

The Kid's a Noble Woman Now

With the Women's Amateur Championship at the Town and Country Club in St. Paul, Minn., next month, memory goes back 16 years to the other Twin City, Minneapolis, and Interlachen Country Club. There, in 1935, in another Women's Championship, Mrs. Glenna Collett Vare marched to her sixth title, no longer the girl who had captured the imagination of American golf in the Twenties but a matron, mother of two children.

Two 17-year-old girls from Minneapolis created a tremendous stir. One was Beatrice Barrett, who reached the semi-finals and later set the tournament qualifying record with a 74 at the Wee Burn Club in Connecticut in 1939. The other was Patty Berg.

Scarcely a golfer swings a club today who does not know of Patty Berg. Only a few knew of the freckle-faced, red-headed, stocky youngster before she played the final match with Mrs. Vare in 1935. It was quite a scrap little Patty put up before she was halted, 3 and 2.

At the presentation ceremony afterward, Prescott S. Bush, then President of the USGA, looked at the girl quizzically and remarked:

"Patty, I don't know whether to call you a great kid or a noble woman."

Whatever conclusion Mr. Bush reached, he could not have been wrong. Patty had certainly proved that she was a great kid. She has demonstrated many times since that she is a noble woman.

She was not to be denied a Women's Amateur Championship; three years later she attained it at the Westmoreland Country Club, Wilmette, Ill. She has since turned professional and scored many notable victories in that division. During the war she served as a member of the Women Marines. Her golf career had another serious setback when she sustained a leg injury in a motor accident and was hospitalized for months.

It is doubtful if Patty ever proved a more noble woman golfwise than last month.



Miss Patty Berg

When the long cross-country Weather-vane open tournament reached its scheduled conclusion, Miss Berg and Mrs. Babe Didrickson Zaharias were tied with 601 strokes each for 144 holes. A play-off at 36 holes was set. At the Scarsdale, N. Y., Country Club, each scored 71, one under men's par. The long contest ended at last at the Deepdale Golf Club, where Patty defeated Mrs. Zaharias, 75 to a 76, for a total play-off score of 146 to 147.

Before a week had elapsed, the two came to grips again in the Women's Invitation Western Open at the Whitemarsh Valley Country Club, Chestnut Hill, Pa. In the second round, Patty again was the victor, 1 up. Miss Berg went on to win the tournament, defeating Miss Pat O'Sullivan, of Orange, Conn., in the 36-hole final, 2 up.

Playing from a bunker on the 24th, Patty scraped the sand on her backswing. No one else saw it. Patty, of course, called the hole on herself.