

CALIFORNIANS SWEEP PUBLIC LINKS HONORS

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In a match play golf championship, those who fail to qualify are usually on their way home before the first match begins. This was not the case, however, in the 35th Amateur Public Links Championship, held at the Ala Wai Golf Course, Honolulu, Hawaii, on July 11-16.

Most players who failed to shoot or better 156—the 36 hole score needed to gain a spot in the match play draw—spent the remainder of the week playing golf at the other clubs on beautiful Oahu Island; touring the islands; attempting the sport of surf-boarding on Waikiki Beach; and participating in numerous activities available in our 50th state.

Proof of this was the Sayonora Dinner (a Japanese farewell dinner) given by our hosts on the evening after the final match. Practically the entire starting field was still around and attended this dinner.

Players and officials were entertained royally during the week of the Championship. In addition to the Sayonora Dinner, there was a nine-course Chinese dinner, a Hawaiian luau feast, and the annual Player's Dinner.

The luau was attended by Hawaii's Governor, William Quinn.

Prior to the tournament, there was talk that the Ala Wai Golf Course was not in Championship condition. This proved to be untrue. The course was in good shape except for a rather large area in the eighteenth fairway, which unfortunately had been invaded by sea water from the Ala Wai Canal.

The course, in addition to being in Championship condition was of Championship calibre, as witness the qualifying scores. The lowest score returned in the 36 hole qualifying test was 146, four over par. This figure was attained by three players: Harlan Stevenson, Long Beach, California, the 1956 Junior Champion; Richard Hopwood, Phoenix, Arizona, and O. T. Douglass, Jr., Honolulu.

There were several reasons for the

high qualifying scores. First, trade winds almost always blow strongly across the course. Secondly, Ala Wai has bermuda grass greens which at their best—and they were at their best—are not in a class with bent grass greens. Finally, the greens were small and surrounded, except for a three foot collar, by tough three inch-high bermuda grass.

This final factor, in the opinion of most of the players, was the primary reason for the high scores. Any player who was slightly off target with his approaches usually found himself in this rough, and generally this meant a score of one over par for the hole.

It was interesting to note as the days went by that surviving players, especially the eventual winner, Verne Callison of Sacramento, Calif., became adept at extricating the ball from this fringe rough. Callison's play in this area was a thing of beauty in the late matches. He played the shot much in the manner of a sand explosion shot, with a long slow backswing, and complete follow-through. His adeptness drew praise from the fine galleries, as time after time he managed a par by lofting beautiful pitch shots from this rough to within a few feet of the hole.

Defending champion, Bill Wright of Seattle, Wash., who admittedly was off his game, qualified with a score of 156. This had put him in a play-off, with thirteen other players for the last ten spots in the draw. Wright got into the Championship via the play-off, but his hopes for a second title vanished in the first round when he was defeated 3 and 2 by O. T. Douglass, Jr., one of the co-medalists. Douglass, the Hawaiian Open Champion, was defeated in the second round by another Honolulu player, Hung Soo Ahn.

The two other co-medalists had no more luck than Douglass. Both lost to Mike Andonian, Pontiac, Mich., school-teacher. Andonian defeated Hopwood in



John G. Clock, USGA President, looks on as a Public Links player blasts out of a sand trap on a scenic hole of the Ala Wai Golf Course, Honolulu, Hawaii. This year's Amateur Public Links Championship was the first USGA tournament to be played outside the Continental United States.

the second round and eliminated Stevenson in the third round.

Surviving to the semi-finals were three Michigan players and Callison. The three Michigan players were Andonian, Tyler Caplin, East Lansing, a member of the Michigan State golf team; and Bob McMasters, Royal Oak.

In gaining the fourth round, Andonian, in addition to defeating two of the comedialists, eliminated Charles J. McKay, Kailua, Hawaii in the first round, and Felix G. Claveran, Stockton, Calif., in the quarter-finals. Claveran had beaten Don Essig, III, of Indianapolis, Ind., the 1957 Champion in the third round.

Caplin's opponents were: Robert Mueller, Greendale, Wis.; Julio Campagni, Highwood, Ill.; John Carson, Atlanta, All-American end at the University of Georgia and formerly with the Washington Redskins; and Floyd E. Dixon, Memphis, Tenn.

McMasters defeated Eugene Lake, Toledo, Ohio; Chet Latawiec, Minneapolis, Minn.; Dr. Sam Valuck, Denver, Colo.; and Toshio Santoki, one of the local Honolulu representatives.

Callison, however, was the real villain insofar as the local contingent was concerned. After defeating Gene Hanson of Minneapolis, Minn., in the first round, he defeated in order Masa Kaya, Hung Soo Ahn, and Tom Takiguchi. All are from Honolulu.

In the semi-final matches it was Caplin versus McMasters and Callison versus Andonian. Caplin got off to an early lead over McMasters. Throughout most of the morning he was three or four up. McMasters, however, battled back on the first nine of the afternoon round to square matters after 27 holes. The outcome of the match was probably settled on the par 5 tenth hole, the 28th hole of the match. Caplin, visibly shaken by McMasters onrush, pulled himself together and holed a ten-foot putt for a birdie. McMasters missed his eight foot birdie putt and his gallant bid for the match was over as Caplin swept the next four holes for a 5 and 4 victory.

The Callison-Andonian match went right down to the wire. Callison led by two after 27 holes, but Andonian swept the next three holes to go one up with

only six holes to play. Callison played par golf from thereon except for the thirty-sixth hole where he went one over. This was good enough to earn him a one up victory as Andonian lost a stroke to par on the 32nd, 34th and 36th holes.

In the final match's first hole, Caplin took four to get down, allowing Callison to win with a five. Caplin never seemed to regain his composure and his putting often left him wanting.

Five down after the morning round, Caplin whittled Callison's lead to three holes after the 25th. But he lost the 26th and 27th. The end came when Caplin hooked his drive on the 30th and took four strokes to reach the green. Callison was on in two and two-putted to win.

The new Champion is a 41 year old tavern owner. He is the present California Amateur Champion, and has long been one of California's outstanding amateurs.

Twenty-six teams entered the Sectional Team Championship, which is played in conjunction with the qualifying rounds. The Warren G. Harding Trophy, awarded to the winning team each year, was captured by Pasadena, California, with a three-man, 36-hole score of 453, four strokes better than second-place Honolulu. The three players representing Pasadena were: Harlan Stevenson, with 74-72—146; Richard Clover, with 75-75—150; and Ray Swedo, Jr., with 84-73—157. The defending Championship team, Dallas, Texas, tied for 16th place with 476.

Eleven members of the USGA Public Links Committee attended the Championship. They were: Charles C. Clare, Chairman, who is also a member of the Executive Committee; Thomas A. T. Ching, the host Committeeman; W. Gordon Young, Ralph Ghioto, Ray O. Fischer, Henry J. Sawicki, Earl Shock, John W. Riggle, Lloyd P. Del Nore, Mark A. Greer, Sr., and Judge John L. Niblack.

Also in attendance was USGA President John G. Clock, who awarded the prizes, and Fred Brand and Edwin R. Foley, members of the Executive Committee. All contributed greatly to the success of the Championship, as did Hideo Uchida, General Chairman, and all the members of his Committees.

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"Famous Golf Courses: Scotland," is a 18-minute film in full color. Famous holes were photographed at Troon, Prestwick, Carnoustie, St. Andrews, North Berwick and Muirfield.

"Walker Cup Highlights," is a 16-minute film tracing the early history and play for the first international golf trophy. Bob Jones, Francis Ouimet and other Walker Cup stars are shown. The latter half of the film is in color.

"St. Andrews, Cradle Of Golf," is a 14-minute, full color, 16mm travelogue of historic St. Andrews, Scotland, its Old Course and the Royal and Ancient Golf Club clubhouse.

"First World Amateur Team Championship for Eisenhower Trophy," is a 14-minute, full color, 16mm film of the first World Amateur Team Championship at St. Andrews. Twenty-nine countries compete for the Eisenhower Trophy.

"On the Green," a 17-minute, full color, 16mm presentation filmed at the Mid-Ocean Club, Bermuda, illustrates correct procedures under the Rules of Golf governing situations arising on the putting green.

"Golf's Longest Hour," a 16mm full color production of 17½ minutes, depicts the closing stages of the 1956 Open Championship. Filmed at the beautiful Oak Hill Country Club, Rochester, N.Y., it shows the eventual winner, Cary Middlecoff, set a target at which Ben Hogan, Julius Boros and Ted Kroll strive in vain to beat.

"Play Them As They Lie," a 16mm color production of 16½ minutes in which Johnny Farrell, Open Champion of 1928, acts as intermediary between Wilbur Mulligan, a beginner of unimpeachable integrity, and Joshua P. Slive, a past master in the art of breaking the Rules. The film was made at the Baltusrol Golf Club, Springfield, N. J., where Farrell is professional.

"Great Moments in Golf," lets the viewer see the many interesting exhibits in "Golf House," USGA headquarters in New York, and re-live golf triumphs of the past with many of the game's immortals. The film is a 16mm black and white production and runs 28 minutes.

"The Rules of Golf—Etiquette" stresses the importance of etiquette by portrayal of various violations of the code in the course of a family four-ball match. Ben Hogan appears in several scenes, and Robert T. Jones, Jr., makes the introductory statement. A 16mm color production of 17½ minutes.

The distribution of prints is handled by National Educational Films, Inc., 165 West 46th Street, New York 36, N. Y., which produced the films in cooperation with the USGA. The rental is \$20 per film; \$35 for two; \$50 for three; \$60 for four and \$70 for five, in combination at the same time, including the cost of shipping prints to the renter.