

WIFFI SMITH ENLIVENS INTERNATIONAL GOLF

by

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AT the age of 19, Miss Margaret (Wiffi) Smith has the unique distinction of having won national golf championships in four countries.

Two of them were gained just last month, the French and the British amateur championships. In 1953 Miss Smith won the Mexican Amateur and in 1954 the USGA Girls' Junior.

June was an eventful month for Miss Smith. Before her two Championships, she represented the United States against the British Isles in the biennial Curtis Cup Match, and she was a winner in both singles and foursomes.

The British Women's Amateur Championship has been particularly elusive to Americans. Only Mrs. George Zaharias and Miss Louise Suggs had won it before this year. Miss Smith is the only American who has ever won the French title.

Those who have followed Wiffi Smith's golfing fortunes in recent years were not surprised by her success abroad. She is a powerful player with a fine temperament for golf; she enjoys the game so much that sometimes it has been difficult for her happy, easy-going nature to bear down at crucial times. She has been a factor in the USGA Women's Amateur Championship ever since her first attempt at the age of 16 when, in 1953, she reached the semi-finals. She was a quarter-finalist in both 1954 and 1955.

Wiffi Smith was born in California, lived in Mexico for a time, and now resides in St. Clair, Mich.

After the Curtis Cup Match last month in England, Miss Smith went to Paris for the French Women's Championship. In the 36-hole final she defeated Miss Angela Ward, British Curtis Cup player, 1 up. Miss Smith then returned to Sunningdale, Eng-



MISS MARGARET (WIFFI) SMITH

land, for the British Women's Amateur Championship. She was one of eleven Americans, including six Curtis Cup teammates, playing for the title.

A 1 up victory over Mrs. B. E. Stuart Smith, of England, in the first round, proved to be the toughest win for Miss Smith in the course of the tournament. Advancing to the final, she met a fellow-American, Miss Mary Patton Janssen, of Charlottesville, Va. They constituted the first all-American final in the history of the tournament, which began in 1893.

Miss Janssen, the surprise of the Championship, gained a final berth by virtue of upset victories over Miss Elizabeth Price and Miss Angela Ward, both members of the victorious British Curtis Cup Team.

However, Miss Smith was not to be denied as she unleashed her powerful game over the rain-swept Sunningdale course to gain an 8-and-7 victory over Miss Janssen.