceding lessons, had them study them, and when they found out that they could hit a ball fairly well on their first attempts, they were sold on the game. A good start is worth a whole lot, and they will not become discouraged easily.

"I take up the various golfing fundamentals in my group classes in the following order: grip; stance and address; full swing with driver (but no hitting the ball); practice with No. 6 iron; short approaches; chip shots; full swing with irons; brassie and spoon play; art of putting; types of bunker play.

## Works With Groups of 30

"I am now working with three groups of golfers in the high school—beginners, intermediates and advanced. There are 30 in each group. When my beginners' group was ready for its 7th lesson this term, I put on a showing of the Spalding and Wilson golf movies in the school auditorium, supplementing the films with a short talk on golf. I ran a 'notice to golfers' in the local paper advertising the fact that these pictures were to be shown free, and we filled the auditorium (approximately 900) and had to turn a con-



MAURRIE  
O'CONNOR

siderable number away. We feel that these showings helped not only the golfing students, but helped to promote the game as well.

"There has been a tremendous impetus given golf in New Jersey by the group golf instruction classes, which are becoming quite numerous at schools throughout the state. I think pros, everywhere, wherever given an opportunity, should get behind this class instruction idea because it is going to do a lot for them and for the game. In the case of beginning students in golf, it also affords the pro an excellent opportunity to sell equipment, because he reaches the prospective golfer before he has obtained equipment of any kind."

## High School Golfers' National Tourney Scheduled for June 15

**T**HE inaugural tournament for the high school golf championship of the United States, an event being sponsored by the National Interscholastic Golf Assn., will be held June 15 at the Bethpage Golf Course, Farmingdale, N. Y. Teams from 12 to 15 states are expected to be on hand for the National Interscholastic tourney, according to F. W. Pierce, N. I. G. A. president, who has been largely responsible for getting the event started this year. Teams from high schools in N. Y., N. J., Mass., Conn., Va., Pa., D. C. are already entered, and it is expected that additional teams from the New England area, Ohio, and perhaps Indiana and Illinois will be on hand for the tourney.

Schools will enter a 5-man team or teams at a registration of \$5.00 per team. Each player will play 36 holes and the