

# McDOWELL'S JUNIOR VICTORY TIES EAST WITH WEST

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Using the Mississippi River as a dividing line, there had been, through 1960, seven USGA Junior Amateur Champions from the West and six from the East. This was the East's year to even the score. Two young men, Charles S. McDowell, Virginia Beach, Va., and Jay Sigel, Whitmarsh, Pa., made certain of this on the morning of the last day of the 1961 Championship which was played at the Cornell University Golf Course, Ithaca, N. Y., August 2-6.

The semi-final round is played in the morning and the final round is played in the afternoon of the last day. McDowell, the new Champion, and Sigel, who has twice won the Pennsylvania High School Championship, were paired against two Westerners, George Boutell, Phoenix, Ariz., who this year received an award for having competed in the Championship four times, and Bob Haldeen, twice Colorado high school champion, from Sterling, Colo. The Easterners won by playing steadier golf. McDowell beat Boutell 2 up and Sigel beat Haldeen by 3 and 2.

## Cornell Course Testing

The all-eastern final match was well played from start to finish. McDowell won the first two holes with a par and a birdie and maintained that lead through the ninth hole. His medal for the first nine was 37, an excellent score on the long, exacting Cornell course which is testing enough to host most any golf championship.

At the tenth hole, it appeared that McDowell might increase his lead to three holes. But, after Sigel had driven into the rough and had put his second shot into the front bunker at the green, McDowell pulled a relatively short iron into a bunker at the left of the green, and the hole was halved with one over par 5s.

The half on the tenth seemed to lift the spirits of Sigel who proceeded to win the 11th and 12th holes, the latter with



Charles S. McDowell, the 1961 Junior Amateur Champion, hauls the Championship Trophy away after the presentation ceremony at the Cornell University Golf Course.

a fine birdie putt of 18 feet after McDowell had played a classic pitch shot from the woods to within 18 inches of the hole for a sure par.

On the difficult par 4 13th hole, which is 462 yards long, both McDowell and



**Jay Sigel**

Sigel missed the green to the right, but played beautiful recovery shots. Sigel's ball came to rest only two feet from the hole. McDowell's was only slightly farther away. McDowell got his putt and Sigel missed. This put McDowell back to one up, a lead he never lost.

Sigel tried valiantly to get even again, but a great putt of 20 feet at the 14th saved a half for McDowell, and putts for wins for Sigel on the 15th, 16th and 17th holes barely failed to drop.

McDowell gave Sigel little chance to even the match at the 18th, a picturesque 402 yard hole, where he played a fine iron shot from the rough to within 20 feet of the hole. Sigel, bunkered with his second shot, made a good recovery but McDowell's first putt stopped six inches from the hole. Sigel conceded it and the match.

The new Champion is 16 years old and won the Virginia Jaycee Junior tournament last year. He is the only player among the semi-finalists who is eligible to compete in the Championship next year at the Lochmoor Club, Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich. The three other youngsters are all seventeen years of age.

The Championship which drew a record entry of 1887, 442 more than the previous record set in 1960, was completed on August 6 rather than August 5 as originally scheduled. Rain caused postponement of

the first day's play almost before it began. Ten matches started but by the time the first match reached the seventh hole most of the greens contained so much casual water that it was impossible to conduct play fairly, so play was suspended temporarily and a little later was suspended for the day when the rain failed to subside.

#### **Break in the Weather**

There was some concern as to whether the course would be playable the next day because of the amount of rain which fell and because of an unfavorable weather report. Fortunately, the next day dawned bright and clear.

The luck of the draw placed two of the favorites against each other in the first round. Claude Harmon, Jr., New Rochelle, N. Y., the Metropolitan (N. Y.) Junior Champion clashed with Steve Whitman, California Junior Champion from San Francisco. Whitman was the victor by 2 and 1. Whitman bowed in the second round to Byron Wood, Eugene, Ore.

Brian Wilcox, the 1960 Canadian Junior Champion, competed and was impressive while winning three matches. He bowed out in the fourth round to James Troncatty, Sacramento, Calif. Troncatty was beaten in the quarter-final along with Benson R. McLendon, Montgomery, Ala., Gordon Aden, Spokane, Wash., and James Wiechers, Los Altos, Calif.

#### **Fisher Bows Early**

The youngest player in the field was 13-year-old Thomas O'Hare, St. Louis, Mo. He was beaten in the first round by Donald M. Wood, Carmel, Ind. Bruce Fischer, of Manning, Iowa, the player who had the best record in the 1960 Championship, also was beaten in the first round. Fischer lost to James K. Holman, Skokie, Ill., by 2 and 1. The defending champion, Bill Tindall, Seattle, Wash., was too old to defend.

The stroke play competition, held annually for players who are beaten in the first round was played at Newman Municipal Golf Course in Ithaca. This event was originally scheduled to be played at Ithaca Country Club which adjoins the Cornell University course, but due to "rain-out" on the first day the site had to be changed.

The lowest scores carded in this event were 75s by Ernest Denham, Louisville, Ky., and Jim Gittleman, Alma, Mich. Den-

ham and Gittleman played off for the first place medal and Denham won it with a birdie on the third play-off hole. Gittleman was awarded the second-place medal. The third place medal went to Jimmy Day, Laurel, Miss., who shot a 78. Day also won his medal in a play-off, defeating Jim Johnson, Pleasanton, Calif.

Jack Nicklaus, the 1959 Amateur Champion and one of three players who has competed in the Junior five years, played the Cornell course the day before the Championship began to prepare himself to speak to the boys at the annual Players' Dinner. Nicklaus played around in 71, even par, before several hundred people and at the dinner he analyzed the course, with the help of a blackboard.

Fourteen members of the USGA Junior Championship Committee were present to assist in the conduct of the Championship. They were: Harry L. Givan, Chairman, Seattle, Ralph W. Miller, Los Angeles, A. Willis Browning, West Chester,

Pa., Frank Emmet, Washington, George Sherrill, Atlanta, Robert H. Swindell, Baltimore, Dan A. MacDowell, Kansas City, Charles P. Stevenson, Buffalo, Lester H. Reed, Rochester, N.Y., Earl A. Ross, Rye, N. Y., Pierce H. Russell, Troy, N. Y., William C. Jaeger, Columbus, Ohio, Roy Allen, Oklahoma City, Grant Bennett, Florence, S. C.

Also attending the Championship were Clarence W. Benedict, White Plains, N. Y., USGA Vice-President; and William C. Chapin, Rochester, N. Y., and Edward L. Emerson, Boston, Mass., members of the USGA Executive Committee.

The USGA is indeed grateful to Cornell University for the use of its excellent facilities for the Championship, and to Robert Kane, Director of Athletics at Cornell, George Hall, Pro-Manager of the Cornell course, and Lou Mobbs, golf course superintendent without whose efforts the Championship would not have been possible.

#### ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. He's winning. Definition 33 of the Rules of Golf says: "A side is 'dormie' when it is as many holes up as there are holes remaining to be played."
2. The "hole" shall be  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches in diameter.
3. Sam Snead won the British Open Championship in 1946.
4. Entrants in the USGA Senior Amateur Championship must have reached their 55th birthday.
5. Teams representing Canada, Mexico and the United States participate in the Americas Cup Matches.
6. C. Ross Sommerville of Canada, the 1932 Amateur Champion.
7. False. A Foursome is a match in which two play against two, and each side plays one ball. See Definition 28, the Rules of Golf.
8. The Oakmont Country Club, Oakmont, Pa., will be the site of the 1962 Open.
9. The National Golf Foundation says there were 6,385 in the U. S. at the end of 1960.
10. Yes. Rule 30-2 states, "The player may play a provisional ball until he reaches the place where the original ball is likely to be."
11. Michael Bonallack.
12. Yes. Rule 32-2 permits a player to drop his ball without penalty as near as possible to the spot where it lay, but not nearer the hole, on ground which avoids the condition if casual water interferes with his stance.
13. The limit, according to Rule 1-5a of the Rules of Amateur Status, is a prize of retail value not exceeding \$200. This applies to total prizes received for any one event or series of events in any one tournament or exhibition, including a hole-in-one contest.
14. The recommendation is a minimum 5 paces from the edge of the putting surface.
15. There is no penalty. Rule 20-3, under the heading "Stroke Play," says "If a competitor play out of turn, no penalty shall be incurred. The ball shall be played as it lies."
16. The minimum number of scores required for a USGA Handicap is 5.
17. False. Section 9-1a says that odd-numbered strokes should be assigned to the holes on the first nine and the even-numbered strokes to the holes on the second nine.
18. Yes. Rule 3-b permits a player to replace a club "which becomes unfit for play in the normal course of play."