

THE EVILS OF ORGANIZED GAMBLING

by

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AFTER I RECEIVED a plaque from the Metropolitan Golf Association for my effort in combating organized gambling in connection with golf tournaments, I felt I should get down in writing some of the facts about the effort.

There is no doubt that much of the organized gambling in golf could be put out of business with very little trouble. The reason is that it violates many laws. Also, it seems at the present time to be the subject of investigation by the Internal Revenue Service.

I think nearly everybody agrees, however, that they prefer to sell the idea to clubs and groups, rather than enforce the idea by law.

The belief that there must be a lot of money riding on the outcome of a tournament in order to make it interesting has been defeated, since the championships conducted by major associations, such as the United States Golf Association, the Metropolitan Golf Association and others, are conducted without organized gambling. Senior tournaments, all competitions at Pinehurst, N.C., Shawnee, Pa., and at such clubs as the Palm Beach Golf Club, Merion Golf Club, Baltusrol Golf Club, Winged Foot Golf Club, Quaker Ridge Golf Club, Sleepy Hollow Country Club, Bonnie Briar Country Club, Siwanoy Country Club and the Whippoorwill Club have proved satisfactory and interesting without gambling.

There is no doubt that the spirit of the Rules of Amateur Status is broken when players participate either for themselves or for someone else in a tournament where organized gambling takes place.

Amateur golf, as a whole, bears a wonderful reputation as a clean, wholesome



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sport. The majority of players have little interest in the gambling end of events and are anxious to keep the game clean and wholesome.

Most everyone is interested in junior golf in some way or other. Today our young men are having problems in paying dues and playing golf. Certainly, as simple and wholesome as the game can be kept, the better it will be for all.

One of these days the game might get some publicity that would hurt it, if organized gambling gets a foothold. If golf can't head off the big gamblers, the game will be up to its neck in trouble.