

16 Putts for 18 Holes

In any discussion of the record for the fewest putts in an 18-hole round, the USGA carries its hat in its hand and walks with the greatest deference. Our files reveal no established records in this department; the number of outstanding putters is legion and the opportunity for notable, unpublicized performances is unlimited.

The best verified performance of which we have record was made by a gentleman of 73 years, George Lockwood, at the Inglewood Country Club, near Los Angeles, where he is a member. Mr. Lockwood used only 16 putts in playing a full round in December, 1947.



George Lockwood

Samuel E. Davis, President of the Inglewood Country Club, writes that Mr. Lockwood has been recognized for years as an outstanding short-game player. "He does not hit long woods or irons; in fact, he rarely exceeds 185 yards off the tee. His best clubs are the No. 5 iron, which he uses for run-up shots, and the putter.

"There was a slight rain, almost like a heavy fog," Mr. Davis admits, in describing the 16-putt round. "He reached few greens in regulation strokes, but by virtue of one-putting 16 greens and chipping two in from the apron, he achieved a score of 74."

This at the age of 73!

Today, at 75, Mr. Lockwood remains a remarkable putter, and his energy and vitality belie his age. Many younger men object to the pace he sets on a golf course, and he is equally skillful at bridge, his other avocation.

The runner-up, to our knowledge, is James L. (Lutie) Mosley of Fort Smith, Ark., then a 22-year-old sophomore at the University of Arkansas. In defeating Steve W. Creekmore, Jr., in the semi-final of the Rolling Knolls Country Club Championship in July, 1947, Mosley required only 17 putts for 18 holes.

Mosley completed his round on the 5,900-yard, par 72 course in 61 and went on to win the Championship. "The manner in which I got by with so few putts is still a mystery to me," Mosley admits. "My putting is no better than the average golfer's; it was just one of those days all golfers have when they can't miss."

Creekmore sheds further light by explaining that Mosley is an exceptionally long hitter and, as the course is comparatively short, was able to drive close to many of the greens. Mosley holed two short run-up strokes from off the putting surfaces with a No. 5 iron. The putts he holed were of assorted sizes, several quite long. He did miss one. The final tabula-



James L. Mosley

tion was two no-putt greens, 15 one-putt greens and one two-putt green.

The trick of averaging one putt per green for 18 holes has been accomplished more than once. One such performance was made by Clark H. Maudlin of Indianapolis, Ind., at the Riverside Golf Club on August 10, 1946.

Maudlin, who was 37 and had once given up golf, started his round with two putts on the first green and then had 15 successive one-putt greens. He holed a chip shot from off the putting surface on the 17th and then dropped a four-foot putt, under pressure, on the 18th green. His tabulation was one no-putt

green, 16 one-putt greens and one two-putt green.

Frank Womack of the Alderwood Country Club, Portland, Ore., also holds a certified card showing only 18 putts over 18 holes in a round on his home course on April 28, 1949.

Womack holed two putts of 30 feet and two more of 25 feet. Altogether he had two no-putt greens, 14 one-putt greens and two two-putt greens. He played the second nine first and chipped in on the seventh and ninth greens to complete his remarkable round.

Among the other outstanding performances which have been placed on the record are:

Nineteen putts for 18 holes, by the then Mrs. Dorothy Campbell Hurd at Augusta, Ga., in 1926.

Twenty-one putts for 18 holes, by Harry Vardon, Walter J. Travis and Horton Smith.

The USGA has no belief that this is an all-inclusive list of the best putting performances and would be most interested to learn of others.

MY CADDIE'S DAD

I played a round of golf the other day.
 My caddie was a quiet lad, and small,
 With big blue eyes that seemed to question me
 Of troubles that he could not solve at all.
 We started down the fairway side by side,
 And then he asked if he might take my hand.
 Surprised, I gave it to him, and he said:
 "I hope, please, Mister, that you'll understand;
 "My Dad and I, we used to walk this way.
 "He'd take my hand and kinda smile and say,
 "'Now hang on tight, son, for your feet are small.
 "'It's slippery on this bank and you might fall."
 "Last month a sickness came and took my Dad,
 "And now he's gone, and he was all I had."
 I don't recall the score I made that day,
 For after all my eyes at times were dim,
 And if I missed some unimportant shots,
 I realized how much it meant to him
 For me to take his hand and walk the way
 His Dad and he had walked on other days.
 The round was ended, then his big blue eyes
 Looked up at me and smiled. They seemed to say
 "I thank you, Mister, you were very kind."
 He said good-by and hurried on his way.
 And so, Dear God, when I have crossed the bridge
 That Scriptures say leads to that Promised Land,
 I hope that I may meet my caddie's Dad
 And look into his face and take his hand
 And say to him in that far distant room,
 "I tried to take your place that afternoon."

—JUDGE EARLE F. TILLEY