

# GOLF IN COLLEGES MAKING BIG STRIDES

## Game Has Now Spread Into Practically Every University in the Country,

### YALE PLAYERS HEAD LIST

#### Ten Have Won Titles During Past Seasons—Great Interest in Com- ing Championship.

Intercollegiate golf, which started off modestly enough back in 1897, when L. P. Bayard Jr. of Princeton University won the initial championship, held at Ardsley, has more than kept pace with other divisions of the Royal and Ancient pastime. Not only has it grown to such an extent that its title event is looked upon as one of the important fixtures of the year, but it has spread into practically every university of the country. For many years intercollegiate golf referred only to the members of the Big Three—Harvard, Princeton and Yale. Now it is country-wide in its scope, although the East still maintains its prestige partly by reason of the fact that one of the twenty-seven championships that have been contested since 1897, Harvard, Princeton or Yale has furnished the champion or no less than twenty-three occasions.

During the last few years this spell has been broken, twice when Columbia broke through the mystical ring and once, last year, when a representative of Dartmouth gained the title. Yale heads the list with ten of its sons as past champions, Harvard and Princeton following with seven and six title holders, respectively. But, despite the progress that the game has made elsewhere, in the Middle West with a "Big Ten" group in existence, in the Far West, in the South, in the Missouri Valley, chief interest this year again centres on the members of the Big Three. For at each one of these universities is enrolled one of the outstanding figures of the world of amateur golf.

At New Haven, there is—or was until he left with the Walker Cup team which will compete abroad in the British amateur championship and in defense of the international trophy—Jesse W. Sweetser, former intercollegiate champion and present holder of the national amateur and the metropolitan amateur championships. At Princeton there is Rudy Knepper, Iowa and Trans-Mississippi champion, who furnished some of the thrills at Brookline when he disposed of two of the most formidable of the British invaders—Torrance and Tolley. At Harvard, enrolled as a freshman in the law school, is Bobby Jones, formerly of Georgia Tech, regarded by many golf critics, British as well as American, as being the foremost player in the world today—a boy just turned 21, who has already been runner-up in the national amateur and who tied with John Black, Pacific Coast veteran, for second place in last year's open championship, a stroke back of the winner, Gene Sarazen.

#### Much Interest in Coming Events.

With this array of headliners it is little wonder, then, that the golf world is looking forward to the coming intercollegiate individual championship with more than ordinary interest. It is expected that the event will turn out to be a little "national" in itself. Of course, the recent deflection of Sweetser (the Yale faculty in granting Sweetser a leave of absence for the trip to England specified that he would not be allowed to compete in the intercollegiate event) took away some of the glamor from the meeting which will be held at the Swanoy Country Club, Mount Vernon, N. Y., from June 27 to 30, but there are still enough notables left to fill the vacancy.

There is no question concerning Knopper's entry. Rudy was sorely disappointed last year at Garden City when he was unexpectedly beaten out of a championship by George B. Secor of Williams in the round before the semifinal. He is now a senior at Princeton, and, since it will be his final fling at the championship, he can be expected to make a desperate try for the honor. Strong efforts were made to induce the Nassau captain to join the Walker Cup expedition, but, much as he would have liked to have been a member of the party, his going was made impossible by the fact that it would interfere with his graduation duties.

Jones was in practically the same situation so far as the trip was concerned. Although just starting his law work at Cambridge, his absence from classes for the time required for the journey to and from England would have meant the loss of a semester's work—a sacrifice that Bobby did not feel able to make, since he is anxious to launch into a professional career. So Jones, like Knopper, has decided to remain at home rather than have his future plans set topsy-turvy. There is still some question about his participation in the intercollegiate classic, although Sweetser, previous to his decision to join the team, stated that so far as he knew there was nothing in the rules governing the intercollegiate association that would prevent the Southerner from taking part in the individual championship.

#### Many Promising Players.

The fact that three such players are enrolled as undergraduates is indicative of the hold that golf has taken on the younger generation and sufficient answer to the fast-disappearing indictment of golf as "an old man's game." For there never was a time in the history of the game that so many high lights as well as promising young players were to be found in intercollegiate ranks as the present, and never a time when so many institutions of learning were leaning so strongly toward the game.

This, as stated before, applies not only to the East but to East and West, North and South. One reads of a steadily increasing interest at the University of California and at Stanford University on the Pacific Coast; there is more and more stress being laid on golf in the "Big Ten," and in other universities and colleges in the mid-west where, a few years ago, Drake University was the sole representative of that college-studded section. In the South no longer is Georgia Tech the solitary institution that boasts of a golf team. So great has interest in golf grown in the colleges of New York State alone that this year an intercollegiate State championship tournament will be held at Syracuse on May 4-5.

Indeed, the prediction is made, based upon a start already made in that direction, that within a few years almost every institution of learning in the entire land will have its own golf course for students and members of the faculty.

Golf received a great impetus, along with tennis, when the Yale athletic authorities recently voted to award a major "Y" to any Eli winning the national amateur title, the first to receive that unusual honor being Sweetser. A few years ago when intercollegiate golf was in its infancy, such an action would have brought a roar of protest from men who had won their letters through the more heroic channels of the football field or the more arduous labors of tugging on a wooden oar for an entire season.

#### Mudge's Prospects Bright.

In looking for this year's intercollegiate champion, it is essential that one go farther than the Princeton and Harvard representatives already mentioned. At Princeton, for example, there is the western junior runner-up, Burton Mudge, Captain of last year's Tiger cubs, who is now eligible for varsity competition, a golfer possessed of unusual talent. Others on whom Old Nassau will entrust its golfing fate are Preston Moore, E. S. Smith, Donald Cresswell, S. Shannon and B. Sparks, all of whom were on last year's varsity

squad. The Tigers have arranged a novel competition for places on the team, Captain Knepper has ranked his men in order of their last year's performances, but any golfer not named is eligible to challenge the bottom man and work up the list, the team for each match being determined on the basis of this ranking and the results of the challenge matches.

Jones, even though he is declared eligible for the individual championship, will not be able to play in the team matches during the season, so Harvard will have to pin its hopes on others lacking the national reputation of Bobby, but golfers of more than passing note. Two of the most promising Harvard candidates are in the fire of doubt at present. Clark Hodder, who was a member of the Crimson team a year ago, is out for baseball this season and his work on the diamond will prevent his devoting more than passing thoughts to golf. Roger Phillips, another veteran, is out of it.

Harvard, however, has attracted to its ranks, two youngsters who have already arrived at fame. Both of them are metropolitan golfers. One is Charles L. Pierson, Jr., holder of the metropolitan junior title, and the other is Charles Mapes of Baltusrol. Pierson is regarded as a youth who is well advanced on his way to fame. He is possessed of a well-knit frame and hits the ball a long way down the course and generally straight. In addition he plays his irons well and is an exceptionally good putter. With a well-rounded game and a smooth, natural style that makes for consistency in golf, Pierson is expected to give any of the college golfers of the present day a hard struggle. Mapes, the golf manager, was unable to devote his time to the game last season when he was a candidate for the football manager's berth, but he is a player with earmarks of a most promising golfer. The crimson captain, David A. Williams of Philadelphia, is not a hitter of the slugging type, but has a steady game which makes him a worthy adversary even for those who may be more brilliant than he. A fourth member of the team is R. M. Clough, who has been making steady progress for the last three years.

With Sweetser gone, Yale's chance of victory in the individual championship has been hard hit, but there is at New Haven the nucleus of a well-rounded team for the team matches which will be contested during the next two months. Just at present the three most promising candidates for the team are L. G. (Laddie) McMahon, a former holder of the metropolitan junior championship; Nathaniel T. Lovell, who was on the team last year, and Dexter Cummings, a young brother of Miss Edith Cummings, one of the outstanding stars of the women's golf world. Young Cummings, in addition to being a tremendous hitter, is possessed of a solid game, and has won many honors in the Chicago district, where he makes his home.

#### Williams Pair Strong.

Williams, which has been a decided factor in years gone by, will again have a powerful duo to send into the lists in Captain J. C. Ward, who is President of the Intercollegiate Golf Association, and Ira L. Cutch of Chicago, the latter being hailed as one of the most brilliant of the youngsters who are crowding the footsteps of Sweetser, Jones and Knopper: Young Cutch was the winner of the Chicago district title last year. Ward is a veteran campaigner. Two years ago he led the qualifying field in the Iowa State championship and last year gave Knopper the hardest battle that the Tiger had on his way to the title, losing only after nineteen holes of play.

Dartmouth has been handicapped not a little by the lateness of the season at Hanover but the outlook is considered unusually bright for the Green in spite of the graduation of A. Pollock Boyd of Chattanooga, last year's intercollegiate champion, who later won the Tennessee title. The team is headed by Frank Sheehy, a veteran. Other promising candidates are Ted Learnard of Newton, Mass., who was goal-tender on the Green hockey team this past season; George McKee, W. H. Taft Jr., Richard Henry and Fred Dale. McKee is the Vermont amateur champion while Taft is a New Jersey district player who last year defeated Sheehy in the Dartmouth championship and who made a fine showing in the intercollegiate at Garden City. Henry, while in addition to holding the club championship at Beaver Meadow Golf Club, performed ably in the New Hampshire State championship.

The University of Pennsylvania will again be led by a New York boy, Thomas J. Conte of Mount Vernon, who gave proof of his ability on more than one occasion last season.