

# AN HOSPITABLE CLUB AND A FINE YOUNG PLAYER

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IN each of its first nine years, the boys in the USGA's Junior Amateur Championship were housed in college or preparatory school dormitories. In this, its tenth year, the boys were taken into the homes of members of the Manor Country Club, in suburban Washington, D. C. This unusual arrangement and some remarkably formful golf by Larry Beck of Kinston, N. C., made the event memorable.

The 128 boys who qualified for the Championship were offered the alternative of staying as guests in homes surrounding the golf course or joining the Junior Championship Committee in a luxurious motel near-by. Slightly more than half accepted the hospitality of the private homes, about a quarter chose the motel and the remainder stayed elsewhere with parents or friends.

Those who failed to accept the hospitality of the Manor members may kick themselves soundly — and probably have done so. Manor took the boys not only into their homes but also into their hearts. Each Manor family cheered its boy or boys in victory, lamented with them when they lost and drove them on errands, sight-seeing trips and to the trains and planes. The question, "How is my boy doing?" was asked so frequently that uninformed visitors were blinking in astonishment at the apparent size of the Manor "families"

Larry Beck was one of those who stayed in homes. His particular host, John Grubb, happens to be an accomplished ukulele player, and his evening serenades with the family so interested Larry that he bought a ukulele of his own. Then they struck a bargain. For each match Larry won, Mr. Grubb would teach him a number of new chords.

So, in order to learn to play the ukulele —and for other considerations—Larry won seven straight matches and the Championship in a surge which was reminiscent of

Rex Baxter's seemingly inevitable triumph in the same event in 1953.

## *To Play in the Amateur*

Larry is 17 and will enter Wake Forest College, next month, although his entry will be delayed a few days in order to compete in the Amateur Championship. His father, as a Raleigh, N. C., public links player, was runner-up in the Amateur Public Links Championship of 1947 and subsequently became professional at the Kinston (N. C.) Country Club, where Larry has playing privileges and obviously uses them to good advantage. He was runner-up in the North Carolina Amateur last year and Carolinas junior champion for three years. He qualified for the USGA Junior a year ago, but was the 2-and-1 victim of Wayne Pense's course record of 67 in the third round at the Taconic Golf Club, Williamstown, Mass. This was his last year of eligibility.

On the final day, Larry won his semi-final by 6 and 5 over M. C. (Sonny) Methvin, Jr., 16, of Little Rock, Ark., and his final by 6 and 5 over David C. Leon, 17, of Tucson, Ariz. He was two under par for the thirteen holes in the morning and three under for the same sprint distance in the afternoon. In the final he started at such a headlong pace that, when he planted his second shot on the ninth green, an uphill, dog-leg par 5 of 490 yards, he needed two putts for a 32 which would have put him 6 up. Unfortunately, he three-putted for a half, one of his few lapses. Leon is a player to be reckoned with, too. In his morning semi-final he had been 3 down at the turn and won the next four holes to beat Richard Casabella, 16, of Louisville, Ky., 1 up.

There were times when the large and enthusiastic gallery suspected that Larry might have employed Dick Mayer as a stand-in. The new Champion has Mayer's

### HOW KIDS CAN PLAY

If slow play is a problem in golf today, it is an acquired, not an inherent, problem.

In the first match of the first round of the Junior Amateur Championship, Verne Burnett, of Long Beach, Cal., the Long Beach City Champion, and Edward G. Bowers, of Landover, Md., both 17, completed the sixteen holes necessary to establish Burnett's superiority in exactly two hours—and at that point they had appeared about to overtake the sprinting official who was trying desperately to keep ahead of them in placing the holes in the putting greens for the championship play!

blond good looks and slim build, and he affects the same white cap, white mesh shirt and conservative dress. Nor does Larry have to give a thing to Mayer in form. He appears to be a pictorial reproduction of all they say in the best treatises on body and hand action in the golf swing, and fortunately he appears to have the poise, self-control and judgment to make his physical skill most effective.

#### *Favorites Succumb*

The best known players, when the Championship started, were Jack Nicklaus, 17, of Columbus, Ohio, who will enter Ohio State next month, and John P. Konsek, 17, of Lancaster, N. Y., who is going into his sophomore year at Purdue. Both were qualifiers for the fifth time, a record span, and it seemed likely that one might go all the way.

However, Nicklaus was soundly beaten by Beck in the third round, 4 and 3. Beck was 4 up after six holes, made the turn in 33 and was still two under par when he closed out the match by getting home with a magnificent No. 5 iron at the 500-yard fifteenth and holing his putt for an eagle 3 to top Nicklaus' birdie 4. Konsek went further, outlasting the talented Buddy Baker, 16, of Florence, S. C., in a 24-hole match in the round of sixteen, but he had nowhere near enough left for Methvin in the quarter-finals and bowed, also by 4 and 3.

Out of the record entry of 1,060 boys under 18, the youngest qualifier was Fred Taylor, of Portland, Ore., born on July 11, 1943 and barely 14. He has all the marks

of a fine young player, but was not able to last out the first round. His departure left another 14-year-old, Robert R. Kirouac, of Sharon, Mass., as the youngest to pass the first-round test. Bobby is now a poised young veteran of two Junior Amateur Championships who surely will be heard from; he qualified also in 1956 at the age of 13.

Even as Junior Championships go, it was a tour de force for youth. Of the eight quarter-finalists, four are 16 and five are still in high school. The other four are, of course, 17, which is the maximum, and three of those are in college. Here is a run-down of the quarter-finalists:

Larry Beck, 17, Kinston, N. C., a freshman at Wake Forest.

Joseph Blake, 17, Erie, Pa., a freshman at Notre Dame.

Richard Casabella, 16, Louisville, Ky., a junior at Flaget High School.

Kenneth Finke, 16, Tucson, Ariz., a junior at Tucson High School.

Jon Hoffman, 16, Windom, Minn., a junior at Windom High School.

John P. Konsek, 17, Lancaster, N. Y., a sophomore at Purdue.

David C. Leon, 17, Tucson, Ariz., a senior at Tucson High School.

Marion C. Methvin, Jr., 16, Little Rock, Ark., a senior at Little Rock Central High School.

So many familiar faces turn up year after year in the Junior that a check was run on the veterans. It developed that, in addition to Nicklaus and Konsek, playing for the fifth time, eight other boys were playing for the third time. They were: Buddy Baker and Sonny Methvin, who are eligible to play another year; John J. Barcelo, III, David B. Lawrence, Jr., and Ted Weiss, all of New Orleans, La.; and David C. Leon, of Tucson, Ariz., Edward Menke, of Glenwood, Ill., and Gerald Zar, of Palos Verdes Estates, Cal.

#### *Message from the President*

Richard S. Tufts, president of the Association, opened the Players' Dinner in the clubhouse on the eve of the Championship by reading the following telegram:

PLEASE GIVE MY GREETINGS TO



The South beats the West. Richard S. Tufts, President of the USGA, presents the Junior Championship trophy to fellow North Carolinian, Larry Beck, of Kinston, N. C., after he beat Dave Leon, of Tucson, Ariz., 6 and 5 in the 18 hole final at the Manor Country Club, Norbeck, Md.

THE YOUNG GOLFERS PLAYING IN THE TENTH JUNIOR AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP. COMING HERE FROM ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, I AM SURE THEY REPRESENT THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF SKILL AND SPORTSMANSHIP. BEST WISHES FOR A SPLENDID TOURNAMENT.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

The principal speaker was William C. Campbell, a member of four Walker Cup and three Americas Cup Teams, who had also conducted a novel type of clinic in the afternoon. Campbell's clinic departed from the usual demonstration of shot-making and was devoted solely to the problem of analyzing golf holes and developing successful strategies. His only props were blackboard and chalk.

Players beaten in the first round were invited to play in a consolation at the Burning Tree Club, Bethesda, Md., where

President Eisenhower plays. Fifty responded and gave an excellent account of themselves. Ned Johnson, of Port Arthur, Texas, won first prize with a 71, one under par; and five tied at 73 for the next two prizes. In the play-off, Jack Moran, of Cincinnati, Ohio, made a birdie 3 on the first hole to win second prize and Mark E. Darnell, of Troy, Ohio, made a par 4 on the second hole to take third prize.

Vice-President Nixon appeared while the boys were lunching on the porch as guests of Burning Tree and greeted them individually with handshakes. Later, Representative Jack Westland, of Everett, Wash., the 1952 Amateur Champion, joined the boys.

Thus the sting was extracted from the defeats of the previous day—and for none more completely than for Edward G. Bowers, of Landover, Md., who made a hole in one with a No. 3 iron on the 190-yard eleventh hole.