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OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

BY SANDY McNIBLICK

The grand links carnival of the sum-
mer season up North is not advertised as
such but it's going to be a high-falutin'
fete, nevertheless.

We refer to the succession of dates as
announced for the open golf champion-
ship of these United States, the Philadel-
phia open and the Metropolitan open
championship. This attractive cluster of
events for the professionals will be
played within the short space of eleven
days on courses almost in a line, five
hours between the extremities.

Rather of a progressive party it ought
to be, from Columbia to Pine Valley to
Siwanoy.

The dates as announced are: U. S.
Open, Columbia, Washington, D. C., July
18 to 21; Philadelphia open, Pine Valley,
July 22 to 23; and Metropolitan open,
Siwanoy, July 26-27-28.

The class of the field in the American
open last year at Inverness was about
the best the event had ever seen. But all
these players, except Harry Vardon,
have given no reason to believe they will
not be seen in the tussel at Columbia this
year, and there will be added starters in
the person of George Duncan, British
open champion, and Abe Mitchell, British
P. G. A. king, who will add considerable
percentage of zip and international flav-
or.

Americans will be called on to battle
as seldom before to defend their own tit-
le, now held by Ted Ray, the herculean
and highly ornamental Briton. Ray will
defend. That alone will make the Yank-
ees step. Add Duncan and Mitchell and
you add a-plenty.

The golf army of Uncle Sam will line
up about as last year with Barnes, Hutch-
inson and Hagen leading to the assault
for the professionals; Evans, Ouimet and
Jones probably for the amateurs.

But in the all-star line-up there is one
player who cannot be overlooked, both
for past accomplishments, and present
knowledge of the course where the event
will be played.

All of which introduces Freddy Mc-
Leod, the Tom Thumb of the pros, and
known particularly to regular Pinehurs-
tians. One reason for this is that McLeod
captured the North and South last year
from the field, one of the fastest that
ever competed for the title. It has been
said that McLeod only carried a gallery
of one through all four rounds. Few
gave him a chance against the redoubt-
able Hagen and only a handful stayed
with him on his last round. But he was
the "most pointed at" man at Pinehurst
after the event.

Consider his chances at Columbia in
the U. S. open this year. The diminutive
pro may not be able to sock them off the
tee the way some of the others will but
he wields a wicked mashie, and all this
little veteran's experience will stand him
in good stead.

Not a shot will develop for him which
he has not negotiated many times before
and he will have the confidence which
strengthens those who battle on the home
loam. For McLeod is the pro at Colum-
bia and knows its every blade of grass.
Turn back the page of history and see

what that meant for Dave Herron at
Oakmont in 1919.

Columbia is one of those courses a
golfer must know something about in
order to score. It is a great test of golf.
Not even a Ray or a Hagen is going to
step right up to the first tee and spin a
70 the first time out. It simply isn't be-
ing done at Columbia.

Don't make a mistake. Freddy Mc-
Leod will take a lot of beating in the
next American open championship.

At any rate his game will be a vivid
attraction at Pinehurst during the open
championship this season. Now that
Walter Hagen no longer holds the na-
tional title it looks as though the field
this year would get away to an even
start in such friendly betting as there
always is.

Jock Hutchinson, P. G. A. and western
champion, is now playing his native
heather in Scotland but has sent word
that he will return in time to play in
the major southern events. If he strikes
Pinehurst, the presence of this hectic
Scot should be felt. Jock's play last
year ranked him virtually at the top of
the professional ranks. He didn't play
at Pinehurst last season so it's a cinch
his trail will be taken up by a lot of
fans, if Hutchinson enters for the North
and South.

Last year it was Hagen, Barnes, French
in the order mentioned. None of these
three outstanding favorites won. Wonder
what it'll be this year?

**HEYDLER'S TOUGH LUCK
AND TAYLOR'S NEW
GOLF INSULT**

BY E. A. DENHAM

John A. Heydler, President of the
National Baseball League, arrived a few
days ago and has entered for the Spring
Golf Tournament. Heydler has about as
much use for baseball when he is down
here as Senator Harding has for politics
when he is paying Pinehurst a visit, and
attempts made to draw Heydler out on
the pending conspiracy trials were about
as successful as the baseball president's
last qualifying round at Pinehurst.

It rained hard on the day set for that
round but Heydler, who was playing the
best golf of his career, stuck it out to
the end and brought in a card five strokes
lower than he had ever made before.
Going up to the score table, he was con-
fronted by a placard announcing post-
ponement of the round! Father Sheedy,
who had played around with him and at-
tested the card, retired to a discreet dis-
tance while Heydler told the world what
he thought about the situation.

After he had recovered from the shock,
Heydler said it reminded him of his first
and only home run, made in a game
played at Washington many years ago.
Rain came down in torrents just after
he had completed the circuit. The game
was called, scores went back to the last
even innings and Heydler's first, last
and only home-run went into the discard.

"And what is that lad of yours to be
when he grows up?"

"I rather fancy he'll be a golf caddy."
"Really!"

"Yes. The last tanning I gave him
he turned round and told me I wasn't
holding the stick the right way."—Ex.



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