

A Women's Championship—International Style

TO THE GALLERIES at the Allegheny Country Club, in Sewickley, Pa., it appeared to take quite a long time to determine the 1954 Women's Amateur Champion, because 29 hours and 15 minutes, including a full night of darkness, elapsed between the first tee shot and the last putt of the final.

For Miss Barbara Romack, however, it took considerably longer than that. Her victory over Miss Mickey Wright in the final culminated years of analysis, practice, testing and the heart-break which goes with hard work not quickly rewarded.

This intelligent perseverance, which Miss Romack has in abundance, probably has been underestimated. She lends a charming touch to a tournament, and galleries find it difficult to associate the two qualities in a 22-year-old girl.

The fact that it was also the longest final in point of time in the history of USGA Championships was, therefore, of only secondary insignificance.

The two girls from sunny California were scheduled to start at 9:30 A.M. on Saturday but a thunder and lightning storm, with heavy rain, delayed them. As soon as the storm let up, the girls played away, but as they were walking after their drives on the second hole the storm came on again in all its fury and they marked their balls and retired to the clubhouse. They returned to finish the first eighteen holes Saturday afternoon, and the second round had to be played Sunday afternoon.

In 1925, the whole final of the Women's Amateur Championship at the St. Louis Country Club had to be delayed a day because of heavy rain, and in 1901 the whole final of the Amateur Championship was delayed a week because of the death of President McKinley.

The split final climaxed the most international event in the history of this particular championship. The starting field of 144 players included all the members of the British and United States Curtis Cup

USGA CHAMPIONS OF 1954

OPEN

ED FURGOL

Westwood Country Club
Clayton, Mo.

AMATEUR

ARNOLD D. PALMER

Pine Ridge Country Club
Wickliffe, Ohio

WOMEN'S AMATEUR

MISS BARBARA ROMACK

Del Paso Country Club
Sacramento, Cal.

WOMEN'S OPEN

MRS. GEORGE ZAHARIAS

Tam O'Shanter Country Club
Niles, Ill.

AMATEUR PUBLIC LINKS

GENE ANDREWS

Rancho Golf Course
Los Angeles, Cal.

JUNIOR AMATEUR

FOSTER BRADLEY, JR.

Griffith Park Golf Course
Los Angeles, Cal.

GIRLS' JUNIOR

MISS MARGARET SMITH

Guadalajara Country Club
Guadalajara, Mexico

Teams plus the Champions of Belgium, Canada, Cuba, and Mexico, and a former Champion of The Argentine.

While this added great flavor and excitement to the Championship, only one foreign Champion, Miss Wiffi Smith, of

American Beauties at Allegheny



Isaac B. Grainger concedes that one of his more enjoyable duties as President of the USGA came when he fell among these American Beauties while presenting the prizes after the Women's Amateur Championship. They are, of course, the roses, Miss Barbara Romack, of Sacramento, Cal., and Miss Mickey Wright, of San Diego, Cal., in that order. Miss Wright had been runner-up to Miss Romack.

Mexico, had the good fortune to reach the quarter-finals, and she came to the end of her trail there in a match with Miss Romack.

The British Champion, Miss Frances Stephens of England, bowed to Miss Virginia Dennehy, of Lake Forest, Ill., by one hole—in fact, by one putt—in the second round, and so it went for all the other foreign stars, sooner or later. The Canadian Champion, Miss Marlene Stewart, fell victim to Mrs. Maxon Berger, of Buffalo, N.Y., also by one hole, in the fifth round.

The last survivors of the British Curtis Cup Team were Miss Janette Robertson, a 19 year old from Scotland, and Miss Philomena Garvey, of Ireland. Miss Robertson

not only stole everyone's heart but also proved to be an extremely promising player even though she could not get past Miss Polly Riley, of Fort Worth, Texas, in the fifth round. Miss Garvey lost to Miss Mary Lena Faulk, of Thomasville, Ga., in the same round.

The Championship again was conducted entirely at match play, with the draw being made after registration at the site of the Championship. Those who emerged from five rounds of eighteen-hole match play to the quarter-finals were Mrs. Berger; Miss Faulk; Miss Wright; Miss Riley; Miss Smith; Miss Romack, Mrs. Marjorie Linsay McMillen, of Decatur, Ill.; and Miss Barbara Bruning, of White Plains, N. Y.

Miss Faulk's attempt to defend her title was particularly stirring because she took it all the way to the semi-finals, where Miss Wright, who is only 19 years old, finally stopped her with one-over-par golf. It has been fourteen years since Miss Betty Jameson provided a precedent for such a performance by winning two successive Championships. Miss Faulk couldn't quite do that, but she came powerfully close.

Miss Romack defeated Mrs. McMillen in the other semi-final by playing twelve holes in one under par, which approximated the medicine Mrs. McMillen had been giving her opponents up to that time.

It will be difficult for Clubs entertaining this Championship in the future to match the standard of thoughtful hospitality established by the Semple brothers, their committee and the enthusiastic members of Allegheny. It was just about impossible to distinguish the winners from the losers, everyone was having such a good time all through the week.

The Championship was the first at Allegheny, and the flying of the USGA flag on its flagpole was clearly overdue. Allegheny contributed the 1906 Amateur Champion, Eben M. Byers, and the 1922-23 USGA President, J. Frederic Byers, whose son is now a member of the Executive Committee.

The Curtis Cup Match

It is likely that the good time everyone had together at the Allegheny Country Club traced in part to the excellent example of friendly rivalry furnished by the two Curtis Cup Teams. And their example was a natural by-product of their fine match at the Merion Golf Club, in Ardmore, Pa., a week before the Championship.

The United States Team, captained by Mrs. Harrison F. Flippin, a member of the Merion club, regained the Cup and did it convincingly. It won all three foursomes by safe margins on the first day, which placed an almost insuperable load on the British Isles Team in singles play.

Then the British started to play. Miss Stephens, the British Champion, and Miss Faulk, then the United States Champion, came together in the No. 1 match, and it went to Miss Stephens by a hole after a birdie-birdie finish. Miss Faulk squared it at the seventeenth in the afternoon with a birdie 2. Miss Stephens holed a difficult putt for a birdie 4 on the last hole, to win after Miss Faulk missed a somewhat shorter one.

That match seemed to inspire an even division of the singles points, three to each side, so that the United States won by a score of 6 to 3.

EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL MATCH FOR THE CURTIS CUP

British Isles		FOURSOMES		United States	
	Points		Points		Points
Miss Frances Stephens and		Miss Mary Lena Faulk and		Miss Polly Riley (6 and 4)	1
Miss Elizabeth Price	0	Miss Claire Doran and		Miss Patricia Lesser (6 and 5)	1
Mrs. George Valentine and		Miss Dorothy Kirby and		Miss Barbara Romack (6 and 5)	1
Miss Philomena Garvey	0				3
Mrs. R. T. Peel and					
Miss Janette Robertson	0				
Total	0				
SINGLES					
Miss Frances Stephens (1 up)	1	Miss Mary Lena Faulk	0		
Miss Jeanne M. Bisgood	0	Miss Claire Doran (4 and 3)	1		
Miss Elizabeth Price	0	Miss Polly Riley (9 and 8)	1		
Miss Philomena Garvey (3 and 1)	1	Miss Dorothy Kirby	0		
Mrs. George Valentine	0	Mrs. Howard K. Smith (4 and 3)	1		
Miss Janette Robertson (3 and 1)	1	Miss Joyce Ziske	0		
Total	3		3		
Grand Total	3		6		
Captain—Mrs. John B. Beck		Captain—Mrs. Harrison F. Flippin			