

Practical Pros, Varsity Profs Teach the PGA

By HERB GRAFFIS

The Teaching program, presented Dec. 4 at the annual PGA meeting by the association's Teaching committee, balanced group and personal instruction and covered all principles and methods of instruction.

Harold Sargent, Irvin Schloss and Denny Champagne teamed in conducting the sessions. In opening, Sargent reminded the audience that the biggest selling element of a pro's services is golf instruction.

William Strausbaugh, Jr., Fountain Head CC, Hagerstown, Md., demonstrated the drills he uses so effectively in soundly basing beginners and other 90-and-above players in good golf. Strausbaugh, a fine exhibit of the studious and successful younger professional, has developed exercises somewhat similar to those Les Boltad, University of Minnesota coach, had his golf team show to the 1955 PGA meeting.

Strausbaugh starts with an exercise that unlocks ankles, legs, thighs and shoulders. He maintains that the tough part of learning golf is caused by starting from a standstill stance. "The instant they begin looking at the ball they get rigid," Bill notes. He has his pupils look at a mirror instead of at the ball whenever possible. He says the picture they get of the swing is more understandable than anything an instructor can say.

The first drill that Bill gives is for the purpose of getting the pupil to shift weight while keeping the head steady, and to swing with rhythm. Then he has a drill where the ball is teed up and the pupil, using a 5- or 6-iron, swings through, extending the left arm and keeping his weight balanced on the left foot.

His third drill is in chipping. In it the pupil must hold the blade square to the sky and on the line after hitting the ball.

Bill has a rubber or plastic practice

ball secured by Scotch tape to the head of the pupil's club while practicing and says the psychological effect of this gimmick in preventing the pupil from tightening up at the sight of a ball, is very great. Strausbaugh is working on a club that will hold a ball on the face and release it only when the club is properly swung in practice. He urges his pupils to always have a mental target when making a practice swing. He tries to instruct in a net until a pupil can hit 25 consecutive good shots.

Dale Bourisseau, sec., National Amputee Golf Assn., showed intensely interesting films of the association's 8th annual tournament, the 1956 championship at Lake Shore Yacht & CC, Syracuse, N.Y. Bourisseau lost his right leg below the knee on the beach at Anzio where Ted Kroll also got one of his Purple Hearts. Bourisseau has done one of the greatest jobs in golf in getting the Amputee organization going. The national championship now has 90 entries and local tournaments are developing rapidly. Bourisseau himself shoots around 80, approximately his score before his injury.

The PGA, through an allotment of National Golf Day funds, cooperates with the National Amputee Golf organization. Annual meeting delegates were thrilled by movies of the various types of amputees' performances. Some tremendously interesting exhibits of balance were presented by fellows with one leg and the hand action of golfers with one arm was astonishing. The picture is to be edited and shown extensively in hospitals and before groups of the physically handicapped.

Dale paid tribute to pro amputee golfers, Jimmy Nichols and Ralph Ebling, and to Henry Picard, Billy Burke and other pros who have helped the amputee golf organization grow to its present status of 380 active members.

Teaches 1,000 Students

Conrad H. Rehling, golf coach and asst. prof. in the University of Florida's College of Physical Education and Health, outlined his procedure in making group golf instruction available to the 11,000 university students. There are more than 1,000 students in the classes conducted by Rehling and his teammates.

Rehling has been notably resourceful in providing golf instruction and practice facilities for the students. The university has no course of its own but students



Wiffi Arrives In Style — 1928

Wiffi Smith, newest addition to the LPGA ranks, arrived at Sea Island (Ga.) GC for the Ladies' Open there in this 1928 Model A Ford touring car which she'll use in making the 1957 tour. Greeting her is Bob Renner, LPGA tournament director, who became a big mass of smiles when Wiffi checked in since the colorful, former amateur queen is being counted on to be one of the leading gate attractions on the women's circuit. In her Sea Island debut, Wiffi shot a 54-hole 231 to finish in a tie for fifth, 11 strokes behind the winner, Mickey Wright.

have playing privileges at Gainesville CC where Bill Ethridge is pro.

Rehling said one of the important things to get into golf students' minds is the nature and value of expert professional services for required individual tutoring and advice and equipment buying service.

At the U of F all physical education majors are required to take golf. This requirement, which is becoming general practice at universities, Rehling said, is bound to have a strong and favorable effect on golf. The U of F man said that golf as a university students' participating sport, really is one that must be low cost. He said there is now urgent need of pro help in developing golf programs at universities and high schools. He told of his methods of instruction in classes made up of 20 to 25 pupils and stressed safety in formations and drills. Rehling said that golf was the No. 1 sport in students' favor at his school. He also remarked that since about 12 of 100 university students have some physical defect, golf is especially valuable to these youngsters.

More on golf in the university's Physical Education program was presented by Miss Margaret Crickenberger, also of the University of Florida faculty. She talked on "Women in Sports." She said in teaching golf to girls in schools the instructor must first acquaint them with etiquette and the general nature of the sport so the girls can intelligently discuss the game with their boy friends and husbands. She declared that the P. E. teacher, advising girls about golf, must tell them to go to the pros for individual lessons and advice in purchasing equipment. She impressed on the pros that women require much more

praise than men in instruction and that women are so sensitive that curt remarks or reprimands can cause them to quit the game very quickly. She added that women are more dependent, hence more willing to take advice; more rhythmic, more interested in details and greater sticklers for the rules than men are. Discussing physical aspects governing golf instruction for women, Miss Crickenberger advised that pros urge women pupils to swing with aggressiveness so they'll overcome their innate timidity.

Three Methods of Learning

Dr. Martin I. J. Griffin of the University of Tampa gave an illuminating address on "The Psychology of Learning," in which he described the three methods of learning: (1) The conditioned reflex, or "touching the hot stove system;" (2) the trial and error method; and (3) the insight system which is the gift of the so-called natural golfer.

Dr. Martin said that one generally sure way of curing a pupil's bad habits is to overdo them. For instance, to cure a slice he suggested trying to teach the pupil to slice deliberately. He advised the professional always to teach in terms that are understandable in light of the pupil's own experience.

Snead Presides at Clinic

Sam Snead was MC of the swing clinic which presented, in addition to Samuel himself, Jack Burke, Bob Toski, Jack Fleck and Jay Hebert. The boys put on a good, simple, sound schooling session and there wasn't much time for questions and answers.

The only marked difference of opinions was between Snead and Burke on short

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Brainstorm Ideas

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12. Have good lighting on displays.
13. More brainstorming by all groups.
14. Use more animation in displays.
15. Make better displays.

Merchandising

1. Equip and outfit foursomes.
2. All items should be priced.
3. Have a bargain barrel.
4. Install a putter rack at the putting green.
5. Put red bands around putting green putters.
6. Put your own labels on merchandise—where practical.
7. Sell "package" golf equipment and apparel.
8. Induce high handicap players to use better equipment.
9. Let members win small bets.
10. Promote team competition.
11. Try to get members to play for golf ball nassan's.
12. Plan local tournaments.
13. Have club president write to members about Pro Shop.
14. Better shop arrangement.
15. Have a clean shop.

Records

1. Obtain birthdays of all members, use them.
2. Have notebook handy for all requests.
3. Keep a file of members' sizes.
4. Keep better records all around.
5. Keep records of your stock turnover.
6. Keep records of overhead — watch them.

Teaching

1. Work on high handicap players.
2. Hold your own clinics.
3. Have group instruction for juniors.
4. Educate members to buy from you.
5. Teach your employees to sell right.
6. Watch foursomes off first tee for "tips".

Buying

1. Be more selective in your buying.
2. Buy things that will sell.
3. Stay away from "junk".

Inventory

1. Maintain adequate stock of fast moving items.
2. Move stock once a month.
3. Take inventory more often.

Make Sure Your Club Officials
Receive Golfdom in 1957
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Dickinson's School

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not miss more than 3 or 4 months of outside work on the course. A placement training period from April to Sept. during the freshmen year makes this possible and at the same time serves to initiate the relative newcomer to turf work in his chosen field. Both schools now are accepting men recommended by previous graduates. Some are sons of former students.

Saw Need for Instruction

Dickinson has leaned away from an active career in turf research and placed emphasis on instruction. He says: "There is and always has been a great need for men who know how to evaluate research information so that it can be put to its best use. Turf research is highly important but it is valueless until applications are made that benefit the turfgrass and resultant playing conditions. Many research projects are so controlled that knowledge gained must be carefully applied to actual conditions. Since there is great variation from one location to another, it is not an easy matter to predict how grasses will respond to specific treatments researchers recommend. The kind of information which will in the long run be of most value is that which leads to a better fundamental understanding of the functions of the plant itself. The personal factor, the supt., for example, is not scientifically controlled. We try to fill the gap between researcher and the supt."

Three years ago, Prof. Dickinson was asked to head a new venture at the University. This one is far removed from turf-grasses which had been his intimate concern for over 30 years. Most of his time now is spent in other activities but he still devotes many hours to the turf work he loves.

PGA Educational Session

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approach shots. Jackie had his right hand rolling over shortly after contact. Sam keeps the back of his left hand square across the line as long as he can.

Fleck was commended by Snead for his head work. Jack is one golfer, said Sam who can balance a glass of water on his head while swinging. Probably only a few of the pros can do it.

Jay Hebert said Snead has the "finest turn away from the ball" of anybody in golf. Burke's lead was: "I'm like all the

rest of you; I've got a thousand swings, and each one of them is different." Jack noted that a big gripe among tournament pros is to spend a lot of time practicing on fine turf only to end up playing on tournament courses where turf is thin, fairways are sandy or full of clover or practically devoid of grass. Burke said he cured his hooking miseries by putting his left hand straight on the grip so he can make more use of his right hand.

Hands High on Backswing

Jackie also told the audience that when he began getting his hands higher on the backswing he eliminated looseness of hands and wristiness.

Toski and Burke discussed how a fellow feels when he's winning. They agreed that desire to win, willingness to work patiently on one's game and make sacrifices to polish one's technique are as essential to a triumphant golf career as hitting the kind of good shots that most golfers can hit fairly often, but not often enough and not always at the right time.

Golf Cars Are Fine

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resigned himself to giving up his favorite game some years ago — just didn't have it in his legs to go more than a few holes. His fifty year old son brought him out one day, rented a golf car for an 18-hole round and now they have a weekly match going. The old man proudly claims he's as young as his son with a car making up the 30-year difference in leg power!

And, there are the golfers who had been playing 9 holes, ran out of gas and never reached the tenth tee — but now are playing 18 holes without puffing.

Youngsters Use Feet

We occasionally get youngsters at Westgate who want to rent a car. They don't get one. However, the youngster who comes out with his mother, whether she plays or not, gets a buggy without an argument!

In the beginning, like other golf operators, I was concerned about the cars creating a traffic problem on the course and interfering with the play of pedestrian players. Except in very rare cases the cars move right along with the rest of the play. We've learned that the few and minor disadvantages resulting from the use of the cars are far outweighed by the contribution the golf buggy has made to our operation at Westgate Valley!

Swinging Around Golf

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Brown, Des Moines G&CC . . . secy.-treas. is Robert Fry, Ft. Madison CC.

Southeastern PGA re-elects Bill Hall to its presidency . . . With Hall are secy.-treas. Jack Murphy and vps. Bill Barker, Pat Abbott, L. V. Dukes, Ernest Penfold and Joe Burch.

A rather well known pro isn't returning this year to a midwestern metropolitan district club where he has been for several years . . . Says he can't afford working for the club which has about 200 active members and is about top grade for social rating of members, course and clubhouse . . . His payroll for what the club wants will be about \$5000 . . . His shop gross sales last year were \$18,000 (and he's a good salesman) . . . Car and bag cart income was \$3500 . . . Lessons, club storage and cleaning and salary brought revenue up to around \$29,000 . . . He says if he had charged off salaries for himself and his wife on the job and interest on money he had in inventory, his net income per hour wasn't as much as he had to pay an assistant.

Spokane Athletic Round Table's proposal to put on a Seniors' Open in August is a swell idea with a lot of practical difficulties . . . Many of the senior pros will be busy on their club jobs . . . U.S. Seniors, Western Seniors, USGA Seniors and state seniors amateur championships will have the amateur veterans pretty solidly booked for competitions . . . The PGA Seniors made one effort several years back to get a Seniors' open established but the amateur-pro endeavor lacked coordination, publicity and management and flopped.

Chick Monroe, owner of Fairview GC, Ft. Wayne, Ind., has bought 9-hole Decatur (Ind.) CC from Don McLean . . . Lou Bola's departure from Highland CC pro job at Indianapolis to go with his president's company is a distinct loss to pro golf . . . Lou's service as Indiana PGA president for several years was of great value to his pro colleagues.

Lakewood GC's 2nd annual senior invitation tournament, Jan. 2-4, drew a field of 62 to the de luxe Point Clear, Ala., club . . . Senior Bowl football game at Mobile, Jan. 5, brought group of sports writers, sportscasters and pro football scouts to join in merry dinner at the club, Jan. 3 . . . Course brought by Supt. Ted Booterbaugh to fine condition despite date being a bit early for rye greens . . . Pro Andy Mortimer and his staff gave visitors top treatment in locker and caddy assignments, pairing and starting time arrangements and care of clubs between rounds . . . Harry Peters, Point Clear's Grand Hotel mgr., put on a memorable Gulf Coast shore dinner.

V. James Vigiotti, supt. at High Ridge CC, Pound Ridge, N.Y., retires after 35 years of valuable service in course maintenance and