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Sullivan Makes Penetrating Observations on Par

In a recent piece in the Newark (N. J.) News, Des Sullivan, a golf writer, questioned whether the designation of par for a hole means very much. Winds, rain, the time of the year and similar factors often make a mockery of it.

Among other courses, he cited Essex Fells CC in N. J. in illustrating his point. During the summer, the parched condition of the fairways there enable an average player to reach the par 4s in two shots, Sullivan observed. But in the spring when the turf is sodden and a west wind blows into his face, the average swinger may find that par is suddenly increased by as much as three or four strokes on these holes.

Des didn't suggest it, but maybe there should be a "spring" and "summer" par specified for golf courses.

Scorecard Assistance

In the same article, Sullivan also told how he posed a question that baffled Joseph C. Dey, Jr., executive sec. of the USGA and keeper of the golf rules.

"Does the USGA, in its tournaments, okay the use of markers alongside fairways indicating that a player is 150 yards from the green?" Sullivan asked Dey.

"Not ordinarily," Dey replied. "If a course were to use stakes, the USGA would remove them. If a valued evergreen were the marker, the USGA wouldn't insist on its removal. But the idea is that the player should not have outside assistance in determining how far he is from the hole."

Sullivan's rejoinder was: "Why, then, do you meticulously measure the distance from a certain part of a tee to the middle of a green on a short hole and print it on a card to the very definite advantage of a competitor?"

Replied Dey: "You know, I never thought of that!"

Kids are going strong for the autographed cards that Doug Sanders hands out. The cards enable him to care for more youngsters than he could by autographing what they shove at him. The Sanders autographed cards are 3¼ in. high and 2¾ wide. They may be bringing into golf a picture card hobby of other sports that has caught on with kids.