

## CHAMPION ANNE DECKER KEEPS GOLF IN ITS PLACE

USGA Women's Amateur  
Was Her Third Tournament  
in a Year

It is a mark of an amateur to keep games in their right relation to more fundamental things. The breath of life has been infused into this ideal by Mrs. Jay D. (Anne Quast) Decker. In the year between the USGA Women's Amateur Championships of 1960 and 1961 she

(a) Taught school.

(b) Was married (Dr. Decker is a young dentist).

(c) With her husband, established a home first in an apartment, then bought a house in Seattle and prepared to live in it, doing some personal wall-painting.

(d) Played in only two golf tournaments, one of which she won (the

Women's Western Amateur Championship).

This was keeping golf in its place with a vengeance. It might not seem the best sort of preparation for play in the National Championship. But who is to say that it wasn't good preparation psychologically? As for preparing her game, Mrs. Decker has always been ardent in practicing, and in the weeks preceding the Championship she improved the shining hour whenever possible, even retrieving her own practice balls upon occasion.

Thus, to those who know the remarkable character of Anne Quast Decker, it came as no surprise when, in her third



Mr. and Mrs. Tom Quast, daughter Anne, and son-in-law Dr. Jay Decker posed for a family portrait after Mrs. Decker won the Women's Amateur Championship for the second time. The historic trophy was presented to the USGA in 1896 by Robert Cox of Edinburgh, Scotland.

tournament in a year, she won the National at the Tacoma Country and Golf Club in her native Washington late in August.

Her manner of victory was breath-taking. She has long been unusually accurate and steady, and is as brilliant a putter as one can be. But she took to Tacoma a longer, stronger game than ever before, thanks in part to earlier goading by professional Bud Ward, who had giped that her old shots "sounded like hitting waffles." She often got the ball out 220 yards from the tee.

#### Never Behind

Anne Decker was a great Champion at Tacoma. This was an all-match-play tournament of seven rounds, the final being at 36 holes. Mrs. Decker lost only six of the 112 holes she played. She never was behind in a match. She was 9 under par for the week, having 20 birdies. She had only two 6s, both on par 5 holes. Her margin of 14 and 13 in the final over Miss Phyllis Preuss created a record. On the way to the final she defeated Misses Judith Torluemke, Sharon Fladoos, Judy Rand, Polly Riley, Mrs. Ruth W. Miller and, in the semi-finals, Mrs. Gaines Wilson, Jr., of Louisville, 5 and 4.

All this happened a few days before Mrs. Decker reached her 24th birthday. Now teaching school in Seattle, this very amateur Champion is in the remarkable position of having won the USGA title twice in four years.

Miss Preuss, who is 22 and lives in Pompano Beach, Fla., is a much improved golfer this year. She earned her way to the final over some notable victims, including Miss Elizabeth Price, former British Champion, after being 3 down at the turn, and Miss Barbara McIntire, former American and British champion. In the semi-finals Miss Preuss defeated 14-year-old Roberta Albers, of Temple Terrace, Fla., 2 and 1.

Miss Albers obviously has great promise. Among the giants she slayed were Miss Judy Eller, of the 1960 Curtis Cup Team, and Miss Mary Patton Janssen.

Miss Albers was the leader of a "youth movement." The field of 102 included 17 girls under 18 years who played in the Girls' Junior Championship the preceding week.

The defending Champion, Miss JoAnne Gunderson, fell victim in the second

round to the new Girls' Champion, Miss Mary Lowell, of Hayward, Calif. A tee shot on the 19th hole that faded out of bounds was the undoing of Miss Gunderson.

With Mrs. Decker's victory, five of the last seven National Championships have been won by young ladies from the vicinity of Seattle.

The Tacoma Club furnished an excellent test—a tight course of 6,297 yards with par of 73. The Club's committee, under the Presidency of Charles Low and the Chairmanship of Douglas Gonyea, provided the warmest possible hospitality.

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## HANDICAP DECISION

USGA Handicap Decision 61-1

References: Men—Section 8-1

Women—Section 19-1

**Revision of Handicaps:**

**Not Required On Specific Day**

**Status of Scores Made on Day of Revision**

**When Permissible Between Establishments**

**Dates for Revision**

**Q:** I would appreciate it very much if if you would answer the following handicap questions:

1. Does the USGA require handicaps to be revised on the 20th of each month?

2. If the revision of handicaps has been completed, for example, by 11:30 A.M. on a given day, but scores are received or turned in later that same day, must they be included in the revision?

3. If players request a special revision, before the regular revision day, in order to lower their handicap, should that request be granted?

Questions by: **Mrs. FRED L. GAERTNER**  
Short Hills, N. J.

**A:** 1. No. The USGA does not require that handicaps be revised on the 20th of each month. See Section 19-1 of The Conduct of Women's Golf for USGA recommendations in this matter.

2. We would think it well to exclude use of scores made on a day of revision unless revision is made after play is over for the day.

3. It would be permissible to revise a player's handicap prior to the regular revision day if there is a specific reason. For example, a player might request a revision as a courtesy to permit her to enter an outside competition.