



**The Country Club of Rochester**

# Articles

# 1918

# **GOLF ADDS ITS MIGHTY BIT TO HELP WIN WAR**

Declaration Turned Golfing  
World Topsy Turvy.

## **SPORT FOR SPORT'S SAKE**

Abandonment of Championship  
Games Brought About Apprecia-  
tion of Game—Contributes More  
to Red Cross Than Other Sports

Golfers of 1917 need fear no comparison with their brothers in the past. Although the season suffered, as was inevitable, from war conditions, still the many followers of the game acquired an even clearer idea of "sport for the sport's sake" from this very circumstance and enjoyed immensely whatever attacks they were allowed to make against bunker, sand pit, or other hazards.

Entering the season, golf seemed so stable, so fixed in the recreations of this country, that there appeared to be nothing which could shake the game to its foundations. Plans made during the winter by officials of the different sectional association indicated so many tournaments that the modest golfer would be kept jumping from one eighteen-hole course to another.

Then the world went wrong! Immediately following the declaration of war by this country the Executive Committee of the United States Golf Association canceled all its annual fixtures. Closely following this decision came one from the big Eastern associations abolishing all championship plays. Only the Western Golf Association and the Southern held title tournaments this year.

#### Raised \$75,000 a Day.

In many quarters the cancellation of championships was deemed unnecessary but subsequent events proved that the fixtures, with all their attractiveness and power to bring out golf of the highest kind, were not the great part of golf. Instead of arranging their vacations that they might be spent at a title tournament, golfers began to arrange for exhibition matches from which one or another war relief society was to benefit. Golfers lost no time proving their patriotism and their value to the country.

In this respect it can be said that no other sport has contributed such a huge sum of money for Red Cross and other war societies as has golf. Through the U. S. G. A. more than \$75,000 was raised in one day of tournaments throughout the land.

As a competitive year there were enough brilliant efforts supplied by equally brilliant performers to list 1917 with any years of golf history. Charles "Chick" Evans, of Edgewater, Chicago, retained his championship crowns in both the amateur and open affairs, for the simple reason that he was not called upon to defend his laurels. However, Evans played enough exhibitions during the season to prove to the most skeptical that he could have raised a vigorous argument had any attempt been made to lift either of his titles.

#### Quimet Next to Champ.

The champion did not compete in any tournaments during the year, but he played sterling golf always. Probably his best feat was at Whitmarsh Valley in a four-ball match with Norman H. Maxwell, of Aronimink, as his partner. The opponents were Jim Barnes and Eddie Loos, two Philadelphia professionals. Evans had a 71 in the afternoon round of his match and helped materially to defeat the professionals after two extra holes.

Next to the champion probably the self of Francis Quimet, one of golf's warriors now with the National army, stood out most prominently. During the year Quimet won one amateur championship although declared ineligible to compete in U. S. G. A. tournaments. This was the Western amateur event, and followed a ruling by the Western body that golfers who were in the business of selling golf goods should not lose their amateur standing.

Quimet's golf was not sensational in the West, but it did not have to be since there were none of the first flight of performers pitted against him outside of John G. Anderson of Silwanoy who occasionally ascends to championship golf much to the dismay of many who rate Anderson lower and suffer for their mistake.

### Six Birdies in Nine Holes.

In Red Cross exhibition matches played in the vicinity of Boston and New York Ouimet was the leader of all golfers. He measured ability with such excellent players as Jerome D. Travers, former national amateur and open champion; Oswald Kirkby, present metropolitan champion; M. J. Brady, Massachusetts open champion, and Louis Tellier, former open champion of France, and not once was Ouimet content with second laurels. His six birdies in the first nine holes of Baltusrol in a four-ball match there will long be remembered. Ouimet undoubtedly showed greater skill throughout the year than did any other golfer in the land and in a year without tournaments it is almost possible to rank the young Bostonian as the best of the lot.

Two youngsters were the others to win amateur laurels during the season. Norman H. Maxwell of Aronimink, gained his crown at Pinehurst. He won the United North and South amateur championship from a field numbering among its entrants John G. Anderson and Gardiner W. White of New York, and William Fownes of Pittsburgh, all players of national fame.

### Women in the Calicum.

Bobby Jones of Atlanta was the other youngster to come into his own when he won the Southern amateur title from a field of expert wielders of the maulie and niblick. Jones also made an attempt for the Western championship, but could not play up to his real game.

Among the professionals, Jim Barnes, who last year was credited with being the professional leader, since an amateur prevented any professional from winning this honor in the open tournament, again measured strides with the best. His spectacular golf at the Western open championship at Westmoreland, where he had 228 for 72 holes, a record for that distance, placed him at the head of the list. Jack Hutchinson, the Chicago professional, made a great bid for first honors by his victory in the national patriotic open.

tournament held at Whitemarsh Valley. Eddie Loos, by winning the Shawnee open, also gained much prestige.

Of the women, Mrs. William A. Gavin of Baltimore stood to the fore. Miss Alexa Stirling, of Atlanta, the women's national champion, did not take part in any tournaments during the year, and played in only a few exhibitions, so it is impossible to rate her game. Mrs. Gavin not only won the women's Metropolitan Golf Association championship with surprising ease, but she opened anew an ancient argument by soundly defeating Jerome D. Travers in a thirty-six-hole handicap match, in which Travers essayed to give her nine strokes in each eighteen.

In the West Mrs. F. C. Lette, of Cincinnati again demonstrated her superiority over the other woman players by again winning the Western championship. She had to defeat Miss Elaine V. Rosenthal in the final match, which is a task for any woman.

## WALTER HAGEN AND ALFRED CAMPBELL STOP OFF AT PINEHURST

### Rochester Pro Golfers on Way to Florida—Hagen Displays Good Form.

Pinehurst, N. C., March 10.—Walter C. Hagen, the Country Club of Rochester professional, has just arrived at Pinehurst. Hagen has not played since November but he made the No. 1 course in 74 yesterday forenoon and the championship course in 74 in the afternoon, which is going some for initial performances.

Hagen came down in company with Alfred Campbell, the Oak Hill Country Club professional, and the pair will take on the two best obtainable amateurs to-morrow. Hagen and Campbell are going on to St. Augustine in a few days to play in the East Coast open on the 16th.

From there they will go to Nashville to play in the open tournament on the 22d, and will then come back to Pinehurst to play in the North and South tournament.

## **Golf Tourney On At Country Club**

Members of the Country Club of Rochester will be out and doing on the club links to-day in a handicap tournament. The tourney will be held all day and cups will be awarded to the winners.



## WALTER HAGEN TO LEAVE ROCHESTER

### Pride of Golfers Accepts Position in Detroit.

Walter Hagen, the golfer whose fame is linked with the name of Rochester, is to say good bye to his home town. He has accepted the terms of the Highland Golf Club, of Detroit, and will serve as professional there beginning June 22d. He has been professional at the Country Club of Rochester for four years.

Walter Hagen is often acclaimed as the greatest golfer Rochester has ever produced. He came to the fore when he won the national open championship on the Midlothian Country Club course, in Illinois, August 18 to 25, 1914. Since then he has won the western open championship and the north and south titles, not to mention a dozen tournaments of lesser importance. It has been said of him that he is one of the most consistent golfers who ever lived. When Hagen does not win, usually he is not out of the money. His average from year to year is probably better than that of any man who swings a club to-day.

Hagen's quality as a golfer is attributable, it may be said, to Rochester production. He began as a caddy at the Country Club and after he had served a term as caddy master he became the professional there. His first considerable tournament was at Brookline, Mass., the year that Francis Ouimet won his notable victory over Harry Vardon and Ed Wray, of England.

Walter Hagen, who is 24 years old, is now said to be one of the highest priced professionals in the game.

# Walter Hagen, Golf Prof, Takes \$10,000 Job in Detroit



Walter Hagen, the professional at the Country Club of Rochester, N. Y., and the present metropolitan and North and South champion, has accepted the position of professional at the Highland Golf Club of Detroit and on June 22 will quit his berth at Rochester. Hagen is only 24 years old, but it is said at Detroit that his new position will bring him an income each year close to \$10,000.

Hagen is distinctly a home-bred, having begun his career as a caddy at the Rochester Country Club. After a period as a caddy master he was appointed professional of the club. He came to the front in 1913 in the national open championship, when he finished well up among the leaders. That was the time when Ouimet defeated Vardon and Hay in the play-off. The next year he won the open title of the United States. He is one of the five greatest home-bred golfers of the United States. The other four are James J. McDermott, Ouimet, Chick Evans and Travers.

*New Nine-Hole Course of  
Irondequoit Country Club  
Much to Golfers' Liking*

They've been playing golf for about three weeks now on the new course of the Irondequoit Country Club, and all who have made the nine-hole round are agreed that it measures up to expectations. The course is off East avenue about two miles beyond that of the Country Club of Rochester. It is rolling ground, and the holes were laid out with excellent judgment.

In time the course will consist of eighteen holes, but until the war is ended no move will be made to add to the nine that have been finished. Even the nine would not be in use now if work on the course had not been begun before the United States entered the war. The land was bought about two years ago, and plans for the course and the clubhouse were made at that time. The clubhouse has been built, but because of restrictions imposed by the Fuel Administration it cannot be used this fall except in the most limited way. When the war is out of the way the whole property will be developed to its limit, and the Irondequoit Club will have a plant that will be one of the best.

of the best.

Several outsiders played over the course last week as guests of members of the club, and George Christ, Walter Hagen's successor as professional of the Country Club of Rochester, gave an exhibition that opened the eyes of the gallery to his capabilities as a golfer. There are two long holes among the nine, one of 475 yards

and one of 515 yards. Christ in the course of his rounds got a 4 on each of these long ones, which was better than par. One putt on each green enabled him to pull the low scores.

Two golfers who are not in the "pro" class, but talk as if they were, both old timers, played the course last Monday on invitation of members of the club. They did not make 4's on the long holes.

# Oak Hill Golf Pro Goes to Irondequoit Country Club; Hagen Going South



ALFRED CAMPBELL.



Announcement of new engagements for two professional golfers long identified with the game in this city was made yesterday. Alfred Campbell, for twelve years professional at the Oak Hill Country Club, has resigned to take a similar position with the Irondequoit Country Club. He will take up his work at the Irondequoit course on April 1st.

Walter Hagen, for a number of years professional at the Country Club of Rochester, who is now at the Oakland Hills Country Club, in Detroit, has been engaged to act as professional for the Palmetto Club of Palm Beach during January, February and March. He will come to Rochester about the middle of this month and stay here until the 26th, when he will start for Florida. He will return to Detroit in time for the opening of the golf season there.

Campbell and Hagen are both high-class exponents of the ancient game. The former has given more attention to teaching the game than to tournament play. Campbell, who has for several seasons conducted an indoor golf school during the winter months, will again open his school in the Alliance Bank Building. December 14th has been set for the opening date.

Walter Hagen, who won the national open title five years ago, is without question the greatest golfer ever developed in

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Rochester, for it was in this city that he started to play golf. Hagen played the best golf of his career during the season just closed and it is the opinion of experts that he would again have won the national open championship if this competition had not been omitted because of the war.

Starting with a victory in the North and South open championship at Pinehurst last March, Hagen went through the season without a defeat. In many instances, while playing Red Cross foursomes, he beat the best ball of the other three participants.

Several weeks ago, on the occasion of Hagen's last appearance in Chicago, when paired with "Chick" Evans, the present national titleholder, against Bob MacDonald and Jock Hutchinson, he came through with the remarkable total of 67 for the eighteen holes, and finished 6 up on the best ball of the other three stars.

Hagen followed this performance by setting a record of 66 for the new Bob-o-Link course in Chicago and then returned to Detroit, where he made two 69's and a 70 in a series of three matches.

Speaking of Hagen, Archie Simpson, one of the best golfers ever turned out in Great Britain, said: "I have seen them all including Arden, Braid and Taylor. Aye mon, he's in a class by his'sel."