

Mixed Foursomes by the Hundreds

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It's fairly safe to hazard the guess that no other trophy in the United States is adorned by as many names of renowned golfers of both sexes as the Fridolyn Cup, a prize for which Philadelphians have competed at the Philmont Country Club for the last 35 years.

The late Ellis A. Gimbel, of the well-known department store family, originated the mixed foursome tournament in 1907. It became so popular that in 1916 Mr. Gimbel, Philmont's President for 40 years, donated a trophy, the Fridolyn Cup, named for his daughter.

Philmont has two courses, the heavily-

wooded championship North course and the less exacting South course. When the Fridolyn Handicap event was added as a South course sideshow, the field mushroomed until it has become generally recognized as the country's biggest one-day golf event, often with more than 900 starters.

Considering the ladies first, three members of winning teams in the Fridolyn Cup—Mrs. Edwin H. Vare, Jr., Mrs. Dorothy Campbell Hurd Howe, and Mrs. Clarence H. Vanderbeck—won ten American women's championships among them.

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Courtesy The Philadelphia Inquirer

Mrs. Frank O'Neill, Jr., and Matt Scammell, Jr., the winners this year, receive the Fridolyn Cup from Leonard Geis.

James D. Standish, Jr., now USGA President, was on hand and must have secretly been gratified by the high status of the event which he fathered back in 1922. He

was then first Chairman of the USGA Public and Municipal Golf Courses Committee and donated the Individual Championship Cup.

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benefited him in the Junior. Twice he had to win on extra holes, and in the final he broke another brave young player, Chuck Beville, of Los Angeles, 2 and 1.

One of the rewards of victory is exemption from sectional qualifying for the Amateur Championship. Thus Mason is the only individual who can play in three USGA Championships this year.

The play of the youngsters is edifying, particularly their speed. They report at the tee promptly. They have no time for lengthy surveys and cerebral processes; they simply step up to the ball and hit it with enthusiasm. They accept without question the doctrines of playing the ball as it lies and taking the course as they find it.

Yet Johnny Brown, of Lexington, Ky., played out his bye holes one day for a 68, three under par, and Charley Strack,

of York, Pa., Don Bisplinghoff, of Orlando, Fla., and Gene Hay, of Atlanta, all played the first nine in 32.

It really was small wonder that Gerald H. Phipps, Chairman of the Denver Country Club's Golf Committee, expressed the wish that the Club could conduct the tournament every year, and that the members were so generously hospitable.

The competition was the first operated by the new Junior Championship Committee; and C. Dewey Allen, of Grand Rapids, Mich., Frank Emmet, of Washington, D. C., George A. Schrieber, of Albuquerque, N. M., and Robert M. Siegfried, of Tulsa, Okla., aided N. C. Morris, of Denver, in conducting it. Their enthusiasm was keen. Emmet brought his seven qualifiers with him and shepherded them until the last was eliminated. Siegfried came for one day and stayed four.

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Another name engraved on the Cup is Miss Helen Sigel, twice runner-up for the USGA women's crown.

Among the men, Max Marston, 1923 USGA Amateur Champion, was the "male lead" in the Fridolyn Cup eight times. W. B. (Duff) McCullough, Jr., runner-up to Dick Chapman in the 1940 Amateur Championship, has shared in four victories, three of them with his sister, Mrs. William G. Hamilton, Jr.

For many years Mr. Gimbel personally attended to all the tournament arrangements as well as donating all the prizes. He gradually relinquished these duties, but never missed a tournament prior to his death last April.

Another driving force behind the Fridolyn Cup tournament was Raymond M. Slotter, long Philmont's green chairman. When he died four days before the 1936 tournament, his daughter, Miss

Frances (Topsy) Slotter, took over the supervisory chores and handled them until she left Philadelphia with her soldier husband during World War II.

The Fridolyn Cup was played without lapse through the War, as it had been through World War I. War Bonds took the place of the usual prizes, and, because of the curtailed use of automobiles, horse-drawn wagons were used to transport players to and from the Philmont railroad station, about a mile away.

Sydney K. Allman, Jr., Harold Bayuk, and more recently Leonard Geis, Philmont's new President; Harold Blumenthal, and Joseph Simon have carried on what was one of Mr. Gimbel's most enthusiastic projects. The winners this year in the selective drive, alternate stroke competition—with a 74 despite a two-stroke penalty for playing the wrong ball—were Huntingdon Valley's Mrs. Frank O'Neill, Jr., and Matt Scammell, Jr.