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## North and South Amateur Championship

(W. D. RICHARDSON)

UNWILLINGNESS to let well enough alone probably cost B. P. Merriman, of Waterbury, Conn., the 1921 champion, an opportunity to gain his second victory in the North and South amateur championship. Playing against Fred W. Knight, of Whitmarsh Valley, Philadelphia, in the final, Merriman, through some miraculous approaching and putting, was 3 up with only eight holes left to play and apparently headed for a certain victory when he elected to gamble with fate. He lost and thereafter his fortunes turned on him and he lost by 1 up.

Four up against Knight at the finish of the first eighteen holes of play after losing the first three, Merriman was still 3 up at the turn in the afternoon. At the eleventh hole of that round and the twenty-ninth of the match, Knight, with the better drive, pulled his second shot off to the left of the green, played an approach up to within

two feet of the hole and then ingloriously missed the putt, his ball hanging on the lip of the cup and directly in Merriman's line.

The Connecticut player's ball was lying stone dead for a 4 and, although the stymie prevented a win, he had two putts left for a half which would have left him still 3 up with seven holes to play—a situation that most golfers would have been content with. Merriman wasn't, however, and elected to take a chance of cutting his putt into the hole.

The venture proved to be a costly one for he knocked Knight's ball into the hole, giving the Philadelphian a win and making the difference between them only two holes. That Merriman's attempt was hardly worth the candle was proved by subsequent events.

The "break" restored Knight's fast-waning courage and he proceeded to square the match two holes later and forge ahead at the thirty-third hole, never to be headed thereafter.

They were both in traps at the No. 12 hole but Knight reached the sand on his third while Merriman took another stroke to get on the green. He then putted ten feet past the hole and rimmed the cup on his fifth, giving Knight the hole, 5 to 6.

Knight was in a shakey place after his drive going to the No. 13 for he was too far off to the left with a long risky second to get home. He brought off a superb stroke, however, and then holed a fifteen-foot putt for a birdie 3, squaring the match. The Philadelphian should have won the next hole but missed a yard putt after a great recovery from a trap and an equally great approach.

The short No. 15 hole decided the match. Neither got the green off the tee, but after Knight ran his approach up to two feet, Mer-



Fred W. Knight, of Philadelphia, who staged a most remarkable rally in the final round and won the North and South Championship after being 4 down at the end of the first eighteen holes.

riman laid himself a stymie which cost him the hole, 3 to 4. Knight had to make a great recovery from the rough to save his half on the thirty-fourth while Merriman lost an opportunity at the next hole when he trapped himself off the tee and was too strong on his recovery. The home hole was halved in 5's.

The cards:

### MORNING ROUND

Out—			
Knight	. . .545	365	464—42
Merriman	.656	354	354—41
In—			
Knight	. . .455	454	554—41—83
Merriman	.454	444	544—38—79

### AFTERNOON ROUND

Out—			
Knight	. . .555	345	364—40
Merriman	.564	455	354—41
In—			
Knight	. . .445	353	545—38—78
Merriman	.456	454	545—42—83

Knight's victory was his fifth of the present winter season in the South.

His play in the early rounds in which he defeated Donald Parson, of Youngstown, 6 and 5, and T. Russell Brown, of Lake Champlain, 5 and 4, stamped him as a likely winner but he had to make a great uphill fight to arrest a victory in the semi-final against P. S. P. Randolph, Jr., of Point Judith, R. I. This watch was a thriller from the beginning to the end which came on the nineteenth hole.

Randolph was 2 up on Knight at the turn and by laying the Whitmarsh golfer a stymie on the fifteenth became dormie 3. Knight then won the sixteenth with a 4, Randolph requiring a 5 as a result of being trapped. Knight also won the seventeenth with a birdie 2 and the home hole, 4 to 5, holing a four-foot putt while Randolph missed one that was not much longer.

A five approach gave Knight the match with a birdie 4 at the extra hole where Randolph dubbed an approach putt.

The victory of the Philadelphian was a fitting one for no more courageous fight was ever made in any golf match than his against Merriman. It was a victory that called for steady nerves and a courageous heart and Knight demonstrated that he had both. His putting in the final round against Merriman was miserable for he was never up to the hole and missed countless little efforts of a yard and less.

In the opening rounds, Merriman defeated H. V. Garrity, of Asbury Park, 2 and 1, and Joe Bydolek, of Buffalo, 3 and 2. His opponent, in the semi-final was W. C. Fownes, Jr., of Oakmont, former national amateur champion, whom he defeated 2 and 1.