

# The PINEHURST OUTLOOK

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## Another Champion Retains His Title

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TWO brilliant starting rounds which gave him a four-stroke lead over his nearest rival, plus the ability to force his game beyond its natural inclinations, enabled Walter Hagen to successfully defend his North and South championship at Pinehurst last week. The peerless Walter travelled over the 72-holes of play in 283 strokes, six less than he had in the 1923 championship which at that time established a new record for the Pinehurst classic.

In gaining the title for the third time, Hagen accomplished a task quite beyond the ordinary for in the field against him this

year were not only the cream of America's salaried brigade but also the two British stars, Arthur Havers, open champion of John Bull's kingdom, and James Ockenden, holder of the French open crown.

As was the case last year Cyril Walker, of Englewood, finished in second place by dint of a wonderful sprint made in the final day when he turned in a 70 and a 71 on the exacting No. 2 championship course. This was the best set of figures made by any of the competitors and elevated the New Jersey professional into the runner-up position with a total of 285.

MacDonald Smith, of San Francisco, and Johnny Farrell, of Quaker Ridge, respective California and Florida West Coast open champions, tied for third place with 286. Jock Hutchison, of Glen View, Western open champion, was fifth with 291; Jim Barnes, former Pelham professional, and wee Freddie McLeod, of the Columbia Country Club, Washington, were tied for sixth with 292. Eighth place went to Gene Sarazen, of Briarcliff Lodge, P. G. A. champion, with 293. Joe Kirkwood, newly appointed professional at the Rockwood Hall club in the metropolitan district, was ninth with 296 while the last to finish in the money were Henry Ciuci, eighteen-year-old professional who learned his game as a caddie on the links around Rye, N. Y., and Tom Boyd, of Fox Hills, who had 297 each.

The first two rounds, played on No. 3, left Hagen four shots ahead of Hutchison, five ahead of Barnes, seven ahead of Farrell and Smith and eight ahead of Walker, Kirkwood and Alex Ross. During those two sorties, Hagen made the game appear ridiculously easy as he proceeded jauntily to click off his pars and birdies.



Walter Hagen, who successfully defended his title as Open North and South Champion.

Sufficient proof of his marksmanship is seen by a glance at his cards which showed only one 5 and one 6 for the thirty-six hole rout, the 6 coming at the last hole when he hooked into the woods. Twenty-three 4's and eleven 3's made up the balance of his card which, with the par of the course, follows:

PAR—  
Out ..444 433 454—35  
In ...445 434 354—36—71

### MORNING ROUND

HAGEN—  
Out ..445 433 443—34  
In ...444 334 444—34—68

### AFTERNOON ROUND

Out ..433 433 444—32  
In ...443 434 446—36—68

But whereas he was in a relentless scoring mood on the opening day when pars and birdies came without effort for him, there was quite a different situation confronting Hagen on the final day's test. He had to struggle throughout the two concluding rounds, fighting desperately for everything he got, one minute threatening to crack and the next producing some masterful effort to avert disaster.

For the third round Hagen required a 74 which enabled Walker, Farrell and Smith, each of whom turned in 70's, to pick up four strokes on him and to throw a decidedly different light on things. Hutchison, who was paired with Hagen, picked up two strokes and started the last round only two shots in arrears.

By the time that the ninth hole was reached in the final round, the only ones that Hagen had to think about were Smith, Farrell and Walker, for Hutchison had taken a 39 and Barnes was well out of it with a 42.

Smith, playing just ahead, went out in 37 and, therefore lost a stroke more to Hagen, thanks to Walter's birdie 3 at the ninth when a 5 looked more than likely after he had played his tee shot. Walker and Farrell, playing behind, were not setting the world on fire, although they were holding on grimly and were in a position to take advantage of the slightest slip-up on Hagen's part.

Two crises came to Hagen on the final round and the manner in which he solved them are interesting in that they show why he is paramount in tournament golf. The first of these came at the 385-yard ninth hole where, as stated before, his drive reached a trap only a few yards short of the green. From where his ball