

JOLLITY AND PUTTING COME EASILY TO CASPER

BY

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was postponed. The Open is distinctive in having two rounds on the last (third) It is sometimes hard to realize that golf is for fun. The concentration it requires, and its many technicalities, tend to make it a sober-looking exercise. Where tournament professionals are concerned, this is understandable, for who can laugh his way through his work, especially if hundreds of dollars may be riding on a four-foot putt?

One who is different is William E. Casper, Jr. The new Open Champion is a delightfully refreshing young man—full of natural jollity, relaxed and easy-going, and one of the most genuinely polite persons you could ever meet. He enjoys food (he weighs 212), but he has declined to endorse tobacco and liquor ads because he doesn't smoke and seldom drinks.

Bill Casper has an impish sense of humor. Films of the third round of the Open were being televised before the round ended, and in the Winged Foot Golf Club locker room Casper was watching the show while Sam Snead played gin rummy nearby. As the player on the TV screen was about to play a bunker shot, Casper said to Snead: "Now watch this fellow, Sam; he can really play this shot." The ball came out of the sand to within holing-out distance. "Now watch him putt, Sam; he certainly has a stroke," said Casper. The ball plopped into the hole.

The player on television was Bill Casper.

Snead grunted. "You make more lucky putts than the rest of us do when we try," he said, in mock disgust.

If you could pin-point the two pieces of equipment that were perhaps the most useful to Casper last month at Mamaronck, N. Y., they would probably be his temperament and his putting—and there must be interplay between them. The West Course greens at Winged Foot were slightly slow by Open standards, and

The Leaders

Bill Casper, Jr.	71-68-69-74—282	\$12,000
Robert R. Rosburg	75-70-67-71—283	6,600
Claude Harmon	72-71-70-71—284	3,600
Mike Souchak	71-70-72-71—284	3,600
Arnold Palmer	71-69-72-74—286	2,100
Ernie Vossler	72-70-72-72—286	2,100
Doug Ford	72-69-72-73—286	2,100
Ben Hogan	69-71-71-76—287	1,350
Sam Snead	73-72-67-75—287	1,350
Dick Knight	69-75-73-73—290	900
Ted Kroll	71-73-73-74—291	600
Gene A. Littler	69-74-75-73—291	600
Fred E. Hawkins	76-72-69-74—291	600
Dow Finsterwald	69-73-75-74—291	600

—30 under par for putts. He putted 28 times in his first round of 71, 31 in his second round of 68, 27 in his third round of 69, and 28 in his final round of 74; the only time he three-putted was on the tenth hole of the last round.

His personality, however, transcends statistics. He could become one of the most popular of Open Champions.

Casper is a Californian from San Diego. He had his 28th birthday the week before the Open, and has a charming family—Mrs. Casper and a daughter who will be 5 in August and a boy 3. He turned professional in April, 1954, having played in the National Amateur Championship the preceding year. This was his fourth Open; he finished well up in 1956 and 1958, tying for 14th and 13th, respectively.

Records

This was an unusual Open in many respects.

For the first time in history a round

A HAPPY WINNER



Courtesy, Macy Westchester Newspapers

Bill Casper, Jr., with the Open trophy presented to him in a twilight ceremony.

heavy rains accentuated this quality for the last two rounds, but Casper found the touch and used only 114 putts in 72 holes day, but rain and lightning during the third round caused postponements aggregating 1 hour 50 minutes early in the day. It was clearly impossible to hold a complete fourth round that day, so it was put over one day, to Sunday. Toward

the end of the third day there was another series of heavy thunderstorms, and the last three groups of players were delayed nearly two hours in finishing.

With 61 players eligible for the fourth round, there was question whether it could be completed Sunday afternoon, for New York State law prevented play from starting before 2 P. M. But the players

A SMILING RUNNER-UP



World Wide Photos

Bob Rosburg came within one stroke of forcing the Open into a play-off.

\$50,500. The previous high was \$35,000 in 1958.

The total attendance for the first three days set a new Open record of approximately 43,377, of which 6,000 were complimentary. This compares with the old record of 39,696 at Inverness in 1957, this figure including 3,600 complimentary. Inverness' Saturday crowd of 16,527 remains the peak for a single day. Following are approximate figures for Winged Foot, including 2,000 complimentary each day:

Thursday	13,773
Friday	14,594
Saturday	15,010
Total	43,377

A distinctive feature was the following

cooperated wonderfully, and all went well, though wind gusts reached 30 miles an hour and the temperature hovered around 50. The players were good sportsmen through all the vicissitudes of weather; how would you like to start your last round in the Open just before 5 P. M.?

The original entry of 2,402 was 270 more than the previous high.

A series of double qualifying trials, first in 57 local districts and later in 13 sections, was used for the first time. The system was generally so successful that it will be continued.

Prize money for professionals was the richest in history. Originally it was scheduled to be \$40,000. On the fourth day the USGA decided to add a 20% bonus to each prize. This resulted in a \$12,000 first award for Bill Casper, and a total distribution of \$49,200. To this must be added \$1,300 awarded in the 13 Sectional Qualifying Championships. Thus, the total Open Championship purse was

CASPER'S 282

Hole	Yards	Par	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
1	442	4	4	4	4	4
2	415	4	5	3	4	4
3	217	3	3	3	3	3
4	435	4	5	4	4	4
5	524	5	4	4	6	4
6	324	4	4	4	4	4
7	167	3	3	4	3	4
8	438	4	4	4	4	5
9	468	4	4	4	4	4

Out 3,340 35 36 34 36 36

Hole	Yards	Par	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
10	196	3	3	3	2	4
11	382	4	4	4	4	4
12	540	5	5	5	5	6
13	212	3	3	2	3	3
14	376	4	4	4	4	3
15	417	4	4	4	3	5
16	452	4	4	4	4	4
17	444	4	3	4	4	5
18	424	4	5	4	4	4

In 3,443 35 35 34 33 38

Total 6,873 70 71 68 69 74

GALLERY INTEREST WAS NOT DAMPENED



World Wide Photos

A scene at the first tee shortly after the Open got underway on the ill-fated third day. The Scottish-type weather soon forced a temporary suspension of play, but it could not dampen the ardor of the gallery.

scoreboard—52 feet long by 14 feet high. In one section it showed the hole-by-hole scores of the leaders each day; in another section, it showed the cumulative standing of the leaders with relation to par. The characters were approximately a foot high and could be seen well from a couple of hundred yards away. Marines with walkie-talkies accompanied the leaders and flashed results as promptly as a hole was played.

The Competition

As so often happens in the Open, there was a thrilling finish. Bill Casper set up his 72-hole score of 282, two over par. Mike Souchak and Bob Rosburg both came to the home hole needing birdie 3s to tie. Rosburg's 4 gave him 283 for local rule for the last two rounds: "Damage to putting green caused by impact of a ball may be repaired by any means other than by stepping on damaged area. Ball may be lifted to permit repair and shall then be replaced on spot from which lifted." A rule similar to this is scheduled to become part of the Rules of Golf in 1960.

Finally, in the way of records, the USGA introduced the largest known second prize of \$6,600. Souchak needed 5 for 284, and that tied him with Claude Harmon, who made one of the best showings of a home club professional. As Harmon said, these four leaders were also about tops "pound for pound."

Casper took the lead at 36 holes, with 139, and stayed in front thereafter. His 54-hole score of 208 was the second lowest in history, being surpassed only by Ben Hogan's 207 in 1948 at Riviera in Los Angeles, where Ben set the Open scoring record of 276.

There was, as always, great interest in Hogan and Snead, and both made a real run for it.

Hogan started with 32 on the first nine; his finish for a 69 put him in a four-way tie for the lead. At 36 holes he was 140, a stroke behind Casper; at 54 holes he was second with 211, but Casper had stretched his lead to three strokes. Ben started his final round handsomely but did not sustain it and finished with 76 for 287—tied for eighth with Snead. Always, un-

til well along in the final round, Hogan was within striking distance of an unprecedented fifth Open title.

Snead, who never has won the Open, had a great third round of 67 that put him in the thick of contention with a 54-hole score of 212. He needed 75 in the blustery wind of the final day, when no one matched par 70, much less broke it.

Rosburg, a great putter like Casper, also had a 67 in the third round that vaulted him into the running. He and Snead, with their 67s, had the lowest rounds of the Championship.

Low amateur was James R. English, of Denver, with 299.

Tommy Bolt, the defending champion, scored 301.

Winged Foot has now held five USGA events, four of them on the West Course,

but it was never put to the test as severely as this time. The weather Saturday created unusual problems, particularly since the East Course was used for automobile parking; unfortunately the course was damaged in the rains.

But the Winged Foot organization did a splendid job, under the chairmanship of Walter E. Kolb, President. It simply is not possible to appreciate completely the vast labors of the volunteer committees who make the Open possible; one has to be involved in order to grasp its magnitude.

The West Course was an eminently fair test. It was in superb condition. A player on a practice day was walking along a fairway when something he was just passing caught his eye. "Ah, a weed," he said incredulously.

HOW THE LEADERS STOOD AFTER EACH ROUND

18 Holes

Gene Littler	69
Dow Finsterwald	69
Dick Knight	69
Ben Hogan	69
Hillman Robbins, Jr.	70
Bill Casper, Jr.	71
Don January	71
Bo Wininger	71
Gary Player	71
Don Fairfield	71
Cary Middlecoff	71
Arnold Palmer	71
Mike Souchak	71
Ted Kroll	71
Lionel Hebert	71

36 Holes

Bill Casper, Jr.	139
Gary Player	140
Ben Hogan	140
Arnold Palmer	140
Doug Ford	141
Mike Souchak	141
Dow Finsterwald	142
Ernie Vossler	142
Gene Littler	143
Jay Hebert	143
Claude Harmon	143

54 Holes

Bill Casper, Jr.	208
Ben Hogan	211
Sam Snead	212
Arnold Palmer	212
Robert R. Rosburg	212
Doug Ford	213
Claude Harmon	213
Mike Souchak	213
Ernie Vossler	214
Lionel Hebert	215
Gary Player	216
Bo Wininger	216

72 Holes

Bill Casper, Jr.	282
Robert R. Rosburg	283
Claude Harmon	284
Mike Souchak	284
Doug Ford	286
Ernie Vossler	286
Arnold Palmer	286
Ben Hogan	287
Sam Snead	287
Dick Knight	290
Ted Kroll	291
Gene A. Littler	291
Fred E. Hawkins	291
Dow Finsterwald	291