

GIRLS' JUNIOR DIVISION ABOUNDS WITH TALENT

By
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USGA Assistant Director

After the draw at the 1962 Girls' Junior Championship at the Country Club of Buffalo, Williamsville, N. Y. someone raised the question: "How many girls under 17 years of age are in the Championship Flight?" It would be logical to assume that no more than half of the Championship Flight would be made up of young ladies under 17, the maximum age, but research revealed that 21 of the 32 players will have at least one more opportunity at the Girls' Championship, and one of them, Miss Marcha Houghton, of Modesto, Calif., will be eligible in 1967; she is only 12!

Miss Houghton, who is only slightly bigger than a minute (she stands about 4 feet 11 inches tall and weighs 91 pounds), was the darling of the galleries, which were the largest in history, numbering close to 500 on the last day. She qualified with a fine 84 in high winds and won her first match against Jacqueline King, of Alameda, Calif., one up. With a sizeable gallery following her in her second round match against Bonnie Werne, 17, Memomonee Falls, Wisc., she stood five up after seven holes, but Miss Werne refused to yield and whittled away at the lead, eventually winning the match on the last green.

Many others who made good showings will be eligible to compete again next year. Among them are:

ROBERTA ALBERS, 15, Temple Terrace, Fla.—Miss Albers was a pre-tournament favorite based on her showing in the 1961 Women's Amateur in which she went to the semi-finals. She justified her favorite role in the qualifying round by shooting a great 74 on the 6,102 yard course, five

strokes better than anyone else in the field. This broke by one stroke the women's course record at the Country Club of Buffalo, and tied the record for the lowest qualifying score in the Girl's Junior, set by Miss Mary Mills in 1956.

JANIS FERRARIS, 15, San Francisco.—Miss Ferraris defeated Miss Albers in the third round. She is very long off the tee.

RENEE M. POWELL, 16, East Canton, Ohio—Miss Powell is the first Negro to compete in the Girls' Junior Championship. In the first round she defeated Ann Baker, Maryville, Tenn., a quarter-finalist last year and runner-up to Miss Albers for 1962 medalist honors. Miss Powell was beaten in the third round.

MICHELLE YAPP, 16, Santa Cruz, Calif.—Miss Yapp also went to the third round (quarter-final). In her second round match she recorded the lowest first-nine score of the tournament, a 35, one under par.

SUE LANCE, 15, Woodland Hills, Calif.—Miss Lance went to the semi-finals.

In spite of the fine showing by these younger girls, two experienced 17-year-olds were left for the final: Mary Lou Daniel, Louisville, Ky., the present Western Girls' Junior Champion and Miss Mary Alice Sawyer, Baltimore, Md., the present Maryland State Women's Champion.

After losing the first two holes in the final, Miss Daniel came back to lead by two holes at the end of nine. She maintained this advantage going into 17, (a 459 yard par 5 hole) but there Miss Sawyer appeared to be making a rally reminiscent of one she



Mrs. John Pennington, left, Chairman of the Girls' Junior Committee, admires Girls' Junior Championship trophy with 1962 Champion Mary Lou Daniel, center, and runner-up Mary Alice Sawyer.

Photo by Robert J. Koch

produced in her quarter-final match to get even, then won on the 21st hole.

On 17, Miss Sawyer pulled her tee shot behind a tree, and skied her second, advancing the ball only a few yards. Miss Daniel in the meantime had played two nice wood shots to within 50 yards of the green. Miss Sawyer's third shot was a tremendous fairway wood which traveled well over 200 yards and came to rest about 25 feet from the hole. From there she two-putted and won the hole when Miss Daniel pulled her short approach and three-putted.

On the 385 yard par 4 eighteenth hole, Miss Sawyer played two beautiful wood shots to the center of the green. Miss Daniel, who is not quite as long off the tee, was about 30 yards short of the green in two. However, Miss Daniel played an approach to within three feet of the hole, a shot she will long remember. Miss Sawyer was 10 feet short with her first putt, which was some 50 feet long. She missed from there and Miss Daniel

calmly holed her short one to win the final match, 2 up.

115 of the record entry of 124 were on hand to vie for the title. The previous record entry was 96, set in 1959.

It required to a score of 88 to be assured of a spot in the Championship Flight. One player, Miss Patricia Reeves, Seattle, Wash., managed to get into the select group with a score of 89, but she did it the hard way—in a sudden-death play-off with seven other girls.

The Association is indeed grateful to the Country Club of Buffalo for its generous hospitality in entertaining the 14th Girls' Junior Championship. The golf course was praised by all who attended. Appreciation is also due Mr. Hugh Johnson, General Chairman, and his Committees who not only worked diligently in preparation for the event, but also made arrangements with the weatherman for perfect weather throughout the week.

Mrs. John Pennington, Chairman of

the USGA Girls' Junior Committee and a member of the Country Club of Buffalo, and the 14 members of her Committee who attended, are also to be thanked for the efficient manner in which they conducted the event.

In addition to the Championship Flight, there were five subsidiary flights of 16 and a stroke play consolation for the first round losers at Cherry Hill Golf Club, Ridgeway, Ont., Canada. The stroke play event was won by Ann Baker with 79. Final-round results in the subsidiary flights:

Second Flight

Joan Edwards, Portland, Ore., defeated Treasure Ann Sullivan, Lakeview, Ore., 1 up.

Third Flight

Rebecca Glasscock, Pine Bluff, Ark., defeated Linda Crockford, Framingham, Mass., 1 up.

Fourth Flight

Diane Kiesendahl, Portland, Ore., defeated Christine Zivney, Phoenix, Ariz., 3-1.

Fifth Flight

Connie Hirschman, York, Pa., defeated Julie Hollingsworth, Davenport, Iowa, 6-5.

Sixth Flight

Mary K. Baier, Hamburg, N. Y., defeated Mary Newton, Ann Arbor, Mich., 5-4.

Handicap Decision

COMMITTEE: SHOULD NOT PROHIBIT FROM COMPETITION PLAYERS WITH LESS THAN 10 SCORES POSTED

Men—4-2, 6-2b, 8-1b, 8-3a

Women—15-2, 17-2b, 19-1b, 19-3a

Q: Some of the members of our Committee feel that a USGA Handicap computed when less than ten scores are posted is likely to be unfairly high in relation to handicaps computed when more than ten scores are posted. Would our Committee be justified in prohibiting from handicap competitions players who have not posted at least ten scores?

Question by: **MRS. C. JOSEPH BURNETT**
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A: Yes. Under Rule 36-1 of the Rules of Golf, the Committee has the right to lay down the conditions under which a competition is to be played.

However, the USGA would not recommend that a player be deemed ineligible unless she has at least ten scores posted.

Handicaps computed when five to nine scores are posted should be just as acceptable as handicaps of those

who have returned ten or more scores.

We do not agree with the idea that players who have fewer than ten scores posted are likely to obtain higher handicaps than others. To the contrary, in most cases it works the other way, as players with fewer than 25 scores posted are penalized on a graduated scale by having a smaller percentage of their best scores used in computations. The penalty becomes less as more scores are posted. For example, the handicap of a player with only five scores posted is computed from the lowest 20 percent of his scores (the lowest one of five), while the handicaps of players with 10 and 25 scores posted are computed respectively from 33 1/3 percent and 40 percent of their scores.

Further, to require players to have ten scores in the current and the immediately preceding years (Section 15-2 of The Conduct of Women's Golf) could eliminate from competition players who play very little golf.

In the isolated case where a player with less than 25 scores appears to have an unfairly high handicap, the Committee is justified in: (1) revising the handicap more frequently under Section 19-1b, or (2) arbitrarily reducing the handicap under Section 19-3a.