



Bill Turnbull (2012)

Bill Turnbull learned the game of golf from Bill Kinnear at the Saskatoon Golf and Country Club. He was provincial runner-up in 1933 and on the Willingdon Cup team in 1939. He was renowned for an effortless swing and precise putting, winning numerous amateur trophies in the 1940s. During WWII Bill worked at night as a machinist at the CNR roundhouse. When his shift finished he walked across the street to the golf course, washed up, had toast and coffee, and then teed off. He carried a plus two handicap and usually shot between 67 and 72.

In 1948 Bill became the professional at Riverside Country Club. That summer 1500 enthusiastic spectators watched an exhibition match he played with Bobby Locke of South Africa, Stan Leonard of Vancouver and Pat Fletcher of SGCC. Bill competed in Saskatchewan Open Tournaments during the fifties, setting a

course record of 65 at Riverside in 1955. He served as President of the Professional Golf Association of Saskatchewan.

Bill's greatest legacy was his junior development program; he gave group and individual lessons along with instruction on rules, golf etiquette and good sportsmanship. Graduates of his golf program competed with distinction at provincials and nationals, one being his wife Barbara. He was always available for quick tune-ups for swing problems and generously gave out free tips. He treated everyone with courtesy and engendered great loyalty from his employees. He built character as well as golf swings. He had plenty of jokes and stories for the young people hanging around his pro shop and passed on many wise nuggets. Decades later many found themselves quoting Bill's sayings to their own families!

Bill was the Head Professional at Riverside Country Club until his death in 1975. Every year the Women's Section plays the Bill Turnbull Roundup in memory of his 27-year career.