

## Fast Play in the Public Links Event

When the stymie was abolished, it had been half-feared that the resultant increased lifting of the ball would slow match play appreciably.

But this was by no means the case in the first USGA test of the new Rule—the 27th Amateur Public Links Championship at the Miami Country Club in Florida last month.

It was a rare match which took more than three hours. The morning round of the final needed ten minutes less than that. Many a match reached the turn in 1 hour 20 minutes.

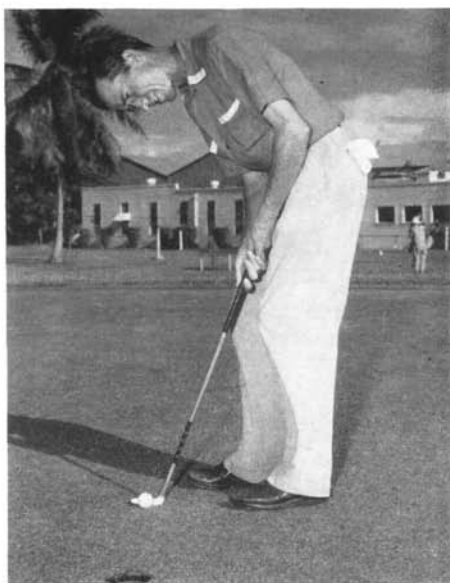
There was some unnecessary ball-lifting, due to unfamiliarity with the new Rule. Under Rule 35-2a, when the nearer ball lies on the putting green, either the player or the opponent may require the ball to be lifted if he thinks it might interfere with or assist the player. (The lifting must be done by the owner of the ball or his caddie—see Rule 23-1.) When there is no reasonable possibility of one assisting or interfering with the other, there is no occasion to lift.

The time involved in lifting and replacing did not appear to be greater than the time players used to take in studying stymies, near-stymies, and possible future stymies.

Players in the Public Links Championship are models to follow in many respects. Not only do they move right along but they have a thirst for playing the game strictly by the Rules and etiquette.

One young man, for instance, telephoned a USGA representative shortly before bedtime one night to inquire about Rules. The Championship is always preceded by a dinner at which a Rules forum is conducted. This provides food for many informal discussions throughout the week.

Who are the players in this tournament? Here are the four semi-finalists: OMER L. (PETE) BOGAN, the new Cham-



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### Omer L. (Pete) Bogan

Champion, of South Gate, Cal., near Los Angeles—35 years old; a salesman.

ROBERT L. SCHERER, of Decatur, Ill. — 21 years old; a factory worker.

ROBERT L. KURZ, of Miami Springs, Fla. — 32 years old; an airlines pilot.

JOHN HALIN, of Spokane, Wash. — 19 years old; college student.

They were the last four from an original entry of 2,265, of whom 200 qualified to play in the Championship on the identical schedule as the USGA Amateur.

It was the first Public Links Championship for both finalists. Bogan was the winner over Scherer by 4 and 3. Two weeks before, Bogan had won the Los Angeles city title in a 41-hole final.

The intersectional Team Championship was won by Chicago's three-man team with 227 for 18 holes stroke play. The members are George Dayiantis, 72; John Dobro, 77; Dante Vicini, 78.