

Want To Be a Pro?

By Bob Johnston

THERE'S a tradition in the sports world that sons of the top-notchers find it virtually impossible to follow in father's footsteps. There isn't, so the wisecracks tell us, much of this "chip off the old block" business in baseball, football or any popular pastime. Sons of established stars, despite papa's proud reputation, start with two strikes on them if they enter the same field. Every untoward move made by the youngster is roundly criticized; if they pull a boner they are sharply reminded that father wouldn't have played it that way.

But does it hold true in golf? A quick check-up on papa professionals, in the PGA's Philadelphia Section at least, would seem to indicate that the boy who harbors any idea of becoming a golf professional has a swell chance if his father happens to be an established pro.

Take the Coltarts

Exhibit A is veteran Frank Coltart, of Sunnybrook. He has two sons: red-haired, talented Bruce, and Rodney. Bruce, after a brilliant term as Woodcrest, N. J., professional, recently signed up with swank Seaview club. He's rated among the top-notchers in the Philadelphia section; literally was born with a brassie in his mouth.

Rodney, who plays out of the Roxborough CC, doesn't figure in the news nearly so prominently as Bruce because he's an amateur, plays only infrequently. But Rod can capably uphold the honor of the Coltart clan in any tourney he happens to enter.

The Coltarts, it seems, are common as sand traps at Pine Valley in the Quaker City sector. At Valley Forge, Bill Coltart, brother of Frank, holds forth. He has two sons—22-year-old Syd, and Dennis, just turned 18. Syd is a former Philadelphia amateur champion, while Dennis captured the Philadelphia junior boys' crown in 1939. Both boys have an abundance of natural ability. Dennis, 'tis whispered, plans to enter pro ranks, after an apprenticeship in the amateurs, when he reaches his 21st birthday.

Exhibit B, and one of the prize refutations to the claim that the offsprings can't make good is Johnny Markel, 18-

A lad's best chance is when his dad is a pro before him

year old son of Harry Markel, Berkshire pro. Markel, whose methodical, machine-like play has won him the tag, Reading Robot, is plenty good right now—and he's steadily improving!

Markel by mid-July had competed in 32 rounds of match play and hadn't dropped a single match. He launched his string of titular triumphs last spring, winning the Pennsylvania Interscholastic A. A. crown for the second straight year.

The quiet, serious son of the Berkshire pro then embarked on a really remarkable series of victories. He captured the Central Pennsylvania amateur title, succeeded Denny Coltart as Philadelphia junior champion, and took the Berkshire invitation and Berkshire club championships. He won the Scranton invitation test by the simple expedient of playing 111 holes within five days, winding up two strokes under par.

Examples Abound in East

Joe Kirkwood, golfdom's globe-trotting trick shot artist, boasts a big, blonde and handsome son who is filling his father's shoes to perfection. Joe, Jr., when he isn't aiding his father at the Huntingdon Valley course, has been acting as pro at New England and Southern clubs.

George Low, Sr., who preceded Kirkwood at the Valley, has a husky son who is some shakes as a golfer. Pete Conti, Jr., son of the late Gulph Mills pro, also is a better than average amateur, while Jock Campbell, Old York Road, has his son, Buzz, as his assistant.

At Atlantic City CC, Clarence Hackney points with pride to the prodigious feats of 19-year-old Clarence, Jr., while Charlie Hoffner has a son who shows plenty of promise at Ocean City. At another New Jersey course—Wildwood, Harry Avery has groomed Harry Jr., into a pretty fair amateur competitor.

Taking a hop, skip and jump to Merion, we find George Sayers and George Jr., and at the Concord course young Charlie Schneider bids fair to show his old man a few tricks within eight or ten years.

Morrie Talman, red-faced Whitemarsh pro, boasts of talented Hal, a pretty fair tournament golfer. And two brother pro-

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Golfdom!

Reader Interest: For the 8th consecutive year, GOLFDOM devotes its *entire October issue* to the buying and operating problems faced by golf officials and buyers as they plan, budget and buy for the 1941 season ahead. Each article is crammed with *facts* to guide in purchasing, service, merchandising, maintenance, budgeting, management, etc. *An issue to be saved.*

Advertiser Interest: Over 90% of all golf course buying is done by the five key men reached in every club by GOLFDOM—president, green-chairman, manager, pro, greenkeeper. These men, in October, November and December, are busy analyzing the past season's operations and planning those for 1941. It's budget-making time, when purchases for NEXT year are authorized.

Reach *all* the buyers before 1941 plans are laid. Hit them with your selling story NOW. See page 32, this issue, for name of nearest advertising representative.

professionals—George Griffin, at Green Valley, and Marble Hall's John, have a couple of youngsters who may make golf history. George, Jr., now 16, shoots in the low 80's. Young Jackie, at the tender age of 10, comes close to breaking 100 from the back tees. He scored 106 in the recent Conshohocken Open tournament.

California Salesmen Schedule Tourney— Eighth annual pro-salesmen's tournament of the Golf Salesmen's Assn. of Northern California will be held Sept. 30 at Lake Merced G&CC, San Francisco, according to recent word from association officials. Pros, asst. pros, greenkeepers, managers, golf writers and amateurs invited by club professionals will compete for the varied assortment of prizes which include money prizes for the pros and assistants, and trophies for the salesmen and amateur players.

At the recent annual election of the GSANC, Charles McDonald, A. G. Spalding Sales Corp., was named president; Jim Miller, Wilson Sporting Goods Co., v-pres.; Jim Scott, MacGregor golf distributor, secy.; and Jack Lynch, Phil Bekeart Co., treas.; Bill Hay, of Curley-Bates Co., was re-elected chairman of directors. Retiring pres. was Roy Schoepf, U. S. Rubber Co.

New Book Describes Amateurs' Play

"*Golf As I Play It*," edited by Richard D. Chapman and Ledyard Sands, published by Carlyle House, New York, price \$2, presents the examination papers of 28 well-known amateurs.

It's a book that will be especially interesting to pros inasmuch as it gives the boys' own ideas of how they play their shots and affords the expert professional instructor much practical data from which he can get an insight into baffling problems of his own pupils.

The book is not confusingly technical. The lads differ decidedly in their opinions and methods. Some of the differences are accounted for by physical variations, whilst others represent conflicting analyses that show the pros what they are up against when they try to get a simple, sound idea of the golf swing planted into their pupils' minds.

"*Golf As I Play It*" is an addition to the golf instruction library particularly worth reading, inasmuch as it encourages its readers to think out the reason for their shots, rather than merely taking some guy's word on detailed mechanics of the swing.