

Minneapolis Juniors Start to Shine

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Junior golf, golf for the kids, has made rapid strides all over the country in recent years, but in Minnesota the strides have been with seven-league boots.

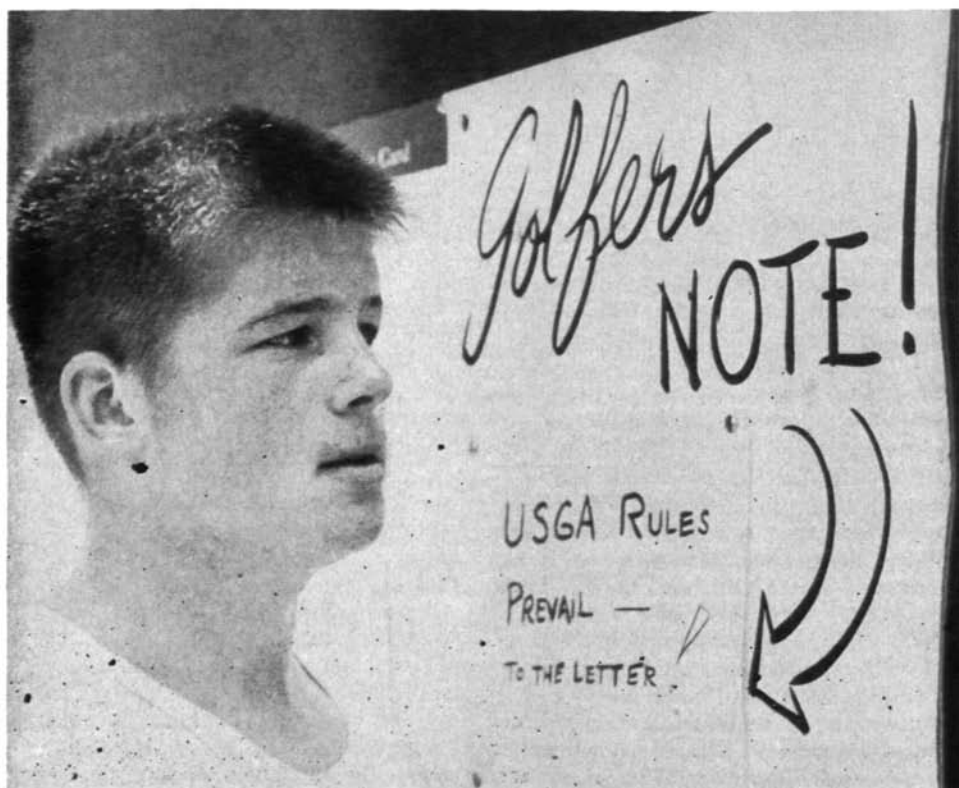
In the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, the attention paid to golfing kids is ten times what it was five years ago, and the caliber of golf has increased in the same measure.

One of several reasons is a tournament sponsored annually by the Minneapolis Star. The Star claims it to be the largest, as well as the best, of its type in the coun-

try and is proud of the way it is handled. The boys play the rules to the letter, as the accompanying photograph indicates.

A record number of youngsters entered the 1953 tournament, the 18th annual, and out of the 312 entrants came its greatest champion. Tom Hadley, a 16-year old youngster who won from 17-year old Bill Crowl, once hit a tee shot 308 yards. Three times in the final he used a No. 5 iron to get home with his second shot on par-5 holes.

Hadley, whom Les Bolstad, University



An entrant in the Minneapolis Star's annual junior golf tournament takes cognizance of the rules of the day. His name is King Atwood.

of Minnesota golf coach, calls "the boy Jimmy Thompson," is only 5 feet, 8 inches in height and 160 pounds in weight. But at 17 he pounds the ball as far as anybody in Minnesota. He qualified with rounds of 72 and 71 on the longest public course in Minnesota and St. Paul, Meadowbrook, where the Amateur Public Links Championship was played in 1947. Par at Meadowbrook is 36-37-73, so Hadley was three under. In those 36 holes, he had 10 birdies, another record.

Former Star junior champions have done well. Bill Waryan later won the Minnesota Open. John Falldin, Judd Ringer, Don Waryan, Karl Dosen, Bob Tickle and Tom O'Neil, all former Star champions, have had their names engraved on trophies in almost every golf event from Minneapolis to Keokuk. Hadley, like these, may go far.

Golf As It Should Be Played

In some junior tournament, the committee says, "Oh, they're only kids. Let 'em go." Thus, the boys play "winter rules," tee up the ball wherever they find it, ignore the penalties for a lost ball, out of bounds and/or in water and forget the little niceties of the game.

Not so in the Star's tournament. The boys play according to the book and they have no difficulty knowing what the book says, either. Each contestant is given a USGA Rules of Golf booklet when he arrives at the first tee.

Alfred W. Wareham, a member of the USGA Public Links Committee, says "Getting Rules books to these youngsters is almost as good a thing as staging this tournament."

The boys read the Rules, too. They prove that with the number of questions they ask.

Minneapolis is Totton P. Heffelfinger's city, and he has reason to be proud of the kind of golf the boys play. The President of the USGA the last two years can look all around him and find top-grade junior golfers wherever he looks.

One of those individually responsible is Les Bolstad. He spends extra hours all winter keeping his driving nets open and giving free lessons to youngsters who show particular talent.

Another is Karl Raymond, of the Minneapolis Park Board, who not only arranges for a week of free play for entries in the Star tournament but also permits sectional junior tournaments at each of the five Park Board courses every year.

There are dozens of others, including several golf bodies which stage tournaments in the area and the USGA and the Junior Chamber of Commerce, which conduct competitions of national scope.

From now on, watch Minnesota. In spite of the shortness of the golf season in this area, junior golfers are stepping out.

Conduct of the Tournament

1. Every youngster in Hennepin County (Minneapolis and suburbs) is eligible if he's under 18 on June 1 each year.
2. The tournament is conducted without charge to any entrant.
3. Biggest entry list was last year-- 312 kids.
4. Everybody plays 36 holes free. After that, the low 80 golfers are picked for match play.
5. Match play is conducted with 32 in the championship flight, and 16 each in three other flights.
6. For the championship flight, there are two 18-hole rounds on Wednesday, the first day of match play. This brings all four flights down to the quarter-finals for Thursday. Semi-finals are Friday and finals Saturday. In the finals, the championship flight plays 36 holes. The other flights play 18 holes.
7. The tournament is shifted, on a round robin schedule, from one Minneapolis Park Board course to another each year.