

The Junior Championship

By RICHARD S. TUFTS

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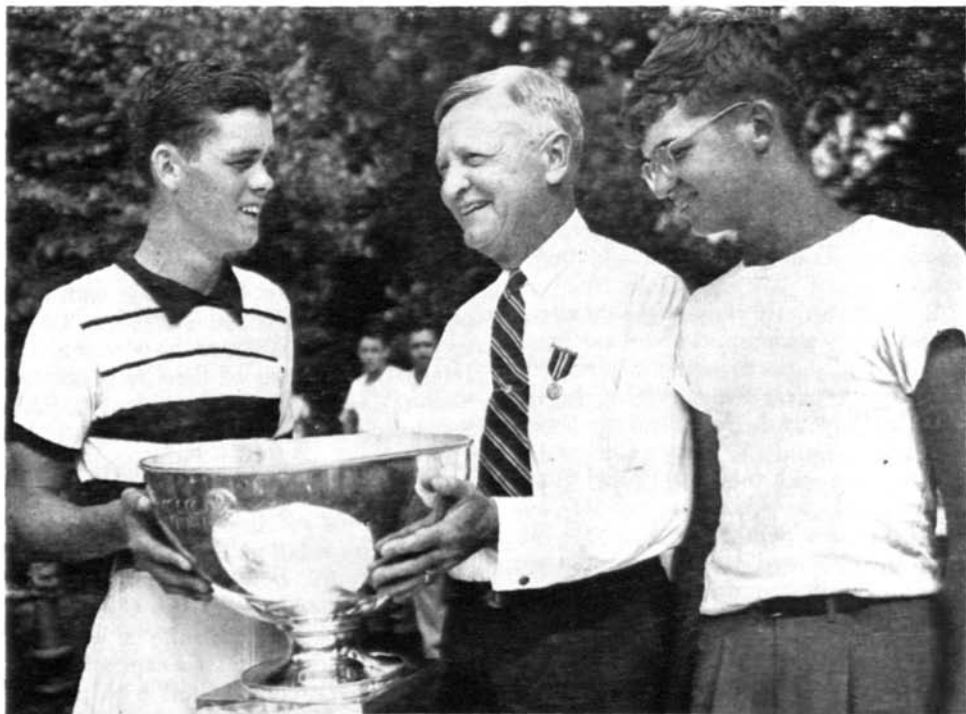
Perhaps the parents of more than one golfing family have wondered whether it would be wise to permit their son to attend an event like the USGA Junior Amateur Championship. Could such doubting Thomases have attended the USGA's second Junior Championship in Washington, D.C., late in July, all their questions would have been fully disposed of.

If a boy is seriously interested in golf, he is entitled to and it is well for him to have the opportunity of learning as much as he can about it. At Washington, boys from every section of the country met and became acquainted on the course of the Congressional Country Club and on the grounds of

Georgetown University, where they stayed.

They learned how to play the game and how to lose in the toughest competition available to them among boys of their own age. They competed in an event conducted with the same careful attention to rules and procedure under which the Open and the Amateur Championships are played. They had the opportunity of receiving sound advice on golf, its rules and on their own interests in the game.

Though the entry of 416 for the Sectional Qualifying Rounds was no larger than for the first Junior Championship last year, the quality of the field was undoubtedly better. As the boys struck off from the first tee, it was apparent to



Gay Brewer, Jr., 17, of Lexington, Ky., the second USGA Junior Amateur Champion, receives the trophy from Fielding Wallace, the President of the USGA, after defeating Mason Rudolph, 15, of Clarksville, Tenn., in the final. The finalists roomed together during the Championship.

any observer that this was a group of well-coached and capable golfers. Further proof was found in the many close matches and in the scores, there being few rounds played more than a few strokes over 80. Not so very unusual was the case of Hugh Reed, of Washington, D.C., who had a par round of 71 yet lost his first-round match by 2 and 1 to Graham Hunt, of Overland Park, Kans., who had 37-32-69.

Gay Brewer, Jr., of Lexington, Ky., who is 17 years old, became the second Champion. He had to play through seven matches in four days, and he won in a most convincing fashion. He was under par in several matches, and his ability to maintain this pace in the extreme heat that prevailed was certainly ample evidence of the championship calibre of his game.

His roommate at the Championship, 15-year-old Mason Rudolph, of Clarksville, Tenn., reached the final with Gay. Both boys qualified in Col. Lee Read's district at Louisville, which led the country in total entries. The Colonel was at Washington and was more than a little pleased to have the opportunity of refereeing the final between two of "his boys."

Under the able direction of Frank McArdle, a smooth-working organization had been set up for the championship. Without the efficient work of Dr. Bob Keilty, Frank Emmett, Joe Guiney and Bobby Brownell, the Championship would not have been possible. The Association especially thanks the Congressional Country Club for the use of its course and Georgetown University for rooming and eating facilities.

CANADA'S NEW NATIONAL HANDICAP SYSTEM

By WILLIAM O. BLANEY

CHAIRMAN, USGA HANDICAP COMMITTEE

The Royal Canadian Golf Association has recently approved a new national system of handicapping.

As in the case of the USGA's Golf Handicap System, the equalizer among courses of different playing difficulty is a system of course rating.

The new Canadian handicaps are "basic" in character and are designed to disclose a player's inherent ability to play the game rather than the "current," or at-the-moment, state of his game. They are computed by applying the average of the lowest 20 per cent of all scores posted by each player to a new National Handicap Chart. This chart is similar in many respects to the USGA's Handicap Table A but produces handicaps from one to four strokes lower for the same average scores. The maximum handicap under both USGA and RCGA systems is 36.

Handicap racks and cards provided by the RCGA make the posting of scores and the adjustment of handicaps a simple procedure. The RCGA, under an honor

system, makes every player responsible for both posting all his scores and keeping his handicap up-to-date. Scores made away from a player's home course are to be posted after making any necessary adjustment between the ratings of the two courses.

Handicap committees are authorized to penalize a player not posting all his scores from one to three strokes, depending on whether he is a low, medium or high-handicap golfer.

Computation of handicaps begin when five scores have been posted and may be reduced when 20 per cent of a larger number of posted scores places the average in a lower bracket. Handicap increases, however, cannot be made until 21 scores have been posted, after which a player's handicap may go up or down depending on what the average of the low 20 per cent calls for.

The Royal Canadian Golf Association is to be congratulated on a fine piece of work well done.