

# DICK SIKES SLOWS PACE TO THE SPEED OF SOUND

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"Hm", murmured an observer during the final match of last month's Amateur Public Links Championship, "I believe Dick Sikes has slowed down his pace of play."

"Yes", responded a companion, "but only to the speed of sound."

Sikes may or may not have played a trifle slower than he did in winning the 1961 Public Links title but, in any event, he again proved that waste is not a necessary by-product of haste by defeating Honolulu's Hung Soo Ahn by 2 and 1 to win the 1962 Championship at the Sheridan Park Golf Course, Tonawanda, N. Y.

The 22-year-old Sikes, a resident of Wichita who attends the University of Arkansas, is the champion of everyone aggrieved by the paralysis that seems to infect tournaments nowadays. Some will tell you that Sikes can play an iron shot, retrieve and replace his divot, and stride toward the green before the ball lands.

In any event, it is now time to reckon Sikes among the finest of amateur golfers. To measure the extent of his accomplishments, it should be considered that the Public Links Championship has attracted a total of 4,658 entrants during 1961 and 1962 and that only one winner has emerged.

Only one other player, Carl F. Kauffmann, was able to successfully defend the Public Links Championship. He won consecutively in 1927, 1928 and 1929. Charles Ferrera, victor in 1931 and 1933, is the only other two-time winner.

Sikes, whose advance to the fifth round of the Amateur Championship in 1961 was marked by a victory over

the redoubtable Billy Joe Patton, once again earned the automatic qualification into the Amateur that is reserved for the Public Links Champion.

The diminutive Ahn, 32-year-old draftsman, was not awed by Sikes' reputation. Indeed, Sikes had to rally from a deficit of three holes during the morning round. He eventually won at the 35th hole because he was four under par at that point.

Sikes was equally skillful in the semi-final round. He was two under par for 33 holes while beating Warren E. Strout, Speedway, Ind., by 4 and 3.

Ahn, meanwhile, was engaged in a seesaw semi-final match against Wayne Breck, of Scottsdale, Ariz. Breck, 5 down with 14 holes to play, won five of the next seven holes, only to bow to Ahn's steadier play on the closing holes. Ahn's win was by 1 up.

Others who advanced to the quarter-final round were Alan Heedt, Peoria, Ill.; John Schlee, Memphis, Tenn., a semi-finalist in 1961; Hubert Farmer, Toledo; and Herb Howe, Minneapolis.

## Seattle Wins Harding Trophy

A handkerchief would have blanket-ed the first three finishers in the Team Championship for the Harding Trophy. Seattle's representatives, nine strokes behind after the first round, came back to unseat the defending champion Honolulu team, 451 to 452. San Francisco scored 453.

The competition is determined by adding the aggregate scores of the three members of each team during the two stroke play rounds which also pare the starting field of 150 to 64 for the start of match play.



Richard H. Sikes, right front, successfully defended his Amateur Public Links Championship last month in Tonawanda, N. Y. He and runner-up Hung Soo Ahn admire the trophy. Standing are semi-finalists Warren E. Strout, left, and Wayne Breck. Photo by Don Hipwell

Kenneth Storey's 147, Earvin Scott's 153 and Bill Tindall's 151 made up the Seattle total.

The difference between Seattle's 451 and San Francisco's 453 was a two-stroke penalty incurred by the latter's George Archer who inadvertently played a ball not his own on the ninth during the second round.

Undaunted, Archer proceeded to score 72 which, added to his initial score of 73, made him the medalist at 145. Archer later epitomized the good spirit of the players in this tournament when condolences were offered him for the unfortunate penalty. "Bad luck?" said Archer. "Not at all. On the next hole I played poorly enough to score 8 but was lucky enough to make 5."

The Public Links Championship always brings together a cross section of Americans for whom the trip to the site and the educational experience of mingling with so many from diversified environments is as interesting as the competition itself.

A listing of some of the vocations represented by the 64 who qualified for match play confirms this cross section. There were a number of students, five salesmen, four engineers, a carpenter, a banker, a personnel manager, a fireman, a naval officer, two machinists, a baseball scout, a funeral director, an auditor, a bus operator, a bartender, and a lithographer among the qualifiers.

The host committee, headed by Arthur R. Cole, made outstanding preparations for the Championship and then did everything possible to make the stay of the competitors as pleasant as possible. The USGA is indebted to Mr. Cole and his committeemen and to the Town of Tonawanda.

Interest in the community, which is a few miles from Buffalo, ran exceedingly high. Veterans of the USGA Public Links Committee, some of whom have attended the tournament annually for more than 20 years, thought that the 1962 galleries were the biggest ever.