

An Old Friend and Many New Ones

By JOHN P. ENGLISH

USGA ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

When contenders for the USGA Amateur Championship arrived in Seattle last month, they were greeted by billboards and placards which proclaimed: "You Can Trust Jack Westland."

After a week of competition, the USGA concurred in the sentiment thus expressed in behalf of the winner of the Republican nomination for Congress in the Second Washington District and entrusted him with the gold Amateur Championship Cup.

There was no alternative, and party lines played no part in the decision. Although he is, at 47, by five years the oldest man ever to win the Championship (Harold Hilton was 42 in 1911), Jack Westland demonstrated his golfing superiority over 1,028 other entrants, almost all of whom were his juniors. He tied for fourth at 149 among twenty-one qualifiers in the sectional round at Tacoma and defeated seven opponents at match play in the Championship proper at the Seattle Golf Club. In the latter process, he played nine rounds of golf in five days, including two rounds a day for the last four days. His closest call came in the fourth round when he had to go twenty-three holes to defeat Raleigh Selby.

The story of Jack Westland's victory is one of superb native skill and great human interest.

There are many ways in which an individual can accomplish the physical technicalities necessary to propel a golf ball a considerable distance with control. Some are beautiful to behold, and some are not. Jack Westland's way is beautiful. He can truthfully be termed a "picture swinger," and the flowing, effortless grace with which he achieves club-head speed and club-face control is something that was more common in the past than it is today.

It is so obviously sound that to see it even briefly is to understand how his victory was accomplished, twenty-six years after his first Championship effort, twenty-one years after he had been defeated by Francis Ouimet in an earlier final and five years after his last previous challenge. Even Westland's caddie, Kenny Guernsey, profited by watching that swing; he won the Seattle Golf Club's caddie championship the next week.

Westland's Era

Jack Westland's era was the immediate post-Jones era of the early Thirties, and the contemporaries whom he defeated in reaching the final of the 1931 Amateur were Sam Parks, George Dunlap, Ducky Yates and Maurice McCarthy. He was a member of the 1932 and 1934 Walker Cup Teams with Francis Ouimet, Jess Sweetser, Max Marston, George Voigt, Johnny Goodman, Lawson Little, Chandler Egan, Don Moe, Charley Seaver, Gus Moreland and Billy Howell. He defeated Rodney Bliss in the final of the 1933 Western Amateur.

In recent years, Jack Westland has played only local golf. Although he won the Pacific Northwest Amateur four times, he entered the USGA Amateur only when the site was convenient to his home in Everett, Wash., not far north of Seattle. The demands of his political campaign made it possible for him to play very little in the weeks immediately preceding the Championship, and he had scheduled political speeches on evenings during the week of the Championship. Most of these he made, although he postponed one on the evening prior to the final.

When the five-foot putt which defeated young and strong Al Mengert, 3 and 2, in the final went into the hole, Westland cocked his head at the cup momentarily,

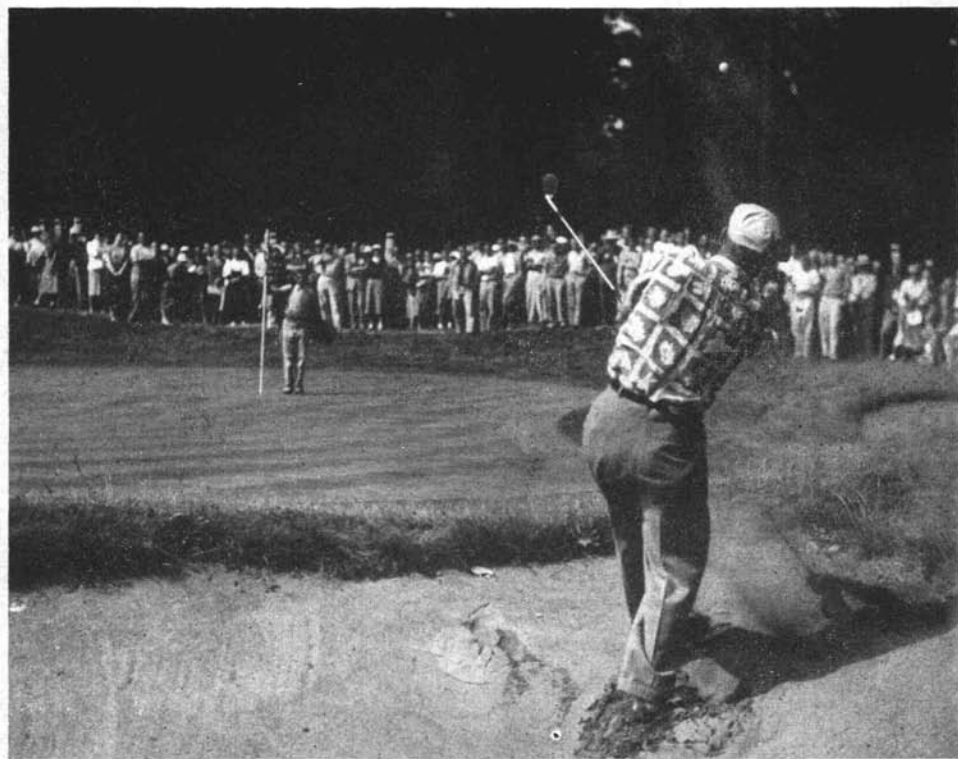
as if in expectation that the ball might come out again, then threw his head back, whooped and hurled his cap into the gallery in unrepressed exultation. The dream he had first dreamed at the age of 12 had come true long after he had ceased to dream. Older men, however, have won the British Amateur; John Ball won his eighth title in 1912 at the age of 51, and the Hon. Michael Scott won in 1933 at the age of 55.

The reaction in the Pacific Northwest, as well as throughout the golfing world, was almost equally exultant. Jack Westland long ago proved himself an extremely popular personality and a thorough sportsman on both sides of the Atlantic. The delayed fruition of his dream increased the joy which was so widely shared.

It was, however, an anachronistic victory not only because Jack Westland had been written off by many as a part of a bygone era but also because, apart from his victory, the Championship appeared to mark the ascendancy of a new generation of top-flight amateurs. It also may have marked a shift of the axis of amateur golf to the West, if not, in fact, to the hospitable Pacific Northwest.

Of the eight players who took part in the quarter-final round, five represented the Pacific Northwest (two of whom were Canadians), one was a Southern Californian and the two who represented the East came originally from California and Texas.

When it boiled down to the semi-final round, three (including one Canadian) were natives of the Pacific Northwest, and



This stunning action photograph caught Jack Westland's ball in mid-air as he exploded from a bunker by the fifth green in the morning round of the final of the Amateur Championship at the Seattle Golf Club. He got a half in 3s to maintain a 1-up lead. The photograph was taken by Capt. L. D. da Ponte.

the other was a Texan playing out of New York.

The final was played between two United States representatives of the Pacific Northwest. Rarely since the early days of eastern dominance has one geographic section so monopolized the concluding rounds.

The playing of the Amateur in the Pacific Northwest for the second time obviously tapped a new lode of talent. Jimmy McHale was the last member of the 1951 Walker Cup Team to survive, and he was defeated in the quarter-final round. Not a member of 1952 Americas Cup Team reached the quarter-final round, Charley Coe having lost to McHale in the previous round.

In the places of the established veterans came, as semi-finalists, Westland, once again; Mengert, an extremely promising young player of 23 from Spokane, Wash.; Bill Mawhinney, of Vancouver, a recent Canadian Amateur Champion and the first to represent his country in the semi-finals of our Championship since Ross Somerville in 1932; and Don Cherry, a young Texan now recording popular songs in New York. Westland beat Mawhinney, 5 and 4, and Mengert silenced Cherry, 3 and 2.

The four players defeated in the quarter-final round were McHale; Walter McElroy, of Vancouver, the Canadian Amateur Champion at the time; Gene Littler, of La Jolla, Cal., another promising young player; and Dick Yost, of Portland, Ore., a graduate last June of Oregon State College.

The double-headed Canadian challenge, which constituted a real threat, not only was turned back but was reversed the following week at the Capilano Golf and Country Club, in Vancouver, when Larry Bouchey, of Los Angeles, defeated Billy Campbell in a 37-hole final of the Canadian Amateur.

This emergence of new talent and a new geographical section of the country, speaking in competitive golf terms, cannot but be a good thing. It is further

testimony of the breadth and depth of golfing skill over this continent, and it is becoming more than ever true that a man who wins this Championship just once is man of supreme skill and good fortune.

It is pleasant to be able to record that with this spread of golfing skill there has been a parallel spread of sportsmanship and good golfing manners in amateur golf.

The contestants in this 52nd Amateur Championship were equal to their setting at the Seattle Golf Club. Charles W. Adams, the General Chairman, and his fellow-workers had driven unsparingly for two years to provide facilities which would be not only complete to the last detail for the Championship but also graceful and hospitable. Their efforts showed through every phase, and their reward was measured in innumerable compliments and smiles bestowed on the Club and its 6,632-yard, fir-lined course by Puget Sound.

THE AMERICAS CUP

The first match for The Americas Cup, held also at the Seattle Golf Club in the week preceding the Amateur Championship, set a gratifying example in the field of international relations. The golfers of Canada, Mexico and the United States proved that there is another way for nations to get along by joining the competition in complete good faith and adhering to the highest standards of good sportsmanship.

Those who envisioned the match and brought it into being had, of course, every reason to believe this would be the case. Colin Rankin, President of the Royal Canadian Golf Association; Pedro Suinaga, President of the Asociacion Mexicana de Golf; Totton P. Heffelfinger, President of the USGA, and Jerome P. Bowes, Jr., donor of the Cup, drew their gratification from that fact. Surely future matches will serve a useful purpose in a field broader than golf.

The pleasure of seeing the match move



The USGA Team which defeated Canada and Mexico in the first Match for The Americas Cup at the Seattle Golf Club. Standing, left to right: Kenneth Venturi, of San Francisco, Cal.; Frank R. Stranahan, of Toledo, Ohio; Sam Urzetta, of Rochester, N. Y.; Joseph F. Gagliardi, of Mamaroneck, N. Y.; William C. Campbell, of Huntington, W. Va.; and E. Harvie Ward, Jr., of Tarboro, N. C. Front: Charles R. Coe, the Captain, of Oklahoma City, Okla.

smoothly and naturally toward its objective was heightened, for many, by the intensity of the competition. All three countries, perhaps, shared in advance the sentiment that the skills which have been developed by United States golfers might make the match one-sided. Yet such was by no means the case. Mexico won 5 points, Canada 10 and the United States won with 12. The Canadians were forced to play without Bill Mawhinney, the new Pacific Northwest Amateur Champion and one of their strongest players, who had to retire because of a faulty sacro-

iliac. Mawhinney is a most accomplished golfer, and his presence in the Canadian line-up quite possibly could have affected the outcome since Canada needed to win only one additional point from the United States to gain a tie.

In team-against-team summary, the United States was able to defeat both Canada and Mexico, but its margin was only 5 to 4 against Canada and 7 to 2 against Mexico. Canada, in turn, defeated Mexico, 6 to 3. The first three players in the Canadian line-up defeated simultaneously both their Mexican and

United States opponents, and it appeared to be United States depth, rather than first-line strength, which turned the tide.

In his respect, it was unlike the first professional team match for the Hopkins Trophy in which the United States had defeated Canada, 20½ to 6½ at Montreal earlier last month.

The sentimental hero of the amateur match was 18-year-old Roberto Morris, of Mexico, who combined with the veteran Percy Clifford to match par for thirty-five holes and defeat both Captain Charley

Coe and Frank Stranahan of the United States and Captain Phil Farley and Nick Weslock of Canada in the foursomes with a stunning exhibition of putting. Roberto, who attends school in St. Louis, is a most appealing young sportsman and a most promising young golfer.

The toss of a coin determined that the next match will be played in Canada immediately preceding the 1954 Canadian Amateur Championship and the subsequent match will be played in Mexico immediately preceding the 1956 Mexican Amateur Championship.

CANADA

FOURSOMES

Walter McElroy and Jerry Kesselring (39 holes)	1
Nick K. Weslock and Phil Farley	0
Percy Clogg and Peter C. Kelly (1 up)	1
Totals	<u>2</u>

Walter McElroy (10 and 9)	1
Jerry Kesselring (11 and 9)	1
Nick K. Weslock (12 and 10)	1
Phil Farley (9 and 8)	0
Percy Clogg	0
Peter C. Kelly	0
Totals	<u>4</u>
Grand Totals	<u>6</u>

Captain: Phil Farley
Reserve: William C. Mawhinney

CANADA

FOURSOMES

Walter McElroy and Jerry Kesselring	0
Nick K. Weslock and Phil Farley (1 up)	1
Percy Clogg and Peter C. Kelly	0
Totals	<u>1</u>

Walter McElroy (4 and 3)	1
Jerry Kesselring (38 holes)	1
Nick K. Weslock (3 and 2)	0
Phil Farley	0
Percy Clogg	0
Peter C. Kelly	0
Totals	<u>3</u>
Grand Totals	<u>4</u>

MEXICO

FOURSOMES

Reynaldo Avila and Fernando Gonzalez	0
Percy Clifford and Roberto Morris (1 up)	1
Carlos Belmont and Alejandro Cumming	0
Totals	<u>1</u>

Roberto Morris	0
Fernando Gonzalez	0
Reynaldo Avila	0
Alejandro Cumming	0
Carlos Belmont	0
Percy Clifford (2 and 1)	1
Totals	<u>1</u>
Grand Totals	<u>2</u>

MEXICO

FOURSOMES

Reynaldo Avila and Fernando Gonzalez	0
Percy Clifford and Roberto Morris (1 up)	1
Carlos Belmont and Alejandro Cumming	0
Totals	<u>1</u>

SINGLES

Roberto Morris	0
Fernando Gonzalez	0
Reynaldo Avila	0
Alejandro Cumming	0
Carlos Belmont (3 and 2)	1
Percy Clifford (10 and 8)	1
Totals	<u>2</u>
Grand Totals	<u>3</u>

Captain: Pedro Suinaga
Reserve: Carlos Porraz

UNITED STATES

FOURSOMES

E. Harvie Ward, Jr., and Kenneth Venturi (11 and 10)	1
Frank R. Stranahan and Charles R. Coe	0
Sam Urzetta and Joseph F. Gagliardi (6 and 4)	1
Totals	<u>2</u>

SINGLES

Frank R. Stranahan	0
E. Harvie Ward, Jr.	0
Charles R. Coe	0
William C. Campbell (6 and 5)	1
Kenneth Venturi (10 and 9)	1
Sam Urzetta (11 and 10)	1
Totals	<u>3</u>
Grand Totals	<u>5</u>

Captain: Charles R. Coe

UNITED STATES

FOURSOMES

E. Harvie Ward, Jr., and Kenneth Venturi (10 and 8)	1
Frank R. Stranahan and Charles R. Coe	0
Sam Urzetta and Joseph F. Gagliardi (5 and 4)	1
Totals	<u>2</u>

SINGLES

Frank R. Stranahan (9 and 8)	1
E. Harvie Ward, Jr. (13 and 11)	1
Charles R. Coe (9 and 8)	1
William C. Campbell (10 and 8)	1
Kenneth Venturi (12 and 11)	1
Sam Urzetta	0
Totals	<u>5</u>
Grand Totals	<u>7</u>