

International Comes Into Its Own in Japanese Matches

By HERB GRAFFIS

The fifth annual pro golfers' international competitions, originated by the late John Jay Hopkins, definitely established this event as the pro golf Olympics.

The Hopkins idea of a superlative international tournament was most successfully presented in Japan with Frank Pace, jr. carrying on for Hopkins.

Pace succeeded Hopkins as pres. of the gigantic General Dynamics Corp. and as head of the International Golf Assn. Formerly Secy. of the Army he has been

ment bureau mgr. and developed tournament golf into big business. Corcoran conceived the PGA Senior tournament idea on a sectional qualifying basis and the international competition for the senior pro title between PGA of America and British PGA senior champions. He got Teacher's Scotch whisky interests to put up the money for the program that has made the Senior tournament a major feature of the PGA competitive and social program.

Corcoran also was responsible for the American pro girls' American tournaments and European tour under sponsorship of Alvin Handmacher.

With the support of Hopkins and Pace the IGA has been developed by Corcoran into a strong and smoothly operating organization presenting golf as an influence for international friendliness.

In the galleries and in the clubhouse



Kasumigaseki officials brief girl caddies before matches get underway.

a contestant in the U. S. National Amateur.

Pace worked strenuously in the planning, tournament operating and public relations activities of the competitions which consist of a 72-hole individual low score event for the Hopkins International trophy and, simultaneously, two-man team play for the Canada Cup.

Teams from 30 countries competed at the Kasumigaseki CC, a magnificent private club 32 miles from the center of Tokyo.

Hopkins, at the time of his death, was chairman of the advisory committee of the PGA. He had made it a point to get informed about the business of golf. He engaged Fred Corcoran as mgr. of the International Golf Assn. Corcoran had succeeded Bob Harlow as PGA tourna-

at Kasumigaseki during the four days of the International Golf Assn. championships. U. S., Japanese and other reporters said there were more diplomats, other officials of governments and high officials of world-wide big business organizations than ever before seen in Japan.

It can be said to the credit of the pro golfers of all nations that they ably and gracefully handled the responsibilities of being representatives of their respective countries.

Japanese Co-Sponsors

Corcoran made two trips to Japan for the business of the championship. Co-sponsoring relationships were formed with the Japan Golf Assn. and Yomiuri Shimbun, largest newspaper in Japan. Yomiuri Shimbun had promoted tours of Amer-

ican baseball clubs to Japan.

The victory of Torakichi Nakamura (274) over Sam Snead, Gary Player of South Africa and David Thomas of Wales who tied for second at 281, and of the Nakamura-Koichi Ono team at 557 against the second place, 566, of Snead and Demaret was gleeful news to Japan's 250,000 golfers and those Japanese millions who have only the haziest idea of golf being some sort of a sport.

Gets Wide Coverage

The International championship at Tokyo got the widest coverage a golf competition ever had. Newspapers, magazines, radio and TV stations of the 30 countries represented gave unprecedented space to news and features of the event.

The tournament involved expenses of more than \$200,000, making it the biggest money affair in golf. Plane fares were approximately \$80,000.

Hopkins selected Japan as the site of the 1957 IGA tournament.

Players who didn't want to travel from the Imperial hotel in Tokyo to Kasumigaseki CC had the privilege of occupying officers' quarters at the Johnson Air Force Base, about 5 miles from the course.

Kasumigaseki has two fine 18 hole courses. The East course, of 6900 yds., is the one on which the IGA event was played.

Course Deserves World Fame

The course was pronounced by widely-traveled pros as one of the finest they'd ever played. Architecturally and scenically it is somewhat similar to Pinehurst No. 2. It has two sets of greens, winter and summer, both very well bunkered and not far apart.

The International championship was played on the summer greens which are korai grass, very thick and slow, almost like putting on cocoa mats.

Japanese are hoping to get one of the new fine Bermuda strains from the U. S. to put in these greens. The KCC fairways, according to Snead and Demaret and the British, Australian, South African and European pros, are perfect. The fairway turf is like a close, upright-growing Bermuda.

Japan's 78 golf courses, 17 of which are around Tokyo, are on so many different elevations, under such a wide variety of weather conditions, that the island has practically the American range of golf turf problems.

Yuji Kodera, secy.; Japan Golf Assn., wants to get USGA green section informa-

tion on improving condition of Japanese courses.

It was the putting of Nakamura and Ono that put them well ahead of the competition. Pete Nakamura couldn't putt the fast greens at Chicago's Tam o' Shanter in 1952 or those at Laval-sur-le-Lac, Quebec, in 1954, but he and Ono had the knack of banging up the putts on the KCC greens.

Architect Got Started in U. S.

The KCC courses were designed by Kinya Fujita, member of a prominent Japanese family, who played his first golf at Jackson Park, a Chicago public course, when he was a student at the University of Chicago. Fujita later went to Miami (O.) University and Columbia. In Japan he pitched on his university baseball team and played on a Japanese Davis Cup tennis team.

Fujita, a very lively fellow who celebrated his 75th birthday during the tournament, was architect for several other of Japan's best courses, among them Kawana's two 18s at a seaside resort and Nasu, a mountain hot springs resort course which is played only about two months in the summer. Fujita met Capt. Alison of the noted British architectural team of Colt and Alison in 1914 when Alison was designing the Tokyo CC course. In 1919 and 1920 when Fujita was in England he studied golf architecture with Alison and later had Alison go over and suggest changes in courses Fujita had designed. Kasumigaseki's courses were only slightly altered by Alison.

One of the Kawana courses is known as the Pebble Beach of Japan. It is the country's toughest course and some traveled golfers say it is second only to Pine Valley in difficulty.

The KCC was opened in 1929. It has 2,000 members, 1,000 of them active. Among the members are 200 Americans. The clubhouse is quite modern in architecture.

Entrance fee is the equivalent of \$834. Monthly dues are 1000 yen or about \$2.78.

Top grade American and English balls retail in Japan for \$1.67.

Girl Caddies Star

At the KCC refreshment tent during the matches excellent hot dogs sold for 19 cents and fine sandwiches (ham, cheese, etc.) for 42 cents.

Pictures and stories on the girl caddies at KCC got the biggest world-wide circula-

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Philadelphia CC's ultra modern clubhouse and Olympic pool, opened last summer, may well set a trend in country club architecture. The \$1.5 million project commands a view of the Schuylkill Valley and has separate recreation areas for each member of the family. Philadelphia CC is the third oldest organized club in U. S. and was second to receive a PGA charter.

International Matches

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tion of any recent golf feature. Snead, Demaret and other visiting pros said the Japanese girls were about as good as the best caddies they'd had and better than most.

The 75 girl caddies employed during the tournament were selected from the club's 250 girl caddies after all the girls had gone through a training course. Three girls were with each 2-man team of pros, the third girl carrying a small bag of soil and fertilizer, which was used for immediately repairing divots, and a flat stick on a bamboo handle which was used instead of a rake for smoothing traps.

The girls wore attractive uniforms of red jackets, blue slacks, blue caps and white tennis shoes. The name of the player for whom the girl was caddying appeared on the front of the caddie's jacket and the player's country on the back of the jacket. This label of the player on his caddie's shirt or jacket is a practice Corcoran introduced at a Palm Beach Round Robin tournament.

The caddies, who were small and sturdy, between 18 and 21, were remark-

ably erect, graceful and fast in carrying the heavy bags. When shagging practice balls the caddies would pick up the balls and clean them immediately before placing them in the shag bag.

Regulation caddie pay at KCC is about 56 cents for 18 holes. Tipping is prohibited under normal circumstances. Most of the International championship players, however, tipped the girls. The caddies, in numerous instances, gave their players little gifts at the end of the tournament. Several pros got head covers their caddies had knitted.

PGA Quarter-Century Tourney Carded for Week of Feb. 10

Fifth annual tournament of the PGA Quarter-Century club will be held at Dunedin, Fla., the week of Feb. 10, according to John Inglis, who has been running the event since its inception. Al Watrous, winner of the competition in 1957, is expected to be back to defend his championship. Other past title winners include Jules Blanton, Harry Cooper and Louis Chiapetta. Professional Golf Co. of Chattanooga, Tenn. has sponsored the Quarter-Century for the last three years.