

Leonard Writes Introduction for "Golf in Virginia"

Virginia ranks high in the nation in the number of new courses opened in recent years. Laurence Leonard, sports editor of the Richmond (Va.) News Leader, describes Virginia's position in the game in an introductory message he prepared for the new 12-page booklet. "Golf in Virginia," recently published. It is available from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Economic Development in Richmond.

The booklet lists about 150 regulation golf courses in Virginia. It includes their location, number of holes, par and their classification — private, public, semiprivate, resort or military.

"Golf in Virginia has kept up with the national fever," writes Leonard. "National Golf Foundation statistics show there is one golf course in the state for every 26,446 persons. The national average is one golf course for every 25,376 persons. In 1962, ten courses were opened, placing Virginia among the top ten states in the nation in new facilities. Thirty-five courses have been opened in the last three years."

Besides pointing to the state's position

nationally, Leonard's article presents some historic information on the sport in the Old Dominion and lists some of its outstanding courses.

Golf is Fastest Growing High School Sport

Not a single public high school in the United States owns a golf course, yet golf is the fastest growing major sport among teenagers in the country today.

Three years ago, golf ranked tenth as a high school sport with only 36,000 students enjoying the game. Figures just published by the National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations reveal that golf has jumped from tenth to sixth place with more than 78,000 students participating. Twenty-six sports are listed. Since 1960, golf has swept past such well established sports as swimming, volleyball, cross country and tennis in popularity. Only football, basketball, baseball, track and wrestling now outdistance golf on the high school scene.

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