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# Rhode Island's Amateur Golf Title At Stake at Agawam Hunt Today

*More Than Three Score Players to Tee Off for Qualifying Round and Chance to Take Crown from Head of Joe Pezzullo, Its Defender.*

By JOHN R. ABORN

After a year of rest upon the wind-blown locks of Joe Pezzullo, Rhode Island's amateur golf crown today becomes a public charge again—a glittering symbol of golf supremacy for which more than 70 of the State's best players will do battle over the greensward of Agawam Hunt.

It rests with the skill of these links stars—a skill that includes mental as well as physical golfing ability—whether the crown will find a new haven, or will continue to sit on Pezzullo's brow. Joe is "in there", but so are several former champions and several more potential titlists, and when the first threesome starts off the tee for the 36-hole qualifying round at 9 o'clock this morning, Pezzullo will revert to the status of "just another golfer." As the defending champion he must climb to the top again this year—if he is to keep the title—by the same tortuous path over which some other chap may wind his way to dislodge him.

## Trophy at Stake Today

This 1930 State amateur tournament is distinctly a championship affair. In the field is every golfer of championship calibre belonging to Rhode Island clubs and this includes some from out of the State. Only a championship flight will be played and because of this the number of qualifiers will be extended to 32 which means that a slight slip today on the part of some acknowledged candi-

date will not eliminate him from the fight for the crown.

In addition to the battle for the medal in today's qualifying round, consisting of 18 holes in the morning and 18 in the afternoon, the field will be playing for the President's trophy, the prize going to the man with the low net score. Further changes coming with the abolition of all but the championship flight include the offering of prizes for the semi-finalists in addition to the ultimate winner's championship prize and runner-up award.

The past two days found Agawam Hunt open to entrants for practice and on Saturday several did play over the course, more to acquaint themselves with the vagaries of its 18 holes than to perfect their shots. At this late stage of the game, potential titlists know well their general capabilities. A good or a bad day may make or break them but in the long run, their game averages about the same. Yesterday's downpour dashed all thoughts of practice from the minds of most, but it served to freshen up the fairways and greens. Sun and a gentle breeze today should put Agawam Hunt in championship condition.

Never was a champion's path beset with more menacing, troublesome shadows as is Pezzullo's. But shadows is a

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# PEZZULLO STAR

## Youthful Champion Faces Strong Field at Agawam

Play Opens This Morning at 9  
O'Clock with 32 Qualifying  
Berths Open.

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BY JOHN R. ABORN

misnomer. Such threats as Teddy Hancock, Brad Oxnard, Tommy Taller, Dan Fairchild, Heinie Gartner, Phil Wray, Harry Kenworthy and Herb Rust are very, very real.

### Their Golf Improved

Not only that but a few in that list have been playing better golf recently than has young Joe. He played well in the early spring and then continued to win the first two R. I. G. A. invitation tournaments. Buoyed up by this accomplishment the youthful champion travelled to Boston for the Massachusetts open, but did not fare so well and since then he has been off and on. Schooled as a caddy at the Rhode Island Country Club links, Joe has all the shots in the game and it was this that brought him through to the championship last season.

Joe needs to combine a cool

smart head with his smart golf shots to retain the crown for against him are such mature players as Oxnard and Hancock.

No speculation on the outcome of this tournament is complete without reference to the entrance of Tommy Taller. Here we have the spectacle of a champion in one class, the juniors, advancing to the next stage. Taller, the product of private links and much school golf, is probably the equal in shot-making of any of the others in the State. He, too, is a youngster and this writer firmly believes that the best golf comes from a player with careful, mature concentration upon the matter at hand. Tommy won the junior title handily last season and has been playing a finished game this year. He went well in the inter-scholastics this spring as well as in the Metropolitan juniors and since coming to Rhode Island has established a new record for the Newport club.

And there are a host of others among the 70 entries. At the Country Club last year a 36-hole score of 163 brought in the 16 qualifiers for that tournament and a pair of 85s would have brought in 32. In practice rounds at Agawam Hunt recently some of the men have been shooting 73s and 74s, which means that the qualifying score today should hover somewhere about a pair of 83s.



# PEZZULLO TAKES MEDAL AS STATE GOLF PLAY OPENS

Defending Champion's 71 on  
Way in Gives Him 150 to  
Lead Field at Agawam.

MacCOLL SECOND WITH 152

Wins President's Trophy for Best  
Net Score.—All of Favorites  
Qualify for Title Tourney

By JOHN R. ABORN  
Brilliant scoring in the afternoon by Joe Pezzullo of Wamumetonomy and K. D. MacColl of Agawam Hunt, resulting in 71's for these two, as well as improvement by most of the remainder of the field over the morning scores featured the qualifying round of the State amateur golf championship at Agawam Hunt yesterday.

Bringing to Pezzullo, the present champion, the coveted medalist honor with his 72-71-150 and to MacColl the President's Trophy with his 142 net, the afternoon play also enabled the golfing fraternity of the State to hold up its collective head with some measure of pride for the morning developments left much to be desired.

The scores ran very high for the first 18 holes of this 36-hole qualifying round, only 11 managing to break 80 over a course which is by no means the hardest in the State.

Those in the afternoon stroking under 80 numbered 11 also but such sharp reductions in scoring as Pezzullo's 79 in the morning to 71 in the afternoon and MacColl's 81 in the morning to 71, reflected improvement of the others.

From Pezzullo's 36-hole score of 150 the figures ranged down to 171 for the 32 qualifiers, and a two-hole play-off was necessary to determine the last man to remain for the match play which starts at 9 o'clock this morning. In this play-off, Gardner W. Freeman of Pawtucket, earned the place by virtue of his four on the short second hole where R. F. Urquhart of Metacomet took a six.

Amateur Record Equalled.  
The amateur record for the Agawam Hunt course was equalled by the pair of 71's and as Pezzullo and MacColl burned their way over the fairways it seemed like a continuation of their match of last summer. Then, of course, they were meeting at match play against each other for the State title. Yesterday they were engaging in medal play, in different threesomes, for the medalist honor. And once more the youthful ex-caddy won out.

Pressing closely these two leaders in the medal play was Phil Wray of Wamumetonomy. This edgy-going, free-swinging player toured the course in easy and consistent fashion, reporting a 77 in the morning and a 76 in the afternoon to finish one stroke behind MacColl and only three behind Pezzullo.

Another consistent scorer came next in the person of Tommy Talley of Newport. This schoolboy, relinquishing his junior title this season because he has attained a man's estate at least in the eyes of the golfing world, had two rounds of 78 for his 156.

No closer than fifth could any of the five former champions, in this field climb to the young medalist. Teddy Hancock of Metacomet and Dan Fairchild of Wamumetonomy were tied in this position with 159. Brad Oxnard, after starting with three pars, ran into trouble and took an 82 for the morning round but he figured in the general improvement in the afternoon, scoring a 77 for a total of 159. Heinie Gartner had the same experience, his 79 in the afternoon, three strokes better than his morning round, giving him a total of 161. Harry Kenworthy suffered a serious lapse in putting and just managed to qualify with his 169.

All the Favorites' Quality  
So, there you have it. The scores proved the only surprise in the qualifying round, as all the favorites are in there despite the rather disappointing showing of some of them. That Joe Pezzullo should be the medalist is as it should be. He showed remarkable recovery in the afternoon from a morning round which very evidently was worrying him and his brief but furious explosions after a bad hole here and there caused serious apprehension among his well-wishers. But he pulled himself together and his shots clicked in good fashion in the afternoon.

Joe's outward trip in the morning was his worst nine holes of the 36. He started with a six on the first, which he three-putted and added three 5s to it for a 40. One of these 5s came from a whopper three-putt green. Another was on the far fifth, but the third was on the eighth, where his second shot found a trap and he was on in three for two putts. Add to this a four on the par three seventh and you have the story.

Coming in, the tale is little different. Joe started with a five and when five holes had been played coming in he was five over par. The last four holes were played with an improvement which carried on to Pezzullo's afternoon round.

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# DARK HORSE PUTS BRAD OXNARD OUT OF RUN FOR TITLE

Howard R. Merriman of Agawam Defeats Golf Championship Favorite by 5 and 4.

## OTHER STARS ARE REPLACED

Harry Kenworthy, Heinie Gartner, Dr. McCoart, Phil Wray and Herbie Rust Eliminated

By JOHN H. ABORN

Some stars glittered with brilliance undimmed across the Rhode Island golf firmament yesterday as one or two others were pushed from their place in the heavens but across the whole flashed an entirely new one in the person of Howard R. Merriman of Agawam Hunt.

It was left to this tall, light-haired young man to provide the major upset in the first and second round matches of the State amateur golf championship. Merriman defeated Brad Oxnard of Metacomet, a former champion and one of the favorites in the title play.

### First Championship Play

Playing in the championship flight of State tournament for the first time in his life, Merriman stroked his way over his home course to a 5 and 4 victory over Oxnard in a second-round match. It is difficult to analyze Oxnard's defeat unless, it be that he took things a little easy in the qualifying round on Tuesday and then found it hard to hit his proper strike for match play. Indeed, he met unexpected opposition in his first round match with Ira M. Mackenzie and was forced to the 18th green to win 2 up yesterday morning before he met Merriman.

Other former golfing luminaries who relinquished their hope for a place in the quarter finals today were Harry Kenworthy, Heinie Gartner and Dr. R. F. McCoart, all of Metacomet, and Phil Wray and Herbie Rust of Wannamoisett.

Such stars as Joe Pezzullo, the defending champion; Teddy Hancock, a former titlist; Dan Fairchild, another; K. D. MacColl, twice a finalist in years past, and Tommy Taller resisted all efforts of their foes to push them from their lofty seats and rest in the clouds today along with Merriman, Jack Hennessey of Massasoit and Fielding Jackson of Point Judith.

These eight will dwindle to four by this afternoon and then will be staged the 18-hole semi-finals in preparation for the 36-hole title match tomorrow. The first semi-final match will start at 2 o'clock this afternoon and the other at 2:15 o'clock.

Thus fall by the wayside some of the old standbys in Rhode Island golf, their places being taken by new and younger players. And still another, Dan Fairchild, probably the real veteran of the lot, escaped a similar fate only by eking out a 20-hole victory over C. H. Edward. Both these men were scoring sensationally in their match, the last of the afternoon, and both had 75s for the 18 holes which ended all even.

### Medal Scores Are Good

Medal scores of other winners were no less sensational and showed vast improvement over the qualifying round figures. Joe Pezzullo, for instance, played out the bye holes, had 37-35—72 in his 5 and 1 victory over Arthur M. Budlong of Wannamoisett in the second round. The champion drew a bye in the first round when P. S. P. Randolph, Jr., of Newport advised that illness in his family prevented him from returning for the match play.

Dr. McCoart had a 40, including two 4s, going out in his match with Teddy Hancock. Jack Hennessey was out in 40 also. But to Tommy Taller go the honors for scoring. This youngster, who is relinquishing his junior crown this season was four under even 4s for 30 holes of golf yesterday, 27 of them in his matches and three of them bye holes. In the morning when he defeated J. C. Hegeman of Rhode Island Country Club, Taller needed two 4s for a 69 and in the afternoon he needed one 4 for a 71.

Howard Merriman was 38 going out and three up on Brad Oxnard at the turn.

The first hole of this match was halved in par 4s but Merriman took the lead with a regulation three on the second while Oxnard was holed out in four. On the third hole, Brad flubbed his drive, later found a trap and eventually was over the green, picking up while Merriman took a par four. Off the line on the fourth and later missing the green Brad went three down when Merriman was par four.

The former champion won his first hole with a birdie four on the fifth as Merriman sunk a long putt to get a five. A trap forced him to take five again on the sixth to Howard's four and again Oxnard was three down. Brad drove the seventh green and was down in two putts to cut into Merriman's lead, the latter needing four.

Both their drives found bunkers on the eighth. Oxnard then hooked into

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# HANCOCK LOSES TO HENNESSEY AFTER BEATING PEZZULLO

Massasoit Star Takes Measure  
of Champion's Conqueror,  
8-6, to Become Finalist.

## TOMMY TAILER FOE TODAY

Retiring Junior Champion Plays  
Deadly Game to Reach Last  
Match for State Title

BY JOHN R. ABORN

A cloud of defeat covered heavens previously shining with brilliant victory yesterday afternoon, when one of the outstanding favorites in the State amateur golf championship was eliminated with a suddenness that left a huge gallery at Agawam Hunt wondering if it saw correctly.

Jack Hennessey of Massasoit amassed the cloud which sent a bolt of lightning toward Teddy Hancock of Metacomet. It was a bolt laden with a semi-final defeat by 8 and 6—so decisive that it dimmed the brilliance of Hancock's 19-hole victory over Joe Pezzullo of Wampanoag in the quarter finals.

Defeat followed victory so rapidly and unexpectedly from the second round matches on, that scarcely anyone could realize that the finalists today would be Hennessey and Tommy Tailer of Newport.

But that's the pair which will battle over 36 holes of match play for the crown which was toppled from Joe Pezzullo's brow on the 19th green—Hennessey, the big, strong hitter who has often been told he would be a great golfer if he would only take it seriously, and Tailer, the retiring junior champion, whose game is marked by deadly accuracy and steadiness dismaying to all opponents.

### Scores Four Birdies

Hennessey built up that cloud of defeat yesterday afternoon out of a blistering round of golf against which not even Hancock, a former champion and brilliant player in his own right, could stand. Jack was four under even 4s for the 12 holes played and scored four birdies in that distance. Two of these were deuces. Seven holes in a row the Massasoit entry won from Hancock, starting from the sixth tee; the latter managed to win only one, the first, and to halve but two.

Five one-putt greens were included in Hennessey's brilliant stroking and on one, the fourth, he holed out a chip shot for a halve which was almost uncanny. His second shot was sliced to the brook and Hennessey played it out with one foot standing in the water. But he was just out. The chip shot told the story and gave him a halve with Hancock who had played the hole in regulation fashion to get his par four. That feat seemed to give Hennessey just the confidence he needed to sweep on to victory.

Previous to meeting Hancock, Hennessey unleashed a no less effective attack against Howard Merriman of Agawam Hunt, who the day before had risen to a high place in the golfing heavens by upsetting Brad Oxnard.

### Tailer Going Good

In reaching the finals of a State amateur championship for the first time, Tommy Tailer lost but eight holes in his first four rounds of match play. In two matches yesterday, the first against Fielding Jackson of Point Judith and the next against K. D. MacColl of Agawam Hunt, he made but three really bad shots. One of them, a topped tee shot on the 17th when he had MacColl cornered two, gave the latter an opportunity to creep up close, but he threw it away by slicing his drive to the very edge of the fairway. Tailer was one up at the turn. MacColl negotiated the first nine holes in one under par while Tailer took 35. Coming in Tommy won two holes, lost one and halved five to win the match, 2 and 1.

In his quarter-final match, in the morning, Tailer had little difficulty in eliminating Jackson, 6 and 4. MacColl accounted for Dan Fairchild, 2 and 1.

Hennessey's victory over Hancock was made all the more sensational because Teddy went to the tee in the afternoon with Joe Pezzullo's scalp dangling from his belt. Neither Joe nor Teddy played brilliantly, although Pezzullo was 36 going out while Hancock was 39. The de-

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## Pezzullo, Defending Champ, Eliminated in Quarter Finals

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# TAILER CROWNED KING OF R. I. GOLF AT AGAWAM HUNT

Newport Youth Conquers Jack  
Hennessey 9 and 8 to  
Clinch State Title.

## PLAYS STEADY, CALM GAME

Flock of Birdies on Second Round  
Spells Defeat for Opponent;  
Tommy Outdrives Him

BY JOHN R. ADORN

Out of a tumultuous and intensely interesting State amateur golf tournament emerges young Tommy Teller, son of the wealthy Newport and New York Teller family, as Rhode Island's new amateur champion.

Unperturbed by the sensational performance of Jack Hennessey on Thursday, the 18-year-old schoolboy went into yesterday's final match at Agawam Hunt with a stride that was more than Hennessey could match. The score was 9 and 8.

Thus Teller ascends to the throne from which Joe Pozzullo has ruled Rhode Island golfdom for the past year. The contrast is unusual. The old champion—a Latin by birth, short, talkative, his golf learned through years of caddy-ing. The new champion—member of an old family in the East, tall, rather quiet, and his golf acquired through years of tutoring and playing on many of the country's leading links, including his own private layout at Newport.

And He's Real Champion.

After Teller's exhibition there can be no question of his right to the crown. He was fourth in the qualifying round and he played close to par golf in every match. He lost only 11 holes during the tournament.

Teller's principal strength was his thorough knowledge of every stroke of the game and his rigid adherence to a style which produced these strokes with perfection. He outdrove all his opponents—not excepting Jack Hennessey, whose long drives have long been legendary. The shots which Teller missed—tee shots, irons or putts, were so few that they can be recalled without straining one's memory. His good shots were so numerous that it is difficult to name the best.

The youth's defeat of Hennessey yesterday quite eclipsed Jack's sensational victory over Teddy Hancock the day before. Out in the morning in even par, Tommy was four up at his turn. Hennessey didn't win a hole among those first nine. Coming in, Teller won three more and Hennessey managed to take even the 15th, where Tommy was trapped twice. Teller was three over par coming in and finished 72, one stroke above the course record for amateurs.

Birdies Are Plentiful.  
With Hennessey using a new pair of wooden clubs purchased during the interim, the pair set out for the afternoon grind. Deuces and birdies dropped up everywhere. Hennessey got the first on the second, where he holed a long putt for a two.

Then a hole was halved and Teller won a couple to go seven up. A bad drive cost Tommy the sixth, but he dropped a long putt on the seventh for a birdie-duce. A similar putt dropped for him on the eighth and after halving the ninth he was 8 up and 9 to go. Then, to the amazement of the large gallery, a third very long putt dropped into the cup for another birdie on the 10th. It gave Tommy the match.

Nothing like this string of putts has been seen here recently. Tommy had been putting for birdies and missing them by hairs until he reached the seventh hole on the afternoon round.

Hennessey yesterday was the victim just as Teddy had been the day before. Teller was too steady and too smooth for Hennessey.

Teller Off to Good Start.

Teller outdrove his taller opponent by 25 yards on the first hole in the morning but Hennessey got a halve with 4s when he chipped very close and sank one putt while Tommy missed his first by inches. On the second hole, Jack was hole high but to the right of the green and the extra stroke he needed to get on the green lost him the hole to Teller's regulation three.

A hooked drive off the third tee left Hennessey in a bad lie under a tree. He took two to get out and was four on the green. Teller won the hole when he was on with a nice second shot from the rough and down in two more to Hennessey's six. One of Teller's many fine putts dropped for him on the fourth hole for a birdie three. Hennessey's second shot was off the line but he chipped up nicely to sink one putt for a four.

Tommy went four up when Hennessey found a ditch on his drive on the fifth hole and never did get out. He was four and nowhere near the green when Tommy was on in three and Hennessey conceded the hole to Teller's five. Again on the sixth hole the young Newport lad outdrove Hennessey but both were on in two. Teller's approach shot was high and kicked up a bit of mud in landing, directly on the line to the cup. Tommy used a No. 3 iron to hop over the obstruction and was down in four, as was Hennessey.

Neither player made the seventh green with his tee shot. Teller went two or three feet down the bank on the far corner and Hennessey was just short. Tommy's chip shot was past the cup but coming back he laid Hennessey's drive stymie and saved himself a halve. They both took 4s, Hennessey hitting Teller's ball with his second putt.

Both were well over the 250-yard mark on their drives as the eighth with Teller still maintaining a slight advantage. It was here that Tommy hit his poor second shot that kicked so fortunately and when he went halfheartedly for the putt that would have meant a three he missed it and the hole was halved 4s. Both were home in two at the 10th but Teller's first putt was way over. It was almost a stymie, just enough to make Hennessey keep to the right with his first putt, which he missed and then

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