

"Hagen Day" Plans and Clinic Feature Michigan Pro Meet

By JOEL BENNETT

Michigan PGA's spring meeting was rated the most practical session the association ever held. But despite the intensely practical character of the progress a sentimental event was planned, a state-wide observance to be known as Walter Hagen day.

Perhaps the planned and over-due honoring of the Haig is not an entirely sentimental performance although the Michigan pros consider Walter their own particular pride and joy. Pres. Frank Sprogell, in announcing the Hagen Day, brought out what is in the mind of every pro who knows the history of his business when Frank referred to The Haig's tremendous pioneering job in leading the golf professionals into a new era. The golf professionals in giving the public a conception of the status and character of the professional athlete different than the traditional old country idea opened a new field of earnings and esteem for all professional athletes worthy of recognition.

It seems to the Michigan pros that pro golf nationally should exhibit their promotion and publicity good judgment and their gratitude toward the dean of America's great pro playing stars by making Hagen Day nation-wide. But regardless of what action is taken to organize Hagen Day on a national basis it is going to be a great celebration in Walter's adopted state of Michigan.

Clinic Made History

The 75 pros attending the meeting considered that the discussion following the presentation of the new picture "PGA Stars in Action" was the most valuable instruction session they had attended. In their opinion it was a history-making affair in defining principles that will give the Michigan golfing public an idea of pro standardization on fundamentals and will do much to clear away the widespread public misconception that there is confusion and disagreement between the qualified golf teachers.

Frank Walsh, chairman of the Education and Promotion committee, presented the questions on the film to the Michigan meeting, with the expert collaboration of Horton Smith, Al Watrous, Sam Byrd, Leo Conroy, Chick Rutan, Tommy Shannon of the home team and Craig Wood as a visitor.

This movie is in slow and ultra-slow mo-

tion and it affords the best opportunity yet presented for a study of the stars—Nelson, Hogan, Snead, Harbert, Demaret, Craig Wood, Jimmy Thomson, Lloyd Mangrum and others.

Before the movie was shown the Education and Promotion committee suggested to the members that they watch for and study 4 parts of the swings they were about to see as they were the 4 points to be especially discussed.

Those 4 points and the consensus of opinion:

First—PIVOT—Is that the right word to use? Do these players pivot, turn or shift or is it a combination of these 3?

The conclusion is: Pivot is not a word to be used in describing a golf move or position. Turn is the better word and even it should be used sparingly. The swing should start in one piece with the club moving straight back away from the ball, and when the turn does come it should come without being manufactured.

Second—Is "hit down on the ball" a good term? Did these players in the movie hit down on the ball?

We concluded: "Hit down on the ball" should be eliminated, and in its place goes "the swing should be directed thru the ball." Never onto or to the ball—but "thru the ball.

The stars in the film appeared to be taking a divot with an ascending motion."

Third—Is keeping the head down a good term? Did the players in the film keep their heads down?

The discussion following brought out these opinions: "Keeping the head down" is not a good term. The players kept their eyes on the ball at all times and their heads in position. We all had noted that just as many shots in golf were missed by players trying to keep their heads down after impact as by the players looking up.

Fourth—Do the players change the ball around or do they change their position?

What we concluded should be sweet music to the golfing public. The players do not move the ball back or forward for each shot. They leave the ball in the same place. They don't move the ball back toward the right foot, they narrow the stance by moving the right foot closer to the left and as they use shorter clubs they natur-

(Continued on page 100)

formation and proof of the ace and the Walter Hagen personally autographed certificate will be forthcoming.

SPORTS AREA CHART—Wilson Sporting Goods Co. has supplied sports depts. of newspapers with a wall poster showing official dimensions of sports fields and courts. It's a very interesting and informative chart. The chart would be a much consulted feature in some pro shops and lockerrooms.

Tam O'Shanter CC (Chicago dist.) supplies members with an inch square sticker on which is printed a T. The sticker, pasted in a corner of the windshield of a member's car, saves delays in being identified by the watchman at the club gate.

"SKOR", NEW GRIP SOLUTION—Skor, a new rub-on paste that insures full grip-power on hands wet from perspiration or on wet club and racquet handles, is being sold by the national distributors, Cohan, Olson and Co., 404 N. Wells St., Chicago 10. Skor is manufactured by the Durasol Chemical Co. of Boston, and is packaged in individual tubes to retail for 98 cents. Skor is delivered to pro shops on attractive three-color 9 x 13½ inch display cards each carrying a dozen tubes. Dealer price is \$7.00 per card of 12 tubes in lots of 2 cards. The new paste contains lanolin and keeps dry hands soft and flexible. Users may apply it to the hands before starting a game, washing off any excess. As soon as hands or handle become wet, Skor gives a "tackiness"—but never stickiness—to the hands, preventing the club from slipping. Its grip-power lasts several hours. It is harmless to the hands and handle. Skor is greaseless and stainless and has a slight perfume odor. It will not deteriorate in the tube and is easily carried.

Selected coaches, players and professionals have tested Skor and have acclaimed it unanimously. Dealers may order from their jobbers or write to Cohan, Olson and Company, 404 North Wells Street, Chicago 10, Illinois. Customer folders will be supplied with shipments.

MICHIGAN PGA HIRES EXECUTIVE SEC.—Michigan PGA has hired Fred H. DeLano as executive secretary. DeLano will aid officers in their administrative functions as well as coordinate publicity and information. DeLano, former Detroit and Chicago newspaperman and

for 4 years sports publicity director of the University of Michigan, has served as publicity director of the Detroit Lions football club since 1944. He will continue with the Lions as well as handle the PGA job.

DAVIS CATALOG IS BUYERS' AID—New catalog of course equipment and supplies handled by George A. Davis, Inc., 5440 Northwest Highway, Chicago, is an exceedingly practical and attractive job. Concise data and clear illustrations cover a wide range of equipment and supplies and make the book a valuable item in the greenkeeper's library. A copy will be sent on request to greenkeepers or green-chairmen who have not been supplied.

Michigan Pro Clinic

(Continued from page 87)

ally move in closer to the ball. So in regard to the position of the ball with the left foot, you might very well play it off your left heel for a drive or for a niblic. The change is that of moving in closer to the ball and the right foot drawing close to your left.

At this point we all went into a discussion on present day golf vs. the swings of yesteryear.

The first thing we agreed on is that present day golf in "big time" is played from "right to left."

Secondly, this is accomplished by a great number of the players having the left hand in what must be referred to as a weak position, i.e., on the side of the club—not on top—and that the right hand was also on the side of the club—not on top in a strong positive position—and that present day players use their right hand a great deal. They hold the club with the left and hit with right, just as Byron Nelson has remarked.

The new term "Reroute" was used more than "inside out." The film showed the players at the top of the backswing have a little action that starts to close the club face at the very top of the backswing. We agreed that this is the action they have in their method that permits them from a weak left hand position at the start of the swing to be able to burn in a low strong right to left shot. This action at the top was titled—Rerouting the Club Face.

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THE GREENS ARE THE FOUNDATION OF ALL SUCCESSFUL GOLF COURSES

The PGA stars don't "grip" the club, they "place their hands on the club."

And we came to the unanimous conclusion that a point that has been missed in the past that present day professionals have come up with is that the right elbow is away from the body at the top of the backswing and when it starts to move on the down swing all of the motion is not toward the body. The elbow moves forward some and as it moves it closes the club face. The right has an all important little task to perform other than just hurrying back to the side.

The Michigan section was assisted by Ohio section pros including PGA 5th dist. VP Harry Moffett; Leonard Schmutte, VP Northern Ohio; Marty Cromb, Sec. Northern Ohio; and James Cromb of Toledo.

CHIPS FROM MICHIGAN

Buck White, 1946 Memphis Open winner and loser to Jug McSpaden for a Tam O'Shanter All-Amayrican victory, is new pro at Battle Creek CC. . . Bill Wright goes from Lakepointe to succeed the late Jimmy Millar at Klinger Lake. . . Emerick Koscis is signed as pro by Marshall CC. . . Jack Orlick will handle the pro job at West Shore GC. . . Don Soper has John Cosmos as his new asst. . . Bob Gajda has been added to the pro staff at Red Run. . . Bob Reith has been hired by Horton Smith for Horton's staff at Detroit CC.

A 10-match team match for the Bob Howell trophy will be played between pro and amateur stars of Michigan at a club and date to be announced. . . Caddies Welfare of the Michigan PGA will hold a caddie tournament this year. . . Club and date to be set. . . State is divided into 4 sections. . . In charge at Detroit is Jack Orlick. . . In Monroe section, Warren Orlick who also is chmn. of this committee. . . In Saginaw, Don Soper. . . In Grand Rapids section, Danny Nowack. . . Winners in the junior and senior caddie classes will be sent to National Caddie Assn. tournament at Columbus, O.

Joe Devaney, veteran pro at Grosse Ile, is practically a university. . . Look at the list of pros and fine assistants who got their training working for Joe. . . Jack Orlick, Warren Orlick, Ben Orlick, Don Soper, Jim Murray, Hal Whittington, Walter Nagunski and Pete Osach.

Lake's Lessons Pay Off

(Continued from page 27)

clubs to suit the individual, and many club sales result from such a promotion.

"Those who can afford individual lessons, after obtaining the free ones we give them in a mass instruction class, form our return trade, which in most cases far surpasses our initial outlay in time, effort and materials."

George estimates that between 8,000 and 10,000 persons have been given free in-

struction at the Recreation Park course since he took over the job in 1936, and that in addition no fewer than 250 free mass instruction classes at night, in which he has been assisted by fellow pros in the vicinity, have had an average of 100 in each class.

The return trade has been among leading reasons why Long Beach's municipal course netted more than \$30,000 last year—and has for more than a decade—with play increasing to such a pitch that the city's 27 municipally-owned holes cannot handle all the customers.

"Stress is laid in all cases," Lake continues, "on the basic fundamentals of golf instruction, so that the foundation for both juniors and adults is sound.

"After the lessons, our plan for competition and tournaments brings out the desire to improve. It encourages practice, more lessons and better equipment, and is, no doubt, considering the junior series, one of the basic reasons why so many fine junior golfers have begun in Long Beach."

Woodrow Wilson High of Long Beach, one of George's prep instruction groups, has, since 1929, won the Southern California interscholastic team championship 12 times in 17 years, while Long Beach Poly and Huntington Beach High (then obtaining free lessons from Lake in 1935) have each won the title once.

Over that time, rarely has been the season that Wilson High didn't have a golf squad of 35 to 50 candidates (this year they had 74), and from five to 15 capable of shooting consistently in the low 70s.

Out of George's school and junior clinics have come such nationally known "boys" as Joe Nichols, runner-up for the 1931 National Publix title at St. Paul; Doug MacKay, who beat Nichols for the Chicago City open title that same year; Ernie Combs, Jr., dandy of Pacific Coast resort golf in the mid-30s; Bobby Judson, now pro at Fircrest in Spokane; Curtis Williams, Les Hensley, Jackson Bradley, now assistants to Jimmy Hines at North Shore Club, Chicago; Ted Richards and others who have ruled Pacific Coast junior golf for nearly 2 decades; Jimmy Clark, winner of the world record medalist honor and the A. S. Kerry "Sportsmanship Award" at Spokane during the national publix championships in 1942; Willard McCay of U. of California and Frank Newell of U.C.L.A., Pacific Coast intercollegiate champions of 1937-38-39; Delbert Walker and a host of others who can look back on some phase of the free instruction clinics as aiding in their early golf development.

"The clinic appears to have great value to all concerned," Lake concludes, "both in aiding health and fitness for the individual, while the result in business for the professionals within the area can hardly be measured in dollars and cents, but I know it's there just the same."