

Walsh Steps Down

By HERB GRAFFIS

PGA, richly benefited by constructive, trouble-free terms of Tom Walsh, to elect new head at annual meeting, November 10-13, in Chicago

ANNUAL meeting of the PGA of America will be held at the Chicago Towers Club, 505 north Michigan Ave., Chicago, Nov. 10-13. Educational conference will start at 2 P.M. Tuesday, Nov. 11. Effort is being made to get Dr. John Anderson of the University of Minnesota to be a feature speaker on the educational program. Prof. Anderson is a national authority on motor skills and his talk at the Minnesota pro conference advanced many interesting scientific suggestions for increasing effectiveness of golf instruction.

Tom Walsh will not be a candidate for re-election. Walsh has had two terms that have been richly beneficial to pro golf at a critical time. The PGA program has been constructive, the organization's public relations have been improved greatly, its educational program has made a tremendous advance, its promotion of activities have been extensive and effective, and its tournament work under the direction of Fred Corcoran has been richly productive.

One of the convention topics certain to be of great interest to the delegates, the pros they represent and the golfing public, will be the report of Joe Novak as chairman of the PGA's Teaching committee.

Basic Plan of Instruction

Simplified instruction in the fundamentals long has been an objective of the pros and their association. Based on research done at the PGA championship and at university pupils' classes, and test applications on adult pupils, Novak believes his committee has discovered something of keen interest and value to pros and their pupils. The principles and method are based on playing and teaching of highly successful pros. A major obstacle to fairly uniform agreement on golf instruction, of course, is the strong element of individual artistry in effective instruction. Gradually out of the pros' discussions on instruction methods is emerging a basic plan of instruction in the first principles of the game, with the teaching of the more advanced points being left as a matter between the expert instructor and the pupil.

Controversies have been conducted constructively and without inflammation of personalities, consequently the PGA approaches the problem of finding a successor to Walsh without offering the chosen president the delicate and important job of salving bruised spirits.

No political groups have been active in grooming candidates for the PGA presidency; it now having been generally agreed that the sacrifices of the job and the neglect of one's personal affairs make the position one to be occupied by one to whom is being done no great favor by his colleagues.

Walsh, in retiring, will make several recommendations to the organization, one of which will be a proposal that a business manager or executive secretary be hired to attend to numerous phases of organization now requiring personal attention and travel of pro officials who are compelled to take time off from their own jobs.

Suggests First Prize Increase

He also will suggest that the PGA increase first prize money of its annual championship to \$3,500 instead of \$1,100 as at present. There has been public question of the PGA plea for more prize money inasmuch as the PGA championship calls for the winner and runner-up to go through a grueling week of golf for less money per round than comparatively minor tournaments. The matter is especially well timed when it is reported that Joe Di Maggio intends to ask for \$80,000 for his 1942 labors on the basis of his record in hitting in 56 consecutive games while Ben Hogan for his phenomenal feat of placing in the money in 56 consecutive golf tournaments will get as his bonus next year just about what he can hack with his own clubs.

Financing of the PGA tournament bureau's successful work will be helped, beginning Dec. 1, 1941, by a 5% deduction from the tournament prize money. This action was endorsed by the PGA Tournament committee and made effective by vote of the PGA Executive committee.