

The PGA and the Caddie Championship

By GRAHAM ROSS

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The national caddie championship, which will be held this year at the Ohio State University Golf Course, in Columbus, Ohio, August 18 through 23, is particularly dear to the hearts of all PGA members because it involves a group of young Americans who are vital to their profession and who have produced many of their greatest players. When the opportunity came two years ago for the PGA to become officially affiliated with the project, the spontaneous, favorable response was overwhelming. The tournament is conducted by the National Caddie Association, in Columbus, and the idea was fathered by Mayor James A. Rhodes, of Columbus, aided by his able aide, Pete Zurlinden.

Ten college scholarships will be awarded in this year's tournament. To the Champion will go a \$1,500, four-year scholarship. To the beaten finalist will go a \$1,000 scholarship. These are underwritten by the PGA to the extent of \$2,250. Another \$300 scholarship, provided by the PGA of Canada, is to be awarded to the medalist. A \$250 scholarship is contributed by the Horace Heidt Foundation as a sportsmanship award. In addition, six other scholarships, ranging in value from \$100 to \$750, have been made possible by the proceeds from a celebrities tournament, conducted last year for the first time as a preliminary to the caddie championship at Columbus. The scholarship winners, all of whom will have been carefully screened, will select the institutions to which the funds will be allocated.

It is necessary to qualify aspirants in all of the far reaches of the nation, and the PGA plays an important part, with sponsoring newspapers, in the conduct of sectional qualifying rounds. Thirty-five newspapers have agreed to conduct these eliminations in their respective areas and



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to sponsor two boys each in the tournament at Columbus this year. Last year thirty-two newspapers participated and 65 players competed in the championship proper.

Since the caddie welfare tournament was originated, this program has helped twenty-one boys to attend college, and twelve more will be added this year. Two examples are the 1946 champion, Tommy Neiporte, now a student at Ohio State University and winner last year of the National Collegiate Athletic Association individual golf championship, and Don Addington, 1948 champion, now a student at Southern Methodist University and runner-up in the Trans-Mississippi Amateur last year.

PGA LIAISON OFFICER

Horton Smith, President of the Professional Golfers' Association of America, has appointed Graham Ross, a Vice-President, to represent that association in liaison with the USGA Championship Committee during the Open Championship at the Northwood Club, in Dallas, Texas, this month. Mr. Ross is professional at the Dallas Athletic Club Country Club.