

# The Spirit of the Public Links Championship

Different tournaments create different atmospheres. The Open sometimes seems grim. Golf is the professional's business, winning the Open will set him up in big business and to him the tournament may be the most important event of the year.

There is little point in any player entering a tournament unless he tries to win, but the Amateur is not so business-like as the Open. Fellowship is in evidence, even in the rivalry. There is a spirit of gaily and fun at the Junior.

The spirit of the Public Links Championship is of its own distinct flavor, and its essence is service and co-operation. The public links player, as a rule, is one who cannot afford to belong to a private club. Competing at a course far from

his home sometimes involves financial strain and sacrifice.

This thought is never out of mind of those who conduct the event and they give unstintingly of themselves to make the tournament possible, pleasant and smooth for the contestants.

## He Did Everything

No better example of this spirit could be cited than Phil Poppy, a member of the Milwaukee County Public Links Golf Association. Mr. Poppy, an accountant, gave up his two-weeks vacation to devote that time and great effort to making the tournament a success.

During the week of July 9, Mr. Poppy did almost every odd job required around a golf tournament. He acted as caddie,

## The Presentation of the James D. Standish, Jr., Trophy



*Milwaukee Journal Photos*

Before Dave Stanley, left, received the Amateur Public Links Trophy from Totten P. Heffelfinger, USGA Vice-President and Chairman of the Public Links Committee, with Runner-up Ralph Vranesic standing by, the tournament produced the closest competition in history. Not only did Stanley have to go 38 holes to win the final, both semi-finals went overtime for the first time in American golf.

as caddie-master, fore-caddie, marshalled, and was generally johnny-on-the-spot wherever needed. That was typical of the co-operation of the association he represented. Its president, Walter Moynihan, was another helpful worker.

A great measure of the success of the event was due to Gerald J. Schramm, Milwaukee member of the USGA Public Links Committee.

Out of all this and from the field of 210 for the Championship proper, who found the Brown Deer Park golf course in excellent condition, emerged a most interesting Champion, Dave Stanley. Stanley, a 20-year-old student of the University of California at Los Angeles and No. 1 on the UCLA golf team, had headed east for the Intercollegiate Championship. To his chagrin, he failed to qualify. He then turned to the Public Links Championship.

#### Escapes Early Attention

He attracted but little attention in the early rounds, while eyes were focused on the defending Champion, Stanley Bielat, of Yonkers, N. Y., and Harold Haddock, of Denver, whose scoring was exceptional for the first two rounds. Haddock was still on hand after three days of play, but Bielat was dethroned by Kenneth Lanning, Rolla, Mo., student, in the third round, 2 and 1. The next day Haddock fell before Bill Lees, 31-year-old lumberman of Portland, Ore., 2 and 1.

Lees pressed on to the semi-finals and there he was bracketed with Stanley. In the other semi-final was Ralph Vranesic, a Denver clerk, and Ralph (Pat) Schwab, 18-year-old high school graduate of Dayton, Ohio. Schwab, son of a professional, made a tremendous impression in the tournament and those who watched him predicted big things will be heard of him.

Players like these were expected to produce exciting matches and the expected happened. For the first time in American golf history, both semi-finals went overtime.

Stanley squeaked into the final when Lees fluffed an approach from thick rough banking the 37th hole. Schwab missed a very short putt on the same green. There



William Lees



Wide World Photo  
Pat Schwab

is a lesson for every golfer in his comment afterward.

"I wasn't even thinking of the putt," he said heart-brokenly. "I was worrying about my drive off the next tee."

Stanley and Vranesic matched strokes the next day and they, too, went extra holes before the former won the Championship on the 38th hole, breaking the previous record for the final set at 37 holes by Carl F. Kauffmann and William F. Serrick in 1927. A par 4 there made Stanley the second youngest Champion in the history of the tournament but Vranesic had waged a fight for the title that will not soon be forgotten.

Hitting powerful drives and putting sharply, Stanley jumped into the lead early and was 5 up after 27 holes. Then began one of the gamest comebacks any tournament has seen. Vranesic won the 28th, halved three holes, scored winning pars on the 32d and 33d holes, then snatched the 34th and 36th with birdies to send the match overtime. It was a grand uphill climb but Stanley still had something left and would not be denied.

It was the first tournament for the young UCLA competitor, who got his first golf clubs only four years ago.

Dayton, Ohio, gained the Team Championship in the contest preceding the individual competition when it put together a 75 by Byron H. Hunt, a 79 by Walter Ireland and an 80 by Edwin Bohardt for a three-man score of 234. Peoria, Ill., fell just a stroke short on 79 by Robert Togikawa, 73 by Don Schrabulis and 83 by Walter Durdle. Atlanta, Ga., and Memphis, Tenn., tied for third at 237.