

How Long Are Drives of Tourney Golfers?

By THOMAS McMAHON

LENGTH of a golfer's drive and the length and weight of the fisherman's catch present constant and interesting differences between fiction and fact. To appraise the facts of drives I had the assistance of Ralph Modica and Tracy Turner, members of Edgewater GC, in measuring the carry and roll of drives made during the Chicago District GA's Victory Open.

First reaction of the golfer studying the returns is that there might be some differences accounted for by pre-war and remade golf balls. However, expert judgment is that the usual effect of time on rubber, regardless of conditions under which the pre-war balls were kept, would virtually equalize performance of the two types of balls. Probably fresh new balls would have somewhat greater length, but you can think about that when the war's over.

The Edgewater fairways were watered. Wind direction and velocity were checked during the teeing off periods for each of the four rounds of the major event. The first hole, on which the measurements were taken, is practically flat, running from east to west. The tee is elevated approximately five feet. The wind direction on Friday and Saturday was northeast; Sunday morning and Sunday afternoon southeast. There was a variation in wind velocity. Velocity ranged from 6 to 10 miles an hour.

The longest average carry and roll, 275 yards, was made by Craig Wood. The longest individual drive, carry and roll was 285 yards; a tie between Craig Wood and Bob Hamilton.

The longest average carry was 248 yards; a tie between Byron Nelson and Sam Byrd. The longest individual carry was 255 yards; a tie between Byron Nelson and Sam Byrd.

The average for the 180 drives recorded for carry and roll was 249 yards, carry only 224 yards, roll only 25 yards.

A review of the figures indicates that Byron Nelson's four drives were more consistent than any of the other leaders. An average roll of 22 yards, against an average roll for Craig Wood of 43 yards, indicates that Craig's drives have more top spin on them.

Summary of the results:

Longest drive — carry and roll, 285 yards, Craig Wood and Bob Hamilton.

Longest carry only — 255 yards, Byron Nelson and Sam Byrd.

Longest roll — 63 yards, Dale Morey.*

Longest drive — carry and roll average, 275 yards, Craig Wood.

Longest carry only—average 248 yards, Byron Nelson and Sam Byrd.

Longest roll — average 43 yards, Craig Wood and Bill Hyndman.*

Shortest roll, 2 yards, Johnny Lehman.*

Shortest roll — average 13 yards, Harold McSpaden and Willie Klein.

Average — carry and roll for entire field, 249 yards.

Average — carry only for entire field, 224 yards.

Average — roll for entire field, 27 yards.

The variation in the various rolls was caused by the type of shot played and difference in hardness and slope of turf where ball carried.

Figures on the driving of several notables are especially interesting. Four round data on the stars follows.

	Fri.	Sat.	A.M. Sun.	P.M. Sun.	Av.
Craig Wood					
Carry and Roll	266	285	282	266	275
Carry Only	237	245	237	210	232
Roll Only	29	40	45	56	43
Byron Nelson					
Carry and Roll	273	267	271	270	270
Carry Only	246	247	255	245	248
Roll Only	27	20	16	25	22
Bob Hamilton					
Carry and Roll	285	240	280	273	269
Carry Only	237	230	237	237	236
Roll Only	48	10	43	36	34
Sam Byrd					
Carry and Roll	268	260	268	277	268
Carry Only	251	237	252	255	248
Roll Only	17	23	16	22	20
E. J. Harrison					
Carry and Roll	272	265	269	264	267
Carry Only	232	250	235	235	238
Roll Only	40	15	34	29	29
Chick Harbert					
Carry and Roll	245	265	270	273	263
Carry Only	235	252	231	228	236
Roll Only	10	13	39	45	27

Ed Dudley					
Carry and Roll	256	245	258	254	253
Carry Only	236	220	238	240	234
Roll Only	20	25	20	14	19
Harry Cooper					
Carry and Roll	257	230	262	257	251
Carry Only	231	220	216	219	222
Roll Only	26	10	46	38	29
Denny Shute					
Carry and Roll	248	222	262	267	250
Carry Only	235	205	215	225	220
Roll Only	13	17	47	42	30
Wilford Wehrle					
Carry and Roll	247	230	260	263	250
Carry Only	235	220	227	238	230
Roll Only	12	10	33	25	20
Harold McSpaden					
Carry and Roll	250	238	262	247	249
Carry Only	238	225	245	235	236
Roll Only	12	13	17	12	13
Ben Hogan					
Carry and Roll	210	270	272	240	248
Carry Only	185	230	224	227	217
Roll Only	25	40	48	13	31
Joe Kirkwood					
Carry and Roll	247	237	248	252	246
Carry Only	238	220	226	237	230
Roll Only	9	17	22	15	16

George Dawson					
Carry and Roll	251	240	254	236	245
Carry Only	222	225	208	190	211
Roll Only	29	15	46	46	34
Errie Ball					
Carry and Roll	260	215	235	246	239
Carry Only	226	202	225	225	219
Roll Only	34	13	10	21	19
Mike Turnesa					
Carry and Roll	252	247	247	205	238
Carry Only	230	235	225	190	220
Roll Only	22	12	22	15	18
John Lehman					
Carry and Roll	236	225	230	253	236
Carry Only	224	223	213	227	222
Roll Only	12	2	17	26	14
Toney Penna					
Carry and Roll	240	237	234	235	236
Carry Only	228	205	215	223	218
Roll Only	12	32	19	12	18
Tony Manero					
Carry and Roll	225	250	218	244	234
Carry Only	202	215	195	225	209
Roll Only	23	35	23	19	25
Chick Evans					
Carry and Roll	225	230	230	232	229
Carry Only	175	207	202	200	196
Roll Only	50	23	28	32	33

Greenkeeper Considers Design of Postwar Equipment

By EMIL MASHIE

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NOTWITHSTANDING the crowded schedule under which greenkeepers work these days many of them are giving thought to design and construction desirable in postwar equipment. Possibly some of this thought is prompted by the acquaintance with machinery design and performance which has been enlarged by wartime jobs. In my own case I start at the course at 6:30 A.M. or before and am in a machine shop of a metallurgical company from 3:30 P.M. until midnight.

Such a program, requiring intense study of means of conducting golf course maintenance operations with speed, economy and continuance of good playing condition, together with opportunities of observing close-up the methods of a very efficient industrial plant, is bound to have an effect in making one think about what improvements could be made in course maintenance machinery.

At Onwentsia we have had less power

equipment than I think we'll consider essential after the war. Prior to the war we were able to rely on manual labor to handle work that motorized equipment could do.

Like many others responsible for golf course condition I believe I have some definitely practical ideas of what will have to be done by motorized equipment after the war. Possibly some of my opinions and hopes are too visionary, but I believe them to be well founded.

First, regardless of type of equipment one is to favor, lighter equipment, especially green mowers is desirable.

On greens it seems that about 21-inch mower is the maximum that can be used practically. How about designs along the lines of fairway gang mowers, maybe three small mowers? How about two or three flexible reels as one larger unit? Personally, I like a single unit mower for greens—but the gang mowers accomplish the work faster. I have thought of units of two or three that can be used as such or separately. There is no question that with lighter mowers increased efficiency and improved turf will be attained.

In the rough mower field, there is need