

Gene Littler Takes 1-Stroke Lead in U.S. Open Tourney

By LEO H. PETERSEN
UPI Sports Editor

Oakmont, Pa.—(UPI)—They set out in pursuit of little Gene Littler in the second round of the U.S. Open golf championship today and everybody agreed that the mechanical man would take a lot of catching.

The silent, sandy-haired California, known to his fellow pros as "Gene the Machine," had only played 27 "sloppy" practice holes over awesome Oakmont Country club. But he went out there and shot a two under par 35-34-69, which put him on the head end by one shot.

At his heels — one blow

back—came Bobby Nichols, a 26-year-old Kentuckian playing out of Midland, Tex., and bespectacled Bob Rosburg, the PGA champion from Portland, Ore.

And two strokes away was a surging sixsome headed by Arnold Palmer, the 5-1 pre-tournament favorite, Palmer's finger, gashed Sunday night, wasn't bothering him "at all" but his putting was as he carded a 36-35-71. Palmer was laboring until he put on one of his patented stretch runs, running off a string of five straight three—including three birdies on the final five holes—to get back into a challenging position.

Player Fires 71

All square with golf's leading money winner were South African Gary Player, who moaned the putting blues, too, as he tried to become the first foreign winner in 42 years; veteran Billy Maxwell; Bob Schoener of Bethlehem, Pa.; Frank Boynton of Corpus Christi, Tex.; and J. C. Goosie of Largo, Fla., who three-putted twice in bogeying the last three holes. Pudgy Jack Nicklaus, the two-time amateur king from

Ohio State, had it running strong for him as he started off with three birdies while playing with Palmer. But then he took the gas pipe and wound up with a 37-35-72 which deadlocked him at even par with Canada's Stan Leonard and a pair of amateurs—Gene Francis, former Purdue player from New York and John Guenther of Reading, Pa.

There were more than a dozen of them still dangerous at 73, including such as Bo Winninger, Al Balding, Don Whitt, Paul Harney and Wes Ellis. And at the crowded 74 figure the pack had such as former champion Cary Middlecoff, Doug Sanders of the short backswing and the long threat, and cocky Phil Rodgers, the San Diego redhead who could have been right there except for an eight on the 17th hole—where he took four blows to knock the ball out of a fir tree—to destroy a one under par effort.

Littler was jubilant after his round, speaking out with an unaccustomed ease and calling the start of his title defense "a real shot in the arm."

"My putting was beautiful," Littler grinned. "And I missed only three fairways on the whole round. If I could only keep that up, I'd surely be happy."



GENE LITTLER Sets Pace in Open

Woods, Water, Wildlife

By Hank DeVoss

There are reports of a constant gnashing of teeth being seen and heard along the upper Rogue river. What was at first thought to be the sound of hungry havers turned out to be sound of frustrated salmon fishermen who can't understand why all of those big, bright fish won't get in the mood to strike at anything.

BIG FISH COUNT

The official count at the Gold Ray counting board passed the 20,000 mark sometime this week. This is a good count for this early in the season, and according to the man who knows, the estimate of 25,000 fish for the total season will be reached fairly early. There is still some doubt whether or not the total will go much higher because reports from the lower river indicate no fish down there. If this is true the rest of the run is somewhere above Galtice.

EXPERTS BEFOOZLED

It is reported that the guides are tearing their clusters over the apparent suking of the chinook run this year. Some guides have turned to salmon watching and trout fishing as a means of staying active. With only 15 days remaining in the 1962 season, something is going to have to change to give it some punch.

WHY FOR?

The natural question that is heard up and down the river is: "Why aren't the salmon biting?" The man who knows isn't saying anything beyond the statement that some salmon seem to be more inclined to bite than others. One might ask why we have so many this year. Should a whole run be so one way? Do you suppose we've caught all the stupid ones and have a run of genius fish? It's bound to happen that the fish get a little smarter if the dumber ones get caught before they can spawn.

It's very likely that the explanation is a rather simple one that has something to do with water and temperature conditions. This is a year of colder air temperatures and there should be an accompanying lower water temperature. This would effect the amount of runoff and have its effect on the water conditions of clarity and current. These factors seem to be those that govern other timetables and conditions relating to fish and fishing. It is evident that the fish are in fine condition and the skeins of eggs are very tight and small. If there's enough water next year for the downstream migrants, 1966 should be a year to look forward to.

S. 1966 AGAIN

The bill that would give congressional protection to the Tule Lake, Lower Klamath, and Upper Klamath national wildlife refuges in California and Oregon is stuck in the House committee on interior and insular affairs. There

isn't much likelihood that it will be jarred loose unless the duck hunters and other interested parties get together and bombard Congress with letters asking that the bill be passed. The refuges provide essential habitat to 80 percent of the ducks in the Pacific flyway, and if the bill does not pass there is a good chance that the bureau of reclamation will try to chop more of it into the farmer's pocket.

THE ANGLERS LOG

The only fishermen who have been getting any use out of their license money are those who have been fishing the lakes. Even the planted fish in the Rogue drainage are hard to find. Some grumblers are complaining that the game commission isn't really planting all the fish they claim. Said grumblers believe the fish are being kept at the hatcheries to make sure they have enough to eat. (This is hard to believe when these same people say that the food has been fed to the fish in Diamond Lake.)

Diamond Lake—Fishing is slow. The fish being caught are taking flies and flatfish. Catch reports indicate three-fourths fish per angler. All fish are 18 inches or better. The biggest reported was a 4 1/2 pounder. One reason for the slow return could be because there are those who insist on a lot of hardware and won't fish without it.

Fish Lake—Fishing is good. A few big brook trout are being caught, but most of the fish are running from 8 to 12 inches. Lots of limits are being taken by those who know how. All roads are in good shape.

Four Mile Lake—The lake is full of kokanee that can hardly wait to taste a single egg or worm fished from an anchored boat. The kokanee aren't very big, but they make up in taste what they lack in size.

Myatt Lake—Has been slowing slowing down. Evening fishing is good using flies. Grey woolly worm is the favorite. During the day a 3T will catch fish. They are up to 18 inches long and called rainbow trout.

Klamath Lake—Harriman's resort at Rocky Point is a takeoff to rainbow trout that rarely weigh less than 4 pounds. Biggest so far this season is an eight-pounder caught by Harry Ellis of Medford. Andy Renner is the lure.

Squaw Lake—The roads are good. Trout are taking fair to good in the big lake and average 17 inches. It's hard to find one under 15 inches unless you go to the little lake where they average 12 inches. Catfishing is excellent.

THE OPTIMIST'S CORNER

Those who are worried about the poor showing of the summer steelhead run should remember that water temperature is most important in determining when these fish enter the water. They are still about eight months from spawning. Why should they hurry?

GOOD LUCK!

Cheney Studs Face GP; Medford Cokes Tussle KF Falcons

Central Point Cheney Studs and Grants Pass tonight will open a busy week end for American Legion junior baseball in this section of the state.

The clubs vie at 7:30 p.m. at Memorial field, White City. It will be an Area 4, Southern division game.

This will be the only tussle of the week end for the Studs but Grants Pass is to entertain the Klamath Falls Hawks in a Sunday afternoon doubleheader with the first game counting in the division standings.

Medford opposes Klamath Falls Falcons at Klamath Falls on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. daylight time in league play. On Sunday the Cokes of Medford will take on Coos Bay in a non-counting doublebill set to start at 1:30 p.m. standard time at Southern Oregon college field in Ashland. Klamath Falcons will oppose Madras Sunday in a kings-x tilt.

Second Time

Central Point and Grants Pass will be foes for the second time of the season in Legion play. The Cheney Studs won a pre-league brush 9 to 5. Studs' Coach Bill Askwith has said that either Larry Mason or Larry Pepper may get the Central Point pitching summons tonight. For the Climate City club Coach Ron Maurer may choose between Jerry McCormack and Lyman Kiesecker.

Stuart Young is the nomination of Coach Cliff McLean for the Medford pitching assignment against the Falcons. "That's the reason he only pitched three innings against the Hawks," McLean remarked. Sunday pitching choices depend on how things go Saturday. McLean might

call on Jack Forde and Bill Enyart who tossed for the Cokes against Grants Pass last Sunday.

Barnes' Back Ails

McLean was hoping that catcher Mike Barnes would be able to play. Mike did not play on Wednesday against the Hawks because of the recurrence of an old back ailment. If Barnes is unable to play, the catching chore for the week end still should be in good hands. Ken Phipps turned in a fine job at the backstop position on Wednesday.

McLean said that Jim Hill, whom he hoped to convert into a pitcher, is no longer with the Cokes. He is reportedly working in northern California.

The doubleheader with Coos Bay was originally set for the Medford high field. But, that facility is not usable now because of the stadium grandstand construction project. Play at Ashland, nevertheless, will give Ashlanders a chance to see American Legion junior ball. Ashland was to have had a team in the Southern division this year. The team was organized and ready to play but no funds were raised to support it.

MENTOR CHOSEN

Portland — (UPI) — Franklin High school's new basketball coach will be Leonard Gehrke, a 12-year veteran in Portland prep coaching ranks. He will take the job vacated by Don Peterson. Gehrke, a science teacher, coached at Jefferson from 1929 to 1940 and at Lincoln in 1941 and 1942. He is a Washington State graduate.

SUTTON BETTER
Milwaukee, Wis. — (UPI) — Race driver Len Sutton, Portland, Ore., injured in last Sunday's 10-mile Big Car race here, continued to show improvement today, hospital authorities said. A additional X-rays showed that Sutton suffered compression fractures of the second, third and fourth dorsal vertebrae. He is expected to be released from the hospital in two or three days.

OUTSTANDING
Richland — (UPI) — An award will be presented to the Richland Rod and Gun club Saturday night for its selection as the outstanding sportsmen's club in the United States during the past year. The presentation will be made by Dr. Paul Herbert, East Lansing, Mich., president of the National Wildlife federation, which selected the Richland club for the honor.

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