



THE YALE GOLF COURSE HAS ALL POSSIBLE COMBINATIONS OF TEES AND GREENS

The Yale Golf Course

No Thermopylae but a Real Test and also a Delight to the Average Player

By CHARLES H. BANKS, '06, *Golf Architect*

MUCH has been said about the Yale Golf Course, but little has been said about the man who was mainly responsible for the creation and construction of the course. It was the late Seth J. Raynor who wormed his way through woods and thick underbrush, over land strewn with boulders and covered by ledge rock, and who picked his way through swamp areas, finally to emerge with a picture in his imagination of what is today considered by many to be the outstanding inland golf course of America. No less an authority than Mr. Charles B. Macdonald once told me that, in his estimation, the Yale course would, when brought into condition, achieve the distinction of being our greatest inland course. Mr. Macdonald, who served on the advisory committee, was familiar with the plans from the outset, but Mr. Raynor was the real genius of this masterpiece, who made the layout, designed the greens, and gave the work of construction his supervision from start to finish. But if Mr. Raynor was directly responsible for the creation of the Yale course, Mr. Macdonald's genius was also seen in the work, for it was he who started Mr. Raynor on his career as a golf architect, and it was he who, through a number of years thereafter, acted as Mr. Raynor's tutor and advisor. Mr. Raynor once remarked to me: "I used to think that my ears would grow to be like asses' ears, for I was always stretching them to take in every word that Mr. Macdonald uttered on the subject of golf."

Carved through the woods, with great variety of topography, and with an abundance of natural features, the Yale course is outstanding. It was my good fortune as an associate of Mr. Raynor during the latter part of his life to have many talks with him. During one of these discussions as to what really constituted a great golf course he said, "Well, one thing is certain; no course can be a great course without a beautiful setting." The Yale course can without any question of doubt lay claim to this requirement. It is the type of course that gives one a thrill

—a real golfing treat—regardless of whether one's game is good or poor. The surroundings are beautiful, and in spots the distant prospects are appealing. Here one will encounter rugged and massive features that will stir his soul and challenge his courage, and then again there will spread before him a gently undulating stretch of green-sward which will give him a sense of peace and security and restfulness. Here one will come upon a placid pond, nestling in between the hills or sleeping lazily in an easy depression, and perhaps smiling at the timid who approach the tee with too faltering a step, as, for example, may be the case with the First Hole, or the Ninth, which is, in some features, suggestive of the Biarritz Hole. Here one will look from the tee out into space across rugged terrain to a massive green on an elevation, and if he is a true sportsman, the challenge will be unmistakable and the will to conquer will stir his being. Here one will stand on the brink of apparent disaster and look down across a great gulf to a Redan Hole which has no peer. Here one will have an inviting shot to a green which looks to the famous Sixth at the National for its general design—a tempting one shotter of 130 yards. And again one will see features in another one shotter which are reminiscent of the famous Eden Hole. Here the architect has fashioned an Alps Hole, here a Cape Hole, here a hint of the well-known Road Hole. And so it goes. Not a single hole on the course is even faintly suggestive of any other one of the entire eighteen. Each hole has its own peculiar appeal—its own individuality. As a result there is no monotony. The appeal to the eye is continuous and the appeal to the golfing sense is unailing.

Possibly much of what has been said above may make the Yale course seem too formidable for the average golfer. In fact, the rugged and challenging features of the course have been so often pictured that the impression seems to have got abroad that the course was designed only for the experts and that the average player or the

An Invitation to Yale Alumni

The Athletic Association extends the privileges of the Golf Course to all alumni during the Summer holidays. A special Summer Membership has been arranged at the cost of fifty dollars. The regular greens-fee is three dollars. Books of twelve greens-fee tickets at twenty-five dollars are also available.

For reunioning Classes, a special greens-fee of two dollars has been decided upon. Those who are coming back for their Reunion will have a delightful surprise if they haven't already played the Yale course.

duffer, if he should finish the eighteen holes at all, would do so only after a struggle that would make Thermopolis seem like a back alley skirmish between school boys.

Nothing could be farther from the truth. Because a golf course is grand, and rugged, and bordered by woodland, and has an occasional water hazard, it does not necessarily follow that it is extraordinarily difficult. Both from playing the course and also from careful study of the layout, I am convinced that it does not present any impossible carries or undue difficulties for the average golfer. The fairways, though bordered by woods, are very generous in width—in fact, considerably wider than those of the average course. The natural hazards through the fairways are not difficult, and the bunkers are few as compared with the average country club course. The greens are massive, as they should be to harmonize with their surroundings, and their generous proportions offer a fair target for every player, whatever his degree of skill may be. In places the carries must be made with discretion. One of the characteristics of a good golf course is that it must test the stratagem of the player. In places a wild or fozzled shot is severely punished. This is true of the vast majority of golf layouts in this land of 5,000 courses. As testimony of the fairness of the Yale course one might cite case after case of scores in the eighties made by so-called average players. To my mind the Yale course is a more severe test for the expert who is struggling for his pars than it is for the player whose average score ranges from 90 to 100, or even higher.

To Yale men who are fond of golf and who wish to experience the joys of the game in a most delightful and unusual manner my advice is: Pack up your golf togs and spend a golfing week-end or holiday in New Haven. If you do not feel well repaid for any time or trouble spent in making such a trip, go at once to a doctor—preferably a golfer—and have your head examined.

Recent Developments at the Yale Golf Course

By BEN THOMSON

Pro at the Yale Golf Course

PROGRESS at the Yale Golf Course has gone forward by leaps and bounds under the supervision of William E. Perkins, '17 S., Superintendent, and many fine improvements were made during the last year. Large, new tees have been placed at the first, fourth, fifth, seventh and ninth tees on the outward nine and at the eleventh, fourteenth, fifteenth, sixteenth and eighteenth on the inward nine. The rough and swamp immediately in front of the

eighteenth tee has been all cleared away from this beautiful hole, making it easier for the player who should be unfortunate enough to miss a drive where a good one is necessary.

Alex Knapp, member of the Varsity Team, and Tommy Aycock, of the Freshmen, both lowered the record of 70 by securing a 69. This score will stand for a long time before being bettered.

The Varsity Team went through a heavy schedule last year, winning all of their matches except one, losing to Princeton at Rye. Princeton had one of the strongest golf teams that any college could ever wish to have and they finished a wonderful season by winning the Intercollegiate Team Championship at Apawamis from a strong field, Georgetown being second and Yale a close third. Eugene McCarthy, of Georgetown, won the individual Intercollegiate Championship, beating J. S. Roberts, Yale, two to one in a thirty-six hole final.

Owing to the high standard of play, competition to make the team this year is keen and this Spring some very fine golf is expected.

Though having no outstanding golfers such as Finlay, at Harvard, Homans, at Princeton, and McCarthy, at Georgetown, Yale has a great number of players who are liable at any time to come forward into prominence and have their names inscribed in the annals of golf. Players such as Knapp, Forrest (Captain), Aycock, Wilson, Roberts and Swoope are all first-class golfers with tournament experience.

The Fall Championship was won by Tommy Aycock, the medalist being W. J. Speers, both Sophomores and contenders for the team. The Class Team of 1929 won the Class Championship and they hope to repeat.

I feel sure that the same high standard of play will be maintained with the golf teams and that Yale will be well to the front again during the coming season and Intercollegiate games.

The Graduate Fence

"Out, Damned Spot! Out, I Say!"

Sir:—It was very hard to believe that it was there. But it was. In your Campus Column, edited of late with so much intelligence and delicacy of feeling, there appeared again that horrible word which murders every fine feeling and makes Yale College look like a department store.

Haven't you at least a small index expurgatorius, and can't you put on that list at the beginning, at the end, at the middle, and at every third or fourth point in it, that dreadful word "Ac"?

We have troubles enough now. Don't rub our faces in the mud again in that way.

Doesn't "College" seem a pretty good word? Does it not still carry some feeling, and some meaning, and some intimacy, and some dignity?

I had begun to be encouraged but this appearance in your columns and all it implies, leaves me not only indignant but infinitely depressed.

YALE, '89

More Wrong Use of Yale Name

Sir:—Worse than naming an oil prospecting concern after our Alma Mater is the exploiting of her name in connection with a recent advertising scheme. To employ a number of students in a cigarette try-out and then announce that a certain brand is the choice of Yale University is a practise that should be stopped by the powers that be. Even the magnificent reputation of old Eli can be dragged down and put to ridicule if it is to be lugged into advertising, whether to promote cigarettes, mattresses or face lotion.

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