

# MISS STEWART ADDS TO INTERNATIONAL HONORS

*Canada's First  
Native-Born Winner  
of USGA Women's Amateur  
Championship*

WHILE a competitive golfer is still a contender for Championships it is rarely possible to establish his rank in the full sweep of golf history. This is especially true when the player is a 22-year-old young lady and her name is Marlene Stewart. She is scarcely bigger than a minute: 5 feet, 1 inch, and around 115 pounds.

More honors apparently lie ahead of Miss Stewart. Yet even now you can appreciate the distinctive place she has earned in golf's annals.

## *International Champion*

Miss Stewart is one of the only two players whose names appear on the Women's Amateur Championship trophies of Great Britain, Canada and the United States.

The other was Miss Dorothy Campbell, who later became Mrs. Hurd—one of golf's greatest champions. As a young Scots-woman, in 1909 she won the British and the United States championships. In 1910 she took the Canadian. Before she was through, she had won the Canadian and the USGA titles thrice each and the British twice, besides a host of other honors. In 1910 she moved to Canada, and later resided in the United States until her death during World War II.

Marlene Stewart has won the Canadian Championship four times in the last six years. In 1953 she won the British. And now, in September of 1956, she added the USGA Championship to her string, at the Meridian Hills Country Club in Indianapolis.

She is the first native Canadian to take our trophy across our friendly border to the north. Only one son of Canada has won the USGA Amateur Championship — C. Ross (Sandy) Somerville, who scored in



MARLENE STEWART

A very happy Marlene Stewart became the first native Canadian ever to win the USGA Women's Amateur Championship when she won the title at Meridian Hills Country Club, in Indianapolis, Ind., in September. The victory highlighted an impressive year for the new champion who has also won the British and Canadian Amateur titles, the latter four times. The diminutive Miss Stewart, a native of Fonthill, Ont., was forced to come from behind in a stirring final match to defeat Miss JoAnne Gunderson, of Seattle, Wash., 2 and 1.

1932. He is now first Vice-President of the Royal Canadian Golf Association, and he helped honor little Miss Stewart at a large public dinner in Toronto last month. Both are from Ontario—she from Fonthill and he from London.

This has been an abundant year for Miss Stewart. Besides the Canadian and the United States championships, she has won

the Canadian closed, the North and South, the U. S. Collegiate and two others—seven events all told. During this period she won 31 successive matches. She was graduated last spring from Rollins College in Florida.

The vagaries of golf are pointed up in Miss Stewart's experiences in the USGA Championship last year and this. A year ago she lost in the first round to Mrs. Harrison Flippin, the United States Senior Champion in 1955 and 1956. This year Marlene received the USGA Championship trophy from the hands of Mrs. Flippin, Chairman of the USGA Women's Committee.

It's as Sam Snead once said: "Golf sho' is a funny game, though 'twaren't meant to be. One day you're a Champion—next day you're a turkey."

#### *Came From Behind*

There were coincidences in the USGA Championship victories of Miss Stewart and Sandy Somerville. In their final matches, both were 2 down with 9 holes to go. Both won out by 2 and 1.

As a matter of fact, Miss Stewart was in a very precarious position shortly before the final turn—with 11 holes to go, she was 4 down. That is quite a deficit to spot to Miss JoAnne Gunderson, a strong 17-year-old player from Seattle who is the USGA Girls' Junior Champion.

But Miss Stewart was equal to the occasion, and her steady, polished game prevailed even though she missed three putts from behind nine and four feet in the last eight holes.

Miss Stewart's last three opponents were particularly testing. In the quarter-finals, she played Miss Wanda Sanches, of Baton Rouge, La., who in less than three years of golf has risen to the forefront; she formerly was a star pitcher in amateur softball. Miss Stewart won from Miss Sanches by 1 up, and was only one over par in doing it.

Miss Anne Quast, of Marysville, Wash., was her semi-final opponent. This delightful young lady of 19 has become one of the finest of our players and is the present

Women's Western Amateur Champion. Miss Stewart was one under par in defeating Miss Quast by 4 and 3.

There was plenty of glory for JoAnne Gunderson, who at 17 was one of the youngest finalists in the Championship's history. She played sensationally at times. In the third round she eliminated the defending Champion, Miss Patricia Lesser, who is a clubmate with her in the Sand Point Country Club in Seattle; score was 5 and 4. Miss Lesser, it should be noted, was a most becoming Champion throughout her year of glory.

Next day JoAnne put out another member of this year's Curtis Cup Team, Mrs. Philip J. Cudone, of Montclair, N. J., 4 and 3. She followed this with a 2 and 1 win over Mrs. Helen Sigel Wilson, of Philadelphia, who has twice been runner-up in the Championship. That paved the way for a victory in the semi-finals over Mrs. Ann Casey Johnstone, of Mason City, Iowa, who did not succumb until the last hole, when Miss Gunderson scored a birdie 4 to win by 1 up.

In her first five matches, JoAnne was under par three times and even with par once; on one occasion she played the first nine in 33.

#### *Fine Sportswoman*

JoAnne is not only a rising young star but a fine sportswoman. Time after time she spontaneously applauded good shots by opponents, in sincere appreciation of their skill. On the last green of the final match she faced a putt of 10 1/2 feet and Marlene Stewart had one of 11 1/2 feet. Marlene holed hers. JoAnne's face broke into a grin. "That," she said, "makes mine just about 20 feet longer."

That rather typified the fine feeling that prevailed throughout the tournament, fostered by the cordial atmosphere of the Meridian Hills Country Club. The General Chairman of the Club's committees was Walter Colbath, former Olympic diver, and the President is W. E. (Pete) Wilson, and they, with their colleagues, saw to it that Indiana hospitality prevailed.