

Schools Hold Answer to Golf's Biggest Development

ENTHUSIASM 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
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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

THE 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

total medal score of the five men will determine the school winning the National interscholastic title for 1940. The four low medal score players will stay over Saturday night and will meet in an 18-hole semi-final Sunday morning; the surviving pair will play an 18-hole final in the afternoon for the individual championship.

Fifteen schools entered from New Jersey district alone, at least ten from Pennsylvania, and 9 from the Long Island, N. Y., district, give some idea of the size of the event; total number of participants is expected to reach 300 to 400. Pierce tells that the national idea caught on very well wherever he appeared this spring, and that all coaches and squads who heard of the plan were most enthusiastic and assured their complete backing.

J. H. Burbeck, superintendent, Bethpage GCse, is reserving one of the four Bethpage courses for the tourney without charge to the association. Suitable prizes will be awarded the winners of the team and individual events, Pierce announced. Additional details may be secured by writing Pierce, at Lawrence, L. I., N. Y.

THE USGA again asks the cooperation of pros and amateurs in supplying historic golf equipment, photographs, documents or old and rare books for its museum.

Exhibits at the USGA museum, 73 E. 57th st., N. Y. C., continue to grow in extent and historic value. Acknowledgments of gifts to the museum are made on the exhibits displayed and by letter and printed record.

If you have some relics kicking around and gathering dust, rather than allow them to be lost why not send them to the USGA, together with a letter describing the history of the specimens so far as you know it?

Discuss Assn. of Driving Ranges—Leading operators of practice fairways in the Chicago district have been discussing the possibility of forming a national association of practice fairways. Present status of the plan is that Chicago operators are considering financing preliminary organization work to learn if, and how, other fairway owners throughout the country want a national organization.

Lew Waldron, well-known pro who has been especially active in golf market promotion, is conducting the organizing activities. Among those prominent in the early discussions are C. A. Goelz, Bob Mac-

donald, Walter Keller, A. Huntington, G. Binks, Harold Johnston, Don Sharpless, Art Hibbard, Bill Porter and Joe Muno.

PGA Sections Again Sponsor 'Golf Week' Programs

"**GOLF WEEK**" is again being proposed by Frank Sprogell, PGA publicity chairman, for the purpose of creating valuable publicity for the PGA and its members, and as an observance of the opening of the golf season in the majority of the nation's sections. As a result of the initial success of the Golf Week plan last year, several large sections of the PGA have signified their intention of holding the program again this year.

Noticeable this year is the fact that the Golf Week programs to be held by the various sections are scheduled for later dates than those held last season, when earlier scheduling in some sections had the disadvantage of bad weather and being a little too soon for actual season openings at the surrounding clubs.

The PGA publicity committee, realizing that other sports are started off with merchandising drives, and that store merchants of golf goods always start the season with a burst of advertising, knew it would be decidedly for the pros own good to organize in a concerted effort to draw attention to the game, and the pros position in it. Hence, the Golf Week idea.

The benefits derived from the work pros put in on the various Golf Weeks cannot be counted in dollars and cents immediately. The important thing is that it furnishes an opportunity for the home pro to demonstrate his knowledge and ability to the golfers of his city, and places him in the forefront as the acknowledged authority on golf in his locality.

It is suggested that the Southern sections select early May dates for Golf Week, the Central sections, mid-May dates, and the Northern sections, early June.

Hershey Awarded PGA Tourney—1940 National PGA championship will be held Aug. 26-Sept. 1 at the Hershey (Pa.) CC, according to an announcement by Tom Walsh, PGA president. The pros' championship will take the place of the Hershey \$5,000 Open, which has been held for the past 7 years. Hershey, incidentally, is the home club of Henry Picard, defending PGA champion.