

# J. WOOD PLATT CAPTURES LOCAL GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

## Whitemarsh Crack Carries Off His Third District Links Title by Defeating Joe Green in Final, 7 and 6

BY PERRY LEWIS

**F**OR the third time within a period of four years, J. Wood Platt, master linksman of Whitemarsh, yesterday won the amateur golf championship of the Philadelphia district, ascending the throne from which he will rule the local links world for a year, after he had brushed aside Joe Green, the remarkable Roxborough youngster, in the final, 7 and 6.

As usual, Platt dominated the title tourney fought over the sporty course of the Aronimink Country Club, from qualifying round to final. An added entry at the last moment, he shattered the course record on the second eighteen holes of the medal round with a 72, and lugged off the trophy with a total of 149 for the 36 holes.

The new champion, who succeeds Max Marston, holder of the national title, then moved serenely through the preliminary rounds of match play. In the semi-final on Friday afternoon he came from behind to nudge aside that grand golfer of Aronimink, Walter Reynolds, and yesterday he completed his triumph by blotting out the 18-year-old runner up.

This is the third time Platt has won the local championship. In 1920 at Huntingdon Valley he broke through for his first win. The following year he was unseated by Lou Deming, of Whitemarsh, and in 1922 regained the title at Pine Valley after he had established a new course record in the qualifying round.

Later that year Platt suffered a sunstroke, which virtually removed him from competition until this year. Last season at Merion he was unable to play and Marston replaced him.

In defeating Green yesterday, Platt

### The Cards

#### Morning Round

##### OUT

Platt	....	5	3	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	—35
Green	....	5	4	5	7	4	3	5	3	5	—41

##### IN

Platt	....	4	3	6	3	4	5	4	4	4	—37—72
Green	....	4	5	5	4	4	6	4	4	5	—41—82

#### Afternoon Round

##### OUT

Platt	....	5	4	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	—40
Green	....	4	4	5	6	5	4	4	3	3	—38

##### IN

Platt	....	4	3	5
Green	....	5	4	6

halted an amazing winning streak of a boy prodigy. Four years ago, when a stripling of 14, Green was a caddy at Aronimink. Three years ago, the youngster took up the game himself, playing most of his golf at Cobb's Creek. Later he became a member at Roxborough, and in his first tournament start in the junior championship at Old York road last year went to the finals.

Up until the title event, which came to an end yesterday with the recrowning of Platt, Green had never taken part in a senior championship tournament, but from qualifying day up until the moment he succumbed to Platt, he brushed aside all who disputed his right of way.

Despite the overwhelming mastery of Platt, the big gallery which followed the finalist were thrilled by many dramatic developments, due to the fact that the ultimate

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winner was out there fighting two opponents—the stalwart youngster, Green, and Old Sol.

Because of a sun stroke he suffered at Pine Valley back in 1922, Platt is unable to stand up under the rays of the sun at this season of the year. Fortunately for him, it rained throughout the tournament up until yesterday, and during the first eighteen holes played in the morning, Old Sol obligingly hid his face behind heavy clouds.

Meanwhile Platt prospered. Playing the dazzling golf of which he is normally capable, he just about outclassed his opponent. The result of it all was that when they adjourned for lunch at the halfway point, Woodie enjoyed a merry lead of six holes.

### When Platt Wilted

And it was well for him that he did, for, with the start of the afternoon round, the clouds cleared away, and for nine holes an unmerciful sun beat down on the heads of players and gallery. Platt promptly started to wilt. At the fourth hole he was plainly laboring. At the sixth he was slowly dragging his feet over the course, fighting with everything that he had to carry on.

Those who are familiar with his condition followed him with anxious eyes, momentarily expecting him to crumple up. Woodie was hooking from every tee, the surest sign in the world that a golfer is spent.

Going to the eighth tee, he was still six up, having lost the first and won the fourth, where Green had driven out of bounds. Then came the low ebb of Platt's fortunes.

From the eighth tee he hooked far over into the rough, and was barely on in two. Two putts got him down in one over par, one stroke more than Green required, and the latter was now five down.

On the ninth tee, Platt rested before he drove, but Green far outdistanced him. Woodie's second was short, and he was up there with a ten-foot putt for a par four when Green holed out an eighteen footer for a bird. Now the Roxborough lad was only four down, with nine holes to play—and the sun still shining.

But the Gods still had a smile for Platt. Going to the tenth tee a heavy cloud crept over the face of the sun, a cool breeze carried off the turbid air as it bathed the heated and tortured brow of the Whitemarsh star. As usual, he hooked from the tee, but it was his last serious mistake of the round. His most feared opponent, Old Sol, had retired, and victory was in the offing.

### A Champion Comes Back

Both were too strong and over the tenth green. Green was away, and although his agate was buried in the mud, he made a fine recovery with his third, and was ten feet from the cup for a par four. But Platt's recovery was even better, his ball coming to rest within a few inches of the objective, and directly in the line of Green's putt.

It was a full stymie, but the green slopes away, and Green might have curled his ball around that of his opponent. He might have—but he didn't, and Platt was now five up, with the tide of victory flowing strongly toward Whitemarsh.

Another remarkable recovery gave Platt the eleventh hole, and virtually the match, although it was generally conceded that after losing the tenth, Green was through. Once more Platt hooked from the tee on the short eleventh, while the Roxborough entry was a few feet over.

The Whitemarsh star then trickled his pellet up over the edge of the elevated green, and it rolled nicely along within three feet of the cup. Green was plainly upset, and woefully short with his approach. He missed his third, and then Platt, after carefully studying the turf, sunk his three-footer for a winning par three. This made him six up with seven to go.

The end came on the long twelfth. Here Platt rode one with his driver straight down the fairway, but Green tried to press, and sliced out of bounds. He struggled manfully to wipe out this error with some super golf, but was

unequal to the task, ending up with a six to Platt's five, and for the third time Platt was acclaimed champion.

### Platt Gets the Jump

Platt got the psychological jump on his rival at the first hole, when Green missed an easy putt for a win and it was halved in 5s, even though Platt had dropped his second in a trap. The Roxborough entry was so upset by the failure of his putter to function properly that he took three strokes on the next carpet and lost to a par 3.

At the third he was short with his second, and another hole went to Platt, who shot a par 4. At the fourth Green was in one trap after another, and took a 7, Platt, very naturally, winning with a par 5. Woodie ran down a long putt to halve the fifth after being wide of the green with his second. Both played the short sixth perfectly, and it was halved in 3s.

Platt was again short with his mashie shot going to the seventh, but once more he sank a long putt and managed to win the hole when Green dubbed his second and third shots. Platt failed to reach the carpet with his drive at the short eighth, but pitched fifteen feet from the pin, only to miss the putt by a narrow margin. Green was down in a par 3, and won his only hole of the outward jaunt.

He relapsed at the ninth and half topped his drive, took three to get on and two putts. Platt was just off the edge of the carpet with his drive, and playing safe, was down easily in a par 4, regaining his four-hole edge.

Platt was out in 35, only one stroke over par, while Green played his worst golf of the tourney and took 41 to the turn.

### Green Out of Luck

Green braced long enough to halve the tenth in par 4s, but slumped at the eleventh, when the luck broke against him. He got off a nice drive, but the ball landed in a little depression, and the bad lie cost him a stroke, which eventually split the hole, as Platt was down in a par 3.

At the twelfth green he had his first and only bit of good fortune, when Platt's drive landed the ball against a tree. He wasted a stroke getting back to the roadway and though he was down in 6 Green won with a 5.

A neat birdie 3 won the thirteenth for Platt, his chip shot coming to rest within easy putting distance of the hole. Green was down in a par 4, but it did him no good.

At the fourteenth Platt took three putts, the only time on the round he committed this golfing error and Green won with a par four, cutting Platt's lead to four holes.

The youngster drove into the woods, going to the fifteenth, and lost the hole with a 6 to Platt's par 4. The sixteenth and seventeenth were halved in 4s, but at the eighteen Green looked up too soon and was short with his second. He was on with his third and down in the conventional two putts, but Platt played the hole perfectly and had a par 4. This gave Woodie the exceedingly comfortable margin of six holes as they went to luncheon.

### The Afternoon Round

The match assumed an entirely different aspect when it was renewed in the afternoon, and Platt's work on the first hole was a herald of what was to come. Here he needed three putts, and lost to a regulation four.

They halved the next two, both being one over par on both holes. On the fourth, Green hammered his drive out of bounds, and never got the stroke back, losing with a six to five. Both were one over on the fifth, Platt finding a pit with his second, and Green pulling his drive into the rough.

On the short sixth, Platt needed three from the edge of the carpet, and Green had a chance to pick up a hole by dropping a six-footer. He failed, however, and another golden opportunity faded into nothingness. The Whitemarsh man was short with his second on the seventh, but scored a par four and saved himself by chipping up within three feet of the pin and sinking the putt.

How Platt faded on the eighth and ninth, to come back beneath the shelter of a heavy cloud and win three straight and the title after the turn had been made, has already been told.