

## Tallahassee's Junior Tournament

Back in the spring of 1947, Ned West, then Recreation Superintendent for the City of Tallahassee, Fla., came up with the idea that one of the best recreations for youngsters would be a golf tournament. He got together with the Tallahassee Men's Golf Association and Tallahassee Country Club's professional, Sonny Hay. They decided to conduct a tournament for Tallahassee boys and managed to drum up 27 entries, divided into age classes of 17-18, 15-16, 13-14, 11-12 and 10 and under.

A lot of kids from other cities heard about it and at the request of professionals from nearby, the tournament was opened to outsiders. Last summer, the fifth Tallahassee Junior Tournament attracted 124 entries from three states and its sponsors believe it is the biggest junior golf tournament in the South. It is still primarily the sort of tournament it started out to

be and the age divisions are exactly the same as in 1947.

For the first four years, Tallahassee used a unique method of play. The event was completed in one day. All competitors qualified over nine holes in the morning and the four low qualifiers in each group then engaged in what the sponsors termed "dog-fight match play" in the afternoon. Players 15 or older went 18 holes in match play, the younger boys nine. There is a party for the boys on the evening of the first day's play.

### New System This Year

Tallahassee changed the form last June, when the 1951 event was held. The new system was given a cordial reception and will be retained. This year's tournament will be played June 19 and 20.

Now the event is conducted entirely at stroke play. It was expanded to two days, with 18 holes qualifying on the first. Then

### Age Group Winners in Tallahassee Junior Tournament



From left are Donald Knight, 17, Lakeland, Fla.; Joe Eubank, 14, Daytona Beach, Fla.; John L. (Bunk) Berry, 15, Tallahassee, Fla.; Albert Yancey, 12, Tallahassee, and Telfair (Teddy) Ghioto, Jr., 10, Dothan, Ala. Berry scored 221, five over par, for 54 holes stroke play. Identical prizes are awarded to winners, regardless of age.

the low eight and ties in each group continued in a championship flight for each age group. Those 13 and older played 36 holes the second day, the younger boys 18. The second day's scores are added to the first. This year boys in the 10-year-and-under group will play only nine holes each day. All who do not qualify engage in an 18-hole consolation, with three prizes for each group.

Ned West is now director of sports publicity at Georgia Tech but Sonny Hay still conducts the tournament, just as when they started it. He plans still further changes for this year: additional flights in each group for non-qualifiers, with more prizes, and a club team trophy for teams of four players each. The club team trophy, which must be won three times for permanent possession, has been donated by the Florida State Golf Association.

"I believe our tournament has helped in the development of some of the best players in Georgia, Alabama and Florida," says West. "In every adult tournament held in these states we see the names of boys who used to play at Tallahassee. For example, Don Bisplinghoff of Orlando, Fla., Eddie Johnson and John Berry of Tallahassee, Donald Knight of Lakeland, Fla., Scotty Fraser of Panama City, Fla., Larry Moore of Moultrie, Ga., Joe Eubank of Daytona Beach, Fla., Charles Dudley, Jr., of Columbus, Ga., Tommy Jenkins of Jacksonville, Fla., Randy Church of Dothan, Ala., Wilson Allen of Newnan, Ga., Bob Harwood, Jr., of Tampa, Fla., and many others who played here hold their own with the best men players in their communities. I think many of the future golf greats of the South will come from this list."

According to West, the tournament owes its success to the following factors:

1. Putting the boys in age groups and giving exactly the same number and quality prizes in each group.

2. Awarding prizes attractive to boys. There are four prizes in the championship flight of each age group, three prizes in the consolation flight of each group and a tournament medal.

3. Publicity. The event is publicized in advance and the sponsors try to see to it that each boy's home town newspaper learns what he accomplishes in the tournament.

4. Making the event as "big-time" as possible. There is a regular starter's tent, a PA system, five-minute notices for the players and other procedures similar to Championships. "They love it and we get a terrific kick out of them," remarked West.

5. Co-operation.

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