



Another new face emerged in 1951 at Knollwood CC, Elmsford, when Billy Shields of Wolfort's Roost CC, Albany, won

the first of consecutive victories in a field that included past champions Willie Turnesa, Ray Billows and Tommy Goodwin.

Shields had his own reputation, coming in as a quarter-finalist in the 1950 U.S. Amateur. Mike Dudik of Endicott was there defending his title.

Goodwin won the medal and lasted until the quarter-finals when Shields sent him to the sidelines. Charles Murphy of Albany knocked out Turnesa in 20 holes and Billows lost to Jerry Cole of White Plains 5 and 4.



Billy Shields

Shields' record: 4 and 3 over Joe Pettori, Bronxville; 6 and 4 over Billy Kuntz, Larchmont; 1 up over Gerry Dimmick, Binghamton; 4 and 2 over Goodwin; 2 up over Paul Kelly of Scarborough-on-Hudson, and 5 and 3 over Billy Edwards of Syracuse. Edwards had overwhelmed Dudik in the semi-finals 10 and 9.

The Albany player went to 5 up at 18 while shooting a 71, and was 7 up at 28 before losing 29-31, hitting bunkers on 20 and 39 and out-of-bounds at 31. But he righted himself to go dormie at 32 and won 33 to end the match.

Sectional qualifying was initiated in 1952 to cut the field to 128 golfers at Wolfort's Roost, Billy Shields' home course, and he repeated on the 6,322 yard, par 70 layout.

Rocco Impaglia, the Auburn dentist and former Finger Lakes Champion, had the low qualifying score of 65. Willie Turnesa, Tommy Goodwin, Ray Billows and John Ward of Syracuse, a semi-finalist at the 1950 U.S. Amateur, were in the star-studded field. Shields had a 67.

Turnesa lost in the first round, Billows knocked out Goodwin 3 and 2, and Pierce Russell of Troy eliminated Ward 4 and 3 with only 20 putts on the 15 holes.

Shields' victims were: Joe Kroll, Utica; Henry Ryer, Glens Falls, 4 and 3; Gerry Sullivan Jr., Binghamton, 5 and 4; Joe May, Buffalo, 6 and 5; Lloyd Ribner, White Plains, 6 and 5; Lou Witt, Albany, 10 and 9, with Shields five under par, and Billows 6 and 5.

Billy was only two over par for the 31 holes, leading 3 up at 18 when he shot even

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par for to Ray's 3-over, 73. He shot 37 and Billows shot 39 on the first nine in the afternoon, and he parred the last two holes to again claim the Ganson Depew Trophy.

Shields made a strong effort to defend the title in 1953 and win three straight, but was turned back by Tommy Goodwin of Mamoroneck, who won his fourth crown, in the finals. Willie Turnesa and Sam Urzetta of Rochester, both former U.S. Amateur victors, and John Ward of Syracuse were in the strong field. Rocco Impaglia of Auburn dropped Turnesa 2 and 1 and Goodwin, then 40, finished off Urzetta, Ward and Shields, who came up from Bainbridge Naval Station.

The rugged Goodwin ousted: Don Biasone, Syracuse, 2 and 1; Tony Langan, Syracuse, 2 up; Bill Leach, Utica, 8 and 7; Urzetta, 4 and 3; Ward, 4 and 3; Jerry Cole, White Plains, 3 and 2 and Shields, 2 up.

Thus Billy missed John Konsek's record of three straight. The 36-hole finals were even at both 9 and 18, but Shields took a two hole advantage by 27. Tommy won 30, 31, and 34 with pars and halved 35, and when he hit his approach within three feet of the hole on 36, the birdie was conceded.

Robert Monk of Knollwood in Elmsford, a liquor store salesman, came out of the pack in 1954 to claim the title at Fairview CC, Elmsford as Tommy Goodwin sought to defend his crown and win a fifth time.

Will Turnesa was elected association president but Bruce Koch, a Rochester golf writer, showed him no respect, winning 3 and 2. Goodwin won three matches before losing to Monk.

The champion eliminated: Ray DePauw, Canandaigua, 1 up; John Ward, Syracuse, 5 and 4; Peter Nisselson, New Rochelle, 1 up; Joe Kogutek, Buffalo, 1 up; Goodwin, 1 up; Jerry Cole, Mt. Vernon, with a birdie on the 37th hole, and Robert Sweeny of Sands Point, 2 and 1.

Monk, who had golfed only five years, was playing the British Amateur champion of 1937. He was 1 up at 9 but all square after 18, and then won three in a row from 20-22. Sweeny claimed 26 and 27 but went dormie at 33 and they halved the next two holes.

Billy Shields, 28, and out of the Navy, claimed his third title in 1955 at Moon Brook CC, Jamestown, a 6,655 yard, par 71 course, again facing Tommy Goodwin in the finals.

Goodwin had defeated Shields in the 1953 event.

Robert Monk defended but was knocked out by John Quinzi of Rochester, 19 holes. Three future champions, Don Allen of Rochester, Jack Veghte of Gloversville and John Konsek of Buffalo made their debuts.

Shields' record: defeated Clarence Benson, Jamestown, 6 and 5; Ted Huler, Yonkers, 2 up; Sam Nicholas, Buffalo, 5 and 4; Quinzi, 5 and 3; Walter Kynch, Utica, 1 up; Bob Hill, Rochester, 3 and 2 in the 36 hole semi-final, and Goodwin, 36 holes.

In a tight match throughout, the adversaries reached 36 all even. On that last hole, both were over the green in two. Tommy chipped to 10 feet from 20 yards away and missed the putt. Billy's chip was a foot short of the cup and he tapped in for the victory.

Joe Gagliardi of the Westchester Hills CC, White Plains, lawyer and a father of five, won the 1956 tournament at Dutchess Golf and Country Club, Poughkeepsie, over a star-studded field that included defending champion Billy Shields, Willie Turnesa, Tommy Goodwin, Ray Billows and Robert Monk. The course is 6,285 yards, par 70.

Gagliardi lost to Billy Maxwell in the 1951 U.S. Amateur and had joined Sam Urzetta on the America Cup team that year. He was a first alternate in this field.

John Ward, Syracuse, defeated both Turnesa (3 and 2) and Goodwin (5 and 3) to gain the finals while Henry Kowal of Utica disposed of Shields 3 and 2.

Gagliardi won: 7 and 5 over William Orcutt, Pine Brook; 4 and 3 over Sol Jacobson, Utica; 3 and 2 over Alan Weston, West Point; 1 up over Kowal; 4 and 3 over Bob Stenzel, Rochester in 36 holes, 2 and 1 over Ward.

The White Plains golfer was 2 up at 9 but all square four times before Ward won 32. Then Joe won the next three holes with a stunning touch around the greens.

President Fred Wright of Winged Foot won support to give the last five champions exemptions into the 1957 tourney.

The 1957 tourney moved to the Elmira Country Club's 6,240 yard, par 70 course where a former state interscholastic champion, Jack Veghte of Gloversville, would defeat the defending champion Joe Gagliardi of White Plains 6 and 5.

Some of the upsets included Burt Kling of Rochester over Ray Billows, Bob Larkin of Rome over John Konsek of Buffalo, the state

