

# MISS MICKEY WRIGHT REPEATS WITH RECORD 287

BY

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The gentle art of what Bernard Darwin calls "boiling three strokes into two" is apt to be decisive in major championships today. Without the right touch on and around the putting greens, the soundest player from tee to green is not likely to win.

That was why Miss Mickey Wright was a rather perturbed young lady on the eve of defending the USGA Women's Open Championship last month. She simply wasn't putting.

A few weeks before, she had consulted Paul Runyan by telephone to his professional shop at the La Jolla Country Club in California, and Paul had helped straighten things in conversation and by letter. But now, just before the National Open at the Churchill Valley Country Club in Pittsburgh, Miss Wright was in need of help beyond her own. So she phoned Paul Runyan, then did it again during the tournament.

It would be stretching things to say that a telephonic-correspondence course in putting made Miss Wright the Open Champion again, but when she received the Championship trophy for the second year in a row she stressed the help she had received from Paul.

Paul Runyan—"Little Poison." That's what they used to call him when he was PGA Champion in 1934 (1 up in a 38-hole final against Craig Wood) and 1938 (8 and 7 in the final over Sam Snead). He was the shortest of the good players, but he certainly could "boil three strokes into two."

Miss Wright, conversely, is perhaps the longest hitter among the lady professional golfers. Now 24, she has had a wonderful record and apparently faces a long future of high success. She remains the sweet and lovely young lady who has been winning USGA prizes since 1950, when she was runner-up in the USGA Girls' Junior Championship. She later won the Girls' Championship and in 1954 was both low amateur in the

Open and runner-up in the Women's Amateur Championship. Then she decided to become a professional golfer rather than to embark on a career in medicine.

Now she has fulfilled Connie Mack's definition of a true champion—one who can repeat—even though there's more to repeating in a trying individual game



Miss Mickey Wright, a long hitter among the lady professionals, attributed her second straight win of the Open to her putting.

such as golf, with many opponents, than in a team sport like baseball, which was Mr. Mack's philosophical subject.

Mickey Wright has not only become the first person to win the USGA Open twice in succession but she has broken the scoring record each time. Last year her 290 was one stroke better than the record set in 1954 by the late Mrs. George (Babe Didrikson) Zaharias. Now, at Churchill Valley last month, Miss Wright has brought it down three more strokes to 287. That's a great score for anybody; even though Churchill Valley played at 6,104 yards with a par of 70, it is an exacting test, and its last six holes would try anybody. Miss Wright's rounds were 72-75-69-71.

At the finish she was two strokes ahead of Miss Louise Suggs, who closed with a brilliant 69. Miss Suggs' 289 also broke the former USGA record. She twice won the Open when it was sponsored by the women professionals' own organization, and in one victory scored 284 on a short course.

At Churchill Valley Miss Suggs con-



**Miss Anne Quast, Women's Amateur Champion, repeated as low amateur, and became the first amateur to break 300.**



**Runner-up, Miss Louise Suggs, the 36-hole leader, closed with a brilliant 69 after faltering with a 75 in the morning round.**

fessed to being a little tired of receiving the silver runner-up medal behind Miss Wright, for this was the second year in a row. As a matter of fact, all three main prize-winners of 1958 repeated, for Miss Anne Quast, of Marysville, Wash., again won low amateur honors. Miss Quast, the reigning Women's Amateur Champion, who had just been graduated from Stanford, scored 299 and became the first amateur to break 300 in the Championship's history. The best amateur showing ever made, however, was by Miss Barbara McIntire, formerly of Toledo, when she tied for the Championship in 1956 and lost a play-off to Mrs. Kathy Cornelius. This year Miss McIntire tied for second amateur honors with Miss Joanne Goodwin, of Haverhill, Mass., who had two remarkable last rounds—72 and 73.

Little Miss Goodwin did a most unusual thing in the third round in playing all four par 3 holes in 2 each. They are particularly testing holes, and the range from 161 to 184 yards by no means tells the full story.

The Championship was largely a contest among Miss Wright, Miss Suggs, Mrs. Marlene Bauer Hagge and Miss Patty Berg. After 18 holes the lead was shared at 71 by Miss Suggs and Mrs. Hagge,

with Miss Wright and Miss Berg one stroke behind. At 36 holes Miss Suggs led by two strokes with 145, to 147 for Miss Wright, Mrs. Hagge and Miss Berg.

The last two rounds of the USGA Open are played in one day, and here Miss Wright proved her superiority. Her third round 69 for a total of 216 vaulted her to a four-stroke lead over Miss Suggs, Mrs. Hagge and Miss Joyce Ziske. The Champion closed with a 71, and Miss Suggs' 69 couldn't quite bridge the gap.

It was a great last-day performance by Miss Wright—69-71, against par of 70. Her victory earned prize money of \$1,800; a total of \$7,200 was awarded to professionals.

As one male spectator said, "I'm thinking of giving up golf. It makes me sick to watch these girls."

Churchill Valley has entertained a number of tournaments for the lady professionals, and the USGA Open had the benefit of a smooth club organization, a finely-conditioned course, and a handsome, large new clubhouse. The ladies seem to feel at home there, thanks to the hospitable atmosphere inspired by M. O. Fabiani, the Club's Tournament Director; Samuel Merriman, President, and their good team.

#### MISS WRIGHT'S RECORD 287

Hole	Yards	Par	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
1	397	4	4	4	4	3
2	373	4	5	5	3	4
3	170	3	3	3	4	4
4	502	5	5	5	4	5
5	293	4	4	5	4	4
6	349	4	3	4	3	4
7	170	3	3	3	3	3
8	355	4	4	5	4	5
9	477	5	4	5	4	4
<b>Out</b>	<b>3,086</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>36</b>
10	373	4	3	4	5	4
11	369	4	5	5	3	3
12	370	4	4	4	4	4
13	184	3	3	4	3	3
14	395	4	5	4	5	3
15	388	4	4	4	5	4
16	161	3	5	3	2	4
17	373	4	4	4	4	5
18	405	4	4	4	5	5
<b>In</b>	<b>3,018</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6,104</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>71</b>

#### HOW THE LEADERS STOOD AFTER EACH ROUND

##### 18 Holes

Miss Louise Suggs	71
Mrs. Marlene Hagge	71
Miss Patty Berg	72
Miss Mickey Wright	72
*Miss Anne Quast	75
*Miss Betty Kerby	75
Miss Ruth Jessen	75
Mrs. Kathy Cornelius	75
Miss Joyce Ziske	75
Miss Wanda Sanches	75

##### 36 Holes

Miss Louise Suggs	145
Miss Mickey Wright	147
Mrs. Marlene Hagge	147
Miss Patty Berg	147
Miss Joyce Ziske	148
Miss Wanda Sanches	148
Miss Betsy Rawls	149
Miss Ruth Jessen	149
Miss Marilynn Smith	150
*Miss Anne Quast	151
Miss Fay Crocker	151
Miss Betty Jameson	151
Miss Jo Ann Prentice	151

##### 54 Holes

Miss Mickey Wright	216
Miss Joyce Ziske	220
Miss Louise Suggs	220
Mrs. Marlene Hagge	220
Miss Ruth Jessen	221
Miss Betsy Rawls	221
Miss Patty Berg	222
Miss Wanda Sanches	225
Miss Fay Crocker	226
*Miss Anne Quast	226
*Miss Barbara McIntire	227
Miss Murle MacKenzie	227

##### 72 Holes

Miss Mickey Wright	287
Miss Louise Suggs	289
Mrs. Marlene Hagge	292
Miss Ruth Jessen	292
Miss Joyce Ziske	292
Miss Patty Berg	296
Miss Betsy Rawls	297
Miss Murle MacKenzie	298
*Miss Anne Quast	299
Miss Jo Ann Prentice	302
*Miss Babara McIntire	303
*Miss Joanne Goodwin	303

\* Denotes Amateur.