

# "FOR DISTINGUISHED SPORTSMANSHIP"

by

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IT USUALLY doesn't require 42 years for a good golf story to come to light, but there has been an important exception in the career of Francis D. Ouimet.

It has to do with the USGA Open Championship of 1913 at The Country Club, Brookline, Mass. Ouimet, then a comparatively unknown amateur of 20, tied with Harry Vardon and Ted Ray, great British professionals, and defeated them in a playoff which is credited with having "put golf on page 1" in the United States.

In Ouimet's opinion, a comparatively trivial factor was in part responsible for his victory. He revealed it last month in his acceptance remarks as first recipient of the USGA's new Bob Jones Award for "distinguished sportsmanship"; he said:

"The tournament that year originally was scheduled for June. Vardon and Ray were invited to compete, but they had other commitments which made it impossible for them to come to this country in June. So the date of the tournament was changed by the USGA to September to accommodate the two Britons.

"Had the Championship been played in June, I would not be standing here today."

Ouimet's inference was that the status of his game in June of that year would not have been sufficient to cope with the seasoned veterans of England.

When he was announced as winner of the Bob Jones Award, a rousing ovation greeted the former USGA Open and Amateur Champion at the sixty-first annual meeting of the USGA in New York. He obviously was deeply moved by being the first golfer selected. There for the occasion was Robert T. Jones, Jr. Isaac B. Grainger, USGA President, made the presentation.

"I accept this award with humility and embarrassment," said Ouimet, a former Vice-President of the USGA and the only American ever to be honored with the Captaincy of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews. "I feel humble because I do not deserve such an honor and embarrassed because so many nice things have happened to me."

Jones said the value of the award had been enhanced by the selection of Ouimet.

The selection was made by a committee composed of Totton P. Heffelfinger, former President of the USGA, Chairman; Lincoln Werden, Horton Smith, Jerome P. Bowes, Jr., T. R. Garlington, Richard S. Tufts and Mrs. Harrison F. Flippin.

The USGA Executive Committee established the award in the conviction that sportsmanship is of paramount importance to the well-being of golf, even above skill. The award will serve as a vehicle for singling out and honoring individuals of various degrees of golfing skill for genuine sportsmanship. It commemorates the exemplary sportsmanship, apart from the skill, of Robert Tyre Jones, Jr.

### *Anyone Eligible*

Each year the President of the USGA will appoint a committee to seek out sportsmanlike acts wherever they may have occurred—in informal play or national championships. Justification for winning the award might be based upon a single incident or a full career notable for sportsmanship, as in the case of Francis Ouimet.

The Bob Jones Award comprises an 18 x 22-inch bronze plaque, mounted on a 30 x 40-inch wooden background, with name plates for annual winners. It depicts Jones in a characteristic finish of his swing

## First Winner



Wide World Photo

*Francis Ouimet, of Boston, (right) is the first holder of the USGA's newly established Bob Jones Award for distinguished sportsmanship. A replica of the original award, which now reposes in "Golf House," was presented by Isaac B. Grainger, President of the USGA, (center) at the annual meeting of the Association in New York last month. Looking on is Robert T. Jones, Jr., for whom the award is named.*

with a wooden club, and bears this inscription:

IN RECOGNITION OF DISTINGUISHED  
SPORTSMANSHIP IN GOLF  
PRESENTED BY  
THE UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION  
TO COMMEMORATE THE VAST  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CAUSE OF  
FAIR PLAY MADE BY  
ROBERT TYRE JONES, JR.

The trophy's home is "Golf House." A smaller replica is awarded to each annual winner.

### Japanese Interest in Rules

The USGA Library has received from Colonel R. Otto Probst, of South Bend, Ind., a book in Japanese which purports to be: "Gorufu Kisoku No Chushaku To Hanrei." The Colonel informs us that this means "Golf Rules Explained." We take his word for it.

The book was published by the Golfdom Society, Tokyo, back in 1935, and the translator was Komei Otani. Colonel Probst believes it to be based upon Richard S. Francis' out-of-print book, "Golf, its Rules and Decisions." We regret that a detailed review will not be possible, much as we appreciate having this evidence of early Japanese interest in the Rules of Golf.