ARAMCO WORLD magazine

Summer 1972

SPORTS IN THE ARAB WORLD

A Special Issue

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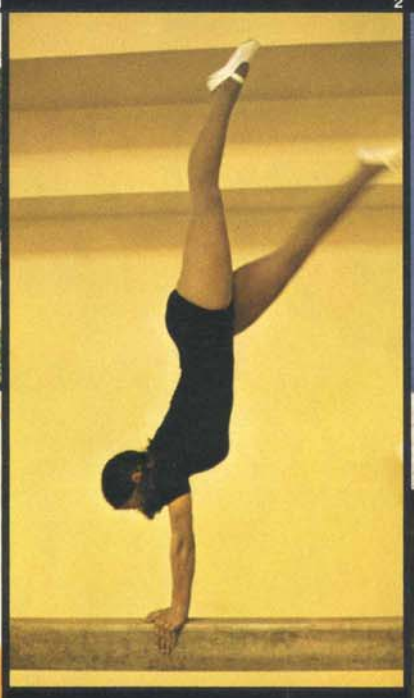

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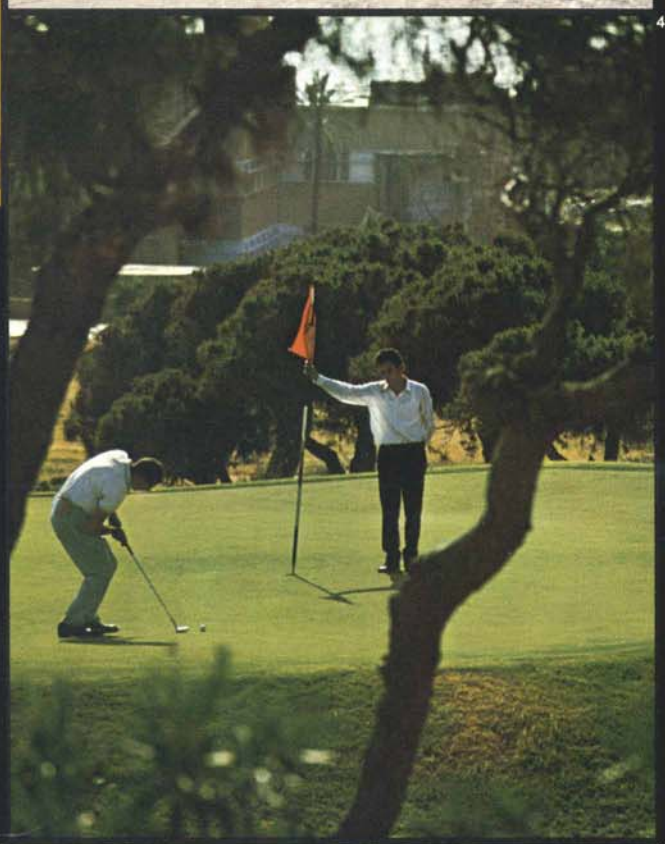

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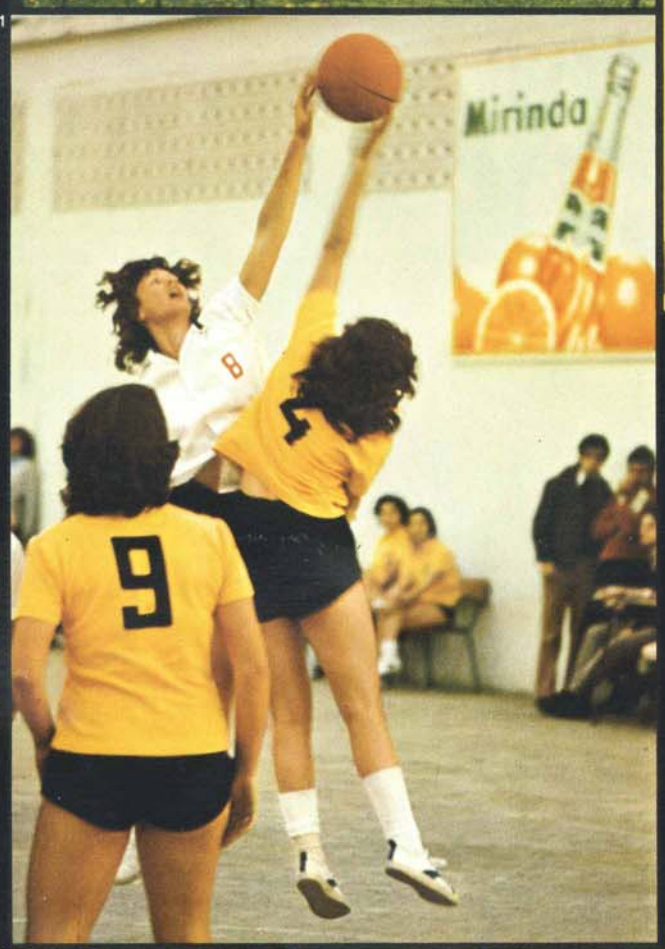

These days, in the Arab world you can play or watch any sport you like. A sampling: (1) automobile rallies in Lebanon ... (2) gymnastics, as performed by Claire Akar, Lebanon's outstanding woman athlete for 1971 ... (3) skiing in towering Middle East mountains ... (4) golf by the Mediterranean ... (5) swimming in modern pools and ancient seas ... (6) group exercises in Saudi Arabia ... (7) shooting in hills and deserts ... (8) volleyball, a popular spectator sport ... (9) year-round tennis ... (10) javelin throwing ... (11) basketball, despite a shortage of indoor gyms ... and, rear cover, international fencing competition such as this elegant duel at Beirut's Phoenicia Hotel. Photographs 1-2, 4-5, 9-11 and rear cover by Nik Wheeler; 3 and 7 by Brian Evans, 6 by A. A. Al-Khalifa; 8 by S. M. Al-Ghamdi.

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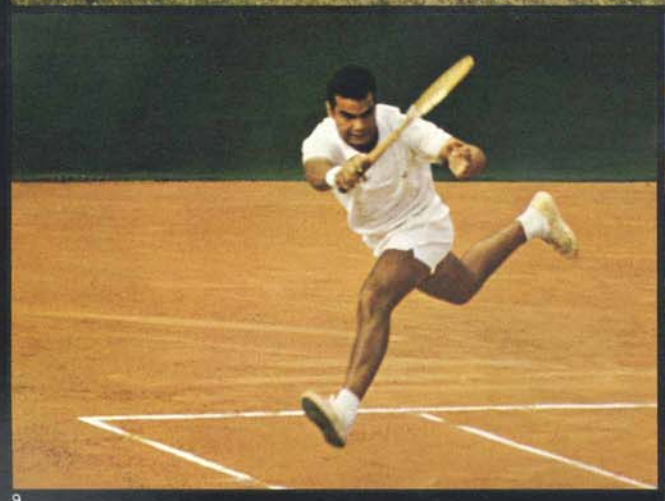

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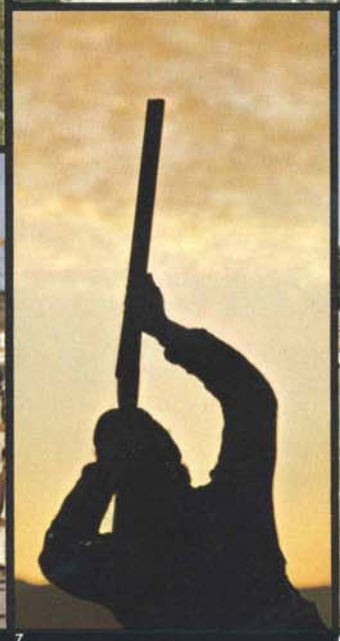

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Vol. 23 (Special) Summer 1972


Loughran


Hussaini


El-Nasr


Severino


Bates


Wheeler


Griggs


Eigeland

Layout and Drawings: Don Thompson

ARAMCO WORLD magazine

Not many years ago, the average American sports fan thought sports started somewhere around South Bend and stopped just east of Yankee Stadium. And although they have since learned that the French don't ski badly, that Russians play hockey and that Australians have discovered tennis, we think it still may come as a shock to many who read this issue of *Aramco World* to discover that these days they're playing sports in the Middle East too.

Undoubtedly, some people will immediately picture bearded Bedouins hitting line drives to center field, throwing forward passes or sinking putts at St. Andrews! But that, we think is because western minds are still so steeped in myths and stereotypes that the idea of the Arab as either sportsman or sports fan is something they've just never thought about before.

It is certainly true that the Anglo-Saxon obsession with "games" is relatively new to the area, and that Kuwait probably can manage without an astrodome for the moment. We are also prepared to admit that Saudi Arabia will not be a contender for football's World's Cup in the next year or so and that it may be just as long before an Arab quintet takes on the Celtics.

But as this issue suggests, along with the tremendous social, economic and educational progress in the Arab world in the last few years, there has also been impressive but generally unnoticed growth in both organized sport and weekend leisure activity in the Arab world. From Morocco to the Arabian Gulf, from the cool mountains of Lebanon to the torrid heartland of the Arabian Peninsula, boys—and girls—in towns and villages all over the Arab world are swapping sandals for sneakers and turning school yards and sand lots into football fields and volleyball courts. In the cities even parents are playing games.

As one example, in Saudi Arabia, where Aramco photographer S. M. Amin caught the Saudi football player who appears on our cover, football—or for that matter, modern sport of any kind—was unheard of before the 1920's. Today an active nationwide football league—with at least one sports club in nearly every town in the country—attracts fans by the thousands each weekend.

Elsewhere, the Arab sports scene reveals such surprises as Egyptian racing crews who have out-stroked Cambridge, the existence of nearly a dozen ski shops in Beirut and a golf tournament in Morocco that awarded prize money topping anything offered in Europe.

Climate, diet, and economics are among the factors which will determine if, how much and how fast sports in the Arab world continue to grow. But one thing is certain. Yesterday's desert horseman and falconer are a very small part of the Arab sports picture today. More indicative, we think, is that several hundred Arab athletes, representing 12 Arab nations, will be going to Munich this September (71 from Egypt alone) and will be competing in nearly every event in the 1972 Olympics.

—THE EDITORS

U. S. readers are asked to send all changes of address to Aramco World Magazine, c/o 1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N. Y.,10019.

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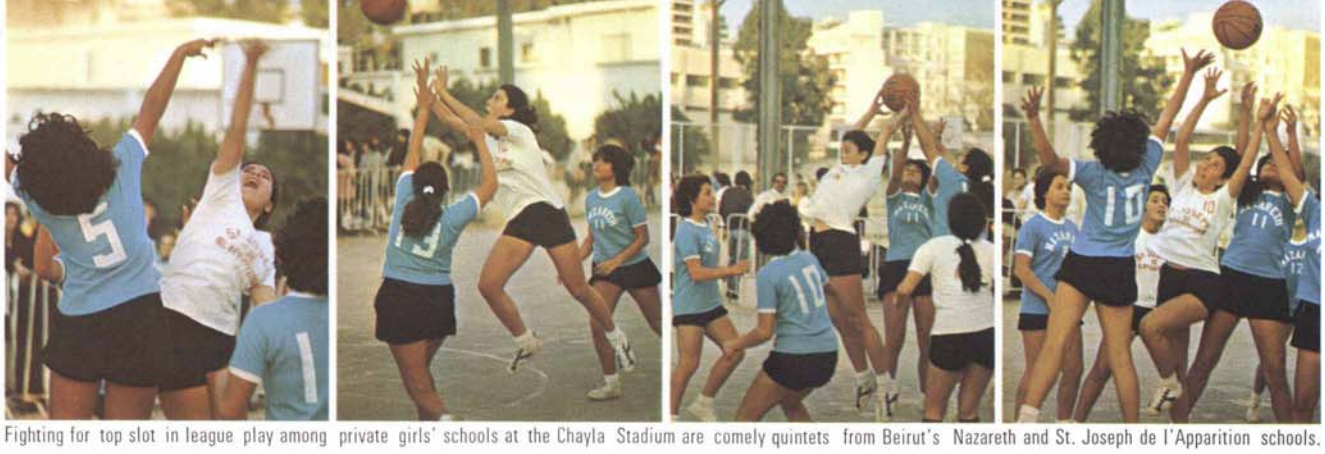
Below left, Gezira Club Stadium, Cairo; below right, Camille Chamoun Stadium, Beirut.

GAMES ARABS PLAY

. . . football, volleyball, basketball, swimming, tennis, wrestling, weight lifting, fencing, boxing, horseback riding, horse racing, motor rallying, skiing, water skiing, surfing, skeet shooti

BY GERRY LOUGHRAN
PHOTOGRAPHED BY NIK WHEELER

rchery, water polo, track and field, gymnastics, table tennis, bicycling, sailing, cross-country running, scuba diving, judo, karate, yoga, spelunking, bowling, fishing, golf, squash, etc . . .



Fighting for top slot in league play among private girls' schools at the Chayla Stadium are comely quintets from Beirut's Nazareth and St. Joseph de l'Apparition schools.

The Arab appetite for sport is voracious and the menu is titillating. Increasingly, however, the tariff is too high.

In a wide-ranging survey of the status of sport in the Arab world, I met several administrators who talked eloquently and eagerly of their specialty, only to add sadly: "Of course, it's a rich man's sport now." Skiing, sailing, shooting, riding and motor rallying all come within this category.

But the broader-based sports, aided by increasing international contacts, television, more leisure, a relatively more stable political situation and —particularly in Lebanon—an unrivaled climate, are going from strength to strength.

Sport is as old as the Middle East. Egyptian wall carvings depict wrestling scenes in Pharaonic times. For centuries Arab shaikhs have flown hawks in desert skies and Bedouin tribesmen galloped their Arab steeds across the dunes. Camel races are still regularly held in parts of the Arabian Peninsula. In the Lebanese mountains, village youths traditionally organized weight-lifting contests, often using the old *kibbeh* stone in which their mothers pounded meat and cracked wheat and which can weigh upwards of 100 pounds. Nowadays too, the colonial heritage is evident in the popularity of wrestling, much encouraged by the Ottoman Turks, and preeminently association football (what Americans call soccer), the game the British gave to the countries they once ruled.

Egypt has long been the sports leader of the Arab world and throughout the area soccer is incontestably the top sport. An Egyptian living in Beirut, asked to name the three most popular sports in his home country, replied, "Football, football and football." They even have women's teams in Cairo, something inconceivable in the rest of the region.

It was largely at the time of World War I, when Britain and France carved up the Arab world between them following defeat of the Turks, that sport went on a regularized basis. British Tommies from cobbled back lanes and colonial civil servants from the playing fields of Eton brought their passion for organized games to Transjordan, Palestine and Iraq. French troops and foreign residents in Lebanon and Syria infected other Arab youths with their enthusiasm. By 1921 the Cairo-based Football Federation was Egyptianized and clubs burgeoned throughout the country. Today fans are counted in millions. Gates range from a few thousand spectators at the smallest clubs to 120,000 at the Nasser Stadium in Cairo—a greater capacity than that of London's famed Wembley Stadium.

But though today Egypt, with its 34-million strong population, is unrivaled in the Arab world in the quality and number of its sportsmen, it was in tiny Lebanon that sport was first really organized. The main influence was the American University of Beirut, then known as the Syrian Protestant College. Dr. Abdel Sattar Trabulsi, who has been Director of Athletics at AUB for the past 45 years, says: "Organized sports started when AUB started in 1866. First there was track and field, then came football, tennis and swimming."

Today, including freshmen, for whom sports are required, about 2,000 of the 3,500 students at AUB take an active part in games—mainly football, swimming and track. Dr. Trabulsi heads a staff of about 50 coaches and instructors, all of them part-time.

Says Dr. Trabulsi: "The missionary schools picked up the competitive idea and held contests with us. Crews from foreign ships in Beirut harbor were always on the lookout for games and the occupying troops also joined in. By the early 1940's we in Lebanon were well away. In the late 40's the country started organizing for the Olympics and it has been represented in every Olympiad since London in 1948."

Mr. Nassif Majdalani, known as "the father of sport in Lebanon," recalls that in 1930 there were only five sports clubs in the whole of the country. Now there are about 1,000 clubs and 22 federations. Just about every conceivable sport is played—football, volleyball, basketball, swimming, tennis, wrestling, weight lifting, fencing, boxing, horseback riding, horse racing, motor rallying, skiing, water skiing, surfing, skeet shooting, bird shooting, archery, water polo, track and field, gymnastics, table tennis, bicycling, sailing, cross-country running, scuba diving, judo, karate, yoga, spelunking, bowling, fishing, golf and squash.

The major sports that are *not* played—at least on any scale by Arabs—are baseball, American football and cricket. "They're too esoteric," says Mr. Majdalani. "They just never caught on."

Mr. Majdalani, editor of the 41-year-old *Al-Hayat al-Riyadiyah (Sports Life)* newspaper and a sports announcer on Radio Lebanon for the past 30 years, reckons that there could not have been many more than a hundred dedicated non-student sportsmen in Lebanon in 1930. Today officials put the total of regular and casual gamesmen in the country at about 200,000.

Other Arab countries are equally keen but—except for Egypt—have not reached any sophisticated level of organization as yet. Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and the Arabian Gulf states name football as their number one sport, with basketball and volleyball second and third, weight lifting close behind and swimming and hunting, the "games of the people." The latest arrival in the region is squash. There are two clubs in Lebanon and the game is becoming increasingly popular in Kuwait.

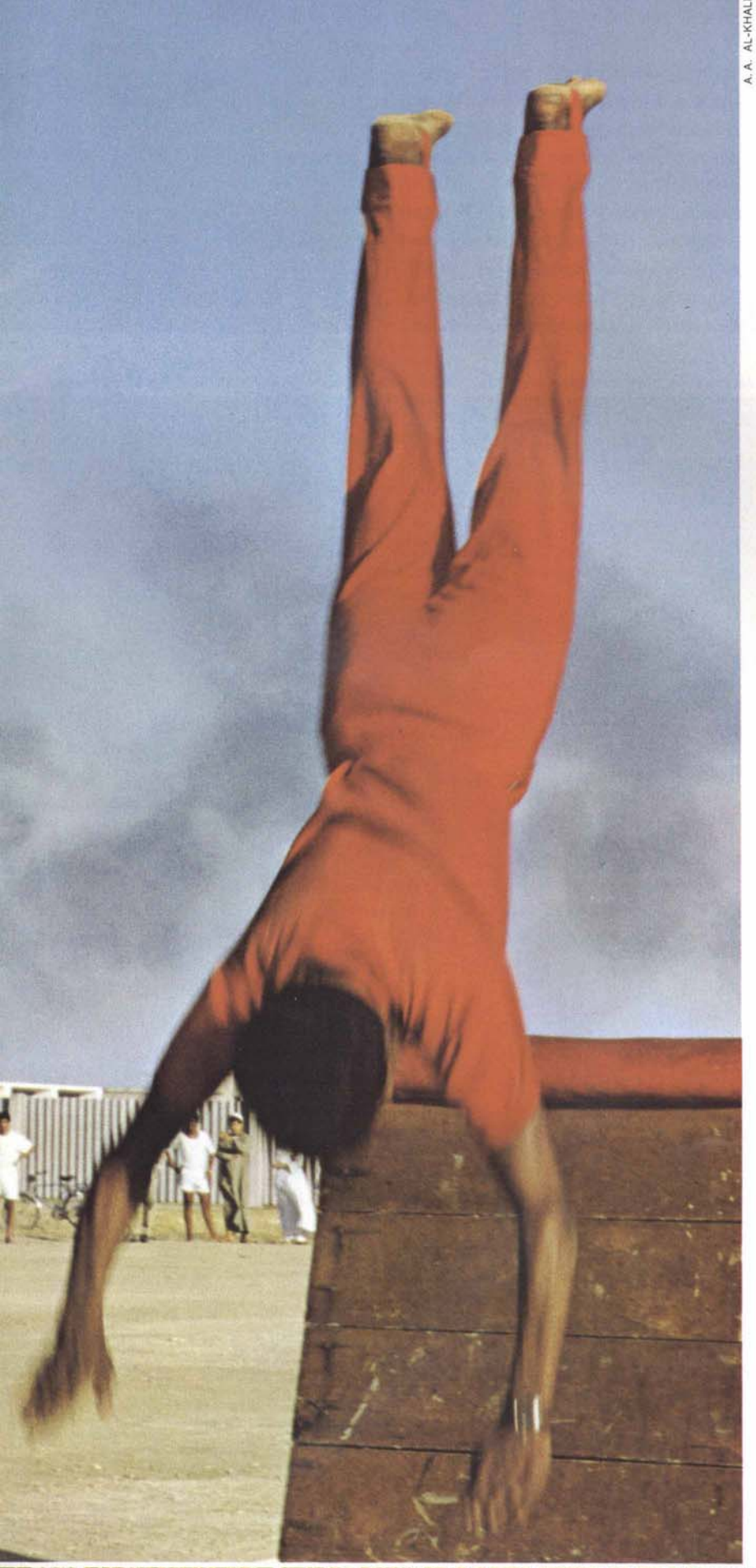
Boxing, following what is apparently a worldwide trend, is being overtaken in popularity by judo and karate —there are classes in the former at AUB—though this winter's visit of Muhammed Ali to several Arab states may well have given the noble art a boost. Saudi Arabia's Director General of Youth Welfare, Prince Faysal ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, told newsmen after the ex-world champion's pilgrimage to Mecca: "Boxing is an art, and we shall, God willing, study its introduction to the kingdom." If the studies prove positive, it will be the first body-contact sport in the peninsular area.

In terms of sporting success, Egypt leads the Arab world. It has the area's only professional tennis player—Ismail el-Shafei, who has signed a guaranteed annual $25,000 contract with World Championship Tennis—and several amateur players of international class. Its basketball team recently came in runner up in the all-African championships after wins in 1962, 1964 and 1970 and, with winner Senegal, will represent Africa at Munich. Recently too, Egyptian Ali Abou Greisha was chosen by 16,000 readers of the magazine *Jeune Afrique* as Africa's outstanding 1971 footballer. Egypt's marksmen have won numerous shooting contests and the marshes near Alexandria are famous for their duck shooting. Ahmad Gunain of Egypt is a former world champion gymnast. Its long-distance swimmers are legend and its oarsmen are now staking a claim to world attention.

Lebanon probably comes next in the league with such outstanding rifle shots as Maurice Tabet, Tony Saadeh, Col. Emile Nasar and ex-President Camille Chamoun, young swimming prospects like Annie Mugrditchian and Bruno Bassoul, and weight lifter Mohammed Taraboulsi, who set two junior middleweight world records in Columbus, Ohio, last year.

There is nothing like a hero to encourage sport, and in Jordan King Hussein has clearly set the pace by his prowess at the wheel of a sports car or go-kart, piloting a jet or on water skis in Aqaba. In Lebanon, the diminutive, 36-year-old monarch also gave a fillip to the ailing sport of motoring before 1958 when he took part in a hair-raising hill climb event there.

Today, even though 53 cars took part in 1971's grueling Cedars Rally many observers fear that cash considerations and organizational difficulties have put auto sports into a tailskid. According to Khairallah Khairallah, motoring correspondent for *An-Nahar* newspaper, rallying is beyond



A. A. AL-KHALIFA

A. A. AL-KHALIFA

At a Sports Day in Rahimah, Saudi Arabia, local school boys display gymnastic skills and compete in a tug-of-war.

Bruno Bassoul, best of Lebanon's enthusiastic young swimmers, holds eight local records.

the reach of most Lebanese. "For success you need a good car, a kit (for souping up models, the cost being anything up to $1,000-plus) and time to practice, so you have to be pretty well off." He suggested that the establishment of a racing circuit—there is one in Israel—might do much to democratize the sport.

Indeed it is in the financial area that much Arab sport seems to be facing its most serious challenge.

Mr. Henri Possbic, sports editor of Beirut's *Le Soir* newspaper, is among the most pessimistic. "Sports in the Arab world needs the help of governments," he says. "Young people are trained at school but they tend to fall away afterwards because there is not the necessary encouragement. We need better facilities, more money, paid coaches, an end to often serious rivalry among sporting factions. We need young blood in and the old guard out."

Lebanese officials were unavailable for interviews on the question of government aid to sport, but Mr. Possbic says the Directorate General of Youth and Sports hands out yearly grants to sports clubs ranging from a couple of hundred to some 3,000 Lebanese pounds (roughly $1,000). "The budget request this year was 1.5 million pounds but only 60,000 pounds was granted," he adds. Given the economic difficulties facing many governments in the area, including Lebanon, this may be generous enough, but it seems clear that sporting activities in a number of fields are atrophying through lack of cash transfusions.

Col. Nasar, Beirut's fire chief and a pioneer marksman, explains the economics of shooting today: "Since 1964, when Lebanon won third place in the world skeet-shooting championships, gun and cartridge prices have gone up about 50 percent. A good gun today—a Browning FN perhaps—costs $1,000 locally. One hundred cartridges used to be $8. Now they are $15. The cost for training alone works out to a figure which I simply can't afford, so I have given up competitive shooting. It's a rich man's sport now," he adds. These prices may not sound exorbitant according to a European or American standard of living, but they are in a developing country where average per capita income is still estimated at considerably less than $1,000 per year. Inevitably, then, one result is that Lebanon is weaker now in both skeet and trap shooting.

Which is a pity because the nation has probably done better at shooting than at any other sport. In 1953—at its first attempt—the national team came second in the pan-Arab competition and in the same year won the European Championship at San Sebastian, Spain. Diplomat turned businessman Maurice Tabet won the individual championship with a score of 197 out of 200. In 1957 Lebanon and Tabet repeated their European successes in France and Tabet also won the individual prize at the West German national championships.

The 1958 civil war interrupted this run of success. "Instead of shooting clay pigeons we were shooting at each other," Col. Nasar quips today. But Lebanon was shortly at peace again and in 1962 hosted the European championships, entertaining 225 competitors—including three barons and five counts—from 18 nations. Indeed, shooting seems to be in the Lebanese blood. "Weak as we are now, there are still 80 to 100 good clay pigeon shooters," according to the colonel. And hunting is a way of life. "About 96,000 people hunt with permits—and 60,000 without," he said, not mentioning that the game is mostly in the sparrow—and songbird—class. Tabet, long one of the finest marksmen in the world, no longer shoots competitively, but Col. Nasar predicts that Tony Saadeh will be among the first seven in the forthcoming Munich Olympics.

Another sport for which Lebanese need a capacious pocket these days is riding, though again rates may seem cheap to U.S. readers. Hire of a horse is about $2.00 an hour, and lessons are $1 per half-hour. But if you want your own mount, it will cost anything from $125 to $325 and about $60 a month for stable rent, food and tips.

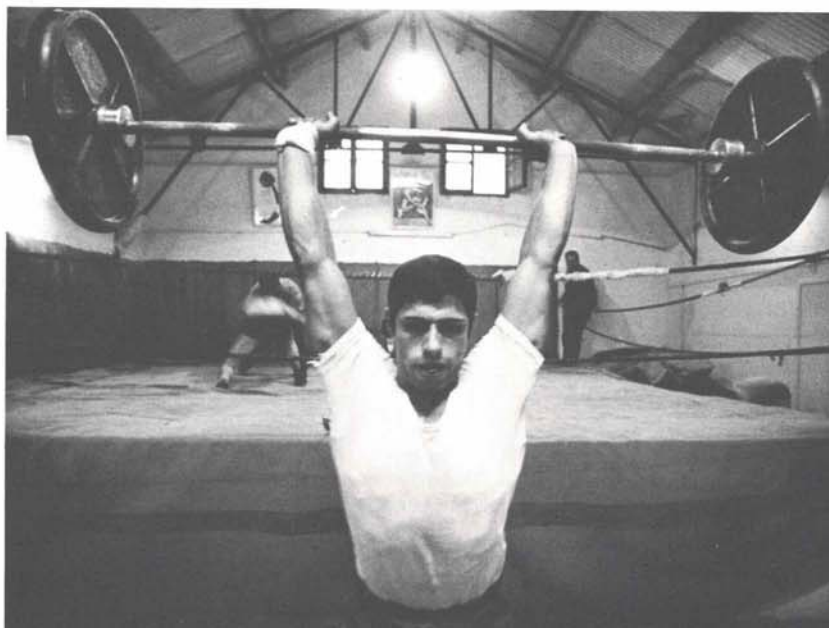
Mr. Possbic gave examples of the high cost of sport. "My son is interested in judo and skiing. Judo costs him $8 per month and skiing $18 a month. On top of that he needs equipment, clothing, transport and pocket money."

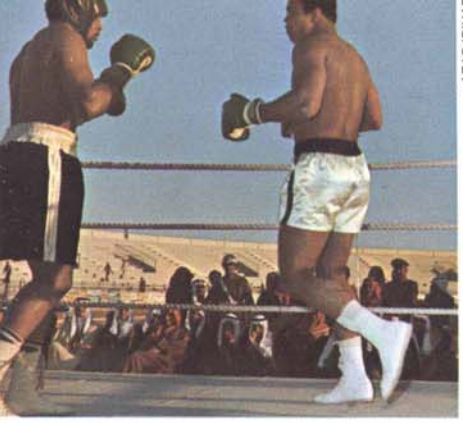
Equipment and clothing are the top items for skiers. Besides skis, poles, boots and bindings you need gloves, goggles, pants, sweaters and hats. When you have all this you can ski across country for nothing, but downhill racing means $3 a day for use of the lift. Instruction comes at about $4 an hour.

Dr. Emile Riachi, president of the Lebanese Ski Federation, believes the area's most exciting ski potential will remain undeveloped until there is greater investment in facilities and financial backing for young ski prospects. In conjunction with Lebanon's Directorate General for Youth and Sports, the federation now offers free instruction and equipment to a few of the most promising children, but Dr. Riachi believes that only cash injections sufficient to relieve good native skiers (especially mountain village boys) of all financial commitments will ever result in skiers of real international repute. Dr. Riachi also complains that many of Lebanon's finest slopes are still inaccessible. "If the resorts were equipped with interconnecting lifts, the variety and potential of the sport would blossom enormously."

Boxer Muhammed Ali Clay (above, right) in a demonstration match in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia,during a recent Middle East tour. An all-schools cross-country race (below) is an annual event at Jamhour in Lebanon. Skiers are increasing as resorts such

S. M. AL-GHAMDI





AZAD/RIYADH

All these problems aside, the skiing boom of recent years has been tremendous. "It's unimaginable," he says. "Numbers are doubling, tripling" (*Aramco World*, January-February, 1966). Three decades ago, skiing was confined to a few foreigners. Today an estimated 35,000 take an active part in the sport. There are 20 ski clubs, six major skiing areas with 14 lifts and an as yet untapped potential on the superb northern slope of lofty Mount Hermon.

There is an annual national championship and an international ski week. Every April about 20 to 25 young athletes take part in a same-day skiing/water skiing contest. Lebanon sent skier Joseph Keyrouz as a token one-man team to this year's Winter Olympics at Sapporo, Japan, more to show the flag than in expectation of winning any medals.

High up in the sports popularity league is tennis. Lebanon alone has an estimated 1,350 regular players and 14 clubs are affiliated to the national Tennis Federation—which means they must have at least four courts. Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria and

Faraya (right) improve facilities. In Qatif, Saudi Arabia (bottom, left), a local basketball team takes on a visiting Lebanese five. Weight lifter Mohammed Taraboulsi is a world champion in his class. An international fencing tournament in Beirut.

BRIAN EVANS

Strain shows in competitors' faces at the 1971 Lebanese Women's Athletic Championships at Beirut's Sports City: passing the baton, exhausted winner, broad jump.

Morocco are all full members of the International Lawn Tennis Federation and Iraq, Syria and Kuwait are non-voting associate members. Characteristically, Egypt is the strongest Arab nation. Besides pro el-Shafei it has produced outstanding amateurs such as Ali Daoudi and Abdel Ghani Hassanein.

Says Mr. Emile Yazbeck, secretary-general of the Lebanese federation: "Tennis is becoming increasingly popular and we are campaigning for it to be taught more widely in schools."

Lebanon boasts the Broumana invitation tournament, held in the mountains each summer, and there is also a yearly international championship in Beirut. Virtually all the top world stars of recent years have played in Lebanon, including Newcombe, Stolle, Emerson, Richardson, Hoad and Britain's Ann Jones. The champions of Canada, Brazil, Greece and France have appeared at the international championships. But an open tournament is out of the question for now. Mr. Yazbeck estimates the federation would have to find some $15,000 for prize money alone and it just hasn't got that sort of cash. "We get some assistance from the government," he says. "They try to help but it's not enough."

Nevertheless, international contacts are encouraged. Lebanon is scheduled to play Morocco in the Davis Cup and the federation is planning to send some of its best youngsters on a tour of the European circuit this summer. Several young Lebanese have appeared at Junior Wimbledon, including Richard Haddad and Kerim Fawwaz, who beat Egypt's el-Shafei on one occasion and was considered the nation's best prospect. Today, however, he is a doctor in the United States.

For the non-international players, luckily, tennis does not rank as one of the pricey sports. Club membership averages $30 a year and allows free access to courts. Beyond that you need little more than a racquet. Lebanon's current champion, Khodr Issa, started out as a ball boy.

Another attraction of the game is that it is not restricted to youngsters. Mr. Yazbeck, who gave up football when he received a leg injury many years ago, is on the courts three times a week. As with many other sports in the area, tennis was played under the French mandate but it only really started with the growth of AUB.

Another growing sport in Lebanon is gymnastics. Mr. Hajj Adnan Makki, secretary-general of the Gymnastics Federation, a massively built ex-boxer, ex-weight lifter and present tennis player, says there are 17 gymnastic clubs in the country, and though the sport is 10 years old here, it has only really developed in the past three years. Egypt, however, has had long experience in gymnastics and there are also clubs in Syria and Kuwait. American teams have come to the area on demonstration tours twice, and last year a Soviet team visited Lebanon and gave a public display at—of all places—the gymnasium of the American Community School.

A closely allied sport is cross-country running. More than 1,000 competitors troop en masse across the hills at Jamhour in an annual schools event. Last year, winner Nabil Choueiry finished the long-distance run with a 100-yard sprint that made *L'Orient's* sports writer gasp, "*Magnifique!*" and edged out second-place student Rabih Faddoul by a hair-thin 5/10 of a second.

As in France, long-distance bicycle racing is a popular Lebanese event, though the rugged central mountain chain limits available courses. In 1971 Setrak Khayat won the 70-mile Bekaa Valley circuit and Tarek Abou-Zahab took the Lebanese championship, which was fought out along a 32-mile strip of coastal highway. Long-distance swimming also has its enthusiasts. There is a traditional Christmas Day swim along Beirut's shoreline which usually tempts a dozen or so intrepid souls into the less-than-balmy Mediterranean. Another such event is the 11-mile Jounieh Bay-to-Beirut swim.

Swimming, perhaps because miles of sunny beach have made it so generally popular, is one sport in which complaints of the unavailability of good coaching often arise. Mr. Possbic gives the example of Pierre Calland, son of Lebanese and French parents. "He was a great swimming prospect but his father had to take him to Paris for training because none was available here. Now he has broken 56 seconds for the 100-meter freestyle but he can't swim under the Lebanese flag." Another fine young swimmer is Bruno Bassoul. "He has to be trained by his parents and he goes to France for two or three weeks at a time, but that is no way to make champions," Mr. Possbic comments. Still, it is a measure of the increasing enthusiasm and dedication among competitive swimmers that in the first three days of the 1971 scholastic competitions boys and girls toppled 18 Lebanese records.

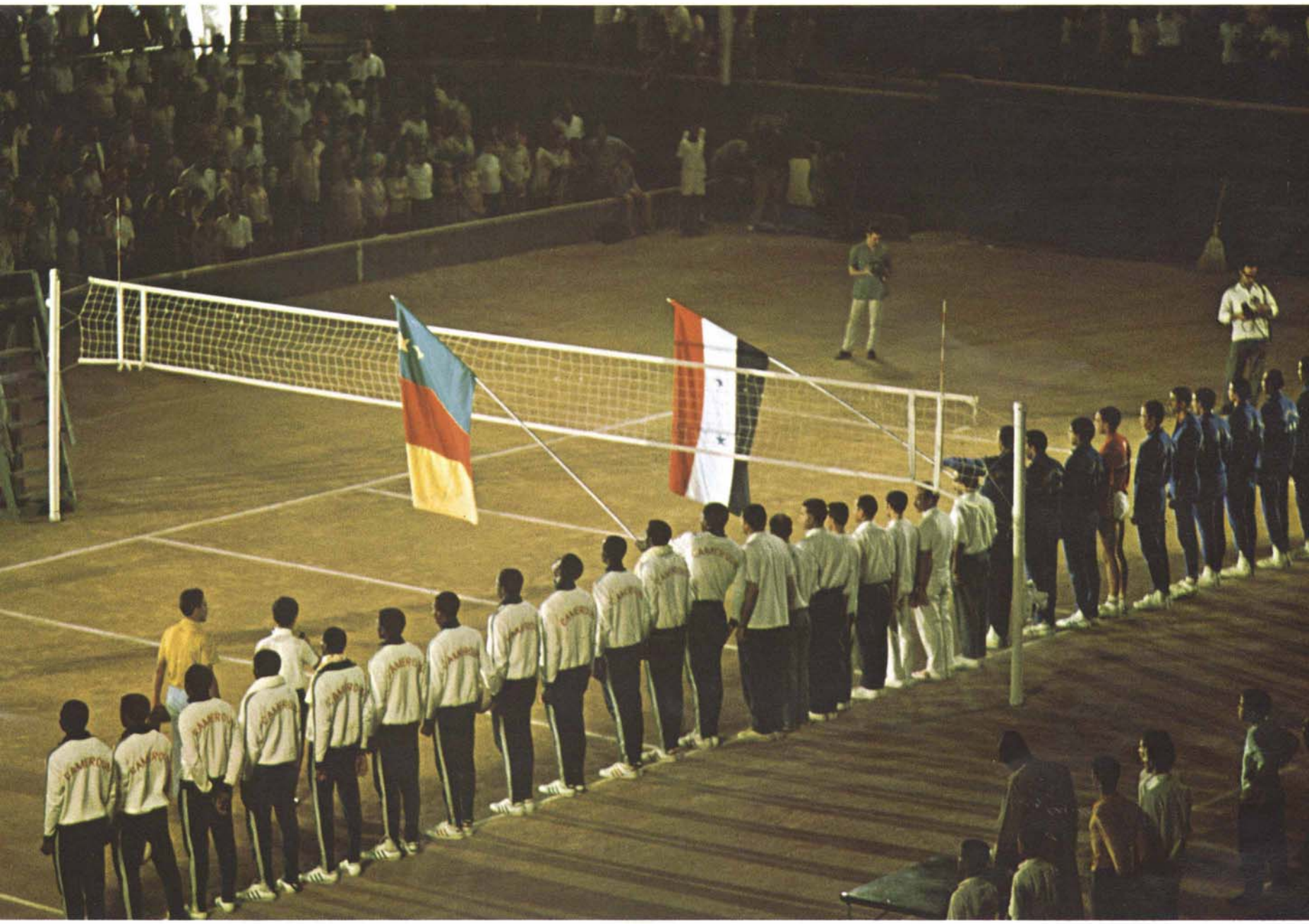
Sailing and water skiing are other sports patronized mainly by the well-off. There are three yacht clubs in Lebanon but probably only about 80 persons mess about in boats on a regular basis. A luxurious new harbor and water sports complex was recently completed in Jounieh Bay, however, and is managed by Lebanon's active Automobile and Touring Club. The world sailing championships in the Fireball class were held in St. George's Bay last October. In water skiing Simon Khoury took the European championship a number of times back in the 1950's and in 1967 attractive Cathy Carayan, then only 16, captured the European junior water ski jumping championship for Lebanon with a leap of 22 meters 10.

AUB's Dr. Trabulsi is more sanguine than many about the future of sport in the Arab world despite the cash-enforced elitism of many activities. "There have always been exclusive sports and popular sports, but generally they democratize," he says. "In the United States in the 1930's it was difficult to get a game of golf. Now you can play almost anywhere. In Lebanon tennis used to be an elite sport. Now everyone plays. Governments are trying their best to help and though we feel we deserve more money, sending teams to Olympics and on international tours is an expensive business." Dr. Trabulsi concedes that "organized activity in sports stops for most people after school unless they join a club. But many people here go hunting and today most of Lebanon swims." He compares the situation in Lebanon unfavorably to Egypt, however, where there are numerous playing fields, facilities and advisers. "There is certainly room for more government aid to clubs to encourage youngsters to keep up their specialty," he says.

Kuwait, most sports administrators agree, is probably the most generous Arab government in the sports arena. There are at least 10 major football clubs heavily backed by the government, and a topflight stadium with floodlighting for night matches. Children get free uniforms and shoes. Each government school has a swimming pool. Basketball, volleyball and squash are all encouraged. Elsewhere, Saudi Arabia recently established an Athletic Training Institute with three-year courses of instruction. Syria contributes indirectly to the football fever by pressing that sport ahead in its army. The Egyptian Government gives cash aid to sports organizations on an annual basis through the Supreme Council for Sports whose chairman has ministerial rank. Sporting bodies in the provinces also get financial assistance from the governorates, but no figures are available. Football clubs in Egypt, however, do not get government aid because their resources are healthy from receipts at games. Eighty-five percent of a gate goes to the home club and the rest is divided between the national federation and the district soccer body.

Professionalism scarcely exists in Arab sport. Wrestlers do receive fees for their appearances, though many sportsmen prefer to call this entertainment. There are no full-time footballers but individuals may get appearance money of about $50. The cash take from Lebanese games is split up for care of the pitch, the

Squabble at football match brings several spectators onto field at Bourj-Hammoud Stadium in Lebanon.



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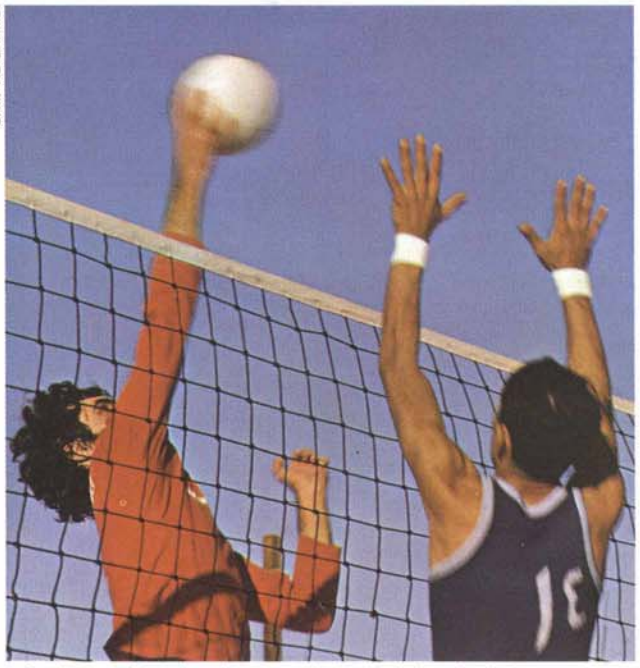


A Saudi player (blue jersey) leaps to block a hard-slamming Lebanese adversary.

At the African Volleyball Championships, home-team Egypt (in red, above) downs Cameroun before later falling to Senegal.

At the Broumana International Tennis Tournament, now in its 39th year, international players come to the mountain resort in Lebanon each summer and tackle such local champions as Lita Akrawi, national women's champion (top left), Edoua

Samuel (back to camera, top center), Egyptian amateur Abdel Ghani Hassanein, and Khodra Issa (right), Lebanon's top male.

federation, and expenses for visitors and some players. Mr. Possbic quoted one team chief as saying his team cost about $2,000 a month to run, and clearly it is in football that the major money resides.

Inevitably, perhaps, there are regular clashes on the field and fighting in the stands. Sports chiefs attribute this partly to the fiery Mediterranean temperament, partly to the worldwide trend toward violent play, and partly to plain tension in crucial games.

The Egyptian Football Federation recently suspended all official and friendly matches throughout the country following rioting at a match between the Cairo clubs, National and Zamalek. Spectators invaded the pitch after a disputed penalty. Stones and bottles were thrown and many people were injured. Some political commentators managed to see the riot as a reflection of political discontent stemming from Egypt's current uneasy no-war-no-peace situation. But less imaginative observers consider it was the natural reaction of a volatile people for whom football is almost a religion. Soccer had been cut off in Egypt following the 1967 war and resumed only two months before the riot. Spectators were football-starved. And Mr. Majdalani comments: "Trouble on the field stems from sheer excitement. English teams have incidents every week, after all."

Dr. Trabulsi agrees. "Arabs are much like any other sportsmen," he says. "They want to win and tension rises to a high level in the big games." Mr. Possbic adds: "Lebanon is small so the violence looks big."

Health experts believe there is a connection between Arab eating habits and sporting activity—or lack of it. A Beirut doctor who specializes in nutrition told me: "We have an obesity problem among Arabs. We eat rather too much of the wrong sort of food and, frankly, we can be a bit lazy. Look at the middle-aged people you see on the beach, for example. They swim a bit and maybe play paddle tennis, but they also spend a lot of time sunbathing. All this eating produces not muscle—though certainly wrestling and weight lifting are local strongpoints—but flabbiness."

The doctor suggests that if there is any sport for which Arabs have a natural flair it probably is horsemanship. "There seems to be a hereditary ability to ride well," he says, but he is not prepared to concede that environmental factors always decide the sort of games people play. "Look at the coastline we have," he explains. "We should be a nation of champion swimmers, but this doesn't necessarily follow." In fairness to Arab athletes, however, he adds that in the desert areas it is perhaps natural that people should tend to be less active than in a more bracing climate.

Mr. Majdalani is among the greatest protagonists of the "sport as an improver" school. "Fifteen thousand people will turn out to watch 22 footballers—fine, but we don't really want a group of heroes for other people to watch. Sport is a method of education, not a circus. We want to turn the Arab countries into nations of players, not watchers."

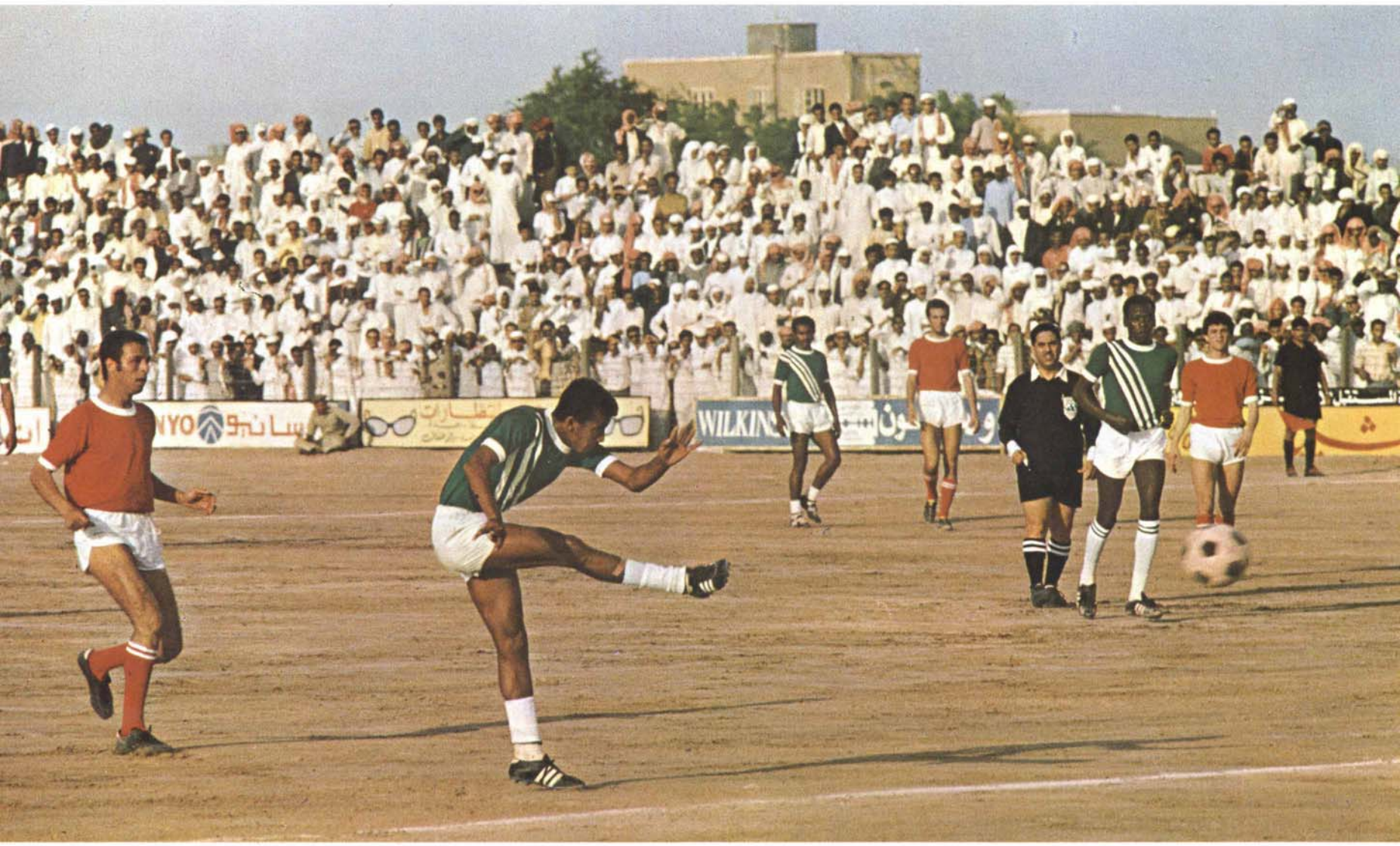
He is optimistic that the ideal is being achieved. Last year in Baghdad, for example, the Pan-Arab Scholastic Games were held for the fourth time. Events included football, volleyball, athletics, swimming, gymnastics and Ping-Pong. There are also efforts to organize general pan-Arab games. "The future looks good," Majdalani feels. "Interest is going up. Schools are engaging in athletic pursuits. Television is showing us football as it should be played. There are now institutes of sport in all the Arab countries and in Lebanon two schools specialize in sports graduates.

"With this sort of background, we are on the right track."

Gerry Loughran, who has covered Africa and the Middle East for UPI, describes himself as transfixed by a passion for football, which he once played—along with cricket and tennis—with more enthusiasm than skill. Although he once won a medal for coming in second in the sack race, today he is an active participant only in darts and snookers and says he "likes to float gently on the surface of the Mediterranean and other warm seas."

FOOTBALL ARABIAN STYLE

On the Saudi sports scene, soccer has no rival.



In January this year a selection of Saudi All-Stars (in green jerseys, above) played host to the Egyptian National Team in the Red Sea city of Jiddah. In a hardfought contest before packed stands, Egypt's team eventually edged out Saudi Arabia 1-0

In Saudi Arabia, soccer—association football—has no rival. It is played in small villages where a few boys with a ball make goal posts from sticks, and it is played by organized, uniformed teams in city stadiums throughout the kingdom.

Soccer was probably first played in Arabia about 1927, but it grew fastest after 1939 when it was introduced on the eastern coast near the oil fields of the Eastern Province. Most of the first players were Aramco employees who had picked up the sport from the British on nearby Bahrain Island, but when foreign craftsmen from Italy, Sudan, Somalia and Aden rushed to work in the area after World War II, soccer spread rapidly. The game came last to the center of Saudi Arabia, to Riyadh, the capital, when a number of young government officials were transferred there from Jiddah in 1941.

By the early 1950's so many teams had sprung up that the Ministry of the Interior set up the country's first office for sports affairs, a predecessor of today's Directorate of Youth Affairs, part of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. This directorate establishes sports rules and regulations, schedules tournaments and offers technical or financial help to teams and athletic clubs. In 1969 it took an important step to bring order into the previously haphazard growth of soccer when it classed the kingdom's cities according to size and stipulated the number of recognized teams which could officially represent each. The smaller local teams thus became feeders for the bigger city-wide squads. The city of Jiddah, for example, has three official teams, Mecca one and Riyadh four.

Two kingdom-wide tournaments are held each year. In the first—the King's Cup—teams within each province (the Eastern Province, Najd and Hijaz), play each other twice to establish the three provincial champions. The three finalists each then play two matches with the other two and the final, exciting play-off is contested in Riyadh with the King present and most of the nation joining in by means of radio and television. The second major yearly tournament pits town teams against city teams on a knockout basis.

Considering the population of the country and the newness of the sport, the public's enthusiasm for soccer seems as great to me as that of U.S. sports fans for baseball and American football. Competition on the field itself gets tremendously heated (and not, if I may be excused a pun, mainly because tournaments take place in the summer months). So far Saudi Arabia has been spared the fist fights seen on European (and recently Egyptian) playing fields, but I must admit that there have been a number of what I could call "heated discussions." And spectators get almost as involved as the players. Each team has its faithful supporters who never miss a game. They wave their favorite's pennant in the stands, and shout themselves hoarse. Woe to the fan who accidentally wanders into a seat on the wrong side of the field. There are even a few fanatically loyal fans who have become as famous as the players themselves. One such man in the Eastern Province circuit is Ibn Sha'ab. His unofficial title: "Number One Spectator." Anyone who attends matches on a regular basis can recognize him as the loudest voice in the stands, constantly shouting advice to players, the referee or anyone else who will listen.

Number One Spectator, Ibn Sha'ab, told me once that when he sees outstanding footwork, when a player moves the ball rapidly down the field in perfect control, it makes him think of "neat stitches on a piece of cloth." But he didn't stay in such a poetic mood very long, quickly adding, in his typically loud voice, that as far as he was concerned "you seldom see a really good game." Those of us who want to see good games and want to see soccer continue to grow and improve in Saudi Arabia hope their country's teams will have more chances to travel abroad and face new and

BY ABDULLAH HUSSAINI / PHOTOGRAPHED BY S. M. AMIN

The Other Football

What makes the difference is feet.

Soccer, known as association football everywhere in the world but in the United States, is one of the world's most ancient games and also, unquestionably, the world's most popular sport. Yet it has only recently begun to win adherents in the United States. Americans, in fact, are normally astonished to learn that what makes association football different is feet. In association football you kick the ball most of the time.

Ideally, association football is played on a grassy field 75 yards wide by 120 yards long. The goals are nets 24 feet wide and eight feet high. The team is made up of 11 men—a goalkeeper, two fullbacks, three halfbacks and five forwards—and all participate constantly in the action. Only two substitutions are allowed during the entire course of play and there are no time-outs during the two 45-minute periods. In case of a tie in cup competitions there can be a 30-minute extension. Players attempt to maneuver the round, inflated leather ball to the opponent's goal by kicking, or occasionally by butting it with any part of the body except the hands. Each goal scores one point.

Much of a team's strength comes from placement, and players around the world are quick to copy the formations worked out by the international champions. The British pyramid, for example, was first used in 1890, but has been discarded because players realized that too much depended on one forward's ability to relay passes. Italy's strong defensive patterns had a passing popularity as did Hungary's unusual offensive positioning, credited with a World Cup victory in 1952. The current fad, however, dates from Brazil's 1958 World Cup victory; it's a 4-2-4 distribution of players on the field, and has since been adopted by teams everywhere.—A.H.

Nimble footwork is needed not only to maneuver the ball down the field, but just to keep possession. Every Saudi town or city has a team, as do many villages.

stronger competition, to test different techniques, to try other playing fields—even to hear the roar of other crowds.

Incidentally, soccer in Saudi Arabia is not a professional sport. Usually teams recruit young men who work or study in their area. Some club players, such as center Fahad al-Bassam of al-Qadisiyah, also take part in inter-school competitions. Among the country's popular stars are men such as Muhammad Sa'ad of Riyadh's al-Nasir, known for his speed and control while running, and Omar Rajkhan of Jiddah's al-Ahli, who seldom misses a goal. Rajkhan told me that one of his secrets was learning—after years of trying—to shut out the noise of the crowd, cheers or boos, in order to better concentrate on scoring.

A very famous athlete, Salim Farouz, who unfortunately has now retired from the game, used to trick his opponents as they ran beside him down the field, faking them by seemingly reversing his direction, but actually just shifting the upper part of his body momentarily, much as a skilled oriental dancer does. The playing fields of the Eastern Province will probably have a long wait before they witness another Salim in action.

A big moment for fans in the finals of last year's King's Cup occured when Jiddah's high-scoring Sa'id Mathkoor returned to the playing field after a year out. Mathkoor, popularly known as 'Ugab ("Eagle"), is a handsome, likable man who has been known to break into song when his teammates' morale needs boosting. His famous shirt, No. 10, was recognized with mixed emotions by the stands that day. Could he make a comeback? Did he have the old magic? As it turned out, he did. But until he scored I think the Saudi soccer crowd felt much as the U.S. football crowd must have felt not long ago when the Jets met the 49ers in Shea Stadium and Joe Namath had to take over from an injured Bob Davis.

But no wonder fans get excited. It's a beautiful thing to watch when a player's nimble feet maneuver the ball back and forth, give it a powerful kick, or stop it on the spot when it plunges down from a great height. And when a good man controls the ball between his feet as he races down the field toward the goal it's as beautiful, as Number One Spectator says, as "neat stitches on a piece of cloth."

Abdullah Hussaini has played soccer since he was a boy in Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia. He has written sports for al-Yawm, *a newspaper, and* al-Riyadi, *a sports magazine. Trained in journalism at Syracuse University, Hussaini is editor of the Arabic-language* Oil Caravan Weekly, *a newspaper for Aramco employees.*

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Sports events in Lebanon frequently have an international flavor.

Maybe it's because cosmopolitan Lebanon is such a natural meeting place. Maybe it's because the high mountains rising out of the sea offer scenery and climate rivaling the Riviera. Or maybe it's just because in a small country you simply have to look beyond your borders to find stimulating competition.

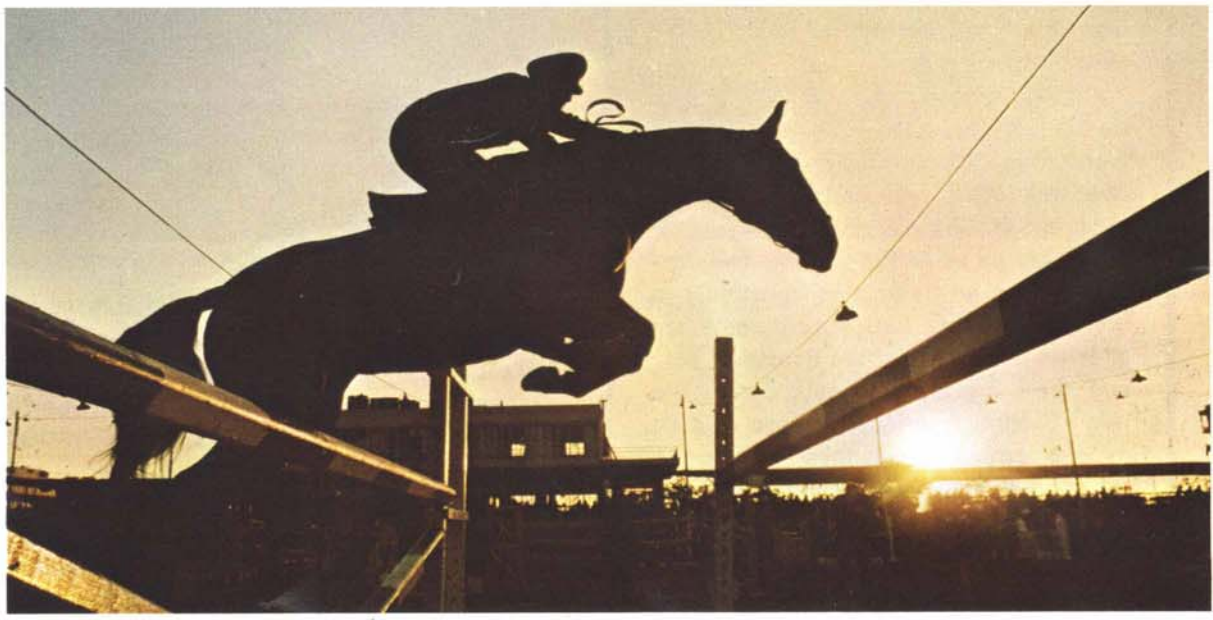
Whatever the reasons, Lebanon's sporting federations and individual sports teams have definitely been bitten by the

WORLD FIREBALL SAILING CHAMPIONSHIPS

10 - 19 September, 1971

INTERNATIONAL SHOW JUMPING COMPETITION

9 - 17 October, 1971



CEDARS RALLY

1 - 3 October, 1971

international bug. Scarcely a meet or tournament is held that doesn't have "International" as an essential part of its name, and teams and players from neighboring Arab countries and Europe are constantly jetting in and out of Beirut's "International" Airport.

One event, the Broumana International Tennis Tournament, held in a cool mountain resort each summer, is now in its 39th year. The world water ski championships were held in St. George's Bay way back in 1955, largely through the influence of Simon Khoury, a Lebanese and European champion then working at Florida's Cypress Gardens. Shooting and skiing federations have both sponsored numerous international competitions and this February the Lebanese Army was host to teams from 10 countries at the 17th International Military Ski Championships held at the Cedars of Lebanon. And, in its 11th international tournament, the fencing federation recently drew world champions Catherine Cerutti and Jaques Ladegallerie.

But the international flavor of sports in Lebanon probably reached a peak last autumn when, in the space of a single one-month period, the little country hosted three international sporting events—on land (auto racing), sea (sailing) and "air" (horse jumping).

For five days, teams from 19 nations, including Lebanon, Syria, Egypt and Iraq, skimmed across St. George's Bay in international races hosted by the St. George's Motor Yacht Club. A fleet of 42 Fireballs competed for the world title which eventually was taken by the British team of Craig and Davis.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY KHALIL ABOU EL-NASR

Riders from Syria, Egypt and Lebanon participated in this competition which was organized by the Lebanese Equestrian Federation. Yemen's head of state, el-Qadi el-Riyani, attended opening-day events as the guest of Lebanon's tourist-minded president, Suleiman Franjieh. Thirty horses took part—Irish, Polish, German and French, but none of the smaller Arab breed. Egypt's Dr. Hisham Sadek won 12 events and Lebanon's Colonel Sami Tabbarah emerged as one of the top riders.

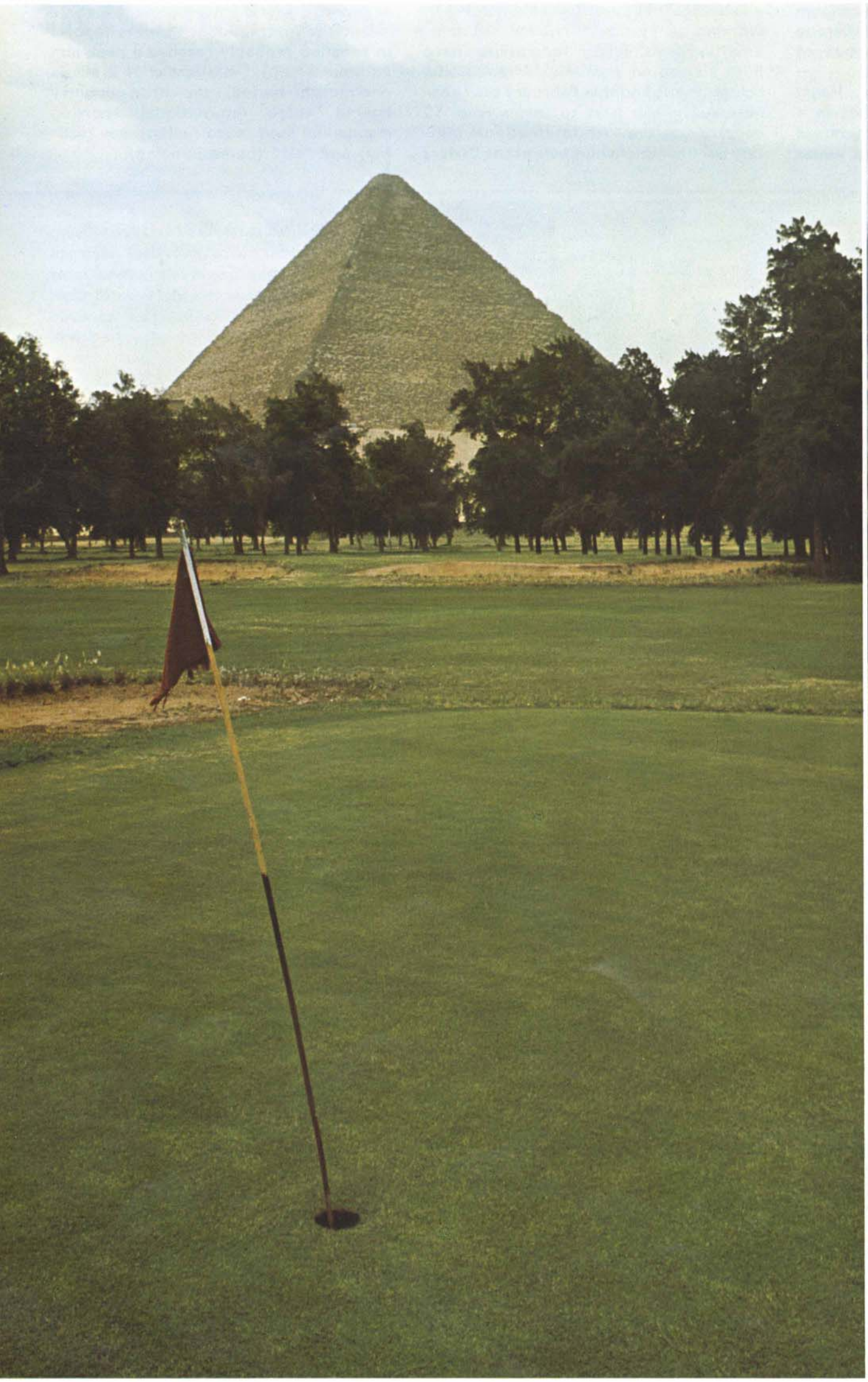
PHOTOGRAPHED BY ROBERT AZZI

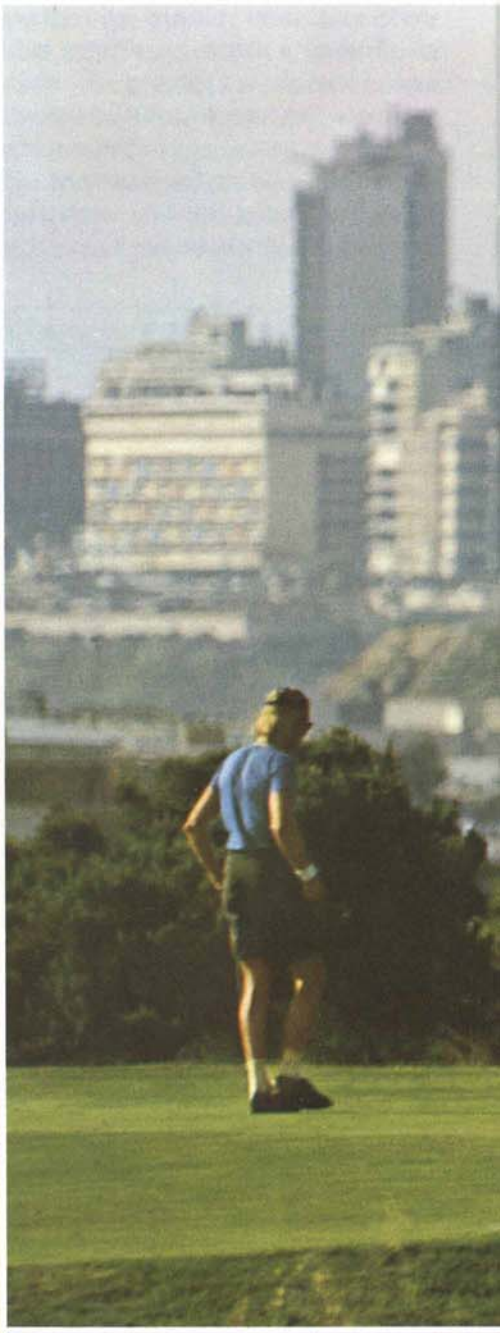
Teams from Lebanon, England, Sweden, France, Austria and Iran drove in this grueling 950-mile mountain rally organized by the Automobile and Touring Club of Lebanon. Fifty-two cars started but only 25 crossed the finish line three days later. The first six teams were Lebanese, with driver Joe Hindi and navigator Garbis Tachdjian leading in their BMW 2002 Tii.

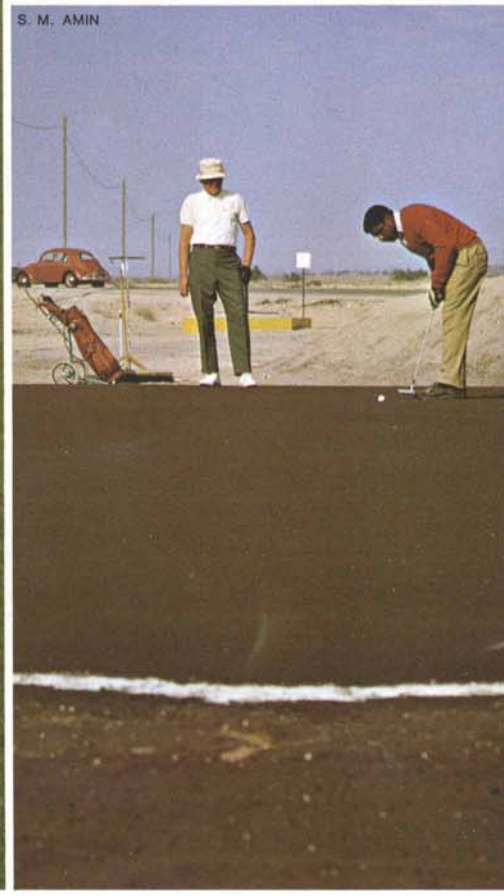
PHOTOGRAPHED BY NIK WHEELER

GOLF IN THE ARAB WORLD: The Hole Story

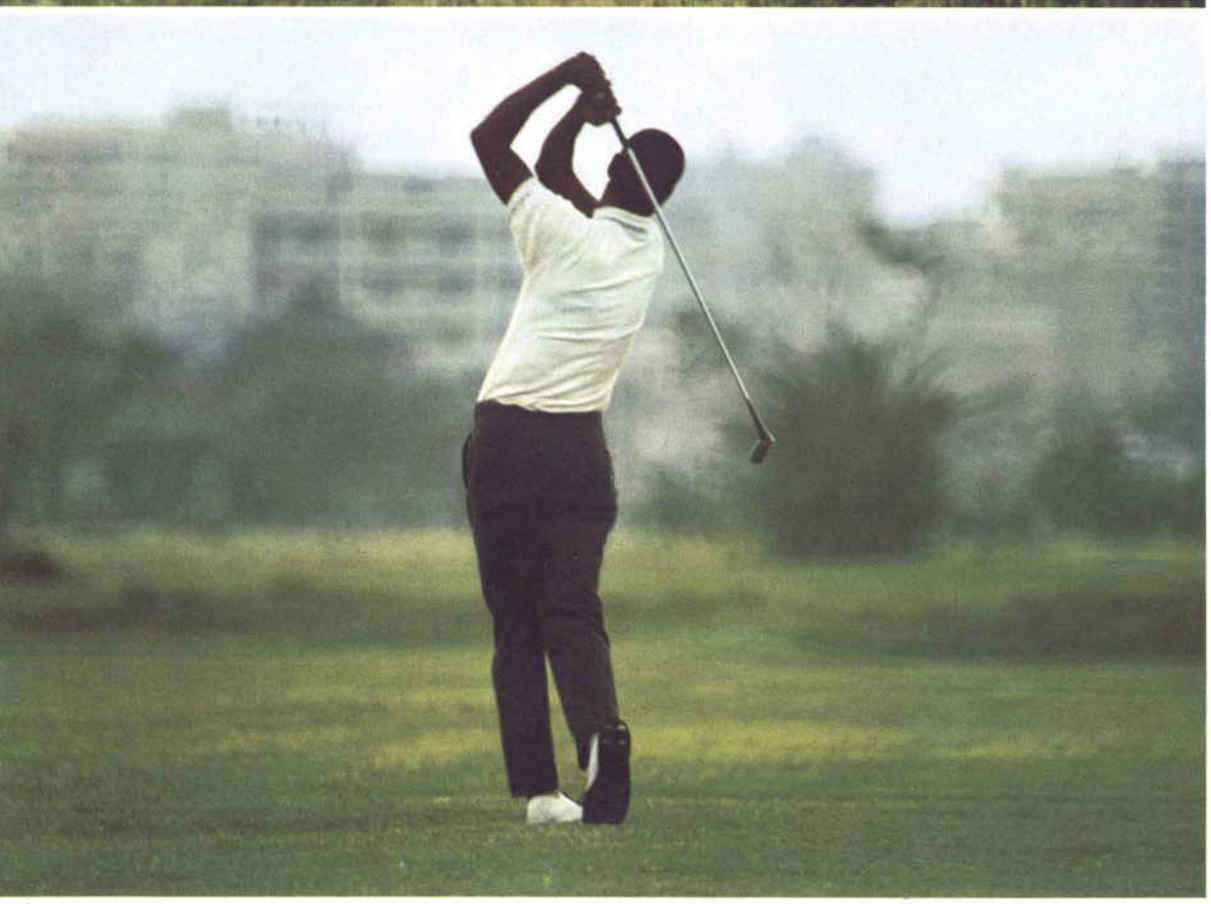
BY DICK SEVERINO/PHOTOGRAPHED BY NIK WHEELER AND ROBERT AZZI







Although it still has a high handicap, golf in the Arab world is definitely out of the rough.



The exact origin of golf is shrouded in the gray reaches of history. Some historians believe it was founded in the Scottish shepherds' habit of hitting stones along the ground with their staffs to pass the time while the flocks grazed. Others think it was a sophisticated version of various stick-and-ball games played in medieval Northern Europe. One such game, Het Kolven, was brought from the Netherlands to Scotland by Dutch traders who crossed the North Sea in the 12th century for the Senzie Fair of St. Andrews, some 300 years before the earliest recorded mention of golf in the mid-1400s.

However it began, golf as we know it today unquestionably was developed in Scotland by Scotsmen on seaside links land, including that which eventually became the most famous golf course in the world, The Old Course at St. Andrews.

Traditionally, golf is played on grass courses comprised of 18 separate and different holes; but the addictive nature of the game is so compelling that golfers construct or contrive courses wherever they find themselves: from sand courses in the desert areas of the Middle East and North Africa, to courses roughed out on ice and snow in the Arctic and Antarctic regions. Where 18 holes are beyond reasonable attainment, courses are usually a standard nine holes, really 'half-courses.' It should be noted, however, that with golf courses, nine plus nine does not automatically equal 18: two separate sets of nine holes do not comprise a regulation 18-hole course.

"Gowff," as it once was called, has come a long way in the 400-odd years since Mary Queen of Scots gamboled at the pastoral pastime back around 1570, contributing royally and fashionably, if controversially, to the promotion of the game. Until about 1850, when James VI brought it to England as a "royal and ancient game," it was played mainly by Scots in Scotland. The British later carried it to the Continent and the colonies, and even to the penal settlements in Australia; wherever the British went, golf went. And so, eventually, it came to the Arab world.

GOLF IN THE ARAB WORLD: The Courses

Golf in the Arab world dates back over 50 years to the World War I period when the British introduced the game in Egypt. Today there are some 50 courses in the Arab nations. They range from the sparse sand courses of Saudi Arabia and the Arabian Gulf, through a variety of so-so grass and sand courses along the Mediterranean littoral, to the verdant new 45-hole complex in Morocco at the Royal Golf Club Dar-es-Salam, near Rabat on the Atlantic coast.

Morocco, primarily because of King Hassan's enthusiasm for the game, leads with 13 courses, five of them 18 holes, all of them grass, nine of them public (open to tourists), in nine different cities. These include the new championship 18-hole Red Course at Dar-es-Salam and an additional 27 holes now under construction which will complete the 45 holes designed by American Robert Trent Jones, considered one of the world's leading golf course architects.

Saudi Arabia, with nine, is, deceptively, next in number, but eight are private courses built for oil company employees and eight are sand courses. Egypt has five; Lebanon and Libya have four each; and the rest are scattered among Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, South Yemen (Little Aden), Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Tunisia and Algeria.

Until Gamal Nasser's accession to power in the 1950's, Egypt, mostly because of strong British presence, was the fountainhead of golf in the Middle East. After the revolutionary government came to power (and failed to place financial support for the Egyptian Golf Federation on its list of priorities, this being before tourism was recognized as an important foreign exchange earner), golf began to wither. Until then, two famous clubs, the Gezira Sporting Club, founded in Cairo in 1882, and the Alexandria Sporting Club, which dates from 1880, constituted the heart of golf in the area. Both were established as horse racing and social clubs, with golf introduced at Gezira about the time of World War I and at Alexandria about 1920. Rough in the beginning, with little if any grass, they were refined and grassed progressively and eventually became respectable 18-hole courses.

In the early 1930's a second 18-hole course was built in Alexandria as part of the development of suburban Smouha City, named after the British entrepreneur who planned it. The golf course, built on reclaimed swampland used for many years as a garbage dump, was part of the Smouha Sports Club. And, like the Gezira and Alexandria Sporting Club courses, it was located in the racetrack infield. The reclaimed swampland nurtured lush turf which remains today the best of all golf grass in the Arab world with the possible exception of that on the new Dar-es-Salam course in Rabat. Walking on the Smouha fairways is like walking on deep-pile carpet.

Several other courses contributed to the development of golf in Egypt. These were the 18-hole course at the old Heliopolis Golf Club, in that "City of Sun" suburb of Cairo, the picturesque nine-hole grass course at the Mena House in the shadow of the pyramids of Giza and several sand courses, now abandoned. These last included the Maadi Sporting Club course outside Cairo where the famous Desert Open was played.

The Egyptian Open Championship, played for the first time in 1921 in Cairo, became an important stop on the annual international professional tournament schedule by 1954 when the great Bobby Locke of South Africa was the winner over a stellar field from home and abroad. The Open, together with the Egyptian Match-Play Championship and other special events, was organized by John Plant, a former British army officer who, as a Cairo resident married to the daughter of a wealthy Egyptian family, was dominant in Egyptian golf affairs for years.

Plant, 1946 Egyptian Open winner and nine times Egyptian amateur champion, drew an outstanding array of established and budding international tournament stars to Egypt, whose presence lent glamour and class to the Egyptian golfing scene. Until 1956, that is, when Bernard Hunt of England won the Open the last time it was an open championship in fact as well as name. After that came the war, the British exodus, and a general decline.

The decline began at the Gezira course, located on government property on Gezira Island in the Nile near downtown Cairo, when the government abruptly cropped the course to nine holes and turned the other nine over to a public sports club for athletics, gymnastics and related youth activities. From a golfer's point of view that well-intended but hasty action constituted a costly waste of well-turfed golf ground which had taken years to develop.

The Alexandria Sporting Club and Smouha Sports Club courses have also suffered in recent years, and today, although Egypt has five courses, they range from mediocre to poor.

Morocco, meanwhile, with a golf history stimulated by American military personnel stationed there after World War II, has forged strongly ahead following young King Hassan's accession to the throne in 1961. His Majesty, who now plays nearly every day on one or another of four invitation-only courses within palace walls at Rabat, Skhirat, Fez and Meknes, has fathered and financed the development of first-class golf facilities.

One of them is the well-known 18-hole seaside links course of the Royal Mohammedia Golf Club on the Atlantic. Another, also 18 holes, is located just outside the colorful city of Marrakesh, 1,300 feet high, where the snowcapped Atlas Mountains overlook the city.

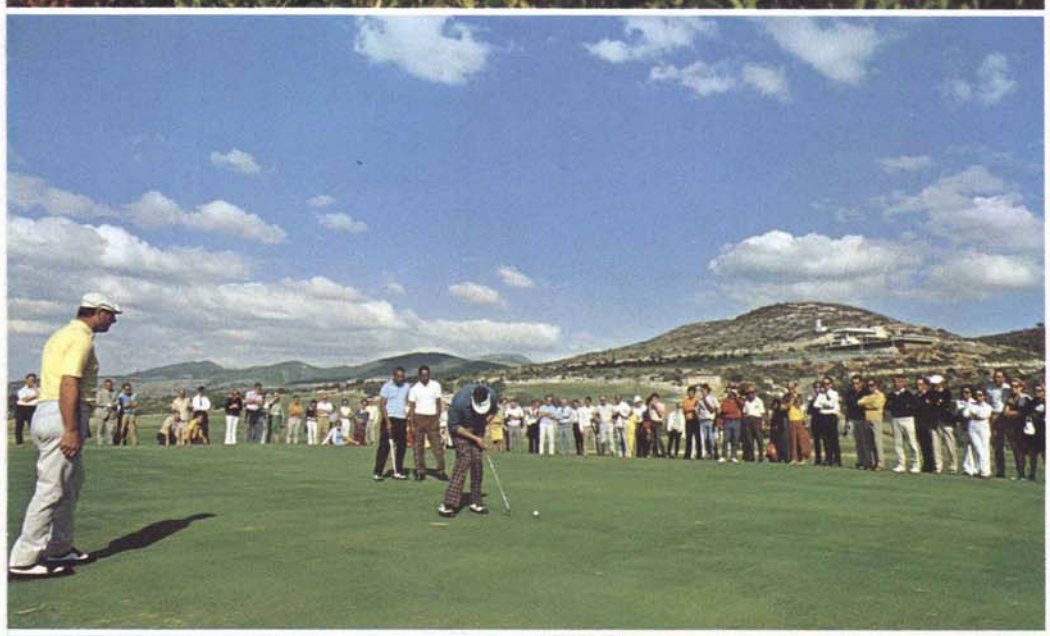
After Morocco comes little Lebanon. This country, smallest of the Arab states except for the shaikhdoms of the Arabian Gulf, is developing as the new golfing center of the Middle East. And this despite the fact there is not yet an 18-hole course in the country.

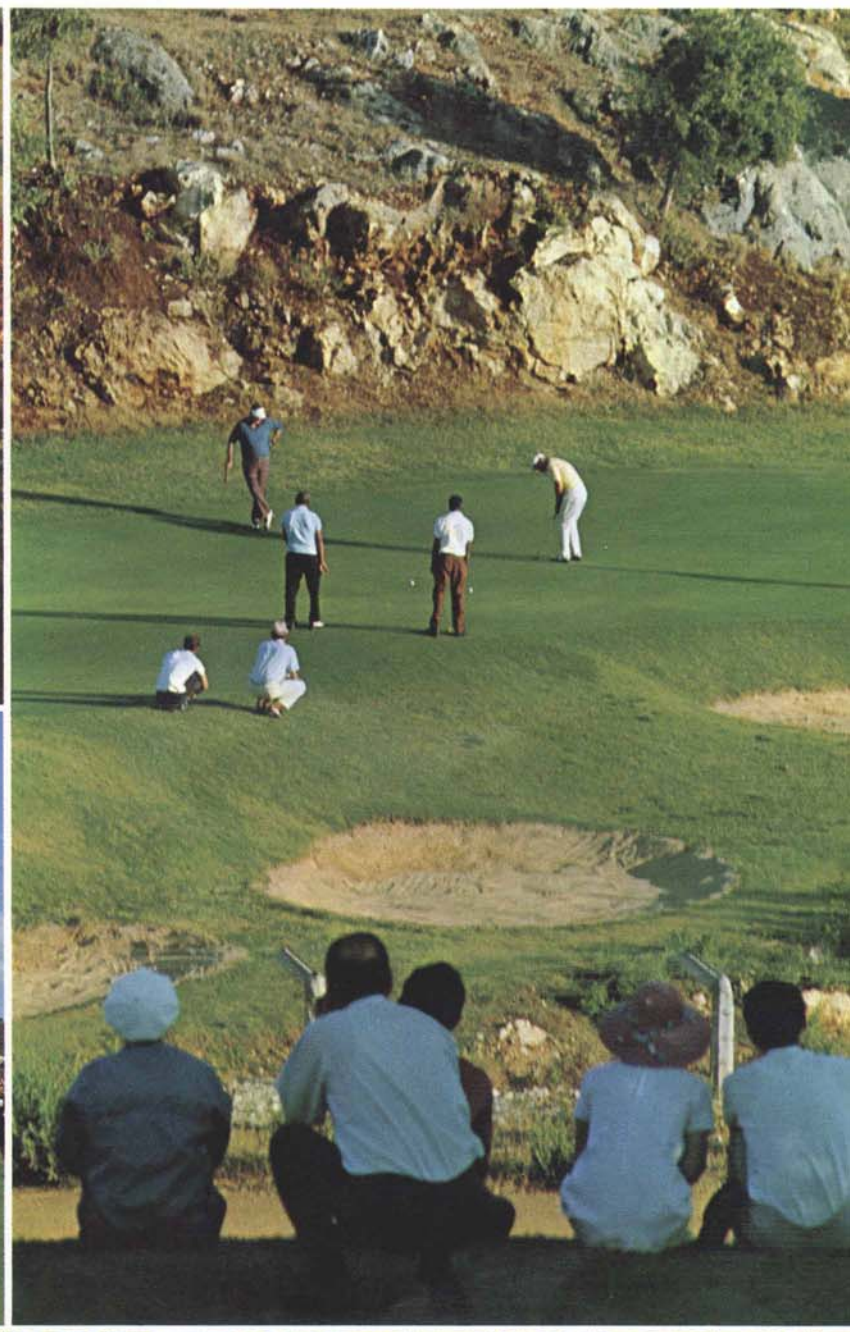
Before 1966 there was hardly any indigenous interest in golf. Nor, with due respect to the then-existent courses, three in number, and the dedicated handful of enthusiasts who devoted time, money and effort to their creation, was there very much in the way of golfing real estate. There was the infamous old sand course at the Beirut Sporting Club and, for employees, the Zahrani Country Club course near Sidon, operated by the Trans-Arabian Pipe Line Company (Tapline), and the Iraq Petroleum Company's private Ras El-Lados course near Tripoli. These two, though only nine holes each, had the basic attractions of grass and greens. The Zahrani course was built informally during 1956-59 near the terminus of the 1100-mile pipeline which originates in Saudi Arabia. Employees based at Sidon and Beirut, including Tapline President Bill Chandler, joined in the manual labor required to develop the course, a labor of love. Similarly, the Ras El-Lados course was built by I.P.C. in the late 1940's at the Mediterranean end of the pipeline which begins in northern Iraq.

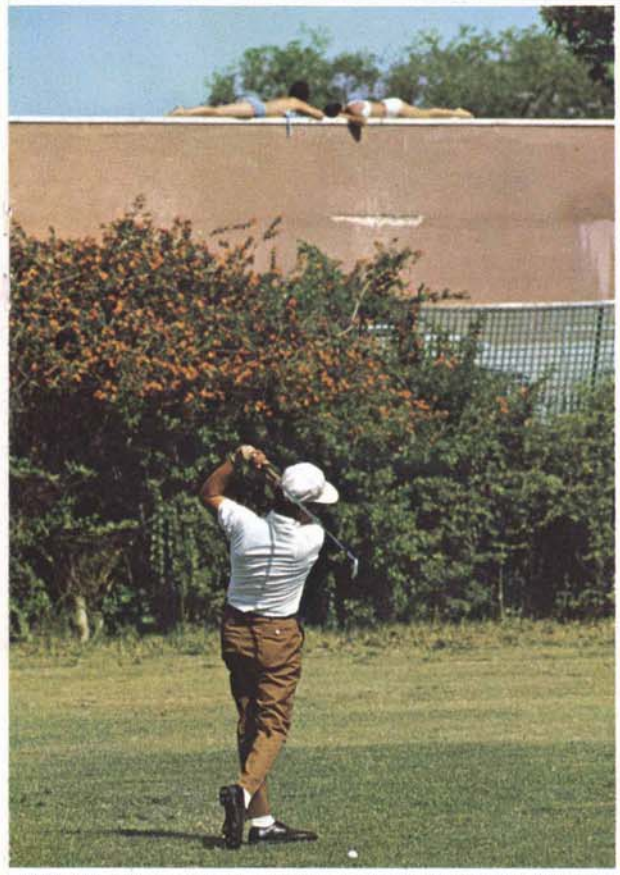
Then, in the 1966-68 period, two new all-grass nine-hole courses were built and opened. One is operated by the Golf Club of Lebanon, successor to the Beirut Sporting Club. This course is located in Ouzai, just outside Beirut. The other is at the Delhamyeh Country Club near Damour, halfway between Beirut and Sidon. Each is open to residents and tourists on a membership or green-fee basis. Of the two, Ouzai, opened in late 1966, a year before Delhamyeh, is more refined, more easily playable, largely because the terrain is more accommodating. Delhamyeh, on the other hand, while more difficult because of the rocky hillside from which the course is carved, is more spectacular, and its clubhouse and related facilities would do credit to Westchester County.

Developed on rolling coastal dunes a few hundred yards from the Mediterranean, the Ouzai course is on land owned by the Lebanese Government and under control of the Department of Civil Aviation because of the nearness of the airport and the low glidepath of approaching aircraft. This setting provides two distinctive features: a network of tall communications towers scattered over the course, which, under the Rules of Golf, play as immovable obstructions, and the sporadic noise of jet aircraft descending on final approach. The basic nine-hole configuration measures 3204 yards and includes a standard assortment of five par-4 holes, two par-3's and two par-5's. Alternate tees and greens provide second-nine variety and bring the 18-hole yardage to 6289, Standard Scratch Score 70, par 36-36-72.

The Delhamyeh course, designed by Hamilton Stutt of England, is 3265 yards, par-36. It is





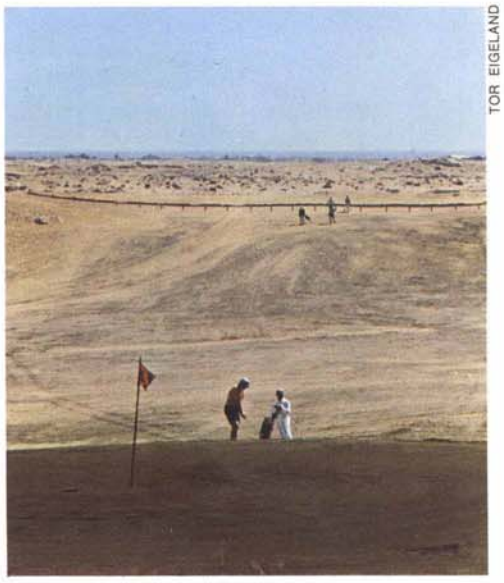


Delhamyeh (three top photos), near Damour, Lebanon, is difficult but interesting to play, with greens and fairways carved out of a rocky hillside above the Mediterranean. The Gezira Club course, on a Nile island in the center of Cairo, has a 90-year history

Swinging in the Sands *Where greens are browns and fairways are hardly fair.*

Golf courses in the Arabian Gulf are something else. The balls are red, the greens are brown and the fairways are more like runways. Only the rough lives up to its name.

The balls are red because in the glare of the desert sun you can't always see a white ball against the sand and rocks. The greens are brown, or sometimes black, because they are made of oil-treated sand. The fairways are hard because they are made of sand or marl sprayed with oil and compacted to preserve them from the desert wind. As for the rough, one golfer put it this way: "There just ain't nothing else out there."



TOR EIGELAND

"Out there," to be sure, embraces an impressive piece of real estate—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Abu Dhabi and Dubai—but the description still fits. With little or no grass or shrubbery or trees, most desert courses do seem to be all "rough." Nevertheless, to the people of Aramco, Tapline, and other companies in the area, the courses, while neither green nor great, are a formidable challenge to the golfer's ingrained determination to play and to score well. And if, to do so, they tend to stretch the basic Rules of Golf, their innovations don't seem unreasonable, considering the course conditions.

Among the 18-hole desert courses the Awali Golf Club course in Bahrain, 6,286 yards, par-71, is generally considered the best. The greens are better, it has trees which help define the course, and the ball can be played as it lies in the rough (on some courses a local-rule free move is permitted, to avoid rocks and buried lies in soft sand).

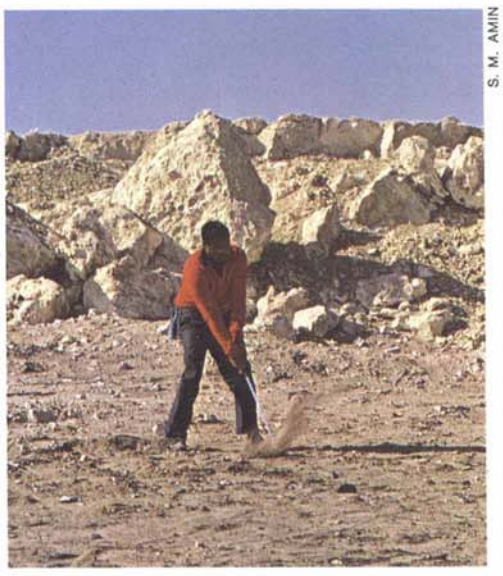
The other four, Aramco's three courses in Saudi Arabia and the Ahmadi Golf Club course in Kuwait, vary in character.

DICK SEVERINO

Of the Aramco courses, Surfside at Ras Tanura, 6175 yards, par-71, part of which borders the Gulf, is the most picturesque; Rolling Hills at Dhahran, formerly 27 holes, now 6018 yards, par-72, has the most rugged terrain; and Ain Nakhl (Palm Springs) at Abqaiq, 6145 yards, par-71, has the best fairways. Ahmadi in Kuwait, 6,100 yards, par-69, has a number of open greens which invite run-up shots. Tapline has 9-hole sand courses at Qaisumah, Badanah and Turaif, all in Saudi Arabia.

In general, all of these courses are more primitive than the old sand courses of Egypt, like the Maadi Sporting Club course near Cairo. There, with Nile River water readily available, the sand fairways and greens were watered and rolled, with no oil used. Though hard, the fairways were smoother, more playable; the rough was not nearly so rocky; and the ball, wherever it might lie, was played without move.

In the Gulf area, once off the tees—usually rubber mats on elevated platforms—getting the ball the rest of the way to the greens in anything like par figures requires a different striking technique. On grass the proper way is to hit down onto the ball with the irons, taking

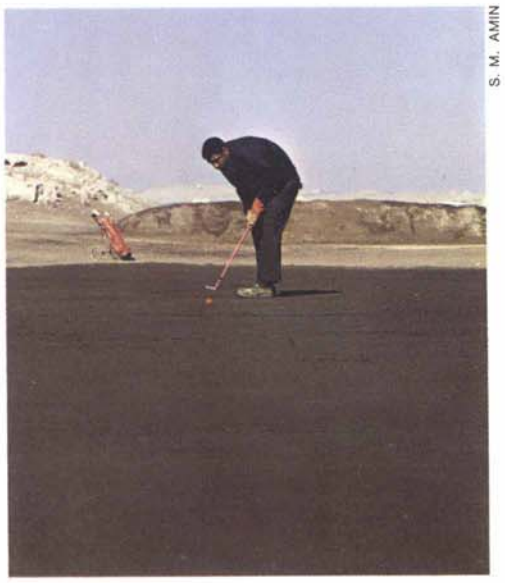


S. M. AMIN

a divot from the turf, impossible on desert courses. Local rules permit you to place the ball in the fairway; and, to hit it well,you have to pick it cleanly from the surface. Otherwise, the clubhead either plows into the sand or bounces off compacted fairway material, killing the shot.

Playing from portable artificial-turf mats, with the ball placed on the mat for every shot, is a special innovation. Mats are controversial, however, and are prohibited on some courses, probably in response to the axiom that if you want to play well on these courses, you must sacrifice your clubs on the altar of success. If you worry about damaging them, your score will suffer and the clubs won't fare any better.

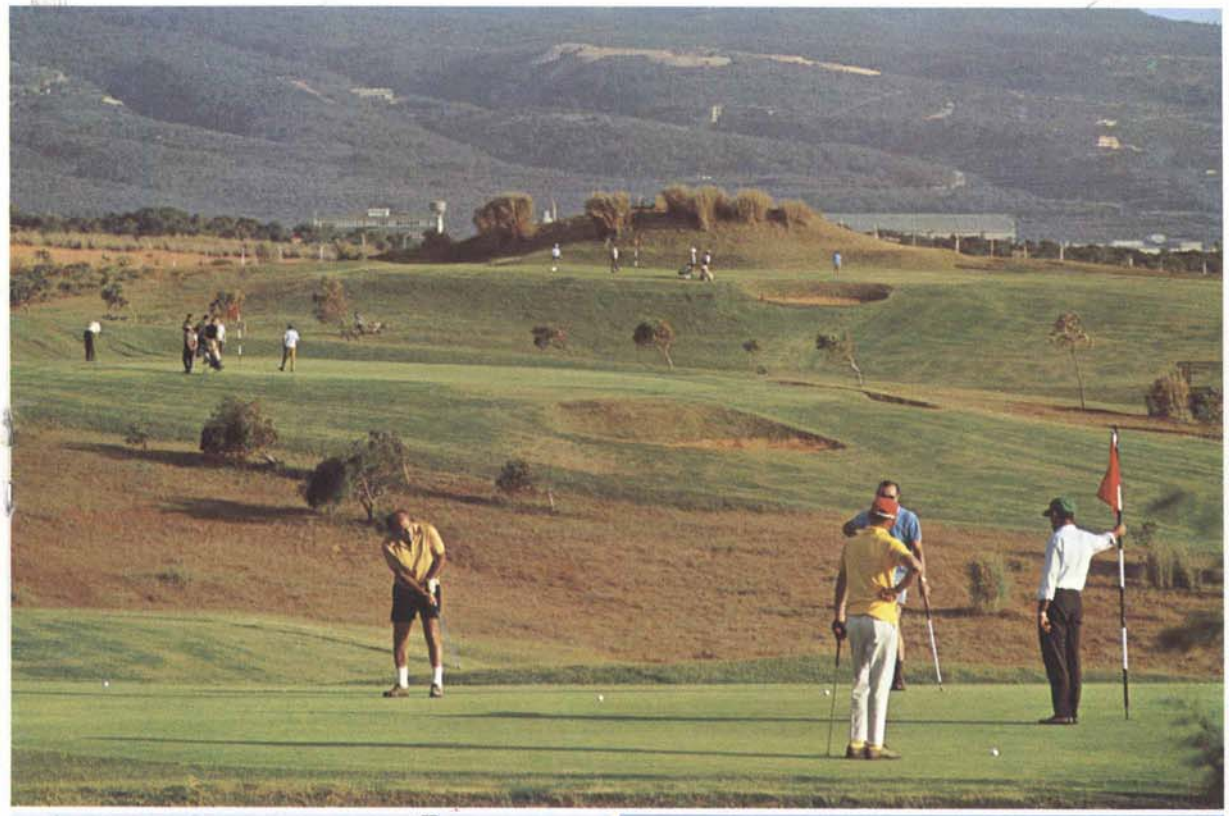
Where local rules do not permit moving the ball in the rough, fairway limits are indicated by wires, cables, lines or stakes, without which it is difficult to determine

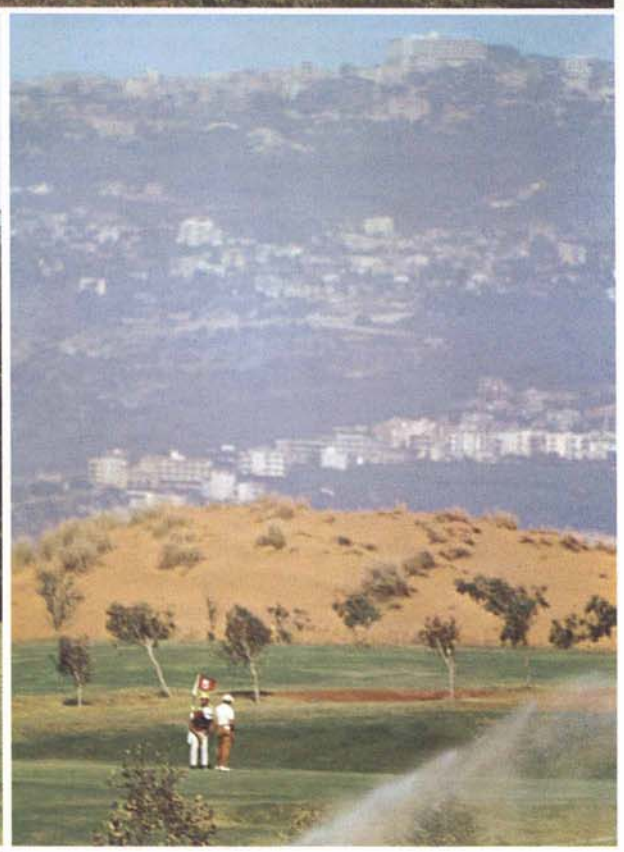


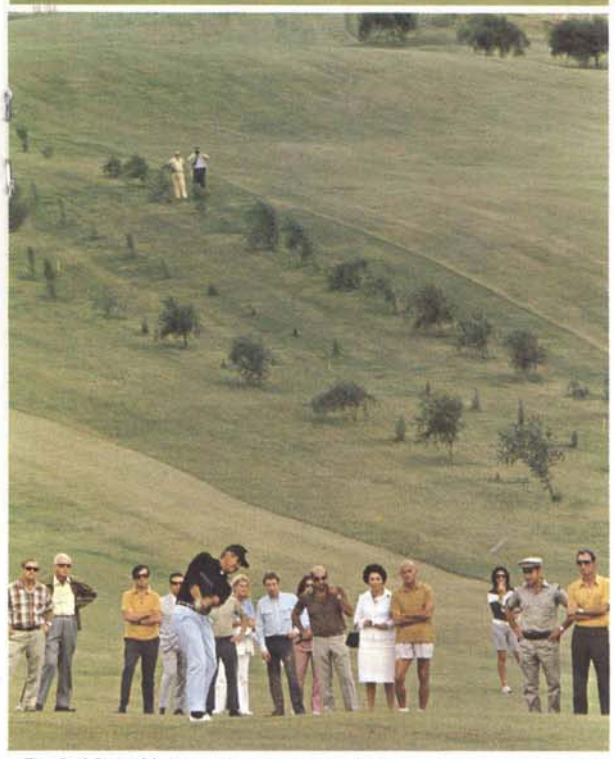
S. M. AMIN

where the rough begins. The greens are usually bounded by white-limed lines, and local rules permit them to be swept or dragged to eliminate footprints on the sand surface. Spiked shoes are not permitted.

The courses have bunkers (as if the rest of the sand wasn't enough), a limited number of artificial water hazards, and other local features. They sometimes also have moving diversions: camels, donkeys, goats, sheep and their keepers, wandering at will across the line of play. One of the better lady golfers of Aramco, in search of a birdie, drove a ball soundly down the middle and felled a sheep. It was an expensive shot. She was obliged to buy the sheep, and the negotiated price came to something like $40 in Saudi riyals. Such is the way of golf in the Gulf.—D.S.







The Golf Club of Lebanon (four views, above) has nine holes on coastal dunes.

The Alexandria Sporting Club features horse racing, tennis, as well as golf.

characterized by sharply-slanting Bermuda grass fairways, rockstrewn rough, and Zosia Japonica greens which break so sharply toward the sea that on some the ball turns uphill. It begins and ends at an elevation of 1000 feet, with the Mediterranean shimmering below in the distance.

Saudi Arabia has a special place in Arab world golf as the locale of the largest number of sand courses. Of the nine courses in the kingdom, eight are sand. Of these, three are 18 holes each, and one is six. Except for the six-hole course, which lies within the U.S. Embassy compound in Jiddah, all the courses in the country were built by Aramco, Tapline and the Arabian Oil Company (Japanese) for use by employees. The ninth course is the 9-hole Bedouin Hills course at Rafha, the only green course on the Arabian Peninsula. Designed by John Arnold, Tapline resident station manager, the course measures 2650 yards, par-33. With alternate tees, it is set up to play to 5700 yards, par-65, for 18 holes. Though relatively short, with the longest hole 395 yards, the existence of a grass course in this remote desert location is a tribute to Arnold and his colleagues who planned and built it. This same golfing enthusiast, incidentally, assisted in developing the Zahrani course back when he was stationed with Tapline in Lebanon.

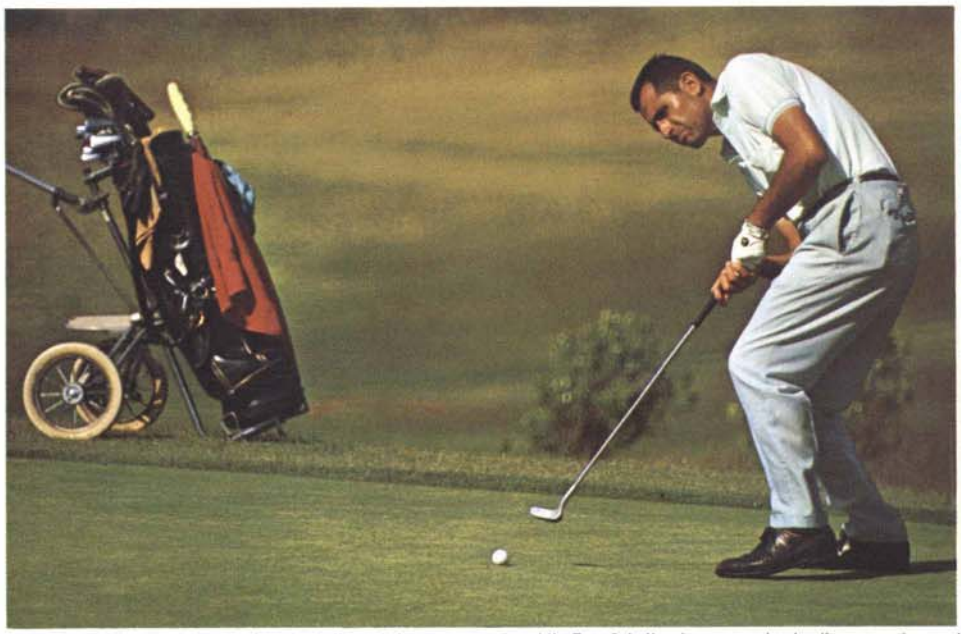
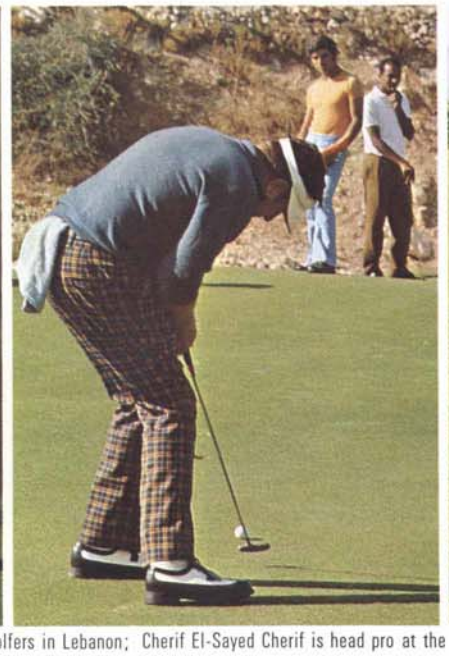
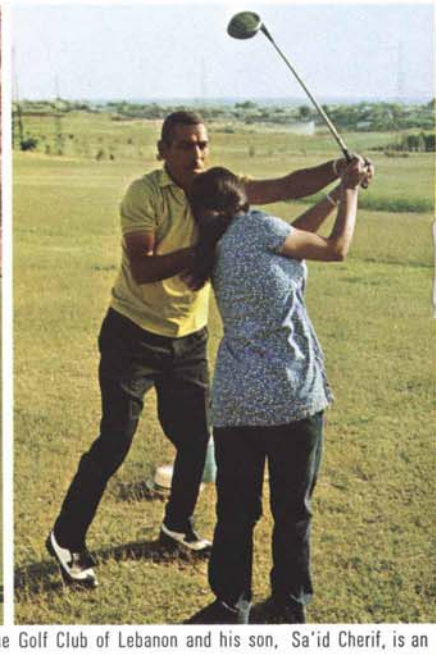
Bahrain, with the Bahrain Petroleum Company's 18-hole Awali Golf Club course, and a 9-hole course at the Rifa'a Golf Club, and Kuwait, with the Kuwait Oil Company's 18-hole Ahmadi Golf Club course and others, add to the complex of unique desert courses in that part of the world. (See box.) So too, do Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Qatar, each with one 9-hole course. Elsewhere in the Arab Middle East, there are no courses which merit particular attention. Nor, between Egypt and Morocco, are there many worthy of note in North Africa.

The four courses in Libya are all sand, two 18 holes, two nine. The longer ones are at the Tripoli Golf Club (6224 yards) and Tajura Golf Club (5500 yards) near the former Wheelus Air Force Base at Tripoli. There is a nine-hole course at the Benghazi Golf Club, and another, built by Esso, at Brega on the Mediterranean coast halfway between Tripoli and Benghazi. Neither Tunisia nor Algeria has much to offer golfers today, but Tunisia is interested in developing golf as a tourist attraction along the pattern established by Spain and followed by Morocco.

In summary, golf facilities in the Arab countries are still scant, but generally speaking, the game is definitely on the move. Progress, though slow and uneven, is being stimulated by two groups: the local golfers, who desire better courses, and government tourist organizations, which want to attract international golfers. When properly promoted and coordinated, these interests can reap happy rewards: local golfers spur the tourist department to help build and, when new facilities become available, they not only attract the tourists, but stimulate young people in the country to learn the game.

Government agencies? International jet-setters? It's a far cry from the time when Scottish shepherds knocked stones about with a stick. ■

GOLF IN THE ARAB WORLD: The Players

From left to right: Dr. Marcel Prince is the best Lebanese amateur, while Tom Schuller is among the leading expatriate golfers in Lebanon; Cherif El-Sayed Cherif is head pro at the Golf Club of Lebanon and his son, Sa'id Cherif, is an

The men who brought golf to the Arab countries were mostly British and American: diplomats, soldiers, oilmen, salesmen and teachers. Although a few well-to-do Arabs took to the game enthusiastically, participation of the kind seen, for example, in Japan, was limited by several socio-economic and climatic conditions. The most obvious is that golf is a costly game, requiring expensive equipment and large areas of specially-prepared and tended ground.

Originally, Arabs who could afford the game found little appeal in it. And the policy of exclusiveness practiced by some foreigners was hardly encouraging, either to the rich or to the caddies who inevitably grew interested in the game. And although golf was played in Egypt since World War I and the annual Egyptian Open Championship was inaugurated in 1921, it was not until 1947 that Khattab Hassan, a former caddy from the Alexandria Sporting Club, became the first Egyptian to win. Hassan's victory, however, was a turning point. His triumph was matched soon after by other Egyptian victories. The most notable were those of the late great Hassan Hassanein, who became the most famous of all Egyptian golfers and thus far the best produced in the Arab world. (See box.) Hassanein, in turn, was followed on the international scene by Cherif El-Sayed Cherif, his former assistant at the Gezira Sporting Club in Cairo, who beat him by one stroke in the 1955 Egyptian Professional Championship, and Mohammed Said Moussa, who beat him in the 1955 Desert Open.

Cherif was a protégé of Britisher John Plant, nine times Egyptian amateur champion. Both Cherif and Moussa have played for Egypt 13 times in the Canada Cup/World Cup tournaments in Europe, Asia, the Americas, Australia and, most recently, in 1971, at Palm Beach Gardens. Moussa has won the Egyptian Open ten times since 1958, including the past three years running, and Cherif won twice, in 1959 and 1968. The very popular Cherif, 48 and father of nine children, is particularly adept at maintaining and developing courses. He was at the Golf Club of Lebanon from 1969 to 1971 on loan from Gezira, where he is head professional, supervising development of the new Ouzai course. He now divides his time between the two courses. Moussa, known familiarly as "Doche," started out as a caddy at the old Heliopolis Golf Club in Cairo. Now 38 and head professional at the Alexandria Sporting Club, he is clearly the best Arab golfer today.

Cherif, Moussa and Hassanein all came from the caddy ranks. And so, too, have all the assistant professionals at the Egyptian clubs. In fact, the Egyptian pros at the two leading clubs in Lebanon, Ibrahim Yussuf, at Ouzai near Beirut, and Farouk Yussuf (no relation), at Delhamyeh, both started as caddies in Alexandria. In Morocco and Libya also, today's native-born professionals are all former caddies.

Morocco has played in the World Cup tournament every year since 1965, with the exception of 1966, represented at different times by four professionals: Omar Ben El-Harcha, Benrokia Massaoud, Malouki M'Bark and Meskine Hajaj. El-Harcha and Massaoud played together in 1971 at Palm Beach Gardens. Assaidi Bouazza, 19, is a promising youngster said to have pro potential, who represented Morocco in the International Grand Prix at Rabat last December.

Libya, playing in the World Cup tournament first in 1970 and again in 1971, was represented both times by 36-year-old Muftah Salem and 49-year-old Hussein Abdulmullah. Salem, who used to caddy at the Wheelus Air Force Base course, is now the pro at the Tripoli Golf Club. Abdulmullah, formerly at the Smouha Sports Club in Alexandria, is at the Benghazi Golf Club. A third Libyan professional is Mafud Wali, at Tripoli's Tajura Golf Club.

But important as the pros are to the game, the world of golf revolves on the axis of amateur play, around the millions of amateur golfers who have handicaps in the medium-to-high range, who play primarily for recreation and exercise, and who support their clubs in spirit and in funds.

In Egypt, the first notable amateur was Dr. Zakaria Taher, a Cairo ophthalmologist, the former Gezira Club champion, twice runner-up to John Plant in the Egyptian Amateur Championship, and 1960 Eisenhower Cup player for Egypt. Others were Edgar Agami, Habib Sursock and Charles De Zogheb. Sursock, a Swiss-educated, all-round athlete from a wealthy Egyptian family, played on the British Olympic ice-hockey team in the 1936 Winter Games in Garmisch-Partenkirchen. De Zogheb, former champion at both the Alexandria Sporting Club and Smouha Sports Club, was one of Alexandria's best players.

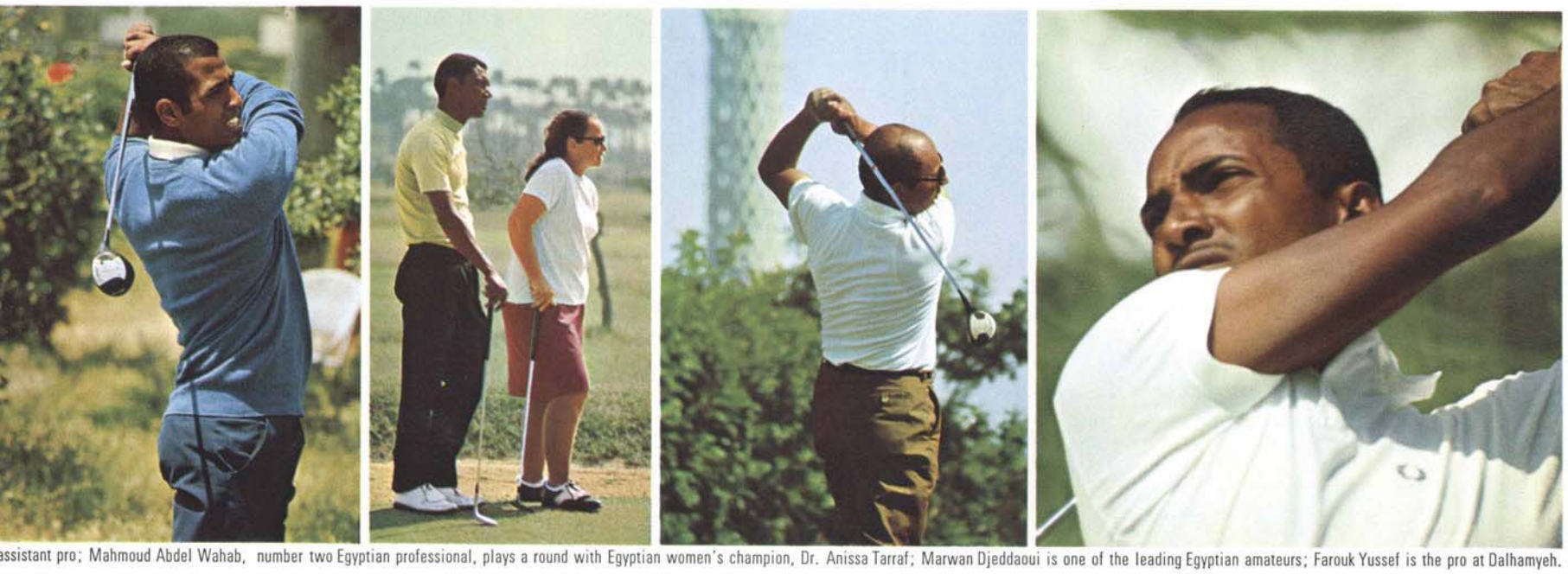
Currently, Egypt's best amateurs are Marwan Djeddaoui and Ayman Faransawi, both from Cairo. Djeddaoui, 36, who has won the amateur championship several times and played for Egypt in the 1960 Eisenhower Cup matches at Merion, near Philadelphia, has a 1 handicap. He works as Middle East representative for an American optical equipment manufacturer. Faransawi, who is a private in the Egyptian army, also has a 1 handicap. He is, at 32, the current amateur champion.

On the distaff side, Beatrice Stergiou, now a teaching professional at the Glyfada Golf Club of Athens, won the ladies' championship of Egypt repeatedly before moving to Greece after 1956. The best lady golfer in Egypt today is Anissa Tarraf. She is a doctor and married to a man who shares her enthusiasm for the game, Dr. Nur El Din Tarraf—the president of the Egyptian Golf Federation.

Morocco claims the most prominent amateur Arab golfer, of course, in the person of King Hassan, who, according to former U.S. Open and Masters Champion Billy Casper, who plays with the King frequently, scores between 72 and 85 on the palace courses and encourages an active amateur program, including free training for juniors and a full calendar of national and international competitions.

Libya, still without a grass course, is not nearly as far along, but still managed, in 1971, to send players to open and amateur events in Egypt, Lebanon and Greece.

Hadi Sassi, 23, a mechanic from Tripoli who played for Libya in the 1968 Eisenhower Cup matches at



assistant pro; Mahmoud Abdel Wahab, number two Egyptian professional, plays a round with Egyptian women's champion, Dr. Anissa Tarraf; Marwan Djeddaoui is one of the leading Egyptian amateurs; Farouk Yussef is the pro at Dalhamyeh.

The Barefoot Caddy

Hassan Hassanein was born in 1916 in Cairo, where he began golf as a barefoot caddy at the old Heliopolis sand course. From that unlikely beginning, he developed into a topflight international professional, successful in tournaments in Great Britain, Europe and the United States. On home ground in Egypt he was equally adept on grass or sand. A likeable man, known affectionately to many as "Doc," he was a splendid ambassador of good will for Egypt and Egyptian golf.

He won his country's Open four times in a row, 1949 through 1952, beating Britain's Max Faulkner, Alf Padgham, Jimmy Adams and John Jacobs, Australia's Norman Von Nida, Belgium's Flory Van Donck, and other world-famous pros. He also defeated the great Von Nida, then in his prime, in the final of the 1951 Egyptian Match Play Championship.

Hassanein won the Italian Open at Villa d'Este in 1949 and the French Open at St. Cloud in 1951, and qualified three times for the final round of the British Open. His best showing in that blue-ribbon event was when Ben Hogan won at Carnoustie in 1953 and he tied for 17th among 196 entries. He played for Egypt in the Canada Cup tournament in 1955 at Washington and 1956 at Wentworth, and three times in George May's World Championship at Tam O'Shanter in Chicago. On the sand front, he won the Desert Open in Egypt every year from 1946 through 1956, except 1955, when he was second by one stroke in that famous 72-hole event played annually at Maadi, near Cairo.

Hassanein died suddenly at 40, when a kerosene cook stove exploded as he primed it. His tragic death deprived Egypt and the golf world of a truly great sports personality. The eminent English golf writer Henry Longhurst wrote of him in the Sunday Times: "His playing record must make him unchallengeably the best Oriental golfer in the game's history." That, coming from Longhurst, stands as a fitting epitaph. —D.S.

Melbourne, is the 1971 amateur champion of Libya. He was also medalist in the International Amateur Championship of Greece played at Athens last October. Abdullah Zakhouzi, 25, a mechanic; Milad Gamoudi, 23, a technician; and Abdul Saddeq, 25, with the Libyan Air Force, are other members of the Eisenhower Cup team. All are from Tripoli and, like Sassi, are former caddies from Wheelus.

Lebanon, which next to Morocco is moving most rapidly in the Arab world of golf, has approximately 400 active amateur players, including ladies and juniors, but less than a quarter so far are actually Lebanese. Most are resident foreigners. Still, this reflects considerable progress in a country which before 1967 had very few indigenous golfers.

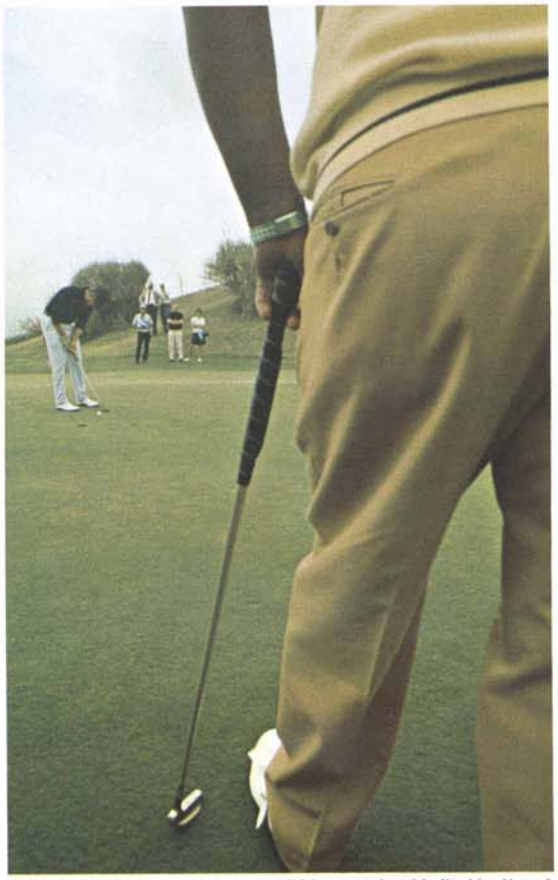
Tom Schuller, the American president of Beirut's International College, and Tom Hauff, an American insurance executive living in Beirut, are current champions at the two clubs. The ladies' championship at Ouzai has been won either by Claude Bulos or June Zananiri in the six times it has been played since the 1967 inaugural. Both originally come from Egypt.

Probably the best Lebanese golfer today is Dr. Marcel Prince, 44, chief surgeon of the Lebanese Army, with the rank of major. Prince was formerly medical director for Tapline in Saudi Arabia, based at the company's hospital at Badanah from 1957-65. He learned golf on the sand courses of Arabia, improved in the United States while on a medical training program, and plays today from a handicap of 9. Among the foreign players, by comparison, Hauff is handicapped at 4, Schuller at 5 and Richard Adham, an 18-year-old senior at Beirut's American Community School, the lowest in Lebanon at 2.

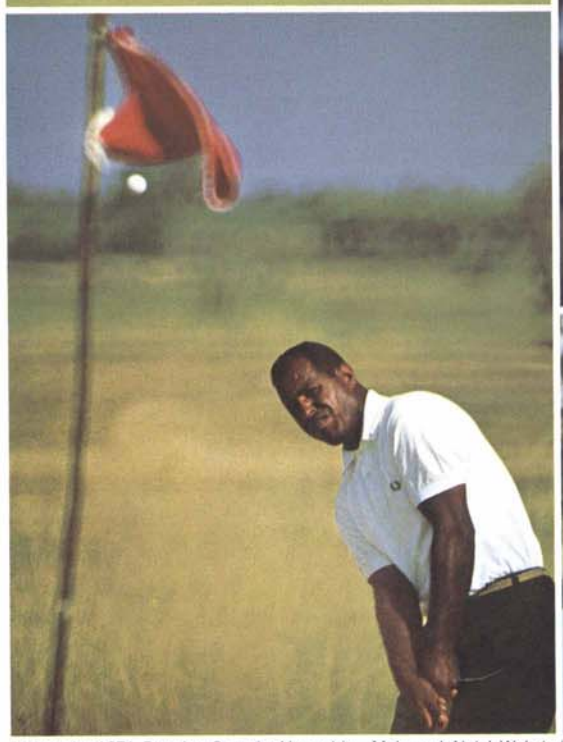
In Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Kuwait, Dave Worsham of Aramco at Ras Tanura, Dr. Peter McGregor of the Bahrain Oil Company at Awali, and Tony Redshaw of the Kuwait Oil Company at Ahmadi, seem to be the three best. Worsham, with a one handicap, was formerly an assistant pro at Kansas City. He took second place in the 36-hole 1972 Aramco Invitational tournament held at Surfside in Ras Tanura this April, which was won by Barry Davetta, British pro at Rolling Hills. Several indigenous players show rising promise. Among these are Mohammed Ahmed Abdullah, handicap 3, at the Rifa'a Golf Club in Bahrain, winner of the 1972 Bahrain Open; Abdullah Zayid, handicap 5, and Khalil Ali, handicap 11, of Aramco at Dhahran; and Suliman Othman, handicap 14, of Tapline at Rahfa.

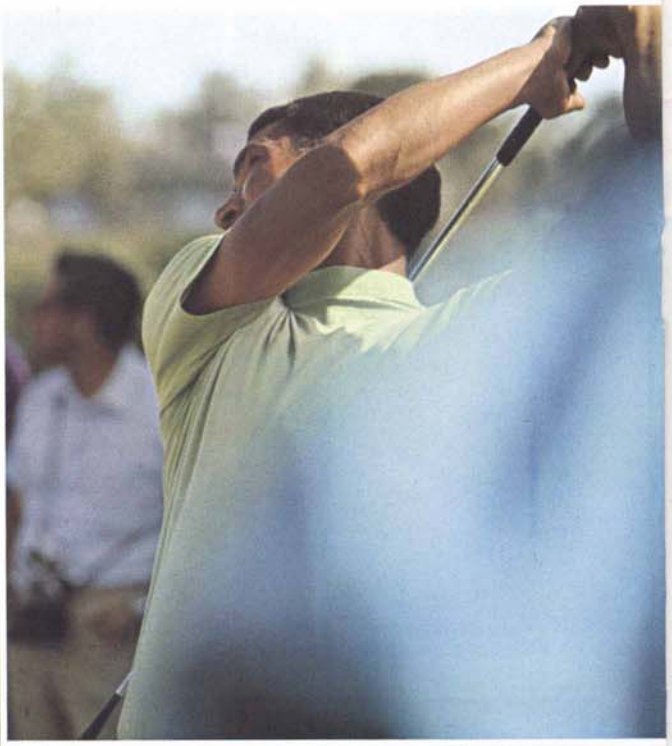
No account of the spread of golf in the Arab world would be complete without referring to the contribution of the oil companies operating between the Mediterranean and the Arabian Gulf. Back in 1953 sports-minded management in several of the companies formed the Middle East Oil Industry Golf Association to promote the development of golf in the area through inter-company tournaments. Members included Aramco and Tapline, and oil companies operating in Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar. The organization was eventually disbanded, but not before it had introduced golf to many new players and spectators around the Middle East. ■

GOLF IN THE ARAB WORLD: The Events



Left-hander Tom Hauff plays an exhibition match with Ibrahim Yussef.





During the 1971 Egyptian Open in Alexandria, Mahmoud Abdel Wahab (top photos) was runner-up to Egyptian pro Mohammed Sa'id Moussa (lower views).

Among the 46 countries that sent teams to the 19th annual World Cup tournament in Florida last November, only three were Arab.

And when the tournament ended, the scoreboard showed that Egypt, playing for the 17th time, finished 26th. Morocco, in her sixth World Cup appearance, was 40th; and Libya, playing only the second time, was 42nd. At no time, obviously, were winners Jack Nicklaus and Lee Trevino in any danger of an Arab upset.

The final standings, however, are not important. What matters is not how the Arabs placed, but that they played. Participation in this prestigious event is by invitation only, and through participation, Arab identification with the game was projected worldwide. Even better, the International Golf Association, which sponsors and conducts the World Cup, is considering an invitation to a fourth Arab nation—Lebanon—this year or next.

But although the World Cup tournament serves as an important showcase for Arab golf, it is the golf events within, between and among the Arab nations which do most to foster the growth of the game in the area, and such events are more numerous every year.

Without question, the most spectacular golf happening within the far-flung boundaries of Arab geography is the International Grand Prix of Morocco which, last year, was played in December at the Royal Golf Club Dar-es-Salam near Rabat. Only the Egyptian Open Championships and related events of 1954-56, when golf in Egypt reached its zenith, were remotely comparable.

The Grand Prix was a $50,000 72-hole professional tournament, $12,000 first prize, with a 54-hole celebrity pro-am included. An invitational affair patterned on the celebrated Bob Hope Desert Classic, it was hosted by King Hassan II to publicize the opening of the new course. The 25 invited professionals from the United States, Great Britain, Europe and North Africa included tournament stars Sam Snead, Billy Casper, Tony Jacklin and winner Orville Moody. Arab entries were Cherif El-Sayed Cherif from Egypt and Morocco's promising young pro, Assaidi Bouazza.

This tournament, the richest ever held in Africa or Continental Europe, was such an all-around success that King Hassan, with a business eye focused on the international golf-tourist market which nearby Spain is tapping so successfully, plans to make it an annual event; he wants the world to know what Morocco has to offer.

The only other professional tournament in the Arab world is the Egyptian Open. Played annually since 1921, except for World War II years 1940-44 and 1957 following the Suez War, this once-colorful championship has fallen on hard times. It still carries on the tradition, but as the faintest shadow of what it was. The 1971 event won by Mohammed Said Moussa at the old Smouha Course in Alexandria, bore little relation to the pre-1957 Egyptian Opens which attracted strong fields of foreign professionals. Those fields included South Africans Bobby Locke, already three-time British Open Champion when he won the 1954 Egyptian Open and Match Play Championships, and Gary Player, winner of the 1955 Match Play Championship; and England's Ryder Cup player Bernard Hunt, who won the Open in 1956 at the Gezira Sporting Club in Cairo.

These and other quality professionals came to Egypt for two reasons: the prize money, though not exceptional, was worthwhile; and the Egyptian climate and hospitality were inviting to sun-seeking tournament players from colder and gloomier winter climes. When Locke won the 1954 Open, total prize money was 2,000 Egyptian pounds, 350 to the winner; when Hunt won in 1956, first prize was 500 pounds. And in those days the Egyptian pound was on a par with sterling.

In contrast, total prize money in 1971 was 290 Egyptian pounds, 80 to the winner. It was only a pittance, but it showed the near-destitute Egyptian Golf Federation's determination to keep the Open alive. It was no wonder, therefore, that Moussa, winning his 10th Open by 12 strokes, had only to prevail over a field which, except for several players from neigh-

boring Libya, was entirely Egyptian. At those prices, foreign professionals were not interested in the Egyptian sunshine.

Among the amateurs, who are the backbone of golf worldwide, competition in the Arab countries follows the same basic pattern as elsewhere: club, interclub, national and international championships, and an assortment of special events, both individual and team, for men, women and juniors, scratch and handicap. Here, too, though lacking Egypt's years of tradition, Morocco leads the pack with the best organized and most colorful competition—the International Amateur Championship of Morocco, a combined individual and team tournament.

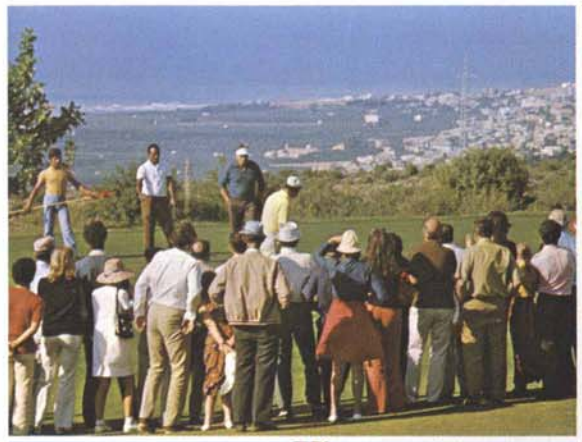
Egypt and Libya both have annual national championships, but no international championships. Lebanon, with no golf federation, no 18-hole course, and unfortunately what often seems to be a vacuum of coordination and competition between the two leading clubs, lacks even a national championship. Competitions in Lebanon are limited to individual club championships, regular monthly medal handicap programs, and a variety of annual events, mostly handicap, sponsored either by the clubs or by individual or company members.

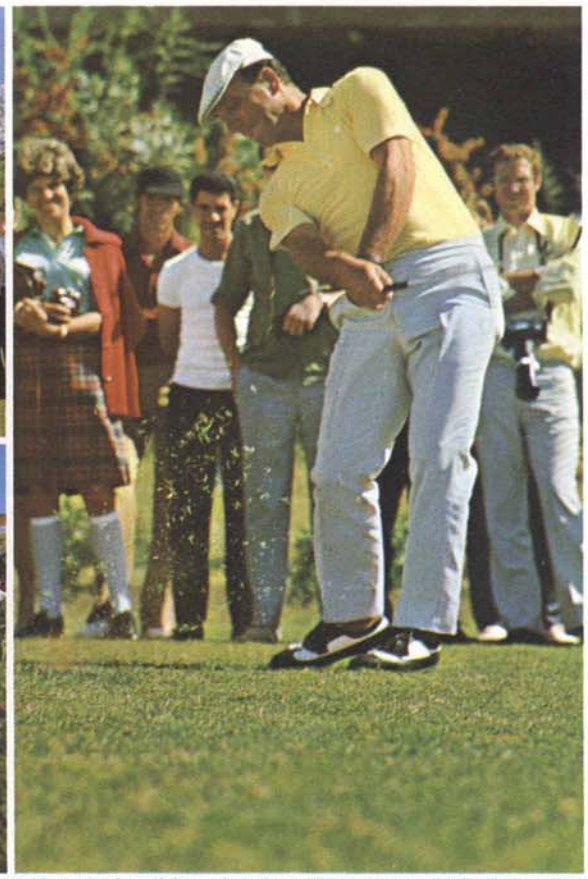
In the absence of a golf federation, Delhamyeh has taken the lead in promoting inter-club competition. Each spring the club hosts the Dunlop Spring Cup, a stroke-play handicap event, and in the fall the Wilson Cup, a Stableford team competition. Both events, open to members of all golf clubs in Lebanon, were inaugurated in 1970. The Korea Cup, another individual handicap event open to all clubs, was played first in 1971. It is sponsored by Minister Hogan Yoon, chief of mission for the Republic of Korea in Lebanon. Looking abroad, last year the Delhamyeh club introduced the General Electric tournament, sponsored by that company's local agency, an annual scratch international amateur championship open to all amateur golfers in the world.

In contrast to Delhamyeh, the Golf Club of Lebanon has no open competitions. It does, however, have the McAuley Cup tournament, an event steeped in local sentiment and named after Noel McAuley, an Irish pilot who, with compatriots Bluey Gardiner and Rex King-Hall organized a St. Patrick's Day party at the old Beirut sand course in 1963. The program included a Greensome (green for Ireland) golf competition for teams representing individual countries. Included, too, were Irish stew, Irish coffee and Irish songs. It was to be a real party, an Irish "do."

But Noel McAuley never made it. Two days before St. Patrick's day he crashed in Teheran and died.

When the news reached Beirut, first reaction was to cancel the party. Then McAuley's friends, deciding he would rather be remembered with laughter than tears, announced that the party would go on. And so was born a tradition. In 1972, 54 teams representing 14 nations played in the 10th annual McAuley Cup tournament, including 14 Lebanese teams. This is a measure of the spread of the gospel of golf in Lebanon.





Master golfer Roberto de Vicenzo visited Lebanon last year (above, at Dalhamyeh), conducting clinics and playing exhibition rounds with local champions.

Looking to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain, these desert and oilfield countries have a 20-year history of company and intercompany competitions on the various sand courses. Most important today are the Bahrain Open, inaugurated in 1964; the Aramco Invitational Tournament, inaugurated in 1965; and the Kuwait Open, inaugurated in 1966. All are played annually. Though the Bahrain and Kuwait events are open, they are, in effect, international amateur championships, since professionals seldom participate, and there is negligible prize money if they do.

The Rahfa Golf Classic is the most recent addition to the competition schedule in Saudi Arabia. Played at the Bedouin Hills Golf Club at Rahfa on the pipeline, it is unique because Bedouin Hills has the only grass golf course in Arabia. The first Classic, played in November 1971, attracted 33 Aramco and Tapline personnel and guests and was won by Ed Ritter, a six-handicap Tapline golfer originally from Oklahoma City.

A special event of particular note was last fall's exhibition appearance in Lebanon by Roberto de Vicenzo of Argentina. One of the world's master golfers, extraordinarily popular, de Vicenzo is winner of 166 tournaments in 30 years of professional play, including 40 national open championships in 15 different countries, among them the 1967 British Open. He twice won the individual International Trophy in the World Cup tournament, in 1962 and 1970.

Visiting Lebanon under the joint auspices of the Minister of Tourism, the Golf Club of Lebanon and Delhamyeh Country Club, with cooperation from Middle East Airlines, which actively promotes golf in Lebanon, de Vicenzo conducted clinics and played exhibitions at both clubs, generating publicity for golf as a developing tourist attraction.

Most important of all golf events in the Arab world, however, are the thousands of rounds of everyday social play by club members every year. Many of these never play in formal competitions; others compete only occasionally and most casually; the majority are high-handicap players who bear the frustrations of the game with an enormous sense of propriety. To them, the most important thing about golf is that it is their game and they are playing it, even if not particularly well. Many play and enjoy it as though they are addicted. And if the course and weather are not ideal, well, never mind, it's golf, the game which Andrew Carnegie once described as an "indispensable adjunct of high civilization," and golf historian Herbert Warren Wind described as "the best game man ever devised." ■

Dick Severino is one contributor to this issue who has actually indulged in sport as well as writing about it. He boxed and played football at Cornell, drove bobsleds in six world-championship races and was on the U.S. bobsled team in the 1952 Winter Olympics. Now living in Beirut, he writes regularly for Golf Features Service and Golf World *magazine.*

The stands are packed with fans, including many of Riyadh's foreign community and, to offer his encouragement to the breeding of Arabian horses, His Majesty King Faisal, escorted by an honor guard. The King personally presented the impressiv

THEY'RE OFF! in Riyadh *Saudi Arabia's King's Cup*

BY BRAINERD S. BATES

America has its Kentucky Derby, England its Royal Ascot and France, every June, the Grand Prix de Paris at Longchamps. Now, though its tradition is at least 160 years younger, Saudi Arabia's King's Cup, run each spring in Riyadh, is not only off and running, but coming up fast.

As well it might. The Arabs of Arabia have long taken pride in the special breed of horse which bears their name and racing is one of their oldest sports. But instead of a few nomads gathering on a stretch of sand, now there is a formal, regulated race presided over by His Majesty King Faisal and offering a schedule of races like these: **1.** the 1,500 Saudi-riyal ($333) Riyadh prize, 1,200 meters (0.744 of a mile), six entries; **2.** 2,000 riyals ($444), 1,500 meters (0.930 of a mile) 12 entries. **3.** SR 2,500 ($555), 2,400 meters, close to 1½ miles, seven entries; **4.** the King's Cup: 11 horses, 2,600 meters, a $4,500 purse, and a goldplated cup presented personally to the winner by H.M. King Faisal.

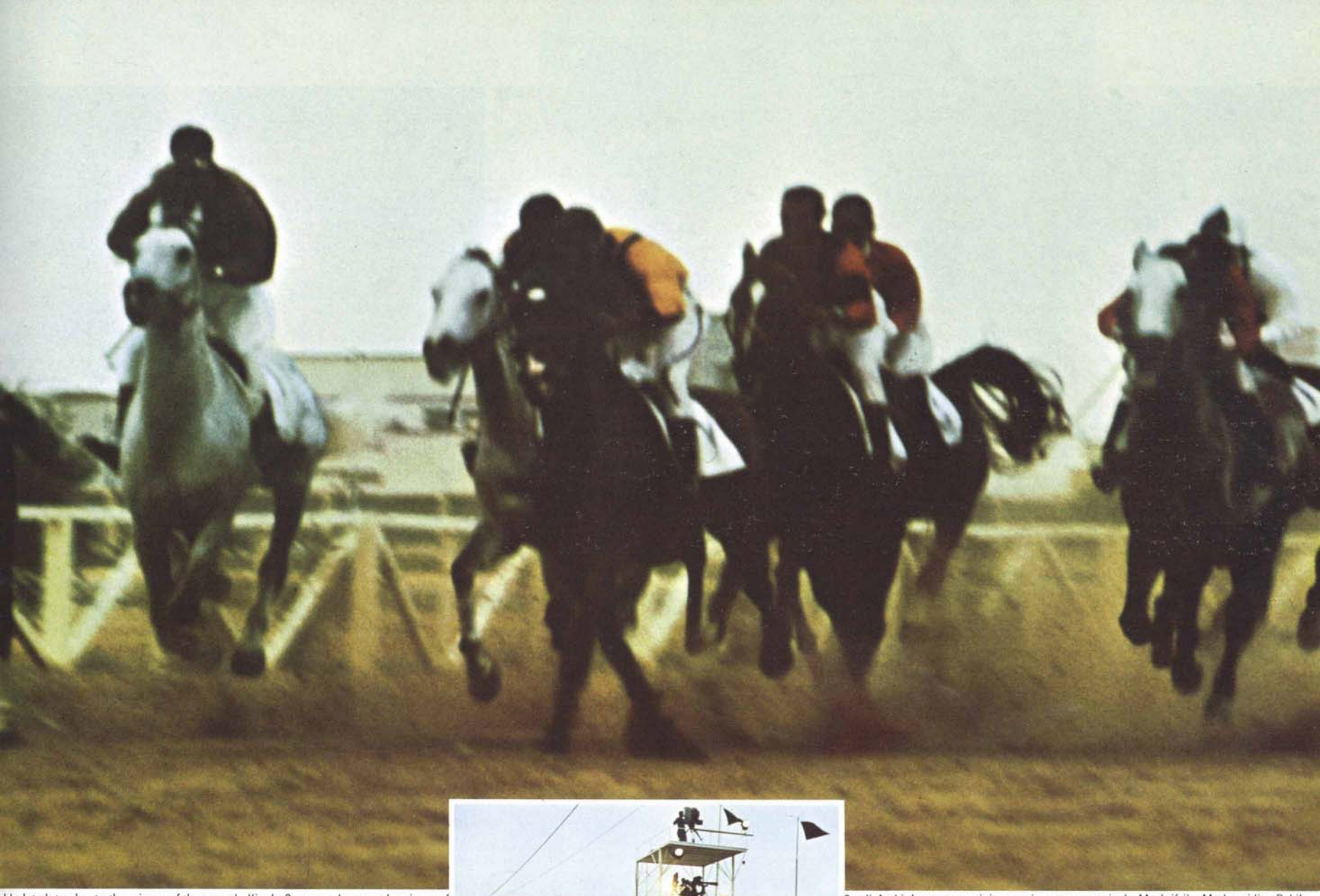
Offering of prizes is part of a government program to encourage the breeding of good Arabian horses and boost horsemanship. Altogether the government provides an annual subsidy of $110,000, but some of it goes toward the maintenance and professional management of Riyadh's Jockey Club. And since western-style racetrack betting is prohibited and "purses" extremely modest (compared to those at, say, Santa Anita and Hialeah) what most jockeys were after as they gathered the Riyadh Jockey Club last April, was glory.

The Jockey Club, where cup races are run, is on the outskirts of Riyadh and on the afternoon of the big day, race-goers had started to gather outside the club buildings about 2:30. Soon afterward special guests holding their printed invitations in front of them began to enter too. Among them was former film star Shirley Temple, now Mrs. Black, who was then accompanying her husband through the kingdom.

As time for the race neared, an honor guard of soldiers lined the track in front of the grandstand and an army bagpipe band, dressed in smart khaki uniforms and military versions of the Arab *ghutra*, paraded past the spectators. Soon the committee of judges, consisting of His Royal Highness Amir Khalid Al Faysal, His Excellency 'Abd Allah Aba al-Khayal and Suliman al-Hassan and headed by His Highness Amir Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, was taking its place on a special stand under the tall television camera tower at the finish line. They would have a busy afternoon; photo-finish equipment has yet to be installed at the Jockey Club track.

Meanwhile, on a bathroom scale behind the judges' stand, the jockeys, their tack slung over their shoulders, were being weighed, most of them wearing new racing silks that must have inspired considerable wonder in old-time local racing fans. Participating jockeys who really *look* like jockeys are a relatively recent innovation in Riyadh. Only four years ago jockeys appeared in the long white *thobes* customarily worn by all Saudi men, and they invariably rode bareback and barefooted. Nowadays saddles and some kind of foot covering are mandatory. At the April races, tennis shoes and Japanese rubber sandals were highly favored by jockeys in the lesser races, socks by the older riders. They say they cannot feel secure without holding on with their toes.

These developments, along with the introduction of such sophisticated equipment as a portable starting gate towed onto the track by a tractor, are sources of satisfaction to experts like Vicke Timmons, who grew up with horses in her native Texas and is an enthusiastic promoter of racing in Saudi Arabia. But according to Vicke, who runs a horse club in Riyadh and whose greatest ambition is to ride in the King's Cup race herself, there are even more subtle refinements developing which are not generally appreciated by the average ticket holder in the stands. As one example, Saudis are becoming increasingly sophisticated about such matters as diet, and are beginning to supplement the standard fare of alfalfa and barley with special vitamins. Then too, take the elemental matter of horseshoes. The Arabs are said to have invented them an age ago—crude, solid affairs which covered the whole hoof. These days the manner of shoeing a horse for competition is com-



old-plated trophy to the winner of the annual King's Cup race. Last year's winner of

Saudi Arabia's most prestigious racing event was jocky Mushrif ibn Mutlaq riding Rabiha.

s on the inside and coming up fast.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY S. M. AMIN

ing full circle, as the Arabs increasingly take up western-style aluminum racing plates for their horses to run on.

Another innovation which has crept into horse racing in Riyadh is the application of strategy. In the past competing horses were maneuvered up to the starting line, someone gave a signal, and off they would go. The Saudi jockey of today has begun to learn how to pace his horse, when to rein him in and at what point to spur him down the home stretch.

The King's Cup is by all odds the biggest racing event on the Jockey Club calendar, but it is not the only attraction. During much of the year, weekly races were so successful that the racing schedule was doubled. The club also holds a $2,250, 2,400-meter event for the Crown Prince's Cup. Another race awards a large American automobile to the winner and Saudi Arabian Airlines sponsors a third with a round-trip ticket to London as the lure. This particular prize goes to the winning jockey himself, and for this reason is especially coveted among the riders. They all want a chance to go to England, where thoroughbred racing got its start, to see for themselves how it is done.

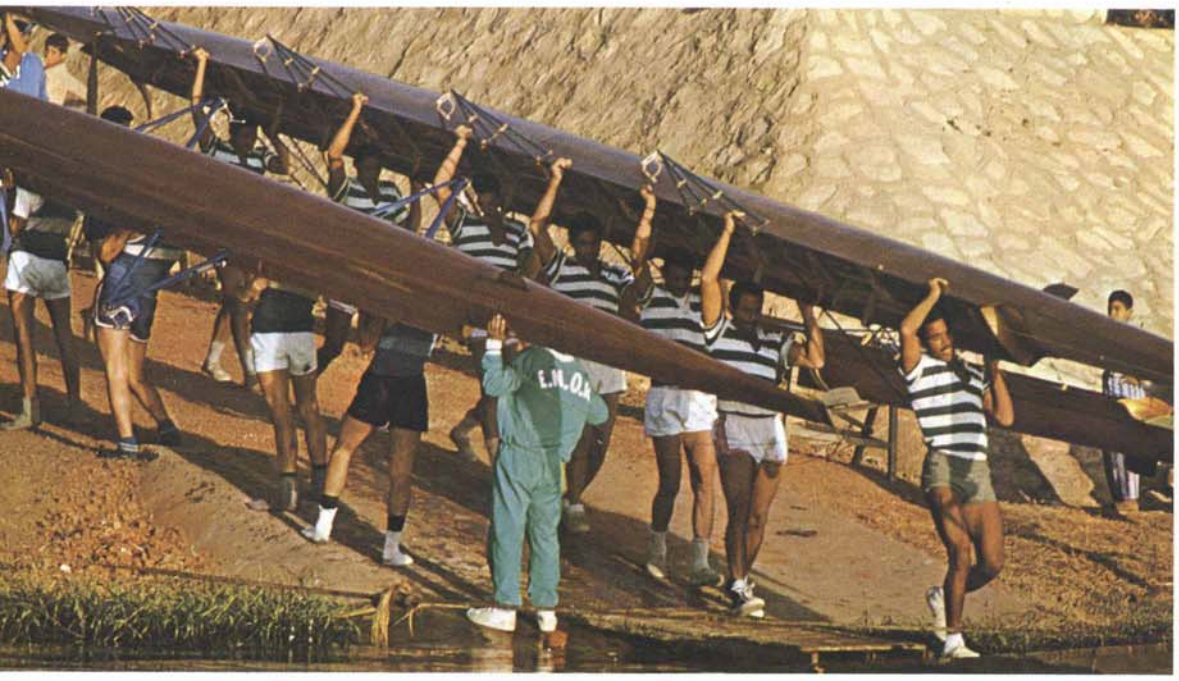
The more important races in Riyadh have openings for beginner, intermediate and advanced classes, and no horses under three years old are allowed to compete. According to Abdullah al-Bassam, manager of the Jockey Club, each entry must be accompanied by a kind of certificate of origin which attests that the horse is a pure Arabian. The nearest equivalent to a stud book in the kingdom are the records kept at the Jockey Club in the custody of al-Bassam. All the best horses competing on the club track have a file which traces their lineage. A new awareness of recorded genealogy in horse breeding is one other sign that horse racing in Saudi Arabia is coming of age.

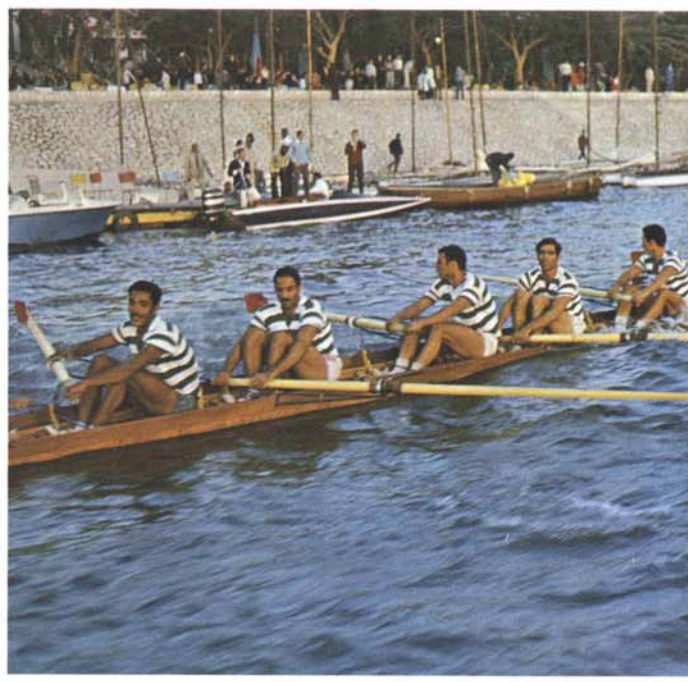
Not that racing is new in Saudi Arabia. For the Najdis, inhabitants of north-central Saudi Arabia, racing has had an unusually strong tradition for years. And during the early days of his reign, the late, illustrious King 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Faysal Al Sa'ud, in connection with the Muslim 'Id al-Fitr holidays which mark the end of the fasting month of Ramadan, led his followers in equestrian gymkhanas. These games on mounts gave Arab horsemen opportunities to demonstrate their skill at such feats as jousting, and ended with a cross-country race through old Riyadh over a course from nine to 12 miles in length, a distance calculated to test the famed endurance of the Arabians.

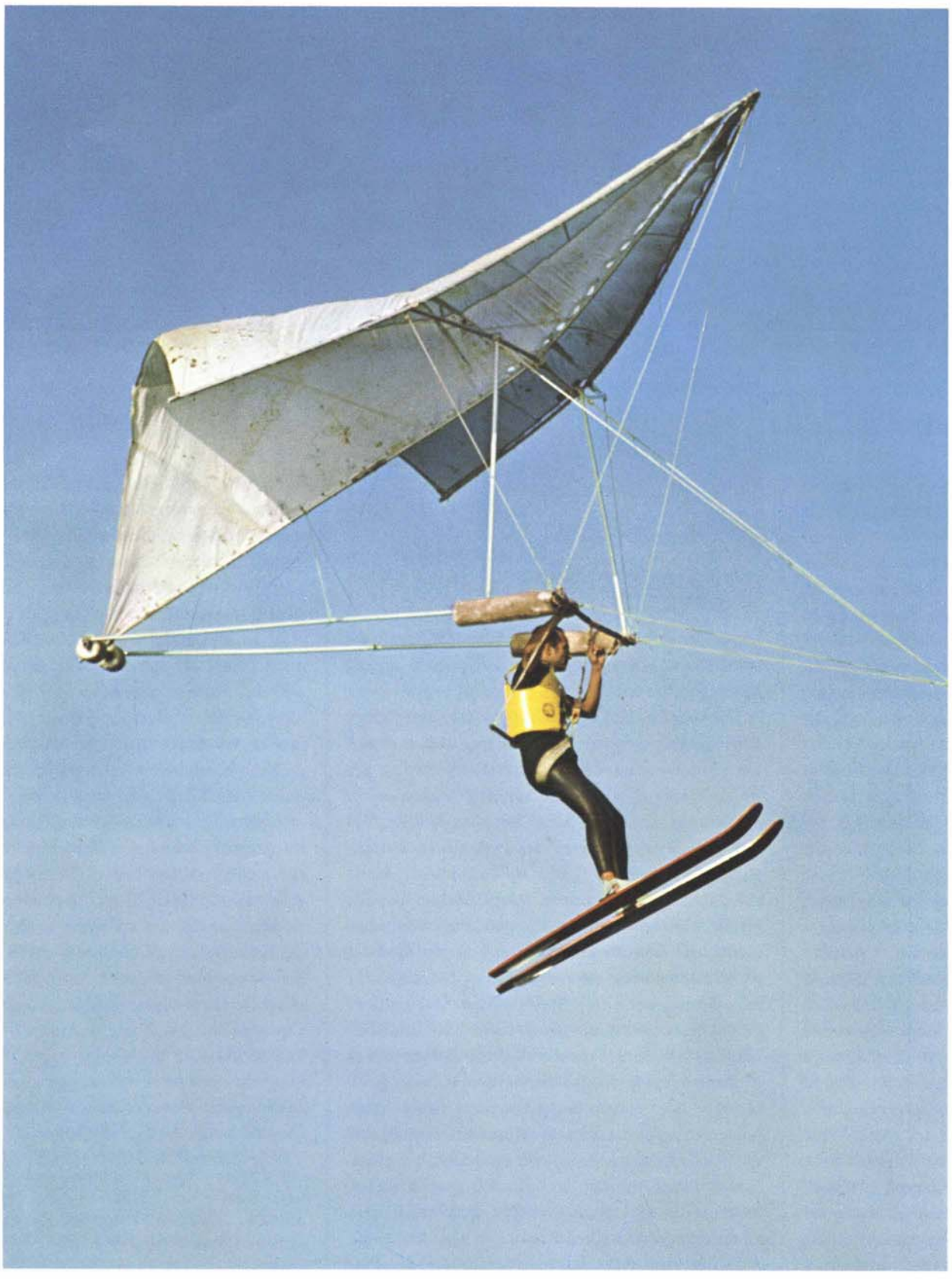
But it was not until just before the death of King 'Abd al-'Aziz in 1953 that long-distance overland races began to give way to track contests, and it was the present ruler who proclaimed his intention of reestablishing Saudi Arabia as the homeland of the Arabian horse, and backed it up with government funds.

It is inevitable that as the King's Cup and other races are run over the coming years they will be further refined and regulated. As this happens the color and spontaneity of the old days is sure to fade. But one characteristic that is unlikely to change is the belief that jockey and trainer should be the same man. After all, the owners still reason, who knows my horse better than the one who has trained him? Generally, too, the jockey/trainers are all Saudis. A conspicuous exception on April 19 was the case of al-Munqith, ridden that day by a French jockey listed on the card simply and phonetically as "Robair," whom the owner had brought in from Lebanon. The effort, it turned out, was for naught. The King's Cup was brought home that day by Rabiha, with jockey Mushrif ibn Mutlaq up.

Brainerd S. Bates, whose mother came from the Bluegrass region of Kentucky, learned his horse racing by watching Fox Movietone newsreels in the '30's. Although he once won a Junior Varsity football letter from Phillips Academy, and enjoys sailing, he considers a weekly perusal of Time's *sports section sufficient exercise for any man.*



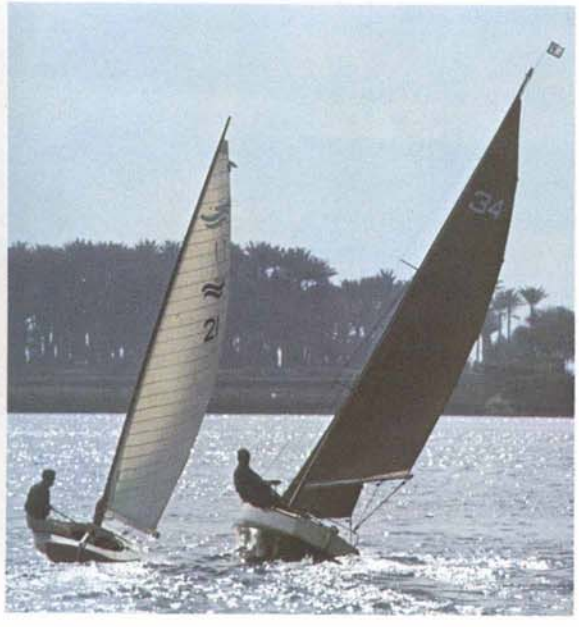




At a new Egyptian festival water skiers, yachtsmen and shell crews are making...

RIPPLES ON THE NILE

PHOTOGRAPHED BY NIK WHEELER



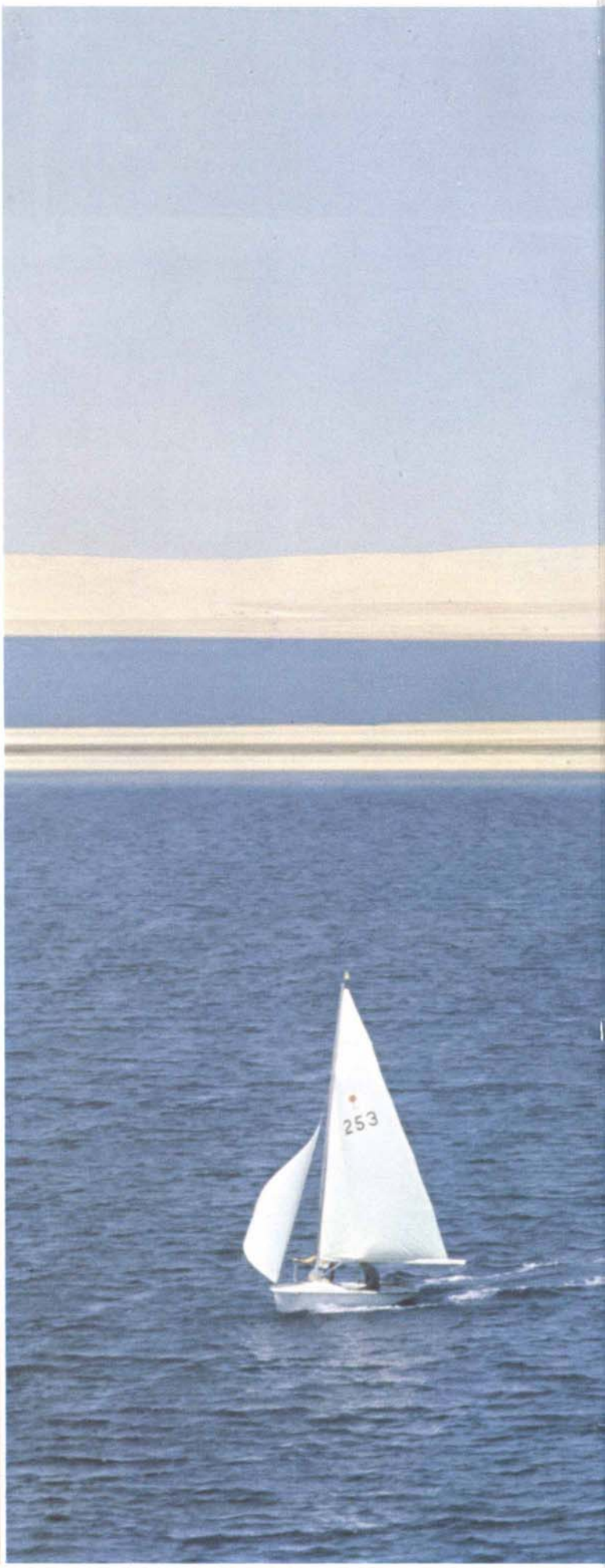
There are new ripples on the placid surface of the Nile. Every December for the past three years, the Egyptian Rowing Federation has sponsored an International Rowing Festival in Cairo in which crewmen from local clubs and universities have been pitted against teams wearing the colors of such rowing citadels as Oxford, Cambridge, Yale and Harvard.

The Nile, broad and slow-moving at this stretch, is ideal for shell racing, but with a heavy schedule of other crowd-pleasing events geared to Egypt's current tourist drive, the river can get crowded and choppy. With up to 25,000 spectators lining the banks near the Maadi Yacht Club, fleets of silver sailboats pirouette like dancers between the graceful lateen-rigged feluccas while motor boats churn past the reviewing stands towing teams of bronzed water skiers. Some of the skiers carry flags, others do acrobatics and one at the last festival, "Batman" Salah Fayed, soared 125 feet into the air dangling from a giant kite.

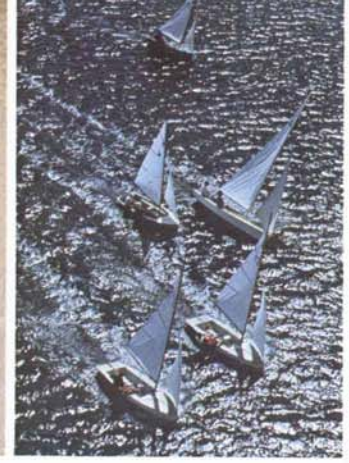
When the noise and waves quiet down, the burly, broad-shouldered crews lower their fragile shells into the river and, oars dripping in the sunlight, race across the placid surface like darting water bugs.

The 1970 rowing event was won by the eight muscled crewmen of Cairo's police team, with Oxford close behind, but in the 1971 meet, the police slipped to third behind first-place Harvard and runner-up Oxford. ■

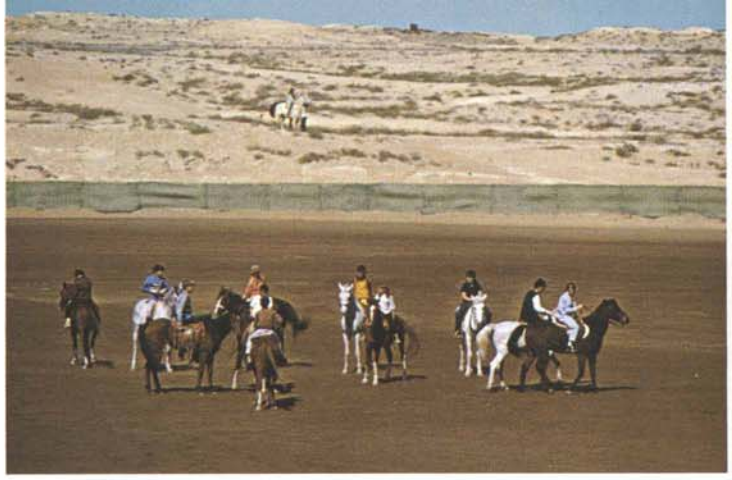
In those days you had sand to the horizon and you had the waters of the Arabian Gulf. So you made... **THE**



BEST OF BOTH



BY LEE GRIGGS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY
TOR EIGELAND



Above and opposite page: Aramco youngsters in Dhahran, have an opportunity to show off their hard-learned riding skills and their well-trained Arabian mounts to friends and families at a gymkhana held each month during the cool-weather season.

In the 34 years since oil was discovered in Saudi Arabia, the Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco) has brought over thousands of Americans to pump oil. Since Americans tend to like work they never had problems keeping busy on the job, but as the years went by and families poured into Dhahran, occupying leisure time became a problem.

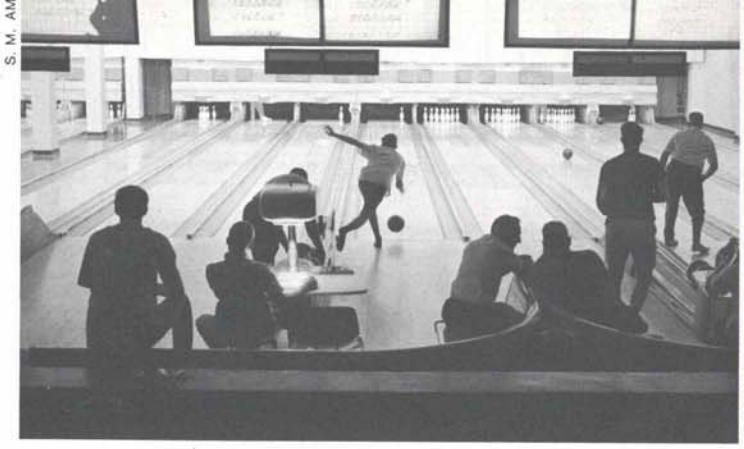
Americans are by nature an active people. They need to be *doing* something. But what, in those days, could you do in Saudi Arabia? You had the waters of the Arabian Gulf. You had sand that stretched on all sides out to the horizon. You had summer temperatures that soared to above 110° by day and never dropped below 90° at night. Furthermore, a huge investment in recreation facilities would, in that remote desert location, be difficult to justify before the profit-picture clarified. Aramco's business was, after all, oil, not recreation.

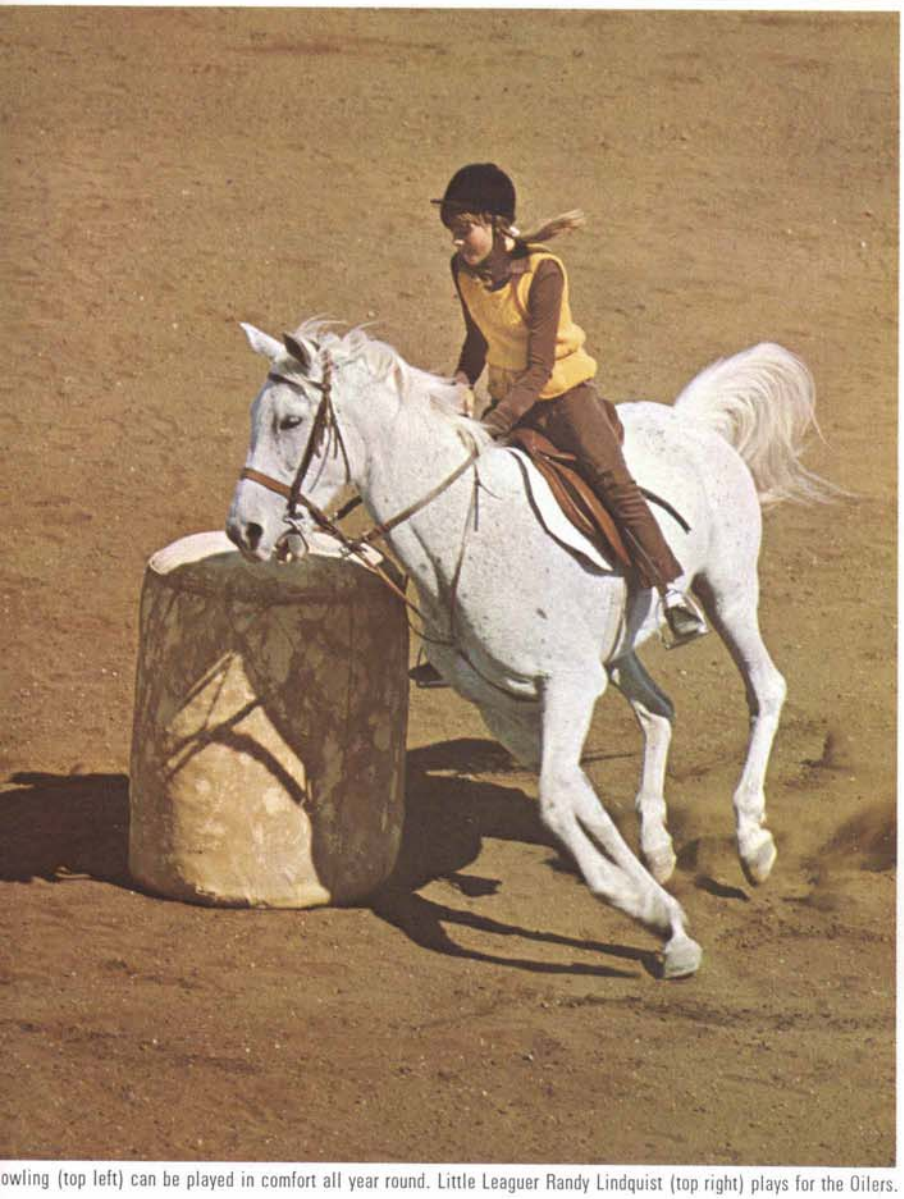
Aramco's sports nuts therefore, had to provide, often by their own sweat, what the company did not. The result is the most complete—and most enthusiastically utilized—American-style sports plant in the entire Middle East.

Aramco's present 3,000 Americans (employees and dependents) have their choice of golf courses, baseball diamonds, tennis courts, bowling alleys, gymnasiums, yacht clubs, riding facilities, and a whole range of leisure-time activities ranging from badminton to bridge. Many of the facilities may be simple, but most have been built and are maintained to meet recognized standards. The bowling alleys, for instance, are inspected every year by engineers sanctioned by the American Bowling Congress and maintained to meet strict A.B.C. specifications. Aramco regularly sends a team (the Arabian Knights) to the annual Bowling Congress world championships in the U.S. Furthermore, Aramco's six-team Little League is officially recognized by international headquarters in Williamsport, Pa.; the local riding group, The Corral, is affiliated with the international Arabian Horse Association; and even Dhahran's golf course, a 6,000-yard grassless horror of oiled fairways, sand "greens" and limestone hillocks, has an official—if low—rating.

Like the proverbial mad dogs and Englishmen, many Aramco sports nuts go out in the hot midday sun—especially on their weekends, which fall on Thursdays and Fridays to conform with Saudi Arabia's Friday Islamic Sabbath. During the extremely hot summer months—August and September—Little League play is canceled, most tennis players and golfers play before the searing sun gets up too high, and, to spare their steeds, the riders go out early. But most other sports activities continue right through the day, year around.

If there used to be a lack of enthusiasm for expenditures on sports, however, today there is recognition that certain basic facilities are important. "It is vital in this location for people to have something to do," says Board Chairman Liston Hills. "It keeps them happy and in good health. We try to help wherever we can." Still, most sports facilities are run by, kept shipshape by and paid for by the people who use them. The Half Moon Bay Yacht Association's waterfront facilities, set on the edge of a big inlet of the Arabian Gulf, 20





owling (top left) can be played in comfort all year round. Little Leaguer Randy Lindquist (top right) plays for the Oilers.

PeeWee baseball players wear safety helmets like their older brothers in the Little League. Up to bat (above) is Sa'ab Isa.

minutes from Dhahran, were constructed almost completely by its membership—the original clubhouse, the finger-pier dock and all. So were most of The Corral's riding stables and paddocks, which are conveniently located near land where Dhahran sewage (happily deodorized) can fertilize successive heavy crops of alfalfa with which to feed the horses.

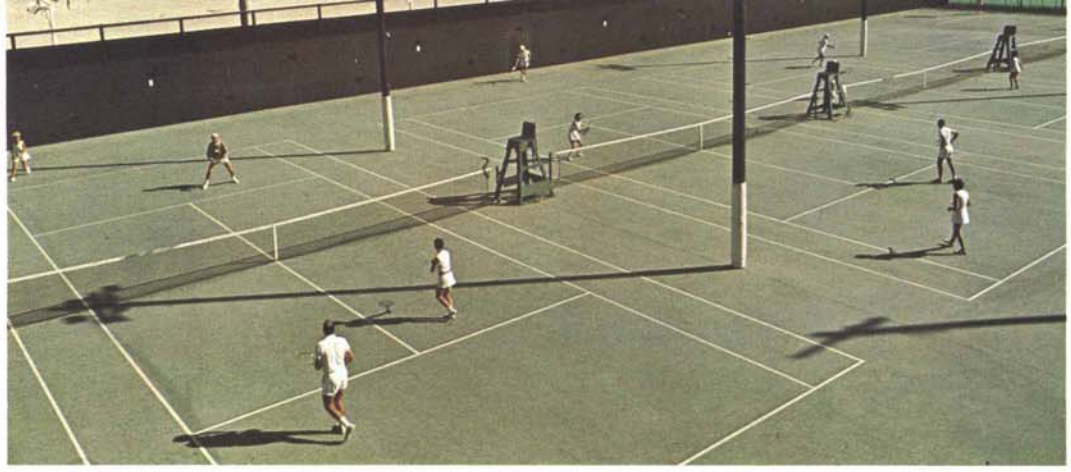
Most sports activities in Dhahran are pay-as-you-go. Aramco built the 12-lane bowling center there, but charges a usage fee. The company's Recreation Division supplies bats, balls and post-game hamburgers to Little League players, but uniforms are supplied by such team sponsors as IBM and Chicago Bridge, which are Aramco contractors. Other sports groups are pretty much on their own. Members of The Corral purchase their own horses and pay set fees for stall rental and feed. Yacht club members own the boats they use—a collection of more than 30 power craft and a sailing fleet of Lightnings Albacores, Dutch-built Terns, British Wineglass Sloops, Hobey Cats, Sailfish and Sunfish, all of which race regularly in intensely competitive contests.

The power boats are launched mainly for water skiing and fishing, both of which, in the warm, shallow Half Moon Bay, are excellent. Fishermen who do not own boats can either surfcast or form groups to charter local Arab dhows to take them out on the Gulf. The best fishing is for *hamur*, a grouper-type sluggard that fights well on light tackle, or for *spati* (sea bass) and *chanad* (king mackerel), excellent surface fighters for those who troll. Everyone thinks there must be sailfish in the Gulf too but, as far as is known, only one small example of this exotic species has ever been landed.

Most Aramco fishermen acquire their tackle when they are on home leaves in the U.S. but at least one, Bob Wilson, prefers to make his own and generally outfishes his colleagues with his homemade gear. And not all fishing is done from the surface. A small band of scuba divers and snorkelers press the hunt underwater, despite sharks, stingrays and barracudas.

For official competitive sports events the company will supply transportation. Company buses move teams between Dhahran and the nearby company towns of Abqaiq and Ras Tanura, and an Aramco F-27 Friendship propjet airlifts competitors to the nearby states of Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar to compete against teams of other oil companies in the region. To utilize fully the plane's 40-seat capacity, a typical sports flight to another country in the Gulf area will include in some combination team members bound for a weekend of competition in sailing, tennis, soccer, golf or bridge.

Employees not only build and maintain much of the sports plant, but also finance the importation of professionals to improve performance in sports of their choice. Corral members have an English instructor to teach dressage and show jumping to young riders, Rolling Hills arranges for the services of a teaching pro, also from Britain, and the tennis group has brought in a Pakistani



In Arabian Gulf Basketball Conference play (above), the Dhahran Bruins host the nearby College of Petroleum and Minerals. At a tournament sponsored by the Tennis Group in Dhahran (top and right), an Aramco employee, Sa'id Taher, serves.

instructor. None draws any salary from Aramco, but each has found that he can make a decent living by coming to Dhahran and giving lessons in his specialty for a fee.

"The trick around here," said one sportsman, "is to organize something and then go to the company for a little support. There's not much money available, but if enough people want some new activity, and are willing to work hard for it themselves, something can be worked out."

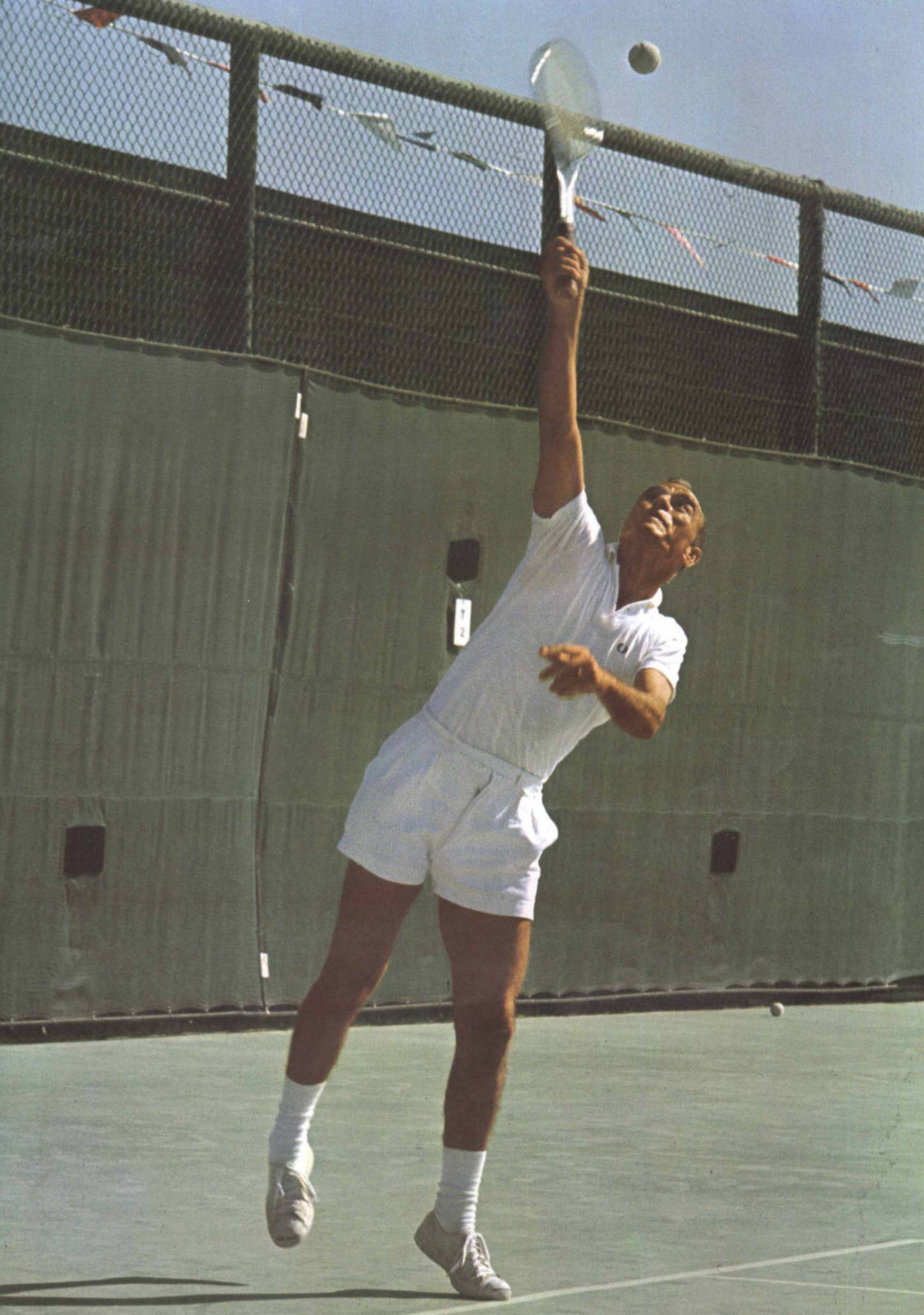
Over the years Aramco employees and their families have also learned to put to good recreational use the vast desert that is so handy and ubiquitous. The shifting dunes that are merely part of the landscape to most people are seen as something else by the owners of dune buggies. Dhahran car nuts have built eight so far, from shortened Volkswagen chassis, with roll bars and fancy, imported fiber glass bodies added *(Aramco World, January-February 1969)*. And much of the year, cool, moonlight nights in the desert outside Dhahran offer plentiful opportunities for horseback riding and camping out.

"You've got to stay active and busy here or you'll go up the walls," another man explained. "We all know that Rolling Hills is no Oakmont, but we play it anyway because we have to make do. Our first clubhouse was a broken-down bus, and my clubs look like I've played with them for 50 years in a rock quarry, but it doesn't matter. What matters is playing golf and having fun."

The preoccupation with athletics is everywhere evident. *Sporting News* and *Sports Illustrated* are big sellers in the company commissary and N.F.L. highlights, often more than a year old, are great attention-getters on Aramco's television station. Sports participation goes right to the top. Up to the time of his retirement, former Board Chairman Bob Brougham seldom missed a set on the tennis courts after a day's work, and the present chairman, Liston Hills, is still an active golfer.

Despite this, a decline in sports activities had set in a couple of years ago, as young Saudis gradually took over positions held by Americans and the expatriate employee age averages rose. The company still fielded two adult basketball teams (in a five-team league that included the nearby U.S. Consulate, the American Advisers to the Saudi Air force at the Dhahran Air Base, and a team from the Saudi Arabian College of Petroleum and Minerals), but the star was a balding fortyish guard named Al Porto, and the future looked dim. But suddenly some major construction projects got underway and almost overnight new, young faces came crowding into Dhahran. Many of them arrived wondering what they were going to do after work and weekends but they didn't wonder long. This time Aramco was ready.

Except for short stints as a writer for what became Sports Illustrated *and sports editor for* Time, *Lee Griggs, now a* Time *associate-editor, has kept a safe distance away from organized physical activity. Instead he went abroad as* Time *correspondent in the Congo, Vietnam and, for five years, the Middle East.*



THE ARABS AT IZMIR

Seven Arab nations join the competition at the Mediterranean Games.

BY ANNE TURNER BRUNO
PHOTOGRAPHED BY TOR EIGELAND

We took the Olympic rules, organization and discipline, and adapted them for our *mini-jeux*."

The speaker was Lebanon's Shaikh Gabriel Gemayel, founder of what he calls the "little games"—the Mediterranean Games which, like the Olympics on which they are modeled, are held every four years, but limited to topflight athletes from the nations whose shores touch the Mediterranean Sea.

Beginning in 1951 in Alexandria, the Mediterranean Games have drawn successively larger numbers of participants to such cities as Barcelona, Tunis, Naples and Beirut. Last year alone 2,200 men and women from Europe, North Africa and the Middle East flocked to Turkey's lovely Izmir in what some observers saw as a revival in the Mediterranean of the Olympic traditions that started there. That was 2,700 years ago, when the ancient Greeks organized a race among their best runners at Olympia to honor Zeus. It was such a success that the Greeks repeated it every four years for the next 600, a custom that was retained when the modern Olympics began in 1896, in, appropriately enough, Athens.

Undoubtedly some of the athletes who competed in last fall's Mediterranean Games saw them as no more than a warmup for the Olympic Games scheduled for Munich in September. But to smaller countries they offered a chance for serious international competition, organized strictly along the lines of the senior Olympics in which some 125 countries participate, in which the same color, excitement and competitive spirit prevailed. As tall, distinguished Shaikh Gemayel likes to point out, in a relatively small field of 15, smaller countries still may not win, but they can participate without being overwhelmed.

Certainly the Arabs who took part in the Izmir games would agree. The 700 athletes from seven Arab countries—Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco—represented half the countries enrolled, but accounted for only a third of the entries, and the teams they sent were by far the smallest. For example, in contrast to Spain, Italy and Turkey which each sent more than 250, Lebanon's delegation, totaled five—two athletes, two officials and a standard bearer. There were only 64 Algerians at the games and 56 Libyans. Moreover, for many of the younger participants it was their first trip abroad.

For that reason, perhaps, the Arab contingents bore themselves with noticeable pride last October 6 as more than 2,000 participants in smart blazers marched past the President of Turkey, Cevdet Sunay, in the traditional opening-day ceremonies at Izmir's huge Ataturk Stadium. It was an assemblage perfectly symbolizing the spirit of the games: a meeting of sharp contrasts gathered to share common interests.

The majority that day were typical Mediterraneans, with dark hair, dark flashing eyes, and warm, sparkling smiles, all in vivid contrast to tall blonds from France and Yugoslavia and ebony blacks from North Africa. There were Muslims, Christians and Jews. There were capitalists. There were socialists. There were neutrals. Regardless of their coloration, religious background or political persuasion, all were in Izmir to do their best, for themselves and their countries, in the sport each excelled in, whether it was basketball, boxing, cycling, fencing, gymnastics, judo, marksmanship, soccer, swimming, tennis, water polo, weight lifting, wrestling, volleyball, or yachting.

The Republic of Turkey had prepared for her guests well—especially in choosing Izmir as the site. Izmir boasts a sunny climate eight months of the year, is on the Aegean Sea and close to ski slopes on Mount Uludağ, and has an impressive assortment of sports facilities: Alsancak Stadium, a sports hall and tennis courts in Cultural Park, and a soccer stadium in suburban Karşiyaka across the bay. Moreover it has an Olympic tradition. In 688 B.C. a native son of Izmir, then called Smyrna, returned to his city as winner of the Olympics' first boxing match.

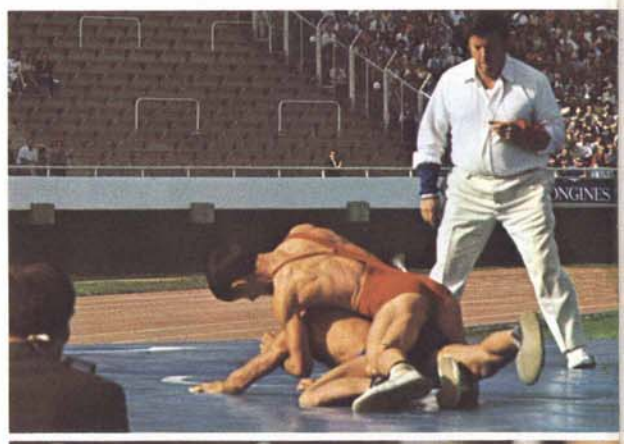
To the facilities already there Turkey added about $17 million worth of construction: the brand-new, 40,000-seat Ataturk Stadium, scene of the Games' opening formalities; a sports city, which includes a 5,000-seat sports hall and an adjacent swimming pool around which 1,500 could watch the scheduled aquatic events. The government also built an Olympic Village big enough to accommodate the 2,000 men contestants. (The 200 women who competed were housed in a Near East University dormitory a few miles distant.) It was laid out as a completely self-contained community, with its own bank, post office and a restaurant-cafeteria which, one offiicial estimated when it was all over, dished up some five and a half tons of beef, nine tons of lamb and veal, and 75,000 eggs to the ravenous athletes. Built on the city's southern shoreline, the village is being used now as a student dormitory and youth hostel.

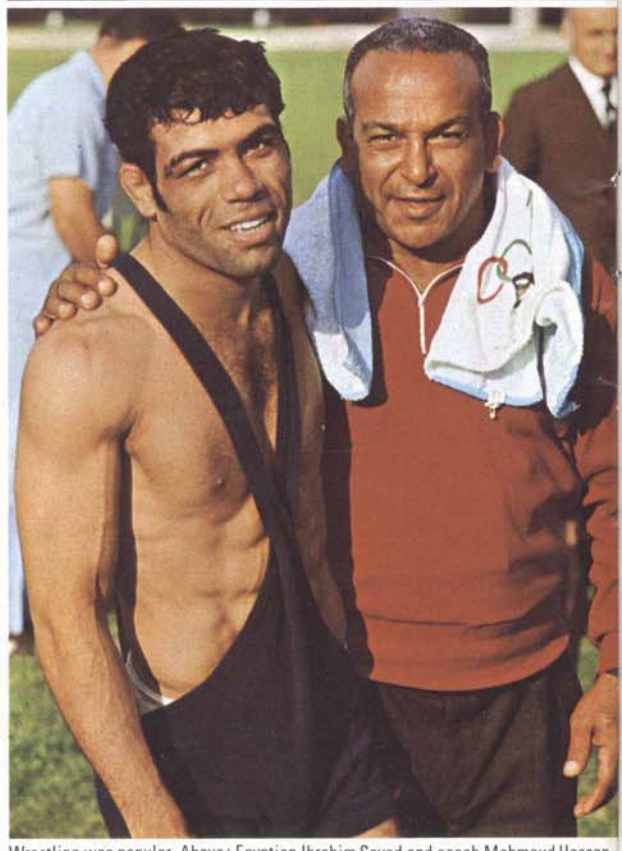
In the first test at Izmir the Arabs did well. Tall Amina Ouhibi, a shapely swimmer from Oran, Algeria, defeated all comers for the title of Princess of Olympic Village. But it was no omen. When the last score was tallied 11 days later, Italy, in a sweep of the 152 events, had 58 gold medals (a new Mediterranean Games record), Yugoslavia had 33 and Spain and Turkey each 18. By contrast the seven Arab nations together won only 10.

But if they failed to win many medals they did succeed in displaying a true Olympic spirit. In a few instances—notably Egypt in shot put, wrestling and boxing and Tunisia in football and track—the Arabs showed exceptional promise.

Egypt's boxing team, coached by stocky, personable Garib Afifi, who was a gold-medal winner at the 1951 games, won four gold medals, two silver and three bronze in the 11 championship categories in the 106- to 178-plus pound classes. Depending on speed rather than strength, Afifi's tall, thin fighters, wearing red tops and white trunks, constantly out-boxed heavier and stronger opponents, but weren't afraid to mix it up when they had to. Salah Amin, a 22-year-old army corporal from Alexandria, stood toe-to-toe with Monai Mouldi of Tunis, and finally out-punched him to win the 125-pound class gold medal. Abdelhadi Khalafallah, a sergeant in the Egyptian army, jogged around long enough to survive Turk Seyfi Tatar's ferocious right, and diminutive Abdelhamid Fouad, an aggressive 21-year-old import-export firm employee of Cairo, punched his way to the 156-pound title. Up against a wily Yugoslav, Alexandria's rangy,

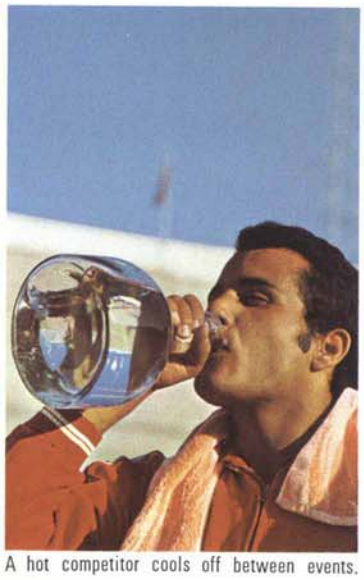
Flags of the many nations which fringe the Mediterranean fly over the stadium





Wrestling was popular. Above: Egyptian Ibrahim Sayed and coach Mahmoud Hassan.

zmir, Turkey, in which a semifinal football match pitted a team representing Syria (wearing white, above) against Tunisia. Tunisia won the game 1 to 0.



A hot competitor cools off between events.

Athletics, classic heart of the Olympics, included 31 events in running, walking, jumping, throwing.

Coming in first with arms held high in the 800-meter race is Tunisian Mansour Guettaya, trailed by Medjimurec of Yugoslavia and Azzouzi of Algeria.

23-year-old Mahmoud Ali Ahmed put him on the ropes and walked off as games champ in the 178-pound class. Tunisian boxers won one gold medal and two silver ones. Hard-hitting, windmilling Ali El-Gharbi, who took first in the 112-pound category, was carried out a hero on his teammates' shoulders.

For the final night of the boxing series, an estimated 20,000 spectators at Alsancak Stadium overflowed onto the field where the brilliantly illuminated ring had been set up, and the long string of matches lasted until well past midnight. When it was all over the jubilant Egyptians carried their victors, now wearing robes of rich red satin over their trunks, off the field on their shoulders. An exhilarated Salah Amin skipped his way around the stadium, acknowledging the acclaim of the crowd while gold-medal winner Abdelhadi Khalafallah jogged around the field making a V-for-Victory salute.

Wrestling, the Turkish national sport since it was introduced 600 years ago by a sultan who wanted to toughen his troops, is another event in which Arab teams consistently showed well. In both categories—Greco-Roman, in which contenders can score only from the waist up, and the rougher, faster-moving free-style form—the Turks dominated the events. They took four gold medals in Greco-Roman wrestling and first place in all 10 classes in the free style.

But the Arabs did not disgrace themselves. In the Greco-Roman 220-pound-plus, super-heavy-weight class, Egyptian Amera Lutfi, after first eliminating Syrian Dibo Yussef, nearly took Turk Omer Topuz. Although eliminated in the finals, both Lutfi and teammate Emfakafav Said walked off with silver medals, Said in the 220-pound category.

So did Moroccan Muhamed Karmaus in the 114-pound class, to the delight of Moroccan wrestling trainer Jilali Zouaki of Marrakesh, whose neophyte three-man wrestling team did surprisingly well. Zouaki, the youngest Greco-Roman wrestling coach at the Games, says that there are few wrestlers in Morocco because it's a new sport in a country where people are interested most of all in soccer. "But our wrestlers are all true amateurs," he emphasizes. "They have full time jobs." Zouaki feels that his men have little chance in the Olympic heavyweight classes against the Russians, Turks and Bulgarians so he is concentrating on training lightweights for Munich.

In the faster and more furious free-style wrestling, in which anything seems to go, two Arab behemoths, Syrian Mohammed Cuma, and Egyptian Emera Mahmud, took the silver and bronze medals in the 220-pound-plus class.

One new sport at Izmir was the judo competition. It was so popular that spectators stood 12 deep in the aisles of the Cultural Park's sports hall. Again the Italians, Yugoslavs and Turks were in command, but tall, dark-haired Ali Soumer, a 26-year mechanical engineer from Tunis, won a bronze medal in the heavyweight class. Ali showed such promise that Japanese trainer Yuji Danjo, a pleasant, 28-year-old former law student with a black belt in judo, has sent him for a year's advanced training in Tokyo in preparation for Munich.

Egypt's nine-man weight-lifting team won that

nation's fifth and sixth gold medals and four more silver ones. Mustafa Abdel Halim, 28, a Cairo mechanic who has trained a half-dozen years, took first place in the 114-pound event with a three-lift hoist of 280 kilograms (616 pounds). "I was very happy to see the flag of our country go up in the winner's position," said Mustafa, who is mentioned as a possible future European champion. Super heavyweight Gaber Hafez, 25, who works in the recreational program of an Alexandrian import-export firm, gave three mighty heaves to lift a total 505 kilograms (1,111 pounds) in the 242-plus pound classification. The curly-haired giant, who also likes to swim and play soccer, has been training two hours four times weekly for the past eight years.

Athletics, the classic heart of the original Olympics, attracted many Arab competitors for the 31 different events in running, walking, jumping and throwing. An Egyptian and a Moroccan took gold and silver medals in the shot put, but the most impressive contestants were the phenomenal runners from the Tunisian foothills, where slim shepherds are said to race desert deer 20 miles to capture them. Spectators roared themselves hoarse as 22-year-old Tunisian government transport clerk Mansour Guettaya captured two gold medals and set two new Games' records. Coming across the finish line with arms high, Guettaya won the 800-meter race in 1.47.6 minutes and the 1,500-meter in 3.46.5 minutes, defeating experienced Italian racer Francesco Arese. Almost as exciting was the effort of Olympic champ Mohammed Gammoudi, 32-year-old Tunisian Army lieutenant, to beat Spaniard Javier Alvarez in the 5,000-meter race. He lost by a bare 3.6 seconds. But his coach, 24-year-old Reginald Harris of Fresno, California, an American Peace Corps volunteer, believes that even though slender Mohammed Gammoudi is at the relatively advanced age of 32—he was not 'discovered' until 1960 when he entered the army at 21—he is "just now reaching his peak." In any case Gammoudi is still world champ in the 5,000-meter event, having taken the bronze medal in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, and the gold medal in Mexico City in 1968.

The shot put is the official emblem of the Mediterranean Games and both top spots in this event were picked off by Arab athletes. Tall, solidly packed Youssef Nagui Assaad, 26, of Egypt, a 240-pound giant, set a new personal and Games' record with a mighty 20.19-meter throw. The intelligent high school phys-ed teacher first tried the shot about five years ago. Now he trains four to five hours a day, at least five days a week, and keeps to a tight protein diet. Though Assaad hopes to compete in the coming Olympics, he worries that a good shot putter needs at least 10 years' training to develop the strength and technique of a world champion. Assaad also claimed a silver medal in the discus with a throw of 54.72 meters.

Silver medal winner of the shot put was Moroccan Lahcen Akka, a huge, handsome 29-year-old with outsized shoulders and an Afro hair style. Raised in a Berber village, Akka has spent seven years in the United States, where he first tried the shot put in 1963 and is presently working for his master's degree in physical training at San Jose State College, California.

Lebanon's single entry in athletics at last year's Games was in the decathlon—Mohamed Husein Nasser, 21. From Baalbek, site of the great Roman temples and the nation's summer cultural festival, Mohamed is one of 11 children and, like one pole-vaulting champion brother, was national high jump champ by the time he was 16. When he was graduated from the Normal School of Physical Education in Beirut in June 1971, a coach spotted Mohamed doing the high jump and pole vault, learned that he also did the other eight field and track requirements of the decathlon, and recruited him fast.

That coach—Ivan-Jean Psiakis, professor of athletics at the Normal School and also at the Lebanese National Institute for Sports—had only three months to whip Mohamed into shape for the Games. In Izmir his quick student picked up 6,704 points in the 10 events: broad jump, high jump, pole vault, discus, shot put, javelin, 100- 400- and 1,500-meter races, and 110-meter hurdle. It wasn't enough to win a medal but it did set a new Lebanese record for the decathlon.

"He's a phenomenon," says Coach Psiakis. "And I have the best coach in the world," retorts Mohamed of the trainer who now works him four hours daily in body building and techniques. Psiakis hopes to take Mohamed first to Belgrade's special institute for the decathlon, later to the Athens' pole vault school in preparation for Munich. Square-jawed Psiakis, who is 58 but looks 10 years younger, was Egypt's decathlon champ and one of the country's leading coaches from 1949 until 1956 when he moved to Lebanon. "Sports is like religion, too high for politics," says the Greek, Alexandria-born coach of two Arab lands. "If the Olympic committee could run the world, we would have no wars."

Tunisia lost the football finals to Yugoslavia, 0 to 1. Opposite: Tunisian decathlon competitor, Abdessalam Tabaa, makes it over the bar in the pole vault.

Another trainer who praises sport's social role is president of Morocco's Athletic Club Mansour Lahrizi. He feels that October's Mediterranean Games were one more visible mark of the progress of Arab women. Speaking of his five female runners and discus throwers, the elegant young coach says: "Ten years ago Moroccan young women were in the veil; today, they're in an international stadium." All of his girls came in fourth or fifth, not a bad showing for 18- and 19-year olds in their first international meet.

Not bad either was Sahar Mansour of Cairo's Higher Institute of Physical Education, a cute brunette of 20, who won both a silver medal for finishing the 100-meter butterfly stroke in 1.09.0 minutes and a bronze in the 100-meter free-style with a time of 1.04.0 minutes. Sahar took up swimming at 10, when her brother was Egypt's butterfly champion. She trains four hours daily so that, as she says hopefully, "*Inshallah* (If God wills it), I'll go to Munich." Sahar's male colleagues also captured three bronze medals in swimming and diving.

Bronze medals at the games also went to a Libyan in bicycling and a Syrian in marksmanship, but long before October 17, when young Turkish hostesses in Ottoman gowns and white tulle veils presented the final medals, it was clear that the competition-honed European teams had taken most of the medals. But what the Arab representatives lacked in experience they made up in sportsmanship. Many of these young men and women, whether they won individual events or not, won over their fellow contestants from the northern shores of the Mediterranean by numerous acts of grace. Helping to pick up fallen rivals, giving those they were competing with a reassuring pat or embrace, forever shaking hands, they offered a good example of the spirit praised by Turkish Minister of Youth and Sports Sezai Ergun in the closing ceremonies: "We are convinced that sports are the meeting ground between peoples, that the example and activities of these athletes contribute to world peace."

Those were the last words before Shaikh Gemayel, president of the Games' executive committee, officially thanked Turkey, and the lineup of athletes broke ranks to cheer their colleagues with farewell cries of "See you in Munich," and "On to Algiers," the site already selected for the seventh Mediterranean Games in 1975.

Anne Turner Bruno, a free-lancer in Istanbul, admits that it has been a long time since she was tempted to try pole vaulting, although she does occasionally hold a fishing pole over the Bosporus. She has contributed articles to Sports Illustrated, *the* Reader's Digest, Venture *and* International Wildlife.

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