



## This is another chapter in a series from Frederick W. Box's manuscript, "The New York State Golf Association's first and long-time historian, now retired." **NYSGA History: Chapter 9**

**The 1960's**  
Would a state golf record of three consecutive Men's Amateur championships

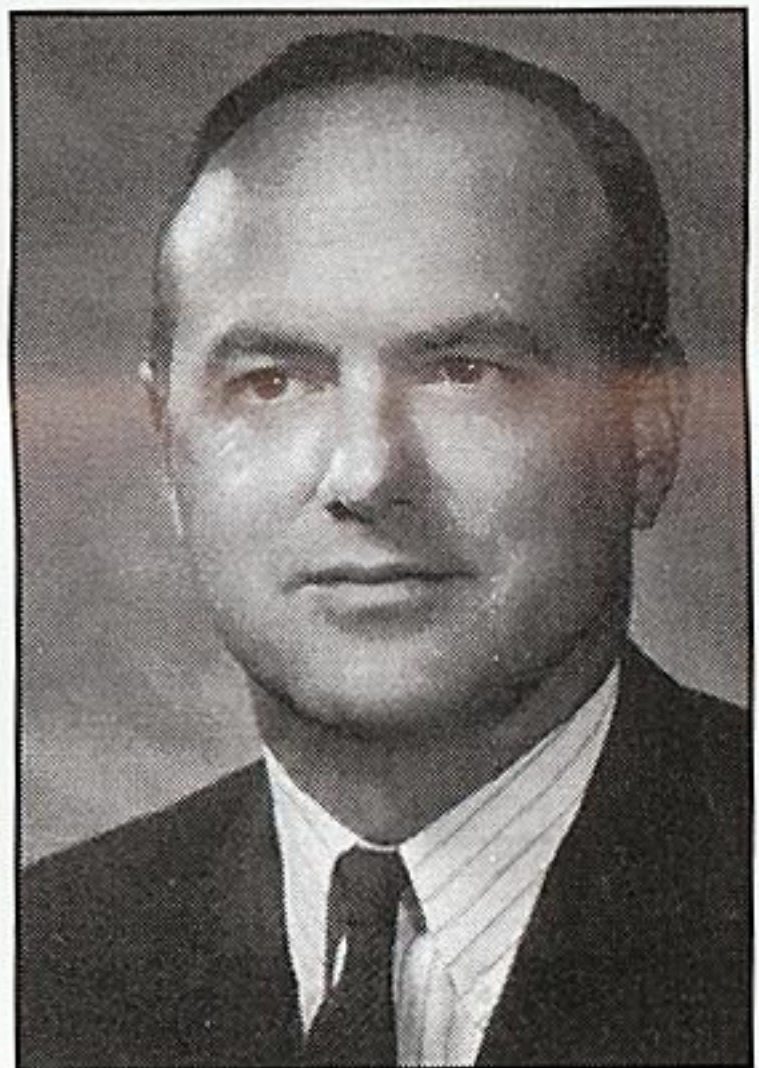
that took 37 years to accomplish be tied only five years later?

That was possible at the 1965 Men's Amateur tournament held in a Buffalo suburb at Lancaster Country Club where Don Allen of Rochester, who captured championships in 1963 and 1964, had reached the final. It was the same Allen who had halted John Konsek's bid for four straight in 1961 when the Big 10 champ from Buffalo ended his state career with a 5-4 beating.



*Don Allen*

And whom would Don, the former Colgate golfer, face in 1965? It was Bill Tryon of Elmira who battled Allen in 1962 and had won with a birdie on the second extra hole. So that gave Allen an extra incentive beyond the record.



*Bill Tryon*

The 1965 field lacked any widely known golfers except Allen and Tryon and that proved out in the preliminary rounds. The Rochester insurance man sailed to the final in impressive fashion. Tryon, better known as a former Princeton halfback, did likewise until the semi-final when he was carried to 20 holes to win with a birdie. These are postings:

Tryon's record: 4 and 3 over Ted Robinson, Oneonta; 4 and 3 over Richard Baker, Skaneateles; 2 and 1 over Leonard Dahl, Staten Island; 1 up over John Ward, Syracuse; and 20 holes over Joe Smith, Newburgh in the semifinal.

Allen's opponents: 4 and 3 over Harold Coyle, Adams; 1 up over Howard Donick, Amsterdam; 4 and 3 over Ronald Mahood, White Plains; 2 and 1 over Ted Kochan, Salamanca; and 2 and 1 over Nick Porco, East Amherst in the other semifinal.

The 36-hole final lacked any drama in the morning round with the match all even at

18. Allen birdied 20 to move ahead but gave it back at 24 with a three putt at the par-5 24th hole. The Elmira went ahead with birdie at 25.

The stocky Allen pulled even with the most spectacular play of the match when he wedged into the cup from 20 yards out on the 30th for an eagle. Then he went back in front with a par at 31, but Tryon had an answer at 33 with a birdie three. They halved 34 and 35.

When both reached 36 in two shots, it looked like extra holes again. Tryon sent his putt to 30 inches away and Allen got inside to 20 inches - both tap-ins. Bill did just that, but somehow Don jerked his putt within 2 inches, according to one newsman's report.

It was crushing at the time and Konsek's record was safe. Allen, who played on two Walker Cup teams and two Masters, came back in 1970 to win his fourth title in 10 years. Tryon won again in 1968.

You might say that these two insurance executives made it a policy of keeping their matches razor close.

It was a Central New York final in 1966 when the 1965 junior champion, Nick Raasch, 17, of DeWitt and Onondaga CC, defeated John Parsons, 23, of Auburn, a golf equipment salesman, on the last hole, 1 up, on the tough Concord course at Kiamesha Lake.

Defending champion Tryon of Elmira lost an extra-hole match to Syracuse University golfer Joe Bushee of Wappinger Falls. Fourteen-agers, Raasch, Rick Spears of Port Jervis, Paul Kelly of Poughkeepsie, and Ron Mahood of White Plains, made their way into the quarterfinals.

Parsons ousted Mahood 4 and 3, then Kelly 3 and 1 to gain the finals. Raasch had an opening round struggle with Bill Bogle, the Poughkeepsie banker, before winning on the 19th hole. He then eliminated Gerry Dimmick of Binghamton 2 up, John Thorton of Rochester, and Parsons 1 up in the 36-hole final.

In the finals the players were even at nine and 18 with Raasch shooting 74 to 79 for Parsons. The afternoon front nine was all Nick's, as he went 5 up with a par 36 that included two birdies that Parsons matched

while shooting 44. The Auburn golfer staged a comeback by winning five holes in an eight-hole stretch on the back nine, as Raasch lost two holes with double bogies and three others to pars. When Nick scored a par on 36, it was enough to bring a victory.

The tournament entries were lower than usual because the Long Island Amateur was played at the same time leading NYSGA President Gerald Dimmick of Binghamton to appoint a committee to coordinate schedules with the Metropolitan Golf Association.

Whether the schedule conflict was involved or not, the NYSGA moved downstate for the 1967 tournament at Nassau CC, Glen Cove, a 6413 yard, par 70. Long Island players dominated with John Baldwin of Port Washington and Plandome CC claiming the title.

Defending champion Raasch, two-time winner Tryon, and 1956 titlest Joe Gagliardi made up an imposing field. But Baldwin, who had won the Long Island title on the same course in 1966, skipped through his matches.

His record: Pete Corallo, Lockport, default; Bernie Cowey, Rochester, 3 and 2; Raasch, 3 and 1; Jim Bostwick, Locust Valley, 1 up; Billy Edwards, Garden City, 1 up; Gene Francis, East Williston, 1 up with a 68; and Pete Bostwick, Locust Valley, 3 and 1 in the finals.

Both fired 71's in the morning to an all even result, but Baldwin took charge in the afternoon going 3 up at 27 with a 1-under par 34 to 37 for the croquet-style putting Pete Bostwick. After losing the 29th, Baldwin won 32 with a conceded birdie and had a par at 35 to end it.

That was the last visit of this event to Long Island as the number of upstate entries was greatly reduced. Although all nine tournaments were held at Dutchess G&CC in Poughkeepsie in later years, only once did this tournament go to Westchester County.

This year was also notable because Dick Chapman, the 1939 champion and later the United States and British Amateur winner, added the International Seniors title defeating Adrian French of Los Angeles by two strokes, 141 to 143.

Tryon of Elmira claimed his third title of the decade at Yahnundasis GC, New Hartford,

