

GOLF IN THE COLLEGES HOLDS MANY BENEFITS

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Have institutions of higher learning affected the development of golf?

Is there any definite plan on the part of colleges and universities to incorporate golf into their physical education program?

The answer in each case is an unconditional YES.

Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y., has an exceptional golf program in that the game is part of compulsory physical education. Cornell has a two-year (four-semester) requirement in physical education for all students. Each student has 12 periods of instruction in golf, the same in several other sports. Emphasis is on developing interests and skills in carry-over sports.

As a sophomore, a student may select the activity of his choice. Golf may be elected as either indoor or outdoor and with 15 activities from which to choose, approximately 25 percent of the sophomores choose indoor golf. Outdoor golf attracts about 125 of some 1,500 sophomores.

George Hall, head professional at the Cornell Golf Course and Treasurer of the Professional Golfers' Association of America, supervises the activity with the aid of two assistants. All three are on the University staff. During the freshman year classes meet three times a week; during the sophomore year they meet twice weekly. Equipment is furnished at the freshman level.

In regard to facilities, a survey by the National Collegiate Athletic Association two years ago indicated that 146 institutions had access to 176 courses. In addition, 104 institutions indicated they had access to 163

indoor driving ranges. It is not known how many own or operate their own courses.

About 75 percent of the professional players on tour have been exposed to collegiate golf. About 40 percent of them are college graduates. This contrasts with the situation some years back when almost all players were graduates of the caddie ranks. The automotive golf car has diminished the demand for caddies in some areas; moreover, more boys attend college today than ever before.

What part, if any, do college scholarships play in this picture? This question should first be considered against the background of the USGA Rules of Amateur Status as they relate to scholarships. Rule 1-12 provides that the following is a breach of the Amateur Definition:

"Because of golf skill or golf reputation, accepting any consideration as an inducement to be a student in an educational institution except a scholarship or grant-in-aid awarded and administered by the institution concerned and not in excess of commonly accepted educational expenses as defined by the National Collegiate Athletic Association."

The NCAA does a scrupulous job, and the USGA is able to benefit from its experience in this specialized field.

Some boys' desire to attend college is fanned by institutions interested in having a good golf team. For example, the University of Houston, a veritable powerhouse of golf, can aid from 10 to 15 boys with partial scholarships; the University of Arizona is limited to four full scholar-



As an undergraduate at Ohio State University, Jack W. Nicklaus won the 1959 USGA Amateur.

ships (meaning tuition, books and fees); Ohio State University, Jack Nicklaus' alma mater, has one full scholarship; the University of Florida provides two full scholarships and 14 partial ones; Louisiana State gives four full scholarships and several partial ones.

A study of financial assistance to intercollegiate golfers last year indicated that 21 institutions provided maximum assistance to 54 student-athletes.

Sixty-nine institutions reported providing partial assistance to 260 golfers. Maximum assistance does not mean, in all cases, normal educational expenses but the maximum financial assistance permitted by the particular institution.

What an interesting note is provided by Wake Forest College! Only one full golf scholarship has ever been provided by the school. It went to a young fellow named Arnold Palmer. The school does offer limited help to others. Amateur Billy Joe Patton is a Wake Forest man.

Other than the obvious education, what can a boy or girl obtain from collegiate golf? Here are some answers:

Skip Alexander, graduate of Duke University, now head pro at Lakewood Country Club, St. Petersburg, Fla. says: "Competition is about the only added advantage, which includes the experience of playing various type courses. Actually, if it were possible financially, a good amateur could better strengthen his game on the summer professional tour."

Knowledge of Rules

G. A. Vroom, Associate Professor and Assistant Golf Coach at San Jose State College, San Jose, Calif.: "We firmly believe there are many advantages to the intercollegiate golf program. For the amateur, the dual matches and tournaments serve to provide experience for later tournament play and also provide him with a working knowledge of the Rules and the proper kind of conduct and sportsmanship that we all like to see in young players.

"For the college player who intends to enter the professional field, the intercollegiate program offers the ultimate in training. For those who are interested in such training, we like to suggest a major in business administration so they can gain a good general knowledge of the business world, as well as specifics in merchandising, accounting, public speaking, law, advertising, etc. . . . In encouraging this type program, we feel that a young player who wants to play professional golf for a try and then finds he is not able to compete with so many fine players, can feel somewhat secure in the knowledge that he has had the right kind of education and training for a club position — an advantage a non-college player may not enjoy."

Kooman Boycheff, Golf Coach, University of California: "Collegiate golf is one of the most beneficial competitive sports on a university athletic program. More than most sports, it teaches concentration and mental discipline and, of course, its post-graduate benefits carry over far more than almost any other sports. It's the greatest social leveler there is."

C. P. (Chuck) Erickson, Director of Athletics, Duke University: "We feel that we have made a very definite contribution to golf here at the University. We have never offered golf scholarships but feel the areas of our contribution have been in the fine facilities of the Finley Golf Course (owned by Duke) for students and the encouragement to all of them to play golf. We have hundreds of average golfers playing in the intramural tournaments and playing for the fun and recreation. Our golf emphasis has always been on the play for large numbers, rather than a few individuals."

Dave Williams, highly successful coach of the University of Houston team — winners of a record five straight NCAA championships from

1956-1960 — recently wrote a book on "How to Coach and Play Championship Golf." In the book he explains his theories on teaching and of setting up golf programs. He also says, "One of my fondest dreams will be realized when interscholastic and intercollegiate team golf takes its rightful place alongside the so-called major sports in the eyes of participant, coach and spectator."

Indications are that Coach Williams' dream is not far from reality.

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REGULAR

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Calif.	Santa Anita Golf Club
Fla.	Palm Aire Country Club Pine Tree Golf Club
Ga.	Lakeside Country Club
Ill.	Coal Creek Country Club Lakeview Country Club Linksmen Golf Club
Iowa	Geneva Golf & Country Club
Kans.	Fort Riley Officers Open Mess Victory Hills Golf & Country Club
Md.	Mt. Pleasant Golf Club
Mass.	Cohasse Country Club
Mich.	Lakelands Golf & Country Club
Minn.	Lake City Country Club
Mo.	Carthage Municipal Golf Course
N. J.	Fairmount Country Club Mendham Golf & Tennis Club
N. Y.	Brighton Park Golf Club Catskill Golf Club Chestnut Meadows Golf Club Winding Brook Country Club
N. C.	Wildwood Golf & Country Club
Ohio	Glengarny Country Club Sportsmen's Golf Club Willard Golf Club
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