

Sports Coaches' Schools Reveal a Job for Golf

By SAL DI BUONO

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There is an angle to the growing association of professional golfers with high school and college sports coaching staffs that is bound to have a beneficial effect on pro golf.

That is the manner in which the high school and college coaches make a study of instruction. We in pro golf have seen in the greenkeeping short courses examples of how methods can be improved by the planned and collective study of men in that work. We have benefited by getting more of the open-minded attitude toward our problems that the greenkeepers have acquired as a result of their short course schooling.

The parallel between the pros and greenkeepers in their attitudes toward the development and adoption of new methods is close. Without reaching too far back in our memories we can recall when there

was a general tendency for greenkeepers to be reluctant about the exchange of knowledge. Greenkeepers have grown out of that. Today they'll tell you that the old attitude of regarding knowledge as private property and retention of what was considered an exclusive and valuable secret retarded greenkeepers as it did greenkeeping.

We professionals have acquired the new attitude of being eager to exchange information on methods we have used with success in our instruction and our shop operations. Possibly there still is a rather strong questioning attitude—almost suspicion—among some of us when somewhat revolutionary ideas are presented. But I have noticed that the objections haven't the personal basis they often used to have. We have made good progress for golf in getting to the point where we appraise

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ideas on the sole grounds of whether the ideas will help our clubs and our members. If the new ideas do mean personal credit to their originators, what of it? The improvements build the whole profession and that's what we, as intelligent businessmen, must consider.

Coaching Schools Popular

In various sections and at our annual PGA national meeting we have clinics. I doubt that many of us have looked into a dictionary to make sure of the meaning of "clinic." The dictionary gives clinic as "A medical institution in which a group of physicians jointly examine and treat patients; also the examination and treatment of patients in the presence of medical students."

Obviously from those definitions we professionals can use considerable more professional schooling before we reach the physician status qualifying us to get and give the most good out of the clinic sessions.

Our study of instruction and our clinics generally are informal affairs although we are getting ahead in making use of outside experts. The first golf clinic that was conducted for pros was put on at Chicago ten or more years ago under the auspices of the Illinois PGA. The late R. W. Treacy,

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then sec. of the national PGA, and others arranged a program which brought in such authorities as Dr. Robert Dyer, lecturer at the University of Illinois medical school, store designers, merchandising experts and physical training specialists.

The two-day session was a definite success and was attended by about 50 pros from Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana. Then, for various reasons—none of them that a bit of concerted energy couldn't have overcome—the clinic idea lagged until the Minnesota PGA in collaboration with the athletic department of the University of Minnesota revived it and has conducted two very valuable, practical schools.

As golf pros get more into the coaching of high school and university teams they are going to see how the other coaches of other sports are progressing by attending coaching schools.

We pros are going to look over that situation and compare our results with pupils with the results coaches in other sports achieve. Most of our pupils are older and past the stage of quick physical response and present more of an instructional problem than the material the high school and college coaches get, but that's the greater reason why our capacities should be de-

veloped to solve a more difficult coaching problem.

I notice in the May issue of Scholastic Coach there is a directory of 43 coaching schools to be conducted this summer. Main subjects are football and basketball. Other subjects include track, wrestling, 6-man football, officiating, training, baseball, soccer, health and physical education, gymnastics, swimming, and tennis.

Why No Golf?

You will note that golf is not listed in the announced programs of any of the schools. Why that should be is something that the PGA should investigate. It should be a matter of serious concern to us that golf is omitted from programs presented to the men responsible for the sports instructions of hundreds of thousands of students.

Some of the schools, especially that of the Wisconsin High School Coaches association, advertise that golf can be played by coaches who attend the school.

Our PGA educational program has been the subject of much investigation and discussion but, unfortunately, not much action despite the conscientious work of the committee. It seems plain that getting golf into these coaching schools is a matter

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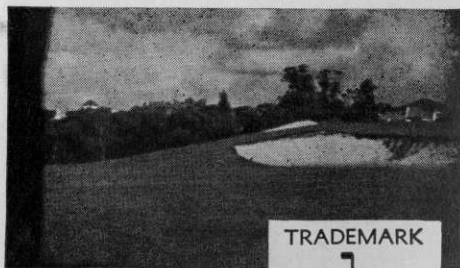


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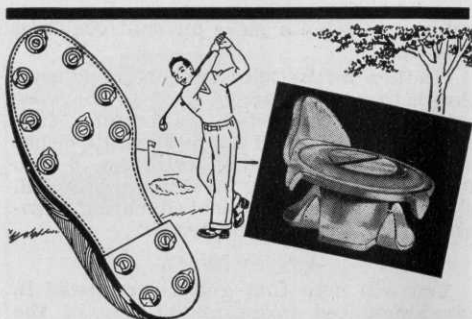
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calling for the fullest and smartest sort of a selling campaign by the PGA. Neglect of that would be something for which we could not excuse ourselves.

These coaching schools run from 2 days to about 3 weeks. In the majority of them the proceedings are mimeographed and distributed to those attending. Tuition ranges from \$1 to members of the associations conducting the schools up to \$25 for a week's school. Non-members attending schools conducted by associations are charged higher tuition fees.

Faculties of the schools include such football coaching celebrities as Dana Bible, Bernie Bierman, Wallie Butts, Fritz Crisler, Ray Eliot, Wes Fesler, Don Faurot, Dick Harlow, Frank Leahy, Bo McMillan, Jess Neely, Howie Odell, Red Sanders, Carl Snavelly and Harry Stulhdreher. The basketball men include Clair Bee, Lou Alexander, Chick Davies, Bruce Drake, Bud Foster, Hank Iba, Dave MacMillan, Lee Patton and Adolph Rupp.

The whole picture of these established and successful coaching schools is something that pro golf must investigate for it's from this field that we are certain to get a pattern that will help us greatly in speeding our own advancement and the service of professional golf.

Golf Architects' Service Saves Money for Clubs

By William B. Langford

A newly organized golf club, having limited funds at its disposal, must be extremely careful that nothing is wasted. Since the greatest possible cause of waste in the development of golf property is faulty planning it is thrifty to retain the best golf architect available, not judging him by the size of his fee, but by his reputation and experience. Money saved on the architect's charges can easily be lost many times over, not only in the excessive cost of executing faulty plans, but also in the intangible expense of playing for possibly many years over a course which does not make the best use of the club's property, and the very real cost and inconvenience of correcting its deficiencies.

If an architect is to be retained, let him help select the property to be acquired. Do not go off halfcocked and do any work before plans are made and without his approval. Such operations are usually badly timed, and may even injure future development of the grounds by destroying natural beauty.

While each golf site presents a different problem to the designer, an experienced architect rarely encounters a question that does not have its solution suggested by some past difficulty. This wealth of ex-

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