

Army Hospitals Benefit from PGA Championship

A lot of mighty deserving fellows were remembered when the stage was being set by the PGA and the sponsor for the association's 26th annual championship, held at Manito G & CC, Spokane, Wash., August 14-20. As a result, two local Army hospitals, Baxter General and Ft. George Wright, stand to split in the neighborhood of \$25,000, representing the entire gross proceeds from the tournament gate. This was made possible by a grand fellow named Joe Albi, president of Spokane's famous Round Table and a lot of fellows like him who make up this non-profit organization of sportsmen.

The event was as smooth in its handling as it was successful in its financial outcome, with credit for on-location details going to Manito's president, Bob Nelson, and his staff. The Army handled the ticket sale and gallery patrol—and well. PGA officials and contestants were generous in their praise of Boyd Walker, Manito manager, Roy Henderson, pro, and the excellent condition of the course attained by Glen Proctor, greenkeeper.

A grandstand was erected overlooking the 18th green in which a special section was reserved for wounded soldiers. Walkie talkies kept the press informed. The

largest gallery in PGA championship history, estimated at over 8,000, turned out the final day.

When it all wound up Bob Hamilton, Hilfrick Field GC, Evansville, Ind., pro held title of 1944 National PGA Champion. In winning, Hamilton defeated the two outstanding pro golfers of the country—Byron Nelson and Jug McSpaden. It was his first participation in the PGA classic. In a meeting held before the event the PGA Tournament Committee voted to eliminate stymies.

Most likely Hamilton will not have to spend much carfare to defend his title in 1945 as two midwest cities already have bids in for the championship with the straw blowing towards Detroit.

Roundup Brings in Used Balls

Take a tip from Harold Clasen, pro, Northland CC, Duluth, Minn. if you really want to round up used balls. The Northland plan is to schedule their Fall Round-up late in September. The entry fee is one dozen used balls and, coming at the end of the season, a plentiful supply of old cuts seems to be available in dozen lots.

Its a one-club-only event, with no caddies. Dinner is "on the house" and precautions are taken against members expiring from thirst (or chill) during the tour of the course.

Players who feel a surge of skill coming on as they approach Northland's par 3 holes have a chance to win a reprocessed ball by wagering three old cuts that their tee shots will reach the green.

Although a small amount of synthetic rubber has been made available to the ball makers for experimental purposes, successful synthetic golf balls are still very much in the category of future business. So, pros are being urged to continue collections and, of course, the logical time to round 'em up is from now on as the season's end approaches.

Northland's successful plan is a case where club officials, manager and pro have closely cooperated.

A hole-in-one tournament sponsored by Gene Root, pro-manager at the Ross-Rogers muny course, Amarillo, Texas, in support of the drive for old golf balls, garnered 444 of the little white pills.

Bob Hamilton, 1944 PGA Champion.

