

THE NEW YORK STATE OPEN

A New York State Open started in 1928 with 107 entries at Onondaga Country Club, Syracuse, for state pros only. **Will Klein** of Wheatley Hills came from behind to win with a score of 74-71-76-72-293. **Bob McDonald** of Transit Valley CC, East Amherst, led by five shots after 54 holes but ballooned to 790 on the last day to lose by a shot. **Walter Hagen** of Rochester, the favorite, took himself out of contention with a 79 opening round and tied for third at 295.

The 1929 Open preceded the U.S. Open at Winged Foot and drew a classy field for the over \$1000 purse at Westchester-Biltmore CC, Rye. Entries included **Johnny Farrell**, U.S. Open champion; **Billie Burke**, Joe Turnesa, **Bobby Cruikshank**, **Harry Cooper**, **Gene Sarazen**, **Herman Barron**, **McDonald Smith**, **Tony Manero** and defending champion Klein.

Burke was the winner shooting 68-72-73-74-287 or one under par. **George Christ**, a Rochester club pro, trailed by four shots (291) in second and **Henry Ciuci** of Mill River was third at 292. **Augie Nordone**, the long-time Syracuse pro, shot the low round of the tournament, a 67.

The tournament moved to Great Meadow CC, Harrison, in 1930 with Farrell claiming the title with a 68-73-74-73-288 score to edge the defending champion Burke at 291. **Wiffy Cox** of Marine Field was second at 290. **Maurice McCarthy** of Green Meadow CC, the 1929 state amateur champ, tied Farrell for the low round of 68.

Without a sponsor and a depleted treasury, the state association voted at its winter meeting December 11, 1930,

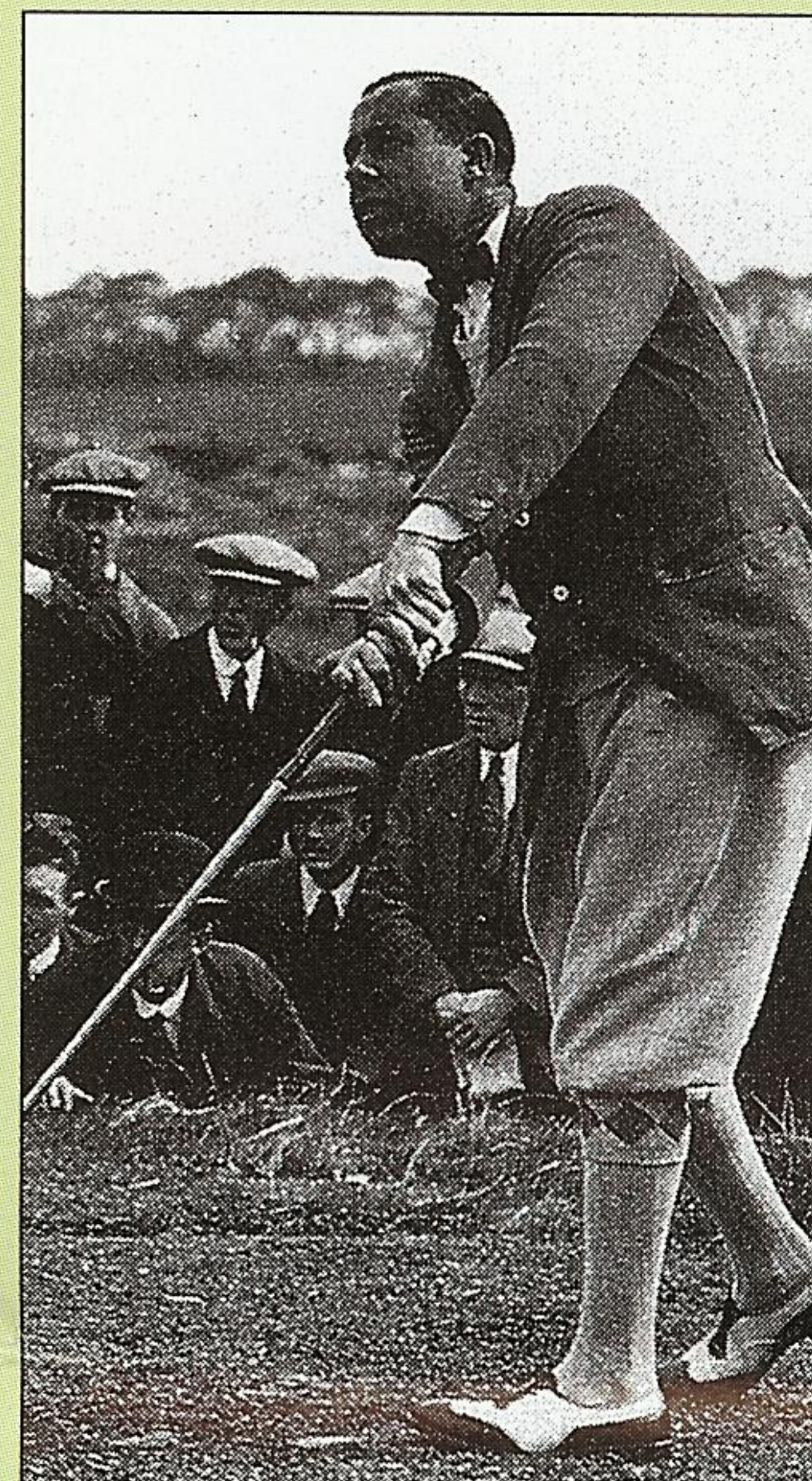
to drop the Open but provided prizes for the Western, Central and Eastern New York Opens, added a junior boys tournament and made an appropriation to the green section at the Cornell University School of Agriculture. The Open did not resume until 1978 under different auspices.

Added to the Board of Directors were: **L.G. Spindler**, Westchester CC; **W.J. Webster**, Mohawk CC, Schenectady; **W.I. Hamilton** and **L.G. Chaping**, Rochester; **T.C. Fogel**, Rye; **E.E. Wyman**, St. Andrews; **W.D. Richardson**, North Hempstead; **Frank Craven**, Lakeville; **Lester Palmer** and **Milton Bowman**, New York City, and **Wesley Oler**, Rye.

Treasurer McCrea reported a balance of \$947.09.

Directors added in 1934 were **Jack Ahern** of Buffalo, **William Popp** of Albany and **William Stark** of Syracuse, succeeding **John Nash**, a founding director.

The association had joined the USGA in 1929 in forbidding the payment of expenses of teams representing state and sectional associations in national tournaments.



Walter Hagen

This is one of a series on the history of the New York State Golf Association taken from the manuscript "The 20th Century NYSGA", written by Frederick W. Box, NYSGA Historian.

NYSGA History: Chapter 3

The first repeat champion was crowned in 1930 when Jack Mackie Jr. of Inwood, the 1925 winner, was successful at the Lakeville CC, Great Neck, a par 73 layout of 6,512 yards.

Eddie Driggs of Cherry Valley, the 1923 winner, and Bobby Moffett of Maidstone CC, the Metropolitan Junior Champion, led the 130 entries with two-under-par 71's in the qualifying round. Lurking close behind at 73 was Al Brodbeck, 1926 champ; Maurice McCarthy, defending champion, at 74; Mackie and Arthur Yates, the 1927 titlist, at 75, along with Richard A. Jones Jr. of Rye. It required an 80 to make the championship flight.

Mackie didn't have to face any of the former champions on his way to the title. His log included: Moffett, 5 and 4; P. Boyer, 6 and 4; E.F. Carter, Sands Point, 2 and 1;

Tommy Tailer, Cherry Valley, 1 up; and finally Pennington Miller-Jones, Green Meadow, 1 up.

Driggs went out in the second round, McCarthy lost to Carter in the second round and Miller-Jones dropped Yates 4 and 2 to reach the finals.

The Inwood golfer and Miller-Jones were even after the morning 18 but Mackie gained a 2up lead at 27 and was still 2 up with three holes to play. Jack hooked his drives on holes 34 and 35 and lost both. It took a 20-foot birdie putt on 36 to pull out the victory.

Mackie made a strong effort to retain the title in 1931 at Oak Hill, Rochester, but couldn't cope with Phil Perkins of Fox Hills,

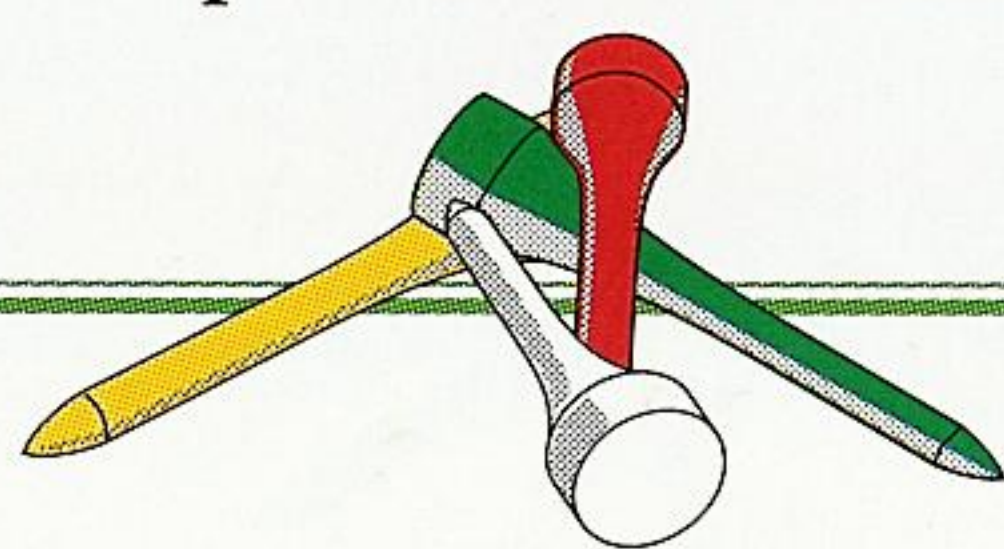
a former British Amateur victor, in the final 5 and 4.

Albert Hakes of Dunkirk led the over 150 qualifiers with an even par 72 with Ducky Yates of the home club and 1927 champion next with a 74.

Perkins defeated four upstate players on his way to the finals: Charles Mansfield, Buffalo, 8 and 7; H.L. Crittenden, Rochester, 7 and 6; Lyndon Wilson, Buffalo, 3 and 2, and Jack Ahern of Hamburg, 1 up.

Against Mackie he trailed only once, at the fourth hole, and was 1 up at 18. Perkins out-drove Jack by wide margins despite an out-of-bounds on 22. He recovered to shoot a 35 going out and ended it at 32, 5 and 4.

A rare double was accomplished in 1932 when Tommy Goodwin, 19, of Winged Foot



GC, Mamaroneck, added the State Amateur to his Junior title at the Niagara Falls CC. It was the first and only time this was recorded. The Junior event permitted players up to 21 at that time and it was lowered to 18 later. Goodwin also was the Metropolitan junior winner that year.

Goodwin, who would capture the state Men's Amateur crown four times in a brilliant career, qualified with a 74. The medalist was Maurice McCarthy Jr., Mt. Vernon, the 1929 champion, at 70 followed by Bob Wright, Syracuse, and H.H. Newton, New York City, at 72 and 1927 winner Yates of Rochester at 73.

McCarthy lost to Duane Tower of the host club 2-1, while Yates yielded to Jack Ahern of Hamburg 4 and 3 in the second round.

Goodwin defeated: John Bartlett, Niagara Falls, 8 and 7; Joe Bydolek, Buffalo, 3 and 1; John Ryerson, Cooperstown, 6 and 5; Leo Shea, Buffalo, 1 up and Paul Hyde, Buffalo, 38 holes.

In his match with Shea the eventual champion was three down at nine with 40 strokes and had to shoot three birdies on the last four holes and a 36 to advance.

Hyde, 44, was 3 up at 18 shooting a 70 to Goodwin's 72 and was dormie at 34 after a birdie. But Tommy answered with birdies at 35 and 36 to send the match into extra holes. Goodwin shot a 70 to Hyde's 74 in the afternoon. They halved 37 and Goodwin sank a 35-foot putt for birdie on 38 to win.

Eddie Driggs of Lakeville and Cherry Valley CC became the first back to back winner of this title in 1933 and 1934. Returning to Garden City CC where he won the inaugural tournament in 1923, Driggs swamped Robert Sweeny of Sands Point 8 and 7 in the 1933 final.

Sweeny was to win the British Amateur in 1937 and was runner-up to Arnold Palmer 1 up in the 1954 U.S. Amateur.

Willie Turnesa, 19, of Elmsford and Larry Lloyd of Rye were co-medalists with two over par 76's. Defending champion Tommy Goodwin shot 82 and was in a playoff for the final qualifying place.

Goodwin departed a 1 up loser to Keenan Morrow of Pomonok, a 16-year-old. Jack Mackie Jr. of Inwood, the 1925 and 1930 titlist, edged Turnesa only to fall to Sweeny 2 and 1. George T. Dunlap Jr., the 1930 and 1931 NCAA champion, lost to George Gillespie of Oakland CC.

Driggs' record: d. William Tobin, Salisbury, 7 and 5; Silas Newton, Timber Point, 4 and 3; Leonard Martin, Rye, 2 and 1; Larry Lloyd, Rye, 2 up and Sweeny, 8 and 7

In his victory Driggs was one under par 71 at 18 and was even par at 27 and coasted home.

Sagamore GC at Bolton Landing July 26-29, 1934, when Driggs repeated and became the first three-time champion.

Richard D. Chapman of Blind Brook Club, who was later to become both U.S. Amateur and British Amateur titlist, won the medal with a 2-under-par 70. Driggs was at 72 and Tommy Goodwin qualified with a 78. Chapman fired a 68 in the first round, then a record, but lost in the second round.

Driggs' record: d. Gilbert Potter, Warrensburg, 7 and 6; J.W. Gauger, Bolton Landing, 5 and 4; Jack Ahern, Hamburg, 2 and 1; Goodwin, 3 and 2 and C. Everett Bacon, Sagamore Club champion, 37 holes

The final was a battle of former college football stars, Driggs a Princeton halfback and Bacon, a Wesleyan quarterback and a Walter Camp All-American. The match was even at 18 with "spotty" play. Bacon won four holes and lost two on the front nine and Driggs reversed these figures coming home. In the afternoon Eddie was torrid going three under par for the first eight holes and a 2up lead. Just as suddenly he lost his touch and went eight over par on the next seven holes to three down.

The defending champion righted himself, sinning with a par on 16, a birdie on 17 and a par on 18 when Bacon three-putted. Driggs chipped in from 40 feet off the green for another birdie at 37 and Bacon missed a 15-footer for a tie.

Another nail-biter followed in 1935 when Ray Billows of Poughkeepsie made his debut a winning effort at Winged Foot GC west course in Mamaroneck defeating the State Junior champion, Jack Creavy of Tuckahoe in 37 holes.



Ray Billows raises the Ganson Depew trophy while seated in his #7 car after winning the state amateur championship in 1935 at Winged Foot CC, Mamaroneck

Creavy, brother of pro Tom Creavy of Albany CC who won the 1931 PGA title, was attempting to equal Tommy Goodwin's feat of winning both titles the same year. Goodwin had done it in 1932.

Billows had an almost rags to golf riches Cinderella story as he inched his way to the

first of seven titles in this event. Ray, 21, a printing plant clerk making \$17 a week, arrived in a \$7 car, slept on the clubhouse porch to save money for a caddie. This was one of the greatest fields in state golf history that Billows was facing.

Goodwin and soon-to-be international star Willie Turnesa of Elmsford tied for the medal with 71's, one shot under par. Billows had a 75 while Eddie Driggs of Lakeville, a three-time winner, and Richard D. Chapman of the host club and a future state, national and British victor, were at 76. It took a score of 79 to gain the championship flight.

Driggs went out in the first round, Goodwin lost to William Holt of Syracuse also in the opening round while Turnesa moved on by ousting Joe Gagliardi of White Plains, a future champion, in the quarter-finals. Creavy downed Chapman 5 and 4 in the quarters despite the loser being even par.

Billows' record: d. Charles Pettijohn, Rye, 2-1; George Voight, Winged Foot, a former Walker Cup player, 1up; D. Suffern Tailer, Piping Rock, 6 and 5; Turnesa, 1up (19) and Creavy in 37 holes.

Creavy led most of the way in the final 36, shooting a 73 to lead 1up at 18 and 3up at 27. When he won 28, Billows was four down with eight holes to play after his putter failed him repeatedly. Ray started his comeback on 29 and 30 winning with a par and a birdie. After they halved three holes, Billows hit to the short par 5 34th within six feet of the cup but Creavy surpassed that effort coming to rest only three feet short. Billows eagled and somehow Creavy, 19, missed.

Jack hit his tee shot on 35 in the rough and took three shots to reach the green

while Ray was on in two and parred the hole while the Tuckahoe caddie missed from 12 feet and the match was even. Both parred 36, Billows almost holing out from short of the green and Creavy two-putting from 40 feet.

Another wayward tee shot did Creavy in on the extra hole, this time behind a tree. He sought to get back to the fairway but pushed it, hit a spectator and landed in a ditch with a poor lie. He

chopped an approach to the back of the green.

Meanwhile Billows also was having trouble after a good drive. He was bother by a camera sound and hooked his second short of the green but chipped his third eight feet from the pin. Jack's fourth shot, a putt, missed the cup by inches and partially stymied Ray, but he made the shot missing Creavy's ball by an inch.

Only 75 players were playing at the

