

GOLFERS PROMINENT ON ROSTER OF WORLD LEADERS

Many
Presidents
Played

The change of tenants in the White House has not altered the fact that the Chief Tenant is keen about golf.

President Kennedy played for Harvard in a dual match against Yale in 1937—and lost. He was reputed to be a high-70s scorer. Since then he has played regularly except when he had back trouble.

At least two ex-Kings, a working King, an ex-President, an ex-Vice President, a Prime Minister, ex-Prime Minister and one other national leader are among the great lovers of golf.

Each of them plays with regularity.

The ex-Kings are the Duke of Windsor, formerly King Edward VIII of Great Britain and Dominions Beyond the Seas and ex-King Leopold of The Belgians. The King-golfer who still reigns is King Leopold's son, King Baudouin of The Belgians. Baudouin plays in the 70s.

The ex-President, of course, is Dwight D. Eisenhower, whose love of golf is at least matched by Harold Macmillan, Britain's

Prime Minister. The ex-chief minister who golfs is Nobusuke Kishi of Japan.

The ex-Vice-President-golfer is Richard Nixon, who often says that he gets to play seldom but that he wants to often. Mr. Nixon also has admitted recently that his game is improving.

The other national leader is Ayub Kahn, whose recent leadership of Pakistan has seen that country move forward economically and in other ways.



President Eisenhower



President Taft

American Presidents who golfed were William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Woodrow Wilson, Warren Harding, Calvin Coolidge, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Republicans contributed six of the list to two by the Democrats.

President McKinley at one time was a keen golfer but he tapered off later in life. President Taft possibly was, until President Eisenhower's later day, the



President Wilson

best and most avid presidential player. President Taft was extremely heavy through the middle but he was scoring in the mid and high 80s in the days before World War One.

President Wilson, the first of the golfing Democrats, played while he was living in The White House. He also played as a young man.

President Harding occasionally broke 85.

Two brief notations in the USGA Year Book show how active President Harding was in golf and how much he loved the game.

Listed under the heading of former Executive Committee Members of the USGA is, "Harding, Honorable Warren G., Washington, D. C., Executive Committee, 1921-22-23."

Listed under the heading of Championship Trophy Donors is: "Amateur Public Links Team Championship, Warren G. Harding Trophy, presented in June 1923 by Hon. Warren G. Harding, President of the United States of America."

Calvin Coolidge was concerned with what he called the high expense of golf during The Golden Twenties. He did not play for long.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, like

his distant cousin Teddy, played in his younger days. Teddy went on to rougher sports, such as big game hunting.

Franklin played the game very well before he was stricken with polio. His best playing days were about the time of World War One when he was Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

In the last three years another presidential name has been added to a golf trophy. This one is the Eisenhower Trophy, given each two years to the national team which scores best in the World Amateur Team Championship.

Australia won the trophy at St. Andrews, Scotland, in 1958. The United States won the 1960 competition at Merion, Ardmore, Pa. Four-man teams from 32 nations played at Merion.

Both Prime Ministers Macmillan and Kishi have been presented with bags and sets of American clubs by American friends and admirers.

At one time Prime Minister Macmillan played with a set of six very old and rusty clubs. His bag was a thin, canvas "stove pipe" affair. With them, during vacations, he would play around some of Scotland's best courses, in the mid-80's. Occasionally he would break 80 and these rounds would lead many loyal Britons to claim their man was a better golfer than President Eisenhower.



President Harding