

CHAMPIONS OF THE FUTURE

WHEN FOSTER (Bud) Bradley, Jr., won the Junior Amateur Championship last month, he completed a cycle in which each of the Championships conducted by this Association for male amateurs had been won by a resident of Southern California.

Gene Littler, a worthy successor to George Von Elm, took the Amateur Championship back to San Diego last September; and Gene Andrews, the latest in a growing line of Los Angeles victors, won the Amateur Public Links Championship last July.

And now Bud Bradley.

In this case, the Association figuratively bearded the lion in his own den by conducting the Championship over the 6,820 yard North Course of The Los Angeles Country Club, and not one but two sons of Southern California came through from the original record entry of 749 to the final.

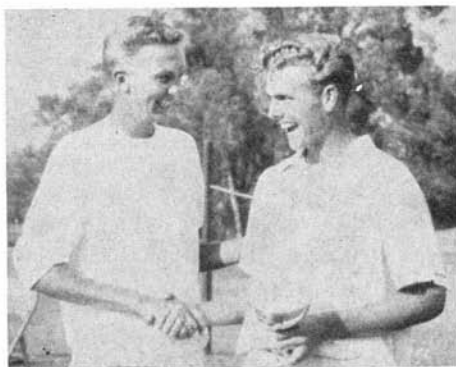
One was Bradley, a well-mannered and attractive young gentleman of 17, who lives in Los Angeles, was graduated from Marshall High School last June and plays public links golf at the Griffith Park course.

The other was Allen L. Geiberger, who lives in Santa Barbara, enters his senior year of high school this fall and plays at the Valley Club of Montecito. He is only 16 but is an exceptionally formful and promising player.

Until this victory, Bradley was perhaps better known as a crack high school shortstop than as a golfer.

Now You See Him, Now You Don't

One reason for this, of course, could be the extreme speed with which he plays golf. In an era of increasingly slow play, Bud seems to have his first tee shot splitting the center-line of the fairway by the time the starter has finished calling his name, and he whizzes around so fast that he has a now-you-see-him-now-you-don't aura which is both refreshing and, for spectators, breathtaking.



Allen L. Geiberger (left) congratulates the new Junior Amateur Champion, Foster Bradley, Jr.

Another reason may be that in two previous tries for the Junior Amateur Championship, he lost successively in the third and first rounds. Three weeks earlier he was beaten, 2 down, by Geiberger in the final of the Southern California Junior. Geiberger also had won the California and Los Angeles City Junior Championships.

As often happens in junior golf, however, the result of that Southern California final became irrelevant when they met again in the final of the Junior Amateur Championship. Bradley played the first ten holes in one under par and, with Geiberger somewhat off his game, stood 5 up. The younger boy then won four of the next five holes to make a match out of it, but Bradley took the last two and the Championship, 3 and 1. He needed a par 4 for a 75 when it ended.

The following week, incidentally, it went the other way again. Geiberger defended his California Junior Championship with a 72-hole score of 289 over four Los Angeles courses and Bradley was third with 297.

Their match had not only a thrilling finish but also a pleasing aspect, because both native sons were exemplary sportsmen and played with dispatch. Their appeal was so strong, in fact, that the gallery was the largest this Championship has had

and probably numbered at various times from five hundred to a thousand persons.

The Los Angeles Country Club, which had not entertained a USGA Championship since the Women's Amateur of 1930, provided the quintessence of efficient hospitality, and it is more than likely that the graceful comportment of the players reflected their respect for the venerable traditions of the Club and for the support and interest displayed by its members.

The losing semi-finalists were George Warren, 17, of Hampton, S. C., and Henry (Phil) Lobstein, 15, of Brownwood, Texas. Warren, who was runner-up a year ago, fell when Bradley went to the turn in 34 to start a 3-and-1 victory. Lobstein, who was only starting golf a year ago, bowed to Geiberger, 6 and 4. Warren was three over par and Geiberger was two over for the holes played.

The Championship was conducted by the dozen faithful members of the Junior Championship Committee who attended, with the assistance of the large and experienced Tournament Committee of The Los Angeles Country Club and of representatives of the Junior Golf Association of Southern California and of the Southern California Golf Association. Truly it was a community effort, and the community was a happy one.

Byron Nelson, the 1939 Open Champion, gave a memorable group lesson in the simple fundamentals of the game the day before play started, and the USGA honored the players at a large dinner in the clubhouse, where the rules of the competition were explained and where players and officials came to know each other on more personal terms. Those who lost in the first round were invited to play in a consolation event at the Bel-Air Country Club, and sixty-three of the sixty-four who were eligible accepted and had a wonderful day there.

**Treat your caddie as you would
your son.**

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