

Finsterwald, Smith Occupy Teaching Chairs at PGA

Dow Explains Strategy in Playing the Circuit

Dow Finsterwald, the PGA's "Professional Golfer of the Year" and 1958 PGA champion, in describing his golf game says he turned pro because he enjoys golf. He started on the tour in 1952.

He has played 14 years, seven of them as a pro. He qualified for the National Amateur but didn't get far. While he was in the Air Force he got a chance to watch some tournaments and borrowed some details from fellows who were playing well.

Dow believes in a lot of practice before a tournament, being aware that if a player doesn't bring his game to the first tee with him he won't find it on the course.

Has "Commercial Stroke"

Dow always figures on playing conservatively rather than risking any spectacular shots. He has developed what he calls a "commercial stroke" with a slight cut. If he does miss the fairway or green he won't miss by as much as he once did with a hook which he seldom could control.

Finsterwald says that he benefited greatly from playing practice rounds with Doug Ford and watching Doug maneuver the ball around the green so his short game made up for other mistakes.

Ford provided him with a good example of a fellow who never gives up and who keeps his steam inside so he can play the next shot better. Finsterwald said that he liked Horton Smith's method of preparing for a shot: doing the thinking in advance and spending very little time over the ball.

Stays Out of Trouble

"I get very few 'sensations' when I play. There is nothing specific or detailed like turning the left shoulder," Finsterwald declared. He added that he takes a free swing only when there's no chance to get into trouble. On what he considers a normal week he favors left to right shots, generally playing with a square stance and with the ball back toward center. But if that style isn't working one week and calls for some minor adjustment he doesn't get upset but plays with just what he happens to have that's working well.

Finsterwald uses 1, 3- and 4-wood clubs.

Horton Organizes Lessons to the Last Detail

Horton Smith, who will be eligible to be enrolled in PGA Seniors on May 22 and who was inducted into membership in the PGA's Hall of Fame at the association's 1958 meeting, gave impressive evidence of his comprehensive qualities as a pro during the pros' teaching program when he told "How I Teach."

Harry Pezzullo, winner of the PGA's "Pro of the Year" award and a first class teacher himself, claims that Smith is one of golf's greatest teachers although the noted Detroit GC pro isn't recognized as he should be when top teachers are discussed.

Horton said that he organizes every lesson as much as he can, basing it on the pupil's needs and personality.

The lesson arrangement with Horton is: Preparation, Demonstration, Explanation and Examination.

He told of having trained himself to think of what, who, where, when and why he is teaching during any lesson.

Other factors to be considered in planning the lesson are:

Is the lesson part of a longer program or a "one-treatment" cure?

How recent was the previous lesson, how frequently are the lessons taken and what intensity does the pupil put into his learning and practice?

Makes Thorough Appraisal

In preparing for the lesson Horton looks at the pupil's equipment for weight, shaft flexibility, loft, hook or slice and balance. He looks over the pupil's record in the handicap book. Then he reviews information from his golfing companions and analyses the pupil's physical and mental characteristics as they walk to the tee.

What has the pupil on his mind? Why is he taking the lesson? What amount of skill does the pupil have? These are other questions Horton asks himself in preparing to do some good for the pupil.

The pro doesn't work under ideal conditions, Smith noted. Instead of being in the authoritative position and being able to make a professional approach to the problem, the pro generally has to teach as



Don Finsterwald

Finsterwald

He gets satisfying results with a 43% in shaft.

In answering queries Finsterwald said that he considered Arnold Palmer the longest straight driver on the circuit, and usually Palmer is the best putter. Dow commented: "Even when Palmer thinks he is putting bad he is good. Bill Casper is the one other fellow who ranks with Palmer as a putter."

Smith

a service somewhat similar to that of selling clubs.

Teaching the whole swing rather than any one detail is a new idea and Horton advocates it. He prefers to give the pupil suggestions before a swing is made.

He sets three balls down for the pupil's use, believing that the pupil performs better when he knows he will have three chances.

Smith advocates having plenty of swing pictures for the pupils to look at, study and discuss. Action pictures of golfing stars, as printed in *GOLFING Magazine*, Horton thinks are especially useful. He says that he has given some of his best lessons in the grill room by explanatory discussions with his pupils.

Horton thinks an hour lesson is best, usually, for pupil and teacher.

He agrees with Ernest Jones that swinging the clubhead is the only thing you can't underdo or overdo in making the golf shot.

He thinks that getting the beginner to visualize the golf stroke as similar to the



Horton Smith

action in an underhand throw makes it easy for the newcomer to get a good swing. To develop control by the beginner he asks, "To whom are you throwing?"

Right Side Emphasis

Smith is strong for developing the new or high-handicap golfers by getting them to use the right hand, the right arm, side and leg properly and as naturally as they use the right hand in eating or opening a door.

He thinks that it is almost impossible to get too much right side into a full shot. But a person can get the wrong use of the right side or too little use of the left hand, arm, leg and side into a swing.

Horton thinks considerable attention should be given to the matter of controlled tension rather than relaxation and to posture, adjustment of the feet and positioning of arms at address.



Harold Sargent (center) was re-elected pres. of the PGA for 1959 while Warren Cantrell (left) and Lou Strong were re-named treasurer and secretary, respectively.

(Right) Horton Smith, named to the Hall of Fame, Harold Sargent, pres., Harry Pezzula, Golf Professional-of-the-Year, and Dow Finsterwald, Pro Golfer-of-the-Year, pose with Bob Jones at PGA meeting.



Photo by John G. Hemmer, Pinehurst, N. C.

If you don't think course supts. occasionally take what might be called a busman's holiday and play golf, you should have been at Pinehurst last fall when GCSA directors and members got together for their annual meeting. All that silverware wasn't won at bridge, canasta or gin rummy tables. The trophies went to the following: (Front row, l to r) Harley Long, Shaw AFB, S. C., winner of GOLFDOM trophy in pro-supt. flight; John Connally, Fairfax, Va., USGA trophy for supt. flight; Bob Williamson, Roseland GC, Windsor, Ont., O. J. Noer trophy for Seniors flight. Second row: Russ Birch, Coharie CC, Clinton, N. C., Grant Bennett, Florence (S. C.) CC, Joe Maples, Siler City (N. C.) CC who joined with Harley Long to win team trophy.



Tom Clark, pro emeritus of the swank Blue Hills Club, Kansas City, is in training for his 20th annual PGA Seniors' tournament. Tom believes that a canny golfer should pick his pigeons on the first tee by astute handicapping. This gem of photographic art shows Tom at Trafalgar Square, London, practicing gaining the confidence of pigeons.