



Betty Fehl Takes State Golf Crown

The 1950 Pennsylvania Women's Amateur Championship played at Berkshire Country is noteworthy for three things. Who was there. Who wasn't there. And who won.

So, who was there: Start with **Dorothy Porter**, the former Dorothy Germain, of Philadelphia. She was the defending U.S. Women's amateur champion, having taken the 1949 title at Merion Cricket Club. She won the Pennsylvania championship in 1946 and would go on to win the title in '52 and '55. Also in the field was **Edith Flippin**, nee Quier, the Reading star who won the state amateur title in 1936.

Who wasn't there? None other than **Helen Sigel**, also of Philadelphia, the three-time defending champion. Miss Sigel passed up the Reading event at defend another title, the Women's Western Amateur played at the same time in Highland Park, Ill. Miss Segal was unsuccessful, losing in the quarter-final round. She would win the state crown in 1958 as **Helen Sigel Wilson**.

So, who won? That would be **Betty Fehl**, playing out of Reading Country Club. **Miss Fehl** would also win state honors in 1965, but she fell short in the 1956 event played at Reading Country Club, losing in the semi-final round.

The 1950 championship kicked-off with a qualifying round on Monday August 14. Five players, led by Dorothy Porter, tied for the medal with 79. Also at 79 was **Edith Quier Flippin**, the Berkshire stalwart and 1936 state champion. **Betty Fehl** qualified in the championship flight at 81. **Ellen Gery**, a Berkshire member, posted 89 and landed in the second flight. In all, there were four flights of 16 players.

The first round's big story was the upset win by **Mrs. T.E. Webster**, Merion, who defeated **Mrs. Porter**, 4 and 3.

Mrs. Flippin and **Miss Fehl** both won their matches and prepared to face one another in Wednesday's second round. Miss Gery won her second flight match over Mrs. William Hoffman, Pittsburgh, in 20 holes.

The match between **Mrs. Flippin** and **Miss Fehl** marked a meeting of two generations of Berks golf greatness. Mrs. Flippin was Berks' first great national and international golfer, competing against the greats of her era, such as **Glenna Collette Vare**, **Maureen Orcutt** and **Virginia Van Wei**. **Miss Fehl** was in the midst of a career that saw her win 30 Berks women's golf championships, including an astonishing 20 in succession.

Betty took the lead on the first hole with a par 5 and never trailed, although **Mrs. Flippin** evened the match with a par on the second hole. **Miss Fehl** then took charge to lead 4-up at the

turn and win the match, 5 and 4, to advance to the semi-finals.

Ellen Gery won her second flight match against **Mrs. William Bair**, Berkshire, 5 and 4.

Miss Fehl continued her domination with a 6 and 5 semi-final match win over **Mrs. Miriam Phipps-Lyon**, Plymouth. Betty rode a red-hot putter to victory, with six one-putt greens. She led 3-up after five and did not allow her opponent to win a single hole.

In second flight action, **Ellen Gery** defeated **Dr. Lois Reed**, Phoenixville, 3 and 2, to advance to the championship match.

Miss Fehl routed **Mrs. John Gessler**, the Philadelphia amateur champion from Whitmarsh Valley Country Club, 10 and 9, in the 36-hole final match. **Betty** led 6-up after the morning round and poured on the steam in the afternoon match to win going away. Her drives split the fairways, her irons were dead-

on to the pins and her putts rolled true. **Miss Fehl** became the first Berks state women's golf queen since **Edith Flippin**, nee Quier, took the title in 1936.

Miss Fehl shot 36-41-77 for the first 18 holes, compared with **Mrs. Gessler's** 41-43-84. Betty was one under par for the first nine holes of the afternoon round. After halving the first three holes, **Betty** won the 4th with a par 5. The players thrilled the enthusiastic gallery when, on the 6th hole, Betty hit her tee shot to 18 inches while her opponent was seven feet from the cup. Both made birdie. A birdie on the 8th gave **Betty** a 9-up lead and her birdie on 9, her third in four holes, clinched the title. Later that evening, RCC members hosted **Betty** at a reception to honor her championship.

Mrs. Gessler came back to win the title in 1951 and in 1953, she gained a measure of revenge when she defeated **Miss Fehl**, 2-up, to take the crown at York Country Club.

Ellen Gery, Berkshire, defeated **Mrs. L.S. Schoettle**, Merion, 3 and 2 in the 18-hole second flight championship match.

The championship match scorecard

Par Out	5 4 5	5 4 3	4 4 3	36
Gessler	5 5 5	5 4 4	5 4 3	41-84
Fehl	5 4 5	5 4 3	4 4 2	36
Par In	5 3 5	5 4 4	3 5 4	38-74
Gessler	4 4 5	5 5 5	5 6 4	43-84
Fehl	5 4 6	5 4 4	3 6 4	41-77
Par Out	5 4 5	5 4 3	4 4 3	36-74-110
Gessler	5 5 5	7 5 2	4 4 4	41-84-125
Fehl	5 5 5	5 4 2	4 3 2	35-77-112

Miss Fehl wins, 10 and 9.



Mrs. John Gessler, left, and Betty Fehl pose with the championship trophy.