

MICKEY WRIGHT HAS A DAY TO REMEMBER AT BALTUSROL

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The ability to hit a golf ball with authority is often apparent in the very young. At age 15, Mary Kathryn Wright displayed this ability when she won a special driving competition at the 1950 USGA Girls' Junior Championship. Her three balls went 680 yards in total on a wet fairway.

Miss Wright was the runner-up in that tournament. She won the Girls' Junior Championship two years later.

Last month Miss Mickey Wright earned the USGA Women's Open Championship with a 72-hole score of 293 on the Lower Course of the Baltusrol Golf Club, Springfield, N. J.

On the eve of the tournament Miss Wright said that Baltusrol's length could prove a distinct advantage to her. The course as played measured about 6,300 yards, although originally planned for 6,372 for this event. Miss Wright made good use of her power hitting, particularly on the four par-5 holes by playing them in an aggregate of 73 strokes—7 under par.

Four USGA Championships

Miss Wright, who also won the Women's Open in 1958 and 1959, has thus won four USGA Championships. Now only 26, the attractive young lady from San Diego has both the talent and the years to challenge Bob Jones' all-time record of nine USGA titles. She was runner-up in the 1954 Women's Amateur.

The talent of Mickey Wright was never more in evidence than on the final day of the 1961 Open. Her scores were 69 and 72 over one of the great golf courses. She quickly certified this victory as the most satisfying of her career because it transpired on such a marvelous test of the game.

Miss Wright and Miss JoAnn Prentice were tied for the lead at 72 after the first round. A second round of 80, caused primarily by poor putting, placed Miss Wright four strokes off the pace at the end of 36 holes. The leaders at 148 were

Miss Prentice, who followed her 72 with a 76, and Miss Ruth Jessen, who recorded 75-73.

At the start of the third round a generous share of the record gallery of 3,757 went off with Miss Wright and her playing partner, Miss Louise Suggs. Most of the crowd, however, waited for the leaders, who were paired.

Miss Wright gave no evidence of what was to follow when she began her third round with two pars and then a 5 on the par-4 third hole.

Then began a surge which saw her overtake Miss Jessen on the 43rd hole, go into the lead for good on the 44th, and continue her brilliant play until the 72nd hole when she was six strokes ahead of the nearest competitor, Miss Betsy Rawls.

Miss Wright started her move with a birdie 2 on Baltusrol's picturesque water hole, the fourth. After that she had five more birdies which more than offset lapses on the 10th and the 16th holes.

She finished the round with perfect play on the 17th and 18th holes, uphill par-5s of 525 and 500 yards. Two booming wood shots on both holes left her short approaches to the greens. She dropped both to within 6 feet and made the putts.

Miss Wright's score of 69, three under par, was the lowest ever on the course by a woman. Her lead after 54 holes, however, was by no means secure. Miss Rawls, the defending Champion seeking her fifth Women's Open Championship, was only two strokes behind and in a good position to come from behind as she did in 1960.

The Definition of Par

But Miss Wright played her closing round of 72 as if she had just read the USGA definition of par as "perfect play without flukes and under ordinary weather conditions, always allowing two strokes on each putting green."

Two strokes on each putting green is exactly what the Champion had on her

final round. The other statistics, which should stand a model for Championship play, are as follows:

She hit 16 greens in regulation figures or better; she strayed from the fairway only twice with her drives; she used every iron club in her bag from the No. 2 iron on the par-3 9th hole to her wedge approaches on the 17th and the 18th.

Her two birdies came on the par-5 first and seventh holes, which she reached in two strokes with iron shots. Her shots to the green on holes 3 and 16 were trapped and there she went over par.

Miss Rawls, who predicted that 300 would be good enough to win, was the runner-up with 299. Miss Jessen made her finest showing in the Championship with a third-place finish and a 300 total. Miss Suggs continued her achievement of finishing in the top ten of every USGA Women's Open. Her score of 301 placed her fifth.

The lowest amateur score, 306, was turned in by the petite Canadian, of Font-hill, Ont., Mrs. J. D. Streit. Mrs. Streit,

then Miss Marlene Stewart, won the USGA Women's Amateur Championship in 1956 and the British Women's Amateur in 1953, as well as the Canadian title several times. Mrs. Philip J. Cudone, a former Curtis Cup player and the current New York Metropolitan Women's Amateur Champion, had the second best amateur total of 308.

The Champion's share of the \$8,000 prize money was \$1,800. She has won approximately \$85,000 since she became a professional in 1955. Miss Rawls' prize was \$1,200, Miss Jessen's \$800, and Miss Suggs' \$650.

The Championship was marked by record galleries on each of the three days. They were estimated at 2,754 for the first round, 3,081 for the second round, and 3,757 for the final day. The total was 9,592, or 2,394 more than the previous record of 7,198 set in 1959.

Baltusrol has now been host to 10 USGA competitions, second only to the 11 of the Merion Golf Club, Ardmore, Pa.

It means a great deal to golf for major



Miss Mickey Wright (center) received the Women's Open Championship Trophy from Mrs. Henri Prunaret, Chairman of the USGA Women's Committee, and USGA Vice President Clarence W. Benedict at the Baltusrol Golf Club. Miss Wright won the Championship for the third time by playing Baltusrol in 69 and 72 on the final day for 72-hole of 293.

competitions to be played at Baltusrol.

A Warm Welcome

The members are always warm in welcoming their guests, and the committees and staff invariably make excellent preparations. The General Chairman was Frank W. Boyd. The USGA records its gratitude to him and his colleagues, including John C. Smaltz, President, and the staff, headed by Carl Jehlen, General Manager, Edward J. Casey, Golf Course Superintendent, and Johnny Farrell, Professional.

Round-by-round scores of leaders with 72-hole totals:

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Miss Mickey Wright .. | 72-80-69-72—293 |
| Miss Betsy Rawls | 74-76-73-76—299 |
| Miss Ruth Jessen | 75-73-77-75—300 |
| Miss Louise Suggs | 78-74-76-73—301 |
| Miss Marilynn Smith .. | 77-74-77-75—303 |
| Miss JoAnn Prentice .. | 72-76-80-76—304 |
| Miss Barbara Romack .. | 77-77-78-74—306 |
| *Mrs. J. D. Streit | 74-77-77-78—306 |
| *Mrs. Philip J. Cudone | 77-76-75-80—308 |
| Miss Shirley Englehorn | 80-73-78-77—308 |
| Miss Mary Lena Faulk | 78-77-80-73—308 |

* Amateur

Miss Wright's hole-by-hole scores, with par:

| | | |
|-----------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Par | 5 4 4 3 4 4 5 4 3—36 | 4 4 3 4 4 4 3 5 5—36—72 |
| 1st | 5 4 5 3 4 5 4 4 3—37 | 3 4 4 4 4 4 2 5 5—35—72 |
| 2nd | 4 5 5 3 4 5 5 4 5—40 | 5 5 3 4 6 4 3 5 5—40—80—152 |
| 3rd | 5 4 5 2 4 3 4 4 3—34 | 5 4 3 3 4 4 4 4 4—35—69—221 |
| 4th | 4 4 5 3 4 4 4 4 3—35 | 4 4 3 4 4 4 4 5 5—37—72—293 |

DO YOU KNOW YOUR GOLF?

Here is a golf competition in which there is no waiting on the first tee, you play as you sit, use a pencil instead of clubs, and a round can be played indoors at night.

But you need to know something about the Rules of Golf, definitions, history and records of the game.

The answers to the questions are given on Page 21.

1. Who has the lowest aggregate score in the two most recent National Open Championships?
2. Four players tied the Oakland Hills competitive course record of 67 in the second round of the 1961 Open. Name two of the four.
3. Has any player won both the Amateur and the Amateur Public Links Championships?
4. Bob Jones' "Grand Slam" in 1930 consisted of victories in the U. S. Open and Amateur and the British Open and Amateur. Which of the four Championships did he win only once?
5. Has any Girls' Junior Champion gone on to win the Women's Amateur Championship?
6. Who was the last man to win the Amateur in successive years?
7. Who was the last winner of the Women's Amateur in successive years?

8. Who was the last player to win the U. S. Amateur and the British Amateur in the same year?
9. Who has played in the most Walker Cup matches?
10. Bob Jones won the Amateur Championship five times, a record. Who is next in number of Amateur Championships?
11. What club has been host to the most USGA competitions?
12. Who was the first native of the United States to win the British Open Championship?
13. Is a player permitted to remove an out-of-bounds stake if it interferes with his swing?
14. How far behind the markers on the teeing ground may a player tee up his ball?
15. Has any one been a member of both a Walker Cup Team and a Ryder Cup Team?
16. May a player remove an empty package of cigarettes from behind his ball in a hazard?
17. If a player's ball be moved in removal of a cigarette package in a hazard, is there a penalty?
18. In a four-ball match, Player A's ball is knocked into the hole by another ball in the match. Has A holed out?