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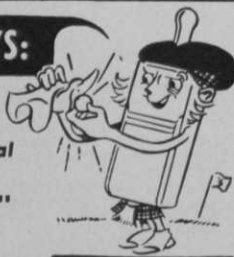
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weather sport enthusiasts. The commission constructed a long toboggan slide between the seventh and ninth fairways. A warming room was built alongside a new skating rink at the first fairway. A fine hill was set aside for skiers and lesser declines reserved for bob-sledders. Part of the River Rouge, which flows through the course and is frozen in wintertime, was cleaned off for additional skaters.

ROBBINS SEES BRIGHT PROSPECT FOR 1947 SPORTS

"All indications point to a strong market for athletic goods in 1947—and very probably for several years thereafter," said Charles F. Robbins, pres., A. G. Spalding & Bros. Inc., in New Commercial & Financial Chronicle. "Spectator interest is at an all-time high, as is shown by the reports of the record-breaking attendance at all sports events—golf, tennis, baseball, football, basketball and hockey. More important to the athletic goods industry is the participation of individuals in these sports. Here again the interest is greater than in any previous period. In golf and in tennis, we see more active play than ever before. In the schools and colleges, baseball, softball, football and basketball are appealing to a greater number of boys and girls than for many years before the war.

"As a background, there is evident a greater appreciation on the part of the average community in the desirability—if not even the necessity—of developing and maintaining good physical condition, combined with the development of character, both of which result from properly organized and supervised athletic programs. Much is being done in this field

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through educational programs which are being conducted by several state, county and city administrations, as well as by the many service organizations which are active both nationally and locally.

"Difficulties in obtaining needed materials, work stoppages caused by strikes and slowdowns in transportation, which are the obstacles to production in all lines, retarded the manufacture of athletic goods in 1946. The decontrol of prices and the elimination of government regulations have eased the situation in materials. If serious stoppages caused by strikes and transportation can also be eliminated, a larger supply of athletic goods in 1947 may be confidently expected."

INVENTS INDOOR PUTTING GREEN THAT CHANGES CONTOUR

A Williston Park, N.Y. inventor named Frank Clark has developed an indoor putting course with mechanism which changes the green's contour in 4,000 variations. It brings simulated green conditions in all their deviations indoors to home and club. Putting distance varies from 14 to 16 feet. The game gadget has a mechanical caddy. This is an aluminum and chromium arm about 10 feet long that sweeps the balls off the green and works with a switch control. You step up and putt for the hole. If you fail to sink your shot, press the switch and the sweep arm returns your ball to you at the putting tee.

Each time the balls are returned the contour of the green changes automatically, Clark explains. The game can be played steadily for two weeks without the same shot re-appearing. Contours are regulated and actuated by cams and rollers underneath the green's surface. Clark says that he spent ten years developing his green. Only one has been built so far.

SNEAD'S SOUTH AFRICAN TOUR A FOLLOW-THRU ON TENNIS

It was a tennis trip which actually produced the Snead-Locke series which stands to net Snead \$10,000 to \$15,000 personally and help promote golf in South Africa. Jack Harris of the Wilson tennis promotion department visited South Africa with his touring tennis troupe of Don Budge, Bobby Riggs, Carl Earn and Welby Van Horn. When the tennis pros drew \$100,000 in their first 14 matches, Harris' ears perked up. An avid golf enthusiast and a better-than-average competitor, Jack got in touch with Bobby Locke, the South African champ and leading money winner of Great Britain in 1946, and his associates. Soon Jack was following cables by letters to L. B. Icely, Wilson president, and plans were completed whereby Snead would satisfy South African sporting patrons who de-



Sam Snead, left, discusses merits of new driver with L. B. Icely, pres., Wilson Sporting Goods, prior to the British Open champ's departure for his South African tour, Feb. 1st.

sired to see a prominent American golf pro perform over their native courses for the first time.

Slamming Sam was the logical man to do the job. As the 1946 winner of the British Open, it offered his first opportunity to capitalize on this select title within the British empire. Also, Locke was one of the group which tied for second place on that final afternoon of the British Open. Like all runners-up, he longed for a crack at the champ.

So, on February 1st Snead went flying to South Africa. His first stop was Leopoldville, from which he traveled on to Johannesburg for the opening match. Just how many matches the tour would include was indefinite, but Harris estimated between 25 and 30.

NEW CADDY STAND

A new accessory for golfers, Caddy Stand, has recently been introduced by Stampings, Inc., 6347 N. Clark St., Chicago 26, Ill. The manufacturer claims the stand can be easily attached to any golf bag, holds it in a handy upright position free from grass stains, and keeps the clubs upright, thus protecting them from unnecessary abuse. Slight pressure on foot pedal drives spear into the turf and golf bag is held in a firm upright position. The unit is made of sturdy lightweight aluminum and is said to weigh no more than an ordinary golf club.

