

Pros Break Purse and Scoring Records

By FRED CORCORAN

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DURING the 1945 season the PGA had 42 tournaments scheduled for purses totaling \$500,000 in war bonds or \$375,00 in cash. Previous top year was 1940 with \$175,000 in cash. George May's tournament was the largest purse, \$60,000 in war bonds. The largest amount turned over to war charities from one event was the PGA Championship, \$51,550. Practically every event has been played with receipts going to rehabilitation funds at the local hospitals.

Tournaments played this summer at Memphis, Knoxville, Nashville, Dallas and Tulsa netted about \$80,000 for the local rehabilitation funds. The attendance for tournaments in 1945 should go over the half million mark.

Bill Wotherspoon, Southern Hills CC, Tulsa, Okla., gave a check for \$18,000 to local army hospitals. This money to be used to build a golf course at the Borden General Hospital for rehabilitation of wounded war veterans.

Felix McKnight, Managing Editor, Dallas News, says more than \$20,000 will be given to veteran's rehabilitation fund, as net of the Dallas tournament played early in September.

Not counting exhibitions for 1945, about \$250,000 will be turned over to the various sectional rehabilitation funds from tournaments sponsored by the PGA. The Snead-Nelson match played in New York raised \$20,000. The Hope-Crosby matches played for the PGA Rehabilitation funds for the year will be about \$75,000. At Salt Lake City \$34,000 was turned over to the local fund from the Hope-Crosby match arranged by George Schneider.

During the year tournament players averaged two visits a week to military hospitals, camps or clubs stationed within reasonable distance of the golf tournaments. Nelson, Snead, McSpaden, Hogan and Pvt. Bob Hamilton competed in a long driving contest at Ft. Lewis, near Tacoma, which Hamilton won with a drive of 329 yards. Hamilton is stationed there.

The PGA sponsored tournament schedule for 1946 will open at Los Angeles, first week in January. There is a tournament scheduled for every weekend until April 15.

Nelson had won up to Oct. 15, \$61,000 in war bonds during 1945.

The California Golf Writers Assn., Russ Newland, Pres., has requested January 11-14, for San Francisco. \$15,000 in war bonds has been posted in prize money. They also put up a \$5,000 prize for the lucky ticket holder. The proceeds will be turned over to a local hospital.

Tournaments of the 1946 winter tour will be played at Los Angeles, San Francisco, Richmond, California; Phoenix, Tucson, Texas, New Orleans, St. Petersburg, Fla.; Miami Four Ball, Jacksonville, Greensboro, Charlotte. A week is being held for the Masters' tournament if it is to be played at Augusta.

The 1946 tournament season will go over \$600,000 mark in war bonds, according to applications already received for tournaments.

Ben Hogan's 261 scored over the Portland CC course, which is a championship layout a par of 72, was the best scoring performance to date. The lowest score was made by Byron Nelson's 259 over the Broadmoor GC, which has a par of 70. The Portland course measured about 6700 yards. This tournament was won last year by Sam Snead with a score of 289, played in heavy rains. Hogan's nearest competitor was Nelson with 275, 14 strokes being the largest margin between first and second position. Nelson led by 13 strokes at Broadmoor.

★ WOMEN'S WESTERN SETS DATES

Women's Western GA will play its annual open at Waukonda CC, Des Moines, Ia, June 24-29, and its amateur championship at Country Club of Cleveland, Aug. 11-17. WWGA junior and its Derby, dropped during war years, will be resumed in 1946, with courses and dates to be announced later.

Mrs. Wrisley B. Oleson, Glen Oak CC, was elected WWGA pres. at its annual meeting. Mrs. Charles Dennehy, retiring pres., disclosed that the WWGA amateur drew \$1,634.70 and the open, \$1,546.60 for hospital golf courses and other recreation for wounded veterans.