

# Meehan Gives Youngsters Tips on Art of Instruction

**Veteran Bloomington, Illinois Pro Says It Takes Five Years to Master Swing Analysis**

SEVERAL years ago a young assistant pro who was breaking in under Tommy Meehan, the Bloomington (Ill.) CC headmaster, came to Meehan at the end of the season with a quite obvious note of discouragement in his mien.

"Tommy," he said, "I don't know if I should continue in this game or not. I've been giving golf lessons now for the last four or five months and I'm not sure that I'm much of a teacher. In fact, I sometimes think I don't know the first thing about teaching."

Somewhat surprised at this outpouring, Meehan tried to think of something to say that would at least temporarily restore the young man's confidence. But before he had a chance to speak, the assistant continued:

## Happens So Fast

"I'll let you in on a secret. I can stand all day and watch people swing but I'm not sure that I'm seeing a thing. Every-

thing happens so fast. Sometimes I think I spot defects and I tell the pupil what I know to correct them. But then I get to wondering. Maybe I don't see what I think I do and maybe what I tell the person who is taking the lesson hurts his swing more than it helps."

"I wouldn't worry about it too much, Jack," Meehan broke in in a reassuring way. "You're doing all right. Nobody around here has complained about the way you teach."

"Well, I don't know, Tommy. Maybe they are just being kind."

Meehan, who has been in the pro end of the game for more than three decades and at Bloomington for seven years, never had run into a golf teacher, assistant or otherwise, who discussed his supposed shortcomings quite as frankly as this young man, but what the latter blurted out didn't come as a total surprise.

"Teaching golf," Meehan says, "isn't

## What Tommy Meehan Says About The Cut Putt

I believe that there are some unintentional "cut-putters" still around, although most golfers today use the orthodox, or standard method of putting. The player who does not keep his putter squared to the straight, imaginary line from ball to cup, finds that when he takes the putter back outside the line in order to stroke the ball, he crosses to the inside line, which makes him a "cut putter."

When the stymie was the rule in match play, the player who had the cut putt finesse and know how, benefited by this method of putting.

Now for an explanation of how the cut putt behaves on the green. The cut putt has a clockwise spin on the

ball as it approaches the cup. If the ball is stroked too strongly and rims the lip of the cup, the spin could take the ball out and cause a missed putt. The cut putter should, or must, putt for the left lip of the cup, allowing for a spin to the right. I believe there is much less tension on a cut putter. He seems more relaxed, is not so apt to freeze, nor does he tend to stand over the ball too long.

Believe me, I do not advocate the cut putt, but personally, I am stuck with it. I will go along with 98 per cent of the top golfers and agree that the orthodox putting stroke is best. It does require the power of concentration, the imaginary line to the cup, taking the putter blade back square to the line and stroking through. —