

# Bob Hope, Shafer Brighten Blind Golfers' Tourney Week

By MAYER BRANDSCHAIN

What kind of golf do Bob Hope and Pennsylvania Gov. Raymond P. Shafer play? A crowd of some 1500 were clear witnesses Wednesday at Edgmont GC that Hope and Gov. Shafer cut the heart of the fairways with their drives and play creditable games.

The appearances of Hope and Gov. Shafer, who arrived at the course via helicopter, were in the interests of a good cause—to give a lift to blind golfers, some of whom lost their sight fighting for their country in the Second World War.

It was Hope's closing feature in this Blind Golfers' Week, which had included the third 36-hole competition for the International Blind Golfers' championship the first two days.

## HOPE'S YELLOW SHOES

Hope, wearing a white pith helmet and yellow shoes, spent 6½ hours on the course. He enjoyed himself thoroughly playing with blind golfers and sundry celebrities and played fair golf until tiring toward the close when some of his accuracy departed.

But he finished the 18th with a flourish—a beautiful drive down the middle with an easy, effortless, rhythmical swing; a No. 5 wood onto the green, 15 feet beyond the pin; a curling

putt to the right four feet past the cup and a one-handed putt that missed the cup. The crowd yelled: "We'll give it to you, Bob." "I'll take it," he responded. So Bob took a par four instead of a five and wound up with an 11-over-par 46.

Hope, who had donned a natty red and blue sweater on this finishing hole which he had played with former world's billiard champion Willie Mosconi, and local blind golfers Phil Tusso and Tom Mortimer, told Edgmont pro Tiny Pedone: "This course has got nice rolls."

Only the last nine holes of the course were used for this special event. Hope's score on each hole was combined with the score on the hole made by a blind player and a celebrity. Hope picked up a different team at each tee. Tusso, tournament chairman of the Middle Atlantic Blind Golf Association, and John Pierron, of KYW, were the winners of the blind-celebrity tournament of selective drive and alternate stroke with a 47 plus Bob Hope's four for a 51 total.

They tied with three other teams but won first prize on a match of holes backward from the 18th, taking the decision on the 18th with a one-over-par five.

## FORMER GRID STAR

Gov. Shafer expressed the sentiment: "It's a great inspiration to play with these blind golfers." Hope hit an iron from the tee that caught the left trap. Someone yelled, "Take a mulligan." Hope agreed that he should, and hit again from the tee, this time hitting short of the left trap.

Asking, "How do I hold the club," Shafer drove right of the trap and walked down the fairway arm-and-arm with Charles Tooth, 70-year-old Canadian founder of the International Blind Golfers' Foundation and only blind golfer ever to score a hole-in-one.

"Great shot," said both Hope and Gov. Shafer as Charlie Boswell, winner of the two-day International Blind Golfers' championship, hit down the middle. Villanova track coach Jumbo Elliott topped his drive, then hit a mulligan straighter.

Hope had trouble getting out of the trap, succeeded on the second shot and finally was down in two-over-par-six. After missing a 15-foot putt by inches, Gov. Shafer was home in five, hit his drive beautifully straight down the middle of the 11th fairway, then departed by helicopter to dedicate the nearby Rush Hospital.

Shafer returned to the course in the helicopter in late afternoon and presided with Bob Hope at presentation of prizes at the tent banquet at \$25 per ticket, attended by 350. Pedone said the three-days' activities raised over \$10,000 for the International Blind Golfers' Foundation.