

Entertainment



BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

KEEP PRESSURE ON FROM TEE TO GREEN

N'YORK CITY: — In the face of the rising public demand and the advertising drop-outs, the PGA, Professional Golfers Association, is expected to disqualify golf and country clubs with a biased membership policy from its profitable tournament touring list. The precise beginning of the Professional Golf Association (PGA) defies legal form. In 1895 in Newport, R.I. there was an initial U.S. Open which attracted 10-pros and a single amateur. In 1899 a second, The Western Open,

was held, but it was not considered a tour. Though not considered a tour, tournaments sprung up throughout the country during the initial decade of the nation. However, they lacked continuity. In 1913 a commercially backed tour by Henry Verdon and Ted Ray popularized the game in a proper form. They attracted record crowds to follow their trek from Tee-to-Green. However, the forerunner for today's tour was traced to the early twenties. Then the winter tournaments covered

the west coast, Texas and Florida. Golfers played their way into the east and up to Pinehurst, N.C. in the spring. The summer was when the Golf Ass'n. would hold its national and regional events. It, however, was after WW-II that the tour became more structured and exploded in popularity when TEEVEE put events on eye level and prize money escalated into millions.

In late '68 the touring pros took over the reins of control of the PGA Tour. Joseph C. Dey was the initial commissioner of the Tournament Players Division. In 1974 he was replaced by Deane R. Beman. Lending guidance is a nine men tournament staff, a tournament director, and deputy commissioner of tour operations and an eight staff compliment, including three ladies, filling its communications dept. Since our original finding the count may have declined or escalated. However, the colors have not. On those early days African American

golf pros were denied participation by special rules designed to add legitimacy to their rules of exclusion. The Pittsburgh Courier took the Bing Crosby invitational to the mat and won. Joe Louis got the ear of President Eisenhower and tee time for Lee Elder to break the color barriers of the Augusta National to play in the prestigious Masters. Though now most of the tournaments are open to African American golfers, there are still too few to believe they are welcomed. The numbers on the regular and the senior tours can be counted on one hand. Prominent among them is Calvin Peete, Jim Thorpe, both of whom are seldom seen these days, and on the golden age manicured turf, Charles Siffird, Lee Elder and Jim Dent. Keep up the prodding! Break the backs of both the segregated golf and country clubs and the lily white hidden policies of the PGA and the LPGA which has not teed up a professional lady golfer since



Calvin Peete

Althea Gibson.

NEWS OUT: --Raleigh Bell is rounding up the old hacking gang to pay the Floggers' annual tribute to

the late Chink Cunningham. His request is "keep your handicaps honest."... "Jack the Rapper" is tougher than ever on potential snorters and puffers during his annual Family Affair '90. So if you want to avoid being embarrassed, sink that stuff at home...It looks like the "Josephine Baker Story" is really going to get done this time. HBO and Anglia TV have completed putting it together in Budapest and should have completed post production by the time you read this. It is scheduled for eye level presentation in mid-October in Cannes. The teleflick stars Lynn Whinfield, Louis Gossett, Jr., Ruben Blades, David Dukes and Craig Nelson...Don't invite even the most distant friend of the late Sammy Davis, Jr., and Bernard Wilson to the same cook-out, unless you plan to feed some cannibals. The total talented one's long time "man Friday" allegedly sold a disgusting story to one of
See ROWE, Page 11

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