

Hackers vs. Hogan, May 31; National Golf Day

A most unusual golf event comes up to the tee on Saturday, May 31, when an estimated 300,000 golfers throughout America will each play an 18-hole round against the U. S. Open Champion, Ben Hogan.

During this unique one-day tournament, to be known nationwide as "National Golf Day," Hogan will match shots with challengers who are permitted present handicap ratings. Hogan will shoot an 18-hole round at the Northwood Club, Dallas, Texas, scene of the forthcoming 1952 National Open.

Simultaneously, on the fairways of the nation's 4,970 public and private courses, America's weekend golfers and their pros will try to beat Ben's round.

The contestants that do will be awarded a specially-cast bronze medal inscribed "I Beat Ben Hogan, National Golf Day, May 31, 1952."

National Golf Day is co-sponsored by Life Magazine and the PGA, in conjunction with the Western Golf Assn. The required \$1.00 entry fee for each contestant will be donated by the sponsors in its entirety, in equal shares, to the U.S.O. and the "National Golf Fund."

This fund will be administered by PGA officials, representatives of various national golf associations and golf publications, as well as outstanding amateur golfers.

No part of the proceeds will be retained by Life or the PGA, nor used in any way in helping to defray expenses of the tournament.

Golf professionals, club Golf Committees, and public course officials are currently receiving entry blanks, National Golf Day stickers to be attached to club score cards the day of the contest, sets of official rules prevailing on National Golf Day, and rules guiding the "Calloway Handicap System" which helps compute and establish a fair handicap on the basis of a single round for golfers who do not have an established club handicap.

In order to make sure that all contestants receive proper recognition of their scores and that the scores are properly attested, they will be turned over to the club pro, golf committee, or public course official at the end of each round. An additional fee of \$1.00 will be charged contestants for each additional round played.

Women contestants will be permitted to play from women's tees, and will be allowed five strokes in addition to their bona fide club handicap.

Radio and TV cameras will follow Hogan around the Northwood course and his

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score broadcast to every locker room and clubhouse in the land.

Following the announcement of Hogan's score, all cards indicating that they beat the "champ" will be countersigned by the club pro, golf committee, or public course official, and sent by him to National Golf Day headquarters so that medal winners can receive their awards at the earliest possible date.

Western Open To Be Fessenden Memorial

Western Golf Assn. 49th Open championship, will be played at Westwood CC (St. Louis dist.) May 29-June 1 as a memorial to Maynard G. (Scotty) Fessenden.

Western Pres. Gordon E. Kummer announced dedication of the championship to the memory of the Western's president in 1948-49. Fessenden, who died Jan .1, 1952, also had headed the Chicago District GA and the PGA Advisory committee, and was elected by the Golf Writers' Assn. "Golf's Man of the Year" for 1947.

"Scotty" and the late L. B. Icely kept the tournament circuit going when it was threatened with cancellation shortly after the start of World War II. It was Fessenden's enthusiasm and cash that had much to do with increasing tournament prize money.

It is expected that the field for the \$15,000 Western Open this year will include star starters who are more interested in expressing their tribute to the memory of the beloved and helpful Scotty than they are in prize money.

Chick Evans Named "Man Who Did Most"

Chick Evans has been designated "The Man Who Did Most for Golf in 1951" by mail vote of the Golf Writers' Assn. of America. Chick thus becomes the fifth to be awarded the Wm. D. Richardson memorial trophy.

Previous winners were Robert A. Hudson, the late Maynard G. Fessenden, Bing Crosby and Richard S. Tufts.

The award to Evans, as to previous recipients, was made on the basis of service to the game through the years.

Chick in 1916 became the first golfer to win the USGA Open and Amateur the same year and his other national, sectional and local championships added to his playing glory. In 1930 he established the Evans Caddy Scholarships which have become, under the management of the Western Golf Assn., by far the most extensive truly amateur scholarship activity in sports. It was the historic and growing success of the Evans Caddy Scholarship idea that apparently carried most weight with the golf writers.

May, 1952

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