

Amputees Offer Consulting Service to Industry

In conjunction with its 10th tournament which will be played at Baltusrol GC, Aug. 14-15, the National Amputee Golf Assn. has mailed its brochure telling of rehabilitation through golf to numerous industries throughout the country. The release by the Assn. calls attention to National Golf Day, funds from which are allotted to the Amputee organization, and offers consulting service which will help both industry and individual amputees.

The brochure, edited by Dale S. Bourisseau, 120 S. Franklin st., Chagrin Falls, O., secy. of the Amputee organization, gives a history of the NAGA tournaments, the first of which was held in 1949, describes the Junior program and gives a rundown on several of the amputee star golfers. Many of these fellows shoot consistently in the 70s and participate in several other sports besides golf.

The current champion is Randy Womack, a pre-dental student at Eastern New Mexico University where he is No. 2 man on the golf team. He dethroned Bob Sandler, a Des Moines, Ia., lawyer, last year after the latter had won three titles in a row.

Members of the National Amputee organization are either minus a leg or arm or both—but their motto is the courageous "Amputees? Sure—Handicapped? No!"

The NAGA "angels" are listed as Jack Ahern, vp of Manufacturers and Traders Trust Co., Buffalo; Ray Britt, pres. of Central States Industrial Supply Co.; and Henry Picard, winner of 40 major U.S. tournaments, including the 1939 PGA

PGA Increases Minimum Purse for Championship to \$50,000

The 42nd PGA Championship, to be played at Firestone CC, Akron, O., July 21-24, will carry a minimum purse of \$50,000. This was announced in mid-April by Harold Sargent, pres.

This is the first time the pro organization has established a minimum purse this large for its Championship event. In 1959, however, \$51,175 in prize money was paid out although the minimum had been set at only \$30,000.

Record breaking advance sales of tickets in and around Akron and unusually heavy sales of program advertising have made the increased guarantee possible. A pre-

Christmas campaign produced unprecedented ticket sales of \$116,000 which since have gone up to more than \$120,000. Advertising sales had reached \$130,000 by mid-April.

Akron's Junior Chamber of Commerce is co-sponsor of the PGA Championship.

The most lucrative Championship prior to the 1959 event was at Llanerch CC in Havertown, Pa. in 1958 when the PGA paid out \$37,400 in prizes although only \$30,000 had been guaranteed.

USGA Booklets Outline New Rating Procedures

Revised procedures for rating courses under the USGA system are outlined in two booklets recently published by the Association.

"The USGA Golf Handicap System for Men," a 48-page booklet, outlines the revised system and explains the method for computing men's handicaps.

"The Conduct of Women's Golf" explains the revised rating system for women, the handicap system, organization of women's committees and tournaments procedures. It is a 62-page booklet.

Earlier USGA editions of these booklets dealt with the same subjects but they were based on a now revised course rating system. Object of revision was to increase national uniformity in ratings.

Basically Unchanged

The USGA handicap system is basically unchanged. However, substance of handicap decisions in the past two years has been included in the system.

The principal change in the rating system is that yardage determines preliminary ratings and such preliminary ratings are in twentieths of a stroke. Heretofore preliminary ratings have been in round numbers.

Yardage rating charts for both men and women have been adopted. Based on these charts, holes of the same length will have the same preliminary ratings no matter where located. Then adjustments in the ratings will be made for significant factors such as hazards, slopes, fairway widths, prevailing wind, width and depth of putting on green and normal condition of the turf.

There are no significant changes in the ultimate rating factors. The main amendment is the introduction of yardage charts as a uniform starting point for course rating.