



150 LaPorte, Ind., youngsters get their first golf lesson in a program which has resulted in the organization of their group into the Junior Golf Association. Boys and girls get six lessons, play for two months, use of free golf clubs and transportation to and from the golf courses for \$1 fee.

Pros Help LaPorte Juniors Get Started in Big Golf Program

By JOE EYLER

LaPorte, Ind., noted for its good golf and golfers in the northern part of the state, has added something to its regular golf program this year which should be of interest to other cities.

A junior golf program providing instruction, regular play and a handicap tournament—all for the cost of \$1 for each youngster—was conceived last fall and put into operation this summer.

So far the program has been an outstanding success with over 100 youngsters from the ages of 12 to 18 enrolled.

Tom Boyd, an enterprising LaPorte insurance salesman, should rightly be called the father of junior golf in LaPorte for he has been the driving power behind the plan which is providing healthful recreation for youngsters as well as teaching them the fundamentals of a game they can enjoy far into adulthood.

Boyd called an informal meeting last October and interested Pros Herman (Butch) Uebele of LaPorte's municipal Beechwood course and Pat Hall of the privately-owned Elks Country club in the plan and the LaPorte Junior Golf association was born.

Both pros have been enthusiastic backers of junior golf in the past and offered to go

along wholeheartedly with any plan which was set up.

The first problem was to collect enough used clubs and balls so that every youngster would have equipment.

The LaPorte fire department volunteered to cut down the used clubs to junior size and to renovate them. Boyd and the Herald-Argus, the daily newspaper, canvassed the town during the winter months in search of used clubs. About 355 clubs were collected and repaired and are now in use by the junior golfers.

Both the pros and Boyd agreed that in order to be a success the program would have to be within reach of all youngsters regardless of their financial status. All agreed that there should be a very nominal fee charged so that boys and girls would place some value on the program.

Charge \$1 Fee

A \$1 fee was decided upon for the first year with the money going into a fund to help defray the costs of the program. This fee has proved to be satisfactory this year and probably will be continued next year.

Both Uebele and Hall very kindly offered their time as instructors and the facilities of their clubs were made available to the juniors on a scheduled basis.

The program this year was set up to start with a series of six lessons, stressing golf etiquette and care of the course as well as golf fundamentals. Two lessons were given each week immediately following the close of school and then the youngsters were on their own and allowed to play two mornings a week from 8 to 12 on the two courses. During the final month of the program a handicap tourney was run with three flights each for boys and girls competing and suitable prizes awarded.

It is planned to retain the six-lesson plan but each year as the children become more advanced they can be separated into an advanced group for special training. The new entrants in the program each year can continue to receive the "basic" series of six lessons.

Two months prior to the close of school, principals of LaPorte High school, Central Junior high school, six grade schools and four parochial schools were furnished with application blanks for the program.

Schools Cooperate

The principals co-operated splendidly and the program was widely publicized within the schools. Children were asked to sign up for the program, giving such vital statistics as height, experience if any and whether or not they needed clubs, in addition of course, to their names, addresses and ages.

When the blanks were collected shortly before the end of the school year, 157 boys and girls had signed cards with about 65 per cent of them in need of clubs. It was felt that a minimum of five clubs—one wood, three irons and a putter—would be sufficient for each youngster.

Boyd formed an advisory board consisting of three businessmen, the local high school principal, the sports editor of the local paper and the two pros besides himself.

The function of this board was to arrange the program and help with the supervision. The youngsters themselves would elect officers and actually run the association.

The problem of transportation to the Elks Country club was one of the first to come up before the season started and was solved almost immediately. The Elks club is about two miles from the city and the advisory board felt that parents would be unwilling to have their children bicycle or walk the distance across busy highways.

A bus was chartered for the trip at a minimum of 10 cents a head for each trip and the cost was financed by the \$1 dues.

Two weeks before the program was to start a meeting was called for all those who had signed up for the program as well as any interested parents. Over 100 attended and the two pros spent a busy evening answering questions.

The program got under way the week following the close of school. To facilitate instruction it was decided that boys would get their lessons at Beechwood on Monday and Friday mornings while the girls would be at the Elks Country club on the same mornings.

Louis (PeeWee) Pelz, assistant pro at Beechwood, was added to the staff as an instructor as was Wilfred Harrow, an amateur.

The youngsters were split up among the instructors to facilitate handling.

Following the series of lessons the boys and girls were able to play Mondays and Friday from 8 to 12 at each course. Each youngster was asked to play as many nine-hole rounds as possible so that handicaps for the tournament could be established and so that each youngster could show his interest by playing on his own initiative.

Six business firms eagerly snapped up a chance to sponsor trophies for the flight winners in the tournament while two others donated the second-place gold medals and the third-place silver medals. Each contestant in the tourney will get a bronze pin, paid for by local business men, as a participation award.

The tournament started Aug. 9 with nine-hole qualifying rounds. Contestants alternated play at the two courses in match



Professionals Marilyn Smith and Jimmie Thomson of the A. G. Spalding staff are joined by local pro Herman (Sonny) Uebele (L) and Rudy Boyd in exhibition match and clinic arranged for the LaPorte junior golfers.

play in flights according to age until Aug. 20 when the championship flight finals for boys and girls is slated in 18-hole matches. Other flights will conclude play Aug. 21.

In order to maintain a working fund for the purchase of new clubs and to pay for incidental expense, Boyd arranged an exhibi-

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PROS HELP LAPORTE

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bition July 2 involving Pros Jimmie Thomson and Marilynn Smith of the A. G. Spalding and Bros., Inc., staff. Also in the exhibition were Herman (Sonny) Uebele, son of the Beechwood pro, and Rudy Boyd, son of the junior program's initiator.

Young Uebele and Boyd, age 15 and 16 respectively, are topflight golfers in their own right and it was felt that interest in the program could be greatly stimulated if people could see how well junior golfers go around with pros. A \$1 admission charge was made for adults while children were admitted free to the exhibition.

The two young stars didn't disappoint the crowd of more than 500 which turned up to watch the show. Uebele and Thomson beat Boyd and Miss Smith by 14 points in a low-ball, low-aggregate match but Boyd's medal was 75, just three over Thomson's par-equaling 72. Uebele had a 77 while Miss Smith carded an 85.

Both Thomson and Miss Smith endeared themselves to LaPorte area fans with their willingness to demonstrate shots, sign scorecards and answer questions.

What pleased local fans, though, was the high praise the pros paid to the junior program.

"You have a fine program here," Thomson said. "I know of no finer thing you could do for your youngsters."

Miss Smith, who readily confessed a fondness for juniors, echoed his words.

The money raised by the exhibition was put into the fund to purchase clubs for the junior players. These clubs plus the renovated ones are placed in a pool and those wishing to use them for practice play or lessons may do so on a "library" plan—the youngsters sign for their clubs and then turn them in following play.

Under such a system a number of sets can be made available and should last for several years before replacements are needed.

A yearly exhibition series is planned for the future to help maintain a fund for equipment.

Mayor Taylor Ray of LaPorte and Sheriff Norman Reeg of LaPorte county have backed the program enthusiastically. Both have recognized its contribution to the fight against juvenile delinquency—an important part of any community's program.

Experience has shown that the children have learned a healthy respect for the golf course. The local pros say they are easier on the courses than the novice adult. With such encouragement, Boyd plans to lower



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the age requirement to nine next year which will give the youngsters an even earlier start in the game.

If the program is a success in LaPorte, a city of 17,000, it should be a success in larger cities. The combination of play on a municipal and private course was not hard to establish since Boyd is an Elk. The program has the backing of local people and schools because it is open to all youngsters regardless of race, color or creed. Above all it is self-supporting—an important consideration in these days of high prices.

FERTILIZER SOLUTION

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greenkeeper, based on amount of plant food required to obtain growth results desired. This can be calculated by simple arithmetic.

Fertilizer in Terms of Weight

Being accustomed to handling dry fertilizers by unit of weight it may become confusing when we start dealing in terms of quarts, gallons and barrels. Thinking in terms of liquid measure we may lose track of our old friend—The Unit of Plant Food. One simple solution to this problem is to disregard the liquid measure and continue to think in terms of weight,

which is still the only official and practical method of specifying quantities of fertilizers whether they are in gas, liquid or solid form. The water in fertilizer solutions is only used as a carrier of our old friend—The Unit of Plant Food. The approximate weight of one gallon of a 20 unit concentrated fertilizer solution such as a 10-6-4 or 5-10-5, is 10 pounds. If we dilute one gallon of a 10-6-4 solution in 50 gallons of water we are mixing 10 pounds of 10-6-4 fertilizer in 400 pounds of water. The matter then becomes simplified to determine the rate of application of the diluted solution. If we wish to make an application of 2 pounds of 10-6-4 fertilizer per 1000 sq. ft., the 10 pounds of fertilizer in the 50 gallons of water will be applied on 5000 sq. ft. of turf, at rate of 10 gallons per 1000 sq. ft. This will give us an application of .2 lb. of nitrogen, .12 lb. of phosphoric acid and .08 lb. of potash per 1000 sq. ft. A rather light application but in most cases sufficient during summer months.

We must always bear in mind that the plant food in fertilizer solutions is quickly available to plants. Where we would normally apply $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. and this nitrogen is derived from a fertilizer containing a substantial amount of water insoluble organics then it would

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