

“Greatest” of Their Clinics Held By Minnesota Pros

By **LEN MATTSON** and **WINT CHRISTIANSON**

Renewal of the educational clinic conducted by the Minnesota PGA with the cooperation of the University of Minnesota athletic department had greater attendance and interest than these valuable sessions received in their pre-war presentations.

The two-day event concluded April 2 with a banquet at which the pros brought at least one official from their clubs. More than 100 were at this affair at the Town and Country club. The principal speaker was Dr. Carl L. Nordly, professor of physical education at the University of Minnesota. The afternoon of the second day a mass demonstration and exhibition was staged in the university field house with Bill Kaiser conducting. This exhibition was better staged than any of the group shows at previous clinics and drew a much larger crowd than former demonstrations.

The clinic was opened by Frank McCormick, U of M athletic director and head of the Army's European theater sports program during the war. McCormick has Les Bolstad as pro in charge of the state university's golf program which is the most ambitious ever conducted by any university. In addition to making golf instruction and play available to all varsity students and teaching physical education majors so they'll be able to handle beginner classes, the McCormick program calls for a close tie-up with high schools and possibly grammar schools in extending golf throughout the state.

In his remarks McCormick stressed the value of golf in a varsity sports program because of the long carry-over value of the sport and because of its appeal to both sexes and players of widely varying degrees of athletic aptitude. McCormick said that although golf, tennis and swimming get comparatively little newspaper space their lasting value makes them sports that the school athletic instruction programs should emphasize. Bolstad already is in-

troducing some new ideas in the Minnesota program, among them being a series of exercises he gives his classes. These combine loosening-up calisthenics and movements that get the pupils grooved in proper muscular patterns for golf.

Minnesota pros from their contacts with the university's personnel at this clinic and in previous clinics, are confident that from this association there will originate as much advance in the teaching of golf as the association of greenkeepers and university personnel has brought to turf culture.

Wally Mund, pro, Midland Hills CC, headed a panel discussion on the caddy problem. It was the consensus that parents should be informed that their boys, as caddies, will be benefitted by wholesome and constructive influences, and that each pro should see to it that this promise is kept.

The pros agreed that a good caddy-master who had high character and adequate training in handling boys is essential to a complete, first-class caddy program. During summer vacations college athletes and other college men majoring in physical education have been doing outstanding jobs as caddymasters, according to the observation of several pros. The pros declared that recreation facilities such as volleyball, softball, horseshoes and basketball should be provided for the boys and playing privileges should be given once or twice a week.

Pros also brought out that their own part of the job included some instruction in playing as well as in proper caddying, and giving the youngsters aid in getting clubs. It was said that clubs too often were negligent in providing the caddies with clean toilet facilities and running water.

Dr. John Anderson of the university, in speaking on the psychology of motor skills, said that it is better to learn any motor skill, such as golf, as a whole rather than in parts, and this is particularly important in

the earlier stages of instruction. In getting an experienced pupil to correct a fault Dr. Anderson advocated having the pupil practice a compensating fault. He remarked that no one ever "teaches" anything and the best the instructor can do is to guide the learner into correct processes so the pupil learns much sooner.

Dr. Anderson pointed out that there are bound to be plateaus or periods of no progress which may arise from lack of motivation or the necessity of tying the response together when details are emphasized. "Regardless of the type of instruction used," said Dr. Anderson, "2 principles are involved: Practice many times to give skill an opportunity to be organized and to give the learner awareness of cause of his successes and failures.

What About the Course?

The panel discussion on "What a Golfer Expects in His Golf Course," which was led by Len Mattson, went into numerous technical matters inasmuch as several pro-greenkeepers in attendance were well qualified to talk on means of achieving the desired conditions of turf. The discussion brought out warnings against neglecting the minor details that collectively add much to the pleasure of the player. Cooperation between pro and greenkeeper for their mutual good and benefit of the club was declared essential. Mounting labor costs were frequently mentioned as providing an increasingly tough problem.

Willie Kidd and Wint Christianson shared the subject of "Service to Members." Kidd made an excellent point of care and repair of clubs as a job that kept members constantly reminded they had expert and careful pro talent on the job for them. Christianson set forth the lessons of his experience in handling heavy play on the Highland municipal course since he returned from the army.

The golf swing panel which was conducted by Les Bolstad was highlighted by lively discussion. In view of the controversy there has been among pros on points of the swing it possibly was surprising that agreement was quite general on these matters:

Grip of left hand a combination palm and finger grip with left thumb farther down the shaft than formerly was common, and slightly over to the right side of the shaft;

Club is started away from the ball straight back by push of the left arm, shift of weight and turn of body—a very slight lateral shift of hips occurs at the start of the swing;

Firm wrist action at top;

Downswing started by slight lateral shift of hips toward hole and unwinding of left side (a common fault is overdoing this lateral shift);

Arms drop down—not out—from top; No wrist 'snap' at the ball. The club is driven through by right forearm with right wrist remaining straight almost to finish;

Steady head position throughout swing is very important;

Better balance is maintained by keeping weight back toward heels.

The pros said that faults common to most poor golfers are:

Too 'wristy' swings;

Falling toward ball as they hit;

Taking club back too much 'inside';

Hitting at ball and not through it;

Trying to use too much body and not enough arms.

Jock Hendry led a highly interesting panel discussion on "Proper Fitting of Clubs." Five factors discussed in fitting the club to the player were lie, length, weight, shaft flexibility and grip. Pros believed that many women's clubs are too light and have too flexible shafts as a large number of women golfers are of the athletic type and can use lightweight men's clubs with medium shafts.

The pros thought fairly shallow fairway woods would be best for most players. Giving drivers a slight loft for the average golfer was discussed with pros recommending that the inlay should be taken out, proper loft tooled into the face, and inlay replaced. Correction of swinging weights by changing weight in clubhead or grip end of club was discussed.

Merchandising Is Headlined

Lee Harrington of Wilson, George Dawson of Spalding and Leo French of U. S. Rubber presented a valuable round-up of pro merchandising policies and practices which drew forth interested discussion.

Points these men stressed were:

Importance of proper display;

Selling force in well-displayed price tags;

Pushing of nationally advertised brands;

Cleanliness of shop;

Training assistants to know the merchandise;

Never arguing with the customer (agree with him BUT tactfully bring out the selling points you want to get across);

Cultivate the women's interest. They do a lot of buying, have strong buying influence on their husbands, and know merchandise better than men do;

See that the big sales possibilities of sportswear are realized in the shop.

It was suggested during the discussion

(Continued on page 82)

Minnesota Pro Clinic

(Continued from page 30)

that it would be a good thing if the large manufacturers would send a man around to advise pros how to change shops so most effective display is possible. The speakers intimated that this is being considered.

The panel discussion on "Competitive Events at Golf Clubs" which was led by Art Ingleston put accent on proper handicapping, more medal play events where a club has a large membership, and helping women arrange and conduct their program. Reference was made to the GOLFDOM article on "Putting More Pep Into the Golf Calendar" as providing many tournament ideas for schedules that need to have new life in them.

Bill Kaiser in speaking on "Postwar Golf" said that last year's total of 65,000,000 rounds of golf should be exceeded by 7,000,000 rounds this year, weather permitting. He forecast that the extension of golf in high schools and colleges would account for great and solidly based growth of golf in the not distant future.

Gordon Haberkorn in talking on "Golf Etiquette" urged that pros see that copies of the rules of golf, which contain the etiquette code of the game, be placed in each member's possession, preferably by direct presentation by pro, otherwise by being placed in the member's locker. Talks by pros on rules and etiquette at meetings when golf movies are shown, also make interesting and effective education.

Bernie Swanson of the Minneapolis Times and George Edmond of the St. Paul Dispatch-Pioneer-Press gave the pros a briefing on what the newspapers considered printable golf news during these days of newsprint shortage. Both sports writers said that long lists of names and scores are not read except by those who were in the event. They suggested that pros keep on the lookout for unusual happenings on the

courses and telephone that news with full details to the sports departments promptly.

Among others who spoke at the banquet was Cameron Eddy of the Western GA who explained the caddy plan of the Western, an activity that the Minnesota pros rate highly as a service to golf and ambitious and deserving caddies.

The outline of Dr. Nordly's address follows because even in its skeleton form the scope and details provide great help for the pro who is connected with university or high school golf.

The Nordly outline:

- A. PHASES OF THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM
 1. Service program — required and/or elective
 2. Individual and restricted
 3. Intramural sports, and club activities
 4. Extramural sports
 5. Interscholastic (interscholastic or intercollegiate) athletics
- B. TYPES OF ACTIVITIES IN A PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM
 1. Individual and outing
 2. Dual sports
 3. Team sports
 4. Fundamental skills
 5. Stunts and self-testing
 6. Rhythmic
- C. ESSENTIALS OF A PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM
 1. Leadership
 2. Facilities
 3. Equipment
 4. Time
- D. GOLF — A PHYSICAL EDUCATION ACTIVITY
 1. May be enjoyed throughout life
 2. May be enjoyed by anyone regardless of ability—dubs and experts
 3. May be enjoyed by those with physical handicaps

IMPROVE YOUR CADDIE SERVICE !

"CADDIE INSTRUCTION MANUAL"

WITH 49 PHOTOGRAPHIC ILLUSTRATIONS

Every club should have a supply — one for each caddie. Many clubs have found that a small investment pays big dividends in membership pleasure.

Prices Prepaid

50 Copies (minimum order)	\$12.50
100 Copies	20.00
200 Copies	35.00
300 Copies	50.00

For larger orders, write for special rates.
Name of club or association can be printed on outside cover for a small extra charge.

Copyrighted and for sale by

THE MASSACHUSETTS GOLF ASS'N

261 Franklin St., Boston 10, Mass.

4. Is an excellent family recreative activity
5. Is adaptable to equality of competition by means of handicapping regardless of age, height and weight
6. Has considerable social value
7. Provides opportunities for development of standards of conduct
8. Gives participant an opportunity to compete against himself as well as others

E. OBJECTIVES OF GOLF INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS

1. To develop skill beyond the novice class for satisfying participation after school hours, during week-ends and vacations and during adult life
2. To develop attitudes favorable to participation in golf
3. To understand the literature pertaining to golf—origin, history, rules, terminology, trends and place in American life
4. To acquire an appreciation of the skillful performance of others for spectator purposes
5. To understand one's physical-organic status as it pertains to participation and enjoyment of golf
6. To develop pride in performance in keeping with one's capacities
7. To avoid injury to self or others while practicing or playing the game
8. To practice the etiquette of golf as participant and spectator
9. To understand the sports page in regard to golf—handicap, flight, match, medal, etc.
10. To develop consumer judgment in the selection, purchase and care of golf equipment and clothing

F. WHAT THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER MIGHT WANT TO LEARN ABOUT GOLF FROM THE PROFESSIONAL

1. The principal fundamentals
2. The essential rules

3. Golf etiquette
4. Teaching hints
 - a. For mass and individual instruction
 - b. For the beginner, novice, average, and expert performer
 - c. For the interschool team
 - d. Whole versus part
 - e. Club sequence
 - f. Tournaments
 - g. Competition with limited facilities at school

5. How to get the greatest results from instruction given during classes varying in total periods
6. Suggestions in regard to the selection, purchase and care of golf equipment and clothing
7. How to use and provide indoor and minimum outdoor space for instructional purposes
8. References — books, periodicals, pamphlets (not costly)
9. Sources for obtaining movies

G. WHAT THE GOLF PROFESSIONAL CAN DO TO PROMOTE GOLF INSTRUCTION IN THE SCHOOLS

1. Promote campaigns to collect old balls and clubs and distribute them to schools
2. Assist in developing facilities for instruction indoors and outdoors
3. Instruct physical education teachers without charge
4. Instruct students (offer to do so)
5. Give demonstrations during assembly periods
6. Promote reduced green fees for students during hours when play is slack
7. Rent equipment at a nominal cost.
8. Help to establish classification and rating systems
9. Help to stimulate a variety of golf competition — intramural, extramural; club, and interschool
10. Suggest materials for a school golf library and films which may be used for instruction and motivation

GO-LITE CARRIERS

are ready, in volume, and at the same original prices! Weight only 4 ounces. The perfect solution to your caddie problem. "Takes all the fun along — leaves the burden behind". We pay delivery on orders for a dozen or more.

Retail price **\$3.50** DeLuxe Model

DUNCAN - MORRIS CO.

369 S. MAPLE ST. AKRON 3, OHIO

May, 1947

