

JEROME D. TRAVERS TELLS:

When I Halved George Duncan With My Eyes Closed. My Best Pinch Play. A Green Play That Required a Niblick, Midiron and Putter.

IT HAS been my good fortune to have won the American Amateur Championship four times—a feat which to date has not been equaled by any other golfer—but it is a fact that in none of the tournaments which brought me a national title did I make a single play which stands out in my memory as remarkable.

When a man wins the biggest of all amateur golf contests in America it is a safe bet that he is playing in his best form. There will be exceptions, of course, but in most cases the successful striker after titular honors must, of necessity, play a game minus in the main, of blunders. If he doesn't play sound golf, the contestant doesn't reach his goal.

The sparkling incidents of play which the memory retains for all time are apt to turn up in ordinary play or in matches which have no permanent importance.

The most unusual play I ever made was in a special best ball foursome at the Merion Cricket club, Philadelphia, during the first visit to this country of George Hume and Alie Mitchell, the great British professionals. Max Marston, the present amateur champion, and I were pitted against the Britons. We succeeded in administering the first defeat they suffered during their tour.

The play turned up at the ninth hole, a 175-yard affair, when I pushed my iron tee shot to the right of the green and into the brook that flanked it. On coming up to my ball I found it resting upon the top of a little nest of twigs which had been washed down-stream and had lodged in some rocks.

This unexpected lucky lie offered a chance to get to the green without penalty, although I would have to shoot over a built-up mound in order to do so.

I waded into the brook and took my stance, which, unfortunately, had to be on the upstream side of the ball. The current was deflected just enough to dislodge the twigs supporting the ball. They floated gaily away while the pellet dropped miserably to the bottom of the stream, nestling obstinately in the midst of the rocks, at least eight inches beneath the surface.

If I hadn't already soaked my feet, I never would have tried to play that ball out, but would have my caddy pick it up. However, "as long as I'm in, I might as well take a shot at it," I told myself, and proceeded to do so, using a niblick and chopping down with all my strength.

Here is the unusual and laughable part of the play. After aiming to hit just back of the ball, I closed my eyes so as to keep out water and flying pebbles. Before I could open them, I heard tremendous applause from the gallery.

Disengaging myself from the brook and climbing to the green, I found that I had laid my ball within ten feet of the cup. I sank it for a par three, halving the hole with Duncan. This one a play which I hadn't seen. Thinking it over afterward, I reached the conclusion that I must have hit the ball exactly right. At first, I thought I must have struck it on the top, caroming it off a rock. But when we examined it, we couldn't find the slightest cut in its surface.

to bury itself. So I tried for a low mashie. Notwithstanding that I got almost the exact shot I was after, when I got up to the green I found the ball so deeply imbedded I could only see the top of it. Although it lay only 10 feet from the hole, there was only one thing to do—use a niblick and take a full wallop. The stroke chopped out a piece of sod that would fill your two hands, but it dislodged the ball.

A putt was still impossible, though, for a hunk of mud twice as large as the ball clung to it. This time I played a midiron, lofting the ball and its extra burden to within a foot of the cup. I went down in five, halving the hole.

If fate had been kind to me I should have had that hole in an easy four. That would have put me one up on Seelye, with only one to go. And, as I halved the next hole, the title would have come to me.

But perhaps this would not have been just to him. After being six down at the end of the morning round he had made a wonderful recovery, fighting his way to even terms. He deserved his eventual victory.

Travis Jackson Lands Regular Job With Giants

Recruit at Short Makes Great Strides During 1923 Season — McGraw Had Faith in Him.

New York, Feb. 9.—A year ago at this time Travis Jackson was, to the average baseball fan, little more than a name on the Giant roster. Now comes the announcement that he will be the Giants regular shortstop next season and the not altogether unexpected announcement that he has received a substantial increase in salary.

The comparative unknown of a year ago is a celebrity of today, which illustrates that no matter how fleeting time may be, fame sometimes is a trifle swifter.

The case of the young man from Waldo, Ark., says a baseball expert, also illustrates how accurately John McGraw judges baseball talent which comes under his direction. At the training camp last season, Jackson made a really favorable impression on only one man, and that one was McGraw. The others who watched him making his fight for a berth on the team conceded readily that he looked promising, but none would put a better brand on him than that.

When McGraw intimated that Jackson was ready for fast company, those to whom he made the intimation secretly were of the opinion that the Giant leader was trying to throw a scare into Dave Bancroft, who was slow about reporting. Later on, when McGraw emphasized his faith in Jackson by releasing Johnny Rawlings, his only experienced utility infielder, his action aroused comment.

Then came the disabling of Heinie Groh and Jackson was put into the lineup. Immediately the youngster vindicated McGraw's judgment by handling himself splendidly at the far corner of the diamond. When Groh was able-bodied again, Jackson retired to the dugout, to non out again when Bancroft was stricken with pneumonia. Fine as his work at third base had been, Jackson's work at the short field was even better. He was called upon to fill in for "Bunny" at the most critical period of the Giants' struggle toward the pennant, which was during their second swing through the west, which embraced a five-game series in Cincinnati.

Coming to the 26th tee, we were all even. Seelye got a good drive, but to my chagrin, I hooked my ball to the left and some five yards deep into the woods that skirts the fairway on that side.

Seelye seemed certain to negotiate the 310-yard hole in par four. From where I lay it would be difficult even to get near the green on my second shot. I had to play beneath low hanging boughs, and the only opening from the woods did not give me a direct line to any part of the green. It was about 180 yards from the flag.

I think I have a right to be proud of the play which followed, because it was deliberately planned and executed. To make it possible, the tournament officials had to move back the gallery and completely clear the fairway. Then, using a mashie, I hooked a low ball under and around the trees. It curved beautifully and when it ended its flight was resting on the green in position for an easy par four.

Council Bluffs Bowlers Roll New Team Record for West



FOLKS, you are now looking at the champion bowling team of the west. We say this of these Council Bluffs bowlers, members of the Joe Smith quinet, because they bowled a team total of 3,330 last Monday night, in the Merchants' league, which has never been equaled in this part of the country.

Reading from left to right are: B. L. Rhea, John Tiedje, W. E. McConnell, backer, and W. W. Davis.

Kneeling are, C. Fletcher, O. E. Hague, A. G. Forsyth and C. Grosklau, captain.

This team bowled games of 1,070, 1,148 and 1,012.

success under New York Giant management. Paid a salary of \$5,000 in 1920, his first full season as a Giant, the former Fordham college star infielder has advanced \$13,000 in four years.

jumped by the last legislature from \$2 to \$4 and on wildcats from \$8 to \$15.

Frank Frisch, who has signed a contract for \$18,000, is a sample of

Speaker Tells Why His Swing at Plate Has Given Him Unusual 2-Base Mark

Manager of Cleveland Indians Set Major League Record for Doubles Last Year With 59—Follow-Through Swing, Waist-High, Sends Ball Out on Low Line.

IN THE collection of baseball records there is one of unusual prominence. George (Babe) Ruth needs no introduction as the home run king. Walter Johnson and Grover Alexander have a sackful of pitching marks. Max Carey is the base-stealing wizard and fly-snatching fool. Chief Wilson of the old Pittsburgh Pirates had a habit of socking three-base wallops. Linked with the great deeds of the pastime, however, is the remarkable two-base swatting by Tris Speaker of the Cleveland Indians.

For the last four seasons in the American league Speaker not only ranked high, leading his rival swatters by a wide margin, but created a new mark in 1923 when he connected for 59 doubles. This total completely shattered his own league mark of 53 made with the Boston Red Sox in 1912, and the National league record of 50 held by the late Delahanty back in 1899.

That Speaker, a powerful athlete with as vicious a swing as any home run wallop, should confine his fence-busting activities to two bases is indeed an unusual twist of batting freaks.

To the once-in-a-while fan, the baseball patron who only follows the game for the victory of the home team, Speaker's two-base stride is something to cause long debate. To Tris, however, there is nothing mysterious about his manufacture of two-base drives. He was asked recently to tell his story, and without wasting words Tris explained with the following:

"It's all in my swing. I doubt whether there are two batters of the same stance and swing. Why does Ruth get so many home runs? He gets under the ball with his terrific swing and gives it a long ride. Therefore, Ruth's wallops are mighty high flies.

"My swing is a waist-line stroke. When I draw back my bat and go through I do not raise or drop the bat two inches until the swing has been completed. Thus the ball, in-

doubles and counted his record with the following: At Cleveland, 29; Philadelphia, 8; Boston, 8; Detroit, 7; St. Louis, 5; St. Louis, 4; Chicago, 2; New York, 2.

He presented his two-base swing against the Athletics the most times, accumulating his total as follows:

Against—Athletics, 12; Boston, 17; Washington, 9; New York, 8; Chicago, 7; Detroit, 7; St. Louis, 5.

His most prosperous month was July when he gathered 18. The other monthly totals included: April, 7; May, 3; June, 11; August, 8; September, 8; October, 4.

The biggest single day of the season was June 16 when Tris solved Eddie Rommel's lunkhead-ball floater for three doubles.

There was one remarkable swatting spree by the Indians last summer when Spoke failed to unblock anything but a single. This was on July 7, when the Indians smeared the Boston Red Sox, 27-3, with 24 hits for the high scoring game of the American league when they filled each inning with at least one run. They gathered their 27 runs in this fashion: 3, 2, 3, 12, 1, 2, 1, 2, x, Total, 27. And not a double for Speaker.

The table showing Speaker's 1923 record for doubles follows:

Date	Place	Club	Pitcher
Apr. 19	Phila.	Ind.	Faber
Apr. 18	Phila.	Ind.	Leverette
Apr. 24	Det.	Ind.	Pillester
Apr. 25	Det.	Ind.	Daus
Apr. 26	Phila.	Ind.	Woodward
Apr. 28	Phila.	Ind.	Collins
May 14	Phila.	Ind.	Rommel
May 16	Phila.	Ind.	Rommel
May 21	Phila.	Ind.	Thurston
June 1	Phila.	Ind.	Olsen
June 4	Phila.	Ind.	Ferguson
June 6	Phila.	Ind.	Walsh
June 11	Phila.	Ind.	Penning
June 14	Phila.	Ind.	Helmick
June 16	Phila.	Ind.	Rommel
June 17	Phila.	Ind.	Hart
June 20	Phila.	Ind.	Strider
June 21	Phila.	Ind.	Friday
July 7	Phila.	Ind.	Holloway
July 6	Phila.	Ind.	Shinke
July 7	Phila.	Ind.	Murray
July 8	Phila.	Ind.	Quinn
July 9	Phila.	Ind.	Rommel
July 10	Phila.	Ind.	Harris
July 11	Phila.	Ind.	Walsh
July 12	Phila.	Ind.	Penning
July 13	Phila.	Ind.	Jones
July 14	Phila.	Ind.	Jones
July 15	Phila.	Ind.	Hussell
July 16	Phila.	Ind.	Zehner
July 18	Phila.	Ind.	Shocker
July 21	Phila.	Ind.	Kohn
July 24	Phila.	Ind.	Fullerton
July 25	Phila.	Ind.	Fulmer
July 26	Phila.	Ind.	Shinke
Aug. 12	Phila.	Ind.	Shinke
Aug. 13	Phila.	Ind.	Walsh
Aug. 14	Phila.	Ind.	Naylor
Aug. 22	Phila.	Ind.	Zachary
Aug. 23	Phila.	Ind.	Hugh
Sep. 12	Phila.	Ind.	Perzmann
Sep. 13	Phila.	Ind.	Shawyer
Sep. 14	Phila.	Ind.	Murphy
Sep. 15	Phila.	Ind.	Johnson
Sep. 26	Phila.	Ind.	Burns
Sep. 28	Phila.	Ind.	Holloway
Oct. 2	St. L.	Ind.	Klop
Oct. 4	St. L.	Ind.	Wright
Oct. 6	St. L.	Ind.	Lyons
Oct. 7	St. L.	Ind.	Hankens



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