

A Tourney For Wounded Vets

By ED HARBERT

Pro, Battle Creek (Mich.) CC

THERE is a probability that at the Battle Creek CC this summer will be held a national golf tournament that will be the finest the game ever has presented. The prize money will be nothing spectacular and the scoring will not be comparable with that of other tournaments. But its field will include some of the greatest golfers of this nation. And by greatest I mean greatest.

The tournament is being planned for amputees who have been picking up golf at military hospitals. The commanding officer at the Percy Jones General hospital at Battle Creek is keenly interested in the idea and is working closely with pros of the Michigan section of the PGA to make the event national.

Britain had a one-armed golfers' tournament for some years before World War II. The first championship of this kind was played in 1933 at the Royal Burgess Golfing Society of Edinburgh. There was a field of 43, of whom 37 had lost an arm in World War I. The others were mainly victims of industrial accidents. Some highly successful businessmen were among the competitors. The Royal Burgess course is 6,300 yards long. W. E. Thomson of Glasgow, the winner, had rounds of 82 and 87. He drove the last green, 260 yards.

In Michigan the pros have been doing considerable in instructing the amputees. Frank Sprogell, Leo Conroy and I have been handling classes at Percy Jones. Al Watrous and Claud Harmon have been conducting classes at Fort Custer, and Frank Walsh and Chuck Rattan have been teaching at the Gull Lake annex. The instruction is complementary to the building of practice courses by pro, greenkeeper and amateur effort at the hospitals. This is one aspect of pro work in which nobody ever has to ask a pro twice or plead with him to sacrifice his own convenience in getting him to work earnestly. We would have nothing to do with any fellow who puts anything ahead of this sort of a job in pro golf.

The instruction of course involves interesting technical problems. But it is amazing how quickly these young men are acquiring compensating elements that give them good balance, one of the essentials of golf.

We hope and believe that the instruction is of considerable practical value in the psychological readjustment of the



GOLF TRIES TO PAY ITS DEBT—Pros instruct patients at the Percy Jones General hospital, Battle Creek, Mich., in adjustments of golf swing to limitations caused by combat damage. Several veterans show bright promise of becoming better scorers than the 95% of civilians who score higher than 95. Pros in this group are: l. to r.: E. W. Harbert, Leo Conroy and Frank Sprogell.

physically handicapped veteran. You hear a lot of talk about the necessity of the civilian public accepting the physically handicapped veteran as one whose status should not be accepted as the cause of any indiscreet attitude or expression. Well, after teaching these lads I have found myself regarding them as decided improvements over many pupils I've had who possess the usual equipment of limbs but who are just naturally clumsy and muscle-bound. So the veteran who is minus an arm or a leg quite rapidly becomes just another pupil that I want to make as good a golfer as his physical and mental nature will permit.

The pupil himself gets in that way of thinking and regards the problem of hitting a golf ball with only one arm or one leg in the swing as a technical problem rather than a tragic personal affair. Some of these lads are going to become much better than average golfers and will be able to hold their own in most golf club competitions.

The fellows, in many instances, are pretty smart in working out their own types of swing based on the necessary adjustments to their physical handicaps and the basic mechanics of bringing the clubhead into effective contact with the ball.

But, naturally, one thing that is discouraging to them is getting distance. However, that's not their problem alone. Any pro will tell you that his members are restricted, by their years or other less obvious physical handicaps, in getting distance.

On that account I have had printed three extra score cards. They are for the

classes that couldn't be expected to meet par. One is for the class that's in the low 80's, another for those in the high 80's and low 90's, and the other one for those above 92. Our usual score card, of

course, is retained.

We're giving those a trial with our own membership this year. And I'm going to have the amputees try them when they are ready to get out on courses and play.

The cards:

	408										520					548					200				
	445	396	560	153	406	362	373	137	457	3400	478	360	170	377	386	555	112	311	425	3332	6732				
Par	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	3	5	36	5	4	3	4	4	5	3	4	4	36	72				
Handicap	5	9	1	17	8	7	12	18	4	3	13	16	11	10	2	15	14	6							
Holes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18							
Par	5	5	6	3	5	5	4	3	6	42	6	4	3	4	5	6	3	4	5	40	82				
Handicap	5	9	1	17	8	7	12	18	4	3	13	16	11	10	2	15	14	6							
Par	5	5	7	4	5	5	5	4	6	46	6	5	4	5	5	7	4	5	5	46	92				
Handicap	5	9	1	17	8	7	12	18	4	3	13	16	11	10	2	15	14	6							
Par	6	6	7	4	6	6	6	4	7	52	7	5	4	6	6	7	4	5	6	50	102				
Handicap	5	9	1	17	8	7	12	18	4	3	13	16	11	10	2	15	14	6							

WARTIME SAMPLING IS BUILDING GOLF BOOM

By ART SMITH

Hyde Park G&CC, Cincinnati, Ohio

★ What is the future of postwar golf? That is a question I have been asked numerous times during the past three years. It is my opinion, and I might add, the opinion of many of my brother golf professionals that golf is going to enjoy the biggest boom of any sport after the war.

Everyone interested in a certain sport paints a bright picture for that particular sport. The Budge boys swear that tennis will sweep the country; the archers claim that hitting the bull's-eye will be the national pastime. The football followers feel sure that sport will continue to be recognized as the national pastime. However, I believe the royal and ancient game of golf will lead the way.

I know in my own case, hardly a week goes by that I don't receive a letter from some of our former caddies at the club, asking to send them some clubs or balls. Interest in the game has tripled as shown by the huge galleries all over the country in the past year.

The Government can be thanked for a lot of this increased patronage. Nearly all the Army posts and hospitals throughout the country have golf courses, driving ranges, or miniature putting layouts. In the cases of psycho-neurotics or fatigue returnees, the soldier is introduced to golf immediately. Golf requires concentration, limited physical exertion, and exposes the patient to sun and fresh air. He immediately forgets his troubles.

That the game of golf can be played alone is one of its big attractions. Baseball, basket-ball, tennis, badminton and numerous other sports do not offer this attraction. They either require teams or individuals that play that particular sport as well as the opponents. In golf, a par shooter can enjoy a round of golf

with a player just beginning the game.

The PGA's rehabilitation program has done a lot to stimulate golf in the various Army camps around the country. Byron Nelson, Sam Snead, Harold McSpaden, Bob Hamilton, Craig Wood and numerous other PGA members who played on the winter circuit, visited the different camps and put on driving and putting exhibitions. They also gave lessons to the boys in groups.

Another thing that is helping to make golf so popular is the number of Open golf tournaments being played each weekend. It is surprising the amount of space the sport editors are giving golf in their sport sections. I have often wondered if baseball would hold its popularity if it were not for the great amount of space devoted to the game. Take the box-score, batting and pitching records out of the paper and see how quickly baseball would die.

Postwar golf competition will be razor-edge. The better ball will be made again, and as Ben Hogan said not long ago, he looks for the touring pros to soon be shooting in the fifties consistently.

Out of the amateur ranks we may see another Bobby Jones rise up, as did the Grand-Slammer after the first World War. There is plenty of talent now lying dormant, due to these chaotic times, but with peace times, the pendulum will swing the other way and there will be a great movement toward the pleasures that come from sports. And golf is, I am sure, going to find itself at the top of the list with the sport-loving addicts of this country.

Before the war, we had in the neighborhood of three million golfers in the United States. It is the opinion of many that a few years after the war we will have close to ten million golfers here in the United States.