

CARLSMITH IS DOMINANT IN SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

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When Merrill L. Carlsmith, 56-year-old Hawaii attorney, accepted the Championship trophy following the final match in the 8th USGA Senior Amateur Championship, he said he had never played in an event in which the competitors exhibited better sportsmanship. Earlier in the week, Larry Murphy, veteran caddie-master at Evanston Golf Club, Skokie, Ill., where the Championship was played, commented that the seniors were the most congenial group he had ever had the pleasure of serving.

Sportsmanship and congeniality — these two words sum up the atmosphere which always prevails when the country's best amateur golfers who have reached 55 years of age get together to determine a Champion.

To earn the right to take home the Championship Trophy, Mr. Carlsmith qualified with 75 and then defeated Eugene Brown, Wyomissing, Pa.; George Dawson, the 1962 U. S. Seniors Golf Association Champion from Glen Ellyn, Ill., who had beaten him last year in his first attempt for the Senior title; Frank D. Ross, W. Hartford, Conn.; Michael Cestone, the 1960 Champion from Montclair, N. J.; and Willis H. Blakely, Portland, Ore.

Mr. Carlsmith saved his best golf for his last two matches. In his semi-final match against Mr. Cestone, he played 17 holes on the par 70 Evanston course in even par. In the final, he played almost as well, being just one over par when he closed out Mr. Blakely, 4 and 2.

After his semi-final match, Mr. Cestone commented that he played about as well as he could, but that it was just not enough to cope with the 5-foot, 6-inch, 190-pound attorney, who is the second Hawaiian to win a USGA

Championship. Mrs. Jacqueline Pung won the 1952 Women's Amateur Championship. Two other Hawaiians have come close, both in the Amateur Public Links Championship. This year Hung Soo Ahn, of Honolulu, was runner-up to Dick Sikes in the Public Links and in 1934, Arthur Armstrong, also of Honolulu, reached the final only to lose to David A. Mitchell.

In the final, Mr. Blakely, a member of the USGA Senior Championship Committee, was one up after three holes, but lost four consecutive holes—two to birdies and two to pars—to go three down.

Mr. Blakely, holder of the Oregon State and Pacific Northwest Senior Championships, narrowed the margin to two holes with a 25-foot birdie putt on the eighth hole, but he lost the ninth when his tee shot found a bunker.

At the tenth, Mr. Blakely again cut the deficit to two holes with another fine birdie, but after halving in par 4 and 437-yard eleventh, he again went three down when his tee shot on the short twelfth was bunkered and he failed to get his par.

The remainder of the holes were halved except for the 16th and last hole, which Mr. Carlsmith won with a par.

In the qualifying round, three newcomers to the Senior ranks tied for medalist honors with scores of 72, only one stroke more than the record of 71 established by J. Clark Espie at Monterey Peninsula Country Club, Pebble Beach, Calif. in 1958. The 72 shooters were James M. Johnson, LaDue, Mo., William S. Terrell, Charlotte, N. C., and Henry L. Robison, Albuquerque, N. M. Both Mr. Terrell and Mr. Johnson were defeated in the first round.



Merrill L. Carlsmith, left, won the 8th USGA Senior Championship defeating Willis H. Blakely, Portland, Ore., right, 4 and 2. Johnny Revolva, center, is the professional at tournament site, Evanston Golf Club, Skokie, Ill.
—Chicago Tribune Photo

Mr. Terrell lost to John J. Driver, a long hitter from Detroit, by one hole, and Mr. Johnson was the victim of Joseph Morrill, Jr., Great Barrington, Mass., by 2 up. Mr. Robison lasted to the quarter-final, where he lost to the 61-year-old Mr. Blakely on the 19th hole.

It took a score of 77 to qualify for the Championship Flight of 32. There was no play-off for the qualifiers' places since there were 31 scores of 77 or better. Dexter H. Daniels, the defending champion from Winter Haven, Fla., automatically occupied the 32nd position.

The score of 77 is the lowest required to qualify in the history of the event; the 1955, 1956, and 1958 Championships had previously shared this record.

Mr. Daniels was defeated in the first round by David E. Rose, Cleveland, Ohio, the runner-up in 1960. Mr. Rose stood 4 up after seven holes, with two birdies and 5 pars. Mr. Daniels staged a fine comeback, winning holes 8, 9, 11, and 12 to square the match, but Mr. Rose's birdie at 14 gave him the lead again and he retained it, winning by 2 and 1.

There was a record entry of 524, 16 more than the previous record set in 1960, and 522 of the entrants vied for

115 places in the Championship proper at 32 Sectional Qualifying sites. Five players were exempt from Sectional Qualifying.

In addition to the Championship Flight, there were four consolation match play flights of 16 and a consolation stroke play event for all first round losers. This latter event was won by John E. Lehman, Chicago, with a score of 73. Following are final match results in the consolation match-play flights:

FIRST FLIGHT—Dr. John C. Mercer, Fitchburg, Mass., defeated William J. McGlone, Minneapolis, Minn., 2 and 1.

SECOND FLIGHT—Neil Smith, Ardmore, Okla., defeated H. D. (Dutch) Ackerman, Kansas City, Mo., in 20 holes.

THIRD FLIGHT—Joseph S. Garske, St. Paul, Minn., defeated Reginald S. Wilson, Burlington, N. C., 2 and 1.

FOURTH FLIGHT—Clarence P. Kay, Oklahoma City, Okla., defeated George L. White, Chicago, Ill., 1 up.

The Association is indeed grateful to George L. Hardy, General Chairman, and his Committee for the many long hours spent in preparation for the Championship and to the Evanston Golf Club for permitting the use of its excellent facilities for the event.