



Advice from 6 Pros: Know Your Pupil ... Check Your Attitude ... Keep It Simple

By HERB GRAFFIS

The tough part of teaching golf is keeping it simple, agreed Olin Dutra, Dutch Harrison, Arnold Palmer, Lionel Hebert, Jay Hebert and Bob Goalby at the instruction clinic held in conjunction with the PGA's annual November meeting.

Lionel Hebert keyed the conference by noting that a golf lesson presents a situation in which the pro is put on trial. The pro's attitude is the most important thing about a lesson because it's universally recognized that a scared or diffident student doesn't learn much. The huskier of the Hebert brother is one of

the few playing stars who has developed into a fine teacher, a transition that Olin Dutra and Dutch Harrison made many years ago.

Lionel began the teaching session by stating that when a tourney pro is having trouble he goes to the practice tee and works on the simple things that a teaching pro tries to teach his pupils.

Knowing the pupil is important! Knowing the pupil's golf situation—time for practice and play, score, objective, etc.—sets the stage for the lesson. Then the lesson either is to be in working on the fundamentals of grip and swing if the pupil is average. If the pupil is advanced he (or she) usually needs a lesson involving correction rather than new details. This is a sound procedure, according

Shown above are Jay Hebert and Dutch Harrison in the large panels, and Olin Dutra, Bob Goalby, Lionel Hebert and Arnold Palmer in the inset photos.

to the experience related by all the instructors who spoke at Palm Beach.

Right Grip - Right Start

The playing and teaching stars both stressed the grip. If a pupil is started with the wrong grip it stays wrong all the way unless a lot of time and patience are devoted to correction, said the PGA lecturers. The last three fingers of the left hand and middle two of the right hand are the fingers mainly used in holding the club, the experts noted.

Arnold Palmer said that during his nine years on the tournament tour he had learned to improve the accuracy of his drives by teeing the ball higher and catching it at the bottom of the swing. He emphasized keeping the left thumb and index finger close together, and the left thumb straight down the shaft, adding that the latter thumb position happens to be the best for him, although other positions may be better for other golfers.

Doesn't Worry About It

"There are a lot of ways of playing good golf," Arnie observed. "What's best for the individual is something that the individual and his pro have to learn." He also remarked that keeping his head in good position is a most important point in his game. Palmer replied to a question about transferring weight by saying he doesn't know how much weight is on his left foot at the top of the backswing and he doesn't worry about it.

Jay Hebert said he believes that balance is nearly as important as the grip. He commented on the way Palmer stands over the ball and does not fall away, and how Snead, at impact, has both knees slightly bent and straightens up in near perfect balance as he hits the ball. He said that lessons show quick results if the pupil is taught to wait before throwing his hands. Waiting gives him the desired delayed hit.

Olin Dutra went into detail on the grip as a fundamental that the pro has to patiently work out for the pupil. Each apparently minor detail may mean the difference between success and failure in the pro's work. He stressed that firmness of the left thumb, which maintain the clubface in a square position, is a point that doesn't impress a pupil, but is one which the pro knows is highly important. The former National Open and PGA champion said he starts teaching beginning players with a 3- or 4- wood.

"Dutch" Harrison told about starting as a kid lefthander but changing to right-



Tucson's nationally known golfing physician, Dr. Ed Updegraff (r), recently was made an honorary member of the Tucson National GC by William Nanini, developer of the club. Tucson National will be officially opened this month.

hand play because there was only one set of lefthanded clubs in Arkansas that he could borrow. Harrison said that this development as a sound golfer began when he went to work for Horton Smith at the Oak Park (Ill.) CC. Horton showed him how to set his left hand stronger so he wouldn't hook himself out of the money.

Harrison said shanking is mainly caused by tension. The club should be held with the hands rather relaxed, Dutch advised. He also stated that he gets good results when he can teach his members to swing down with the butt of the club pointed down toward the ball. He said the problem of teaching the grip is to get the pupil holding the club so he is not fighting it.


Start with Irons

Most members want lessons with the driver, Harrison remarked, but they only learn how to use the driver correctly by hitting 150 balls with a 6-, 7- or 8-iron. Dutch said that as a beginner he played 18 months with an iron before he ever got a chance to hit a ball with a driver.

Harrison also recalled that when he worked as an assistant to Smith he never played at the club for any more than a ball Nassau. When he was playing elsewhere and a wager was suggested he soon learned that it was very profitable for him to play a guy who finished a swing hip-high. But the fellow with a high finish was a dangerous party who Mr. Harrison was happy to pass up.

(Continued on page 88)

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Lesson Advice from Six Pros

(Continued from page 28)

Dutch concluded with the observation that the most difficult thing for the average golfer to learn is to finish with the hands high.

Harrison Helped Coalby

Bob Coalby recalled how Harrison, while pro at Old Warson in the St. Louis district, helped him when he was getting ready to go out as a freshmen on the tournament circuit. Bob said Dutch impressed him with the importance of practice, especially around the green. Coalby told how he has found that a deliberate backswing, live footwork and keeping the right shoulder back for a reliable inside-out swing, plus carefulness about ball position at address, have added up to his doing pretty well on the tournament circuit.

References to the uncertainty of tournament circuit play were numerous. The most amusing of them came from "Ernest Joe" Harrison. Dutch said he never won a tournament that he thought he was going to win; the ones he won were when somebody else blew up. At the president's dinner, Dutch gave thanks to Horton Smith, Joe Jemsek and Waco Turner for giving him help when he needed it most.

Tammy Brook

(Continued from page 46)

CC in Jamesburg, N. J. as a private club for two years.

Traina Runs Pro Shop

The club's pro is Mickey Traina, one of the area's best known golfers. A native of New York, he played as an amateur for 10 years, winning the Bergen County titles in 1937 and 1938. Prior to that he qualified for the National Public Links Championship in 1934 and 1935. Traina turned professional in 1940 and began teaching at a driving range in Hackensack. He became pro at Teterboro CC in 1942, remaining there until 1952 when he took over the same position at Wayne CC. He came to Tammy Brook from Wayne.

Supt. is Sabato (Sabby) DeFalco. He came to Tammy Brook after many years of experience at Upper Montclair CC. DeFalco started as a caddy, worked in the pro shop and then on the golf course, serving as assistant supt. from 1947 until 1961.

The golf course was designed by Trent