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Marty Furgol Wins

Final 65 Nets 270 For Title

Middlecoff One Stroke Back; Snead Is Third

BY FRED HUNT, JR.

Here's Exactly How It Happened

Blow by Blow of Open Victory

BY FRED HUNT, JR.

Golf Editor, The Times

It took the last man and the last ball sunk in the 40th annual Western Open golf tournament at Davenport Country club as the sun set behind the 18th green to provide the thousands of people who witnessed the affair with a truly sky-hook finish!

Marty Furgol, pro of the Cog-Hill Country club just outside Chicago — the 36-year-old father of three children — and winner of only one major tournament in three years of competitive golf — the Boston Open this season — came from nowhere to post a 270 total and walk off with the Western.

To pull down the $2,250 first prize and the Western Open title, Trailed scores recorded — the third mark cracked during the tourney — Marty had to wipe up the fairways with such outstanding members of the profession as Dr. Cary Middlecoff, 271, Samuel Jackson Snead, 271, Johnny Palmer, Jim Ferrier and Lloyd Mangrum, tied at 274, and George Fazio, record-holder for an 18-hole round, who finally came home with a 275.

And Marty loved every single minute. The guy's a winning person, and he knows it. Being a big boy though it hasn't happened often enough to make the feat a boring one.

More drama was packed into the several minutes on the final green when the last threesome of the day, Snead, Mangrum and Furgol, were planning their second shots than had been seen since the record-breaking performance of Fazio Thursday.

The crowd had been fully warned Marty needed a three to best Dr. Middlecoff's 271, and when the Lemont pro slipped a seven iron to within three feet of the cup on his second shot — a shot which he self included — "oh's and ah's" — for the championship shot was in the making.

After Snead and Mangrum had holed out for their final totals — good for $1,200 for Sam and $1,000 for Lloyd — the crowd got set to see either a new champion crowned or another big day of golf Monday, with Middlecoff and Furgol playing off for it.

Taking plenty of time and looking over his putt with utmost care — Furgol settled himself over his ball, tapped it toward the cup, watched it disappear as he gave a terrific exhale that Fazio received for his 63 Thursday. Marty threw his hands over his head, grinned broadly and bowed. He was speechless!

As photographers and reporters descended upon the new Western Open champion — as the hordes of spectators here for the immediate vicinity of Furgol — Marty emphasized his cuddy, 15-year-old Tommy Kruch of Moline, and then roamed to the scorers' table to make sure everything was in order and O.K. for posterity.

Assigned by telegraph-owners, wall-writers and newspaper men, it was at least 45 minutes before Marty was able to take a quick shower, change clothes and get back down to the 18th green where the Western Golf association and Quad-City 300 club members were waiting to present him with his check and the championship trophy.

Heading the Davenport delegation was Lloyd Arnold, president of the Chamber of Commerce, and Chris Schroeder, president of the "GGA." After paying tribute to the members of the 256 club for their outstanding work in heading the local aspect of the tournament — Mr. Rowe presented Wilbur Knoll, president of the organization, with a plaque.

"In accepting this plaque," Mr. Knoll told the thousands of people assembled for the ceremonies, "I can only say what has been done could never have been accomplished by one man — it was only through the cooperation of the 256 club membership — five men, all of them — that this tournament was a success."

The 256 club president also paid tribute to the Western Open crowds, saying it is a thing he never can forget and the sportsmanship displayed day in and day out than by the quad-cities watching the tourney.

Sam Rose, president of the Davenport Country club, then came in for his share of bows as Mr. Rowe thanked him profusely as a representative of all the club membership, for the use of the course and the facilities afforded Western Golf association officials.

"We know what the president of the 256 club has been subjected to, how busy he's been, and I want to hold Mr. Rose, "so we apologize for the many inconveniences your membership was forced to undergo — though we hope everyone realizes it was a wonderfully successful event for a truly fine cause — the Evans Scholarship Foundation for deserving caddies."

Present for the ceremonies was Chick Evans, himself, but Mr. Snead, though a winner, was ordered how it was to failed to be around to pick up a check, left immediately after completing the final round. Nearly all the participants in this week's tournament will be in Milwaukee by Thursday for the $20,000 Labatt-Open there.

Middlecoff, after being awarded his check, told reporters that the many friends in Davenport, has always enjoyed coming here and reminded them that in the future, if any more tourneys were in the offing, and Snead and Ben Hogan didn't show up, that "there were other good golfers, like himself, who would be glad to appear."

The Memphis dentist also paid off to Furgol's performance, stating that even if the great Hogan had been able to make the tournament, he would have still taken a whip for 270 score.

Furgol's remarks were brief as he considered very favorably and only on the round of the great work done by head greenkeeper Al Spass, but on the manner in which the event was conducted by the WGA.

"It's a beautiful course, I'm very happy and I thank Mangrum, Snead and Middlecoff for taking as many strokes as they did," Furgol said.

In addition to picking up the main prize at DCC, Furgol was given $500 by his home course.

Other money winners were Fazio, 275, $600; Chick Harbert, 277, $500; Roberto DeVicenzo, Freddie Haas, and Jimmy Demaret, 280, $220; Henry Ransom, Fred Hawkins and Julius Boros, 281, $160; Jim Ferrier, Dave Peper, Ed Furgol, 282, $100; Henry Kolser, Jr., Lew Worsham, Cary Clark, Jerry Barber, 283, $70; Joe Kirkwood, Jr., Jackie Shields,

WESTERN OPEN WINNING, LOSING SHOTS PICTURED—Shown above are the shots that won and lost the Western Open golf championship at Davenport Country club Sunday. At left, Marty Furgol, whose 72 sent copped the hurting, sinks the three-foot putt on the 18th green that won the title. At right, Dr. Cary Middlecoff, runner-up, blasts out of the rough on No. 15—the hole on which he took a double bogie to drop from 11 under par, a winning total, to only one under. (Times Photos by Marrie Kosek).

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