

THEY MAY BE YOUNG, BUT THEY'RE LADIES

by

MRS. JOHN PENNINGTON

Chairman,

USGA Girls' Junior Committee

THE SIXTH Girls' Junior Championship, held at the Gulph Mills Golf Club, near Philadelphia, was a particularly happy event, and the players, ranging in age from 11 to 17, played beautiful golf and conducted themselves like ladies.

A record number of 64 girls entered and 59 played. There was a Championship flight of sixteen players, two other flights of sixteen and a fourth flight of four.

Miss Margaret Smith, of Guadalajara, Mexico, known as Wiffi, won the final, 5 and 3, from Miss Sue Driscoll, of Normandy, Mo. Both played excellent golf. Miss Ruth Jessen, of Kenmore, Wash., was medalist with a record score of 75; Miss Smith had 76 and Miss Driscoll had 78.

Our new Champion, Miss Smith, is a fine golfer. She was a semi-finalist in the 1953 Women's Amateur Championship and also won the Mexican Championship in 1953. Miss Driscoll had won the St. Louis Junior Championship three times and was the Women's St. Louis District Champion. Miss Jessen won the Pacific Northwest, Washington State and Seattle Championships in 1954. These girls were all 17, so next year will see a new champion crowned.

Twenty-three states and Mexico were represented. In the Championship flight of 16 players, 13 states and Mexico were represented, which shows that some girls travel a long way to play. Some travel alone and some with parents.

One player was so tiny she had to stand on the tee benches to use the ball washers.

Another little girl of 14, Miss Meriam Bailey, of Palatine, Ill., proved to be a great sportswoman. She took a two-stroke penalty for unintentionally cleaning her ball, unbeknown to her playing companion,

thereby giving her a qualifying score of 86. Had she not had this penalty, she would have qualified for the Championship with an 84. As it was, two players with 85s played off for the last place. This figure, incidentally, is a new low and reveals the quality of the field as a whole.

Unfortunately, both the winner and runner-up of the previous year failed to qualify. Miss Mildred Meyerson, of Los Angeles, Cal., who won last year, missed the play-off by four strokes, and Miss Holly Jean Roth, of Milwaukee, Wis., missed it by five strokes.

The example of sportsmanship provided by Miss Bailey was only one of many fine traits in our junior girls. These girls play a serious game, they play for keeps but they keep a smile on their faces and they are the first to congratulate an opponent on a fine shot.

The entire Championship seemed to be a happy one. Gulph Mills' hospitality is unsurpassed and members helped for hours and in every way possible. They, the contestants and the officials were like one big family.

There was for the first time an 18-hole stroke-play consolation round on Wednesday morning at the Philadelphia Country Club for all who had lost in the first round in any flight. The 19 girls who played enjoyed the course and appreciated the hospitality of the Women's Golf Association of Philadelphia, which helped to conduct the competition and donated six prizes. This event was substituted for the beaten eights in all flights.

Miss Joan Toski, of Livingston, N.J., a niece of Bob Toski, and Miss Carole Jo Kabler, of Roseburg, Ore., had the best scores, 83s. Miss Elizabeth Dargie, of Lei-

chester, Mass., won the handicap prize, and Miss Diana Hoke, of Pittsburgh, Pa., a grand-daughter of Bobby Cruickshank, was second in this department.

In the final of the second flight, Miss Bailey defeated Miss Meyerson. In the final of the third flight, Miss Carole Coulson, of Wayne, Pa., defeated Miss Mary Hewitt, of Florence, S.C. In the final of the fourth flight, Miss Carole B. Burdeshaw, of Griffin, Ga., defeated Miss Catherine T. Poore, of Chestnut Hill, Pa.

Miss Louise Suggs, a former Amateur and Open Champion, gave a fine clinic on Sunday afternoon prior to the Championship, after which there was a clinic on the Rules of Golf and a dinner for the contestants, followed by singing and games.

Mr. Eugene G. Grace, of Bethlehem, Pa., invited the semi-finalists, the Misses Smith, Driscoll, Jessen and Leona Sayre, of Norristown, Pa., to come to Saucon Valley Country Club the weekend of the final and play with the Curtis Cup Teams of the United States and the British Isles in an 18-hole event for members and their guests. Of course, all the girls had been invited to watch the Curtis Cup Teams practice and compete at the Merion Golf Club each afternoon during their Championship.

NEW FILM

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All the individuals seen kindly contributed their services. Jones and Hogan are the only two identified by name.

Francis Carter Wood, Jr., Vice-President of National Educational Films, Inc., was in charge of production and devised some effective zoom shots to demonstrate points. The film was written and directed by Frank Donovan and edited by Henry Hesse. Robert Rosien was in charge of the recording.

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