

# MISS GUNDERSON PROVES TRUTH OF AN EPIGRAM

*Finalist Last Year;  
Champion This Year*

THERE is an old saying which has particular application to golf. It starts: "If at first you don't succeed . . ." Everyone, including Miss JoAnne Gunderson, of Seattle, Wash., knows how it ends.

Miss Gunderson knows particularly well because she lost in the final of the Girls' Junior Championship a year ago and came back to win in this, her last year.

### *Fine Golf Display*

Where Miss Gunderson a year ago lost to four birdies by Miss Carole Jo Kabler, of Sutherlin, Ore., she made the birdies herself this year. She played the first nine in 33, three under women's par, and was still three under when the holes ran out on Miss Clifford Ann Creed, of Opelousas, La. Although Miss Creed played fine, level-par golf, she succumbed, 4 and 3, to the finest golf yet displayed in a Girls' final. The Championship was played at the Heather Downs Country Club, Toledo, Ohio.

Miss Gunderson, incidentally, is a member of the same Sand Point Country Club, in Seattle, to which Miss Pat Lesser, the 1955 Women's Amateur Champion, belongs. Thus, for a brief period, the Girls' Junior and Women's Amateur trophies were held by the same club. It makes one wonder what they raise their young girl golfers on.

The two, Miss Gunderson and Miss Creed, have established themselves rather clearly as the best of their day, at this time and on the basis of tournament records. Both are 17. Miss Gunderson is a senior in high school and Miss Creed a freshman at Lamar State College, in Beaumont, Texas.

They had met three weeks earlier in the final of the Western Golf Association ju-

nior, and Miss Creed was the winner on that occasion, 3 and 2. They had also met a year ago in the quarter-final of this Championship, and Miss Gunderson won that time, 1 up.

Miss Sharon Fladoos, of Dubuque, Iowa, was the phenomenon of the Championship, however, since at the age of 13 she tied for third in the qualifying with an 80 and went right through to the semi-finals, where she lost to Miss Gunderson, 4 and 3. Miss Creed defeated Miss Mary Ann Musser, of Ellicott City, Md., in the other semi-final also by 4 and 3.

The three semi-finalists other than Miss Fladoos were all 17 and their eligibility has expired, but in addition to Miss Fladoos, all four of the losing quarter-finalists are young enough to return next year. Miss Joanne Bruni, of Laredo, Texas; Miss Julie Hull, of Anderson, Ind.; and Miss Mary Ann Sherry, of Pittsburgh, Pa., were all 16. Miss Vicki Pettit, of Wichita, Kan., was only 14.

### *Qualifying Restored*

After a one-year trial with an all-match-play form, an 18-hole qualifying round was restored. There were, however, thirty-two places at stake, instead of sixteen as in the five years preceding last year.

Miss Mary Mills, a 16-year-old high school student from Gulfport, Miss., set a qualifying record with a 74, one over par. Her card included an eagle 3 and three birdies, the birdies coming in succession. The previous low was Miss Ruth Jessen's 75 at the Gulph Mills Golf Club, near Philadelphia, two years ago.

In setting the record, Miss Mills out-distanced the field. The next best score, and only other under 80, was the 78 turned in by Miss Gunderson. Miss Mills lost by a

## WIN OR LOSE—IT WAS GREAT FUN



Toledo Blade photo

Miss JoAnne Gunderson, left, of Seattle, Wash., is the 1956 Girls' Junior Champion. However, the smile of Miss Clifford Ann Creed, of Opelousas, La., indicates that she is a gracious runner-up. Miss Gunderson defeated Miss Creed in the final, 4 and 3, as both contestants played the finest golf played in a Girls' Junior final.

hole to Miss Creed in the second round, but she, too, will have another opportunity at the Lakewood Country Club, near Denver, next August.

Seven girls tied for the last six places in match play with scores of 90, and a two-hole play-off was required to eliminate only Miss Lynda Taylor, of Pittsford, N. Y. The play-off was featured by the presence of the Rand sisters of Aurora, Ohio—Miss Marcia, who is 17, and Miss Judy, who is 13—as well as Miss Diana Hoke, of Pittsburgh, Pa., grand-daughter of Bobby Cruickshank. Bobby said he had played in numerous Open Championships and never suffered such internal stress as in watching this qualifying process.

### *Entry Encouraging*

The entry of 71 girls was most encouraging, and just one shy of the highest ever received. However, as so often happens in this event, there were numerous withdrawals, and only 58 started play. This, again, was one less than the record.

Miss Betsy Rawls, the 1953 Women's Open Champion, stimulated the girls' thinking on how they hit the ball in the course of her shot-making clinic on the afternoon before play began, and as a result the girls held her long after her scheduled time to answer questions and analyze their individual grips and swings. It was a most instructive session.