

West Virginia Year by Year History

1930s

1930: Palmer Stacy of Lewisburg was a 2 and 1 victor over Dick Seibert of Wheeling in the title match. Stacy was four up after 31 holes and held off a late rally by Seibert. Stacy took 150 strokes for the 35 holes. Semifinals: Stacy def. Jack Hobitzell, Parkersburg, 1 up; Seibert def. F.M. Hawkins, Huntington, 4 and 3. Medalist: Hobitzell, 73-75—148.

1931: Veteran Julius Pollock, 47, holed an 18-foot putt on the 35th green to close out Fred Bannerot, Jr. of Charleston, 2 and 1, and capture his ninth Amateur title. Bannerot consistently outdrove Pollock by 25 to 50 yards, but Pollock was sharper on the greens. Pollock won nine of the first 18 Amateurs. He never lost in the finals. Semifinals: Pollock def. Fred Hawkins, Huntington, 3 and 2; Bannerot def. Forrest McNeill, 6 and 5. Medalist: Pollock 73-74—147.

1932: Fred Bannerot again made the finals and won the title this time with a 3 and 2 triumph over Frank M. Crum of Huntington. Semifinals: Bannerot def. Palmer Stacy, 4 and 3; Crum def. WVU football coach Earle “Greasy” Neale, 2 and 1. Medalist: Bannerot, 74-75—149.

1933: Fred Bannerot, 25, repeated as the champion. He won a close final match over Bobby Rownd, 1 up. Bannerot carded rounds of 76 and 74 while Rownd had 75 and 77. Bannerot shot a record 64 during qualifying on the par 70 Old White course. Semifinals: Bannerot def. Bobby Lowe, Fairmont, 5 and 3; Rownd def. Alex Larmon, Charleston, 19th hole. Medalist: Bannerot, 64-74—138.

1934: Tom Bloch of Wheeling overwhelmed Fred Bannerot, 9 and 8, in the championship match. Bloch wielded a hot putter, sinking a 30-footer and several 15-footers. The quarterfinals pitted four righthanders against four lefthanders, with the four southpaws all losing. Semifinals: Bloch def. Bill King, Wheeling, 4 and 2; Bannerot def. Jack Hobitzell, Parkersburg, 2 and 1. Medalist: Bloch, 69-75—144.

1935: Tom Brand, 20, of Kingwood gained the title by downing Quinn Morton, 21, of Charleston, 5 and 4. Brand took a big lead in the morning with a 73 while Morton had an 80. Brand played on the Michigan State golf team while Morton was a senior at Princeton. Semifinals: Brand def. Tom Bloch, 19th hole; Morton def. Bobby Lowe, 1 up. Medalist: Alex Larmon, Charleston, 69-77—146.

1936: Tom Brand defeated Fairmont attorney Bobby Lowe, 6 and 5, to retain his state title. Brand holed an eight-foot birdie putt on the first green and never trailed. Lowe three-putted seven times. A 13-year old Huntington lad, Billy Campbell, competed in his first Amateur, qualified for the second flight. Semifinals: Brand def. Billy King, Wheeling, 5 and 4; Lowe def. Quinn Morton, 2 and 1. Medalist: Brand, 72-71—143.

1937: Michigan State golfer Tom Brand, 22, made it three in a row by beating Clarksburg glassworker Alpha Lawson, 4 and 2, in the finals. The champion from Kingwood shot 70 in the morning round to take a two-up lead and held it. Semifinals: Brand def. A.R. O'Neal, Charleston, 1 up; Lawson def. Jack Hobitzell, Parkersburg, 5 and 4. Medalist: Kirk Jackson, Wheeling, 71-73—144.

1938: Lefthanded Frank Crum of Williamson wore down Paul Bennett of Martinsburg, 5 and 4, in the title match. Crum, known as the "Pride of Pigeon Creek", took a four up lead on the first 18 holes and increased his lead by sinking a 30-foot putt on the 23rd hole. Semifinals: Crum def. George Hoffer, Wheeling, 8 and 6; Bennett def. Roy Blizzard, Charleston, 2 and 1. Medalist: Fred Bannerot, 69-75—144.

1939: Young Ed Tutwiler, 19, of Mount Hope banged out drives estimated at 260 to 325 yards while defeating Bryan Brown of Hinton, 7 and 6, for the Amateur title. Although often in the rough, Tutwiler took a 2-up lead in the morning round with a 74 score and pulled away in the afternoon. Semifinals: Tutwiler def. Ira Eyler, Martinsburg, 4 and 3; Brown def. Fred Bannerot, 4 and 3. Medalists: Alpha Lawson, Clarksburg, 71-72—143, and Bud Rittenhouse, Parkersburg, 73-70—143.