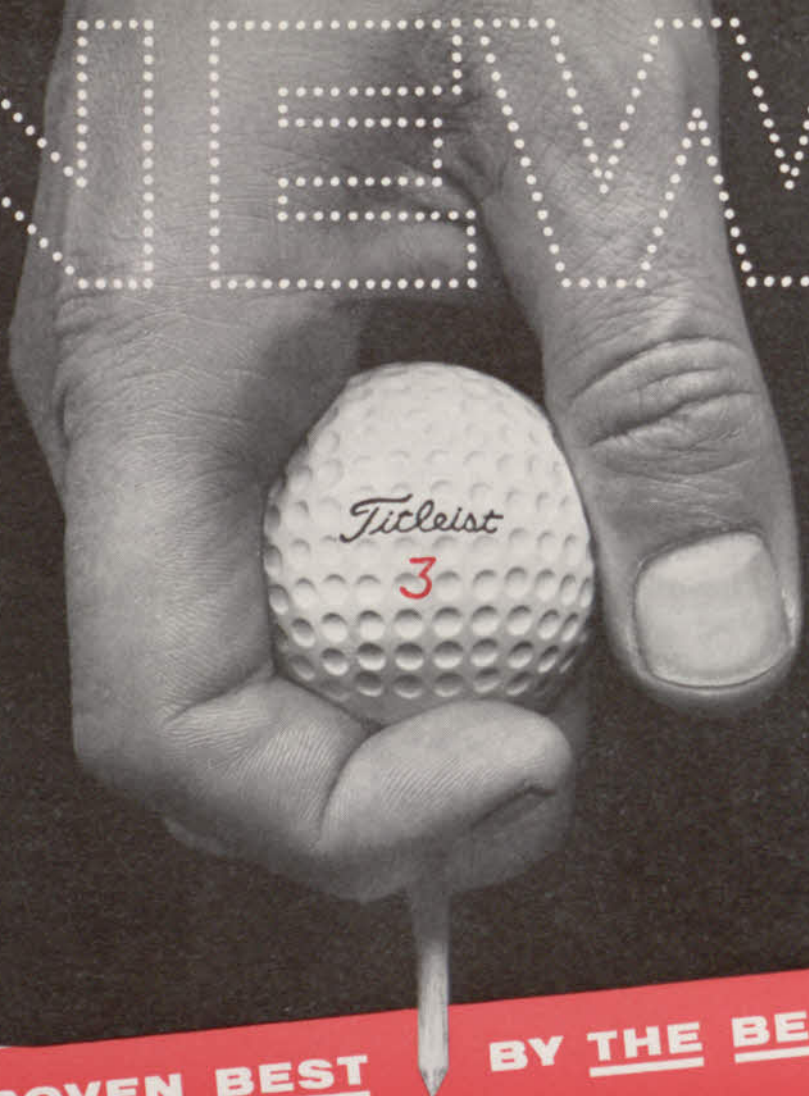


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SWINGING AROUND GOLF

NEWS OF THE GOLF WORLD IN BRIEF



BY HERB GRAFFIS

The National Amateur championship needs a serious overhauling by the USGA . . . It was a tired, ailing affair at St. Louis . . . The 6 and 4 victory of Deane Beman over Bob Gardner in the final of the 60th Amateur probably didn't draw half as many people as the 25th Amateur, Sept. 17-24, 1921 at the same club, the St. Louis CC . . . Jesse Guilford beat the late Bob Gardner of Chicago, 7 and 6, in the final for that title . . . The first day the field and caddies in the 1960 Amateur outnumbered the contestants.

This year's Amateur field possibly was the scoring superior of the 1921 National Amateur field which included besides Guilford and Gardner, Bob Jones, Tommy Armour, Willie Hunter, Chick Evans, Francis Ouimet, Jimmy Johnston and George Von Elm (who lost in the first round, 5 and 4, to Guilford) . . . Deane Beman, 22, 5 ft. 6 in., 137 lbs., is one of the great little players . . . He figured to win the 1959 British Amateur and he did by beating Bill Hyndman . . . Beman defeated Hyndman again, in 19 holes in the quarter finals at St. Louis . . . Beman's morning round Saturday was 36-32-68. . . . This was three under par for the 6,616 yd. St. Louis CC course . . . The greens

were somewhat round around the hole positions but that was due more to the traffic than to any maintenance procedure . . . The fact is, considering the blistering days and muggy nights St. Louis had for 10 days or so before the Amateur started, the greens on the old course were in good condition.

In 1947, at the St. Louis CC for the National Open, the yardage was 6,532 and par was 71 . . . The winner, Lew Worsham, scored 70-70-70-71 — 282 — 69 and Snead added up: 72-70-70-70 — 282 — 70 . . . (Worsham won the playoff) . . . So Beman in playing the first 18 of the final match of the Amateur did better than Worsham and Snead who played on a shorter course and under weather conditions that were better for the greens . . . In 1921, Ouimet, with 144, was medalist at St. Louis . . . Guilford qualified at 151, Armour at 155, Gardner at 152, Willie Hunter at 154, Jones at 151 . . . Five qualified at 162 and one, Russell Smith, at 163, got in . . .

That sort of scoring wouldn't have got anybody very far in this year's National Amateur . . . So, obviously, the trouble with the Amateur isn't that the quality of the field is unattractive . . . The field is good and would be much better if the date of the National Amateur were advanced a few weeks to get collegians before they have to go back to school . . . Coeds drawn to the gallery by varsity contestants also would give the Amateur something it needs . . . Amateur's usual date now bumps into tough competition from football and finishing days of the baseball races.

The Amateur's blind draw required the defending champion, Jack Nicklaus, to open his defense in an 18-hole round

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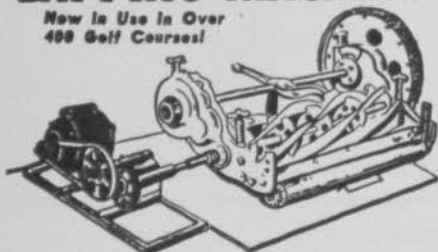
34th Year

OCTOBER, 1960

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against a seasoned competitor, Jack Donahue, who was closed out on the last hole . . . That doesn't make much sense when there were 56 byes in the first round field of 200 . . . The catch-as-catch-can practice round starting on Sunday accounted for arguments and complaints that a starting time sheet would have avoided.

Practice on the St. Louis CC polo field with the Amateur contestants hitting balls out of their own practice bags and from 6 to 17 caddies looking into the sun to shag the balls, luckily didn't result in the blinding or death of a kid . . . One boy, though, was hit on the head by a ball and hospitalized . . . While an attendant from the Red Cross tent and others examined the fallen boy then hauled him off the field on a stretcher, one idiot continued to hit balls from the temporary practice tee . . . If the dimwit shot scores as low as the IQ he exhibited in this case, he would win every golf title but certainly no award for having all his marbles.

It is only a question of time until some caddie is killed in golf tournament practice . . . At the 1959 Amateur at Broadmoor the contestants were required to use the club's range balls . . . At Southern Hills CC, Tulsa, in practicing for the 1958

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Gordon started with the late renowned architect, Stanley Thompson, and since has been in charge of turf maintenance at Minikhada in Minneapolis, Brookwood and Olympia Fields in Chicago. He is now General Manager of the Derrick Golf Club.

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National Open, the contestants used balls the club got from leading ball makers for the practice range . . . Some contestants don't want to use club range balls for practice . . . Tood bad - but not nearly as bad as injuring a caddie.

Possibly some of the Amateur's health and interest may be restored by putting on the 1961 championship at Pebble Beach, and at another superb golfing resort, Pinehurst, in 1962, and at a good, live moderate-sized city's club, Wakonda, Des Moines, in 1963.

Bill Sherman of National Golf Foundation recently did some research showing men's PGA Tournament circuit events increased 30 per cent in past 10 years and prize money increased 163 per cent . . . Prize money in 1960: \$1,102,474 . . . Ladies' PGA percentage of increase was even greater . . . In 1960 women played 145 per cent more events (27) than in 1950 and for 185 per cent more prize money . . . Women pros' arrangements with manufacturers have them on exhibition and demonstration tours among clubs during a number of weekends of the summer, ruling out tournaments on these dates . . . The promotion must be work-

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Like all users of the Lectros, Superintendent Bidwell approves of their push-button starting . . . their constant even power . . . their lack of smoke and fumes . . . and the low cost of their operation and their maintenance. Important point: the Lectro weighs only 185 lbs. and has no oscillating parts so is less of a source of compaction than any other power-driven greens mower available to turfgrass managers.

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ing O.K. as percentage of increase of women's golf in the past five years has exceeded percentage of growth of men's golf, according to careful guessers . . . At numerous private clubs this year women will play as many rounds as men.

Martha (Mrs. Larry) O'Toole, former pres., Women's Western Golf Assn., honored by women of her club, Edgewater GC, Chicago, at luncheon and invitation tournament and by having women's tournament named for her . . . She has been head of the women's rules committee at Edgewater for 18 years . . . She is a leader in Junior girls' golf program development in the central states . . . Kemper Insurance group of Chicago sponsoring Sunday golf shows that will continue through March, 1961 . . . It is Celebrity Golf (5 p.m., EDT) in which Sam Snead meets the best players of the entertainment world . . . Third annual Dorado Beach Invitational tournament to be played Oct. 26-29 in Puerto Rico . . . Southern Seniors will play their Championship at Dorado, Dec. 2-6.

Guido Cribari, Westchester golf writer, says he'd like to see a match between U. S. Ryder Cup and Walker Cup teams, co-sponsored by USGA and PGA with pro-

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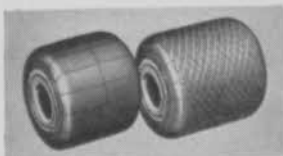
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