

THE GIRLS' JUNIOR GOES TO THE NORTHWEST, TOO

Two young ladies from the Pacific Northwest, where so many girls seem to be following in Pat Lesser's footsteps, came together in the final of the 7th USGA Girls' Junior Championship at the Florence Country Club, in Florence, S. C.

The older was Carole Jo Kabler, a 17 year old from Sutherlin, in southwestern Oregon. The younger was JoAnne Gunderson, a 16 year old from Kirkland, Wash., which is just north of Seattle.

The older girl won, 4 and 3, in her last try for the Championship, and the younger girl presumably will come to the Heather Downs Country Club, in Toledo, Ohio, next August, to try again.

Miss Kabler, the new Champion, holds both the women's and junior championships in Oregon and was runner-up to Ruth Jessen, only one year out of Girls' Junior Championship ranks herself, in this year's Pacific Northwest Championship. Miss Gunderson had recently won the Western Girls' Championship.

Last year she had the misfortune to meet Wiffi Smith, who was head and shoulders over that field, in the first round. This year it looked from the beginning as if Jo might be head and shoulders over this field. In an invitation stroke play event, held in the week before the Championship for the benefit of early arrivals, she scored a stunning 73 on the 6,053-yards, par-74 course to win.

Accumulates Four Birdies

In the 15-hole final against Miss Gunderson, she holed a 15 footer for a birdie 4 on the second hole and went on to win three more holes in succession and eventually to accumulate a total of four birdies.

This emergence of the Pacific Northwest was not confined to the final. It extended back into the semi-finals, where Miss Gunderson had to defeat Anne Quast, 17, of Everett, Wash., 2 and 1, while one lone girl from Tulsa, Okla., Betsy Cullen, 16,

slipped in before being eliminated by Miss Kabler, also by 2 and 1.

Incidentally, Miss Quast beat Miss Kabler in the second round of the Women's Amateur Championship at Charlotte, N. C., the following week, and went all the way to the quarter-finals, being the last Junior to survive.

The original entry in this Girls' Junior Championship reached 72 and broke all records. The largest previous entry was 64 a year ago. However, there was an unusually large number of withdrawals, and only 57 started, as against 59 a year ago. No 57 ever showed better sportsmanship or had more fun on and off the course, however. They represented 24 states, the District of Columbia and Mexico.

The youngest was Sharon Klump, of Toledo, who turned 11 last March. The smallest, however, was Sandra Haynie, 12, of Midland, Texas, who stands 4 feet 6 inches tall and weighs 66 pounds. The confident and talented Miss Haynie, looking more like a watch charm than a real live golfer, had Mary Mills, of Gulfport, Miss., one of the strong players in the tournament, all even at the turn in their first round match, although she finally succumbed.

For these younger players, particularly, the shot-making clinic given by Miss Barbara Romack, then the Women's Amateur Champion, on the Sunday afternoon before play started, was a treat. Miss Romack, who was a semi-finalist in the Girls' Junior Championship in 1949 and a quarter-finalist only five years ago, quickly established a common bond with her audience and revealed her real understanding of the principles of the golf swing.

Many One-Sided Matches

The Championship was conducted entirely at match play, in the pattern of the Women's Amateur Championship, for the first time. It became obvious that this

THE WINNER AND RUNNER-UP



Carole Jo Kabler, of Sutherlin, Ore., (left), who defeated Jo Anne Gunderson, of Kirkland, Wash., in the final of the Girls' Junior Championship at the Florence Country Club, Florence, S. C.

form, which works so well when the players are adults subject to a handicap limitation, does not work well when the players' ages vary from 11 to 17 and there is no handicap limitations. There were many one-sided matches in the early rounds, and while these were friendly, they were not particularly enjoyable for either party.

There was a consolation match play event, in which Janice Lee Butler, of Reading, Pa., defeated Karen Anderson, of Lansdowne, Pa., 1 up. Hurricane Diane hit the South Carolina coast on the Wednesday

of the Championship week and forced cancellation of a stroke play consolation for losers on the first two days at the Dunes Golf and Beach Club in Myrtle Beach, S. C.

The Florence Country Club proved a most efficient and hospitable host. Its forces were marshalled by Grant Bennett, the club professional, who conducts a strong junior golf program there, and by the Florence Women's Golf Association, and as always the girls had a week of clean fun and happiness in a surrounding of southern hospitality.