

Six New Books Come To Golfers' Market

NOVAK, MIDDLECOFF, SNEAD, BERG, IGOE
AND MERRILL PRODUCE NEW WORKS

PAR GOLF IN 8 STEPS. By Joe Novak. Prentice-Hall, Inc., 70 Fifth Ave., New York, publishers. 131 pages. Price \$2.95.

This will be one of the most discussed golf instruction books written for some years as Novak's instruction method, consisting of four routine actions in taking position with the club and four routine actions in making the swing, constitute a plan for organizing the shot-making in what Novak maintains is the plan usually followed by the leading American players. Some of Joe's professional colleagues may take exception to one or two points of his routine, but others probably will cite their experience and observation as confirming his analysis and synthesis.

Novak declares that golf is essentially a simple, natural game and that the pro's study and genius registers highest achievement when the player is taught to coordinate power and direction with minimum chances of error. He adopted the text book type of treatment for the purpose of showing the amateur golfer reader how extensively the PGA members have gone into the problem of developing better golfers. Novak livens up this manner of handling the subject with numerous references to personalities so the book will hold the student's interest and develop cooperative understanding of the pro teacher's efforts.

The material on the forward and reverse press is unique, as far as we can recall the contents of shelves of golf books. It seems due to help many a golfer to understand and learn what pros strive to teach about weight shifting. The positioning of the hands also is given much fuller text and illustrative treatment than is customary in golf instruction books.

Novak's highly successful experience as a teacher at first class private clubs and in conducting golf classes at the UCLA are brought into clear focus in the book. The chapter on golf instruction in schools will be very helpful to pros and physical educators at high schools, colleges and universities.

Joe held off for some time before turning over his manuscript to a publisher,

reluctant to risk any whispering that he might be injudiciously capitalizing the position to which his fellow PGA members elected him. The case he puts forth for pros as smart and untiring experts who are trying to make good golf much easier for their pupils is one of the soundest and most penetrating propaganda jobs done for the professionals.

There is a confusing, but minor typographical error in the book that should be corrected in later editions to read that Wayne Timberman, an Indianapolis professional, after studying and discussing the method employed by a school teacher who taught a juvenile rhythm band, adapted the teacher's technique to his own resultful teaching of golf to juniors.

GOLF DOCTOR. By Dr. Cary Middlecoff. Whittlesey House, 330 W. 42d St., New York, publishers. 103 pages. Price \$3.

Doc has done a good, simple and concise job in his book. The illustrations are particularly helpful in their close tie-in with the text. Instruction material is orthodox. Middlecoff emphasizes that "the proper grip and stance for each individual are the keys to a sound golf swing." Illustrations are well handled to make the grip and stance instructions fool-proof. Doc doesn't go much into the "why" but tells the readers what to do, without wasting words. With his accent on grip and stance he maintains that most of the other details become automatic. He advocates a straight left, saying that eliminating the elbow bend reduces the possibility of error.

Middlecoff's chapter on putting probably will be appraised by many readers as the most valuable section of the book. Doc credits Lloyd Mangrum with advising him to get a longer shafted putter so he'd get his head and eyes directly over the ball when putting. That advice, Middlecoff says, made him a greatly improved putter. Doc advocates wristy putting for the longer ones and stiff-wristed putting for the putts of 6 feet and under.

He tells of his 4-count routine in setting himself to the ball as procedure that eliminates tension and provides a check-up on his stance.

Bob Hope wrote an amusing foreword in which he says Doc's Southern style instruction is to "draw the clubhead back." Doc has graceful acknowledgments to L. B. Icely, pros J. C. Fondren, Buck White and Lloyd Mangrum, his father, Bob Hope, Mark Cox, Ed Feeney and the Memphis, Chickshaw and Colonial Country clubs in getting his excellent opus off to a smooth start.

GOLF ILLUSTRATED. By Patty Berg. A. S. Barnes & Co., 101 Fifth Ave., New York 3, publishers. 72 pages. Price \$1.50.

Patty turns in her usual fine performance in this production which is designed to be used as a text book and is coordinated with the extensive work she has done in presenting demonstrations and clinics before a group of women golfers at private clubs and at girls' schools.

It is fundamental material, well organized and boiled down and accompanied by a close tie-up of excellent photographs made by Ed Feeney. The indefatigable Mark Cox, listed as co-author with Patty, did his customary competent job of interviewing and getting the stuff written so it's a true representation of Patty in person.

Patty has a few pages on equipment for the woman golfer in which she gives good advice.

Golf Illustrated is far more than an edited reprint of Patty's earlier book on golf. It makes use of what she's learned in her many miles of travel and answering the questions girls and women have asked her about how to play better golf.

HOW TO HIT A GOLF BALL. By Sam Snead. 74 pages. Hall Pub. Co., Box 285, East Lansing, Mich., publishers. Price \$1.

For a guy who says he just hits a ball "the most simplest way Ah knows how" this is a great job of going into detail that won't have the customers getting themselves tangled up with a mess of theory. Mark Cox has expertly edited the Snead syndicated newspaper stuff and put some more dope in it, such as a close-up on how Sam happened to get that bogey 4 on the 71st hole in the 1949 National Open, but still maintains using the putter for the approach was selecting the right club. The line drawings are really first class as clear instruction material.

The book emphasizes playing from any sort of a lie. It's quite helpful to duffer and fairly low handicap amateurs. It seems that the higher handicap fellows usually are playing from places that would test the abilities of the stars.

THE GOLF COURSE GUIDE. By Anthony F. Merrill. Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 432 Fourth Ave., New York 16, publishers. 418 pages. Price \$3.50.

Merrill has ably done a tough job in compiling data on 1800 U.S. and foreign courses that the touring golfer might want to play. Many of these courses can't be played by outsiders, except as guests of members, but Merrill has done very well in concisely describing the features of these great courses and in giving details of the courses where play of desirable visitors is welcomed by resort, daily fee and public course management. Before a book like this can get to press there are changes in personnel and courses. Some courses have been closed to be taken over for subdividing.

The book is the only thing of its kind and we are happy to give it an enthusiastic plug as it saves us a lot of time in charting trips for touring golfers. Now they can spend \$3.50 of their own money, make up their own minds and save us time which we've been spending on letters.

HOOBS and SLICES. By Jim Igoe, Jr., with illustrations by John Faulkner. Published by Reilly & Lee, 325 W. Huron, Chicago. 96 pages. Price \$2.

This one comes close to, or beats par, in golf humor on almost every page. The characters and situations at every club are given a neat, swift once-over. You can name the names of those at your club who fit the pictures. After seeing many, many books of alleged golf humor that impressed and didn't score it's great to look through this one and really grin.

NE Wisconsin Officials in Fourth Annual Session

Presidents, secretaries; green, house and sports committee chairmen; pros, green-keepers and managers of northeastern Wisconsin golf clubs met at Pine Hills GC, Sheboygan, Wis., May 9 in the fourth of the NE Wisconsin GA's annual business sessions. Dan Steiberg, Jr., sec.-treas. of the association, its veteran pres., M. A. Carroll and VP Robert Testwuide, arranged sessions at which club officials and department heads compared operating figures, conditions, problems and solutions.

O. J. Noer, Milwaukee Sewerage Commission, went into a very helpful huddle with course men on their troubles and hopes and R. G. Howe of Ryerson Co. spoke on new items of golf equipment. He also demonstrated the Aerifier. Jack Hayes of Butte des Morts headed the house committee session. Jim Milward of Green Bay presided at the pro session in which handicapping and increase of play with live tournament programs were featured subjects. Showers stopped to permit some afternoon golf on the beautiful Pine Hills course. A banquet with Herb Graffis as guest speaker concluded the crowded day's program.