

GOLF PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR



William Gordon, of Whitinsville, Mass., former professional at the Tam O'Shanter Country Club, Niles, Ill., (right), is presented the PGA's first annual "Golf Professional of the Year" award by Harry L. Moffit, President of the PGA, at the annual meeting at Atlantic City, N. J.

CONTRIBUTIONS to golf, other than playing ability, are to be recognized annually through the PGA's "Golf Professional of the Year" award, not to be confused with the "Professional Golfer of the Year" award, which is based on achievements in tournaments.

William C. (Bill) Gordon, of Whitinsville, Mass., inaugural winner of the former award, was professional at Tam O'Shanter Country Club, in Niles, Ill., for seventeen years. Now 58 years old, Gordon's work in caddie and community interests, golf charities and veterans' rehabilitation during his career earned him a national reputation. He also was active in the promotion of junior golf and was a member of the PGA Teaching Committee.

Eleven factors were involved in selecting the winner, including the promotion

of junior golf, encouraging women's play, service to the home club, the devotion of one's life to golf, promotion of public relations, tournament play (not necessarily as a top player in national tournaments or even a participant in such events), dedication to fair play, interest in caddies, all-around service to the community, charitable endeavors in behalf of those who are handicapped and constant effort in improving one's ability as a teacher.

The basis of selecting the winner was his contribution in any one, any combination, or in all of the foregoing categories.

Gordon, a native of Massachusetts, is a former vice-president of the PGA and was President of the Illinois Section for seven years.

The "Professional Golfer of the Year" for 1955 was Doug Ford, of New York.