

MISSION FULFILLED

by

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ONE of the requirements of beauty, according to a common definition, is that the object exactly fulfill its function.

In that sense the fifty-fifth Amateur Championship at the James River Course of the Country Club of Virginia, in Richmond, was an object of beauty.

The twin functions of the Amateur Championship are to develop an atmosphere of true sportsmanship and to determine an Amateur Champion.

Richmond Gray, the general chairman for the Country Club of Virginia, labored for two years to groom the course and facilities to meet exactly the requirements of the playing guests and to stimulate throughout the Club, and even the city and state, an appreciation of the friendly, sporting atmosphere in which it was hoped the Championship would be played.

Normally, this constitutes a task of major proportions. In Virginia, where the USGA was conducting a Championship for the first time, it was perhaps somewhat easier.

The comparatively unheralded James River Course, all 6,713 yards of it, proved to be one of the finest tests the amateurs have faced, even after a most humid summer followed by torrential rains.

The fact that the course is five miles removed from the imposing main clubhouse proved, if anything, an asset, for it meant that play was removed from pomp and luxury and centered around the little building that serves as a golf house at the James River Course.

This setting and the warm Virginia hospitality combined to produce just the desired aura of sporting friendship and informality. There must have been some foreknowledge of the attractiveness of the

site, too, for a record number of 1,493 tried to qualify sectionally. The previous high was 1,416 in 1951.

Then there was the play.

As Bob Jones, celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of his Grand Slam, remarked during the dinner the USGA gives for the players, there are so many good amateurs and so many eighteen-hole matches that it is getting to be just about impossible for anyone to win the Amateur these days.

E. Harvie Ward, Jr., of San Francisco, was a good case in point. He had been playing for the nine years since 1947. At the age of 29, he had won the British and the Canadian Amateur Championships, he had played No. 1 on our Walker Cup Team and he had many times been referred to as "America's best amateur player." But he had never passed beyond the quarter-final round of the Amateur Championship. If justice were to be done, Harvie Ward would someday have to win our Amateur.

Ward to Remain Amateur

The fact that he did fulfilled to the satisfaction of almost all followers of the game the second function of the Championship. It has been rare, in recent years, for any individual to be widely acclaimed as *the* best player and even rarer for such an individual to win, even though we have had a series of fine Champions. Equally satisfying was Ward's assurance that he intended to remain an amateur golfer and to defend his honors.

The possibility that this might be Ward's year became evident on the second day when, after a first-round bye, he tangled with Ray Palmer, of Detroit, a capable veteran who conceded nothing to Ward's reputation. In order to subdue



E. Harvie Ward, Jr. (left), of San Francisco, receives the Amateur Championship Trophy from Isaac B. Grainger, President of the USGA, as William Hyndman III, of Philadelphia, the runner-up, looks on at the Country Club of Virginia, in Richmond.

him, Ward had to hole a putt of about thirty-five feet for a birdie 3 on the first extra hole, with Palmer's ball lying only eight feet from the cup.

A far more serious and less effervescent personality than in former years, he played superbly and had no trouble again until he ran into William A. Booe, of Bridgeport, Conn., the old Yale place-kicker but a newcomer to championship golf, in the semi-finals.

There was a feeling in some segments that Booe might be on the fore end of a rout, and among those who apparently recognized this possibility were Booe, himself, and Richard D. Chapman, of Pinehurst, N. C., a former Champion and Walker Cup player who lost in the first round and remained to spectate. Although they had met only during the week of the Championship, Chapman loaned Booe clothing and balls as Booe's supplies failed to keep

pace with his golf successes, and now Chapman gave him a thorough lesson in preparation for the morrow. It was perhaps the most effective lesson in history, for Booe, who had scored over 80 in winning his quarter-final match, clung tightly to Ward for thirty-four of the thirty-six holes, losing only by 4 and 2 to a brand of golf just one over par.

Ward's opponent in the final was William Hyndman III, of Philadelphia, who has played a lot of fine golf around Pennsylvania during his 39 years. Hillman Robbins, the fine, 23-year old college player from Memphis, had been expected to dispose of Hyndman in the semi-finals and carry the challenge of youth right into the final. But Hyndman played his customary steady game, Robbins didn't and Hyndman won, 4 and 3.

The final was brief and decisive. The new, business-like Ward, with his goal

finally in sight, played the first nine holes in 31 to go 5 up and finished the round with an approximate 66, four under par, to stand 8 up. Hyndman never had a chance. The end came after Ward had played ten more holes in par, and the score was 9 and 8, but Hyndman, followed every step of the way by his 15-year old son, had not a thing of which to be ashamed.

Under Severe Pressure

One other match rates mention. That was the terrific encounter between Robbins and Edwin B. Hopkins, Jr., of Abilene, Texas, in the quarter-final round. Robbins played the course in 67, the next best round of the Championship, but he won only by making a 2 under the most severe pressure on the 215-yard seventeenth to go ahead and a 4 on the big, 460-yard eighteenth to hold his advantage. Hopkins, you see, was making a 68.

Willie Turnesa, of White Plains, N. Y., recaptured in the second round the brilliance that won him the title in 1938 and 1948 and, with a great wedge shot from a bunker by the nineteenth green, ousted Robert Sweeny, of New York, the runner-up last year to Arnold Palmer. Palmer had become a professional and could not defend.

Lt. Joseph W. Conrad, of San Antonio, Texas, soon to become a civilian, lasted all the way into the fifth round, as befits the British Amateur Champion, but he lost there to Charles Kunkle, Jr., of Johnstown, Pa.

Despite the fact that Charles Evans, Jr., was playing in his forty-third Amateur Championship and winning a match at the age of 65, the field as a whole seemed younger than usual. There seldom have been so many fine young college players among the qualifiers.

The most conspicuous of these were, of course, Robbins, a semi-finalist, who attends Memphis State and won the 1954 collegiate championship; and Joe E. Campbell, of Purdue, the present collegiate champion, and James C. McCoy, of the University of Florida, both of whom went to the quarter-finals.

In addition, Rex Baxter, Jr.; who lost to Ward in the fourth round; James R. Hiskey and Frank Wharton attend the University of Houston, and Wallace I. Bradley was graduated there last spring.

Florida Representation

Donald M. Bisplinghoff, Doug Sanders and Ralph G. (Pat) Schwab, like McCoy, represented the University of Florida last spring. John W. Veghte, who won three matches, attends Florida State. Robert Brue, who got to the third round, goes to the University of Miami.

Ronald E. Wenzler, like Robbins, attends Memphis State, and Edward L. Brantly was transferring there from the University of Tennessee.

Don Albert, now a marine, played on the Purdue team with Campbell last spring.

The South also was represented by Jake Howard, Jr., of the University of Georgia, who beat Charles R. Coe, Charles Evans, Jr., and James G. Jackson, all past members of Walker Cup Teams; Johnny Pott, of Louisiana State; Marvin C. Fitts, of the University of Alabama; Aubrey A. Rothrock, Jr., of the University of North Carolina; Wayne Jackson, of Randolph-Macon; and Gerald T. McFerren, of the University of Maryland.

Ned Vare, who eliminated Bruce Cudd in the second round, is captain-elect of the Yale golf team and a son of the former Glenna Collett. Charles W. Adams, Jr., attends the University of Pennsylvania. Perky Cullinane goes to Georgetown. Cameron Quinn is a student at Providence University.

Herbert Klontz, Jr., attends the University of Iowa, Thomas A. Hadley goes to the University of Minnesota and Fred Rick Jones represents Ohio State.

Cudd is, of course, a student at the University of Portland. Joel E. Spinola goes to West Contra Costa Junior College. Bernard Magnussen is a freshman at Stanford. Bob Goetz goes to Oklahoma A. and M.

And Jack Nicklaus, 15, is still in high school at Columbus, Ohio.