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Ladies PGA Basks in New Wave of Tournament Prosperity

The Ladies PGA fall tournament schedule, which gets underway Sept. 20-22 with the Visalia (Calif.) Open, will be the richest on record. From mid-Sept. until early December, the women will compete for more than \$100,000 in prize money, according to Leonard F. Wirtz, LPGA tournament director. They are scheduled to play nine tournaments.

This will bring the prize list total for the season to around \$325,000, an increase of about \$60,000 over 1962 when a new record for prize purses was set. During 1963, the women will have played 35 tournaments, another record. This is the second season in which an extensive fall tour has been arranged for the lady professionals.

Ahead of Schedule

Wirtz figures that the LPGA is a year ahead of schedule in its tournament set-up. The goal for 1964 was pegged at 35 tournaments and \$300,000 in purses, but this will have been surpassed when the present season comes to a close.

Two new tournaments, the Hillside

(Santa Barbara, Calif.) Open and the Mary Mills Mississippi Gulf Invitation, to be played at Ocean Springs, Miss., have been added to the women's card. The purse for the San Antonio Civitan Open has been increased by \$1,000. The lady professionals will conclude their season by teaming up with PGA circuit players in the Haig & Haig Scotch Mixed Foursome at Avon Park and Sebring, Fla., Dec. 5-8. Half of the \$40,000 in prize money will be allotted to the women.

The big event on the fall schedule is the ninth Ladies PGA Championship. It will again be played at Stardust CC, Las Vegas. It offers \$15,000 (minimum) in prize money, but is outranked in this respect by the Mississippi Gulf Invitation, which is posting a minimum of \$15,600.

1964 Canada Cup Matches

The 12th annual International Golf Championship and Canada Cup matches will be held at the Royal Lahaina GC, Kaanapali, Maui, Hawaii, Dec. 3-6, 1964, according to a recent announcement by Sidney L. James, the IGA's executive chairman.