

Golf's Bottle Neck: Courses

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Many articles have expressed concern as to where the future golfers will develop, since each year fewer caddies sift into the game.

Personally, I see no reason to become alarmed. The promotion of golf in schools and colleges is the means not only of developing many excellent golfers but of stimulating golf activity in each community through the school golf teams and golf classes.

The college golfers who become stars will be decided assets to either amateur or professional ranks. Their college backgrounds will have prepared them to meet the many problems confronting bigtime golfers, including public, radio and press relations.

Cary Middlecoff, the new USGA Open Champion, and Skip Alexander a member of the Ryder Cup Team, are college graduates. They attribute their interest in golf to their college team matches and scholastic tournaments.

School and college golfers are being taught the fundamentals of sound golf by competent PGA professionals who have the ability to analyze and expound the technique used so effectively by the leading professional and amateur players.

The bottle neck, as I see it, is not in developing more golfers; it is in what to do with the golfers! Each year golf courses in desirable locations are being dismantled and the property subdivided for real-estate projects. With more players developing, the dismantling of courses presents a serious problem.

At Los Angeles, in order to play on a Saturday, one must call the Griffith Park Golf Courses before 7 A.M. the preceding Monday. Otherwise, all times will already have been assigned. A similar situation prevails throughout the entire United States. Imagine going out to play eighteen holes and spending six to eight hours! This is a common



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occurrence on public courses on week ends in America today.

There is no doubt that the bottle neck of golf is the lack of courses. More golfers will develop each year, but who will build the courses?

Various city and county officials will have to be educated to the view that adequate golf courses are as necessary as parks and playgrounds. Figures will show that the courses will be a source of revenue to cities and counties.

More colleges eventually will build golf courses as parts of their institutions. Wealthy individuals might be induced to provide for the construction of courses as memorials. Large corporations might be persuaded to construct golf courses to serve their employees.

I might recommend that golf associations and manufacturers' representatives form an active committee to put in motion immediately the machinery for promotion of golf-course construction.