

## Exclusive Interview

# Famous Golden Bear Speaks

"I turned pro when I decided that I wanted to be the greatest golfer that ever lived." A one-time student here the speaker is famous as the "Golden Bear" of golf, Jack Nicklaus. He is honorary chairman of the Upper Arlington Memorial Stadium Committee which begins work this fall.

"I wanted to play golf — the best way to play golf — so I turned pro. And I wanted to make my living doing something I enjoyed."

How should a young person go about learning to play golf? If you want to learn the correct way you should take lessons, Nicklaus said in an interview with the Arlington Sports Department.

"It helps to have confidence in someone that knows enough about the game to help you." Nicklaus himself takes lessons from a teaching pro six or seven times a year.

A young golfer must learn to play each club well Nicklaus said. "When asked what my favorite club is I reply, 'every club in my bag.' To play them well you must like them all and treat them as equally challenging."

If you are in high school now and would like to become a professional, Nicklaus advises you to put education first and golf second. "Kids should go on to college, playing golf while there."

After he has completed college and played in amateur tournaments, Nicklaus says, "the young golfer should have enough experience to become a pro."

But he cautions: "Remember, after you turn pro you don't have just a few local players to beat. There are only 50 or 60 players who are able to make a living on the tour."

Nicklaus' being known as the "Golden Bear" actually has nothing to do with UAHS, although that is the school's mascot. Just before Nicklaus turned pro, a sports writer did a story about him and in the article referred to him as the "Golden Bear."

One of his first contracts was with a shirt manufacturer and an emblem had to be chosen for the product he endorsed. "We went through a couple of hundred insignia, but were always coming back to the 'Golden Bear.' It fit me, being blond and big."