

The Club Pro in Competition

By AL BROSCH

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A club professional who competes in the Open Championship has a good deal more to lose than a tournament player. The tournament player need face only his own intimates at the next stop on the tour. The club professional will have to explain what happened to all his club members!

Seriously, though, the club professional is at a disadvantage when he takes time off from his regular job to compete against seasoned, year-around tournament players in, say, the Open or PGA Championships. When one of us is fortunate enough, as I happened to be last June, to lead the Open field through even 36 holes, I look upon it as a miracle and do not attempt to explain it.

My job is two-sided. I am both professional and golf-course superintendent at the Cherry Valley Club. From March 15 to the time of the Open Championship, I gave approximately 300 lessons and superintended the conditioning of the course. Spring is the season when members most need lessons, after their winter lay-off, and it is the season when the course and shop require a good deal of care. In recent years, labor problems alone have been sufficient to keep a fellow busy.

No one other than a golf professional can realize all the things it takes to operate a job successfully.

In spite of these duties, I should find time to practice. The urge is present, but the energy is not.

Practicing consists of three things: loosening up, perfection and exercise. Most golfers practice only for the exercise.

When practicing, each shot should be considered important. Once the player has loosened up, he should concentrate on each stroke and let the exercise take care of itself. A few moments of concentration are worth hours of practice.



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Some years ago I was told that addressing with the club centered directly behind the ball was important, and this is one of the things I try to make habitual by practice.

Making one's own decisions in the course of a round is another of the most important factors in achieving a consistently good game.

In the Open at Medinah Country Club, my game held together well except on the greens. Why some putts go in and others stay out, no one can say.

These things are not the most important in life, however. Undoubtedly, security and contentment at a job and at home have a far-reaching effect. One's acceptance at a club can have much more than a dollar value.