

# HISTORIC GOLF BALL MOLD MAKES UNUSUAL TROPHY

BY

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Cleveland, Ohio, district professionals compete for a trophy that is unique. The trophy in the Mitchell-Haskell tournament, 18 holes medal play, is the brass mold with which Coburn Haskell developed the first rubber-core golf ball.

Coburn Haskell was a Cleveland industrialist who was married to a niece of the famous U S Senator Marcus Alonzo Hanna.

Joe Mitchell was the first golf professional in Cleveland. He was brought over in 1897 from Berlin where he taught at the Royal Golf Club and reportedly gave lessons to Kaiser Wilhelm.

Both died many years ago.

Haskell played at the original Cleveland Country Club which was on the shore of Lake Erie. The country club moved to the present beautiful layout in 1930 and was the site of the U S Intercollegiate Championship in 1934 and the Amateur Championship in 1935, both won by Lawson Little.

Mitchell recalled that one day, about 1900, he and Haskell were sitting and chatting on the porch of the clubhouse. Haskell had a tangled bundle of rubber bands in his fingers, twisting them, squeezing them together and bouncing them on the floor when he got the idea to put rubber into the center of a golf ball as a substitute for the old gutta percha.

Haskell went to his friends at the B.F. Goodrich Company in Akron to work out the rubber detail, but perfected the ball in Mitchell's shop.

The old mold moved with Mitchell and the club to the new course, and it was still kicking around when Billy Burke, the 1931 Open Champion, became the head pro at Country in 1934. After Mitchell died, his old friend from Mayfield, Bertie Way, got the idea to honor Mitchell by doing something with the mold.

Another friend, Phil S. Jaeger, once president of the Cleveland District Golf Association agreed to have the mold

## THE KNOCK-OUT

Four and sixty golfers, playing for the cup,  
Going forth so gaily as their names went up,  
Some were caught in bunkers, some with  
nerves askew,  
Four and sixty golfers reduced to thirty-two.

Two and thirty golfers played the second  
round

Sorry disappointment, many of them found  
Some were driving badly others missed their  
putts

Two and thirty golfers, half of them went  
nuts.

Sixteen gallant golfers, started out again  
Some were using language, pretty but profane  
In the cruel bunkers, several found their fate  
Sixteen gallant golfers, dwindled down to  
eight.

Eight determined golfers, keen of eye and  
limb

Started on the tussle, looking rather grim  
All were playing nobly, splendid was the  
score

Finally successful, was this modest four.

Four excited golfers, semi-final bound  
Fighting for the honor, every hole of the  
round

Many shots were winners, hooks were very  
few  
Now it's almost over, left to final two.

Two young and dashing golfers, keen and  
birdie bent

Avoiding all the hazards, to keep them on the  
scent

Approaching very nicely, close up to the hole  
All depends upon this putt, who will reach his  
goal.

Now the match is over, handshakes all around,  
They drift along to the 19th, to have another  
round.

T. Cleary,  
Port Moresby, New Guinea  
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mounted and the trophy has been played for since 1939.

In the early years the tournament was open and twice was won by an amateur. In recent years it has been closed to members of the local chapter of the PGA. The present holder is Dick Shoemaker, head pro at Beechmont Country Club, Warrenville, Ohio, who also won in 1952. Burke and Densmore Shute, who won both the British Open and the national PGA titles, are listed among the past winners.