

JUDY ELLER SETS THE GIRLS AN EXAMPLE

*Competitive Courage at
Girls' Junior Championship*

COMPETITIVE courage is by no means confined to men. The two attractive young ladies who played in the final of the Girls' Junior Championship at the Lakewood Country Club, Denver, Colo., had it in large measure.

Miss Judy Eller, of Old Hickory, Tenn., came to the eighteenth and presumably last green of the final, 1 up, and made a nice conservative 5 to complete the round in 79 strokes. Miss Beth Stone, of Muskogee, Okla., then ran down a 12-foot putt for a 4 to send the match into extra holes.

Again on the nineteenth hole, Judy, the Tennessee Champion, made her 4 easily—it could well have been a 3. And again Beth, the Oklahoma Girls' Champion, came out of a bunker and holed a 12-foot putt to remain alive.

It was a breath-taking exhibition of cool nerves under pressure.

It was also enough for Judy. On the second extra hole, she ran her 25-foot putt from the edge of the green squarely into the hole for a birdie 3, and that was the end of the longest final the event has seen.

The final properly adorned a fine tournament in which, once again, 51 young ladies under 18 disproved all the old wives' tales about women's golf by playing with wonderful good sportsmanship, light hearts and perfect grace. These girl golfers are a charming, happy group.

Miss Eller, pretty, dark-haired and 16 at the time of the Championship, is a fine example of what girls' golf is today. On the afternoon before the final, she and her mother picked up her prospective opponent and they spent some thrilling, giggling hours driving the precipitous shelves of Virginia Canyon and picnicking, high in the Rockies.

These friendships often are formed at the Players' Dinner which the USGA gives

the evening before play starts. Their effect was clearly revealed when the Chairman of the USGA Girls' Junior Committee, Mrs. John Pennington, of Buffalo, N. Y., requested a show of hands and developed the information that three girls, Miss Constance Gorsuch, 17, of Greensboro, N. C., Miss Kaya Caldwell, 16, of Kansas City, Mo., and Miss Margot Morton, 14, of Indiana, Pa., were playing for the fourth time, and many more were playing for the third or second time.

Daughter of the golf professional at the Old Hickory Country Club and a high school basketball star as well, Judy has been playing successfully with the grown-ups for two years. She has won the Tennessee Championship each year, beating Mrs. Scott Probasco, Jr., in the semi-final this summer. She also went to the semi-final of the Southern Championship this summer, beating the Misses Mary Patton Janssen, Polly Riley and Mary Mills along the way.

Following the Girls' Junior, she accepted an invitation to play in the Women's Amateur and defeated Miss Grace Lenczyk and Miss Janssen again before losing in the third round.

Judy will be eligible to enter in defense of her championship at the Greenwich Country Club, Greenwich, Conn., next year. Although her birthday falls on August 24, shifting dates have enabled her to play in two successive years as a 16 year old.

The hospitable Lakewood Country Club proved a big test for the girls. Its course stretched out to 6,208 well-conditioned yards, and the watering system coupled with the moist season meant they all had to be earned. Par was 75.

Miss Patsy Hahn, 17, of Wilmington, the Delaware Champion, took the medal with a fine 78, and there were two 79s by Miss Sharon Fladoos, 14, of Dubuque, Iowa, who had been a semi-finalist the year



A HAPPY FAMILY. Miss Judy Eller, of Old Hickory, Tenn., flanked by her delighted parents after her dramatic 20th hole victory over Miss Beth Stone, of Muskogee, Okla., in the final of the Girls' Junior Championship at Lakewood Country Club, Denver, Colo.

before, and Miss Gorsuch. Sharon bowed to Miss Eller in the first round; while Patsy and Connie went down in the quarter-finals before Miss Andrea Cohn, 17, of Waterloo, Iowa, and Miss Joanne Bruni, 17, of Laredo, Texas. Miss Cohn and Miss Hahn both had 75s in their match, which went to the nineteenth. Miss Sherry Wheeler, 17, of Glasgow, Ky., fresh from her victory in the Western Girls', was a first-round victim of Miss Stone.

Once again, the Championship was distinguished by the high caliber of play of some very young girls. The youngest, for the second year in a row, was little Miss Judy Torluemke, now 12 years and 67 pounds, of Washington, Iowa, who had only missed qualifying by two strokes last year. This year she improved her score by five strokes and made the grade safely with an 87. The luck of the numerical draw brought her together in the first round with Miss Sandra Haynie, 14, of

Austin, Texas, who had been the youngest and smallest in the field two years ago, and Miss Haynie, now the Texas Public Links Champion, won.

Incidentally, Miss Torluemke, Miss Cohn and Miss Fladoos were only three of five Iowa girls who qualified. The other two were Miss Jeannie Richey, of Villisca, and Miss Karen Widmer, of Paullina.

The second flight was won by Miss Judy Kier, of Phoenix, Ariz., who defeated Miss Paula Maier, of Denver, in the final, 4 and 2. The third flight was won by Miss JoAnne Baird, of Denver, who defeated Miss Donna Curtis, also of Denver, in the final, 5 and 4.

Of the twenty-five girls who were defeated in the first round of all flights, nineteen played in the consolation stroke play tournament at the Green Gables Country Club. The winner was Miss Fladoos, who made a 78, and the handicap winner was Miss Richey, who had 83-10-73.