

Who's Going to be Second?

Several Full-Length Courses Plan To Install Lights for 1964 Season

The lighting system is now installed and, when the snow clears, is scheduled to be turned on at the regulation-length Louisquisset GC in Providence, R.I.

Completion of floodlighting the public course's front nine follows closely the initiation of night play late last summer at Tall Pines, near Philadelphia. Also, at least one other course is almost ready and several others are now starting on their four or five-week installations. In short, there's a developing trend to night golf and any claim for "world's second lighted full-length course" depends on who gets warm evenings first.

Visit Tall Pines

Charles Meloun of General Electric's outdoor lighting department says the feasibility of night golf was converted from theory to fact when Tall Pines took the first big step and found it completely successful. During the course's several weeks of night play last fall, owners of Louisquisset and about 50 other clubs from coast to coast visited Tall Pines. They saw that a ball really can be followed at night on a par-5 and that people are willing to pay \$5 one, two, and even three evenings per week.

Additional course owners were told of Tall Pines' success at the GCSA convention in Philadelphia when co-owner Pete McEvoy, Jr. declared: "We're completely satisfied with night golf. We need only five foursomes a night, 150 evenings per



year, to pay all power costs and amortize our investment."

Louisquisset is a 6080-yard, par-70 public course. Tall Pines is private to local club members, leading to the possibility that the Rhode Island layout may be the "first" to offer the public course player the chance to play more. The need for night golf for this market is greatest, because some 75 percent of the nation's golfers play on the public courses which account for only 50 percent of the total facilities.

Use Mercury System

Louisquisset, like Tall Pines, is lighted with enough 1000-watt mercury floodlights to gain about 10 footcandles on the tees and greens and five footcandles on the fairways. Most main downtown streets are illuminated to about one foot-candle. The two courses, plus most others, have selected mercury floodlighting systems.

The recent development of the mercury floodlight has contributed greatly to the trend to night golf. Some 40 years ago, G. E. supplied filament lighting for several standard courses. However, the resulting light levels were hardly enough to qualify the clubs as truly illuminated and the experiments were quickly discontinued.

National Golf Day • May 30
