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## Annual St. Valentine's Tournament

(BY BURT HOXIE)

**M**EDALIST as well as winner in match play was the unusual, as well as great fortune which crossed the path of A. M. Hoxie, of Boston, in the Annual St. Valentine's tournament last week. No jinx was attached to the best card and pencil shooter as is very often the case. With a card of 75 he won the gold medal with a single shot to spare, following which four stiff rounds of match play were necessary to cash in on the President's Trophy.

P. S. P. Randolph, Jr., of the Point Judith Club, was the runner-up, this being the second instance this season where he has just fallen shy of the main laurels. The thin margin of one hole separated him from victory, though throughout the majority of the finals his cause looked unusually bright. Before passing on to the rather exciting transpirings in the real show down, it is apropos to refer to the fortunes of the finalists' previous matches. Hoxie eliminated in turn, W. G. Schaff, of New York, 3 and 1; H. J. Blue, of Aberdeen, 3 and 2, and P. W. Whittemore 2 and 1. The third victory created quite a surprise as Whittemore was acknowledged to be the best of any in the field. But he suffered a let down when nearing the wire, leading the majority of the way, but found himself unable to get back to normal when the skidding was on its way.

Randolph's first two matches were nip and tuck. D. G. Herring, of Princeton, N. J., carried him to the home green, the score being 2 up, following which F. T. Keating, of Pinehurst, participated in a match which was decided by the final putt on the home green. Keating's showing was somewhat of a surprise considering his mediocre tee shots. But he made up for this by his deadly accuracy around and upon the sand; and but for Randolph's dropping a long putt, extra holes would have followed.

Joseph Hotchkiss, of New Haven, was the third to attempt to give Randolph a battle. But "Joe" and the gallery were disappointed. The New Haven golfer slipped away from his usual speed, and was beaten 3 and 2.

The final round was probably the best golf that followers have seen here this season. Not that the golf was particularly brilliant by either, but rather due to the fact that Hoxie staged a comeback when apparently hopelessly beaten. Though a

leader at the start, two up at the third in fact, the advantage soon slipped away, so that when the battle was half over Randolph was leading by 1 up, out in 38 to Hoxie's 39. Randolph played steady golf and soon stood in the comfortable position of being three up at the thirteenth hole. Hoxie's drives were off line, his putts shy, and little in his golf kit was working well. After the long fourteenth was halved in birdie fours, with Randolph three up and four to go, the hand-writing seemed to be on the wall. But at this point Hoxie recovered his equilibrium and Randolph lost his. Both hooked to a trap on the fifteenth but Randolph had no success in dislodging his ball from the hazard, and finally conceded the hole when Hoxie blasted to the green on his second. On the long sixteenth both players were well down the fairway with their drives, Randolph having the advantage in distance. Hoxie needed a full wood to get home, and so successfully did the shot come off that a six-foot putt was left for a 3. Randolph hooked his second about hole high, was short on his third, and dropped another hole when Hoxie obtained an easy four. The short seventeenth was where Lady Luck favored the winner. From the edge of the green Hoxie holed out for a deuce, and Randolph's par three was of no use. All even they now stood, Hoxie having won three in a row with one hole to go. Hoxie's drive here was half missed and in the rough. And his second went hardly more than a hundred yards. From the edge of the rough he elected to play safe and mashed his way down the fairway with a short pitch left for his third. Hoxie had to resort to the wood and duplicated his effort on the sixteenth, the ball just failing to make the sand.

Matters finally came down to who could hole a six-foot putt. Hoxie did, Randolph didn't, and offered his congratulations. Both scored 78's.

The summary:

First round—T. R. Brown defeated H. O. Christ, 4 and 3; P. W. Whittemore defeated H. H. Rackham, 6 and 5; H. J. Blue defeated J. Weller, 6 and 5; A. M. Hoxie defeated W. G. Schaff, 3 and 1; F. T. Keating defeated E. dePlague, 1 up; P. S. P. Randolph, Jr., defeated D. G. Herring, 2 up; J. D.

(Continued on page 10)

