

EVOLUTION OF GOLF BALL IS INTERESTING TO GAME DEVOTEES

Originally Golfers Swatted Nice Round Pebble Which Stung Their Paws.

THEN CAME FEATHERS

This Was Followed by Accidental Discovery of Gutta Percha and Finally American Rubber Core Ball.

New York, July 3.—From pebbles, to feathers, to gutta percha to rubber core—that's the history of the evolution of a golf ball.

Back in the dear old days that are dead, embalmed and probably petrified, the golfing persons used to swat a round pebble. Every swat used to produce a sting that was telegraphed along the shaft of the club to the mitts of the golfer. The cause was pain and pain usually provokes profanity.

In this day and age the clerical persons are inclined to look with horror upon the average golfer because he cusses ever and anon. They think it's the golfer's fault and his individual sin. But it isn't. The golfer can't help cussing because it's hereditary.

The cussing habit has come down from his cussing ancestors. A fellow can't duck hereditary cussing.

Well, along about 1852 A. D. a golfing gezer, of an inventive turn of mind, decided to quit cussing. Probably he was nearing the end of life and was repentant. So he invented the feather ball as the one way of playing golf without raking the chance of getting in jail in the hereafter under the boss rule of a party named Lucifer.

Feather Ball Heavier. The feather ball, a few samples of which are still alive but returned to museums and curio collections, was about the same size as the golf ball of today and a trifle heavier. It was made shabby. Three strips of leather, which serve as the cover, were sewed together. A small space was left unsewed. This enabled the maker to turn the cover inside out so as to get the rough stitching inside.

Having been turned inside out, the ball was ready for stuffing. Feathers were jammed into the opening and packed with a sharp stick. A two quart measure of feathers usually was required to stuff one of those golf balls. One feather isn't a dangerous weapon. A half bushel of feathers loosely jammed into a space the size of a golf ball is something else again. The feather ball, in those days when properly propelled, could have knocked out Jess Willard should he stick his concrete jaw in its feathery path.

The feather ball continued in force until about 1840. Then a Scot caddy revolutionized things again. He found a discarded football and used the gutta percha sole. Business was poor that day and not having any wood to whittle he carved away on the sole. After a time it struck him that the sole might be rolled together and made into a ball.

He Got Great Distance. The caddy soaked the sole, rolled it together, tied it with a string and went golfing with it the next day. He got some great distances on his drives, the golfers took cognizance of it and the gutta percha ball came into existence.

The best part of the gutta percha affair was that its cost was only about one tenth that of a feather one. The next best feature was that the wind didn't hamper the flight of the gutta percha affair, as sometimes was the case with the feather ball. It was in 1898 that the rubber cured ball came into existence in the United States. The golfers in this land of the free and the neutral went into raptures about its great improvement over the gutta percha ball. But jolly old England, yea, and Scotland too, couldn't "see" the "bally" blooming Yankee device, until 1905. And then a gent named Alec Hard opened the Briton peepers. He used an American rubber cored ball in the British open championship and won easily, because he was able to get tremendous distances in his drives.

Tom Bendelow, of Chicago, owns one of the feather balls, picked up at a bargain price. Since then he has refused offers of \$100 and more, made by golfing fanatics. The ball that Bendelow has is more than 100 years old—may be 200 years old—but it is still in good shape. It is almost as solid as a piece of rock. Bendelow often has yearned to take the ball on a course and try it out in a game.

"The ball looks as if it still could stand a lot more batting," said Bendelow, "but I hate to take a chance on it."

CRAIG AT MERCERSBURG

Jimmy Craig, brother of the Olympic sprint champion, and himself one of Michigan university's greatest football players in the backfield, as well as an intercollegiate low hurdler champion, is to be the football coach at Mercersburg, Pa., academy this fall.

BASEBALL TODAY AND TOMORROW

Recreation Park, Cor. Vaughn and Twenty-fourth Sts.

OAKLAND

OR.

PORTLAND

TWO GAMES TOMORROW

A. M. AND P. M.

GAMES BEGIN TODAY 2:30 P. M.

Reserved box seats for sale at Rich's Cigar Stand, Sixth and Washington Sts.

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"FUTURE GREATS" SHOW REAL CLASS IN THEIR ANNUAL GOLF TOURNEY



A group of Waverly Country club caddies who played in the annual caddy tournament, staged last week on the Waverly links. Some of these youngsters turned in scores the equal of those made in the qualifying round of the Oregon state championship tournament. Walter Ware (on the left), made the low qualifying score of 77, which equaled Ellis Bragg's low mark in the state tourney. Ware was runner-up in the championship. Francis Simpson, twice winner of the title, is shown above the group. He beat Ware Friday 3 up and 2 to play.

SEVEN OF WAVERLY'S GOLFERS ARE GIVEN WESTERN ASS'N RATE

Portland Organization Has Two Less Than Seattle in Number of Rankings.

Seven golfers of the Waverly Country club, R. L. Macleay, Russell Smith, C. H. Davis Jr., Jordan Zan, C. Hunt Lewis, J. J. Morrow and James Gillison, are handicapped in the 1915 ratings of the Western Golf association, which were received last week. Russell Smith and R. L. Macleay each receives five strokes. The handicaps of the other players are: C. H. Davis Jr., 3; Jordan Zan, 4; C. Hunt Lewis, 5; J. J. Morrow, 6; and James Gillison, 10.

ETIQUETTE OF GOLF

This is the Fourth of a Series of Articles on Rules of Golf.

12. A stroke is the forward movement of the club made with the intention of striking the ball, or any contact between the head of the club and the ball, resulting in movement of the ball, except in case of a ball accidentally knocked off a tee. If a ball leaves its original position when the player has taken his stance in addressing the ball and moves in the slightest degree and does not merely oscillate, it has moved and the movement constitutes a stroke, not a penalty stroke. 14. A penalty stroke is a stroke added to the score of a side under certain rules, and does not affect the rotation of play. 15. The side which plays off first from a teeing ground is said to have the honor. 16. In teeing, the ball may be placed on the ground or on sand or other substance, in order to raise it off the ground. 17. A player has addressed the ball when he has taken his stance and grounded his club, or if in a hazard, when he has taken his stance preparatory to striking at the ball. 18. A ball is in play as soon as the player has made a stroke at a teeing ground, and it remains in play until holed out, except when lifted in accordance with the rules. 19. A ball is deemed to move if it leaves its original position in the least degree, but it is not considered to move if it merely oscillates and comes to rest in its original position. 20. A ball is lost if it is not found

GOLF NOTES

A program of water sports has been arranged for the members of the Waverly Country club for tomorrow. It consists of the following events: Mixed double canoe race, mixed double canoing, 50-yard tub race for men, 25-yard tub race for women, 50-yard obstacle race for men, 25-yard obstacle race for women, fancy diving and a battle royal, six teams to a side.

Waverly Champions Forego Spokane Polo

The team which will represent Spokane in the northwestern championship polo tourney to be staged in Spokane this week will be composed of the following players: Dr. Stanley Titus, No. 1; Captain Hugh Pettit, No. 2; Dr. J. G. Cunningham, No. 3; and Lawson Moore, No. 4. Lawson Moore is one of the polo experts of the northwest and his presence on the Spokane team makes it a contender for the northwest honors.

O. N. G. to Hold Big Meet Saturday

More time will be devoted to athletics during this year's encampment of the Oregon National Guard at Gearhart than ever before. On next Saturday the Army Athletic club will hold its track and field championships in which companies from all parts of the state will participate.

SCULL CHAMPION IN ARMY

Ernest Barry, the English and world's professional sculling champion, has joined the First Surrey Rifles of the English army. Barry is a married man with a number of young children, and if the step he has taken stimulates others to follow his example, he will have done his country a service.

Moran May Go to Antipodes

Frank Moran, the Pittsburgh heavyweight pugilist, who is residing in England, may go to Australia, and has an offer for a bout there. Harry Reeve and Nick Simpson, well known English middleweights, have gone to Australia.

DISTANCE SWIM TO BE POPULAR EVENT WITH RIVER GENII

Second Annual Race of Multnomah Water Sprites Will Be Staged Next Month.

One dozen swimmers have signified their intention of participating in the second annual long-distance river swim of the Multnomah Amateur Athletic club, which will be staged either August 14 or August 21. It is expected that over 100 will enter the men's race and at least 25 in the women's event. Those entered in the men's event to date are: Norman Ross, winner of last year's race; Collier Wheeler, Frank Kiernan, James Burke, Ed. Worsham, Ed. Leslie, Myron Wilsey, Kenney, Russell Kaufman, Fred Howard and Ross Roller.

NOTRE DAME BOY MAY PLAY THIS YEAR FOR CLUB

Bill Kelleher, Former Columbia Star, Would Be Welcome Addition.

William Kelleher, former backfield player of the Columbia University team, who has played on the Notre Dame varsity team for the past four seasons, may don a Multnomah club uniform this fall, according to Frank Kiernan, the "winged M" swimmer, who recently returned from the Indiana institution. Kelleher's addition to the "winged M" squad would be a welcome one, as he is a fast player and is exceptionally good on forward pass plays. Sam Finnigan, another former Columbia University star, who also played on the Notre Dame team, may also join the club players.

Bud Anderson and Ingle Box Monday

Pendleton, Or., July 3.—On Monday night in the Oregon theatre, Bud Anderson, Vancouver, lightweight whose fight fame is more than local, and George Ingle of Seattle will meet in a 20-round bout. Both fighters are training in Pendleton now and are slow to fight tonight. Their articles call for 140 pounds at 6 o'clock Monday evening. Billie Farrell, who lately won the northwest lightweight title over Bobby Evans of Portland, is promoting the bout and expects to match the winner with Billie Wright of Seattle. A big audience will witness the bout here Monday.

MUST HAVE 1000 OFFICERS

It is estimated 1000 officials will be required to handle the sports which will be a feature of New York's July 4 Independence day celebration. The Amateur Athletic union has sent out over 30,000 entry blanks for the various meets which will be held that day throughout the city and vicinity.

N. Y. Police May Clear \$100,000.

New York city police expect to clear \$100,000 by this year's athletic carnival to be held at Gravesend track June 28 and July 2.

INTEREST CENTERS ON INTERCLUB GOLF MEET TWO MONTHS HENCE

Waverly and Portland Clash in Team Match in September; Players Attracted.

TRYOUTS DURING AUGUST

Each Club Will Pick Strongest Eight to Battle for Trophy Presented to Senior Organization.

Although the first of a series of golf matches between teams representing the Waverly Country club and the Portland Golf club is not scheduled to be played until two months from to-

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Expert Can Do Things With 4 1/2-Inch Sphere That Will Baffle Others.

USE IRON TO SUIT COURSE

Putting Is Most Delicate Task, and Molding Ball to Prevent Jump Over Cup, Is Real Art.

MARKSMEN TO COMPETE

The International Shooting Festival association will hold a tournament in connection with the Panama-Pacific exposition at San Francisco from August 3 to September 26 in which thousands of marksmen from all over the country will participate. There will be contests between individuals and teams.

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Greatness of play in golf in its last analysis depends upon control of the ball. What a master player can force the ball to do marks the greatest feat in golf.

With a club which measures around 3 inches by 1 1/2 on its face and a ball which runs around 4 1/2 inches in diameter, the expert will do wonderful things, things which completely baffle the player of ordinary ability.

On the drive skilled players will curve a ball, undercut it so as to drop it dead or hit it higher to cause it to drive low and pull long after the drive has ceased to carry. Plucking the ball onto the ground dead to the hole is a feature of approach play which requires extraordinary skill to attain perfection in.

Putting is delicate task and "holding" the ball so that it has no spin that will cause it to jump on different occasions. The condition of the course has much to do with this. On a heavy links or where the grass is cut short the high drive is the thing. On a sun-baked course where distance is wanted the long, low drive with roll is the winner.

Obstructions on the course can be got around by an expert by causing the ball to curve. All of this means hitting the ball a fraction low, slightly to one side, and it takes skill to do this.

Midiron and approach work require such skill that some players who are weak off the tee and on the green rank high owing to their mastery of it. One of the prettiest pieces of work in this line is to undercut the ball so as to get it to stick almost on the spot where it lands. Some players can do this with such accuracy that putting is made easy for them, while those who cannot are forced to make up for it by accuracy in putting.

Putting requires both delicacy and judgment along with a steady nerve. More golf matches are lost on the putting green than anywhere else. Hitting the ball high when it rolls is liable to make it jump over the cup or even jump out after it is part of the way in. Hitting it lower causes it to roll and drop, once the lip of the cup is past.

Above are some of the reasons why golf is one of the games requiring skill, extraordinary in the case of the great player, almost without exception, learned the game while young and followed it steadily. Continued study and practice is necessary to gain the perfection necessary to championship play.

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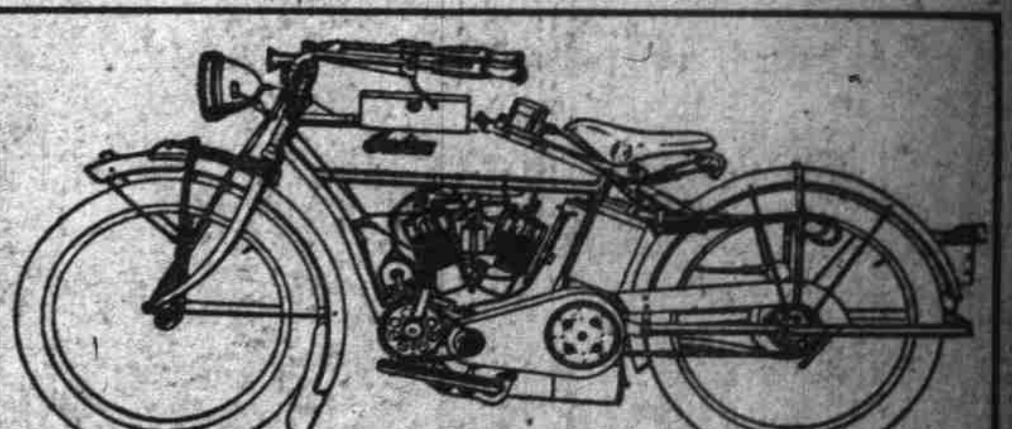
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