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OLIN DUTRA SAYS . . .

"Only Eighteen Holes a Day After Forty"

PHOTO-BIOGRAPHY—NO. 40

A Distinguished Bronze God from California Shoots Par as an Adviser to Young and Old

By BOB DAVIS

IT IS ever a pleasure to find Olin Dutra in a communicative mood; not that he is cursed with taciturnity, but the fact remains that when the spirit moves him there are few dull moments for his listeners. The Dutra doctrine is to tackle his subject in short, sharp sentences. For a certainty he can spill an earful, the more easily understood because of his genius for brevity. Listen :

"They tell you to keep your head down. I say to *keep your head still*. Balance, control and timing. Those are the three fundamentals," said he, "and the man who can't or won't keep his head still can't master them. To keep your eye on the ball isn't enough. My idea is to teach golf in the positive to find out what the student can do, without burdening him with a catalogue of *don'ts*."

"Can any man be taught to play golf?"

"Certainly not; any more than he can be taught top notch pugilism, baseball, tennis, wrestling, or any one of the numerous athletic accomplishments. But he can be taught fundamentals to the extent of his possibilities, and his game will improve because of such teaching. The human animals have limitations. Some can and some can't. To strive is commendable, but don't expect too much."

"Would you limit ambition?"

"Of course. More men should play golf for fun; for the exercise, for the companionship, for the endless variety it adds to the daily grind of business and mental effort. The toughest game in the world is competitive golf. Only those who make it a recreation get the full benefits. At nine years of age I became a caddie on the course at Del

Munte, California. My father ran a hardware store at Monterey. In those days golf was a rich man's game. I caddied for Henry Stubbs, the railroad man. Between 1910 and 1914, when not lugging a bag, I spent every spare hour driving golf balls, walloping out three or four hundred shots in the hot sun, frequently at 115 degrees, always retrieving my own balls. I made my clubs, practically taught myself all I ever knew about the game and was a pro before I became of age. If there is anything within my experience that you wish to know about, what is it?"

"At what age should a non-professional golfer cease playing 36 holes a day?"

"At 40," said Dutra, with a note of magnificent finality in his voice, "one round is quite sufficient to keep any man in good condition. If he plays during the week, eighteen will do nicely, preferably in the morning when the atmosphere is fresh and invigorating. Two rounds on Saturday or Sunday for a man who is over 40 is a mistake."

"And as for you, Bob," Dutra continued and started to become personal, "even though you are in pretty fair condition and feel fit as a guitar, lay off that thirty-six hole stuff. Golf is one game where you are definitely not as young as you feel. Why make a toilsome task out of a game which is designed and developed to provide you with relaxation and pleasure?"

"And besides," Olin's eyes twinkled and he smiled when he said this, "think of how many strokes you have to take in even eighteen holes. Why, any ordinary golfer would have to play around the course four or five times to get as much of a workout as you get in one round of eighteen struggling holes."

I made a gesture of disdain.

Olin replied by tapping my inflated chest with an index finger. "No matter what you think, one round is plenty; more than that is an error. As the French say 'enough is too much.' And another tip: When you decide to slow down, relax and play for pleasure, not for profit. For many men it spoils golf when they discover that they can't make the grade as of old. They forget that in golf, balance is the first thing to go. Control and timing, without balance, are not enough.

"Tommy Loughran, in the prize ring, master of technique and invincible when in form, lost his sense of balance and is through. In golf circles, Thompson's balance is the last

word. All athletes, no matter in what branch they excel, are dependable first upon balance for the results that bring fame. Only champions possess that attribute. They're generally born with it. In the meantime, millions of duffers who don't even know what the word means are doing the best they can without it."

"And the fate of these teetering, off-centre wobblers in your opinion, Mr. Dutra, is?"

"To remain dubs all their lives, but, nonetheless, the backbone of all sports. These amateurs keep athletics pepped up from season to season. They are the great majority without whom the nation would stagnate."

Taking advantage of Dutra's lucidity and his obvious willingness to express his honest opinions, I inquired as to what he considered the most valuable asset of a golfer, plus balance, control and timing.

"Concentration is the biggest gun in the whole bag of tricks. The inner mind is the brain. The outer mind is the body. The man who can concentrate with the idea of coordinating the latter with the former is the most dangerous of all competitors. Such are few and far between. The history of golf records a great many brilliant stars that have flashed like comets for a brief spell only to fade, but those of the first magnitude, who will shed light as long as the ancient game is played, can be counted . . ."

"Upon the hand of a one-armed man." I thought it best to continue the sentence and thus save Dutra from being called upon to name those of his choice.

Being quick-witted, Olin let it go at that.

California Comer

The California Comer who began the pursuit of golf at the tender age of nine, and has been a conspicuous contender in every major competition during the last decade, takes time to express himself on fundamentals. After that bit of work he spills some advice for those who would follow the ball, and at the same time sounds a note of warning on the subject of turning an obvious flop into a beneficial pastime. The California Socker does not forget to point out the one big gun in the bag of tricks lugged by genius. He then goes on and advises golf for fun and relaxation. Señor Dutra faces the camera in the hands of Bob Davis calm and unafraid

