

Knudson Holds First-Round Lead In Canadian Open Golf Tourney

By DICK BACON
Laval-Sur-Le-Lac, Que.—EPI—Canada's top young golfer, bespectacled George Knudson, who would rather win the Canadian Open than the U.S. or British championships, was off to a good start today in pursuit of his dream.

The 25-year-old Winnipeg native, who now plays out of Toronto's Oakdale course, Thursday carded a five-under par 35-32-67 to take the first round lead in the 53rd Canadian Open.

His first round score over the soggy, 6,555-yard Laval-Sur-Le-Lac course was two shots better than his nearest rivals — Don Fairfield of Perido Bay, Fla., Bobby Bruce of

Laval-Sur-Le-Lac, Que.—EPI—Bob Rosburg of Portland shot a 71 Thursday in the first round of the Canadian Open Golf tournament here.

Rosburg's score left him four strokes behind the leader, George Knudson of Winnipeg.

Milwaukee, former Open champ George Bayer, and Ron Thomas of Durham, N.C.

Knudson, who won his first PGA tournament last December at Coral Gables, Fla., and then won two more on the Caribbean circuit, made a strong bid to win last year's Canadian Open in his hometown of Winnipeg. He made a big run at ultimate winner Jacky Cupit but blew sky high on the final round.

Knudson's fine round Thursday, carded for the most part during such adverse weather conditions as intermittent rain and thunder showers, overshadowed anything the American and other foreign pros could equal.

U.S. Open champion Jack Nicklaus the man South African Gary Player tabbed as the favorite, shot a two-under 70 while playing in the same threesome with Knudson. Bob Rosburg, the other member of the trio, had a 71.

Defending champion Cupit, who won what was dubbed the "Umbrella Open" champ at Winnipeg, in 1961, carded a 71. Al Balding, one of Canada's better swingers, Ted Kroll, Doug Ford, a winner in this tournament three years ago; Bill Johnston, Bob Rosburg, Charlie Sifford and Bruce Crampton, all had one-under 71's.

Another former Canadian Art Wall Jr., and Ken Venturi were among nine who shot standard 72's. Other "name" pros who experienced first day troubles were Gene Littler with a 74; Player with

a 75; and Bob Goalby and Stan Leonard with four-over 76's.

Following today's second round, the field will be cut to the low 100 and ties and after the third round it will be pared to the low 60's and ties.

Tiger Expects 'Toughest Fight'

New York — EPI — Middleweight challenger Dick Tiger of Nigeria, back in New York again, admitted today he expects "the toughest fight" of his career when he tries to win Gene Fullmer's share of the world middleweight title.

Tiger, champion of the British Empire and top contender for the split 160-pound crown, flew into New York from Africa late Thursday and said he will begin preliminary training in New York next week. He will shift to San Francisco on Aug. 6.

Stocky, broad-shouldered Tiger declared, "that Fullmer

is a rough one, but I'll say this for him: He likes to fight." The 31-year-old challenger added, "and so do I."

He explained he had seen Fullmer of West Jordan, Utah, in a half-dozen bouts on television and accordingly, knew he couldn't plan any battle strategy against Gene, "who looks like he's following a pattern but ain't."

Fullmer is recognized as world champion by the National Boxing association; but Paul Pender of Brookline, Mass., is considered the champion in most other areas.

Copromoter Norman Rothschild of Syracuse, N.Y., said he hopes the 15-round Fullmer-Tiger fight will attract a capacity 46,000 and a gate of \$250,000. Benny Ford of San Francisco is the other copromoter.

Rothschild, who met Tiger at New York's International airport, said the challenger will receive a flat guarantee of \$25,000. Fullmer gets no guarantee but receives 45 per cent of the next gate plus all ancillary rights — television, radio and movies.

UNITAS UNSIGNED

Westminster, Md. — EPI — Quarterback Johnny Unitas, fullback Joe Perry and tackle Jim Parker have yet to sign their 1962 contracts with the Baltimore Colts. Lenny Moore, Steve Myrha and Alex Hawkins came to terms Tuesday as the Colts held their first full-scale workout.

Boxers Offer Assistance To Sonny Nunez's Family

Phoenix, Ariz. — EPI — Local boxing enthusiasts reacted quickly today to seek a way to help the family of Sonny Nunez, who died after his first professional fight Wednesday.

Promoter Paavo Ketonen said several boxers had already offered to fight without pay as part of a prospective benefit card to assist the 22-year-old boxer's wife and child. He indicated more definite plans would be announced later.

Nunez, 22, died within a couple of hours of his fourth-round knockout by grief-stricken Roderigo Contreras. An autopsy was conducted Thursday, but exact cause of death has not been given pending study of medical tests and an inquest Tuesday.

Rosary will be recited for Nunez tonight at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catho-

lic church in Glendale, Ariz., a Phoenix suburb. Funeral mass will be Saturday, followed by interment at Resthaven park.

Although no final medical report was available, three surgeons who participated in

a desperate attempt to save Nunez's life by an operation reported extensive brain damage and hemorrhaging were evident when an incision was made. They worked for 30 minutes before the young fighter was pronounced dead.

Ring observers said they saw no signs of Nunez being in serious trouble, and one of the four-round bout.

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