



Size of classes is limited only by the physical capacity of the various Park Fieldhouses in which schools are held. New locations are selected each year to assure Chicagoans of an opportunity to attend. Park records show some students are not dismayed by distances—have traveled ten miles or more to attend.

Public Hails Chicago Park's Free Winter Golf Schools

By BEN CHLEVIN

February and March are cold windy months in Chicago and often there's snow — just enough to make any venture out into the weather a matter for deep and careful deliberation. Yet, this is the time of year when many residents of the city bundle themselves up warmly on certain evenings during the week and head for the local Park fieldhouse — with a golf club or two tucked firmly under one arm!

It is not unusual to see a group of teenagers riding the street cars, carrying golf clubs in the evening. The sight of a dignified elderly couple trudging through the snow and slush — with the gentleman carrying the clubs — arouses no comment. You might see a young father sheltering a tiny bundle from the wind — as his wife brings up the rear — carrying the inevitable golf clubs. Taxi drivers discharging businessmen at the door of a Park District fieldhouse at this time of year will automatically help their fares retrieve the steel shafted clubs from the dim interiors of their cabs.

Fantastic? Not to one thousand Chicagoans, of both sexes and of all ages and walks of life. These are the young and not so young hopefuls who annually congregate in Park Fieldhouse auditoriums and gymnasiums all over Chicago to learn the fundamentals of golf as taught by Packey Walsh, golf professional and supervisor of golf for the Chicago Park District. High-pressure promotion? Not at all. This has been going on — every winter — since Walsh returned from service, with classes getting bigger every year. Same people? Some, maybe. Mostly friends of the friends of the friends of people who attended the 1945 sessions. And they've got friends too!

How do these people get that way? What is the attraction that drags these people from hearth and home to a gymnasium for a club-swinging session at a time of year when the sane golfer is still boasting of last year's feats on the fairways? Most of them come to get information about golf that they can get nowhere else. Ordinarily,



Question and answer "clinics" last nearly as long as the classes. Here every student is free to "air" his personal golf problems. These may range from the type of clothing most sensible on the fairways to whether a golf glove really helps or not, but regardless of importance each is given complete attention.

the majority would never come in contact with a golf professional — and this is their opportunity to get top instruction. Others are drawn by Walsh's reputation.* Regardless of the reason for their first visit, they all return for each session of the course — and leave reluctantly at the end.

Experienced Pro Conceives Plan

The idea for the Chicago Park District Free Winter Golf Schools took shape long before 1945. Park Recreation officials became enthusiastic over a plan presented to them in 1942 by Packey Walsh, who then — as now — was in charge of the four Park golf courses and all Park activities relating to golf. Packey had nearly twenty five years of experience in group teaching — including two years at George Williams College, where he taught future golf teachers. This particularly difficult phase of teaching a game as individual as golf has

always fascinated him and he spent much time working on techniques that would be effective in teaching sizable groups in the Park District's fieldhouses. Before his plan could be put into effect Walsh left for service with the Infantry in the Pacific and the school idea was shelved. Upon his return in the fall of 1945 he again aired his idea for a free, indoor golf school for the general public and Park executives started the machinery going to put the plan into operation.

Today, after four years of successful operation, the Chicago Park District Free Winter Indoor Golf Schools have taken on a definite pattern. Preparations for each series of classes are made months before the schools open. Three locations are carefully selected, one on the north, one on the west and one on the south side of the City, at Park District fieldhouses that are easily

*Editor's Note: Packey (Patrick J.) Walsh is the youngest of the four Walsh brothers of golfing. When 9 years old he began caddying at Chicago's Beverly Country Club where he discovered his real aim in life — to learn as much about golf as possible — and to teach the game.

Eight years later he became club maker and assistant professional to Eddy Loos, then professional at Beverly. Since that time Packey has been associated with golf clubs all over the Midwest. In Omaha, Nebraska, Des Moines, Iowa and in (and around) Chicago.

He has been a member of the Professional Golfers Association of America for twenty of his twenty-five years in golf.

Packey joined the recreation staff of the Chicago Park District in 1938. In his present capacity of Golf Supervisor he is responsible for the operation of the Park District's four golf courses, in Lincoln, Columbus, Jackson and Marquette Parks. He supervises the various golf tournaments held on these Park District golf courses each year.

More recently, he has been in complete charge of organization and instruction of the Chicago Park District Free Winter Golf Schools which were instituted by the Park District upon Packey's return from over 2 years of service with the infantry during the last war.

reached by public transportation and which are equipped with the facilities and space required. A schedule of Classes is set up, and the Park District publicity office goes to work on the project. Every possible media for carrying information is used; radio, newspapers—both local and metropolitan, television, industrial house organs, posters, etc. This release of information on the Golf Schools is timed to break a few weeks before the opening of the schools



There is no restriction on sex, age or economic standing in the Park District Free Golf Schools. Packey's students (as can be seen above) include grandmothers, bobby-soxers, bankers, truck drivers, housewives, etc. When baby-sitters are scarce, mom brings and watches the baby from the sidelines.

so that by the time opening date rolls around, registration is complete.

As to the instruction itself, how can you teach an absolute beginner anything about golf in four lessons — especially when your attention must be divided between him and forty or fifty other beginners in the same class? If you accused Packey Walsh of being a practical and practicing psychologist, he would merely look blankly at you and politely wait for the punch line. The fact remains, he knows people and how to reach them where they live. It's this ability — applied on a mass scale that is the real secret of the Park District Golf Schools' success.

Walsh's plan of instruction is built around a single principle: simplicity. He does not complicate his explanations and demonstrations with long-drawn out theories. He avoids the use of technical terms in class. He uses simple words and expressions — understandable to the schoolchild, the housewife, the plumber and the businessman alike. He limits instruction to cover only the basic positions and move-

ments that will produce a sound golf swing — and he hammers these points home until the class adopts each one as a personal habit.

Each class is conducted by Packey personally. His technique is so carefully worked out and the various points of instruction are so closely knit together — that he brooks no interruption during the regular class session. The only voice in the room during the class period is his own. Everyone stands, ready to assume the various positions as Walsh explains and demonstrates them. Packey himself is constantly on the prowl throughout the room, giving everyone an opportunity to see every detail of his demonstration clearly and at close range, and he personally checks each pupil during the class for position.

At the end of each session pupils are encouraged to ask questions. Questions concerning a phase of instruction yet to be covered in some future session are shelved. All others are answered completely, graphically and — most important — to the questioner's complete satisfaction. These question and answer "clinics" are one of the most popular features of the Schools and often last a half-hour or more.

At the close of the fourth and last class of each school, every member of the class receives a mimeographed outline of the points to remember in practicing on his own. This outline is simple and direct, and — like Packey's delivery during class — contains no confusing terms or catch-phrases to muddle the student.

Class Methods Make School

Probably the greatest single reason for the constantly growing popularity of the Chicago Park District Free Winter Indoor Golf Schools is the Packey Walsh personality. He has developed a frank technique in handling his students — and they love it. His frankness is not brutal, however. He is blunt and direct; straightens the class out at the very outset by telling them that they're all there to learn and not to waste time; that any interruption is a selfish infringement on the rights of the class as a whole; that if anyone present thinks he's got a better answer to the golf problems being considered — let him produce his PGA card and go to work. At this point everyone glares around at his fellow pupils and it is a brave character who opens his yap thereafter without invitation!

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PUBLIC HAILS CHICAGO

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Are the Schools successful? Ask any one of the four thousand golfers in and around Chicago who have been exposed to them and the answer will be the same — yes. Can they last? Ask the people who keep writ-

ing or calling into the Chicago Park District administration building all year round — wanting to know when the next Free Golf Schools will start! Can Walsh stand the pace? Right now he wishes he were a platoon in number so that he could take care of all the people who clamor to get into the schools every year!

TRACTOR MAINTENANCE TIME CHART

The following maintenance points apply to most types of golf course automotive equipment. Details omitted are not to be overlooked. The periods suggested for checking and servicing are based on average golf course equipment under normal operation. Blank spaces are provided for filling in additional points.

DAILY

... or every 10 hours —

CHECK — Service if necessary

*Crankcase oil level

Crankcase breather cap

Radiator water level

Air Cleaners (tractors)

Fuel supply

**Pressure fittings, grease cups, and oiling

* * *

WEEKLY

60 hours or every 1,100 miles

CHECK — Service if necessary

Tire Pressure

Battery

*Transmission level

*Differential level

*Final drive level

*Steering gear level

Air cleaners

Fuel strainer or filter

Fuel sediment bowl

* * *

MONTHLY

250 hours or every 5,000 miles

CHECK — Service if necessary

Crankcase ventilator

Oil filter

Distributor — points

Spark plugs

Fan belt

Water pump packing

Hydraulic brake fluid level

Tire condition

* * *

SEMI-ANNUALLY

Seasonal or every 15,000 miles

WHICHEVER OCCURS FIRST
SERVICE

Engine support bolts (tighten)

Body bolts (tighten)

Valve adjustment

Generator (clean)

Starter (clean)

Wheel bearings (packed type)

Brake linings and drums

Cooling system (flush)

ANNUALLY

OVERHAUL — By a competent mechanic — Engine, Oil Pan, Fuel System, Power Transmission Line, Steering and Brake Connections, Hydraulic Systems, Springs and Shock Absorbers.

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MAINTENANCE REMINDERS

In addition to the checking and servicing done at regular intervals, the operator of golf course machinery should be constantly on the watch for any unusual conditions as listed below:

Leaks — oil, fuel, water

Improper action of brakes

Steering gear play

Unusual engine noises

Frayed wiring

Improper clutch action

Loose nuts and connections

Poor starter action

Drop in charge rate (ammeter)

Drop in oil pressure (oil gauge)

High engine temperature

(temp. gauge)

Defective lights and horn

Poor windshield wiper action

Broken springs

Loose fuel tank supports

Defective governor

* * *

*Crankcase, transmissions, differential, final drive and other gear cases should be drained and refilled at periods recommended in manufacturer's instructions. The conditions under which golf course machinery is operated determine the period of time a lubricant should be used.

**Follow manufacturer's recommendations for servicing lubrication points.

—Socony Vacuum Oil Co., Inc.