

DAVIDSON HERRON

A REAL CHAMPION

Anvil Chorus Lifted Since
Oswald Kirby Defeated
Holder of National Title

Pittsburgher Played Better
Golf at Oakmont Than
Either Ouimet or Evans

BY PERRY LEWIS

Since Davidson Herron, national amateur golf champion, stumbled in the Lesley Cup matches and succumbed in a match with Oswald Kirby, the hammers have been out. There are critics who have endeavored to express the thought that Dave does not belong at all—that as a national title-holder he is a small time club champion with a one-way ticket.

All of which is worthy of a one-way brain. The answer is that Dave Herron IS champion, and we are prepared to prove it. The young Pittsburgher established his right to the throne the week of August 18, when he waded through a field of thirty-two of the best golfers in the world, and he did it in a very impressive manner. Dave and his multitude of friends are all worried over Kirby's victory like a tank with a saturated cellar is over the rumored lifting of the ban.

The week following the championship at Oakmont it was mentioned in these columns that Herron was lucky in the draw—and he was. Any man who is bracketed with two such masters as Chick Evans and Francis Ouimet, and goes to the final without playing either one of them is certainly not getting the worst of the breaks. On the other hand, in view of what has been said and written since Herron became champion, it would probably have been better for the Pittsburgher had he met up with either one or the other, for going the way he was the week of the championship, the outcome would probably have been the same, and his national reputation would be built on a firmer foundation that it is.

To say that Herron would have beaten either Ouimet or Evans, may sound revolutionary to many ears, but such is our conviction. There are few who do not believe that the champion is a stroke or two from the golf displayed day in and day out by these two masters, and we string along with the field in that belief. The week that the National Championship was played, however, Herron was the king of the pack. He simply swept aside every man that he played, and that one of them was neither Evans or Ouimet is not his fault.

The most unfortunate thing that every happened to Herron, therefore, was the victory of our own "Woodie" Platt over Ouimet. Had the Philadelphia youth gone down before the great Bostonian, Herron would have had the latter the next day, and the chances are he would have beaten him. Thus there would have been no opportunity for even the most pessimistic to discount his splendid victory.

It was our good fortune to follow Herron in several of his matches at Oakmont from start to finish, and to see some of his play every day, and without qualification, the statement is made that the champion played better golf those six days than any other man in the field, and this goes for Chick and Francis as well as the others. Let those who doubt analyze Herron's medal scores with those of

any other player and (s)he will be convinced.

Herron is a champion, a real champion, and a great credit to the game. That he played the best golf of his career when he won his title is true—and for this he should be honored and not reproached. Furthermore, he is not any part of a flash. On the contrary he is a comer, and if he shows as much improvement as a champion as he did the year previous to winning the title, it will be a difficult matter for any golfer in the world to wrest the crown from him.