Miss Virginia Van Wie successfully defended her title as United States Women’s Golf Champion in the recent tournament at the Exmoor Country Club. Against one of the strongest fields that ever contended for the title, she played consistently fine golf from first to last, defeating Miss Enid Wilson, the British Champion, among others, to retain her title.
REPEATING CHAMPION

THERE were so many lessons taught at Exmoor in the Women’s Golf Championship that it is impossible to record them all. One presented was that, in the upper ranks, women’s golf is more consistent than the golf of men. Another was that in the last few years women have improved far more in their standard of play than men have.

And still another was that the best of the women, on given days, are only a stride or so back of the male stars. You may doubt this latter statement, but, if you had seen Virginia Van Wie of Chicago, under heavy pressure, trailing at the time, play the last twelve holes of her match in four under even 4’s—play the last nine holes of battle in thirty-two strokes—you would get a better picture of what took place.

You can figure out the combined consistency and brilliance of the champion when you recall that a year ago she turned in a 73 against Glenna Collett Vare at Salem, an opponent who had crushed her in certain previous matches.

We should get back at this point to two of the features of the championship—

1. The amazing consistency of women’s golf.
2. The amazing improvement that has taken place in their play.

In the way of consistency, with only a few exceptions, the thirty-two qualified who belonged. A sudden shanking fit eliminated Marion Hollins, who might have been dangerous. But the qualification of class was abnormal.

With thirty-two left, the sixteen survivors ran true to form. There wasn’t an upset. With sixteen left, the eight survivors again ran true to form without an upset. It was the march of class all the way through.

In the quarter finals once again form repeated, as such competitors as Charlotte Glutting, Mrs. Opal Hill, Mrs. Leona Cheney and Miss Lucille Robinson fought the last shot—never outclassed—always dangerous and threatening—but lacking in certain elements, either power or experience, to meet the combination of both they had to face.

The four semi-finalists, on form, power, experience and past records should have been Virginia Van Wie, Enid Wilson, Maureen Orcutt and Helen Hicks. And there they were—in their proper frame. This would not be exceptional if golf were a different game. But golf is a game all by itself in this world of sport. It is a game of erratic form, of inconsistency, of off days, of upsets, of unhappy breaks, of sudden turns of fortunes, of freak happenings, of inspirational thrusts and unexpected break downs.

It was also noticeable that in the semi-final scrimmage over Exmoor’s excellent layout, an interesting course in perfect condition, there wasn’t a match where women’s par would have won. The semi-final survivors had to beat par by two or three strokes to knife their ways through.

Mrs. Opal Hill and Mrs. Cheney both beat par and yet were beaten. They made almost no mistakes, but they lacked the power to match their two winning opponents.

Miss Enid Wilson, three times British champion, had started the fireworks, breaking all records for a women’s medal round in the championship with a 76. The tall, strong British girl reached this pinnacle by finishing with two birdies and an eagle, which is fast enough for any man to match. She seemed to have at least an even chance until her game collapsed on the semi-final day against Virginia Van Wie.

It is my opinion that Miss Wilson practised too much. She had a hard workout on Thursday afternoon after a hard match, in which she had played extremely well. But that afternoon she was out hitting shots again for some time.

Miss Wilson disagrees violently with my opinion. “I often practice five hours a day at home,” she said, “and I do it under the advice of experts.”

I also disagree with those experts. Not even a Gene Sarazen or a Bobby Jones could practice five hours a day with any happy results. And neither would attempt any long series of practice shots during a championship when their games were around the peak.

In any event Miss Van Wie kept on beating par as she beat Miss Wilson, and Helen Hicks kept on beating par as she won from Maureen Orcutt, who has never been able to quite organize her really fine game through
MISS HELEN HICKS "STEPS INTO" A TEE SHOT

a championship. She has notable accessories in this respect, among them being MacDonald Smith.

Miss Van Wie’s victory over Miss Helen Hicks was the old triumph of the putter. It was also proof of the championship spirit, for Miss Van Wie was four down at the fourteenth hole in the forenoon where she had to sink a good healthy putt to keep from being five down.

Just as she was about to pass out of the picture, just as the gallery was extending its keen sympathy to a beaten champion, she not only responded with a better long game than she had been using, but with a brilliant short game that told the story.

After all it is the old putting blade that tells most of the winning stories—that fashions most of the golfing crowns. If you can’t putt on that day—you can’t win on that day. The putter has made more champions and cracked more challengers than any one club in the bag. It is still the club that puts the ball into the cup where the final chapter is written on every hole.

Miss Van Wie could putt and Miss Hicks on this day could not, in spite of the very fine golf the Long Island girl played up to the green. The Song of the Putter is probably the sweetest in all golf, especially when one thinks of a championship competition.

Miss Van Wie, the champion of 1932 and the champion of 1933, is the truest of all the disciples of Ernest Jones’ ‘swinging school’ where his main fundamental is ‘swing the club head.’ She began rebuilding her game under his instruction two years ago at Pasa Tiempo, California and the Women’s National. The results speak for themselves.

Beginning on Monday she played through Saturday, a matter of one hundred and ten holes, where she stood something like eight up on par through the week. There is less element of hit or punch in her game than in any other woman star. Her pivoting or body turn is natural and simple. There
Miss Glutting was snapped here at the finish of an iron shot off the tee at the seventh in her match against Miss Wilson. Miss Van Wie was just finishing a brassie shot in her final match against Miss Hicks. Miss Wilson has just finished a pitch on to the eighth hole in her semi-final match against Miss Van Wie.

There was no sign of hurry or rush. There was a time when she would begin to tire before thirty-six holes were finished, but the elimination of tension through her swinging method has ended this weariness which comes largely from too much tightening up.

This championship at Exmoor was replete not only with fine golf but also with the highest type of sporting spirit. There was plenty of the old-fashioned fight, but it was all in the proper mood. Oddly enough the two finalists happen to be the closest of friends. Miss Hicks had been the guest of Miss Van Wie at the latter's home for several weeks before the championship. And strangely enough, though they have taken part in several other championships, this was the first meeting between them in the big hunt.

The tournament was notable for the appearances of many newcomers, most of them youngsters, who are bound to get better with further practice and experience. Miss Aniela Gorczyca of Forth Worth, the Southern Champion, was one of the best in the list of the younger players, and she should be heard from in larger headlines later on. Miss Lucille Robinson of Des Moines, who just shortly before the Exmoor meeting defeated Miss Van Wie in the final match of the Western Championship, is another who appears destined to climb to loftier heights.

Miss Charlotte Glutting, who defeated Miss Wilson in last year's championship at Salem, had already established herself as a most worthy opponent in any company, and her battle (Continued on page 39)
against Miss Wilson at Exmore was further confirmation of her rating. She lost to Mrs. Arends of 2 and 1 in a match in which she was even with par, but the English star was better.

Among the other young ones who showed to fine advantage were Misses June Beebe, Rena Nelson and Helen MacMorr

and Mrs. Ethel Miley of Miami, Miss Mildred Green of Culver City, California, and Miss Edith Begg of Cleveland.

And while commenting on the promising youngsters, it may be just as well to add a brief word of praise on behalf of Mrs. Hill and Mrs. Cheney, both of whom have been knocking at the door of the throne room for the past few years. Both went out in the quarter final round by margins of a single hole. Mrs. Hill losing to Miss Orcutt, and Mrs. Cheney to Miss Van Wie. Mrs. Hill forced Miss Orcutt to turn in a 76 to win, returning a 77 herself. She was three strokes better than Miss Van Wie, and on matching cards was even with par, qualifying for the last round. Six tied for the last place at 87 each, and Mrs. Marion Turpie, New York, 3 and 2; Miss Helen Hicks, New York, defeated Miss Edith Begg, Cleveland, 4 and 3; and Miss Maureen Orcutt, Hartford, N. J., defeated Miss Edith Begg, Cleveland, 3 and 2; Miss Charlotte Glutting, Short Hills, N. J., defeated Miss Helen MacMorr, Chicago, 5 and 3; Mrs. Leona Cheney, Los Angeles, defeated Mrs. Mildred Green, Los Angeles, 5 and 3; Miss Angela Corzetta, Fort Worth, defeated Miss June Beebe, Chicago, 4 and 3; Miss Lucille Robinson, Des Moines, defeated Miss Jane Brooks, N.Y., 4 and 3; Mrs. Harold Highbird, Detroit, defeated Miss Rena Nelson, Chicago, 2 and 1; Miss Peggy Wattles, Buffalo, defeated Miss Ada Mackenzie, Toronto, 4 and 3; Mrs. Hills defeated Miss Edith Begg, Cleveland, 5 and 4; Miss Mildred Green, Los Angeles, 4 and 3; Mrs. O. S. Hill, Wichita, defeated Miss Helen Lawson, New York, 5 and 4; Mrs. Ben Fitzhugh, Vicksburg, defeated Miss Marion Miley, Miami, 2 up; Miss Margaret Maddox, Atlanta, defeated Mrs. Austin Pardee, Winnetka, Ill., 3 and 2.

Second Round—Miss Wilson defeated Mrs. Higbie, 4 and 3; Miss Glutting defeated Miss Watts, 3 and 2; Miss Van Wie defeated Mrs. Federman and Mrs. Cheney defeated Miss Corzetta, 4 and 3; Miss Orcutt defeated Mrs. Newbold, 4 and 3; Mrs. Hill defeated Miss Williams, 4 and 3; Miss Flicks defeated Mrs. Fitzhugh, 4 and 3; Miss Robinson defeated Miss Maddox, 5 and 4.

Third Round—Miss Wilson defeated Miss Chitting, 2 and 1; Miss Van Wie defeated Mrs. Cheney, 1 up; Miss Orcutt defeated Mrs. Hill, 1 up; Miss Helen Hicks defeated Miss Robinson, 4 and 3.

Semi-Final Round—Miss Van Wie defeated Miss Wilson, 6 and 4; Miss Hicks defeated Miss Orcutt, 6 and 4. Final Round—Miss Van Wie defeated Miss Hicks, 4 and 3.