

PLATT IS LEADING GOLFER OF SEASON

First Ten Players of Philadelphia District
Ranked on Play This Year—Close
Battle for Second Place

BY PERRY LEWIS

WE ARE PERPETRATING the attached matter of our own free will and accord without coercion and without promise of immunity. Further, we fully realize the possible, even probable, results of our own act and are ready to take the consequences. That we are about to "start something" we are fully aware, but our conscience is clear. In short, we are about to rank the first ten golfers of the Philadelphia district on their work this season. If you don't think this is hard, try it.

COMPILING a ranking list of golf or tennis players is easier than picking an All-American football team—which is all that can be said for it, and it isn't much. An enterprise may be far easier than picking an All-American grid outfit and still be ranked among the impossible feats. However, there is this much to be said for golf, and tennis as well: Both are games in which one individual is pitted against another and there isn't the factor of team play to cloud the issues as is the case in football. Furthermore, it has been our good fortune to see all the leading golfers of this district in action—not once, but many times.

With this self-administered potion, we reinforce our own courage and proceed to rank them as follows:

J. WOOD PLATT, North-Hills Country Club
MAX MARSTON, Merion Cricket Club
GEORGE W. HOFFNER, Bala Golf Club
MAURICE RISLEY, Country Club of Atlantic City
EDWARD O'CLAREY, Bala Golf Club
WALTER REYNOLDS, Aronimink Country Club
MEREDITH JACK, Merion Cricket Club
FRED KNIGHT, Whitmarsh Valley Country Club
M. P. JONES, Frankford Country Club
CECIL CALVERT, North Hills Country

That is our ranking. Undoubtedly there are those who will consider it very rank. We will now proceed with the defense.

NOMINATING the Number One man is as difficult as electing a Republican President this year—if you know what we mean. There is only one candidate in the field and his name is J. Wood Platt. No man ever wagged a golf club in Philadelphia to such good purpose through the span of a season than has the North Hills youth this year. Consider his record in brief.

Since the season opened, Platt has completed in fourteen important tournaments, and in all but one or two he figured as a dangerous contender. On seven occasions he was a finalist, and four times he triumphed. In the spring event at Atlantic City he was a semi-finalist. Because his list of successes is the most notable ever achieved by an amateur golfer in this district, we attach it in detail:

Won Philadelphia District amateur championship at Huntingdon Valley.

Won North Hills invitation tournament.

Won Bala invitation event.

Won Merion medal play invitation classic.

Runner-up in Patterson Memorial tournament at Cricket Club.

Runner-up in Shawnee invitation event.

Runner-up in Old York Road invitation tournament.

Runner-up in Llanerch invitation.

Semi-finalist in Atlantic City spring tournament.

Qualified in national championship, and went to third round, dethroning Dave Herron, national champion.

Aided Pennsylvania Lesley Cup team to hold trophy by defeating Gardner White, New York crack.

This is by no means a complete record of Platt's competitive play during the season. He was by far the most active player in this district. As Number One player for the North Hills Club he was a tower of strength in the Suburban Cup series, but in the Interclub competition met with his only severe reverse, an overwhelming defeat at the hands of Max Marston, of Merion.

One swallow, however, does not make a summer. From the very first day of the season, Platt took them all on. Even after winning the local championship he continued to play in practically every event on the local calendar, giving everybody a shot at the titleholder. Naturally he got his beatings, and he took them in the same fine spirit of sportsmanship he showed when donning the laurel—but in the main he usually won. It may be many years before a golfer more clearly establishes his right to the Philadelphia throne than has Platt this season. He is the King.

PICKING second man offers more difficulties. It is not difficult to narrow the field down to two candidates—Max Marston and George Hoffner—but so evenly balanced are these two that it is difficult to go further. Had Marston been more active in local events it is likely he would have clearly established his right to the place, and as it is we still figure that he has the edge on the Bala crack.

Marston won the Patterson Memorial event, but a feat of equal importance was the winning of the silver cross by Hoffner. Both men qualified in the national championship, and both went out in the first round. Still the deadly parallel. In the Lesley Cup contest with New York both won in the twosomes, while Hoffner, paired with Platt, lost in the foursomes, while Marston, with Fownes, won. Thus the Merion man draws out in front a trifle.

Hoffner was semi-finalist in the district amateur championship, while Marston was runner-up in the State amateur championship. Again the latter scores a bit. Hoffner won the Llanerch invitation tournament, but this is more than offset by his rival's work in the State Open and his overwhelming defeat of Platt in the interclub series.

Thus Marston is ranked second and Hoffner third. Both played fine golf all season and it would be difficult to prove that they shouldn't be up there.

MAURICE RISLEY, Atlantic City's favorite golfer, enjoyed one of the most successful seasons of his brilliant golf career, and appears to be the logical choice for fourth place. His most notable feat, of course, was in qualifying in the National Championship, although he went down before Platt in the first round.

The resort player won two big tournaments, the spring event at his own club and the Buckwood classic at Shawnee-on-Delaware, defeating Platt in the final of the latter. He played fine golf in every tournament in which he partic-

ipated, particularly in Merion's 72-hole invitation. If Risley is not entitled to fourth place—who is?

EDDIE CLAREY, the robust Bala star, had an in and out season, and much of the time it was mostly out—for Eddie Clarey. The big fellow had trouble in getting under way and when he appeared to be going right with everything, he invariably slipped. Nevertheless, although Clarey was not at his best, he accomplished enough to gain fifth place, and his hold is very tight.

Clarey won a pair of tournaments, the Old York Road invitation and the LuLu event. In the first named he downed J. Wood Platt in the final, which is recorded as his most noteworthy feat of the season. Eddie was active all season, but his failure to qualify in the National Championship was a bitter disappointment to his friends.

WALTER REYNOLDS, of Aronimink, draws sixth place, although he failed to win a tournament. Walter scored as a Lesley Cup player paired with Norman Maxwell, although he met defeat in the twosomes at the hands of Peter Harmon, the youthful New York star. He was a finalist in the Bala invitation.

Reynolds' most noteworthy feats were his defeat of George Hoffner in the semi-final round at Bala and his brilliant work against Vardon and Ray in the exhibition match played at Aronimink. In the latter match, Reynolds practically carried the entire burden against the great British professionals.

MEREDITH JACK, Merion; Fred Knight, Whitmarsh; M. P. Jones, Frankford, and Cecil Calvert, North Hills, are accorded the remaining positions in the order named. Jack played little tournament golf hereabouts, but he qualified in the National and went to the second round before he was eliminated by Ouimet. Furthermore, he scored a notably victory in the Lesley Cup matches by downing Grant Peacock, the New York crack. These two performances, we believe, entitle him to seventh place.

Fred Knight played fine golf all season, although his major victories were few. His best performance was at Bala, where he broke seventy in defeating Clarey. Jones also went well every time he competed, his greatest feat being the defeat of Platt in the Geist Cup classic.

Cecil Calvert is not back to the form which made him one of the most feared golfers in the city before he went away to the wars. Nevertheless he showed unmistakable signs of an impending "comeback" which will carry him through to a place near the top next year by exhibiting sound and sometimes brilliant golf in every one of his many starts.

We have omitted Dwight Armstrong, of Huntingdon Valley, from our considerations. The former Pittsburgher was not sufficiently active in local circles to be ranked at all. It is significant to note, however, that Armstrong has to his credit victories over Platt, Marston and Norman Maxwell—the last two of which were scored in the interclub competition. He defeated Platt in a trade tournament.