



A RARITY IN THE ORIENT

The following is an account of a round of golf played by Mr. Naoyasu Nabeshima at the Hodogaya Country Club near Yokohama, Japan. Written by Mr. Yasuji Hirata, it depicts a golfing rarity—two holes-in-one during a single round. More than that, it demonstrates that golf produces experiences and emotions recognized wherever the game is played.

"The 5th of March, 1961, was a chilly day with a north wind when the spring was still very young. I started the round with Messrs. Nabeshima (hdep. 1), Nakano (hdep. 2) and Okura (hdep. 5), all top players of our Club.

"Mr. Nabeshima is a famous golfer and a representative player of amateur golf in Japan. He won the Japan Amateur

Championship three times in a row—1933, 1934 and 1935. It is also well known that he represented Japan in the first World Amateur Team Championship in 1958 at St. Andrews.

"On this particular day Mr. Nabeshima had 36 going out which seemed to be just normal for him. But coming in he seemed to do everything just perfect. When we reached the 10th hole, which is a short hole of 175 yards, he had the honor by having a birdie on No. 9 and went up to the tee.

"Just then Mr. Zentaro Kosaka, the Japanese Foreign Minister, came up and passed us to join a threesome ahead. The wind was blowing from the left and slightly behind and he made the shot with a No. 4 iron to a little on the left side intending to let the wind carry the ball onto the green. The shot seemed to fade a little as intended and landed at an ideal spot a little short of the green and bounced on towards the hole.

"One of our partners cried out 'Hole-in-one.' The ball stopped dead and looked as a vague white spot. Some said it was definitely in. Mr. Nabeshima himself looked unhappy and said 'It looks near but I bet there's quite a distance left.'

"Mr. Kosaka started running towards



Naoyasu Nabeshima

the ball. Yet the ball was clearly seen white. Mr. Kosaka was shouting something but we could not hear it because of the wind. Then he started jumping and waving both hands. The ball must have been in. Then we knew it was a hole-in-one. It so happened that the first witness was to be Foreign Minister Kosaka. When we reached the green we found the ball suspended between the pin and the edge of the cup but completely in it. No wonder we could see it from the tee. The three of us shook Mr. Nabeshima's hand with words of congratulation.

"He kept up his good play and was 3 under par when he came to the 16th, another short hole of 148 yards. He used a No. 6 iron and the ball flew straight to the pin, landed about two yards in front and disappeared this time as if it had been sucked into the cup.

"The shouts of joy went up from us and I unconsciously jumped and embraced him and the other two did the same almost at the same time. Mr. Nabeshima's blank face and his hands adjusting his sweater disarrayed by our embraces are still vivid in my eyes. People watching this from some distance away must have wondered what was happening. A double hole-in-one was really like this. I felt just like I was in a dream.

"Still under the influence of excitement, even a veteran like Nabeshima must have suffered some emotion by these unusual incidents. He had a 7 on the 17th and a bogie 5 on the 18th including three putts. You never know what will happen in golf. I deeply felt that golf knew no sympathy. When he jabbed the sand into the bunker on the 17th we, the partners rather than he himself, felt most uneasy.

"His failures on the 17th and 18th were to deprive him of a very good chance of making the course record and winning a gold medal. However, he won the March Cup with a net score of 69, gross 70."

Necrology

It is with deep regret that we record the death of:

Gay R. Levis, of Brighton, N. Y., a former President of the Rochester District Golf Association.

The Urbane Ambassador



"A great champion . . . accomplished golf ambassador . . . urbanity and tact."

The gentleman described in those phrases on a ballot recently distributed by the Golf Writers Association of America is pictured here living up to them. He is Walter Hagen, winner of the first Walter Hagen Award. Hagen (right) received the cup from the Prince of Wales after winning the British Open Championship at Sandwich in 1922.

The new award will be presented each year to the "golfer or official, past or present, who has made the most distinguished contribution to the furtherance of Anglo American Golf."

Hagen, four-times the British Open Champion, twice winner of the Open, and five-time winner of the PGA Championship, received the award on the eve of the 43rd PGA Championship last month at the Olympia Fields Country Club near Chicago.

The award has been donated by Dr. S. L. Simpson of London who says that its purpose is "to instill ever greater substance to the bonds—cultural and spiritual—that link Britain and the United States."

14,937 to 1

What are your chances of making a hole-in-one? According to figures compiled by the Professional Golfers' Association of America, the odds are approximately 14,937 to 1.

The PGA has conducted a hole-in-one contest since 1957. Approximately 478,000 golfers have participated and 32 holes-in-one have been recorded.

This year's PGA contest is scheduled for Labor Day throughout the country. One hole, at least 150 yards long, will be selected for the contest at each participating course. The player who scores a hole-in-one on the longest hole will be the National Champion. Four players holed their shots off the tee in last year's contest.

Ah, Youth

Craig Goldate of Memphis, 17 years of age, is a youngster who does not waste a minute of the golfing day.

Early on the morning of July 14, Craig began a match in the quarter-final round of a Memphis tournament. He won it on the 15th hole. He quickly set out to do battle in the semi-final round but lost at the 18th.

Swallowing that disappointment Craig consoled himself by setting out on a third round to qualify in his section for the USGA Junior Amateur Championship. His score of 74 earned him the only Memphis qualifying berth.

Craig and his playing partner went through the first nine holes of his third round of the day in 45 minutes. Evidently starting to feel the effects of 51 holes, Craig sauntered through the second nine in 55 minutes.

Books Reviewed

Encyclopedia of Golf Rules, Appendix Golfing Tales, by Seiichi Takahata. A reference work written in Japanese that includes decisions about each of the 41 Rules of Golf.

Golf in Europe 1961, by Ted H. Ostermann (published in Zurich, Switzerland, \$2.00). A handbook that lists details on more than 350 courses in 17 European countries.

USGA COMPETITIONS FOR 1962

Championship or Team Match	Entries Close	Qualifying Rounds	Dates of Event	Location
Open	May 2	Local—May 21 **Sectional—June 5	June 14-15-16	Oakmont Country Club, Oakmont, Pa.
Women's Open	June 13	—	June 23-29-30	Not determined
Amateur Public Links	*May 31	June 17-24	July 9-14	Sheridan Park Golf Course, Tonawanda, N. Y.
Junior Amateur	June 27	July 17	Aug. 1-4	Lochmoor Club, Grosse Pointe Woods, Mich.
(1) Curtis Cup Match	—	—	Aug. 17-18	Broadmoor Golf Club, Colorado Springs, Colo.
Girls' Junior	Aug. 3	—	Aug. 20-24	C. C. of Buffalo, Williamsville, N. Y.
Women's Amateur	Aug. 8	—	Aug. 27-Sept. 1	C. C. of Rochester, Rochester, N. Y.
Amateur	Aug. 15	Sept. 4 or 5	Sept. 17-22	Pinehurst Country Club, Pinehurst, N. C.
Senior Amateur	Aug. 29	Sept. 13	Oct. 1-6	Evanston Golf Club, Skokie, Ill.
(2) World Amateur Team	—	—	Oct. 10-13	Kawana Fuji Golf Course, Ito, Japan

** **Open Championship:** Date of Sectional Qualifying Championships may be changed to Monday, June 4 if local authority in charge deems advisable.

Amateur Public Links Championship: *Entries close with each Sectional Qualifying Chairman.

† Exact date in each Section to be fixed by Sectional Chairman.

(1) **Curtis Cup Match:** Women's amateur teams—British Isles vs. United States.

(2) **World Amateur Team Championship:** Men's amateur teams.