

# Do You Want a Scandal?

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Not only sports fans but the entire public has been shocked by revelations of bribery and corruption in college basketball which came to light last winter, particularly in New York.

Never before was the condition revealed to be so widespread, but these were not the first such cases. In fact, rare is the sport in which some such incident has never occurred.

Golf is such a fortunate sport. If there ever has been a breath of such a scandal in golf, we have not heard of it. But golf is not necessarily immune. It can happen here if we don't take care.

If you will examine past sports scandals, you will discover a common factor—gambling has been at the root of each. The basketball bribes were made to insure the gambler's profit. The baseball Black Sox scandal of 1919 was connived by gamblers. The fixed horse race is engineered by gamblers to reap a big pay-off at the mutuel windows.

Now there frequently are gambling pools in golf tournaments; at times they are described openly in the sports pages of newspapers. Some Calcutta pools reach staggering proportions, as much as \$50,000.

## "How It Feels to Be a Horse"

The intentions behind these pools are often harmless. Some bettors think pools add a sense of excitement to tournaments.

In essence, however, it is the same old yen to get something for nothing.

Leading golfers have expressed their feelings when they are involuntarily made the medium of gambling. The members of the 1949 Walker Cup Team were polled on the subject; they found heavy gambling distasteful, as reported in "How It Feels to Be a Horse", in the July, 1950, JOURNAL. Prominent professional players have expressed the same distaste, if not resentment.

These players reported they sometimes felt an undue sense of pressure in knowing that friends had wagered heavily on them. This not only is unfair to the player, it is detrimental to the game.

But there are worse possibilities.

There have been cases in which players in tournaments either bought or were presented pool tickets and then drew other star players. How might a player in this situation feel if he met the player on whom he held the ticket in a crucial match — when victory for his opponent would mean thousands of dollars in his own pocket? Could he play his best? Might he feel qualms as to whether he wanted to play his best?

Such a situation may at first seem fantastic. But the presidents of the colleges whose players threw basketball games for money thought such a possibility just as fantastic.

The USGA has repeatedly expressed its position on organized gambling in golf. The Association cannot actually control gambling; only the golfer can control it. It is up to each of us.

Every golf club in the country is undoubtedly zealous to uphold the good name golf has always enjoyed. The safest way to avoid trouble is to make certain there is no temptation.

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## USGA POLICY ON GAMBLING

Following is a resolution adopted by the USGA Executive Committee:

"This Association does not approve organized gambling in connection with the playing of the game. Section 1 of the Rules of Amateur Status defines what constitutes an amateur golfer. Section 2 gives several examples of violations which are to be interpreted in the light of Section 1. In considering any individual case, the Committee would be guided by the intent for which an event is conducted or the purpose for which a player has competed."