

Women's Golf Is Changing

There was a time when Women's Amateur Championships tended to run along lines roughly approximating form, and such accomplished players as Miss Bea Hoyt, Miss Margaret Curtis, Mrs. Dorothy Campbell Hurd, Miss Alexa Stirling, Mrs. Edwin H. Vare, Jr. and Miss Virginia Van Wie were able to dominate over a period of years.

In the 52nd Championship at the beautiful Waverley Country Club, in Portland, Ore., the pendulum swung to the other extreme. A skilled analyst might have been able to predict the success of one or two of the semi-finalists, but it is most doubtful that a final between Mrs. Jacqueline Pung, of Honolulu, and Miss Shirley McFedters, of Los Angeles, was anticipated in any quarter.

This final did take place, however, and it was a final between two eminently qualified alumnae of public links who had earned their passage and deserved their honors, even though suddenly achieved. Mrs. Pung won, by 2 and 1, and those who had watched her throughout the week appreciated that they were seeing one of the fine women players of our time.

The moral of this outcome is clear. There are many more excellent women players in this country than meet the eye of a casual observer in any one locality, and they do not all compete in tournaments around the calendar, or even in the USGA Championship every year. It might even be possible to make a strong case against the necessity of regular tournament play as a preparation for championships.

Mrs. Pung, for instance, has played in only two previous USGA Championships, at Tulsa, Okla., in 1946 and at Pebble Beach, Cal., in 1948. She lost in the first round in 1946 and defeated Mrs. Vare before losing in the third round in 1948. Until she won, she expected this would



Wide World Photo

Mrs. Jacqueline Pung

be her last. She is the mother of two children and a saleswoman in a Honolulu department store. She only resumed play in preparation for this Championship three months ago. Her equipment, however, does include great power, an understanding of a wide variety of shots and the calm temperament of a native kamaaina.

This happy temperament which enabled her to extend a true aloha to her opponent before each match and which stood her in good stead when the outlook seemed bleak (she was 5 down at one point during the morning round of the final) also thoroughly endeared her to the gallery, so that it was hardly a surprise when she produced beautiful Hawaiian leis for her one-time rivals during the presentation exercises. What the gallery and the rivals did not realize at the time was that the leis had been ordered far in advance and flown to Portland with little expectation that Mrs. Pung, herself, would be one of the recipients.

While Mrs. Pung has been only an occasional contender for the Championship, Miss McFedters, a coed at the University of California at Los Angeles, was competing for the first time and, in fact, almost failed to get into match play. She tied with nine others at 83 for the last eight of the sixty-four places in match play, and she got in only by holing a goodly putt on the second and last green of the play-off. The qualifying deadline, however, was the lowest on record. Miss McFedters then compounded the anxiety by once going 19 holes and twice going 20 holes in match play. While Mrs. Pung was making 6-and-4 work of the brilliant young Miss Pat Lesser, of Seattle, in one semi-final, Miss McFedters required 20 holes to defeat Miss Pat Garner, of Midland, Texas, in the other.

Miss Lesser and Miss Garner

The achievements of Mrs. Pung and Miss McFedters were, of course, the outstanding results of the Championship, the first to be played in the Pacific Northwest, but there were other interesting developments. One certainly was the highly promising performances of Miss Lesser, who, at 19, has now been successively a quarter-finalist and a semi-finalist in this Championship, and of Miss Garner, who contributed a full share of giant-killing. Miss Lesser, who wore pig-tails, went to the turn in 33 and started back 4, 3 in the third round against Miss Bee McWane.

Giant-killing seemed to be the order of the week. Seven members of the 1952 Curtis Cup Team competed, but only Miss Claire Doran, of Cleveland, got as far as the quarter-finals. Miss Dorothy Kirby, of Atlanta, who was defending, won the medal with a 76 but bowed, 4 and 3, in the third round to Miss Edean Anderson, of Helena, Mont., who had recently won the Canadian Championship.

The other survivors in the round-of-eight were Miss Barbara Snook, of Portland, who was 17 and playing in her first Championship; Miss Barbara Ro-

mack, of Sacramento, a 19 year old; and Miss Anderson.

Portland gave its first Women's Amateur Championship the heartiest of welcomes. Douglas Nicoll and Warren Munro, of the Waverley Country Club, gave their lady guests a beautifully conditioned, tight golf course and every other facility. The ladies responded enthusiastically by providing an excellent sporting competition. And the galleries appeared to be as large, and certainly were as golf-minded and well-mannered, as any which have attended this event.

GIRLS' JUNIOR

The first playing of the Girls' Junior Championship on the West Coast also developed a large field and a new Champion, as well as good fun and excellent golf.

Miss Mickey Wright, of La Jolla, Cal., won at the Monterey Peninsula Country Club, Pebble Beach, Cal., from a field of forty-three starters of 17 years or less. She took the last hole with a par to defeat Miss Barbara McIntire, of Heather Downs, Ohio, 1 up in the final. Miss Wright had been runner-up to Miss Pat Lesser at the Wanakah Country Club, near Buffalo, in 1950.

It was Miss McIntire's second defeat in the final. She was also runner-up a year ago to Miss Arlene Brooks, of Pasadena, Cal. Miss Brooks entered a defense of her Championship but lost in the second round to Miss Anne Quast, a 14 year old from Everett, Wash. Miss McIntire defeated Miss Quast, 2 and 1, in one semi-final, and Miss Wright defeated Miss Judy Bell of Wichita, the Kansas Women's Champion, 2 and 1, in the other.

The calibre of play was high, and Miss Quast and Miss Wright tied for the qualifying medal with scores of 76. Miss McIntire and Miss Janet McIntosh, of Cincinnati, Ohio, also shaded 80 by a stroke in the qualifying play; and there was a play-off among three girls tied at 90 for

the last two of the sixteen places in Championship match play.

Among those who lost in early rounds were Miss Margaret Smith, 15, of Guadalajara, Mexico, the Mexican Women's Champion; Miss Judy Frank, of Alpine, N. J., the Metropolitan New York Junior Girls' Champion; Miss Ruth Jessen, the Seattle, Wash., Junior Girls' Champion;



Julian P. Graham Photo

Winner and co-medalist in the Girls' Junior Championship at the Monterey Peninsula Country Club, Pebble Beach, Cal., were Miss Mickey Wright, of La Jolla, Cal., who is 17, and Miss Anne Quast, of Everett, Wash., who is 14.

and Miss Berridge Long, of Huntington, the West Virginia Champion. It was a most representative field, from the aspects of both quality and geography.

Two flights were conducted in addition to the Championship. Miss Sue De Voe, of Medford, Ore., was the first and Miss Jean O'Harra, of Reno, Nev., won the second.

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