

WESTERNERS AGAIN DOMINATE THE JUNIOR

by

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THERE were three Californians and one Oklahoman in the semi-finals of the 8th Junior Amateur Championship at Purdue University's South Course, but the law of averages did not prevail. Billy John Dunn, of Duncan, Okla., defeated Dick Foote, of Santa Ana, Cal., 3 and 1 in the semi-finals, and Billy Seanor, of Bakersfield, Cal., 3 and 2 in the final. Seanor had defeated Phil Rodgers, of La Jolla, Cal., 2 and 1 in the other semi-final.

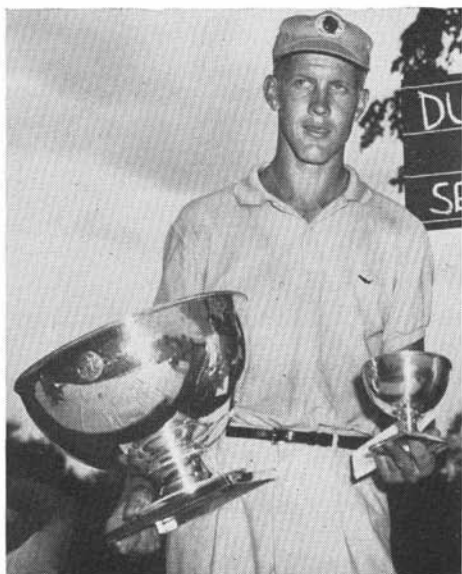
The Championship was thus another expression of the high degree to which golfing skill has been developed in the western states, for 41 of our 48 states were represented among the 128 sectional qualifiers and, among the record entry of 805, substantially all the states in the Union must have been represented.

Billy John Dunn, who is called "Cotton," is built like an Oklahoman should be built. He stands 6 feet 5 inches and is a strong, raw-boned youth. However, his manner is humble and respectful, and he showed conclusively that he was wearing the same size hat at the end of the tournament which he wore at the beginning. This is a becoming trait which golf seems to breed into the great majority of the juniors.

The hat bore the crest of the Elks Golf and Country Club, in Duncan, Okla. The new Champion gives that club a large share of credit for his victory, and the number of telephone calls he received from the club as he progressed through the Championship was an indication of the high regard in which he is held there.

Billy is exceptionally loyal. When he

The New Champion



Billy John Dunn, of Duncan, Okla., holds both the permanent USGA Junior Amateur Championship Trophy and the replica which he may retain.

filed his entry for the Championship, he protested the fact that he was assigned to the sectional qualifying round in Dallas, the round nearest his home, because, "I want to represent my own state in the national tournament." Upon assurance that he would actually be representing his home club and home town, Billy willingly accepted the assignment to Dallas for sectional qualifying.

Prior to this Championship he had won the Oklahoma High School and Junior Championships.

Dunn played excellent golf in the final. When the scheduled 18-hole match ended on the sixteenth green, he was even par and needed a 3-5 finish for a 71. Purdue's course measures only 6,337 yards, and Dunn hits a tremendously long tee shot, often more than 300 yards. Therefore, he was able to drop pitches three feet or less from the hole four times on the first nine, and on all four occasions he made birdies. He made another birdie coming in, by holing a fifteen-foot putt for a 2 at the short thirteenth. Incidentally, his valiant opponent, Billy Seanor, holed a ten footer right on top of it to keep from going 4 down with six holes to play.

High Quality Of Play

The final was as exciting and the quality of play as high as in any final the Junior Amateur Championship has produced to date. It is probable that the quality of play throughout the Championship was also the highest we have had thus far. The quality of the boys themselves, apart from their shot-making ability, remained as high as ever.

Seanor subsequently won the Hearst Junior Tournament at Los Angeles, defeating Don Bies of Seattle in a play-off after a tie at 296; and Rodgers won the Junior Chamber of Commerce Junior Tournament at Columbus, Ga., with 287. Dunn tied for twenty-second in the latter at 305.

All four semi-finalists were 17 years old, and three of them expect to enter college in the fall. Dunn will attend Oklahoma A. and M. College. Seanor and Foote both will attend Stanford University. Rodgers has another year at La Jolla High School. None of the four will be eligible next year when the Championship moves east to Williams College, in Williamstown, Mass.

There was, of course, no defending Champion this year. Foster Bradley, Jr., of Los Angeles, was too old to defend, and the runner-up, Allen L. Geiberger, of Santa Barbara, Cal., bowed, 2 and 1, in the quarter-final round to Foote.

The Championship was distinctly honored by the presence of Ben Hogan, who flew up from Ft. Worth, Texas, at his own expense to conduct a shot-making clinic and to appear at the players' dinner on the evening before the Championship. The heat was overwhelming, but Hogan gave the boys more than an hour of face-to-face instruction, including a long question-and-answer session. The boys let him go only reluctantly and were thrilled again by his inspiring remarks to them during the dinner at the Purdue Memorial Union.

Victory For Onstad

Purdue University is fortunate in having two fine golf courses, and there was a consolation tournament for first-round losers over the North Course. This was won by Gordon D. Onstad, of Miami Springs, Fla., who had a 72. David Vaughn, of Louisville, Ky., had a 74, and Maurice E. Teter, of Dallas, had a 75. There were 44 entrants.

The memorable things about a Junior Amateur Championship, however, are not always the major developments.

There was one rather touching sidelight when Richard D. Weyand, 16, of Detroit, was struck on the back of his skull by a ball while standing in the ninth fairway during a practice round the day before the Championship.

Fortunately, he suffered only lacerations and contusions, but it was deemed best to withdraw him from the Championship. When this news was broken to him, he came close to tears. But not for long. Shortly thereafter he had the thrill of a personal visit in his infirmary room with Ben Hogan, and there were no tears after that.

Then there was the case of Mike Conliffe, of Louisville, Ky., who carried his own clubs successfully through a couple of rounds. At that point a friendly spectator offered to provide a caddie for him. Mike declined in this way:

"Thank you, sir, but I already have the best caddie in the tournament."