

# SWINGING AROUND GOLF

NEWS OF THE GOLF  
WORLD IN BRIEF



By HERB GRAFFIS

Oakland Hills set a new record for the National Open . . . Three days attendance was 47,915, with Saturday drawing a record 20,439 paid . . . Previous record was at Cherry Hills, Denver for the 1960 Open . . . That paid gate was 43,878.

The 61st National Open was smoothly run by Oakland Hills' organization headed by Judge John P. O'Hara as gen. chmn. and the club's pres. Joseph H. Carey . . . Program was a fine looking job . . . Al Watrous became the first to be pro as his club was host to three National Opens (1937, 1951 and 1961) . . . Mgr. Clyde Cyphers had clubhouse food and drink service as good and fast as ever has been seen at the Open, maybe better . . . Supt. Howard Jones and green chmn., Lew W. Smead, were rewarded for their work and worries, the course being in perfect condition.

Shortage of growing weather in spring called for an intensive program when conditions were favorable . . . Jones came close to a collapse . . . Ernie Shave, a son of the great, late Herb who was Oakland Hills supt. for years, came back to help Howard . . . Ernie and Howard were students of maintenance under Herb at Oakland Hills.

Pro shop business up to June 10 in many sections has been hurting but store business in the same territory has been murdered by the weather . . . One prominent pro in the Southeast told Golfdom that his shop business through May was 10 per cent ahead of 1960 which was his top year . . . Several pros in California have reported that first half of this year

will show satisfactory shop business but not top figures . . . Golf apparel and shoe business in pro shops is up to par, club sales are better than expected but ball sales at pro shops have lagged on account of May cold, wet weekends in several districts.

Some pros with whom we've talked and written about shop business the first part of this year have said that the pro rather

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## FRONT COVER

Sam Snead prepares to finish his winning performance at Dorado Beach, Puerto Rico, in the International Golf Association championships played in June. His partner on the triumphant U. S. team, Jimmy Demaret, has just completed his labors. The U. S. total of 560 won the Canada Cup. The Australian team of Peter Thomson and Kel Nagle was second, 12 shots back. Snead's 272 was eight strokes under Peter Thomason's second-place total. It was the fourth consecutive IGA tournament win for Sam. Pro stars of 33 nations competed at Laurance Rockefeller's superb course.

*Photo by Bill Mark*

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than the weather determines the sales volume . . . One pro told us he had sold 14 sets of irons before he saw the sun at his club this spring . . . It was welcome money, he added, but it was hell on the carpeting in his pro shop . . . Everybody played their new clubs inside.

Bad spring weather isn't the fatal thing it used to be for pro business . . . Recently, in late summer, pros in northern and cen-