

Court Defines Driving Range as Intended Line of Flight

By WILLIAM JABINE

Just about everyone who ever has played golf is familiar with the injunction, "Do not drive until players ahead are well out of range." It is so familiar, so much an integral part of the game, that to most golfers its meaning seems perfectly clear.

But an accident that happened at the Tri-City GC of Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., raised a question in regard to the precise meaning of the familiar phrase. The Wisconsin supreme court finally was called upon to say just what it means and how much territory it covers.

The third hole at the Tri-City club runs from north to south and is 256 yds. in length. The fourth hole is 132 yds. long, runs from south to north, and its tee is about 100 yds. northwest of the third green and about 30 feet away from the strip of rough separating the fairways of the two holes. This brings it within range of a sliced ball driven from the third tee. Two players who had holed out on the third green were walking toward the fourth tee. When they had nearly reached it a member of a foursome driving from the third tee sliced his drive. When he saw the direction his ball was taking he yelled "Fore." But it was too late and the ball hit one of the players near the fourth tee.

Player Ahead?

In the lawsuit which followed one of the chief points at issue was whether or not two players at or near the fourth tee came within the definition of players ahead who were within driving range. Having just left the third green they were unquestionably ahead of the foursome on the third tee. The fact that one of them was hit seemingly placed them within driving range. That was the contention of the plaintiff. The defendant replied that the rule was not meant to include players on another hole, no matter how close they might be, as they were clearly not within

the area in which the ball was intended to be driven.

The Wisconsin supreme court, in its decision, upheld the defendant's view. It ruled that the rule was framed to cover only the hole that was actually being played and should not be extended to cover territory outside the intended flight of the ball.

Warning Too Late?

There were several other issues in the case. Among them was the question of whether the warning, "Fore," was shouted too late. On this issue the plaintiff called the club pro who testified that it was his custom to call "Fore" before driving from the third tee in order to warn players on the fourth tee. However, as the court observed, his testimony was contradicted by that of several members who had played with him. They testified that they had not heard him utter such a warning on the occasions when they were playing with him. The defendant was absolved of negligence and the territory covered by the old rule was not judicially enlarged. (*Rasmussen v. Richards*, 95 N. W. 2nd 791.)

USGA Public Links Tourney Slated for Honolulu

Forty-two qualifying sections have been established for the 35th USGA Amateur Public Links Championship which will be played July 11-16 at the Ala Wai GC, Honolulu. A total of 150 qualifiers will be eligible for the Championship with the field being further reduced to 64 following a 36-hole qualifying round. Six rounds of match play will determine the ultimate winner.

Entries are open to male amateurs who since Jan. 1, 1960, have been bona fide public course players. Exceptions are those who had the privilege of playing courses at educational institutions, Army or industrial courses. Entries must be received by the sectional qualifying chmn. no later than May 19th.

A player in the Championship proper may accept, from funds administered by his sectional qualifying chmn., money for first class round trip travel fare between his home and the Championship site and up to \$10 per day for living expenses for a reasonable length of time.

William A. Wright, 23-year old Seattle Negro golfer, is the defending champion. He and the 1959 runnerup, Frank H. Campbell of Jacksonville, Fla., are exempt from sectional qualifying.

