

# WRIGHT-RAWLS DOMINANCE IN USGA WOMEN'S OPEN

Two players have won  
7 of 16 titles

A major golf championship is not normally dominated by any one person, nor does it usually pass alternately between two persons.

For instance, in 61 USGA men's Open Championships, 49 individuals have been crowned. The last nine Opens have been won by nine different men.

But the Women's Open Championship is another matter. True, there are not so many distaff professionals, but comparable statistics are interesting.

Eight women have won the 16 Opens, an average of two each. However, Misses Betsy Rawls and Mickey Wright throw the average out of kilter. Miss Rawls has won four and Miss Wright three—a total of seven of the 16 Championships.

Miss Wright has won three of the last four and will seek to tie Miss Rawls' record four Championships in the 1962 title chase at The Dunes Golf and Beach Club, Myrtle Beach, S. C., June 28-30. It will be the 10th Women's Open under USGA auspices.

The Dunes is expected to provide a particularly fine test. Usually it is swept by winds from the bordering Atlantic Ocean, although the ocean itself does not enter into the play. It will play at 6,400 yards and have a par of 72 for the Women's Open.

For men, the course can reach a maximum length of 7,170 yards. The competitive course record of 67 was set by Billy Joe Patton in 1960. The Golf Writers' Association of America holds its annual Championship there; Billy Joe Patton's record is always quite safe.

The pre-eminence of Miss Wright in past Championships is emphasized by the scoring averages. Since the USGA assumed sponsorship of the tournament in 1953, Miss Wright has averaged 75.79 strokes for 28 rounds—the best average for anyone playing in at least five tournaments. Miss Louise Suggs is a close second with 75.86 for 36 rounds, followed by Miss Rawls with 76.0 for 37 rounds.

The lowest 18-hole score since 1953 is 68, a record made by Miss Fay Crocker in 1958 at Forest Lake Country Club near Detroit and equaled by Miss Rawls in 1960 at the Worcester Country Club in Massachusetts.

The largest winning margin in any stroke play tournament occurred in the Women's Open in 1954. Mrs. Mildred (Babe Didrikson) Zaharias finished 12 strokes ahead of her nearest competitor with 291 at the Salem Country Club, Peabody, Mass.

No amateur has ever won the Women's Open. Miss Barbara McIntire, member of the last two Curtis Cup teams and 1959 Women's Amateur Champion, came close. She tied Mrs. Kathy Cornelius in 1956 but lost the 18-hole play-off. There was one other play-off: in 1953 Miss Rawls defeated Mrs. Jacqueline Pung 71 to 77 at the Country Club of Rochester, N. Y.

Mrs. Pung almost won in 1957. She returned the lowest score but the card she signed and returned showed 5 at the fourth hole, where she actually scored 6, at Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck,

## Sportsman's Corner

The story is best told by A. L. (Lob) Exline, Dallas member of the USGA Sectional Affairs Committee:

"A rather unusual thing happened in our Local Qualifying for the Open. Earl Stewart, Jr., and DeWitt Weaver, Jr., tied for the low scorer. Earl, as you know, is an old pro, but DeWitt, Jr., is a young fellow under 21.

"They matched for the low score medal and Earl Stewart won, but he then insisted that Weaver take it.

"Although a duplicate medal will be awarded to Stewart later, this was an unusual show of good sportsmanship by him."

N. Y. She thus disqualified herself. Spontaneously, Winged Foot members, spectators and officials contributed to an

unofficial purse exceeding \$3,000 for Mrs. Pung to recompense her for the \$1,800 first prize she lost.

## **RECORD OF THE WOMEN'S OPEN**

Date	Entry	Site	Winner, Runner-up	Score
Conducted by Women's Professional Golfers' Association				
1946	<b>Spokane C. C.,</b> Spokane, Wash.		<b>Miss Patty Berg</b> d. Miss Betty Jameson	5 and 4
			Medalist: Miss Patty Berg	73-72—145
1947	<b>Starmount Forest C. C.,</b> Greensboro, N. C.		<b>Miss Betty Jameson</b> * Miss Sally Sessions * Miss Polly Riley	295 301-4 301-5
1948	<b>Atlantic City C. C.,</b> Northfield, N. J.		<b>Mrs. George Zaharias</b> Miss Betty Hicks	300 308
Conducted by Ladies' Professional Golfers' Association				
1949	<b>Prince Georges G. &amp; C. C.,</b> Landover, Md.		<b>Miss Louise Suggs</b> Mrs. George Zaharias	291 305
1950	<b>Rolling Hills C. C.,</b> Wichita, Kans.		<b>Mrs. George Zaharias</b> * Miss Betsy Rawls	291 300
1951	<b>Druid Hills G. C.,</b> Atlanta, Ga.		<b>Miss Betsy Rawls</b> Miss Louise Suggs	293 298
1952	<b>Bala G. C.,</b> Philadelphia, Pa.		<b>Miss Louise Suggs</b> Miss Marlene Bauer Miss Betty Jameson	†284 291 291
Conducted by United States Golf Association				
1953 (June)	37 <b>C. C. of Rochester</b> Rochester, N. Y.		<b>Miss Betsy Rawls</b> Mrs. Jacqueline Pung	302-71 302-77
1954 (July)	58 <b>Salem C. C.,</b> Peabody, Mass.		<b>Mrs. George Zaharias</b> Miss Betty Hicks	291 303
1955 (June- July)	49 <b>Wichita C. C.,</b> Wichita, Kans.		<b>Miss Fay Crocker</b> Miss Louise Suggs Miss Mary Lena Faulk	299 303 303
1956 (July)	46 <b>Northland C. C.,</b> Duluth, Minn.		<b>Mrs. Kathy Cornelius</b> *Miss Barbara McIntire	302-75 302-82
1957 (June)	98 <b>Winged Foot G. C.,</b> Mamaroneck, N. Y.		<b>Miss Betsy Rawls</b> Miss Patty Berg	299 305
1958 (June)	57 <b>Forest Lake C. C.,</b> Bloomfield Hills, Mich.		<b>Miss Mickey Wright</b> Miss Louise Suggs	290 295
1959 (June)	63 <b>Churchill Valley C. C.,</b> Pittsburgh, Pa.		<b>Miss Mickey Wright</b> Miss Louise Suggs	287 289
1960 (July)	57 <b>Worcester C. C.,</b> Worcester, Mass.		<b>Miss Betsy Rawls</b> Miss Joyce Ziske	292 293
1961 (June- July)	85 <b>Baltusrol G. C.,</b> Springfield, N. J.		<b>Miss Mickey Wright</b> Miss Betsy Rawls	293 299

\* Amateur.

† Record score.