

Ohio State U Courses Are Good Golf Business

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A FACTOR THAT is certain to show powerful influence in the postwar growth of golf is the university golf courses. These courses have been great nurseries of golf but during the war years their play has been vastly increased by their supply of recreation to young men who have been working hard in the army any navy courses at many schools.

The wartime scholastic program also has accounted for heavy play during the entire summer at those university courses where normally a lull in the college year reduces golf play. However, that is not the case at Ohio State where there is a considerable attendance all through the summers.

National attendance has been directed to the Ohio State university course by the National Collegiate and Big Ten championships played here. Visiting students, faculty members, athletic officials and newspapermen have commented on the excellence and popularity of the course.

However, very little has been said about the business aspects of the operation. Our department of Physical Education, headed by the noted veteran, L. W. St. John, believes that the Ohio State university golf course has an operating story that will encourage further development of university golf courses when extension of students' physical education and recreation activities will be in order at many schools, but the same old problem of expenses will demand primary attention.

The university golf course has operated in the black for the past few years due to three main factors: First, our play has increased steadily; second, our labor costs have decreased, and third, our maintenance costs have decreased.

Our play has shown a steady increase because we have the finest conditioned

course in this area; because we have had an adequate supply of golf balls (until during reconversion to synthetics), and because we have clubs to rent to our servicemen players. We have 36 of the finest greens in the country, and you know how golfers love good greens.

Our 9½ acre lake supplies about 7500 golf balls annually when it is drained in the fall. This extra supply enables us to be a little more liberal than most clubs in this area. Our Service play has been very large, and one of the major reasons, aside from the balls available, is that we have clubs to rent the Service players.

During the golf ball "dry spell"—until synthetics are produced—we have been loaning two golf balls to those players who have none. We charge them 25c a ball if they are lost, and give them our thanks if they bring them both in. The system seems to be making a hit, and without a doubt, it keeps a lot more of the boys playing golf.

Labor costs have decreased because we have not been able to get the labor. To compensate for this, our fine course superintendent, John S. McCoy, has spent many long extra hours on the course keeping it in shape.

Maintenance costs of the course and clubhouse have decreased because we have been unable to purchase many needed items, such as kitchen equipment, fertilizer, etc.

The following is a schedule of our dues:

	Students	Faculty	Alumni
Yearly	\$20.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Quarterly	10.00	15.00	none

The Alumni membership is good only on week days. Play on week ends involves greens fees (\$1.00).

Our greens fees are:

	Students and Enlisted Men	Faculty and Officers	Alumni and Guests of Members
Week Days	\$.55	\$.80	\$ 1.05
Week-ends80	1.05	1.55
Ten-Play	5.00	8.50	10.30

The course is open to all service men, students, faculty, administrative employees, alumni, and guests of members.

In addition to golf, we have an archery golf course, which is open all year.

Our clubhouse is used quite extensively by fraternities and sororities for dances, meetings, and parties of various kinds. There is an inside and outside dance floor. There is a large shelterhouse near the clubhouse, and a smaller one at the lake, both of which are very popular for group and family picnics. Forty-seven of our members had Victory Gardens 50' x 60' on the course, and hundreds of bushels of vegetables have been raised. These gardens have been directly responsible for holding some of our members during the gas shortage, and has also helped to procure a few new members.

Golf is taught indoors the year around at the University. Advanced classes met at the course for two-hour periods, and play as many holes as time allows. During the winter quarter, there is an indoor evening school for the Faculty and Alumni members. In the summer, group lessons are given to the junior members and to the caddies. The lessons to the caddies have been especially beneficial, as several of them have come along to be members of the Varsity team.

There were 26,667 rounds of golf played in 1944, and 400 rounds of Archery golf. Total Operating expense of the course, clubhouse, and restaurant in 1944 was \$28,759.78. Non-operating expense; taxes and interest, were \$2,759.78.

Income

Greens Fees	\$19,309.79
Dues	3,903.28
Merchandise Profit	5,196.97
Restaurant Profit	2,795.47
Pro Shop	811.00
Lockers	1,522.00
Miscellaneous Income	594.63
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	\$34,133.14

EAST WITH WILSON—Victor East, widely known as former pro and club design and construction expert, has left war industry work to become a member of Wilson Sporting Goods Co. staff. East worked with doctors and physical educators in some of the pioneering done in golf therapy. At present he is assigned to following up this experience by working with pros who have war casualties as pupils.

John T. Rodgers, H & B Official, Dies in New York

★ John T. Rodgers, 53, sec. and treas., Hillerich and Bradsby Co., Louisville, Ky., died in a hospital at New York City, July 12. He had been ill for three months. Burial was at Louisville. Mr. Rodgers was pres., National Association of Athletic Goods Mfrs. and a director of The Athletic Institute, Inc. He was a native of Mississippi. He joined H & B as a salesman in 1921 and was made an official of the company in 1937. He is survived by his widow; a son, John F. Rodgers; and two daughters, Mrs. William H. Shoen, III, and Miss Ann Rodgers.

John was a widely known and beloved character in golf and baseball. To him were entrusted many confidences of professional athletes and business organizations. John had the rare gift of geniality and judgment that enabled him to use his intimate knowledge of the sports business to benefit those whom he termed "the brothers" without ever tipping off the inside facts that had been told him. His word was always backed up by performance.

In and out of business hours John Rodgers was a great fellow to be with, a fine sportsman and a true gentleman. He is deeply mourned by all who knew him.

Work Pushed on Vet Courses—Bob Dunning, well known former greenkeeper, has been showing what value greenkeeping knowledge has had in wartime work. Dunning has been in airfield turf work and lately has been helping with construction of the course at Ashburn General hospital, McKinney, Tex. The course was designed by Ralph Plummer of Fort Worth. It's 9 holes with a yardage of 3400. It has high pressure watering for greens, fairways and tees. Col. J. B. Anderson, commanding officer of the hospital, is enthusiastic about what golf will do for the patients. Dunning says that the post engineer, Maj. V. J. Buck, who is in charge of construction and will be in charge of maintenance, has brought forth numerous engineering ideas that probably will figure widely in postwar course construction and maintenance.

Young Jack Allspaw, son of the veteran supt., is in the Army at the Harmon General hospital, Longview, Tex., and relates that medical officers there are very strong for golf instruction for the patients as many of them are orthopedic cases and can get from golf the best combination of foot, leg, arm and hand strengthening exercise along with sports fun and competition.