

CESTONE, MOTHER NATURE SHARE SENIOR LAURELS

By

P. J. BOATWRIGHT, JR.
USGA Assistant Director

Mother Nature can at times have an important bearing on the outcome of a golf championship, especially if it is at stroke play. For example, two players are tied for the lead. One plays in the morning in bright sunshine with no wind; the other plays in the afternoon and encounters a violent rainstorm and high winds. In such cases, Mother Nature may settle the issue almost by herself.

She played quite a part in the 6th USGA Senior Amateur Championship at the Oyster Harbors Club, Osterville, Mass., in September, won by Michael Cestone, of Montclair, N. J. But she did it in a little different way.

First, Hurricane Donna, which preceded the event by about a week, ripped across this small island on Cape Cod carrying salt spray which darkened the leaves of the trees and eliminated the lovely fall colors which normally would have been at their peak. This, of course, had nothing to do with the play of the Championship.

But Mother Nature did not quit when the hurricane blew over. She came back with a steady rain on the day scheduled for qualifying and continued it into the following day, causing cancellation of play both days. The USGA Senior Championship Committee extended the Championship one day — to Sunday — and scheduled a double round on Saturday for quarter-finals and semi-finals. This double round brought about two "firsts" in USGA history.

Senior golfers had never before been required to play 36 holes in one day in the USGA Senior event; many of them will not attempt it, some on doctors' orders. The Committee decided to permit the use of automotive transportation on the double-round day only. This was the first "first," as automotive transportation had never before been allowed in a USGA Championship.

The second "first" came as a result. It was the withdrawal of the defending Champion, J. Clark Espie, Jr., of Indiana-

polis, after he had qualified for the Championship flight with a 79. Mr. Espie withdrew because carts were to be permitted on the double-round day, contrary to the published conditions of the tournament. He has always been firm in his belief that carts are improper for competitive golf. The Committee urged him to see its viewpoint and remain in the Championship, but Mr. Espie stood by his convictions and left the scene.

This second "first" created by Mother Nature had a direct effect on the Championship, as Mr. Espie had a record second to none in the USGA Senior event, having been winner twice and runner-up once.



Champion Mike Cestone and Runner-up David Rose.

Michael Cestone is an entirely deserving Champion. In the rain on the originally scheduled qualifying day, Mr. Cestone was four under par for 15 holes before the deluge forced cancellation. In his first two matches he played the first nine in 33 and 34, respectively, against par of 36. This definitely established him as the man to beat.

Playing in his first Senior Championship, Mr. Cestone, aged 55, displayed a more than adequate long game, but his putting and chipping were mostly responsible for his success at Oyster Harbors.

A striking example of his skill around the greens occurred in the final match in which he defeated, on the 20th hole, David Rose, 56, of Cleveland, Ohio, a leather goods dealer. With the match even at the 17th hole, a 173-yard par-3 surrounded by bunkers, Mr. Cestone pulled his tee shot wide of the left bunker. This left him a shot over a large bunker from a sandy lie, with the hole cut only about 20 feet from the bunker. He deftly flicked the ball onto the green, about 15 feet from the hole, and dropped the putt to gain a half with Mr. Rose.

On the final hole, the second extra, a 509-yard par-5, both players were just off the green in 2, about 50 feet from the hole. Mr. Cestone barely missed chipping in—his ball stopped about one inch from the hole. Mr. Rose chipped strongly and missed a five-footer coming back.

In the semi-finals, Mr. Cestone defeated W. B. McConnell, Kennett Square, Pa., 2 and 1, and Mr. Rose defeated Edward E. Lowery, of San Francisco, Calif., 2 up.

The medalist was S. S. Rockey, Los Angeles. Mr. Rockey came in late in the day with a 74 to edge out Mr. Lowery, by one stroke. On this cold, windy day, 34 players returned scores of 82 or better. However, for the first time in the history of the Championship, a play-off for the Championship flight of 32 was not necessary because of Mr. Espie's withdrawal and the withdrawal of Leonard M. Elliott, Denville, N. J., who left for business reasons.

The Championship attracted a record field of 517, 126 more than the previous high. After sectional qualifying, 120 were eligible to play at Oyster Harbors.

Despite the unkind weather, the Seniors thoroughly enjoyed the Championship, largely because Oyster Harbors is an ideal spot for it. Most were housed in the clubhouse, and this is conducive to the social aspect of a Championship, especially for the veterans. Oyster Harbors is a delightful club with an atmosphere all its own.

The golf course is a masterpiece. De-

signed by the late Donald Ross, the well-bunkered 6,597-yard layout—it can be stretched to around 6,700 yards—was in excellent condition. Some participants felt that the putting surfaces were the best they had seen.

Credit for the fine condition of the course must go to Mike McDonough, Green Superintendent at Oyster Harbors. Mr. McDonough was tireless in his efforts to have the course in perfect condition.

Additionally, the USGA's sincere appreciation goes to Edward M. Mauro, General Chairman of the club's committees, and to Donald Church, Manager of the club, both of whom did far more than was necessary to make the Championship a success.

There were three consolation flights of 16 and a consolation stroke play event for all first-round losers. The consolation stroke play event was won by Thomas M. Green, Seattle, Wash., with 77. The results of the finals in the consolation flights were:

First Flight—George Edmondson, Tampa, Fla., defeated C. R. Nies, Beverly, Mass., 4 and 3.

Second Flight—R. A. Henry, Springfield, N. J., defeated L. T. Harriman, Sharon, Mass., 4 and 2.

Third Flight—M. R. Gray, Houston, Texas, defeated J. A. Swink, Alexandria, Va., 3 and 2.

Oyster Harbors Club is very near the Hyannis, Mass., home of John F. Kennedy who, only a few weeks after the Senior Championship, was elected President of the United States.

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Ariz.	Moon Valley Country Club
Conn.	Washington Golf Club
Fla.	King's Bay Yacht & Country Club
Ill.	Metropolis Country Club
Ind.	Elks Country Club
Mass.	Eastward Ho Country Club
Mich.	White Lake Golf Club
Okla.	Quail Creek Golf & Country Club
Pa.	Laurel Valley Golf Club
Pa.	Montrose Club
Pa.	Out Door Country Club
W. Va.	Meadowbrook Recreation Club

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Fla.	Ocean Reef Country Club
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