



Each contestant's score is displayed on a special card in the section to the left of the Northland Invitation scoreboard. At the extreme left are posted cards for those in the championship and second flights. From past experience pro Harold Clasen puts scores of 82 or less in this section. It will handle 40 cards.

The blackboard middle section will handle 204 cards. To the right is a sheet giving starting times for match play first round. To the far right are the medal score sheets on which Clasen's assistant, Bill Shaw, is working. The smiling lassie at the left is Mrs. Clasen.

Invitation Tournament That Runs Smoothly As Planned

By **HAROLD CLASEN**
Professional, Northland Country Club, Duluth, Minn.

In an invitation tournament a club is confronted by many problems that must be solved so completely and satisfactorily that every member and guest will remember the day as a perfect golf affair and at no time have the slightest idea there is a lot of work back of planning and operating the tournament.

These affairs always are tests of the pro's management of his department and often, due to new members of the committees arranging the invitation events the pro must discreetly but thoroughly see to it that his club committee's efforts are highly successful and pleasant.

For 27 years the Northland CC of Duluth, Minn. has held an annual invitation tournament that we all are pleased to learn is regarded by guests as the

most smoothly conducted affair of its sort they ever have attended. Something else very pleasing to us is the favorable comment of newspapermen on how quickly flights are arranged and results are made available.

For the help we hope our work may give other clubs who are planning invitation tournaments this year, I'll describe our operations.

Our 1952 Invitation was our largest. We had 255 entrants from Minn., Ill., New York, Ind., Iowa, Ariz., Mich., Wisc., So. Dak., Pa., Wash., Kans., Ohio, Mo., Okla., and Cal. The entry fee was \$10. We feel that this is too large an entry and next year will cut it or limit it to 208. This will give us 22 flights of eight plus a championship flight of 32. With

Northland Country Club Invitation CHAMPIONS

1924 ROBERT CONGDON	1942 VIRGIL ROBY
1925 RUNCIE MARTIN	1943 VIRGIL ROBY
1926 JAMES WARD	1944 PAT SAWYER
1927 GLEN WELD	1945 WALLY ULRICH
1928 RUNCIE MARTIN	1946 B.H. RIDDER JR.
1931 BOB CAMPBELL	1947 JOHN JENSWOLD JR.
1932 CHET BELISLE	1948 WM. BOUTELL
1933 CHET BELISLE	1949 KENNY YOUNG
1934 BOB CAMPBELL	1950 TOM HOAK
1935 HAROLD KOSAK	1951 JOHN LEHMAN
1936 WM. BOUTELL	1952
1937 PALMER LEE	1953
1938 WM. BOUTELL	1954
1939 EARL LARSON	1955
1940 JOHNNY GOODMAN	1956
1941 ROBERT GRAVES	1957



ment in the past know the event is held for fun, relaxation and good fellowship. Emphasis has always been placed on entertaining out-of-town guests.

You will want your guests to receive an early invitation so please fill out and mail the enclosed form as quickly as possible.

B. H. RIDDER, JR., CHAIRMAN
Northland Invitation Golf
Tournament Committee

July 1, 1952

With the letter is enclosed a form on which the names, addresses and clubs of those to receive invitations are to be filled in. There are 20 spaces on the form.

Next a committee goes over the invitation requests and if there are any names on these lists that the committee feels should not be invited the man issuing or asking for the invitation is notified that his request has been turned down. We have mild arguments over this but the committee is firm and generally can prove why the man is not desirable.

Complete Record of Entries

A record of all invitations mailed out is kept in the club office and as entries are received they are recorded as well as the letters of regrets.

I keep a book of entries entered as they are received.

On sheets in my loose-leaf book appears each player's name, his locker number, his caddie's number, the player's handicap, his club, address and starting time.

The caddie master and locker-room man each get a carbon of these sheets.

Our caddies work on a merit system and the boy with the best rating as of Aug. 1 gets his choice of the players. We run an ad in the local papers for caddies and after our regulars have jobs the extra boys fill in.

Our locker man sends out cards to each Northland member asking him to give up his locker or share it with a player. As entries are received their name is put on a locker in big letters so it will be easy for the guest to get located.

About June 1 I make out the match play sheets putting in the starting times for each day, etc. I anticipate the number of flights from the previous year's play and put in extra flights with real early or late starting times to take care of any overflow. With a limited field this will be easy to figure. With the times, etc., on the match play sheets it speeds up the draw as all I have to do is fill in the players' names.

From experience I find that we can send

This large display by the clubhouse, giving names of winners of previous Northland Invitation tournaments reminds the members and guests of the history and prestige of the event.

the limited field we can start play at 8 a.m. and get the last ones off about 2 p.m.

Our invitation work is year around and we are always trying to improve it. The first real action is about July 1st. when letters are sent to all Northland members along with a form for them to fill out if they have any friends they wish to invite. Copy of this letter follows:

Dear Member:

The 27th Annual Invitation Tournament will be held August 7, 8, 9 and 10. There will be a flight for everyone, champ or dub. Each flight will consist of eight players with the exception of the Championship Flight and the First Flight. The Championship Flight will consist of the 32 low qualifiers, and the First Flight of the defeated 16 of the Championship Flight.

In order to avoid last minute congestion, and to accommodate our out-of-town guests, many of whom will have to play Thursday afternoon, it is requested that wherever possible members arrange their starting times Thursday morning. As in the past, qualifying scores will be accepted on Tuesday or Wednesday preceding the actual tournament date from any entry not aiming at the Championship Flight.

All players who hope to make the Championship Flight must tee off before two o'clock on Thursday, thus insuring ample time for a play-off, if necessary.

Those who have enjoyed this fine tourna-

HOLES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	OUT	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	IN	TOTAL
YARDAGE	427	321	408	465	138	373	426	225	552	3335	407	475	198	421	451	405	400	171	425	3353	6688
PAR	4	4	4	5	3	4	4	3	5	36	4	5	3	4	5	4	4	3	4	36	72
BEST BALL	3	3	4	3	2	3	3	2	4	27	4	4	2	3	3	3	3	2	4	28	55
WORST BALL	8	9	8	9	7	8	9	9	9	76	9	9	7	9	10	8	8	8	8	76	152
NUMBER BIRDIES	2	2	0	8	9	3	1	3	7	35	0	9	2	5	20	4	2	4	0	46	81
NUMBER PARS	20	46	20	56	75	30	29	31	43	350	23	57	54	26	77	44	50	61	24	416	766

Each year "vital statistics" of the preceding year's Northland Invitation are displayed according to the above formula and it attracts considerable interest.

out only eight foursomes per hour and spaced as follows, 8:00-8:07-8:14-8:21-8:30-8:37-8:44-8:51 etc. Seven minute intervals are OK but getting that extra two minutes each half hour does the trick. In the 1952 event we never had more than one foursome on any tee at the same time, even on the par threes.

About ten days before the championship starts, starting times for the qualifying rounds are set and each player is sent a card telling him of his starting time and the members of his foursome. This card is enclosed with a letter signed by our president which expressed the club's pleasure at having the entrant accept the invitation and giving all details of the program, which includes a dinner dance Saturday.

We have a PA system of our own and I keep the mike on the first tee and have speakers in the locker-room, grill room, practice tee and practice green.

Handling the Clubs

As the players arrive we have two boys getting the clubs out of the cars. They bring the clubs to the shop where they are tagged with the players' name in large letters and the tag is tied to the top of the bag.

Clubs are cleaned after each day's play and are placed alphabetically in corners of the shop. In the morning the clubs are lined up alphabetically outside the shop and are given to the caddies as the players are ready. We have learned from experience not to store the practice balls but have the players keep them in their lockers.

Scoring Is Organized

As players tee off in the qualifying round their names are put on the medal play sheet, also each name and home town is printed on a 5 in. by 3 in. card. As the scores are turned in they go up on the medal play sheet hole by hole and then the total is written on their card and

placed on the special blackboards you will see in an accompanying picture.

I had a large board made at a local shop. It is simple as it is just reinforced wall board with notched strips of wood to hold the cards. The championship flight board is just plywood with clips nailed on to hold the cards. These boards get a lot of compliments as the players can see how they stand as to flights etc.

As scores come in cards are constantly shifted and when the qualifiers are all in the cards are in order according to scores. Then the boards are unhooked from the big score board and carried into the shop. In making the draw for the flights it is very simple as we just take them off the board in order.

This year we made the draw for 32 in the championship plus 27 flights of eight in less than one hour.

Starting times for the matches are then posted in the clubhouse and players know who they play and at what time before they leave the club. Of course it is also published in the morning paper. I feel that the success of our tournaments has been in the speed in which the draw is made.

In order to eliminate the possibility of a play-off for the championship flight in the dark Thursday or early Friday morning we make the qualifying championship hopefuls tee off before 2 p.m. on qualifying day. As a rule there is a play-off and we make quite a show out of it. This year eight played off for two places and as they were announced over the PA they teed off and quite a gallery followed.

The beaten 16 in the championship flight make up the first flight and the losers in the second round of the championship and first flights go into the consolation flights.

We award prizes for the winner and runner-up in each flight and to the consolation winner in each flight. With the

(Continued on page 109)

have done together,"—and he emphasized "and the Lord."

"Yes," replied the perspiring gardener, "but ye should've seen it when the Lord had it by Himself."

You, gentlemen, you and your predecessors, going back even beyond Old Tom Morris—you, together with the Senior Partner of us all—have literally taken a cow pasture and transformed it into a lovely garden. You have, in the words of Isaiah, made the desert blossom as the rose. You have thereby helped to enrich your fellow-man in body and spirit.

For this you have the profound thanks of the world of golf.

INVITATION TOURNAMENT

(Continued from page 64)

exception of the championship flight all flight and consolation prizes are identical.

After the championship final match has teed off we set up a table with white cloth on the first tee and put the medalist and championship flight prizes on it. The Northland President makes a little speech at the conclusion of the match and awards the boys their prizes. This adds

dignity to the thing and winds it up in good style.

The regular flight prizes are picked up at the golf shop.

Of course a lot of this operation costs money and perhaps some clubs could not afford all of it but many of the ideas here could be carried out in a smaller way with home-made signs, etc.

The instructions to committee chairmen and members and to key men and women of the club staff set forth every detail of operation and definitely place responsibilities.

Arrangements are outlined, points that were not completely satisfactory in previous Northland Invitation tournament operations are noted and methods to avoid recurrence of such mistakes are presented.

All points have been thoroughly discussed in committee meetings and coordinated before the letter of instructions is prepared and mailed. Operations and facilities in the clubhouse and on the course are described in detail. Special house rules are given for the event.

The details pertaining to actual play

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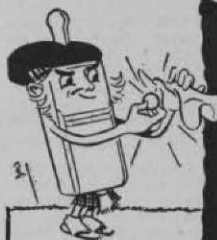
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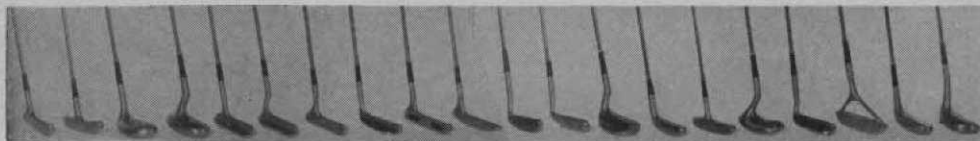
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and scoring are given as my responsibility, and I've described the main features of these arrangements in this article.

The house committee, the entertainment committee, the hospitality committee, the ninth hole refreshment committee (which also has the job of seeing that caddies get a bottle of milk free after the ninth hole), a liaison team of two members to pick up the loose ends that may show up during the tournament, the caddie committee, the Green committee and Art Asplund, course superintendent, all have their respective special jobs assigned in the letter which is signed by our president, John L. Bero.

Manager Joe Bida, with many house operating problems due to the large number of guests, gets the understanding cooperation necessary to fine operation, from the instructions issued.

This is a three page letter, too detailed to be given with this article. It leaves nothing to chance.

"OPERATION ZOYSIA"

(Continued from page 70)

of golf course supts. as professional men has surged forward. Green chairmen have evidenced great interest in the project and have given much credit to the organizations which fostered it.

Projects such as this one offer a new medium in which the golf course supts. and every person interested in turf has an equal stake. This project has drawn the members of the Mid-Atlantic Assn. much closer together because it gave every member an opportunity to take part in its establishment and will hold his close interest from year to year as he is called upon to give his opinion based on his observations of the progress. He will be asked for suggestions. This provides a