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Hotchkiss Leads the Qualifiers

By E. ELLSWORTH GILES

THE twenty-second annual St. Valentine's tournament, which started on Monday last, brought out a field of one hundred and fourteen players, all but nine of whom returned cards in the qualifying round, which was an increase of thirty over the entry of a year ago.

With old Sol back on the job and Boreas calm and subdued, the day was quite ideal for scoring, and J. P. Hotchkiss, of New Haven, and T. Russell Brown, of Mallets Bay, Vermont, showed their appreciation of the conditions by going around the No. 2 course in close to par figures.

Hotchkiss took the low score medal with a capital 74, while Brown trailed the Medalist by three strokes, handing in a card of 77.

Hotchkiss started like a house afire, reaching the turn in 34, two strokes under the difficult par, but then he dropped four strokes to the arbitrary Colonel, coming in for a 40 total, and an aggregate of 74, good enough to distance the field.

Hotchkiss and Brown were the only players in the big field to break 80, although Donald Parson, the winner of the recent Mid-January event, and Gardiner White, the Nassau Country Club star, just down from New York, each had four score strokes.

Only one stroke back of White and Parson came that brilliant senior, Col. W. E. Truesdell, of Garden City, which gave

him fifth place in the tournament, and proving afresh that he can give away many, many years and still score with the young men and boys.

SEVEN MEN REPEAT

Seven men who made the first division were also first fighters in the Mid-January, viz: Hotchkiss, Brown, Parson, Truesdell, Austin L. Sands, H. J. Blue and John D. Chapman.

The top score to get a place in the first set was a tie at 90, the same as in the previous tournament.

Almost a stroke a hole separated the medalist from the two last place men, H. J. Blue and the veteran Louis A. Hamilton, Garden City, and yet Blue was in the final of the Mid-January against Parson.

Six qualifying strokes separated the sixteen players in the second division, while there was only a difference of three strokes between the high and the low man in the third flight.

As this is written the tournament has passed through the first match rounds in all divisions.

Here is the medalist's card:

J. P. Hotchkiss:

Out—4 4 3 4 4 4 2 5 4—34

In—5 5 4 5 4 4 4 4 5—40—70

