

JUNIORS ACCEPTED AT MINNESOTA COURSE

Varsity Pro,
Les Bolstad,
A Friend of Youth

Les Bolstad will be in his element when the USGA Junior Amateur Championship is played at the University of Minnesota Golf Course, St. Paul, Minn., at the end of this month. Bolstad is the course professional, team coach and instructor in the University's physical educational program.

Les Bolstad loves young folk and gave up a position with a private club to return to his alma mater in 1947 to devote his life to the golfing welfare of the students.

Whether he is initiating beginners in group instruction or coaching the topnotchers in the finer points of the game, he is heart and soul in his job. The proof of his teaching lies in the fact that his former pupils include Misses Patty Berg, Beverly Hanson, Mary Lena Faulk and Mickey Wright.

In returning to the University of Minnesota, Bolstad completed a cycle which began at the age of 11 when he used to caddie at the old University course. He entered its portals as a freshman in 1925, and as a sophomore in 1926 won the USGA Amateur Public Links Championship. The following year he was instrumental in reviving golf as a competitive sport at Minnesota and in 1929 helped the University win the inter-collegiate team title.

Golf at the University dates back to 1914 when its then President, Loftus D. Coffman and Dean J.M. Thomas, along with two other members of the faculty, laid out a nine-hole course. They formed a group to purchase the property and run it as a club, but three years later it was found to be too expensive so they sold their interests and moved to nearby Midland Hills. Here, another nine-hole course was laid out and the group struggled along for a few years until the course passed into the hands of a private owner.

In 1927 the University bought back the course and the clubhouse and engaged a pro-manager. Shortly after this it pur-



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chased an additional 40 acres adjacent to the course for its farm school, which later became the course's second nine.

The course, as it stands today in rolling, heavily wooded terrain, is one of the most interesting in the Minneapolis area.

The University has more than 26,000 students, and each is at liberty to play as much golf as he or she wishes, free of charge.

Last year's Junior Amateur Champion, Larry Beck, of Kinston, N.C., is now over the age limit of 18, and so a new Champion must be crowned. The runner-up, Dave Leon, of Tucson, Ariz., is also ineligible to compete again. However, two of last year's semi-finalists, Richard Casabella, of Louisville, Ky., and Marion C. Methvin, of Little Rock, Ark., will again be contenders. Each will be making his final appearance; for Methvin it will be his fourth attempt.

Kenneth Finke, of Tucson, Ariz., and Jon Hoffman, of Windom, Minn., both now 17, were quarter-finalists in 1957, and remain eligible.