

Painful Facts ABOUT SYNTHETIC Ball Hopes

REPORTS that cover material and synthetic rubber thread will be released so 6,336,000 golf balls can be made this year has given the wishful more optimism than the cold facts warrant.

According to the information the ball makers have been able to get the Army will take around 200,000 dozen balls and the Navy 100,000 dozen this year, out of the 528,000 dozen balls the release of materials will make available. However, to hike up the production there will have to be labor made available, and transfer of labor to non-essential industry hasn't been mentioned so far.

The government plan is to allow material for the production of 132,000 dozen balls a quarter.

The first quarter of the year, of course, has passed. The probability is that more than half the second quarter will have expired before materials are made available and such labor and manufacturing facilities as may be secured are employed in ball production. If all goes perfectly (which includes release of labor after VE day) the July-August-September quarter may see production of the 132,000 dozen quota. Taking Army and Navy requirements out of that will leave 57,000 dozen for public sale. And, to reduce that still more, is the possibility that Navy requirements will be increased.

After September the greater part of the play in the northern and central states will be over for the season. It is extremely doubtful if, after the Army and Navy present and anticipated orders are filled, any new golf balls will be available for civilian play this year.

The 528,000 dozen annual basis of allotment of materials for the synthetic balls is only about 20 per cent of a normal year's requirements. With the Army and Navy taking more than half the balls that can be made with the announced quantity of materials that will be released, you can see that at the very best your chance of getting a new synthetic thread rubber ball this year is considerably less than one in eight.

The above figures are the ones you'll have to use in determining the actual score on the golf ball situation.

Supply of golf balls adequate to permit carrying on the game this year will require continued, vigorous conduct of the used ball collection and reconditioning campaign . . . and don't think it won't.