

Grand Slam Included in Mickey Wright's 1961 Triumphs

Mickey Wright, the 26-year old San Diego blonde who has been threatening to make the women's professional tournament circuit her private hunting grounds for the last four or five years, finally broke through in 1961, winning 10 tournaments and collecting \$22,236. Her 10 victories tied a record established by Betsy Rawls in 1959 and her earnings were the second highest in Ladies PGA history.



Mickey Wright

The runnerup in the 1961 money column, Betsy Rawls, earned about \$6,500 less than Miss Wright. Betsy's winnings of \$15,672 gave her a slight edge over Louise Suggs who collected \$15,339. In fourth place was Mary Lena Faulk who, aided by winning three consecutive tourneys in midsummer, collected a total of \$12,968. The No. 5 spot in the dollar lineup went to Marilyn Smith who won \$10,687.

Has Won \$95,000

Included in Mickey's triumphs last season was a "grand slam" of the Women's Open, Ladies PGA Championship and the Titleholders, the first time this had been accomplished. She finished in the money in each of the 24 tournaments she played in and ran her string in this department to 48 over three seasons. A professional since 1954, Mickey has won almost \$95,000 and claimed first place in 29 tournaments in her seven years of campaigning.

Promising Newcomers

With the addition of several Western tournaments in September, the Ladies PGA experienced one of its best seasons in 1961. The women pros scrambled for nearly \$200,000 in prize money, and during the season at least three promising newcomers made their debuts on the circuit. They were Judy Kimball, 15th in the money list with winnings of nearly \$5000, 18-year old Sandra Haynie, and Carol Mann.

During the 1961 season, Len Wirtz of Cincinnati was appointed tournament bureau manager, replacing Fred Corcoran, who resigned.



Gary Nixon, Royal Little and Sam Snead (l to r) have formed a corporation, capitalized at \$300,000, to build and operate a string of Par 3s throughout the country. Indications are that the first 10, at least, will be constructed at locations where there is year-around golf. Nixon has been Sam's assistant at The Greenbrier and Boca Raton for several years and helps to manage Snead's business affairs; Little, ex-Textron, Inc. chairman, represents the Narragansett Corp., an investment company, in the venture; and Snead, golfer and capitalist, hardly has to have his accomplishments reviewed. The new firm, known as Sam Snead All-American Golf, Inc., will build lighted Par 3s complete with ranges and small pro shops and then turn them over to experienced pros or businessmen on a net rental basis.

Schedule USGA Green Section Education Meet for Jan. 26

The education program of the USGA green section will be held on Friday, Jan. 26, in the Biltmore Hotel, New York, preceding by one day the annual meeting of the association. Theme of the education session will be "A Business Approach to Course Maintenance." According to William C. Chapin, USGA green section committeeman and chairman of the education program, there will be morning and afternoon sessions covering personnel management, club economics, accounting and budget preparation and a discussion of research and maintenance progress. Presentation of the will be made during the meeting.

Ladies PGA Award to Mrs. Bell

Peggy Kirk Bell, who with her husband, Warren, operates the Pine Needles Lodge & CC in Southern Pines, N.C., has been named "teacher of the year" by the Ladies PGA. A former tournament star, Mrs. Bell makes only a few appearances on the women's tour each year, confining her activities for the most part to teaching at the Lodge & CC.