

A GIRLS' REUNION AT WOMEN'S OPEN

by

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TAKE a look, please, at the photograph below. Turn back the calendar six years. These 17 young ladies were the total field (minus one) in the USGA's second Girls' Junior Championship at Wanakah, in Buffalo.

Third from the left is Katherine McKinnon, then aged 17. She had come up from West Palm Beach and was a semi-finalist. On the extreme right is Barbara McIntire, aged 15, of Toledo.

Today Katherine McKinnon is Mrs. Kathy Cornelius, the new USGA Women's Open Champion. Barbara McIntire tied her for the Championship last month and lost in the play-off.

From that little group of girls, all under 18, who convened at Wanakah six years ago have emerged some of the fine golfers

of the day. Have another look at the picture. Third from the right, wearing a cap, is Patricia Lesser, of Seattle. She is the present USGA Women's Amateur Champion. In the front row near the center, with a broad stripe across her sweater, you may recognize Barbara Romack, of Sacramento, Women's Amateur Champion of 1954. Also in the picture are Mickey Wright, now a leading professional, and Virginia Dennehy, of Chicago, a promising amateur. Six of the 17 young ladies participated in the Women's Open Championship last month at the Northland Country Club, Duluth, Minn.

Golfing Background

Perhaps you had heard little about Kathy Cornelius and Barbara McIntire before the tournament at Northland. You couldn't



The success of Mrs. Katherine McKinnon Cornelius, the Champion, and Miss Barbara McIntire, the runner-up, in last month's Women's Open Championship brought to mind this scene of six years ago. Pictured above are the contestants in the 1950 Girls' Junior Championship held at the Wanakah Country Club, in Buffalo, N. Y. Six of the young ladies pictured above were reunited in the Women's Open, still adding to their golfing laurels. From left to right: Esther Reid, Suzanne Nagell, Katherine McKinnon, Patricia Buell, Janet Mack, Alice Emhardt, Leila Fisher, Patricia Bright, Barbara Romack, Marlene Gesell, Virginia Dennehy, Mary Kathryn Wright, Anne McAvoy, Barbara Blakely, Patricia Lesser, Ann Harvey and Barbara McIntire.



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The intense concentration of tournament play often focuses complete attention on the ball rather than the player. In such moments it is for the camera to record the mobility of expression as the player delivers each crucial shot. Top: Unable to resist a little peek at the ball, Mrs. Kathy Cornelius accomplishes the feat without forgetting to keep her head down as she successfully blasts from a trap. Mrs. Cornelius went on to win the 1956 Women's Open Championship at Northland Country Club, Duluth, Minn. Bottom: Mrs. Cornelius tries to "dance it home" as the gallery watches intently. An impish grin—half delight and half-torture—enlivens the Champion's face as she watches her ball glide across the green.

have been expected to recall that Kathy, for example, was twice runner-up in the National Collegiate Championship. Barbara had won the Western Junior, was twice runner-up in the USGA Girls' Junior and once medalist, and last year was a quarter-finalist in the national Women's Amateur. We draw attention to the 1950 photograph not merely to illustrate how nice girls grow into fine young ladies but also to point out that there is a solid golfing background behind nearly every player who comes to national prominence. No one is really "unknown."

Six years have brought some tremendously important changes to Kathy McKinnon Cornelius. She married a professional golfer, they have a baby daughter, and Kathy became a professional golfer about two years ago.

Barbara McIntire, now a 21-year-old college student, has come closer than any other amateur to winning a national open championship since Johnny Goodman took the USGA Open in 1933.

At Northland Miss McIntire was eight strokes behind with 18 holes to play. She closed the gap completely with a 71, three under par, playing the last three holes in birdie 3, par 3 and eagle 3.

That set up Barbara's 72-hole score of 302 as the figure for the field to shoot at. Kathy Cornelius and Mrs. Marlene Bauer Hagge, the Ladies' PGA Champion, were playing together not far behind Miss McIntire, and early in the game it looked like a personal contest between them for the Championship. They had tied for the 54-hole lead at 223, and their closest pursuers were six strokes away.

Near the end of the fourth round, Mrs. Hagge's touch deserted her long enough for Mrs. Cornelius to shoot ahead by two strokes, with the home hole to play. The 18th is a par 5 for ladies, 410 yards long. If the drive is big enough, they play across a wide, deep valley in front of the green with a brook at the bottom, and they can get home. If the drive is not quite right, it is risky for a woman golfer to attempt the carry over the brook.

An Unplayable Lie

Mrs. Cornelius, leading Mrs. Hagge by two strokes, partly topped her tee shot and elected to play a pitching iron short of the brook. But she hit it too well, and it caught a slope that carried it down into the water hazard among some rocks, completely unplayable. Thereupon, Mrs. Hagge reached the green with two thumping shots. After a penalty stroke for dropping from the water hazard, Mrs. Cornelius was on the green in 4, and they were all square.

Mrs. Cornelius went down in two putts for a 6 and a 79, whereas Mrs. Hagge took three putts from a difficult position for a 5 and an 80. That tied Mrs. Cornelius with Miss McIntire for the lead at 302, with Mrs. Hagge next at 303. Miss Patty Berg had a chance to enter the tie but missed by a stroke after closing with a fine 74.

Mrs. Cornelius' four rounds were 73-77-73-79; Miss McIntire, 75-79-77-71. Par was 74 for all except the first round, when it was 73; the 72 hole par was 295.

The 18-hole play-off the next afternoon was all square after seven holes. Mrs. Cornelius played the last 11 holes in two under par, and finished with a 75, to Miss McIntire's 82. Mrs. Cornelius' cash prize was \$1,500; total prize money was \$6,000.

The defending Champion, Miss Fay Crocker, had a slow start but finished with a 71 for 309. The 71s by Miss Crocker and Miss McIntire were the best of the tournament.

A number of young professionals played in the Championship for the first time. The original entry of 48 was divided evenly between amateurs and pros. Second amateur was Miss Ruth Jessen, of Seattle, with 317; third amateur was Miss Patricia Lesser, of Seattle, with 319.

The Northland course, wooded with evergreens and overlooking Lake Superior from an eminence, is beautiful for its scenery and a fine test of golf. The club's members were most hospitable and efficient in their vast work on the tournament. Great credit is due the club's committees under the Chairmanship of John Bero, with Mrs. Bernard H. Ridder, Jr., as Co-Chairman.