

Krueger instructs school teachers in golf fundamentals. They, in turn will help teach the kids.



Why I'm Helping to Put Over High School Golf Programs

By Ralph Krueger

GOLF IS going to be brought into high schools on a very wide scale!

When I first heard that statement, I was dubious. How can golf be put into physical education classes with from 20 to 50 students, and sometimes more, and have any good come of it? This question disturbed me for some time until all the facts came to light.

I did remember my own high school days. There was no golf instruction in our classes and no thought of ever including it. To be truthful, there wasn't any thought about golf for the rest of the students, either, except for those whose parents were members at private clubs or for the few of us who had the happy experience of caddying.

The National Golf Foundation is helping to develop the high school program. It estimates that roughly two million young adults a year will get an introduction to golf when the program is in full swing. When the impact of that statement became clear to me, I changed my thinking about golf in high schools.

What if every person that comes to the

lesson tee is a high school youngster? What a delightful experience, for I am of the opinion that there is no one easier to teach. Young people have the ability of adding to their knowledge quickly. They are free from the problems of a job, a mortgage, or a sacroiliac. They understand things quicker, are more easily adapted to golf lessons.

Where will this 'youth interest' come from if it isn't nurtured in the high schools? Every course in the country has a problem of providing enough caddies. Carts and golf cars are ending the caddie era and with it a plentiful source of young talent.

Despite a tremendous boost in junior programs, the fact is that private clubs reach only a small percentage of the total number of children.

City recreation departments are understaffed, short on facilities and only geared to demands placed on them by interest created in high school. The recreation program usually does its biggest job in off-school periods and without demand for golf from high schools kids, there will be little or no inclination to undertake or continue a golf program, if one is underway.

Include the demands of parents to educators to 'teach them something about golf' and the answer appears to be that high school golf is coming and coming big.

Who will do the job?

Need Pro's Help

The high school physical education teacher will have the responsibility of putting this program into action. Chances are golf was not included in his college physical education classes so he must look to someone for assistance.

The golf pro is the logical choice. Who is better qualified? The pro, by working

Ralph Krueger is teaching professional at Hickory Hills CC, Oak Lawn, Ill. A onetime caddie, Krueger attended Michigan State University, served 3½ years in the USAF as a flight instructor. His golfing tutor was Marty Walsh. He also worked under Tom Walsh and Sam Rahworth. Krueger has received a citation from the Visking Corp. for his work with the employees' golf program and was a consultant for National Golf Foundation at a recent Milwaukee, Wis., Golf Workshop.

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with local sections of the PGA in co-operation with local chapters of the American Association of Health, Physical Education and Recreation (AAHPER), can set up clinics and workshops designed for teachers' needs.

PE instructors are not golf professionals, nor do they have to be. They are competent, well-trained men and women whose specialty is training youngsters in basic skills of coordination, timing and other essentials necessary for athletic achievement. It must be remembered their scope is limited; their facilities inadequate; their time restricted. Yet, with all these limitations they can do an outstanding job in transmitting basic knowledge to large numbers of young students. They will actually create and inspire golf interest.

What happens then? The youngsters will search for an outlet, for the play is the thing, whether it's golf, baseball or dominoes. The only place to play golf is at a golf course.

I remember Mondays at Evergreen Country Club in Chicago. These were caddie days, and if I didn't play 72 holes I certainly played 54, or the rain was pretty heavy. I don't think I could have played that much golf unless there was

some skill to whet my interest.

The interest of youth in golf forms a nucleus for tomorrow's vast army of golfers. The high schools will be the source that feed tomorrow's professional ranks. More golfers, better golfers, more jobs and a better profession! These are the reasons I want and will work for golf in our high schools. It's a plan that makes my business better today and insures it will be even better tomorrow.

Indianapolis Club Gives Lee Nelson Life Membership

74-year-old Lee Nelson, Indianapolis pro who has been making a living in golf since the turn of the century, was given a life membership in July in the local Riverside CC. The certificate, presented by Bud Owen, secy-treas. of the club, was only the fifth awarded by Riverside, one of the oldest municipal courses in the city.

Lee was introduced to golf in 1900 when he became assistant pro at the old Indianapolis CC where Woodstock CC now is located. In 1904 he was named pro at Riverside. Five years later he took over at the original Highland CC. In 1918, Nelson went to Miami Beach (Fla.) CC