

# Golf, Major Sports Interest at North Texas College

By **BILL COFFEY**

North Texas State College in Denton, Tex., has put itself above most schools of collegiate golfdom with the recent opening of the swank \$85,000 recreation building and club house along with the new nine-hole grass green links at the edge of the NTSC campus.

As part of the long-range recreational planning of Athletic Director Theron J. Fouts and Golf Coach Fred Cobb the new athletic center attracts students and townspeople alike and is the home of Cobb's Lone Star Conference champion Eagle clubbers who will bid for National Athletic Association Golf honors next June.

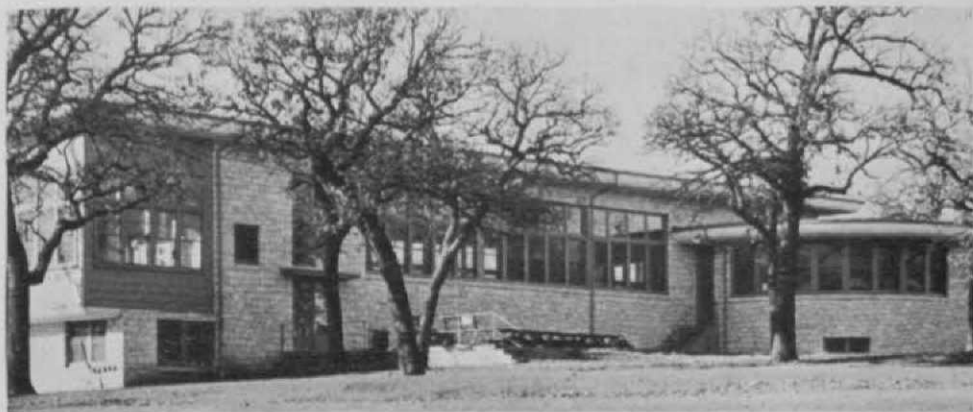
The course has a fairway watering system. It is seeded with Bermuda and is interestingly trapped through its 3,050 yards. The water supply is drawn from a deep well located on the course and from a three-acre lake that forms the water hazard for the No. 3 hole.

Plans have been made for the construction of the back nine to lengthen the course to 18 holes to care for the heavy traffic of golfers since the formal opening of the club house and course May 3, 1947.

The formal opening included an exhibition foursome of Byron Nelson, a hometown Denton boy; Raymond Gafford of Fort Worth, Graham Ross of Dallas Athletic CC, and Earl Stewart, red-headed Texas amateur king. The golf stars voiced their enthusiasm for the new course and recreation center. Nelson indicated that the course should become one of the most popular in north Texas in a few years.

The course has six par four holes, two par three holes, and a 575-yard par 5 hole. The par four's run from 300 to 440 yards in length and the two short holes are 175 yards and 155 yards long. Water hazards are on Nos. 3 and 8.

The ultra-modern Austin-stone recreation center includes a golf shop, golf re-



The recently completed \$85,000 NTSC recreation building and clubhouse extends a welcome to golfers and party groups. Golf shop and lockers are on the basement floor. Solarium is at the left, the main room is for recreation and the rounded section houses the snack bar.



NTSC college golfers pause from practice session to talk things over with Coach Fred Cobb. Kneeling (L to R) Cobb, Cole Ham, Palmer Lawrence, Gene Towry, L. M. Crannell, Jr. Standing (L to R) Bob Yarbro, Buster Reed, Ross Collins and Fieldon Williams.

pair shop, snack bar, locker rooms, recreation room, solarium, and a first aid room.

The golf shop is located on the basement floor along with the repair room, first aid room, and locker sections. Tile showers in black and white are in the men's side while rose and black tile color the showers in the spacious women's locker room. Offices and the manager's apartment are also on the basement floor.

Upstairs, the solarium at the back side of the building has nineteen windows overlooking the last six holes of the course. The room is 45 by 13 feet.

The main room, used for college dances, is large and is serviced by both hot and cold air conditioning systems as is the rest of the building. Blond wood, white leather finished booths line one whole side of the recreation room. The circular snack bar is equipped to give complete fountain and sandwich service and has additional kitchen facilities for parties.

The white structure is trimmed in green which follows the school's colors of green and white. A large porch on the east side overlooks the first three holes of the course

and the lake that is used for canoeing, water safety, and golf-ball hunting.

Beyond the large parking lot in the front of the building are picnic grounds and plans have been made for the erection of tennis courts and other physical recreation facilities.

Most of the rough for the course is high mown Bermuda. Trees line several fairways and are hazards on every hole. Evergreen shrubs are laid out as yard markers at 200 yards.

#### Equipment Limits Classes

Over 200 young golfers are turned out each year at NTSC, according to Cobb. Playing with rented clubs from the golf shop, the students keep up the demand for golf equipment after they finish school and "get out on their own."

Limited equipment at the college golf course limits the number of golf classes and the number of students enrolled in each. "We could handle 200 students each semester if we had the equipment," states Cobb. "A fourth of our student body of over 5,000 are playing golf with the result we are having to lengthen our course to 18 holes."

Golf equipment has been hard to secure and the program has operated under a handicap due to a shortage of golfing paraphernalia. Expenses of maintaining a well-kept links and other facilities is met by charging each golf student a small fee for practice balls, use of clubs, and other incidentals when they enroll for the course.

Two courses, directed by Cobb, are offered. They are Beginning Golf and Advanced Golf. The beginner's class includes instruction in golf fundamentals, rules, golf terms, and the general acquaintance of the student with the game of golf. Classes are held in both classroom and on the course.

Advanced golf requires the student to play regularly. Personal instruction in perfecting the individual game is stressed.

The day is fast approaching when 18 holes will not be adequate for student instruction and play, according to Cobb, not

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Pictured here is the 300-yd. par 4 No. 1 hole on the NTSC golf links with high-mown Bermuda rough area to the right.

## Shearman and Adams Report on Scotland

Mike Shearman, pro at Sioux City (Ia.) CC and Bill Adams, pro at Sioux City (Ia.) Boat club have returned after visits to their old homes in Bonnie Scotland. The boys say things are rugged back there but the Scots are not yet a belly-aching people and are bouncing back. Mike was born in Hawick "Amongst the Hills." The course there is in pretty good shape with most greens being good as late as November. Sheep were pastured on the course. Despite fondness of the Hawick Tweed on the hoof for the greens grass putting wasn't too bad. Plenty of bad lies in the soggy fairways though. Winter golf, with peg tees on fairways was permitted. The better players "played 'em as they lie." Bogey of the course is 71 with six bogey 4 holes of less than 290 yds. Rumors that the R & A is going to approve the USGA larger and lighter standard ball in a few years Mike believes should have foundation in the easier year-around play of the U.S. ball. Mike looked over the bombing damage to London before meeting Bill for the return trip on the Queen Elizabeth.

Mike has been pro at Sioux City CC for 33 years and never has had a contract. He says that news getting around among the Scotch and English he visited gave them an impressive idea of the way that gentlemen do business together in Sioux City. It's plenty impressive in the U.S. too.

Bill wrote that despite rationing and "austerity," morale in Scotland is high. Getting around to see his and his wife's relatives was a tougher job by bus and train than the American ease of auto travel. Bill said he had fish three times a day and enough tea to last him forever. Notwithstanding food scarcity Scotch hospitality is at the old time standard, Adams observed. Too cold and damp to play much golf except when clothed heavily. Bill played at Murcar, about five miles north of Aberdeen. He played with former links champions of Aberdeen. One of them, A. R. Grosert, Bill beat in the finals of the 1922 championship. Willie Macfarlane is among other U.S. pros who once were Aberdeen champs.

Other courses Bill inspected included Fraserburgh, Royal Aberdeen, Kings Links, Deeside and Hazelhead. Hazelhead is owned by the Corporation of Aberdeen. It got heavy play last year and was being extensively resodded. Bill had numerous talks with fellows responsible for maintenance of the Scotch courses. They are deeply interested in American maintenance methods. Warmest summer in years, with high humidity, gave them fungus troubles last year. They used 2,4-D effectively for fairway weed treatment last year.

## GOLF, MAJOR SPORT

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to mention a heavy traffic of Denton city golfers who also use the course.

### Have Lively Golf Program

Cobb has big hopes for the coming links campaign. With a formidable array of veteran material the North Texas coach can



Clubs and bag carts can be rented and a variety of golf equipment purchased in the blond-wood golf shop where rugged rope carpets keep shoe cleats from marring the floor.

visualize his team as a definite contender for National Intercollegiate honors next summer.

The championship golfers warming up for the campaign include more than a half dozen who are tournament-size and seasoned campaigners. Among them are: Gene Towry of Dallas, former Texas state junior and high school champion, winner of the Marshall Invitation tournament and Lone Star Conference medalist last year; Palmer Lawrence of Arlington, Eagle letterman and quarter-finalist last year in the National Intercollegiate meet; Jimmie Thomas of Dallas, Eagle letterman and Dallas junior finalist; Buster Reed, Dallas, medalist in the San Angelo Invitation, semi-finalist in the Premier Invitational and a steady match-play contender who participated in more than a dozen club tournaments last season, now playing his first year for the Eagles; L. M. Crannell, Jr., another Dallas veteran who holds the Texas public links title, also a first-year man at North Texas; Ross Collins of Breckenridge, a two-star letterman who went to the semi-finals of the Breckenridge tournament last summer; Fieldon Williams, Bill Turner, Bob Yarbrough and Bryan Duckworth.

Coach Cobb is arranging home-and-home meets with Louisiana State University, national champions; the University of Texas, Texas Christian University, Southern Methodist University, Texas A & M, Baylor, Oklahoma, and Oklahoma A & M. These matches will be augmented by the regular Lone Star Conference schedule.