

A DEFENDER REPEATS IN GIRLS' CHAMPIONSHIP

Miss Eller Rises
to the Occasion
at Greenwich C.C.

Eleven years after the USGA instituted its program of junior championships for boys and girls of 17 years or less, a champion has finally repeated.

Miss Judy Eller, of Old Hickory, Tenn., won the Girls' Junior Championship a year ago in Denver, Colo., and now has successfully defended it against a record field of 77 players representing 24 states at the Greenwich Country Club, in Greenwich, Conn.

Only two girls and two boys have had such an opportunity. Miss Arlene Brooks, of Pasadena, Cal., and Miss Millie Meyerson, of Los Angeles, Cal., won when they were 16 but failed in attempts to repeat. Likewise, Mason Rudolph of Clarksville, Tenn., and Tommy Jacobs, of Montebello, Cal., won the boys' championship when they were 16 but also were unable to defend.

The fact that Judy won where such distinguished company failed is a significant augury for her future, and Judy in person is just as impressive as her record.

In the final, she came up against a most impressive young player in Miss Sherry Wheeler, of Glasgow, Ky., who had been playing spectacular golf.

For example, after defeating Miss Joyce Denson, of Atlanta, Ga., 6 and 4, in the semi-finals, Sherry needed four



Miss Judy Eller, of Old Hickory, Tenn., receives the Girls' Junior trophy from Mrs. Glenna Collett Vare, the donor, who also refereed the final.

pars for a 68. She played out the bye holes in an attempt to break 70 but succeeded only in matching that figure. At the same time, Judy had been playing only as well as she had to, and had beaten Miss Diana Hoke, of Pittsburgh and Delray Beach, Fla., 4 and 3, in the other semi-final.

Judy and Sherry live less than a hundred miles apart, but they had never

met in competition. They met socially when playing in their first Girls' Junior Championship at Florence, S.C., in 1955, and Sherry rode home with the Eller family from that event. They have been good friends ever since.

Both girls are at the stage where they can play on even terms with women. Judy has won the Tennessee Championship three years in succession. Sherry was a semi-finalist in the recent Trans-Mississippi Championship.

The Winning Temperament

When the final test came, Judy as usual drew on her reserves, played her best shots when she had to and defeated Sherry, 1 up. It was a see-saw match in which thirteen of the eighteen holes were won or lost. Judy won the all-important seventeenth by placing a No. 3 iron shot dead to the hole for a birdie 3 to go 1 up. She closed the door with a solid par 4 at the eighteenth. Her score was 78.

Mrs. Glenna Collett Vare, of Philadelphia, six times National Champion and donor of the trophy in this Championship, refereed the final and presented the trophy.

Both finalists were 17 and in their last year of eligibility, and both are now college freshmen, Judy at the University of Miami and Sherry at Arizona State. Judy turned 18 a week after winning.

One of the semi-finalists, Diana Hoke, was only 16, and she can play next year at the Manor Country Club, near Washington, D. C. Diana is a grand-daughter of Bobby Cruickshank, and the other losing semi-finalist, Joyce Denson, is a grand-daughter of George Sargent, the 1909 Open Champion, and a niece of Harold Sargent, the president of the Professional Golfers Association.

All four of the losing quarter-finalists will be eligible next year. Miss Sharon Fladoos, of Dubuque, Iowa, who was a semi-finalist two years ago, was still only 15. Miss Pat Dailey, of San Antonio, Texas, was 16. Miss Patty David, of Tulsa, Okla., was also 16. And Miss Sandra Haynie, of Austin, Texas, who already has won the Texas Public Links Championship, was only 15.

The medalist in qualifying was Miss Connie Robinson, 17, of Altadena, the California and Southern California Junior Champion, who scored 78, six over par,

on the 6,303-yard course in New York's exurbia. Her's was one of three scores under 80, the other two being 79s by Miss Eller and Miss Heidi Prentice, 15, of Winnetka, Ill. The deadline fell on five girls tied at 91 for the last four places, and a one-hole play-off was necessary.

Youngest Qualifier for Second Time

The youngest qualifier for the Championship was, once again, cute little Miss Judy Torluemke, now a veteran of 13, from Ellisville, Mo. Judy, a ninth grader who weighs 71 pounds, was playing in her third championship and qualifying for the second time. Her score of 85 disappointed her because she had broken 80 in practice rounds.

Despite her years, Judy is already one of the happy group of regulars who make this event not only a golf championship but a gay reunion. The entry shows some phenomenal attendance records. Miss Kaya Caldwell, 17, of Kansas City, Mo., was playing for the sixth time. Miss Margot Morton, 15, of Indiana, Pa., was present for the fifth time and has two years to go. Miss Haynie was playing for the fourth time in five years; and Miss Eller, Miss Wheeler, Miss Judy Rand, 15, of Aurora, Ohio, and Miss Helen Weiland, 17, of Phoenixville, Pa., were playing for the fourth time in succession. Many more were returning for the third year.

Those who failed to qualify for the Championship were drawn into subsidiary flights. In the first of these, Miss Karen Swanson, 14, of Sacramento, Cal., defeated Miss Elizabeth Lyons, 15, of Rochester, N.Y., 5 and 4. In the second, Miss Sue Knoblauch, 17, of Maplewood, N.J., defeated Miss Nedra Dumas, 16, of Little Rock, Ark., 1 up. In the third, Miss Pamela Panczak, 14, of Hamden, Conn., defeated Miss Rebecca Hannah, 15, of Alexandria, Va., 1 up.

And, for those who lost their first matches in any flight, there was a wonderful treat in store the next day at the neighboring Round Hill Club, which invited the girls over for golf, lunch and swimming and made "winners" of the 25 who were astute enough to accept. Miss Judy Hoetmer, of Seattle, Wash., and Miss Gayle Terwilliger, of Snyder, N.Y., both 17, tied for the best score with 81s and both received medals. Miss Janet Henry, also 17, of Alexandria, Va., made 93—26—67 and won the handicap medal.