



Irvin Ottman, Sr. - 1997

Ottman began his golf experience as a caddie at the Louisville Country Club and moved on to become its Head Professional at age 21. He competed in numerous major tournaments against notable stars as Bobby Jones, Walter Hagan and Gene Sarazen. Hagan and Sarazen came to Louisville to play exhibition matches with him. At age 21, he finished 6th in the Western Open. A year later he was the first Louisville golfer to play in the U.S. Open, where he finished 31st. He was touted as one of the great stars of the future until tuberculosis brought an end to his career. Louisville's Earl Ruby, a prominent golf writer of his era, called him "one of the greatest golfing men of his day."