

# FROM OUT OF THE PAST: 1902 AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP

By  
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This is the true story of an episode in the life of a typical American boy. A young man who, with the help of forceful parents, with his natural gift of determination and his firm resolution, was able to win a coveted prize; to overcome by force of will every unusual and unexpected obstacle that stood between him and success.

The name of this fighting American youth was Louis N. James of Chicago and Golf, Ill. It is a short story of the most unusual USGA National Amateur Championship ever to be held and how James qualified in last place in that tournament then fought his way to final victory and the Championship.

Louis N. James came from strong stock. His father was Fred S. James, well known from coast to coast as head of his own insurance business, and his mother was a woman of great ability and highly respected. James was 19-years-old and was to enter Princeton that September.

The James family lived in the summer in a small house on the grounds of the Glen View Golf and Polo Club, as it was then called, at Golf, Ill., a suburb of Chicago and about six miles west of Evanston, Ill.

### Contrasting Nines

The Glen View Club had been built just before the turn of the century. The course of 18 holes had great natural beauty and was laid out in beautiful wooded, hilly country. The first nine holes, on high ground, was literally carved and dynamited out of a dense forest of trees, large boulders, shrubbery and undergrowth. The second nine was built on low ground. In playing this nine it was

necessary to cross the Skokie Creek, which was a tributary of the Chicago River, eight times.



LOUIS N. JAMES

I learned to play golf in 1899 when I was eleven years old, at the old Kenilworth Golf Club, Kenilworth, Ill. During the summer of 1902 I was living in a cottage by the sixth green at the Glen View Club. In those days each hole was named and the sixth, a 500 yard hole was called "Old Hickory".

At his request I caddied for Clive T. Jaffray, President of First National Bank of Minneapolis, and later President of "SooLine Railroad". Mr. Jaffray did not qualify. I followed James the rest of the tournament and he became my hero.

May I remind you that in 1902 a drive of 175 to 200 yards was considered excellent as sand tees and

hard gutta percha balls were used. Steel shafts and matched clubs were just beginning to be thought of, but not in general use even by experts.



WALTER J. TRAVIS

Sixty-four men were to qualify on Tuesday, July 15, 1902, for a chance at the National Championship. Bogey was the standard, par was not known in those days. Bogey for Glen View was 83. There were 132 starters which was a record.

Louis N. James tied with five men for 64th place in the qualifying round. They held a "sudden death" playoff early the next morning and James won the 64th or last qualifying position with two on the short second hole.

Walter J. Travis deserves special mention. I understand he took up golf when he was forty-one, made a thorough study of the game and went on to win all major championships, including the Amateur, a number of times. He was very sure, hardly ever in trouble. His drives of 150-160 yards went straight down the fairway. His short game was deadly. A fine gentleman and sportsman, it was a joy to play a round with him. He was the

author of many books on golf.

The tournament began under cloudy skies. Among the galleries were some famous professional golfers such as Willie Smith, Alex Smith, George Leslie, Lawrence Auchterlouie, all from the hills and dunes of Scotland.

On Wednesday the 16th. the weather was so bad and the course so wet it was decided by the officials to play the third round and later matches over the first nine holes only. The Skokie creek was running four to five times usual volume, bridges were washed away and much of the course was a quagmire.

Byers beat Travis one up in the 3rd round. Byers beat Chandler Egan in the 4th round 3 and 2; medal score 80. L. N. James beat Ralph McKitterick in the third round 6 and 5; F. O. Rinehart beat Walter Egan 1 up in the 4th round; in the semi-final James beat P. B. Hoyt 2 up, medal score 80-84, and Byers beat Dr. Fredericks 4 and 3.



H. CHANDLER EGAN

We now come to the final round of 36 holes, which was to be played four times around the first nine holes. It was to be Byers of Yale vs. James who would be a Princeton freshman; Byers from Pittsburgh and James playing on his home course.

The first green, 427 yards away, was hardly visible in the rain and mist. Part of the match was played during a deluge, pools formed over the course and on the greens. By this time several holes on the last nine were completely under water.

Even though the weather was very bad, the largest gallery on record up to that time followed the match. Over 1,600 were there including more than five hundred women and at times in the driving rain: a great tribute to Byers and James. Never before (or since) had a major tournament been played under such terrible conditions.

James and Byers were all even after the morning rounds. In the afternoon James forged ahead and sank a thirty foot putt on the short 34th hole for 2; this putt gave him the match and the championship 4 and 2.

#### SCORES

MORNING	James out 45	In 39	Total 84
	Byers out 43	In 42	Total 85
			All even
AFTERNOON	James out 43	In (7 holes) 31	
	Byers out 44	In (7 holes) 32	

The match was won on the greens. James had perfect command of his cleek, mid iron and putter. Woods were seldom used. The winner, tall, slender, used what weight he had and seldom failed to drive 200 yards with his irons. Byers, the Yale representative, was erratic, although in the past he had been unbeatable. This was an off day for him — many of his putts rimmed the cup.

#### Glen View's Sweep

The Glen View Club that year established an unbreakable record of success on fairways and greens. Truly a wonderful achievement that to my mature knowledge of golf has never been equaled. Not only did Louis James capture the Men's Amateur Championship but Miss Bessie Anthony of Evanston, a member of the Club, won the Women's Amateur Championship. Then later in the season Lawrence Auchterlouie, the Glen View professional won the Open Championship. So it was a clean sweep for

Glen View. My, but I was proud of her as I was a Junior member of the Club and one of her regular caddies.

Although 60 years have passed, I can close my eyes and hear Dave Noyes leading the singing in the cafe or locker room to the tune of "Midnight Sow" as follows:

*"The Glen View Club, the Glen View Club,  
You hear it on every hand — Sir —  
You hear it in every land — Sir —  
If you should care to ride — or give the  
green a rub  
None so rare, none so fair, as  
the Glen View Club."*

Of course the club went wild over their success and the "Harvest" dinner was a spectacular event. Other songs were sung such as:

*"It's Auchterlouie — it's Auchterlouie.  
The greatest man the country ever knew!  
It's Auchterlouie, it's Auchterlouie —  
It's Auchterlouie-ouie-ouie-ou."*

A tear forms in my eye as I sit and muse about the old days at Glen View and the fine men I caddied for and knew. Some I played with when they could not secure a partner for a foursome although I was only fourteen years old. The list included:

Joseph T. Talbert, Angus Hibbard, Charles W. Folds, Snake Ames, who made football history at Princeton, Charles A. Munroe, Dexter Donaldson, Oliver Olmstead, David A. Noyes, Martin Littlejohn, John Towne, Norris and Dick Bokum, Louis and Bob James, Walter Remy Dray, Gail Dray, W. Irving Osborn, Dr. Charles Richards, Jack Sellers, Seymour Coman, J. C. Brocklebank, Phelps Hoyt, Noel Munn, Charles Yerkes and among the frequent guests, David R. Forgan.

If golf is played as it is meant, observing all the Rules, pleasure is constant through a lifetime.

When I was introduced to the game of golf in 1899, I discovered Paradise. The fighting spirit of L. N. James has always been an inspiration to me, I hope it will have the same effect on those who read these lines.