

West Virginia Year by Year History

1970s

1970: Bill Campbell captured his 11th Amateur title to tie Ed Tutwiler's record, and a tip from Tut helped him do it. Tutwiler, visiting from Indiana, spotted a hitch in Campbell's swing on the practice tee and helped him correct it. Campbell took advantage of a final hole collapse by Barney Thompson to win. Thompson led by two strokes going into the 163-yard final hole but missed the green to the left, pitched to 25 feet and three-putted for a double bogey five. That opened the door for Campbell, who birdied two of the last five holes to shoot 72 for a 282 total and a two-stroke victory. Joe Feaganes of Huntington shot a 66 in the third round. Larry Murphy of Wheeling used a rowboat to reach an island in the lake on the 16th hole and played his shot from there. Round leaders: First, Thompson, Bob Johnson, Jim Rogers and Brian Kneafsey-70s; Second, Campbell-140, by one; Third, Campbell-210, by three.

Bill Campbell 71-69-70-72—282

Barney Thompson 70-72-72-70—284

Jim Ward 71-73-72-69—285

Jim Rogers 70-71-72-75—288

Joe Feaganes 73-75-66-75—289

Bob Johnson 70-73-70-78—291

Frank Sexton 74-74-78-72—298

Kenny Bowen 73-74-76-75—298

1971: Barney Thompson bounced back from his disappointing 1970 finish and nabbed his third Amateur title. Thompson said he learned a lesson: to take his time and think each shot out. It worked. Barney had four solid rounds for a 279 total and won by five strokes over Kenny Bowen of South Charleston. Bowen birdied five holes in an opening 66 and led the first two rounds. Thompson took the lead with three straight birdies for a 69 in the third round. Bill Campbell was unable to defend his title because of throat surgery. Round leaders: First, Bowen-66, by two; Second, Bowen-136, by four; Third, Thompson-209, by three.

Barney Thompson 71-69-69-70—279

Kenny Bowen 66-70-76-72—284

Mike Gocke 75-71-69-77—292

Joe Feaganes 74-76-70-75—295

Fred Garnes 68-73-76-79—296

Brian Kneafsey 75-72-72-77—296

J. Marshall Hawkins 71-75-81-71—298

Jim Ward 73-75-76-77—301

Frank Sexton 74-76-72-79—301

1972: Bill Campbell staged a clinic on how to play golf in the rain while romping to a 10-stroke victory and his record 12th Amateur title. The tournament was delayed three weeks until late July because of a flood on The Greenbrier courses and then it rained all four days of the Amateur. Because of a third round rainout, the 17 golfers in the

championship had to play 36 holes the final day. Campbell began the day with a five-stroke lead and pulled away with steady 72 and 71 rounds for a 280 total. The battle was for second and Jim Ward took that. Barney Thompson turned pro and couldn't defend his title. Henry McCoy of Sistersville made a hole-in-one on the 196-yard 15th hole on the Old White during a hard rainstorm. Round leaders: First, Campbell-68, by one; Second, Campbell-137, by five; Third, Campbell-209, by seven.

Bill Campbell 68-69-72-71—280

Jim Ward 73-71-75-71—290

Bob Johnson 70-73-73-76—292

Brian Kneafsey 71-75-71-76—293

Frank Sexton 69-73-77-79—298

Burke Hawkins 71-73-74-80—298

Lee Martina 77-69-77-75—298

Mike Gocke 72-77-74-75—298

1973: Bill Campbell captured his 13th title but had to work hard to hold off South Charleston dentist Jack Shamblin. Campbell shot a 69 in the final round for a 278 total and a two-stroke victory over Shamblin and Brian Kneafsey of Huntington. Shamblin had a three-foot putt on the 70th hole to tie for the lead but the ball hit the edge of the hole and spun out. Campbell needed rulings the first three days because of his young caddie handing him the wrong ball on the green and a question of whether he caused his ball to move in the rough. He didn't. Lefty Bob Johnson of Charleston fired a 66 in the second round, including a 65-yard wedge shot for an eagle two on No. 14. Florida State golfer Barry Fleming of Vienna shot 66 in the third round. Fred Garnes of Huntington aced the 220-yard third hole in the fourth round. Round leaders: First, Shamblin and Kneafsey-68s; Second, Campbell and Larry Spotloe-138s; Third, Fleming-208, by one.

Bill Campbell 71-67-71-69—278

Jack Shamblin 68-74-69-69—280

Brian Kneafsey 68-74-67-71—280

Mike Gocke 72-73-69-67—281

Jim Ward 71-73-70-71—285

Harold Payne 70-72-69-75—286

Barry Fleming 72-70-66-79—287

Bob Johnson 74-66-69-79—288

1974: The Amateur was changed to all stroke play, eliminating match play for the lower flights. Bill Campbell led all the way in bagging title No. 14. He won by nine strokes and tied Barney Thompson's tournament record of 274. Campbell started with a 65, followed it with a 67 in the second round and then featured his third round by holing out a full 150-yard seven-iron shot for an eagle on the 393-yard 13th hole. Marshall University golfer Harold Payne, 19, of South Charleston cut Campbell's lead to two strokes before the eagle gave Bill some breathing room. Payne was second to Campbell every day with a solid 283 total. Round leaders: First, Campbell-65, by four; Second, Campbell-132, by seven; Third, Campbell-204, by five.

Bill Campbell 65-67-72-70—274

Harold Payne 69-70-70-74—283

Everett Wray 75-69-73-72—289
Jim Ward 73-73-73-71—290
Jack Shamblin 75-70-73-73—291
Bob Johnson 72-70-76-75—293
Jack Forbes 72-74-73-76—295
Benny Blake 74-74-72-75—295
Brian Kneafsey 72-72-80-71—295

1975: Bill Campbell, 52, became the first man to win four straight Amateurs and raised his number of titles to 15. The tall gentleman from Huntington in the white cap breezed home the winner by eight strokes with a 282 total for four rounds on the par 70 Old White course. Campbell took the lead with a 68 in the rain in the second round. Campbell captured 15 of the last 27 Amateurs. He won eight titles at match play and seven at stroke play. Marshall University golf coach Joe Feaganes fired a 69 in the final round to take second place ahead of one of his players, Harold Payne. Gary Dent of White Sulphur Springs took 14 strokes on the 12th hole when his ball became buried in a bunker. It took him 11 strokes to get out of the trap, including a two-stroke penalty for the ball hitting him. Round leaders: First, David Lester and Jay Guthrie-71s; Second, Campbell-141, by two; Third, Campbell-213, by five.

Bill Campbell 73-68-72-69—282
Joe Feaganes 77-73-71-69—290
Harold Payne 73-70-78-71—292
Jay Guthrie 71-75-73-76—295
Bob Johnson 73-70-75-77—295
Jim Ward 73-75-76-73—297
Jim Passero 76-73-76-74—304
David Lester 71-74-78-78-301

1976: Marshall University golfer Jay Guthrie of Wheeling let a five-stroke lead slip away in the last round but nailed a three-wood shot at the right time to set up a key birdie and nail down his first Amateur title. The lean 6-foot-2, 135-pound Guthrie used his fairway wood to reach the green on the 540-yard 17th hole and two-putted for a birdie that helped him win by two strokes with a 289 total. Bunny Mattison of South Charleston tied Guthrie for the lead with five holes left but two late bogeys dropped Mattison to third. Mike Gocke of Morgantown finished second. When favorite Bill Campbell started off with a 77 round, the tournament became a wide-open affair. Round leaders: First, John Elwood-71, by one; Second, Jim Passero-143, by one; Third, Guthrie-213, by five.

Jay Guthrie 72-72-69-76—289
Mike Gocke 75-71-73-72—291
Bunny Mattison 78-71-69-74—292
Benny Bowles 74-71-75-75—295
Bill Campbell 77-74-71-74—296
Jim Ward 75-75-72-74—296
Everett Wray 72-76-75-73—296
Jim Passero 72-71-76-78—297
John Norton 73-72-74-78—297

Dave Cappellari 75-76-69-77—297

1977: Jay Guthrie, called “Mandrake the Magician” by his friends for his touch around the greens, repeated as the Amateur champion with a 285 total. Guthrie again took a big lead into the final round. His seven-stroke bulge slipped to three strokes at one point by he wound up winning by four strokes over runner-up Jim Ward. “It’s hard to try and hold a big lead. It really is tough,” Guthrie said. State high school champion Chris Curry, 18, of Morgantown was a surprise first round leader before Guthrie took charge in the second round. Round leaders: First, Curry-69, by one; Second, Guthrie-141, by three; Third, Guthrie-210, by seven.

Jay Guthrie 70-71-69-75—285

Jim Ward 70-75-74-70—289

John Elwood 72-75-70-74—291

Harold Payne 71-78-73-70—292

Bill Campbell 71-73-78-72—294

Frank Sexton 76-72-73-76—297

Jack Forbes 72-80-74-72—298

Eddie Morrison 77-75-75-71—298

Denver Rawlings 78-75-74-71—298

1978: Scott Davis of Wheeling shot a 64 in the third round and romped to an eight-stroke victory with a 279 total. His 64 tied the Amateur record set by Fred Bannerot in 1933 and equaled by Barney Thompson in 1969. David birdied six of the first 11 holes on the Old White and called it, “my best golf round ever.” Davis was the 1976 NCAA long-driving champion while playing for Marshall. Miami (Ohio) University golfer Jim Jankhauser of Vienna and Kingwood radio announcer Ron Witt tied for second in the Amateur. Round leaders: First, Jay Guthrie and Corky Layman-69s; Second, Davis-141, by one; Third, Davis-205, by nine.

Scott Davis 72-69-64-74—279

Jim Fankhauser 70-72-72-73—287

Ron Witt 71-75-69-72—287

Danny Warren 74-69-74-75—292

Steve Fox 76-71-73-73—293

Everett Wray 79-70-72-72—293

Jim Ward 71-72-71-80—294

Jack Shamblin 78-72-74-70—294

1979: The Amateur was moved from Old White to the Greenbrier course redesigned by Jack Nicklaus for the 1979 Ryder Cup matches. The difficult course and gusty winds gave the golfers fits, and scores were high. Former Marshall golf captain Harold Payne, 24, was the only player to shoot a sub-par rounds (a 71 in the third round) on the par 71 Greenbrier layout and was the winner by four strokes with a 305 total. Payne hit two balls in the water on the 71st hole and took an 80 in the final round but it didn’t matter as he held off defending champion Scott Davis. “I’m floating,” said Payne, who joined former Marshall teammates Davis and Guthrie as an Amateur champion. Round leaders:

First, Payne-73, by one; Second, L.D. Simmons, II-153, by one; Third, Payne-225, by seven. Top finishers:

Harold Payne 73-81-71-80—305

Scott Davis 78-76-78-77—309

L.D. Simmons, II 76-77-81-76—310

Jim Fankhauser 79-80-77-81—317

Lee Martina 79-81-78-81—319

Mike Owens 80-85-80-75—320

Lee Harold 74-81-84-83—322

Doug Weaver 77-86-80-80—323