

Junior Shows Dad How

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From the viewpoint of an official, the USGA's first Junior Amateur Championship, held on the University of Michigan Golf Course at Ann Arbor last month, can be described only as an unqualified success. The only question might be whether the contestants could have enjoyed the event as much as the officials.

Certainly it is true that dad has much to learn from junior in the spirit in which the game was played at Ann Arbor. There was a keenness and freshness in the play that was most inspiring; the boys were obviously playing for the love of the game, they accepted defeat and the breaks of the game cheerfully, and alibis or kicks were conspicuous by their absence.

It had been one of the USGA's major purposes in conducting the event to develop in these boys, new to tournament golf, an understanding of the game's more important technical features, some knowledge of its background, and an appreciation of the spirit in which it should be played.

As far as the attitude of the boys was concerned, the officials found little to do but encourage them in their present fine spirit. As to the technical side, there could never be a group more anxious and earnest to learn, and much was accomplished in this respect.

Three evening meetings were held at the Championship, all well attended. For the first, Mr. Francis Ouimet flew out from Boston to talk to the boys from his long and outstanding experience with golf. There followed a question-and-answer period on the Rules.

The second night was devoted to technical matters, with Mr. Fielding Wallace, USGA President, discussing the operation of the USGA; Mr. James D. Standish, Jr., the amateur question, and Mr. John D. Ames, the regulations on clubs and balls. The last night was given over to moving pictures of famous players and events.

One of the happy features was the large number of parents who attended the Cham-

pionship with their boys. This gave the event a family atmosphere and, incidentally, dad and junior went to school together during the evening conferences.

Much of the success of the first Championship can be credited to the fine facilities available at the University of Michigan and the wonderful cooperation of the college officials, particularly Bert Katzenmeyer, coach of the University golf team, and his assistants. The golf course was in good condition and provided an excellent test for the boys. The services and facilities at the Michigan Union, where most of the boys and officials stayed, left nothing to be desired. Unquestionably, a college location is ideal for an event of this character.

There can be no doubt that the tournament was enjoyed by the boys. The majority expressed their personal appreciation to the USGA representatives before leaving—certain evidence of either excellent training at home or a very real enjoyment of the event, but most probably a combination of the two.

Typical of the many nice things said was the statement of one boy who concluded: "I have learned more about golf during this week at Ann Arbor than during all my previous experience with the game."

The Championship was entirely at match play, seven rounds of 18 holes each. The 128 players earned their places from among a total entry of 495 in 18-hole sectional qualifying rounds held at 41 locations.

The first name to go on the new Championship bowl is that of Dean Lind, of Rockford, Ill. He defeated another 17-year-old in the final, Kenneth Venturi, of San Francisco, 4 and 2. Dean was even par for the last 13 holes and had three birdies in that stretch.

Young Lind's cousin, Dave Barclay, won the 1947 National Collegiate Championship over the same course. Dean plans to follow in his cousin's footsteps to the

Finalists in First USGA Junior Championship



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Dean Lind (left), winner, and Kenneth Venturi, the runner-up

extent of matriculating at Michigan this fall.

Dean has a fine swing, but says he has never taken a golf lesson except from his father, who is an 80-90 player. Dean plays at the Sandy Hollow municipal course in Rockford. He has been prominent in Western Junior Championships.

Ken Venturi also comes from a golf-loving family. His mother, Mrs. Fred Venturi, is active in the Women's Golf Association of Northern California. Ken has played four years, is a high school senior, and is San Francisco scholastic champion.

In the semi-finals, Lind won from Reggie Myles, Jr., promising son of a professional at Lansing, Mich., and Venturi defeated Robert H. Black, of Jenkintown, Pa.

Lowest score in the sectional qualifying

rounds was a 69 by Warren Higgins at Dallas. . . . In 37 of the 41 sections, it took a score under 80 to win the medal . . . Don and Ron Guariglia are twins who tied for low score in the St. Louis try-outs. Both won their first-round matches at Ann Arbor and lost in the next round. They once were finalists in a tournament back home, and it took 20 holes to separate them. . . . At Ann Arbor there was an 18-hole consolation stroke play for players who lost in the first round, and John Edmonds, of Bremerton, Wash., won with a 76 . . . Henry Picard, former PGA Champion, would have been delighted had he seen his son Bill win a 19-hole match by playing a full midiron to within six feet and holing a birdie 3.

The youngest player was one of the most successful. Mason Rudolph, of Clarksville, Tenn., is just 14, but he won four matches.