

ESPIE'S FINE RECORD IN THE SENIOR AMATEUR

Won Twice, Runner-up Once
in Last Four Years

In a game where form can be uncertain, the record which J. Clark Espie, Jr., has made in the USGA Senior Amateur Championship is among the most remarkable in the annals of national events.

The Senior Championship has now been held five times. Espie has played in the last four tournaments, after failing to qualify sectionally in the first. He has won twice, been runner-up once, and a semi-finalist and the qualifying medalist on the fourth occasion.

His style of play is not exactly lyrical, but it is deceptively solid. It is reinforced by a keen yet always friendly competitive spirit which never admits defeat before the game is over.

Clark Espie is a 60-year-old advertising representative from Indianapolis. He has several grandchildren. He has won the Indianapolis, Indiana Senior and Western Senior Championships. He is a member of the USGA Senior Championship Committee.

His second victory for the USGA Championship was so touchingly gratifying to him that he said "I could almost cry" in his moment of joy when the final match ended. It came about last month at the Memphis Country Club, Memphis, Tenn., one of the fine homes of American golf.

The runner-up was J. Wolcott Brown, of Manasquan, N. J. Playing in his first USGA Senior Championship, Brown was co-medalist at 73 with George Dawson, of Chicago, and loomed as a potential Champion as he won four matches through the semi-finals. He seemed to own the first nine, and played it in an average of even par in the qualifying and the first three matches.

Espie had squeaked through the qualifying round with a 79, and in the second round pulled through a 24-hole match with a fellow-Indianan, Larry E. Stage, of Lafayette. This was the longest match in the history of the Championship.

Then Espie struck his best streak of

the week in eliminating Martin McCarthy, of Washington, 5 and 3, and George Dawson, 5 and 4; he was only one over par for the 29 holes of these two matches.

The final was all square after nine holes. Espie holed several good recovery putts coming home, whereas Brown had an opposite fate. Espie won the 10th, 16th and 17th for a 3-and-1 decision. A par at the bye hole would have given Espie 75 for the round.

The defeated semi-finalists were George Dawson and William E. Norvell, Jr., of Chattanooga, who lost to Brown by two holes.

The defending Champion, Thomas C. Robbins, of Pinehurst, N. C., missed qualifying in the Championship flight of 32. His 81 was one stroke above the play-off score. The 1958 runner-up, John Dawson, brother of George, did not compete.

Espie led a strong contingent of Indiana players, five of whom qualified in the Championship 32.

With no handicap limit for the first time, the entry list increased from 370 to a slightly higher record of 391. Among the qualifiers at Memphis was Charles Evans, Jr., of Chicago, former Open and Amateur Champion.

It was an unusually happy golfing party—and that is saying a good deal, for seniors invariably have jolly tournaments. The Memphis Country Club provided the most hospitable home possible. The warmth of fine feeling in this club is proverbial, and George Treadwell, the General Chairman, James P. Robinson, the President, and their colleagues are to be thanked for another splendid contribution to the game. This was the third USGA Championship at the Club, the others being the 1937 Women's Amateur and the 1948 men's Amateur. The course was never better; Superintendent Jimmy Hamner has some wonderful putting greens of Tifton 328 bermudagrass. The new clubhouse is a showplace.

"THE HAPPIEST MOMENT . . ."



J. Clark Espie, of Indianapolis, is telling how it feels to be the USGA Senior Amateur Champion for the second time. Standing at left is William McWane, Chairman of USGA Senior Championship Committee. Seated, from left: James P. Robinson, President, Memphis Country Club; Max Holden, member of Club Committee; J. Wolcott Brown, of Manasquan, N. J., runner-up to Espie; Mrs. Brown; George Treadwell, General Chairman of Memphis Country Club Committee for Championship. The permanent Championship Trophy was presented by Frederick L. Dold, of Wichita, Kans., former member of USGA Executive Committee.

For non-qualifiers in the Championship division, there were consolation match play flights of 16, and the finals resulted as follows:

First Sixteen—Mark Robertson, Memphis, defeated Maurice R. Smith, Kansas City, 3 and 2.

Second Sixteen—Paul A. Dunkel, Ridge-

wood, N. J., defeated Elfred Beck, Tulsa, 5 and 3.

Third Sixteen—George E. Hale, Albuquerque, N. M., defeated Dr. Millard S. Rosenblatt, Portland, Ore., 4 and 3.

Fourth Sixteen—G. Douglas Henderson, Oakmont, Pa., defeated Gerald D. Bert, Seattle, 6 and 5.

18-Hole Score Needed

Handicap Decision 59-6

Reference: Men: Sect. 4-3

Women: Sect. 14-3

Q: Some of our members, particularly in the early spring, play less than 18 holes during a round. This may be due to squalls, low temperatures or lack of stamina. These incomplete rounds range anywhere from 9 to 17 holes. There is a difference of opinion as to whether these incomplete games should be acceptable as an incomplete scorecard for handicap purposes.

Section 14-3 of The Conduct of Women's Golf provides that, in no more than two holes where a player has picked up without concession, the handicapper may record scores as two

or three over par, depending on the player's handicap. When there are more than two pick-up holes in a round, the score itself should not be used in handicap computations, but the round should be noted in the player's scoring record as "No Card."

Should these incomplete scores be recorded as "No Card?"

Question by: Mrs. Paul Watson
South Bend, Ind.

A: When players play less than a full 18-hole round, they do not have a sufficient score to provide worthwhile information for handicap purposes. Therefore, such scores should be ignored and should not be entered in any form in their handicap scoring records.