

# MISS BARBARA McINTIRE A DESERVING CHAMPION

USGA Amateur Title  
Rewards Long, Patient Quest

Sometimes it must appear that a national golf championship is held for the exclusive benefit of the winner. All attention is finally focused on him, and his name and fame live preeminent in the records and in public memory.

In the USGA Women's Amateur Championship, there are 127 losers; they expend much effort and money in attending. Dozens of members of the entertaining club devote thousands of hours, gratuitously, to prepare for the event, and the club underwrites considerable cost.

Why? Surely there must be values beyond the determination of a Champion.

For the players, there is the great sport of keen competition among the best—the joy of reviving friendships and making new ones with people from all over the country, and some from abroad—the simple fellowship of like-minded people interested in a wholesome sport.

For the host club, there are rewards in the pleasure of entertaining happy and appreciative guests, and in contributing to the ongoing welfare of golf.

In short, the original idea of a national championship as being a golfing party among friends still animates the occasion, even though there are the newer elements of wide public attention and prestige for the winner.

The Women's Amateur Championship nowadays has a particular zest since many of the prominent players are delightfully refreshing girls and young ladies who have recently come up through the USGA Girls' Junior Championship, which started in 1949.

And now, for the fifth time in the last six years, one who has come up through the Girls' Championship is the Women's Amateur Champion. If, contrary to the basic idea, the Championship had been staged for her especial benefit, there might have been a measure of justice in it, for Miss Barbara McIntire had been denied USGA titles on three other oc-

casions when she was just one last step away. She played in the first Girls' Championship and was twice runner-up (1951-52). She tied for the Women's Open Championship in 1956, only to lose a playoff to Mrs. Kathy Cornelius, a professional.

The first time Miss McIntire played a match in the Women's Amateur, in 1950 as a girl of 15, she eliminated the six-time Champion, Mrs. Glenna Collett Vare, in the opening round. She has compiled a splendid record, including membership in our Curtis Cup team and the Western Amateur title last year. But she had never gone as far as the semi-finals of the Women's Amateur until this past August at the Congressional Country Club near Washington, D. C.

Now, at age 24, after long deferment, Miss McIntire is National Champion, and a most becoming one. She is a quiet and modest young lady, pretty and dimpled. In late years she has lived in Lake Park, Fla., where she is a real estate agent; she was raised in Toledo, Ohio, and is a graduate of Rollins College. Miss McIntire and her parents, especially her mother, have been members of the USGA championship family for a long while, and it was pleasing to see them finally take a gold medal home.

Miss McIntire stands in the tradition of those Champions who could rise to inspired heights under stress. She was 3 down in both her quarter-final and semi-final matches. In the final she was 1 up after 18 holes and after 22 holes, then played the rest of the match in one better than par for a 4-and-3 victory over Miss Joanne Goodwin, of Haverhill, Mass.

Miss Goodwin is a petite young lady of 23 who, up to the final, had played perhaps the best golf of the field:—three over par for 96 holes in six matches. She had defeated Miss McIntire twice in Southern tournaments earlier in the year, and tied Miss McIntire for second amateur prize in the USGA Women's Open. But her cross-handed putting touch de-



**Finalist Joanne Goodwin, left, and Women's Amateur Champion Barbara McIntire.**

sported her in the final at Congressional.

Miss McIntire had two great wins just before the final, both in extra holes. Her quarter-final match with Miss Anne Quast, the defending Champion, was a classic.

Miss McIntire had been 2 up after five holes, then had to watch Miss Quast play the next seven in three below par to go 3 up. Three down and 6 to play against Anne Quast is a fearsome position. Barbara McIntire surmounted it. She squared on 16. Miss Quast won 17, and was 1 up. On the par-3 home hole Miss Quast pushed her tee shot to an atrocious lie, and so they went extra holes. Miss McIntire's par 3 on the 20th was good enough to win when Miss Quast's putt for a 3 died just short of the cup.

Miss Quast in her Championship victory of 1958 had won three matches after being 3 down, and now Miss McIntire caught the idea. In her semi-final she was three holes in arrears at the turn, then had an inspirational surge with a 35 coming

home, three below par. Her opponent, Mrs. Paul F. Klinefelter, Jr., of Philadelphia, kept the match alive with a thrilling bird 2 on the home green, only to fall victim to Miss McIntire's par on the 19th.

Mrs. Klinefelter was a remarkable competitor in her first Championship in some twelve years. One of her victims was Miss JoAnne Gunderson, the 1957 winner.

The other semi-finalist was another Philadelphian, Mrs. Mark A. Porter, Jr., titleholder in 1949. Her conqueror at Congressional was Miss Goodwin.

It is worth noting that the last five Champions have remained amateurs. Of the nine winners between 1946 and 1954, six became professionals.

The Congressional Country Club was a most hospitable host. Sincere gratitude is hereby recorded to the Club's committees, headed by Frank Murphy, Jr., as General Chairman; Dr. Luther Gray, the President; and the excellent staff, of which A.E. Martin is Manager, with Wiffy Cox as Professional.