

Sells Parents on Caddy Training Plan

Marty Kavanaugh, pro at Hamilton County (O.) Sharon Woods GC, is a strong advocate of extending a caddy training program to give the kids fully rounded sports training in the summer when the lads are not looping. Kavanaugh says that the Sharon Woods experience in engaging a high school athletic coach to supervise a sports coaching program along with the caddy training attracts a lot of desirable youngsters who are eager to devote time in the summer conditioning themselves for sports competition when school opens in the fall.

Hamilton County Park District commissioners have sent to parents of all high school boys in the country a letter which has been effective recruiting advertising.

The letter reads:

A JOB FOR YOUR SON

At the Sharon Woods Golf Course we are carrying on a caddy training, character building, and recreation program for the boys who either are or hope to be caddies. This letter is being sent to acquaint the parents with the program.

This year again we have Herald L. Roettger, Coach at Lockland high school,



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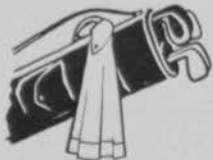
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as supervisor of this three-fold program. We believe this program is going to be of considerable interest to the parents, as well as a service, not only to the boys but the players as well. There are a number of advantages which caddying offers to the boys of the neighborhood.

1. It will give him a chance to play and associate with other fine boys from his and other communities. Many of the friends we make as caddies will last for a life time.

2. It is a good way for him to help his parents, if help is needed. (Many boys earn enough money to buy some of their clothing and all of their entertainment.) Makes the boy appreciate the value of money and prepares him for the day when he is grown and on his own.

3. Not only the great golfers but most of the rank and file players started out as caddies. It is a game once learned that can be played for a lifetime.

4. It is usually his first job, and by being trained to caddy well, it gives him good work habits which will be invaluable later on when he graduates to other types of work. Records that boys who were good caddies have been successful in other lines of endeavor.

5. A good caddy is one who learns the duties of caddying to the very best of his ability, is courteous, attentive, and interested in seeing that his player enjoys his round of golf. These duties will be taught by the caddy supervisor and his committee.

6. Our aim is to develop a paternal attitude toward the boys by our own personnel and the players who engage the services of the caddies.

If you wish to learn more about this program and service call PR 7359 and ask for anyone of the committee listed below:

Mr. H. L. Roettger, Caddy Supervisor
Mr. Marty Kavanaugh, Mgr. and Pro
Mr. Carl Rohmann, Asst. Mgr. & Pro

SO. CALIF. RESEARCH*(Continued from page 64)*

well intentioned schemes for want of funds. War years and depression years come along when there is neither desire nor funds to keep alive valuable experimental plots and we must guard against a repetition of this evil.

California Grass Needs

It is too early to even lay down a tentative program as much organization work has to be done before experiments are started. But perhaps a suggestion or two will not be out of order. I would like to see produced among other grasses, a grass plant that would cover our mountains; a

plant with deep enough roots and strong enough to prevent soil erosion and make our melting snows and rain water walk down hill instead of run down. For in the past lives have been lost and much valuable property has been destroyed by the onrush of water down our mountain sides, and given the time and the funds I believe it is possible for some young agronomist to produce such a grass plant. A grass plant that will beautify our hills and prevent this colossal waste and destruction from taking place.

Then again we should have produced for us a fine textured grass with plenty of deep roots, free from disease, a root structure that will dig deep and secure for itself sufficient soil water to sustain a healthy and vigorous growth without the constant irrigation and flooding that is now necessary to keep our turf alive and healthy.

Experiments should be made with different kinds of fertilizer that will suit a particular kind of soil and have more lasting qualities than the bulk of the fertilizers we use today. All these experiments mean hard work and slow procedure. We must be patient and sympathetic, for there are no royal and easy roads to success. Nature is in no hurry and abhors quick transitions. We see this slow process of fixing a type in the seaside bents. We look over a bent green and see the various shades of color. We notice the different texture; some coarse and some very fine. We see them change from a light color to a dark color and fine plants developing a coarse habit for the genes are not finally fixed, but by thoughtful experimentation we shall discover a fixed type, one that will permanently retain its color and texture.

These are some of the things that must be included in our program and, given the right kind of personal care, much can be accomplished.

MINIMUM ACCOUNT

(Continued from page 27)

somewhat lower than those of the night clubs and cafes which country club members patronize.

Habit Is Formed

Tam O'Shanter prior to the adoption of the minimum charge plan, as now, had lively entertainment programs calculated to bring out members. That entertainment didn't draw in the pre-minimum days as it does now. The habit of coming to the club was established when everyone wanted to make sure that they were ahead of the minimum. The push was psychological rather than logical, as most of the members normally were spending more than the minimum.

July, 1948



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To show how the minimum plan has worked, figures for eight months reveal the regular members spending an average of \$398.12; limited members, \$298.63; social members, \$283.11 and women memberse, \$183.82. Some members who, for various reasons, haven't been able to get to the club are behind the minimum expense figure but making no complaint, and neither is the club because such members have paid their \$20 minimum monthly.

There are 7.9 per cent of the regular members spending under the minimum. Of all classes of members 89.5 per cent spend over the minimum.

In the latest eight months analyzed 2.4 per cent of the members spent over \$1,000 each at the club during the period. The largest class was the 18.9 per cent who spent from \$240 to \$300 during the eight months. Next largest class was the 16.5 per cent who spent from \$300 to \$400 in the eight month period.

One way of looking at the minimum charge plan is that if a man can't afford to spend \$30 a month at a club like Tam O'Shanter, he shouldn't belong. May is a realist that way and is convinced by experience and observation that in some cases he has been doing border-line cases a favor by presenting the situation bluntly.

Adoption of the minimum house account plan has meant that member accounts receivable can be more closely estimated and expense budgets forecast with greater precision. With each member under agreement to carry his minimum share of the load the fellows who consistently patronize the club don't have to pay higher dues to carry the load of the trailers.

Explanation of the plan proved to be a tactful factor in adding prestige to Tam O'Shanter membership. It didn't necessarily give a member the notoriety of



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being a big spender who was tossing money around but it did identify him as one who was able and willing to pay his way in meeting the legitimate costs of club membership and operation.

Now nobody has any complaints to offer about the minimum house spending plan. It's just as much a recognized part of club membership expense as the dues—and it very definitely is accountable for keeping the dues down and assessments nil.

BEING A BUSINESSMAN

(Continued from page 28)

ply. When we're short on caddies for a special event all we do is call our friend the director of athletics who is happy to cooperate.

For a good many years our club handicap system has been handled by a committee appointed by the club president. This committee depended entirely upon the individual to post his own score with the result that many scores were not posted either through negligence or other reasons. The final result was a generally unsatisfactory handicapping system.

The solution to the handicapping problem was that the pro staff would undertake to establish equitable handicaps. Our big problem was to get every score made. This we did by making a special effort to meet all players as they came from the 18th green and discuss their score and game with them. It's a big job but it pays handsome dividends. You get the score and it gives the player the impression that the pro staff is genuinely interested in his game. We now have 238 handicaps posted and established and are making room for more.

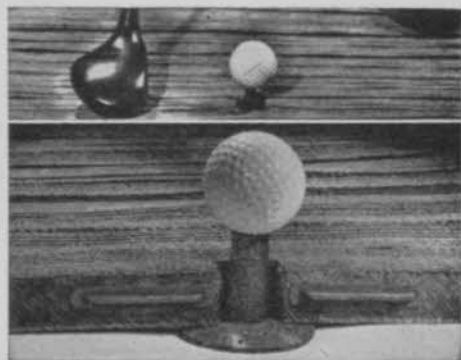
I think we all know the importance of equitable handicaps. I would advise all pros who have much the same set-up as I

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had to take more of an active part in getting the handicaps on an equal basis. Surprising what it does both for the club and the pro shop.

PROS HELP POLICE

(Continued from page 36)

Last year, at the suggestion of Commissioner Wallander, there was an inter-departmental competition held in which 26 divisions competed. The Detectives won with a team comprising Oleska, George Lunny, George Bailey, Frank Neuman and Bill Hanratty.

The NYCPGA is part of the vast Police Sports Association which embraces track, baseball, softball and other sports. Chief Inspector Martin Brown is president, Deputy Commissioner William Turk, secretary, and Commissioner Wallander, chairman of the board.

Clubs Welcome Police

President Poggi, whose name has become synonymous with the NYCPGA, was a guest at the annual meeting of the Metropolitan Chapter of the PGA and was lauded for his work in promoting golf among the municipal employees.

Al Ciuci, president of the Long Island PGA, who has become a close friend of Poggi, said the Long Island clubs actually compete for the privilege of acting as host to the NYCPGA.

"These police golfers are getting so good in a competitive way," cautioned Ciuci, "that they'll be challenging the PGA members after they knock off a few more of the leading clubs of the district. They really pack a wallop."

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Not to be outdone by the males, the distaff side of the New York City Police Department organized its own golf team last season and competed against a feminine contingent from the Sheriff's office led by the comely Helen Gilligan, a member at Plandome.

Walter Grego, Bayside Links pro, was host to the inaugural party of women police golfers and all agreed it was a pronounced success. Mrs. Irene A. Peters, Mrs. Gertrude Winterhauer and Mrs. Marion C. Mullen are the officers of the organization that intends to conduct six tournaments during 1948.

"We have had the police golfers here every year ever since we opened up the course," said Grego. "In fact, the tournament is one of the big events here, rivaling in interest the annual World-Telegram Hole-In-One tournament."

So, with policemen, firemen and thousands of other city employees flocking to the fairways, Father Knickerbocker's boys and girls should be getting their share of the sun rays and develop into A-1 divot diggers.

GETTING GREENS TURF

(Continued from page 32)

should be enough men to sod the entire green in one day. A heavy roller is required. If a three unit fairway roller is available it is satisfactory, provided the tractor is equipped with rubber tires. A power roller such as is used for tennis courts or light sidewalk work is ideal. There must be weight enough to press the sod firmly into the base. The weight will not harm good quality sod. Plenty of water should be applied just ahead of the roller. Do not soak the sod first but deliver water immediately ahead of the rollers so they push a wave of water ahead of them. Roll lengthwise and crosswise, once each way. More rolling than this may displace the sod pieces.

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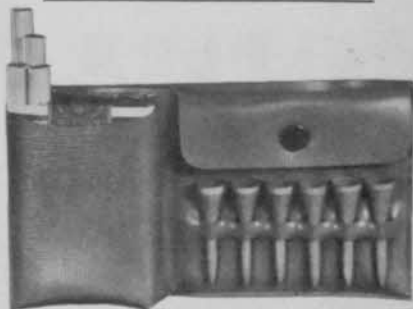


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The green should be puddled several times on the following day. Watch closely for surface runoff of water. It may seep between sods and wash out the sand base. Let up on the amount of water applied each day for four days when the green will be dry enough to roll with a hand roller and topdress. Then apply a heavy dressing of topsoil, not compost, and mat it in with a steel door mat. A liquid feeding of sulphate should be made and watered in well. Mowing starts the day after feeding. The greens mower should have the front roller attached to prevent scalping and set at three-eighths of an inch for the first cutting. The height of cut should be reduced in stages but as soon as possible to ¼ inch. Topdress again when the grass is growing well. A green so sodded should be ready for play a week after laying with first class sod if the work is done carefully. Sprinklers which will cover the whole green at one setting are the most satisfactory means of applying water. They give uniform coverage.

Velvet bent is a very fibrous rooted plant. As a green becomes older the root mat, and the partly decayed roots of other years, gradually choke the soil when the grass is growing on a deep rich bed of loam. The mat of roots and stems may be very thick, reaching to a depth of three inches below the surface. It fills the soil so completely that it is difficult to get water down through the green to the growing roots. Bacterial action is retarded as the years

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go by, because of the accumulating residue of decomposed vegetation.

The sand-based greens are very open in texture and will not fill up with dead roots faster than soil organisms can destroy them. New plants are constantly being established on the surface. If the green is regularly topdressed there will be a continuous development of new grass plants throughout the growing season.

I am not convinced that deep roots are essential to the health of the grass if food and water can be secured close to the surface in amounts sufficient to sustain growth. I am sure they can be supplied as needed. We are operating a manufacturing plant, not following crop production methods, and can control the growth of the turf. Weather conditions in New England are constantly changing throughout the growing season. If we can supply food and water effectively to the turf we can meet these changes in weather as they come.

The question of cost will be raised by many. Fertilizer requirements will be less than for other types of greens, because velvet bent requires less food to maintain it in good health than most grasses. The amount of water required will be less than for the average green because we depend upon frequent, light waterings. A good sprinkler system cuts the cost of watering, particularly if the watering system is designed so one setting of the sprinkler will cover the whole green. This type of equipment has been so well developed that such a design is possible. Heavy night or early morning watering will not be required. Mowing will cost less than for creeping bent because three mowings a week will keep the surface of velvet in first class condition.

The cost of construction will be way below the cost of building the customary type green of today. It will be possible to locate greens on sites where other types of construction would be impossible, or prohibitive in cost.

Weed control is positive. There is no need of tolerating weeds in properly managed velvet bent turf. Proper height of cut and good condition of turf are the controlling factors in weed regulation. Weed seed in topdressing, or crabgrass seed carried on to the green will not germinate and grow. This seed is buried by the topdressing. Before the seedling has a chance to become established it is smothered by the dense new growth of the velvet bent. The only time weeds have an opportunity to develop is the first season after seeding when the stand of grass is thin, or when the turf becomes unhealthy due to neglect. The remedy in either case is to improve the health and condition of the grass.

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New plantings will become weedy if cut at $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch or higher and maintained at this height of cut. By lowering the cut to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch the weeds will depart. I have tried this program many times and the results have always been the same. Several times a nursery seeded in August has come up as a solid bed of crabgrass with a few spears of velvet showing around the edges of the crabgrass plants. One grower told me that I was wasting time letting the crop occupy the nursery. The next season the same man was pleased to accept some of that same sod to patch one of his greens. There was not a weed in it and we did not weed the nursery.

Topdressing Material

Open field top soil of light sandy loam is recommended. The topdressing material should meet these requirements:

It should level the surface of the green.

Provide an open soil in which new grass plants may root and which will not be congested with the accumulation of dying plants and roots.

Make the soil open to the easy passage of air and water.

There is no need of elaborate methods of sterilizing the soil to eliminate weeds, or of building up expensive compost piles. It may be true for other grasses but is unnecessary for velvet bent greens.

An open field of light sandy loam can be used as an almost inexhaustible source of topdressing material if correctly managed. When soil is taken from the soil bed the entire layer of top soil should not be removed. Some of it should remain to help make new soil. After the required amount of dressing has been removed the area should be used as a dumping ground for all kinds of vegetative material, grass clippings, leaves, old sod, and the surface trash cleaned from gardens each spring and fall. If this material is harrowed into the soil several times a season and a cover crop of rye is seeded in the fall the area will supply topsoil for many years.

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