

REMARKABLE GOLF BY THE YOUNGSTERS

BY E. A. DENHAM

Following in the footsteps of their fathers and often overtaking and passing them, some of the youngsters at Pinehurst are playing golf that is not only remarkable for boys so young, but would bear comparison with the average rounds of the average adult golfer.

John S. Chapman, thirteen-year-old son of John D. Chapman of Greenwich, won a new niblick this week—a club that had been promised him by his father contingent upon his breaking 50 for the first 9 holes of the difficult Number Three course. John finished with a 49 the other day with everything holed out, and annexed the niblick.

A 49 for nine holes does not sound impressive, even for a difficult course, until one looks up the records and finds that out of 319 grown-up-golfers and near-golfers playing in the annual Spring tournament last year, less than one-third went over the Number Three course under the 100 mark in the qualifying round.

Young Dunlap, who is twelve years old, won the qualifying medal in the Junior Tournament recently played over the first 9 holes of the Number Three course and then proceeded to plow his way through to the final round, where he annexed the trophy and incidentally achieved a 46 for the 9 holes. Later on, he played the last 9 holes — the most difficult golfing stretch in all of Pinehurst — in a 47 which gave him a total, although an unconnected one, of 93 for the full course. This is the best that has ever been done among the boys, for the 18 holes.

The most remarkable youngster of them all, however, is Forbes Wilson, who celebrated his eleventh birthday on February 13th. Forbes plays with the finished grace and forceful ease of a life-sized professional golfer, and gets surprising distance, too, for a boy of his years. He reaches the greens easily enough on his drives for most of the short holes and playing in a 'match' with the elder Chapman the other day, he was near the first green, 353 yards, uphill, in 2, and won the hole with an easy 4 to Chapman's lamentable 6.



Pinehurst Home of Mr. Henry Hornblower

Willie O'Brien, son of Pat O'Brien of the Detroit Golf Club and only 11 years old, two years younger than the Chapman boy, registered a 49 on the relatively easy Number One course the other day although he has not yet got down to the 50 mark on Number Three.

Clarence Edson, age 12, has a 52 on Number One to his credit, and a 56 on Course Three.

Walter Swoope, 12-year-old boy of H. B. Swoope of Madera, Pa., disposed of 9 holes on Course 1 recently in 46, and his brother Billy, two years older, went the distance on the same course in 48.

Billy North of Winnetka, Ill., age 9 and the infant of the bunch of coming champions, won his way to full membership in the inner circle, this week, by breaking 60 (on the Number One course) for the first time in his strenuous golfing career, and is willing to risk his reputation on his ability to get under the 100 mark for the whole 18 holes by the time he is a senior of 11 or so.

George T. Dunlap, Jr., of Plainfield, N. J., and Forbes Wilson, son of Willie Wilson, Donald Ross' first lieutenant, are the stars of the youthful aggregation.

The youngster has played both halves of the Number Three course under 50, although not in quite such low figures as young Dunlap. And on February 12th, when he was still only 10 years old, he completed the circuit in one fell swoop in 46-51-97.

A little over a year ago, when Forbes was 9 years old and just beginning to hit his stride, Papa Wilson challenged him to a match on the championship course. Forbes was allowed a patronizing handicap of a stroke on the short holes and two strokes on the long ones.

Wilson, Sr., took life easy for the first few holes so as not to discourage the boy and presently he found himself 4 down. Then Willie began to play his regular professional game. He finished the rest of the round in par figures, but Forbes stayed right with him, and his father, who was never able to recover all of the four lost holes, finally went down to ignominious defeat on the home green. The story drifted over to Scotland eventually and Willie has been hearing from his old cronies about it ever since.



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