

trolled shot—usually a low one—and with no loss of distance.

The better performers made a distinct swing through the ball, with plenty of use of the right hand. I was impressed by this swing out after the ball. The backswing and the body action seemed subservient to this swing through. Form and detail didn't appear to matter too much if this swing through was accomplished.

Notes on Nelson

Nelson's best shot was his tee shot. Several players remarked that although By was noted as an iron player, he'd actually had the best drive in golf for the past five years. The same thing used to be the case with Armour when he was in his playing prime. He was famed as the iron master but has said that his wood play then was distinctly better than his irons.

Nelson was using more of a palm grip with his left hand. His left thumb was extended down the shaft and half on the side. He said this thumb position steadied and balanced the club at the top of the backswing. He made other meaty statements: "I hold onto the club with my left hand and hit with my right. I try to lead the swing with my left hand and arm and to control the path of the swing with the left. With the right hand I feel the club and make the blow."

There was the usual array of curious putters, indicating the desperation of even the stars in trying to discover the baffling secret of consistently good putting.

One point of coordination and control was prominent: the right arm was always moving forward close to the side of the body.

Ben Hogan, especially, was a great subject for study. His position at address was alive with potential power. He was always in motion. His weight was on his left leg. It was remarkable the long, low iron he could hit using only a brief swing. Then, in contrast, pictures showed him to have the balance and the control to use a longer swing and a more generous move on the drive than anyone else in the field.

Sam Byrd had a new putting stroke (probably in an attempt to minimize tournament tension). He played the ball well forward of his body and used an arm stroke with no wrist action. I doubt if Sam putts this way now, but the point is that he was open-minded and alert to change and suggestion. Sam is one of the smartest pros in golf with a wealth of ideas on how to swing. He didn't get those healthy ideas by resisting change. No sir, he's always changing, experimenting, and building.

The dubs in golf have a fear and mistrust of change. They are sure that any attempt

at introducing new swing technique will disrupt their existing habit patterns and leave them with nothing.

My notes on that tournament read: "McSpaden was deadly in scoring but Nelson and Hamilton seemed to be standouts in execution." That was the week before the PGA at Spokane where Hamilton defeated Nelson in the finals.

Pro Sees for Pupil

Such random notations have been invaluable to me in keeping lessons interesting with reference to golf personalities. While it is certainly true that the pupil's own game is infinitely more important to him than the game of any of the stars, it does help get the instruction story across by bringing in some point of an outstanding player's game that dramatizes the detail you want to emphasize.

It also develops keener attitude toward study and practice on the part of the pupil. Instinctively he gets to associating himself with good golf rather than being entirely overwhelmed by the problems and discouragement of his own game.

Then, too, this plan of passing along your observations is bound to give your pupils the impression that you are forever on the job trying to acquire something that can be used in improving their play. It may encourage them to develop a habit of watching the tournament players' swings themselves instead of merely rushing around wildly to see where the ball goes. Their interpretations may be wide of the mark but you can correct that confusion and error. The profit will come to them as a result of their greater interest in good golf. A pupil who is "swing smart" learns faster.

CHICAGO PROS AND OFFICIALS STUDY LESSON SITUATION

Officials and pros of Chicago district clubs have been informally discussing the instruction situation in the district, not with any idea of recommending standard practice but for the purpose of getting a district-wide basic picture. Lesson fees range from \$2 to \$5 a half-hour, with \$4 and \$5 being the usual charge at the private clubs. In the course of discussions the matter of half-hour periods as customary for lessons was questioned. Some pros expressed opinion that 15 minute or 45 minute lessons would fit individual cases better than the arbitrary half-hour sessions.

Also examined was the greens fee range which extended at private clubs from \$1 week-days at a few clubs to \$8 for Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Other subject considered was playing hours for women which became a hotly controversial subject at some clubs last year.