

The Young Guard Advances

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Was this year's Amateur Championship a tournament of "upsets"?

The right answer probably is "no". Time no doubt will prove that at Oak Hill the advancing guard of younger players was simply overtaking those who have enjoyed their due quota of time as leaders in the front ranks.

In any case, a change is imminent for the very simple reason that the younger golfers have now had the opportunity, since the war, of acquiring the experience necessary to win matches with regularity in top-flight competition.

Recognition of the fact that there were many fine young players on the way up made the selection of this year's Walker Cup Team an especially difficult task.

And yet, the record of the Team in the Championship indicates that the selections were sound. One Team member won the Championship—Charles R. Coe, of Oklahoma City; still another was a semi-finalist—William P. Turnesa, of New York; yet another was in the quarter-finals—John W. Dawson, of Los Angeles; and four members were eliminated by teammates.

When you think of the younger players coming along, some of those who come to mind are (besides Coe and some of his Walker Cup Teammates): William C. Campbell, of Huntington, W. Va.; Harvie Ward, Jr., of Rocky Mount, N. C.; Julius Boros, of Hartford, Conn.; H. MacGregor Hunter, of Los Angeles; Sam Urzetta, of Rochester; Charles B. Dudley, of Greenville, S.C.; Harold Paddock, Jr., of Cleveland; William L. Goodloe, Jr., of Valdosta, Ga. To name these few is to do injustice by omission to many others.

A Great Championship

This year's Amateur was the 49th in the series, and it was played under exceptionally favorable conditions. The Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester, N. Y., provided a great course in top condition and ample facilities efficiently

managed, all located in a community that loves and understands the game.

One of the most pleasant features at Oak Hill was the fine spirit in which the game was played. To even the casual observer it must have been obvious that though there were close, hard-fought matches, the players were competing for the pleasure of playing and not only to win.

Typical of this spirit was an incident in the Goodloe-Campbell match when Campbell's shot to the short sixth hole tore up the surface of the green and the ball spun back, leaving the damaged mark in Campbell's line to the hole. Goodloe told Campbell to repair the mark, and when his opponent quoted the prohibitory rule, which both of course knew, Goodloe was still not content; he walked over to an official and said, "Mr. Heffelfinger, you mean to say Ah can't even stomp on that place to help him out?"

This spirit of real sportmanship makes the Amateur what it should be—not just a championship but an annual gathering of lovers of golf. The event is well worth attending just to meet and be with these devotees of the game from every section of our country. To many, the practice rounds are more interesting than the championship itself. It is a fraternal gathering which builds not only better golfers but better representatives of the sport.

Coe a Convincing Champion

The Amateur further provides an opportunity for those charged with the official responsibility of directing the game to make contacts with the leading golfers of many communities. It may not be generally appreciated how welcome and how valuable these contacts are, but any golfer with a load on his mind is always welcome to unburden himself to the nearest official. After all, our interests are mutual—to do what is best for the game of golf.

Semi-Finalists in the Amateur Championship



Rochester Times-Union Photo

The survivors of six rounds of match play at the Oak Hill Country Club were representative of the country and of the reigning and rising generations of golf. They were William C. Campbell of West Virginia, Rufus King of Texas, William P. Turnesa of New York, and Charles R. Coe of Oklahoma. Coe was 25, Campbell 26, King 33, and Turnesa 35.

The promise which Charles Coe's game has given in recent years came to full fruition at Rochester. The tall, 25-year-old Oklahoman was very convincing in winning the Championship. Among those whom he defeated were Robert Sweeny, former British Champion; Harvie Ward, who held a substantial lead until late in the match and finally lost on the 19th; John Dawson, whom Coe defeated on the 21st after three extra holes; Bill Campbell, in the semi-finals, 8 and 7, and Rufus King, of Wichita Falls, Texas, in the final, 11 and 10. Charley Coe is a thorough Champion.

Up to the final, King played spic-and-span golf of much the same quality that first attracted attention in the Amateur Championship of 1935, when he had a most interesting match with Lawson Little, the

defending Champion, in the first round.

All factors conspired to make the 49th Amateur at Oak Hill an outstanding tournament. Otto Shults, the Club's President and Tournament Committee Chairman, had as efficient an organization as has ever prepared such an event. There was a tremendous field of 1,060 entrants and, after sectional qualifying, the starting field of 210 at Oak Hill was perhaps the strongest since 1936. It included not only almost all of our country's leading players, but also the British Walker Cup Team.

The British added immeasurably to the success of the event, and most of all by their fine sporting spirit. They may not have won any cups, but they won something far more precious—hosts of friends.