

# PATER PENN LEADS IN AMATEUR SPORT

## Philadelphia Has Done Much in 1921 for Golf and Tennis

BY PERRY LEWIS

**E**XCLUDING the annual action in the hot bread belt, the golf and tennis season of 1921 now being to history. In practically every district north of the line made famous by Messrs. Mason and Dixon schedules have been completed.

Hereabouts there remains one more district event, the popular fall tournament of the Country Club of Atlantic City, which for years has furnished a grand finale to the yearly golf programme. Then, too, the Lakewood Country Club is out with an elaborate inter programme which is easily the most ambitious agenda ever attempted by the organization in the pines. Lakewood, however, is a winter resort and its golf events must be bracketed with the dungs at Pinehurst, Belleaire, etc.

Most of the plans of the Atlantic City and Lakewood clubs later. Just as this moment we are more concerned with considering the outdoor golf and tennis season now passing to posterity.

The two great amateur sports have enjoyed their grandest year everywhere. And Philadelphia has enjoyed something more than her share of the general prosperity. Permit us for a moment to pass the pen to that eminent local authority on country club sports, Robert W. Lesley, for years president of the City Association of Philadelphia.

*"Philadelphia has enjoyed its greatest golf and tennis season, and today ranks first in amateur sports. I am not referring to the victories achieved by our fellow townsmen, although they have been many, but rather to the local support of sports for sports' sake."*

**C**ONSIDER the season first from Mr. Lesley's angle. The game of lawn tennis is hundreds of years old. Behind it is a glorious history. It first touched the peak in Philadelphia a few short weeks ago when the Germantown Cricket Club fathered the most colossal championship tournament the sport has ever known. Thousands of Philadelphians turned out every day to see the chosen battle for the United States singles championship, and on the big days those colossal crowds were jammed to capacity with the biggest crowds that ever witnessed a tennis match.

When Philadelphia was first mentioned as the city to entertain the title event, many officials prominent in United States Lawn Tennis Association affairs demurred. They claimed they were willing, even anxious, to see the tournament come here, because it was right that it should, but expressed the opinion that Philadelphia would not support the event as it had been supported at the West Side Tennis Club, Forest Hills. These pessimists pointed out the fact that the association was sorely in need of financial-bracing and that it was a mistake to gamble on the popularity of the biggest money-making event in a new field.

Everyone knows what happened. Local tennis men insisted that Philadelphia would support the championship and demanded a chance. They got it, and the event not only drew as well as it did in New York, but better than it ever had before. Furthermore, it was conducted with a well-ordered smoothness which has set a mark for clubs in other cities to shoot at.

*But the Quaker City's standing as a tennis center by no means rests alone on the support accorded the National Championship. Every district event, every State championship held in Philadelphia during the past season drew 50 per cent. better than ever before.*

The tri-city Church Cup team championship at Merion, for instance, was the most successful ever held in Philadelphia, and even the Fairmount Park open or championship drew its thousands. The women's Middle States title event, held at the Cricket Club, was a complete success, so were the men's Pennsylvania championship at Cynwyd and the junior centre championships on the University courts.

*There wasn't a dud from one end of the season to the other. Any time two players of any rating at all got together to match skill on the courts a crowd turned out to see this action, and was willing to give up coin of the realm for the privilege.*

**C**ONSIDER what Philadelphia has done for the good of golf. Most important, perhaps, has been the formation of the District Greens Committee and the activities of that body under the leadership of George W. Elkins, Jr., Huntingdon Valley. Here was an organization sorely needed here, and one which would be welcomed in any golf district. Co-operation in course upkeep is the aim of the committee. Too often such bodies carry too much deadwood, all of the work falls upon a few and the organization ceases to function. Not so with Elkins' committee which is on the job constantly.

At the annual meeting of the local association held last winter, a committee was appointed on caddy welfare. This body has been working quietly, but nevertheless working, with the result that there are few places in the East where more efficient caddy service may be had than here in Philadelphia.

*Furthermore (and most important) parents who permit their boys to turn a few dollars lagging a golf bag can rest assured that the youngsters are receiving training which will be valuable in after life and furthermore coming under the observation of business men who may place the feet of the deserving one on the path which leads to success.*

**W**E have simply called attention to a few of the facts which led President Lesley to remark that Philadelphia ranks first in the amateur field from the angle of sports for sports' sake. His is the attitude of the idealist. What success have Philadelphians achieved in the mad chase for victory?

Here is something else again. On the tennis court Philadelphia dominates the world. Our Bill Tilden not only held the laurels he had gained, but this year actually plucked an additional sprig or two. Furthermore, in a field which included the net masters of the world two Philadelphians, Tilden and Wallace Johnson, came through to the finals and made the ultimate round a strictly Philadelphia family affair. Furthermore, close to score of local players figured prominently in events of major importance.

*It seems no part of an idle boast to assert that the standard of tennis played by the first 20 Philadelphia men during 1921*

*is somewhat higher than that played by the 20 ranking players of any other tennis center.*

**T**HE golf situation is something else again, for in the matter of leading players the Quaker City appears to have dropped back in the rut and that at a time when better things seemed just over the horizon.

For many years this city did not have a golfer who figured prominently in the national field. There were many fine and steady players during this period, but there was not one who threatened to ascend the heights or make trouble for those who were.

Suddenly there came a change. A group of young stars, headed by J. Wood Platt, stepped into the limelight, and this was simultaneous with the advent here of two of the leading amateurs of the East, Max Marston and Paul Tewkesbury.

In 1919 Philadelphia had an entry in the national to be proud of, with Platt, Marston, Tewkesbury, Hoffner and Clary. The following year, at the Engineers' Club, the Philadelphians rated very high, which was chiefly due to the sensational defeat of the then champion, Dave Herron by Platt.

At the start of the present season things were never brighter from a Philadelphia standpoint. Platt represented Philadelphia on the United States team which invaded Great Britain. Max Marston was shooting the best golf of his career and Tewkesbury, Hoffner and the others were showing a game which forecasted a great season.

Suddenly everything changed. An injury prevented Platt from even starting in the British championship, after which everything went bad.

*The only Philadelphian who continued his serene way and kept Philadelphia on the golf map was Marston. The Merion star snatched the Pennsylvania amateur championship and was the only local entry in the National Amateur. He did not stay in the action long, however, for Quimet put him out in the first round, after which Philadelphia's only place in that classic was in the gallery.*

**I**N THE above we have dealt only with the golf and tennis played by the men of Philadelphia. On the links the accomplishments of our fair athletes completely shadowed the work of their brothers, as usual, while in tennis the situation was reversed.

It is evident that as long as Mrs. Clarence H. Vanderbeck, Mrs. Caleb F. Fox and Miss Mildred Caverly are active Philadelphia will always figure prominently in the national field. Year after year these three are among the qualifiers, and Mrs. Vanderbeck seldom fails to reach the semi-finals. With this trio should be included Mrs. Ronald H. Barlow, whose name did not appear in this year's championship fight for the reason that she was unable to play because of the untimely death of her son-in-law in the ZR-2 tragedy.

But the chief end of sports is not victory. As satisfactory as were the triumphs of our Vanderbecks, Tildens and Johnsons, they do not overshadow the splendid record sportsmen of Philadelphia have achieved this year in building up the two great amateur games.

*Nor are these triumphs, glorious though they are, viewed with greater satisfaction than the spectacle of Philadelphia showing herself willing, and in a generous way, to support the clean sporting spectacles of tennis and golf.*