

RANKING THE TENNIS MEN

Larned the Leading Player of the Season.

NO DOUBT AS TO FIRST PLACE

Problems in Placing Other Prominent Racquet Men—Hobart Probably Second—Clothier Had a Poor Year.

NEW YORK, Sept. 14.—Any attempt at ranking the lawn tennis players of this country for the season must inevitably put William A. Larned, the national champion, at the top. That is an honor to which he is entitled by force of being the champion and in selecting him no regard is paid to the previous tournaments of the season.

However, that is not in general the idea of the ranking committee, composed this season of A. L. Hoskins, chairman; Edgar W. Leonard and Thomas C. Trask. They have been at work with the idea of keeping watch of the season's play of the various tennis men, and thus may be expected to count other tournaments than that at Newport.

However, this will apply more strictly to the players outside of the ranking ten. The minor players who do not venture to Newport have to be judged on the basis of their work in various state and open tournaments under the sanction of the United States National Lawn Tennis association. One thing that makes the whole task hard this year is the lack of continuous performance to judge by. Some players have taken part in only a few tournaments, and although of admitted ability, have done hardly enough to justify ranking them at all.

Good Men Out of Matches. For instance, Beals C. Wright and Earl H. Behr, well known to be among the best American players, were not active competitors in many tournaments. Before the Davis cup matches neither did much except to practice in invitation tournaments. After the return Wright played and won at the Meadow club, Southampton, but did not take part at Newport and Behr apparently off form after the trip abroad, was beaten successively at Southampton and Newport.

Raymond D. Little was another of the good men whose appearance in tournament play has not been so very frequent this year. He was a contender in the Middle States tournament, but was beaten in the challenge round by William A. Larned. Little did not appear at Newport, so that element in placing him is lacking. However, Little on the occasions that he did play showed himself extremely capable, and he impressed many persons as playing the best tennis that he has shown in some seasons. In fact that is just where the difficulty of ranking comes in. Should a man be rated for what he has done in a few tournaments or should he be ranked on the basis of his known and compared ability? That is the question that the ranking committee has to solve and does solve in making its announcements.

Clothier's Poor Year. In rating players sometimes curious questions arise. For instance, those who know and follow tennis believe that William J. Clothier, the champion of 1906, will be ranked fairly high. In fact he may be put in second place by the committee. There is no real reason why he should be ranked second this year. He was defeated by Little again; outplayed at Longwood by F. C. Colston. Clothier withdrew from the Meadow club tournament and later was forced to default his championship by an injury to his leg. It has been said in Clothier's behalf that he is a very late beginner in rounding to form. Even taking that into consideration and marking his play in the doubles at the Crescent A. C. directly before Newport, it must be remarked that Clothier was not the champion by a great deal.

His play up to the time of the Newport tournament forces a ranking below Little, who defeated him twice in undeniable form. Little beat Colston at Longwood directly after Colston had beaten Clothier, so there is a triple link of inferiority to Little. It apparently would be the part of fairness to rank Clothier as below the play below the champion of 1906, but again there remains always the fact that Clothier was champion and the prestige of having been title holder remains in his favor and doubtless will be remembered by the ranking committee in placing the tall Philadelphia player.

Hobart and LeRoy. Clarence Hobart and LeRoy are two of the best players of the year, on the season's showing. Neither man played in many tournaments, but in what they did enter they made a decided showing. The best work done by LeRoy was in the national championship, where he achieved the final bracket. He was defeated by Larned in straight sets, as was not entirely unexpected. The easy victory was the more anticipated because LeRoy had to play five sets on the day before to put Henry H. Mollenhauer out of his way, while Larned was having a straight set tussle with Hobart. Still, in justice to LeRoy, one would have to rank him below Hobart, remembering always that Hobart defeated LeRoy in that much discussed final at Longwood. Hobart was not a contender at Southampton, where LeRoy and Beals C. Wright qualified for the final. Here again LeRoy was defeated. His best record, outside of the tri-state tournament, consists, therefore, of three runners-up trophies.

Hobart's career was brief but more or less triumphant. He played a little at the Crescent Athletic club before the departure of the Davis cup players for the other side, with the object, according to report, of showing that he was not inferior to many of the younger and supposedly better players of the day. Hobart displayed at Bay Ridge a persistent and hard to beat kind of game, but nothing remarkable. However, at Longwood and Newport he did very well indeed. After winning the Longwood tournament he defaulted to Larned, as a protest against the system of having the holder stand out. Any question that there might have been as to which was the better player was partly settled when the two met at Newport subsequently in the semi-final round. Larned, on his game, had no trouble with the older player.

There are then these players, Larned, Hobart, LeRoy, Little, Clothier, Wright, who have been noticed thus far. Wright's biggest performance after the Southampton tournament was in the tri-state. He apparently is entitled to a place ahead of LeRoy. Little, who in addition to his defeats of Clothier, won the Bealright cup from Alexander, was beaten by LeRoy and Larned in various tournaments. He did not appear in the Newport tournament. Apparently it would not be unfair to rank him below LeRoy.

Not Easy to Place Them. There are many other players whom it will not be easy to place. Taking only a few of them, they are Harold H. Hackett, Irving C. Wright, Herbert L. Westfall,



DISCUS THROWN ONCE MORE

Old Greek Sport Taken Up by American Athletes.

FEW CHANGES MADE IN THE GAME

By Modern Rules Disc Must Be Cast Pretty Much After Manner Shown in the Statue of the Discobolus.

Throwing the discus in the Greek style has received official recognition as a standard event on the American athletic championship program, and as it is modeled after the statue of the Discobolus, henceforth, the name will have to be studied by athletes. For some years a sort of go-as-you-please rule governed the contest, and even the Greeks themselves were a trifle at sea as to the conditions of ancient times. In the statue of the Discobolus, the athlete of last year the old rules were dug up and they prevailed in the Stadium.

In part the same rules will be enforced here, but with a little improvement. That is, in front of the throwing box there will be a parallelogram 10 feet long and 3 feet broad and a fair throw must fall inside of this space, a restriction which will insure the disc being thrown straight.

The invention of disk throwing has been assigned to Perseus, son of Jupiter and Danae, and ranked third in the exactness, or all around program. As to the exact weight of the discus in ancient times there is very little authentic information.

According to Damoas, Milo of Croton threw a disc weighing eleven pounds a distance of ninety feet, and about the same distance was credited to Ilyseos and others. The discus used at the last Olympiad weighed a shade over four pounds and the record achieved was 115 feet 4 inches by Jaervent of Finland, so that had Milo been present he would easily have held his own with the modern champion.

Then as to the shape, size and material of the discus itself at different periods there is a lot of contradictory literature. As well as can be ascertained the missile in the days of Homer was a mass of rough iron called a sosis and was used in parts of Greece. When on their way to the last Olympic games the members of the American team saw one of the old iron implements. It was at Patras, on the mainland of Greece, where the boys practiced after landing from the steamer Montenegro, and a resident of the town lent the old rust-eaten disc for the occasion.

In ancient times the athlete threw from a space called the halbis, which today has been replaced by a box of dirt graded toward the front. Then as now the thrower had to assume a certain attitude or else the throw was foul.

The right leg must be in front and slightly bent, with the weight of the body mostly on the right foot, which must rest flat on the dirt. About eighteen inches behind should be the left foot resting on the toes.

This position of the legs places the body in a cramped attitude so that it is partly powerless to impart any great momentum to the disc as it flies away. Were the legs reversed, that is, with the left foot in front, then the swing of the body would add to the force of the arm and the result would be a natural action of the muscles.

As the athlete stands in the box he should lean his body slightly forward, with the feet as close together as possible when he is ready to make the effort the body should be bent and turned slightly to the right and the hand holding the discus should be extended backward to the full length of the arm and raised level with the head.

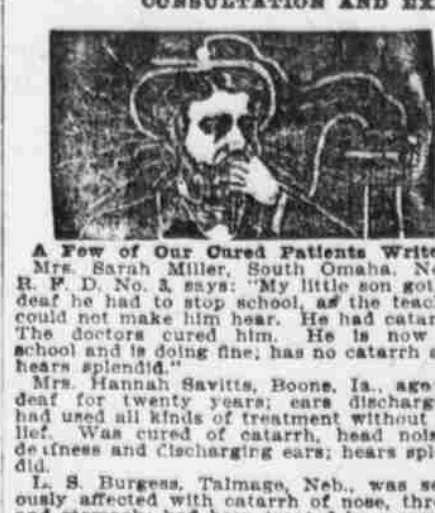
At this point comes the most delicate part of the throw, for the hand holding the discus should describe a downward half circle in the air, while at the same time the athlete should jump forward of the box as if to increase the force of the projection. Any other movement but a downward swoop of the arm in the act of throwing is contrary to the correct rules.

So popular did the sport become among the Greeks that the distance to which a strong hand could throw the missile became a measure of length acknowledged and ratified by usage. "A cast of the disc" was an expression as well understood in ancient times as the range of a gun became later. The same disc was used by all the competitors and each throw was marked by a stake or arrow.

DANIELS MADE A GREAT SWIM Young American Loses World's Race by a Technicality. NEW YORK, Sept. 14.—The particulars of the 220-yard swimming race for the championship of the world have just come by mail from England, and it will be gratifying to all good American followers of aquatic sports to hear that C. M. Daniels of the New York Athletic club really won this event, but lost the decision on a mere technicality.

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AGE AND YOUTH ON THE LINKS

Men of Fifty-Five or Over to Play at Apawamis.

SOME CHAT FOR GOLF PLAYERS

Nearly Three Thousand Names on Massachusetts Fall Handicap—Ratings on Scratch and Not Par.

NEW YORK, Sept. 14.—At the Apawamis club there is always a welcome to veterans of the game. The annual seniors' tournament has been arranged for Thursday, September 26, and all golfers who are 55 years of age and over and who are members of the United States Golf association or the Metropolitan Golf association or any of the affiliated clubs are invited to take part. The competition will be a thirty-six hole medal play handicap over the regular course of the Apawamis club. There is a plum tree of prizes—for the best and second best gross scores, for the best and second best net scores and for the best net scores morning and afternoon. The tournament will conflict with the three-day competition of the Morris County Golf club, but the "old boys," who always turn out seventy or eighty strong, do not care for the opposition.

Since the curtailment of the Metropolitan Golf association handicap list to those rating at nine strokes or under the Massachusetts list is monumental for the many and very accurate ratings it contains. It is revised in the spring and early fall, the list just off the press containing over 2,400 names.

The system of handicapping in use is: "Ascertain each player's best score average, not his average game but his average best game. If you cannot get trustworthy figures, ascertain what a player can do at his best. Abnormal performances should not be considered. The difference between the figures of the player's average best game and the scratch score figures of your links will give the handicap required. The table of scratch scores of the Massachusetts courses is of interest:

Table listing golf courses and their scratch scores, including Albemarle, Merrimack, Boston, etc.

It seems, then, that on the basis of the facts recited a ranking for the first ten might well be something like the following: Larned, Hobart, Wright, LeRoy, Little, Clothier, Emerson, Hackett, Mollenhauer, Palmer. There are players who will be ranked close to these, such as Westfall, Anderson, E. P. Larned, W. B. Cragin, Jr., Wallace F. Johnson, the intercollegiate champion who defeated Hackett in Chicago; N. W. Nilas, Semp Russell, G. L. Wyeth and others already mentioned with no attempt at placing them in any significant order.

It is understood that the committee will attempt to rank the women's singles players, too. This will raise a nice question as to Miss Sutton, who, while undoubtedly the best American player, will have to follow Miss Sears, the winner in the Philadelphia tournament. If she is ranked at all, Miss Marie Wagner and Mrs. W. H. Pouch also are very prominent women players.

As to the men's doubles Hackett and Alexander, of course, are the ranking players as champions. Clothier and Larned apparently are next, and then it is a question whether Grant and Westfall, the runners-up at Longwood, are superior to Grant and Thurston, the southern champions. And then, again, Hackett and Little, who beat Grant and Westfall at Orange, and Colston and Torrence, who won from them at Southampton, also have claims to being ranked.

Veterans of the Game. Curiously enough, Larned and Hobart, the leading players, are two of the oldest at that game. As for the matter of age, it is understood that Larned is about 35 years old and Hobart in the close neighborhood of 40. Hobart never has been national champion; Larned has been title holder three times, in 1901, 1902 and 1907. Hobart won the all-comers' case only, in 1891, and afterward was beaten by Ollie Campbell. Larned won the all-comers' twice, in 1900 and 1901. Hobart was the runner-up in the all-comers' in 1905, when Beals Wright defeated him. Larned has been often a runner-up, in 1892, 1894, 1895 and 1896.

Hobart, with F. H. Hovey, won the national doubles in 1898 and 1904. He and Hovey won the all-comers' in 1898, the first year they were champions, beating O. S. Campbell and R. F. Huntington, Jr., for the title thereafter. It is almost twenty years ago since Hobart's name first appeared in any important tournament. In 1888 he and E. P. MacMillan were runners-up in the all-comers' doubles to the Columbia players and their intercollegiate champions, O. S. Campbell and V. G. Hall. In 1890 Hobart and Hovey were runners-up to the Chicagoans, Carr B. Neel and S. B. Neel. Hall and Hobart won the eastern doubles in 1890; Hobart and Hovey in 1898. This year was the first that Larned ever has shown in doubles, as he and Clothier won the Eastern at Longwood.

WOMAN'S GOLF AT MIDLOTHIAN

Program for Week of Championship Play in October.

CHICAGO, Sept. 14.—Program for the women's national golf championship, October 12 to 15, inclusive, at the Midlothian Country Club. All medal match play will be at 18-hole rounds.

Monday, October 7.—10 a. m.: Women's championship medal play round, 18 holes, best three out of four. A prize is offered by the association for the lowest score in this competition.

Tuesday, October 8.—10 a. m.: Women's championship, first match play round, 1:30 p. m. consolation event for the non-qualifiers; 1:30 p. m.: Medal play handicap. Prizes presented by Midlothian Country Club. Entries close for this event at 1 p. m.

Wednesday, October 9.—10 a. m.: Women's championship, second match play round, 1:30 p. m.: Women's handicap against top 10 of the previous week. Entries close for this event at 1 p. m.

Thursday, October 10.—10 a. m.: Women's championship, third round, 1:30 p. m.: Driving, approaching and putting contests. Prizes presented by Midlothian Country Club. All medal play handicaps. Entries close for this event at 1 p. m.

Friday, October 11.—10 a. m.: Women's championship, semi-final match play round, 1:30 p. m.: Golf course, scratch, 18 holes. Prizes presented by Midlothian Country Club. Entries close at the time of the event.

Saturday, October 12.—10 a. m.: Women's championship, final match play round, 1:30 p. m.: Four-stroke medal play handicaps. Prizes presented by Midlothian Country Club. Entries close for this event Thursday, October 10, at 1 p. m.

The competition is open for foreigners visiting this country, who may be invited by the executive committee of the association. The Robert Cox cup shall be held for that year by the club from which the winner shall have entered, the winner receive a gold medal, the runner up a silver medal and the other semi-finalists bronze medals.

NEW TRACK FOR LOS ANGELES

Graders Arc at Work at the Baldwin Ranch.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Sept. 14.—Despite the fact that the graders are at work at Arcadia, on Baldwin's ranch, clearing the ground for a new race track, there are many who still believe that the running horses will be seen in action again this winter at Ascot Park. While those who are on the inside will not tell what they know about the matter, they do not seem to be very sad over the prospects. The greatest evidence at hand that Ascot will be opened is in the preparations that are going on at that track. The track superintendent and his crew are at work clearing things up, and, while the gentlemen will admit nothing, the manner in which he is going about his work would seem to indicate that it is not being carried on for nothing. Whether or not betting will be allowed on the track no one knows, but as the county line is but a few hundred feet from Ascot, no trouble is looked for from this source in the event of another winter meeting.

STANFORD'S COACH IS ON STRIKE

Tutor of the California Oarsmen Demands a Contract.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 14.—Rowing affairs at Stanford university face a crisis unless that institution accedes to the demands of Dan Murphy, the rowing coach of the Cardinal school crew. Murphy declares that he will not return to Stanford and act as head rowing adviser unless he is given a year's contract at \$1,200. The loss of Zimmerman, the captain of last year's crew, has been greatly felt and should Murphy fail in his demands rowing affairs will be thrown into confusion. As Murphy is conceded to be the best rowing authority along the western coast, it is thought Stanford will give in to his demands.

Travis Has No Prejudice

Travis of American amateurs will not admit to ever having had an ideal club, meeting.