

BOSTON GOLF CRITIC RAPS LOCAL PLAYERS

Action of Philadelphians in Petitioning for Intercity Matches Stamped as Boldness Incomprehensible—Evans Ranks Herron Third

BY PERRY LEWIS

ONCE more the hammer is out in Boston. We are not laboring under the delusion that this is a startling titbit of news. As a matter of fact, many followers of the ancient and honorable pastime have been looking for a horrified blast from the Hub aimed at Philadelphia golf ever since that amazing thing happened to Francis Ouimet at Oakmont last summer. They were dismayed up there at the manner in which an unknown Philadelphia youth tore into the great Bostonian with the easy confidence of a man tackling a ten handicap player, but they were stunned into silence when that same youngster put the pride of Boston right out of the tournament.

At last, however, they have apparently regained their power of speech as witness the following excerpt perpetrated by a noted critic of Boston in commenting on the action of Philadelphia golfers petitioning the local body to arrange an intercity match with New York.

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"Such boldness is incomprehensible. It sounds like passing around a petition asking America to accept the mandate for Armenia, or a petition asking the selectmen to put another street light in a certain portion of the city. Who ever heard of golfers making their wants known to their commanding officers in such outspoken manner?

"Perhaps the cause of such forwardness on the part of the Pennsylvanians may be attributed to the fact that the game has but recently gone over big in that great State, and that all the golfers grew up together and are therefore not overawed by tradition when they get an idea into their heads. They go at the thing rough and tumble like.

"Reports from golfing associations in such primitive States as California, Missouri and Illinois indicate that methods there are also tempered by the hand of the proletariat. One could hardly look for such crashiness in Massachusetts, where next summer the Pilgrim Centennial will be celebrated with all the gewgaws fitting to 200 years of progress. The Pennsylvania petition has the signatures of such well-known golfers as Eddie Clarey, George Hofner, Miss Mildred Caverly, Mrs. Ronald H. Barlow and even Max Marston, who obtained his early education in New Jersey. is said to be seriously considering formally indorsing the plan with a fountain pen."

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It will be hard for most Philadelphia golfers to get the angle of the Boston Boswell—which is quite natural. The city which would send a youngster to a National tournament so unaccustomed to the sacred traditions of the game as to defeat the mighty Ouimet must be too immersed in "primitive" darkness to understand the heinousness of its crime. We trust they won't be too severe on Mr. Platt up there because he got unclubby and so far forgot himself as to down Mr. Ouimet—they should consider the shocking golf community in which the poor lad was raised. His links education has evidently been sadly neglected—all he can do is to play golf.

Of course such "boldness is incomprehensible" in communities "overawed by tradition." There are a lot of other things around Philadelphia which will ever remain "incomprehensible" to worshippers at the shrine of stagnant custom. They will never comprehend how the local district sent a team of women to the Griscom Cup matches capable of annihilating the Boston aggregation; they will never comprehend how four unknown Philadelphians qualified in the National; they will never comprehend how a Philadelphia golfer (and one who left Boston for Philadelphia at that) won The National Championship medal; how seven fair devotees of the Quaker City qualified in the Women's Championship, or how Pennsylvania snatched the Lesley cup from both New York and Massachusetts.

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Charles "Chick" Evans, as has been his yearly custom, has come out with his "All-America" amateur golf team, which is just about as valuable as most mythical teams, "first tens," etc. Chick rates them as follows: Francis Ouimet, Oswald Kirby, Davidson Herron, Robert Jones, Nelson Whitney and W. C. Fownes. The Chicago golfer leaves his name to be inserted where the reader thinks it belongs.

After digesting the thing one is convinced that "Chick" must have hurried away from Oakmont last summer after absorbing his beating in the second round of the national championship at the hands of Francis Ouimet. He missed a lot of things. That he ranks Ouimet first is not surprising, inasmuch as the consensus of the American golf world is that the Bostonian is the daddy of them all, despite the fact that he failed to win either the Open or the Amateur. Many would rank Herron first on the premise that he is the national champion, but there are few who do not believe that, day after day, Ouimet is a stroke or two better than the young Pittsburger.

Just why Evans ranks Oswald Kirby above the national title holder, however, is as clear as the political situation. True enough, the Metropolitan champion took Herron over in the Lesley Cup matches, but one swallow does not make a summer. Furthermore, ranking a national champion—and a champion whose victory was as clean-cut and decisive as Herron's—third isn't what might be called a wholesome and healthful pursuit.