

Miss Faulk a Worthy Champion

By JOSEPH C. DEY, JR.

USGA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To take the word of the ladies who disport in major golf tournaments, Miss Mary Lena Faulk has been regarded for several years as one of the soundest, most solid players. The general public may have had a different if superficial view, for her record in the USGA Women's Amateur Championship had not been impressive—she had been defeated twice in the first round, once in the second, once in the third, and that was the farthest she had gone.

But her opponents have long had the highest respect for her game, and an opponent's estimate is apt to be quite honest and critical.

Thus, Miss Faulk has received unquestioned acceptance as a very thorough Champion at golf, following her victory in the 53rd USGA Women's Amateur tournament at the Rhode Island Country Club, near Providence.

The male spectators were completely convinced of her ability. As a matter of fact, many males who observed the week's events came away well chastened, with a deep sense of humility, after watching 149 ladies give a real demonstration of how the game can be played. A Women's Championship is always a deflating experience for a man's golfing ego.

One man summed up about Miss Faulk by saying: "She is a real Champion, both as a player and as a person." That was how Eddie Vare felt about it, and he should know, for his wife was six times national Champion (the former Miss Glenna Collett).

Miss Faulk is a quiet, lady-like, slender young woman of 27 from Thomasville, Ga. Her golfing style is simple and sound, with little or no wasted effort. She seems tireless in her ability to keep placing the ball on the green. Abroad, she won many friends and much respect for

1955 CHAMPIONSHIPS

The USGA has accepted invitations to hold 1955 Championships at the following places:

Amateur Championship—Country Club of Virginia (James River course), Richmond, Va.

Amateur Public Links Championship—Coffin Municipal Golf Course, Indianapolis, Ind.

Junior Amateur Championship—Purdue University (South course), West Lafayette, Ind.

All dates will be fixed later.

her game when she reached the semifinals of the British Championship last spring.

To win the Championship at Rhode Island, Miss Faulk had to vanquish seven opponents in six days. Among them were Mrs. Mark A. Porter, the 1949 Champion; Mrs. John L. Hulteng, the former Betty Jean Rucker, who has long been a strong contender for the Championship; 16-year-old Margaret (Wiffi) Smith, Mexican Champion, and Miss Polly Riley, several times a member of the Curtis Cup Team.

For Miss Riley, it was a naturally disappointing conclusion to a week of splendid play. She had played through the very strong first quarter of the draw, and numbered among her victims two members of the last Curtis Cup Team—Misses Patricia O'Sullivan and Dorothy Kirby, the 1951 Champion—besides Miss Edean Anderson, the Trans-Mississippi Champion, and Miss Patricia Devany.

Miss Riley has been a contender ever since World War II, and twice before she reached the last eight.

In the 36-hole final at Rhode Island, Miss Faulk played one of the fine rounds



Photo by Archie Arsenaunt, Providence Journal-Bulletin

The four semi-finalists in the Women's Amateur Championship at the Rhode Island Country Club, from the left: Miss Polly Riley, of Fort Worth, Texas, the runner-up; Mrs. Philip J. Cudone, of Montclair, N. J.; Miss Mary Lena Faulk, of Thomasville, Ga., the Champion; and Miss Margaret Smith, of Guadalajara, Mexico.

of Championship history with a 73 in the morning which left her 6 up. Miss Riley made a valiant comeback and extended the match to the 34th hole before it was settled, 3 and 2.

All Match Play To Be Continued

The Championship was unusually interesting, with a representative field of 149 playing a testing Donald Ross course which called for skillful shot-making. Rhode Island Country Club used to be the home course of Glenna Vare, and it is among her favorites. It was there in the 1924 Championship that Glenna became the first player in history to break 80 in the qualifying round, with a 79. The Championship that year was won by Mrs. Dorothy Campbell Hurd, who defeated Miss Mary K. Browne in the final. A month before, Miss Browne had been a semi-finalist in the National Tennis Championship.

This year there was no qualifying round, and the all-match-play tournament was arranged by a blind draw, with the exception that 13 certain players of proven quality were distributed among the four quarters; this distribution was made by a further draw and not by specific seeding. These players included former Champions, members of the last Curtis Cup Team, the 1953 British Champion (Miss Marlene Stewart, 19-year-old Canadian lass); the 1953 Canadian Champion (Miss Barbara Romack, of Sacramento, Cal.); and the low amateur in the 1953 USGA Women's Open Championship (Miss Patricia Lesser, of Seattle).

A poll of players last year indicated a strong preference for all-match-play, and elimination of a qualifying round. The events at Rhode Island produced no compelling reason for any further change,

and all-match-play will be the order next year.

The Championship brought a number of younger players to the fore and reflected some of the interest developed through the USGA Girls' Junior Championship. The USGA Women's Committee will have an interesting time selecting the 1954 Curtis Cup Team.

Young Wiffi Smith, born in California but long a resident of Mexico, deserves great credit for reaching the semi-finals in her first visit to the Championship. Cheers, too, for Mrs. Philip Cudone, New Jersey housewife, who also went to the semi-finals. On her way Mrs. Cudone eliminated Miss Bee McWane and Miss Carol Diringer before Miss Riley stopped her.

The Rhode Island Country Club was most efficient in its arrangements and generous in its hospitality, thanks largely to Malcolm E. Stone, General Chairman; Mrs. Arnold Brown, Women's Chairman, and Alan Sheldon, President.

The New England hosts provided small Confederate flags to marshal the all-Southern finalists through the gallery lines. It was a most appropriate finishing touch to another Georgia victory. Miss Faulk joins Mrs. Alexa Stirling Fraser, a three-time Champion; Miss Louise Suggs and Miss Dorothy Kirby as Georgia winners of the handsome old trophy, which is now on its seventh visit to the land of Bob Jones.

MISS MEYERSON'S WIN

A new golfing family appears to be in the making in Los Angeles.

Last year, Eddie Meyerson, then 17, was a finalist in the USGA Junior Amateur Championship and made an excellent showing against Donald M. Bisplinghoff, the winner.

This year, Eddie's sister, Miss Millie Meyerson, 16 years old, came east for the 5th Girls' Junior Championship at The Country Club, in Brookline, Mass., and won.

Their achievements, on the junior level, reminded many spectators of the feats of Miss Edith and Dexter Cummings, of

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Chicago, who, in 1923, brought to their household the Women's Amateur and the Intercollegiate Championships.

Miss Meyerson's chances were not considered particularly bright, even by herself. The field of 41 was studded with such players as Miss Anne Richardson, 17, of Columbus, Ohio, recent winner of the Women's Western Junior; Miss Berridge Long, 16, of Huntington, W. Va., runner-up in that event and West Virginia Champion; Miss Margaret Smith, 16, of Guadalajara, Mexico, the Mexican Champion, and Miss Jacqueline Yates, 17, of Honolulu, T. H., who were en route to the Women's Amateur Championship the following week at the Rhode Island Country Club, in West Barrington, R. I. Miss Meyerson had not even entered the Women's Championship.

The qualifying play went generally to form, and the Misses Richardson, Long and Yates tied for the medal with 77s. The principal surprise was the failure of Miss Ann Quast, 15, of Everett, Wash., who had been co-medalist and a semi-finalist last year. She scored 39-49—88, one stroke too many to qualify.

Miss Richardson, Miss Long and Miss Smith all went down in the second round and Miss Yates fell in the semi-finals, leaving only Miss Meyerson and Miss Holly Jean Roth, also 16, of Milwaukee, Wis., who had beaten both Miss Richardson and Miss Yates. In the final, Miss



Photo by William Meikle

Miss Millie Meyerson
1953 Girls' Junior Champion

Meyerson went her brother one better and took the match, 4 and 2. Both finalists will be eligible to compete next year at the Gulph Mills Golf Club, Bridgeport, Pa.

QUERY ON CALCUTTAS

QUESTION: It seems to be necessary to conduct one of these Calcutta pools in connection with every golf tournament of any importance, and it seems to be customary for the winner of the pool to hand over to the winning player, whose ticket he has, a good healthy chunk of the pot.

In a tournament which will be played here, there probably will be at least three amateurs, any one of whom, with a bit of luck, could win. Let's suppose that one of them does win and accepts a slice of the Calcutta pool from the chap who has bought his ticket. Where does that player stand when he attempts to enter the Amateur Championship?

ANSWER: There is no question about the impairment of a player's amateur status when he accepts a financial reward for winning a tournament in connection with which a Calcutta pool is held, whether or not the player was aware of the possible reward before competing.

If he was aware, he certainly has played for a money prize.

If he was not aware and accepted cash, his status would not fall within the Definition of an Amateur.

If you had a definite case, such as that outlined in your letter, we could not clear the individual for our Amateur Championship.