



THIS YEAR THE LESLEY CUP MATCHES WERE PLAYED ON THE NATIONAL LINKS, SOUTHAMPTON

## THE LESLEY CUP MATCHES

By JEAN PORTLAND

THE spirit of golf shuns the highways and byways of business cares and worries. The golfer who in the late afternoon hurries to a nearby city links for a round may recover the poise lost in the hurly burly of the street, and any extra fine shots may cheer his confidence as to his golfing ability, but he will not be in tune with the true spirit of the game of golf which in essence is the whole-souled struggle for mastery against the forces of Nature aided by the ingenuity of man. Nature in all her designed patterns remains the same day after day but man changes as the wind. Only two surroundings, the majestic mountains and the boundless ocean put him in a frame of mind where a single purpose is dominant, and of the two, the ocean is the better. Wherefore, the choice of the National Golf Links of America jutting out on the salty waters of Peconic Bay was the happiest selection since 1905, when the Lesley Cup series started. The thanks of the players was freely given to the club and to Mr. Charles B. MacDonald for the privileges enjoyed.

Little need be said about the National Golf Links other than to remark that the eighteen holes have never been in better condition. Of a golf course we seldom hear the word "Perfect," but this was the adjective used time without number. The putting greens were silken in texture and true as could be, the tees were firm, the fairway most excellent, while the surroundings of a natural character seemed to waft over a wonderful spirit of play which threw off the shackles of business duties and made the players alive to the greatness of the game and the course. Team play in golf increases singleness of purpose, paradoxical as that may seem, and the team spirit was manifest in greater amount than in any year since the start of the competition. I predict a wonderful increase from now on in the rivalry renewed afresh after a wartime layoff of three years.

The Pennsylvania representatives, with much new and young blood, did what was expected and prophesied when they gained the gold medals for themselves and the splendid trophy for their organization.

Massachusetts was the winner in 1916, and therefore stood out on the first day of play, which made the day's battles between the Metropolitan and the Pennsylvania teams of ten a side with foursomes in the morning and singles in the afternoon. Let it not be said that the New Yorkers went into the matches in a haphazard fashion. On the preceding week end the candidates for places had been guests of the president of the M. G. A., Mr. Cornelius J. Sullivan, at the National Links and every attention was paid to the detail of pairing up the members of the foursome teams by both the president and the Captain, Mr. Findlay S. Douglas, but despite the care, Pennsylvania won four of the foursome contests, the only Metropolitan representatives to win being a newly competitive set. Messrs. Walker and Sweetser, whose victory came at the last hole. The amateur champion partnered by a former title holder. Mr. E. M. Byers. found Reekie and Dyer unexpectedly easy, while Kammer and Anderson were beaten at the last hole. An old veteran of these matches, George (Continued on page 34)



Photo by Levick

W. M. REEKIE MISSES A SIX FOOTER IN HIS MATCH WITH F. W. DYER AGAINST S. D. HERRON AND E. M. BYERS

## THE LESLEY CUP MATCHES

(Continued from page 9)

Ormiston, with Dwight Armstrong, also of Oakmont, proved too strong a combination for Archie McIlvaine and John N. Stearns winning after a see saw match. The leading couple for the Metropolitan section, Oswald Kirkby and Gardiner White found themselves up against a stiff opposition, William C. Fownes and Maxwell R. Marston putting and driving in fine style from start to finish. It was strange to see Marston on a Pennsylvania team particularly as he had played in the Metropolitan amateur and was the New Jersey titleholder of 1919; the excuse given that he had taken a residence in Philadelphia on the first of October hardly satisfied his former team mates. The additional strength may have been the turning point in Pennsylvania's favor since Marston was on the winning side twice but the incident is of sufficient importance, we believe, to justify the need and the immediate necessity of having on file a written agreement concerning the eligibility of players for the Lesley Cup teams, a proceeding which has been unnecessary up to this time. We understand that steps in this direction may soon be taken. The summary of the morning play in the M. G. A.—Penn. struggle:

### PENNSYLVANIA

|                                    |       |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Fownes and Marston (2-1) . . . . . | 1     |
| Hoffner and Platt (1 up) . . . . . | 1     |
| Herron and Byers (5-4) . . . . .   | 1     |
| Tewksbury and Grant . . . . .      | 0     |
| Ormiston and Armstrong (2-1) . . . | 1     |
|                                    | <hr/> |
|                                    | 4     |

### NEW YORK

|                                      |       |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Kirkby and White . . . . .           | 0     |
| Anderson and Kammer . . . . .        | 0     |
| Reekie and Dyer . . . . .            | 0     |
| Walker and Sweetser (1 up) . . . . . | 1     |
| MacIlvaine and Stearns . . . . .     | 0     |
|                                      | <hr/> |
|                                      | 1     |

The Metropolitan Association was faced with the task of winning seven of the ten singles in the afternoon and the job was too difficult; an even break giving the right to meet Massachusetts to the Pennsylvania men by a score of 9 to 6. Foremost in interest naturally was centred in the first real match which Davidson Herron, the amateur title holder, had had since winning the title. Paired as he was against Oswald Kirkby who knows the National Links like a book it was expected that an even contest would develop. But there was no holding the M. G. A. champion who lost but a single hole, was out in 38 and played the return holes in one under par. Herron was plainly off on his iron play, a disastrous fault at the National, and never had a chance to fight back hard. Kirkby won by 5 and 4. For Pennsylvania Marston took the measure of

Wewksbury won from Anderson and White, respectively, but Kammer after being five up and seven to play squeezed out a win over Fownes on the home green, a pawky little stymie thoroughly disgusting the tall Pittsburgher. Armstrong found Reekie no problem while Dyer gave too feeble an opposition to Byers, the latter settling matters at the home hole. Sweetser, Pencock and McIlvaine played well down to par golf and won their contests handily. The summary:

### PENNSYLVANIA

|                            |       |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Herron . . . . .           | 0     |
| Marston (4-3) . . . . .    | 1     |
| Fownes . . . . .           | 0     |
| Hoffner (3-2) . . . . .    | 1     |
| Tewksbury (1 up) . . . . . | 1     |
| Platt . . . . .            | 0     |
| Armstrong (5-4) . . . . .  | 1     |
| Byers (1 up) . . . . .     | 1     |
| Grant . . . . .            | 0     |
| Crookston . . . . .        | 0     |
|                            | <hr/> |
|                            | 5     |

Foursomes . . . . . 4

### NEW YORK

|                          |       |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Kirkby (5-4) . . . . .   | 1     |
| Walker . . . . .         | 0     |
| Kammer (1 up) . . . . .  | 1     |
| Anderson . . . . .       | 0     |
| White . . . . .          | 0     |
| Sweetser (5-4) . . . . . | 1     |
| Reekie . . . . .         | 0     |
|                          | <hr/> |
|                          | 9     |

The feeling was current at the banquet on Friday night that unless there was a great series of upsets Pennsylvania would win from the Bay Staters. The absence of the two best players in Massachusetts, Francis Ouimet and Jesse Guilford the amateur and open champions of the state weakened the aggregation at least two if not three points which might indeed have turned the tide. Mr. Ouimet was in the Maine woods recuperating from a second reaction in health while Mr. Guilford felt that he had done enough for one person by winning the State open title and did not care to take the time off necessary to help represent his section a decision which was scarcely in keeping with Lesley Cup standards. However the Massachusetts players did better than New York in the Foursomes winning two of the five, Fownes and Marston falling before Paton and Newton, a bit of a surprise, and Whittemore and Estabrook having no difficulty in beating Herron and Byers. It would be expected that a wallop like Herron would aid his shorter playing partner to such an extent that it would all be a matter of putting but team work in foursomes does not always work out this way and the best combination are those where golfers play about the same calibre of game and have no new shots to make in the course of a round. The summaries of the forenoon play:

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THE LESLEY CUP  
MATCHES

(Continued from page 34)

PENNSYLVANIA

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Fownes and Marston . . . . .           | 0     |
| Hoffner and Platt (3-2) . . . . .      | 1     |
| Herron and Byers . . . . .             | 0     |
| Armstrong and Ormiston (3-1) . . . . . | 1     |
| Tewksbury and Grant (6-4) . . . . .    | 1     |
|  | <hr/> |
|  | 3     |

MASSACHUSETTS

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Newton and Paton (2-1) . . . . .       | 1     |
| Chick and Claflin . . . . .            | 0     |
| Whittemore & Estabrook (5-4) . . . . . | 1     |
| Brown and Gorton . . . . .             | 0     |
| Schofield and Peirce . . . . .         | 0     |
|  | <hr/> |
|  | 2     |

The Massachusetts team was shifted about considerably from the lineup of the preceding day against the veterans bringing the old war horse "Buck" Whittemore against the amateur champion. The latter gained an early lead and then the see saw of holes lost and won began with Herron turning one hole to the good. Whittemore's play up to the green was fully as useful as that of his more distinguished opponent but he would persist in taking three putts just at the wrong time. Herron became two up at the twelfth was one up going to the fifteenth which he halved by a grand curling putt of a dozen feet, and then brought the match to a finish with wins on the next two due mainly to a bit of putting weakness on the Boston man's part. Rodney Brown woke up a bit too late for a strong rally reducing a lead of three held by his opponent, Marston, at the fifteenth to one going to the last hole. Brown could not quite keep up the brilliant work and a half resulted which gave the Pennsylvanians another point. Hoffner held the lead over Estabrook at all stages but Fownes felt uneasy until he laid Mr. Patson a mean little stymie on the very last hole shutting the door completely. In Mr. Fownes case there was poetic justice because he had lost the preceding afternoon to Kammer when just such troublesome symie prevented his playing into the cup. Messrs. Gorton and Schofield won from Byers and Ormiston; the best scoring of the whole day was done by Percy Gibert who had been reckoned as a part of the veteran outfit. Playing in faultless fashion and missing par on but two occasions Gilbert walloped the Pennsylvania state champion Pat Grant to the tune of 8 and 7. The latter was round in 82, golf which usually gets near a win at least but the 75 of the other chap allowed of no mistakes. The summary:

PENNSYLVANIA

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Herron (3-1) . . . . .   | 1 |
| Hoffner (3-2) . . . . .  | 1 |
| Marston (1 up) . . . . . | 1 |
| Fownes (1 up) . . . . .  | 1 |

|                           |       |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Tewksbury (4-3) . . . . . | 1     |
| Platt (3-2) . . . . .     | 1     |
| Armstrong (2-1) . . . . . | 1     |
| Byers . . . . .           | 1     |
| Grant . . . . .           | 0     |
| Ormiston . . . . .        | 0     |
|                           | <hr/> |
|                           | 7     |

Foursomes 3

MASSACHUSETTS

|                           |       |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Whittemore . . . . .      | 0     |
| Brown . . . . .           | 0     |
| Estabrook . . . . .       | 0     |
| Paton . . . . .           | 0     |
| Claflin . . . . .         | 0     |
| Newton . . . . .          | 0     |
| Chick . . . . .           | 0     |
| Gorton (5-3) . . . . .    | 1     |
| Gilbert (8-7) . . . . .   | 1     |
| Schofield (4-3) . . . . . | 1     |
|                           | <hr/> |
|                           | 3     |
| Foursomes . . . . .       | 2     |
|                           | <hr/> |
|                           | 5     |