

Ohio State U Courses Are Good Golf Business

By **ROBERT H. KEPLER**

Pro-Mgr., Ohio State University Golf Course, Columbus, O.

A FACTOR THAT is certain to show powerful influence in the postwar growth of golf is the university golf courses. These courses have been great nurseries of golf but during the war years their play has been vastly increased by their supply of recreation to young men who have been working hard in the army any navy courses at many schools.

The wartime scholastic program also has accounted for heavy play during the entire summer at those university courses where normally a lull in the college year reduces golf play. However, that is not the case at Ohio State where there is a considerable attendance all through the summers.

National attendance has been directed to the Ohio State university course by the National Collegiate and Big Ten championships played here. Visiting students, faculty members, athletic officials and newspapermen have commented on the excellence and popularity of the course.

However, very little has been said about the business aspects of the operation. Our department of Physical Education, headed by the noted veteran, L. W. St. John, believes that the Ohio State university golf course has an operating story that will encourage further development of university golf courses when extension of students' physical education and recreation activities will be in order at many schools, but the same old problem of expenses will demand primary attention.

The university golf course has operated in the black for the past few years due to three main factors: First, our play has increased steadily; second, our labor costs have decreased, and third, our maintenance costs have decreased.

Our play has shown a steady increase because we have the finest conditioned

course in this area; because we have had an adequate supply of golf balls (until during reconversion to synthetics), and because we have clubs to rent to our servicemen players. We have 36 of the finest greens in the country, and you know how golfers love good greens.

Our 9½ acre lake supplies about 7500 golf balls annually when it is drained in the fall. This extra supply enables us to be a little more liberal than most clubs in this area. Our Service play has been very large, and one of the major reasons, aside from the balls available, is that we have clubs to rent the Service players.

During the golf ball "dry spell"—until synthetics are produced—we have been loaning two golf balls to those players who have none. We charge them 25c a ball if they are lost, and give them our thanks if they bring them both in. The system seems to be making a hit, and without a doubt, it keeps a lot more of the boys playing golf.

Labor costs have decreased because we have not been able to get the labor. To compensate for this, our fine course superintendent, John S. McCoy, has spent many long extra hours on the course keeping it in shape.

Maintenance costs of the course and clubhouse have decreased because we have been unable to purchase many needed items, such as kitchen equipment, fertilizer, etc.

The following is a schedule of our dues:

	Students	Faculty	Alumni
Yearly	\$20.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Quarterly	10.00	15.00	none

The Alumni membership is good only on week days. Play on week ends involves greens fees (\$1.00).

Our greens fees are:

	Students and Enlisted Men	Faculty and Officers	Alumni and Guests of Members
Week Days	\$.55	\$.80	\$ 1.05
Week-ends80	1.05	1.55
Ten-Play	5.00	8.50	10.30

The course is open to all service men, students, faculty, administrative employees, alumni, and guests of members.

In addition to golf, we have an archery golf course, which is open all year.

Our clubhouse is used quite extensively by fraternities and sororities for dances, meetings, and parties of various kinds. There is an inside and outside dance floor. There is a large shelterhouse near the clubhouse, and a smaller one at the lake, both of which are very popular for group and family picnics. Forty-seven of our members had Victory Gardens 50' x 60' on the course, and hundreds of bushels of vegetables have been raised. These gardens have been directly responsible for holding some of our members during the gas shortage, and has also helped to procure a few new members.

Golf is taught indoors the year around at the University. Advanced classes met at the course for two-hour periods, and play as many holes as time allows. During the winter quarter, there is an indoor evening school for the Faculty and Alumni members. In the summer, group lessons are given to the junior members and to the caddies. The lessons to the caddies have been especially beneficial, as several of them have come along to be members of the Varsity team.

There were 26,667 rounds of golf played in 1944, and 400 rounds of Archery golf. Total Operating expense of the course, clubhouse, and restaurant in 1944 was \$28,759.78. Non-operating expense; taxes and interest, were \$2,759.78.

Income

Greens Fees	\$19,309.79
Dues	3,903.28
Merchandise Profit	5,196.97
Restaurant Profit	2,795.47
Pro Shop	811.00
Lockers	1,522.00
Miscellaneous Income	594.63
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	\$34,133.14

EAST WITH WILSON—Victor East, widely known as former pro and club design and construction expert, has left war industry work to become a member of Wilson Sporting Goods Co. staff. East worked with doctors and physical educators in some of the pioneering done in golf therapy. At present he is assigned to following up this experience by working with pros who have war casualties as pupils.

John T. Rodgers, H & B Official, Dies in New York

★ John T. Rodgers, 53, sec. and treas., Hillerich and Bradsby Co., Louisville, Ky., died in a hospital at New York City, July 12. He had been ill for three months. Burial was at Louisville. Mr. Rodgers was pres., National Association of Athletic Goods Mfrs. and a director of The Athletic Institute, Inc. He was a native of Mississippi. He joined H & B as a salesman in 1921 and was made an official of the company in 1937. He is survived by his widow; a son, John F. Rodgers; and two daughters, Mrs. William H. Shoen, III, and Miss Ann Rodgers.

John was a widely known and beloved character in golf and baseball. To him were entrusted many confidences of professional athletes and business organizations. John had the rare gift of geniality and judgment that enabled him to use his intimate knowledge of the sports business to benefit those whom he termed "the brothers" without ever tipping off the inside facts that had been told him. His word was always backed up by performance.

In and out of business hours John Rodgers was a great fellow to be with, a fine sportsman and a true gentleman. He is deeply mourned by all who knew him.

Work Pushed on Vet Courses—Bob Dunning, well known former greenkeeper, has been showing what value greenkeeping knowledge has had in wartime work. Dunning has been in airfield turf work and lately has been helping with construction of the course at Ashburn General hospital, McKinney, Tex. The course was designed by Ralph Plummer of Fort Worth. It's 9 holes with a yardage of 3400. It has high pressure watering for greens, fairways and tees. Col. J. B. Anderson, commanding officer of the hospital, is enthusiastic about what golf will do for the patients. Dunning says that the post engineer, Maj. V. J. Buck, who is in charge of construction and will be in charge of maintenance, has brought forth numerous engineering ideas that probably will figure widely in postwar course construction and maintenance.

Young Jack Allspaw, son of the veteran supt., is in the Army at the Harmon General hospital, Longview, Tex., and relates that medical officers there are very strong for golf instruction for the patients as many of them are orthopedic cases and can get from golf the best combination of foot, leg, arm and hand strengthening exercise along with sports fun and competition.

Almost TWICE the Ball Business After V-J Day



1939
MARKET

194?
MARKET

WORTHINGTON has carefully checked the estimates being made of the number of golfers to be expected after the war.

With us — as it must be to the good pro businessman — the fantastic guesses never did go, and won't go. There were about 2,250,000 active golfers in 1939. Golf ball sales and repeated checking confirmed that figure. Conservative reports from military and industrial recreation sources as well as from golf clubs, show fairly clearly there'll be about 4,000,000 active American golfers two years after V-J Day.

In the midst of all the working and worrying we are doing now to make balls for the Armed Forces and for civilian use later on, we continue to prepare for a tremendous postwar volume.

Worthington will be ready to help the alert pro cash in on the postwar demand for golf balls.

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Brynwood Adopts Chemical Weed Control Program

By O. J. NOER

★ Many weed and clover control programs will start on golf courses when labor and materials become available. Interest in their eradication is widespread. Here is a major concern of golf officials and greenkeepers everywhere. Even club members are keenly interested in ridding fairways of weeds and clover, but their elimination from the roughs is still more important. Weedy roughs are the potential source of infestations in the fairways.

The experience of Lester Verhalen at Brynwood CC in Milwaukee should be of especial interest to those contemplating a weed control program. At one time the fairways and roughs were heavily infested with weeds and clover. Dandelion was the principal weed, but plantain and buckhorn were numerous also. White clover was so bad that fairways were mowed three times a week during the blooming period, otherwise players complained that golf balls were hard to find. The turf was uniformly thin. It consisted of Kentucky blue grass.

Weed and clover control experiments were conducted prior to 1940 on small sized plats. Arsenic acid and sodium arsenite were tried. The latter was applied dry and as a liquid spray. The first plats were located in the rough, but subsequent ones were established along the edge of a fairway. The trials proved that weeds and clover could be eliminated without damaging the grass.

The ninth fairway was selected for a large scale trial. It was treated in the fall of 1940. The dry method was used because discoloration was less severe, and



Hose from boom on the sprayer connects with shut-off valve on tractor.



Sprayer in operation on rough. Boom on Hardie sprayer is home-made. Nozzles are cone-shaped type, spaced 18 inches apart, at 45 degree angle. The two end ones have separate shut-off and are on swivel so boom can be shortened. Upright mounting standards have holes 3 inches apart so height of boom from ground can be changed.

serious damage to the grass less likely than with the spray method. Milorganite was the carrier. The rates of application per 1,000 square feet were 4 to 5 ounces of sodium arsenite (11 to 13½ pounds per acre) and 10 pounds Milorganite (435 pounds per acre). The fairway was treated three times that fall and twice more the next spring. Treatments began after Labor Day. The interval between applications was two to three weeks. The reduction in weeds and clover was amazing. There were almost no blooms visible during the next spring when dandelions and clover were in flower. All the other fairways and the roughs were ablaze with yellow when dandelions were in bloom, and a mass of white during the clover season. During both times this fairway was cut twice when all the others were being cut three times because of the profusion of dandelions and clover blooms.

The results were so striking that the club officials decided to start a weed control on all fairways. The treatment of both roughs and fairways was not feasible because of the labor shortage, so it



Rough between 10 and 18 in fall of 1944 before spraying with arsenic acid.



Rough between 10 and 18, early summer 1945, after spraying five times.

seemed best to forget about the roughs temporarily.

All the fairways received two applications of sodium arsenite in the fall of 1941. Milarsenite (a mixture of Milorganite and sodium arsenite) was used both times at 400 pounds per acre with an interval of three weeks between the applications. The Milarsenite provided 50 pounds nitrogen and 25 pounds phosphoric acid. Additional fertilizer was applied at 600 to 800 pounds per acre (about 40 pounds of nitrogen and 20 pounds phosphoric acid per acre). The folly of killing weeds without supplemental fertilization to encourage grass to spread and take possession of the bare spots was recognized. Although the turf was thin, no seed was used because grass coverage was uniform. The improvement was gratifying. There was no plantain or buckhorn the following year. The reduction in the number of dandelions was appreciable, but not complete.

Additional treatments have been made every fall since then. An excellent stand of Kentucky blue grass has been obtained, and by 1943 turf became almost perfect.

The sodium arsenite also rid fairways of worm casts, and no grub damage occurred in 1944, although there was considerable injury in the adjoining roughs,

and on untreated fairways at other courses in the district.

Roughs were not sprayed until the fourth year after weed control was started on the fairways. Treatments should have commenced simultaneously on both. Then the number of new weeds in the fairways would have been reduced very materially. They come from seeds produced by weeds in the nearby roughs.

A boom was made for the power sprayer used to apply fungicides for disease control. The sprayer tank had a capacity of 100 gallons. The six cone type nozzles, equipped with No. 2 discs, were spaced 18 inches apart on $\frac{3}{4}$ inch pipe fittings. The two end ones were mounted on swing joints with separate stop cocks so the boom could be shortened to four nozzles to enable spraying among trees. The boom was mounted on upright standards with nozzles tilted backwards at a 45 degree angle. The height of the boom was adjusted so the outside edge of adjacent cones would meet exactly at the surface of the ground with the pump operating at 150 to 175 pounds pressure. Holes on the standards were spaced three inches apart for this purpose. The connecting hose extended from the boom to the tractor and back to the tank outlet. A shut-off valve was inserted beside the tractor seat to permit the driver to start



No. 18 fairway in 1941 before sodium arsenite treatments.



No. 18 fairway, summer 1943, after two years of weed control treatments and fertilization.

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or stop spraying at will. Details of construction are shown in the accompanying picture.

A tankful of water was sprayed over part of the rough with the tractor traveling at normal speed and the pump operating at 150 to 175 pounds pressure. The area covered was measured. It was found that 100 gallons would spray two acres. Subsequent operations were based on using 50 gallons of water per acre, or about half the quantity normally used in the Chicago area. Arsenic acid was the weedkiller employed on the roughs.

Crude arsenic acid is a heavy liquid, almost twice as heavy as water (specific gravity 1.7 to 1.8). The ordinary grade contains 70 percent arsenic acid. It comes in 12 gallon glass carboys, which are used for sulphuric and other acids. An acid siphon is best for transferring arsenic acid into smaller bottles or jugs. Siphons can be obtained from most chemical supply houses, and from many automobile accessory jobbers. Arsenic acid is a poison and will produce serious flesh burns. It must be handled carefully.

One-half gallon of crude arsenic acid was used per acre, or about 7½ pounds (2¾ ounces per 1,000 square feet). It was less than the 11 pound rate per acre (4 ounces per 1,000 square feet) used by some greenkeepers in Chicago. The contents of a 1-gallon jug were added while the tank was being filled with water and the 100 gallons were sprayed on two acres. The cost per acre for material was less than \$1.00 for each treatment.

Blue grass can withstand a relatively heavy dose of arsenic acid, especially when cut longer, as is the case in the rough. Turf discolors badly, but the grass will recover, provided the soil is not too dry at the time of spraying.

The roughs have been sprayed five times, twice in the fall of 1944 and three times in the spring of this year. Spraying started last fall in late September, and ended in late October. The interval was approximately three weeks. The spring of 1945 was an unusually early one. Midsummer temperatures prevailed in March. Weeds started off with a rush. Plantain and buckhorn plants of the year before were killed completely by the two fall treatments. The reduction in dandelions was marked, but a considerable number still remained. Spraying was resumed in late April but flower buds were far advanced on many dandelion plants, so some seedheads formed despite the spraying.

In the future, spraying in the spring will start when the first flower buds appear in the crown of the plant.

By mid-June there were few weeds left. Players had no trouble this year finding golf balls, even though the roughs were

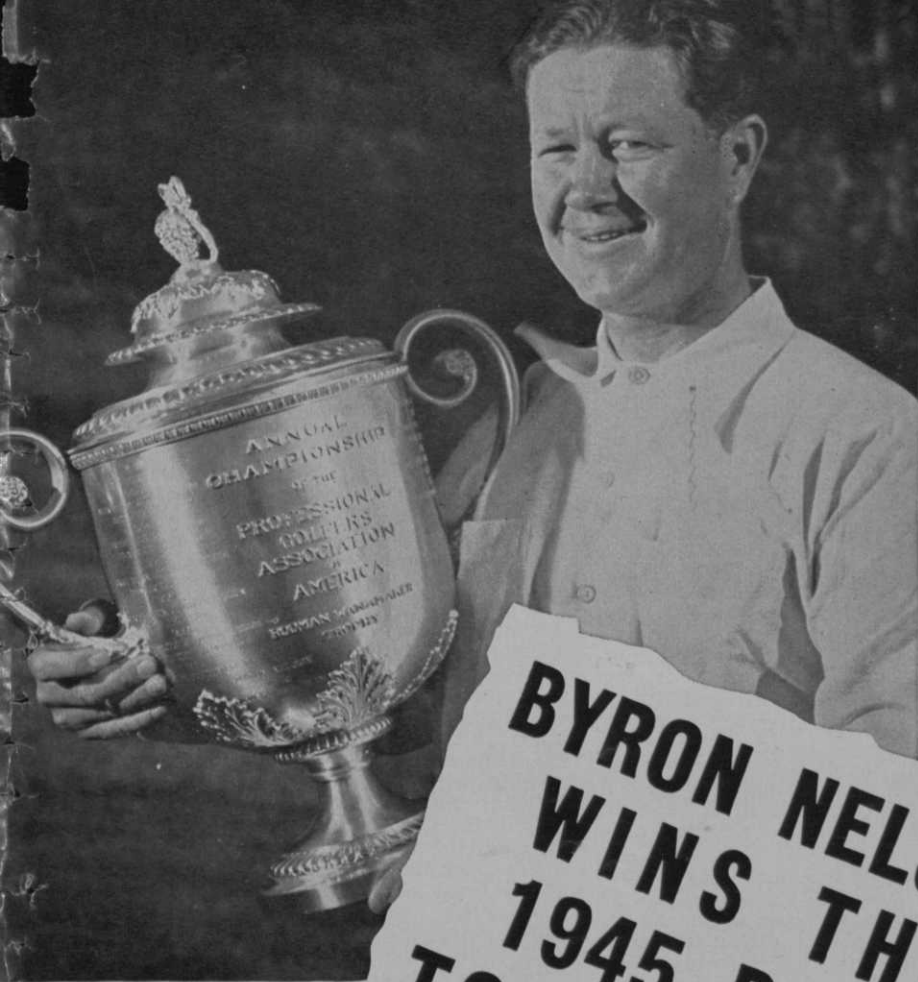
not cut short, because the weed foliage and seedheads were gone.

Verhalen is so enthusiastic about the improvement in the roughs that he intends to do some spraying every year. He realizes weed control is not a one year proposition, because new weeds keep coming each year from seed in the soil. Besides reducing the weeds, he says spraying at the proper time eliminates all the seedheads which reel-time mowers do not cut. The mowing problem is simplified too, because the arsenic acid checks the growth of blue grass temporarily. When the roughs grow too fast to be kept in check with the mowers, spraying burns the weeds and slows the growth of grass.

Arsenicals help control grubs also. Serious damage does not occur after a program of spraying for a year or two. Arsenic acid and sodium arsenite give control at far lower concentrations than lead arsenate. Grubs are responsible for bad weed infestations on many roughs. They kill the blue grass and then weeds develop from seeds already present in the soil. To kill the existing crop of weeds is only the first step in any weed control program. Unless a cover of grass is obtained and maintained, there will be another crop of weeds in a year or two. The battle to curb weeds is a continuous one. The time may come when a little fertilizer will be used occasionally on the roughs to maintain the grass cover.

Announcement of a new weedkiller, called 2,4-D for simplicity, was made in 1944. It received wide publicity. Results being obtained with it are very promising. When used correctly, it appears to be far better for dandelion, chickory and several other weeds than the arsenicals. Apparently it has a definite place in the weed control program, but may not entirely supplant the arsenicals on golf course turf. Spraying with a combination of 2,4-D and arsenic acid or sodium arsenite might give a better and quicker kill of the weeds, besides grubproofing the roughs and curbing growth of the blue grass during the spring and fall. Whether the idea is a good one and workable is a matter for time to tell. In any event, it is apparent that big things are in the offing for weed control, but herbicides alone will not supplant the necessity for employing other practices which are essential in the maintenance of dense turf capable of resisting the invasion of weeds.

WESTCHESTER TOPS MILLION INCOME—Westchester CC, Rye, N. Y., had gross income from operating departments of \$1,163,950.75, and net operating profit of \$118,093.69 for year ending Dec. 1944, according to president's report and audit recently issued.



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How Moraine Staged Pros' Greatest Event

By HERB GRAFFIS

THE PGA'S 27TH national championship, held at Moraine CC, Dayton O., July 9-15, was declared by press and players the best conducted tournament in the association's history. The event was the financial high spot of all pro championships. In addition to the \$20,000 guaranteed the PGA for expenses and prize money for a record entry of 155, war veterans' rehabilitation received \$51,515.26.

The gallery fees showed that there's a strong "quality" appeal to golf tournaments. The "season" ticket at \$6.60 covered admission to the seven days of tournament golf and two preceding days of practice and exhibitions. Daily charge was \$1.40, except for the finals at \$2.80. Men and women in uniform were admitted at half price.

The program was an artistic and financial success. The advertising in it yielded approximately \$36,000, which is believed to be the record for pro tournament publications.

Conditions of this tournament were unique. The Moraine Country Club at which the event was played is one of the most exclusive clubs in the United States. It has fewer than 100 members normally. About 75 officers from airfields have wartime memberships. Moraine's clubhouse is not large, but it is beautifully and completely fitted. Normally, such a club would shy away from a tournament because of the supposed impossibility of handling tournament guests in the clubhouse, and because of putting the course out of members' play for a week. But PGA rehabilitation fund for war veterans as beneficiary was the deciding factor. The late Clarence Rickey and an organization of Daytonians, who formerly were active in collegiate and professional sports, presented the opportunity of raising a substantial amount for veterans to the Dayton business notables who constitute the club's membership. The Moraine board, after discussions and estimates determining that the primary beneficiaries would be the veterans, got on the event strong.

A management feature of the championship at Moraine is well worth heeding by other clubs that are hosts to championships. The Moraine officials, headed by President Fred Rike, didn't work themselves into a sweat and confusion by add-

ing the job of making championship arrangements to their usual heavy responsibilities. The club department heads, William Gould, mgr., Orville Young, greenkeeper, and Tommy Bryant, pro., were told to make necessary arrangements, after consultation with PGA officials and others who had conducted major tournaments. The additional duties were delegated to men in the organizations of the club officials. Representing the general committee, whose co-chairmen were S. C. Allyn and Henry Mead, was J. K. Owen, gen. mgr. of the event, with Leigh Metcalfe as assistant. Owen's responsibility was the over-all situation. Metcalfe also handled the publicity, handled press arrangements and supervised operation of the two scoreboards. Some years ago Metcalfe was editor of Club Management magazine and in that capacity became acquainted with tournament procedure.

Other major activities were ably handled under the chairmanship of civic leaders qualified to handle operations such as ticket sales and selling organization, sale of program advertising, food and beverage supply, physical arrangements and construction at the club, transportation, parking, etc.

Col. E. A. Deeds, National Cash Register board chairman and founder of Moraine, took lively interest in the tournament planning, and the benefits of his masterly executive hand showed.

The result was that at Moraine there was none of the strain and confusion that club officials generally suffer when a major tournament is held at their club. Especially interesting and commendable was the manner in which additional patronage at noon was fed. It was buffet service with a small roast, a moderate amount of cold cuts, and plenty of non-point salads and other items very attractively displayed. The chef did a great job on beans, always a pretty fair bet with men. Contestants seldom eat heavy lunches at major tournaments so feeding them was no particular problem on points.

Admission to the clubhouse was tightly controlled, due to limitation of accommodations. Soldiers were at the doors. Orders mean orders to them and no fast-talkers with desperate pleas that "they gotta go" got by. Other accommodations were available outside. The lunch and drink tent was conveniently located be-