

CARNOUSTIE HOOSIER



Jim Soutar, 34 years away from Carnoustie, has been a Hoosier for 16 of those years, as pro at Bloomington (Ind.) CC and, with Owen Cochran, coach of the Indiana University golf team.

Soutar, with Indiana's co-ordinator of athletic expansion plan, laid out the 6,710 yd. par 71 now being built for the university at Bloomington. Fairway and greens watering system is in. Expect to open front 9 next September and the 18 in 1956.

Wisconsin and Michigan State, only Western Conference schools without golf courses, are planning to build.

handed golfer, partially because of physical limitations but mainly because he's convinced that's the power side.

Furgol forecast that tournament scores would improve because the players are getting better and working harder and smarter at practice, and the courses are improving constantly in condition.

Middlecoff and Barber in their talks also forecast better scoring with Littler and Holscher looking to them the best of the junior leaguers. Littler, they said, had a better swing than Bud Holscher, but Holscher now, in their opinion, being the smarter youngster in playing the course.

Progress Came with Upright Swing

Willie Kidd, veteran pro at Interlachen, and developer of many stars and fine club golfers, compared the old and new methods of teaching.

Kidd said that in the old days the flat swing retarded development. He used to watch the amateur experts Sandy Armour, Fred MacKenzie, Robt. Harris, Frank Struggie and Dick Whiterush and

the pros, Sayers, Auchterlonie, Simpson and Smiths on the other side and from them got the hunch that the flat swing was on its way out.

Willie said that in the pioneer days the pros learned from the pupils about as much as the pros taught. The first big change into better teaching came when the pros didn't have to spend so much time on clubmaking. Teaching later was given a great impetus by the super-slow motion pictures of Hagen, Vardon and Joyce Wethered made by George Sargent for the PGA when Alex Pirie was president and Jack Mackie was treasurer.

From those films pros began to get a clear idea of what happened in the swings of the great ones.

Kidd said much progress had been made in basing instruction on the physical characteristics of each pupil. The hands are the start of all golf learning and playing, Willie remarked. He teaches his pupils to get their hold of the club when the club is off the ground and they can get a rather sensitive feel of the club.

He maintains that the legs are the most important part of swinging, determining the correctness or flaws of body action.

Kidd also declared that the college professionals have a big advantage over club pros in having younger pupils, under discipline, on routine, and in an atmosphere of study. He said club and range teaching is going to progress by adapting and developing more of the college golf teaching attitude.

Several during the instruction sessions mentioned the probability of considerable improvement in scoring averages with more group lessons at clubs.

Willie voiced the sentiments of the steadily progressing older pro teachers in referring to the description of golf as "a science of a lifetime," written by the American banker, David R. Forgan, son of a Carnoustie clubmaker.

Golf A "Complex Motor Skill"

Dr. John Anderson of the University of Minnesota, adviser to several large corporations on training of employees in fine manual work, spoke to the pros as "fellow teachers," whose job is to teach "a quite complex motor skill."

Dr. Anderson made the first of his talks to pros in 1939 before the Minnesota PGA. He's probably had more influence on golf instruction than any other educator not closely connected with golf, teaching or tournament playing.