

Rhythm and Etiquette Featured in Timberman's Kid Classes

Wayne Timberman, pro at Meridian Hills CC, Indianapolis, Ind., has done a job of developing juvenile golfers that pros in the midwest who have had considerable successful experience of their own in juvenile golf promotion, consider an outstanding performance.

Prior to the establishment of Timberman's program in 1941, and at frequent intervals since, he has consulted school authorities for advice and checking on various principles and practices in teaching youngsters. Because of this adaptation of educational experts' advice the program at Meridian Hills goes into angles not often applied in golf instruction of juveniles.

The Timberman free classes are conducted during the season for youngsters through 14 years of age. In the summer of 1946 there were 64 boys and girls who took part in the classes and with surprising regularity of attendance. The kids practice, too, in a manner that Wayne says could very well be emulated by the older pupils of golf instructors.

The Timberman lessons and supervision include emphasis on this matter of practice. That's a particularly important phase of juvenile development because of the limited time and personal supervision that can be devoted to the classes when the pro's teaching schedule is tightly packed. Getting the kids to be joyfully eager to practice and knowing how to prac-



Wayne Timberman looks over a group in one of his classes.

tice correctly Timberman says is a very important part of the schooling.

Rhythm Learning Stressed

One phase of the instruction at Meridian Hills that has proved especially impressive to parents of the kids as well as to Wayne is the accent on rhythm. Timberman picked up this idea from school teachers who spoke of their work with the so-called "rhythm bands" for rather young pupils. Most of such teaching is done in kindergartens. It is basic in developing a sense of rhythm

and a quite tough job in the cases of kids who are inclined to be clumsy. Timberman, by applying fundamentals of this rhythm teaching to instruction in the golf swing seems to have implanted ease and grace into the manual performances of youngsters who apparently were destined to go awkwardly through childhood.

In the routine of his juvenile classes Timberman endeavors to give the pupils fundamentally sound performance with respect to grip, use of hands and forearms in developing clubhead speed, movement from the waist down to give leverage, and freedom of the hands and arms in manipulating the clubhead while keeping it under control. He explains the reasons so the pupils get in their own minds the foundations of the principles involved and have at least a fair notion of why and where their faults occur.

Accent On Etiquette

Discreet accent is given to golf etiquette by Timberman's explanations of the

Lads and lassies in one of Wayne Timberman's junior classes at Meridian Hills learn to take a good free whack at the ball, and how to play as top-ranking ladies and gentlemen.



reasons for the points of etiquette that each gentleman and lady golfer is expected to observe. Wayne considers this a highly valuable part of any juvenile program for the simple reason that youngsters uninformed in golf manners are apt to become nuisances in their enthusiasm at play, thus cause criticism and restraint by members who will have valid reason for complaint, and possibly nullify the eager interest the kids have been showing in golf.

By dropping the etiquette instruction into the program after the youngsters are kindled in desire to play Wayne notes that it is not difficult to get into a kid's mind that observance of golf etiquette makes golf more, instead of less, fun. The general idea of etiquette also makes the instruction of the pupils more effective. Timberman, like other pros who have successfully conducted juvenile programs, realizes that there is bound to be a certain vigorous, frolicsome and mischievous element in any group of youngsters. To get that lively element to contribute to the generally pepping up of class interest and action without having it disturb the general tenor of the lessons is a diplomatic task of the pro which can be made comparatively easy by smooth and interesting reference to the ritual and reason of golf etiquette.

Timberman and Meridian Hills members and officials are certain that the juvenile program has been not only a very definite factor in establishing an excellent group of future members but has done much to solve the summer recreation problem of the youngsters.

These Meridian Hills young golfers have developed form that frequently reminds the observer of swings of today's adult stars. Some of the kids are scoring in figures that indicate those who say there'll not be another amateur win the National Open may have spoken prematurely. Pete Burkholder, 13, present Meridian Hills Junior champion and quarter-finalist in the Indianapolis City tournament for boys up to 18, started in these classes 4 years ago at the age of 9. Pete shoots consistently from 76 to 84 on the 6774 yard Meridian Hills course. Billy Kerr, an 89 pound, 4 ft. 8 in. 12 year old, in class since 1942, has shot an 84 on Meridian Hills.

Donna Mae Knox, 12, in her 3rd year in the class, qualified in the 1946 club tournament with a 92 and is consistently shooting in the 90's.

Each year a Junior club tournament is held and appropriate awards are presented to the best golfers among the boys, also among the girls in the group up through 10 years of age who play 9 holes. Those 10 through 14 play 18 holes and appropriate awards are given to the winners in both the boys and girls groups.

For the past two years Meridian Hills has sponsored a Juvenile Invitation Tournament.

At the close of the season Meridian Hills Juniors, under the supervision of Timberman, put on an exhibition for club members. Following that a dinner for Junior golfers is held at which time awards won during the season are presented. At the exhibition movies are taken which are presented at the following year's dinner.

PEPS UP PUTTING EVENTS—Britton (S.D.) GC, like other sand green courses wasn't able to get many entries in its putting tournaments. R. F. Comstock of the club devised a method of distance variation and scoring that made putting events very popular. The Britton method consists of putting four balls alongside each other and stroking them at the cup first from 2 ft. distance, then from 4, 6, 8 and 10 ft. Comstock found that, by having the distances these lengths, scoring was such that players were encouraged. If a ball stops before it reaches the cup the player may lift it. The placement of balls alongside each other and separated by several inches gives different putting angles. One point is scored for each ball holed from 2 ft., 3 for each holed from 4 ft.; 5 for each holed from 6 ft.; 7 for each holed from 8 ft. and 9 for each of the 4 balls holed from 10 ft. Highest possible score is 100.

Comstock says that another putting game called "Horse shoe" also has become popular at Britton and other of the sand green clubs in the section. Three points are scored for a "ringer" or a putt holed out and one point for the ball nearest the hole. In the case of 4 players as 2 teams, 2 opponents shoot from one side of the cup and 2 from the other.

TEXAS BOOSTS BOY GOLFERS—

Texas expects its present schoolboys to brighten the state's already brilliant golfing fame. Pros are coaching high school golf teams all over Texas and winter has seen no let-down in practice although January in Texas was unusually severe. Typical of local encouragement is a story in an Abilene sports section lauding the Maxwell twins, Bill and Bob and Gervis McGraw. Morgan Hampton, pro-mgr. of the Abilene CC since his return from the army, is coaching the Abilene high school golf team.

NEED SUPPLIES? SEE PAGE 69
