

SWINGING AROUND GOLF

NEWS OF THE GOLF
WORLD IN BRIEF



By HERB GRAFFIS

Pro exhibition golf having big revival . . . New England PGA Golforama, with eight NE PGA members playing against eight journeyman pros recently drew 4000 at \$4 for 18 holes . . . Palmer, Player, Snead and Demaret, especially, are getting all the non-tournament work they want or can handle in exhibition dates . . . The hard fact is that first class clubs in good financial condition, and with heavy play on their courses, don't want to accept tournaments except as a responsibility to major associations of which they are members . . . Major tournaments usually are harder work for members of the host club than for the players.

Larry Robinson, veteran golf writer of NY World Telegram & Sun and pres. Golf Writers' Assn. of America wrote recently that tournament pros were talking about boycotting the National Open unless the first 30 money-winners on the PGA list got into the Open without qualifying . . . Larry must have laughed as he wrote that one . . . And the rumor had a strong windy background . . . Tournament players making that threat should be reminded that the thing to worry about is clubs boycotting Open tournaments instead of the touring pros telling the people, who give up their courses and sell tickets and advertising to raise prize money, what they should do.

There definitely is a trend toward making the National Open tougher and eliminating all exemptions, like the British Open . . . A golfer has to play his way into that one with his clubs instead of his clippings . . . A pro tournament sched-

ule that has about 50 Opens plus dozens of pro-ams that are put on as entertainment affairs at clubs has the effect of cutting down the money value of big titles . . . Ask in your club grill room who are the National Open, PGA and Masters champions and the percentage of members who don't know or don't care may be surprising.

Tournament golf prize money (national

FRONT COVER

Par 3 courses are proving to be big boosters of golf business as the gallery at the opening of Piney Point Golf Center, Houston, Tex., indicates. Piney Point's nine holes range from 95 to 185 yards and total yardage is 1210. Jack Burke, Jr. and Byron Nelson defeated Betsy Rawls and Mickey Wright, 1 up, in the inaugural exhibition in July. There are tournaments every Wednesday night and putting tournaments every Friday night at the course. A large practice area adjoins the Piney Point layout.

Lou Witt photo

and regional) altogether is less than two per cent of the amount of business done by club pros so the accent on tournament publicity in a game that is primarily for participants may be dangerously misleading . . . Club pro importance in golf is getting more recognition but has a lot of room for expansion . . . PGA release on "resignation" of J. Edwin Carter as its tournament boss was a real sweet work

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