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Joe Kirkwood: A tribute

Joe Kirkwood, who died at the age of 73 after a long illness, in a Burlington, Vt., hospital established a new stage of golf show business. He was the first of the trick-shot showmen. He came here from Australia after winning the Australian and New Zealand Open championships at the suggestion of Victor East, East, also from Australia, thought young Joe would cut down the American hopefuls.

At Pinehurst one time Joe was at Maniac Hill, the first of the world's practice tees, hitting trick shots he had perfected. Fellows quit practicing and came out of the clubhouse to watch. Word of his wizardry got around and golf nuts who left Pinehurst told about the incredible Kirkwood.

Joe always was a guy who could do careful tricks with money. He played safe financially with exhibitions and took tournaments as a sideline. But he played so well that he won the Canadian Open in 1933, finished tied for third in the British Open in 1927 and was fourth in 1923 and 1934. He was tied for 10th in the 1934 U.S. Open at Merion. He was hot at St. Louis CC in the 1947 National Open. His pal The Haig walked the last nine with Joe, and had him so scared about possible violation of Rule 9 about taking advice (although Joe didn't ask Walter), Joe blew to a fat 78 and a tie for 22nd place and \$100 prize money. Joe won the North and South Open and several circuit tournaments. He

played at nearly 7,000 different courses around the world. His son, Ioe Ir., won circuit events, then went to Hollywood to star in pictures as boxer Joe Palooka.

Kirkwood was followed in the trickshot field by Jack Redmond, and Paul Hahn and others of lesser fame. Joe never smoked or drank. He died of the same thing that killed his playmate Walter Hagen, who did everything.

There's reduced anxiety on the part of golf ball makers at the prospect of the United States Golf Assn. and the Royal & Ancient changing the size and weight of golf balls to uniform specifications for world-wide use. Somewhere, somehow, among the fellows who devote themselves to amateur golf rules and rulings, the great white light of reality must have been turned on.

Practically, what the USGA and R&A have been fooling around with amounts to thinking about an ideal golf ball for the pro playing specialists who don't pay for golf balls and losing touch with the large percentage of amateur golfers who do. The USGA and R&A officials must be aware of the multitude of peasant golfers. So why do they get into a sweat about something that does not positively benefit the vast international majority of golfers?

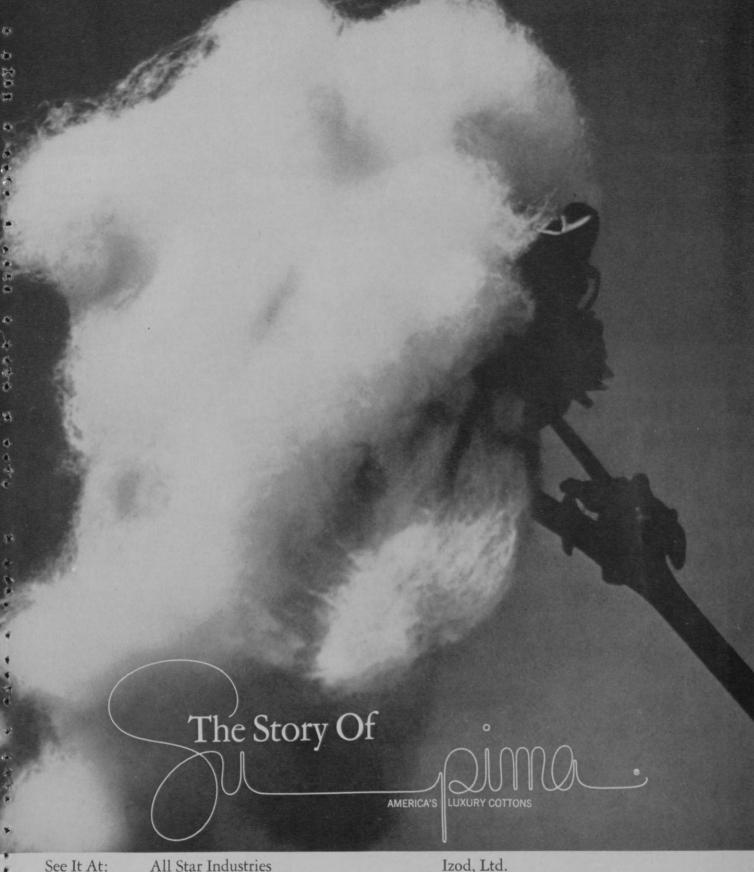
Compromises in international competitions allowing contestants to play the USGA or R & A ball have worked out agreeably. Within the limits of the present specifications there's enough leeway to allow manufacturers, eventually, an area of individuality. One could even call it a "golfing public service" since it would allow the golfer interesting choices of a ball for his game. That should help the golf ball

A world-wide golf ball of restricted standards would be nonsense. Considering the differences in turf, weather conditions, maintenance, need of encouragement of golf and money available for golf, it is utterly impractical to limit golf ball specifications to one tight world-wide standard.

Somewhere it appears that the USGA and the R&A may have forgotten that golf is an art. It is played by people for fun, and golf legislation should start from there and never get far away.

The best job of merchandising that I've ever seen was done at the 18th Annual World Cup international pro tournament at the Jockey Club

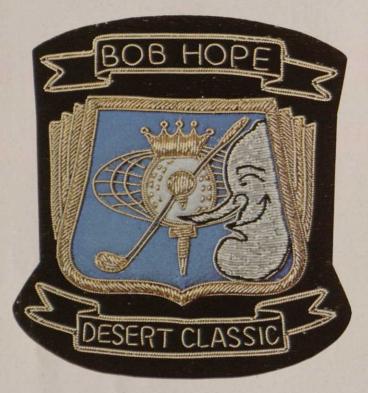
(Continued on page 14)



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in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The display, which appealed to the quality market that attends a golf tournament, was more attractive than the big tent showing at the British Open. There was a row of boutiques with simple artistic fronts near the clubhouse first tee and 18th green. There also was a display of an automobile maker's models, two drink tents with tables and chairs and striped umbrellas. And under one of those inflated Tecin air structures was a food and drink cafeteria operated by Damas Rosellas and their daughters. These women, members of Buenos Aires hospital auxiliaries, are socially prominent, good looking, wealthy and invaluable public spirited workers. They are the Argentine counterparts of the great ladies who make the Westchester tournament as a hospital money-raising show such a tremendous success.

Although there are only 18 courses in Argentina and a small percentage of the population playing, Roberto De Vincenzo is as big a sports idol in that country as Hagen, Jones and Palmer have been in the United States. De Vincenzo's winning the individual championship at Buenos Aires and the Australian team of Devlin and Graham winning the team tournament against competent international competition, pointed to the sportsmanship and wisdom for such major tournaments as the USGA Open and the Masters granting invitations to World Cup individual and International Trophy winners. World Amateur team players are among the 14 classes qualified for invitations to the Masters. As contenders of one of the world's top titles in golf, it is logical that the winners in the international professional competition also qualify.

No getting away from it, the World Cup, then called the Canada Cup, gave world-wide pro and amateur golf competition the boost that brought it from a dream into reality. Juan Trippe, head of Pan American Airways and of International Golf Assn., had his men work out with Fred Corcoran arrangements that spread golf beyond the Walter, Curtis and Ryder Cup competitions. And don't forget the senior golfers of the United States who spent their own money and suffered considerable inconvenience in Europe and Africa establishing truly international golf competition.



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Guess which one putts truest. Wrong.



These are probably the five best balls in the game.

And right out of the wrapper, not one of them takes a back seat to Faultless. On any score.

But after you powder 'em down the fairway a few times, that's when you begin to notice a few differences.

Some conventional balls start to lose their balance. Get out of round. Even the best of 'em, like Titleist. Dot. Maxfli. Staff.

As a result, they may not putt as true. Drive as true.

And that's why the pros take a fresh ball every couple of holes.

But a Faultless? Lee Trevino will tell you. It's solid. Has no core or winding or cover that can get

out of round. So it can't lose its balance. Ever.

Drives and putts like it's got eyes.

Another thing. Anyway you cut at it, you can't cut it.

Which is pretty important, because all it takes is a slight crack to send a ball off line.

But that's not all. Faultless has just developed a brand new computer-blended formula. To give you an even faster, even longer ball than before. Round after round after round.

All things considered, Faultless is the ball that can give the others some pretty lively competition.

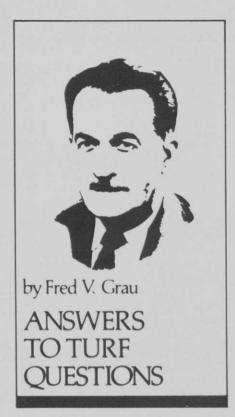
Surprised? We expect you to be.

Now it's a whole new ball game.

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Determining authenticity

Q—Our club has an application blank from the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council wherein golf clubs are invited to join as Sustaining Members at \$100 a year. Would you consider this to be a good investment? What might we expect in return for our membership? Isn't this something new? (Pennsylvania)

A—Yes this is something new, and I consider it a good investment. In return for \$100 a year, each Sustaining Member club will have the privilege of: 1) receiving periodic news releases in the Keynoter, the official publication of the P.T.C.; 2) supporting scholarships at Penn State wherein top-notch students are rewarded for their scholastic proficiency in their efforts to become turfgrass managers; 3) compensating in part for years of free advice and service from the staff at Penn State; 4) insuring the continuance of high-quality programs of research, teaching and extension and the training of replacement golf course superintendents and 5) making possible another authentic Turfgrass Survey to assess the true scope and value of the turfgrass industry.

These are a few of the important elements that can be accomplished with money from a one-year Sustaining Membership in P.T.C. Already 15 commercial firms have indicated their support of the goals by joining the council. Several hundred golf course superintendents have dug into

their pockets for individual memberships to support its progress.

Q-We have a weed in our putting greens called pearlwort. It is dark green and looks quite good. What can you tell us about it? (Maine) A—Pearlwort (Sagina procumbena) was described in Piper and Oakley's book "Turf for Golf Courses" in 1917 (out of print). It was common in putting greens throughout Pennsylvania in 1935. The use of arsenate of lead, the introduction of superior types of bentgrasses and improved knowledge of liming and fertilizing have just about eliminated pearlwort. Some superintendents equip their men with rubber gloves to rub arsenate of lead powder into pearlwort patches. Penncross bentgrass gives pearlwort stiff competition. Brownpatch sometimes seriously affects pearlwort.

Kikuyu fills the bill

Q—At Hickam AFB we have large areas of kikuyugrass in some of our fairways. The turf is a beautiful green, weedfree and does not seem to suffer when water is short. We have been moving sods to areas where salt is a problem. Do you condone this practice? Are we headed for future trouble?

A—After inspecting your golf course and learning something of your conditions I have no choice but to approve your program. Kukuyu is doing a great job and seems to be a low-maintenance grass. It needs to be mowed closely and thatched occasionally. It does have a tendency to develop a spongy cushion under indifferent management. With good power edgers I see no real problem around the greens. Like any aggressive grass, it will need management in and around bunkers.

Q—Not long ago we had occasion to mix, in water suspension, hydrated lime and an ordinary mixed fertilizer. We experienced extreme discomfort from ammonia fumes and we had poor results from the application. Can you suggest an explanation?

(Hawaii)

A—The explanation is simple in terms of beginning chemistry. Hydrated lime (Ca(OH)2) reacts with inorganic nitrogen, presumably sulfate of ammonia (NH4) 2 (SO 4), to form ammonia (NH 3) a gas, and calcium sulfate (harmless soluble (Continued on page 22)



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