

"JUGGLING" OF TEAM PLAYERS OFFENSE TO SPIRIT OF GOLF

BY FERRY LEWIS

NO ONE sport in America is so free of unsportsman-like tactics as golf. At the same time it cannot be said that the game is altogether devoid of evil practices, and it never will be until all team captains abandon the scheme of "juggling" players in enticing the Bird of Victory to perch upon their colors. Furthermore this practice will be pursued by some until it is so generally frowned upon that the attitude of the golf world is unmistakable.

In ranking a team the captain should have his best player in number one position; his second best performer next, and so on down the line until the weakest man is playing in last position. "This is the spirit of golf. Thus, when two teams compete every contestant is meeting a man of equal rank representing the opposition.

It is manifestly unfair to kill off one outstanding player, who is sure to win anyhow, by sending a weak man against him, thus strengthening the balance of the lineup at the sacrifice of one victim. Not only is such strategy unfair to both players, but it takes much interest from the entire match by making what should be the finest contest of the competition a sheer burlesque.

Such an unfortunate development marred the recent Lesley Cup brush between Massachusetts and New York, at Merion. Peter Harmon, a promising young player, of the Metropolitan team, was sent against Francis Ouimet, the great Bostonian. Of course, he was overwhelmed as everyone knew he would be. Ouimet would have easily beaten any member of the New York team that day for he shot a 68, but had the "Mets" elected to send their strongest player against Francis, a match and not a rout might have resulted.

THE same thing occurs too frequently for the good of the game, but this case stands out with peculiar prominence because of the importance of the competition and the lofty place in the golf world held by the principal victim—Francis Ouimet. To ask a player of his caliber to journey all the way from Boston to become chief actor in a farce was imposing a needless hardship on a fine type of sportsman. The result was a storm of criticism, and the following day, in the Pennsylvania-New York match, Har-

mon played in eighth position, his natural place.

Just what effect this bit of juggling had on the final result is problematical. New York won by the narrow margin of eight points to seven, but there is a distinct possibility that had the winning team not been strengthened by the moving down of the entire lineup, Massachusetts would have triumphed. With teams as evenly matched as were these the balance of power is extremely sensitive.

For instance Jesse Sweetser would have succumbed to Outmet just so surely as did Harmon. Sweetser was taken to the twentieth hole by Fred Wright, Massachusetts State champion. It is reasonable to suppose that the game which so extended Sweetser, intercollegiate champion and one of the best players in the New York district, would have been sufficient to down Harmon, an excellent young player, but lacking in experience.

THE competitive golf season for men in Philadelphia is a thing of the past, and it is cheerfully recorded as the most successful in local history. More events were held, the fields were larger and the standard of golf played higher than in any season of the past. The officers of the Golf Association and the committeemen in charge of the various club tournaments are to be congratulated for the masterly way everything was handled.

It is not yet necessary to lay away the sticks, however. Two major events remain to be played, and although they are not strictly Philadelphia affairs, they have always been of great interest to golfers of this district.

On Thursday next a fast field of players drawn principally from Philadelphia and New York, will tee off in the annual fall invitation tournament of the Shawnee Country Club. Here is a classic long looked forward to by golfers, for the famous mountain course is particularly attractive at this season of the year. There will be as many sixteens as the number of players warrant. The qualifying round on October 14, with match play the following two days.

On October 21, the annual fall tournament of the Country Club of Atlantic City, will get under way, and come to an end two days later. A record entry list is expected, and six sixteens will be provided for.