

Golfers Shoot for Pro Tour, Find Cog Hill Tough to Scale

BY JOHN HUSAR

Could these be golf pros — this rabble of defeated looks and bitter silences who spent the last two days shooting 80s on Cog Hill's Dubsread course?

Yes, they're good pros—and darned fine players despite the ruthless treatment they received from one of the nation's most demanding layouts.

But, for a while yesterday, even they were wondering—particularly the 17 who had their dreams of making the pro tour shattered.

Only six—led by New Zealand's John Lister—survived the 54-hole qualifying test for the P. G. A.'s Approved Tournament Players school next month in Arizona. All of the rest were left to face

another bitter decision—the kind that dogs countless young men who want to be pro golfers.

Shall they wait another year! Or shall they find another line of work?

Lister, a 23-year-old seasoned traveler with two titles on the English circuit, demonstrated the difficulty of tackling a vicious course where normal difficulties are compounded by windy, autumnal conditions. He shot a 9-over-par 225 with rounds of 78, 75, and—finally — par 72.

"On a nice day, that 72 might have become a course record," said Adam Jemsek, Cog Hill's general manager.

"It's a positional course," Lister said in tones of awe. "You've got to hit it perfect. If you miss a shot, you're likely

to wind up with a double bogey." He should know — he had four in his opening round.

Yet, Lister earned medal honors by four strokes over Canada's Ken Fulton and nine over the first of four local players who took the remaining qualifying spots — Don Maddox of Twin Orchard, Rich Sperling of Elmhurst, Ralph Schlicht of Milwaukee, and Al Bailey of Sunset Ridge.

All they have, however, is a chance to play in the ATP's 144-hole tourney next month. Perhaps a third of the 50 players there can expect touring cards.

On paper, the Chicago qualifying field seems weak, with 41 of the 64 reported rounds in the 80s and 90s. And actually,

the ratio should be higher because some players didn't sign scorecards.

"There's only one way you can explain these scores," said Zigfield Troy, the Illinois P. G. A. president, who conducted the tourney. "Chalk it up to the excitement, the desire, the once-a-year thing. It's got to be worth seven shots.

"These kids know they've gotta do it or wait another 365 days."

A prime example was Ken Bartosh, 27-year-old Calumet assistant pro who has been having a fine season. But he shot 84-88-82—254 to miss qualifying by 18 strokes.

"You know what?" Bartosh said. "I had 18 three-putt greens. I couldn't take

the club back. For me, it was the fear of missing."

One fellow came all the way from Japan to shoot 79-81-83 and Troy shook his head. "He's been practicing around here for three weeks and the worst he shot was 72."

One youngster was so discouraged he even refused to be in a picture.

"Don't mind him," said a friend. "He's really a very good player who was counting on making it. He doesn't have a job and he's just hit a thousand balls a day for the last month getting ready for this."

In a bull session under a pair of oak trees near the scoreboard, Troy told several disillusioned youngsters not to give up.

"One day things will jell," he said.

"Just look back on all the good shots you blew—the little bitty ones, the ones you maybe didn't take enough time on.

"Then think of all the others who were discouraged until one day it all came together for them. . . ."

For some, perhaps, the pot glistened again at the end of the rainbow.

QUALIFIERS

225—John Lister, Timaru, N. Z., 78-75-72.
229—Ken Fulton, Montreal, 79-74-76.
234—Don Maddox, Twin Orchard, 78-79-77.
235—Rich Sperling, Elmhurst, 77-75-83; Ralph Schlicht, Milwaukee, 81-82-72.
236—Al Bailey, Sunset Ridge, 78-75-80.

DID NOT QUALIFY

237—Dewey Lewis, Chicago, 75-83-79.
238—Michael Foreman, Fort Wayne, Ind., 78-81-79.
242—Ron Benson, North St. Paul, Minn., 81-83-78.
243—Akihiro Teramoto, Osaka, Japan, 79-81-83.
244—Steve Saffersstrom, Albuquerque, N. M., 79-84-81.
245—Bub Poremba, North Shore, 83-85-77.
246—James Giffelman, Alma, Mich., 81-80-85.
247—Dave Hicks, Duluth, Minn., 79-84-84.
250—Nick Demos, Franksville, Wis., 81-83-86; J. D. Turner, Iowa City, 85-81-84.
252—Joe Semrad, Riverside, 83-84-85.
254—Ken Bartosh, Calumet, 84-88-82.
265—George Lucas, Waukegan, 91-85-89.