

# CUMMINGS CAPTURES COLLEGE GOLF TITLE

## Yale Star Defeats Knepper of Princeton in Final at Siwanoy, 2 and 1.

### LEADS FROM FIRST GREEN

In Front Throughout 35 Holes of Play—4 Up on 15th in Morning.

### LOSER NOT IN 1922 FORM

Falls to Show Ability of Last Year in Final Chance to Win the Title.

*Special to The New York Times.*  
**BRONXVILLE, N. Y., June 30.**—Dexter Cummings of Chicago, 20 years old, a brother of Miss Edith Cummings, one of the stars of the women's golf world, gained his first notable links victory at the Siwanoy Country Club today when he captured the 1923 intercollegiate golf championship. As a result of Cummings's victory the trophy again returns to Yale after a three years' lapse since Jess W. Sweetser, present National amateur champion, won it at Nassau in 1920. Since then it has wandered to Princeton and then to Dartmouth. Last year's winner, A. Pollock Boyd of Chattanooga, Tenn., did not defend this year, having been graduated. Cummings's victory in the thirty-six hole final played today was gained at the expense of R. E. Knepper, Princeton's team captain, one of the stars of the amateur world, the present Transmississippi and Iowa State champion. The margin was 2 up and 1 to play.

The Yale youngster took the lead by winning the first hole played in the morning, and never once relinquished it. After winning three out of the first five holes Cummings held a lead of 2 up or better throughout the remainder of the match. At the turn in the morning he was 3 up, and after winning the fifteenth in the same session he was 4 up, the greatest margin that existed between the pair at any time. The morning session ended with the Yale star enjoying a two-hole advantage. He started the afternoon round by winning two out of the first three holes, again building up his lead to four holes, but Knepper reduced his deficit to two holes at the turn. He was still that far behind after winning the thirty-third hole of the match, but could do no more than halve the next two and the encounter ended on the thirty-fifth green.

Cummings continued to play the same dazzling brand of golf that he has shown since the tournament started. In the morning he was even par to the turn, but slipped three strokes on the inward journey, finishing with a 74. He again registered a 38 for the first nine holes in the afternoon, and except for a botch at the fifteenth, where he put two balls out of bounds, he would have been one over fours for the remaining eight holes. His lack of direction at the fifteenth gave him a 7 where the par is four and made him four over 48. Knepper's chief trouble came on the first nine in both rounds. In the morning he was 41 for the distance, after a 7 at the first hole. He returned in 37 for a 79 total. In the afternoon he was 38 for the opening nine, using up a 6 this time at the first hole. He was only two over 48 for the next eight holes.

#### Cummings's Third Victory.

Today's victory was Cummings's third of the present season and stamps him as one of the country's outstanding young stars. His first victory was registered in the Springfield, Mass., invitation tournament this Spring, and his next came in the Apawamis invitation event, in which he bested Oswald Kirkby, the medalist and former metropolitan amateur champion. In the intercollegiate tournament, which just closed, Cummings won the qualifying round with a brilliant total of 148, and it was largely through his individual efforts that Yale pressed the Princetonians for the team honors. Before going to Yale he was a student at St. Mark's. He will enter his junior year at New Haven next Fall.

In defeat, Knepper lost all chance of ever having his name inscribed on the intercollegiate trophy. This was his second bid for the honor. At Garden City 2 year ago, after winning the medal, he was eliminated in the fourth round by George B. Secor. This was his final year of eligibility, for he received his diploma with this year's graduating class at Nassau.

It might be said without any detraction from the achievement of Cummings today that Knepper was not the Knepper of old. He was not the Kepper of last year, for example, when he won two big titles in addition to being the hero of the battle of Brookline, where he defeated two of the Britons, Talley and Torrance, and one of the Americans, Francis Ouimet. Although he succeeded in scoring well throughout the present tournament, he was not hitting his shots and showed a lack of practice. This was evident today when he had great difficulty in controlling his wooden club shots. Time and time again he was in trouble off the tee, and it was only through his dogged determination and his wonderful ability a shotmaker that he kept the match going along as far as it did.

On innumerable occasions throughout the match holes looked hopelessly lost for the Tiger when he would rally to get a half by a great recovery. One of the most brilliant of these came at the fifth hole in the afternoon. Having reduced his opponent's lead to three holes by winning the previous hole, Knepper, after two bad shots, was in the tall rough with a tall tree between him and the hole. It was a long carry and he had to clear the top of the tree. After careful aim he banged into the ball, sent it soaring up over the treetop and on the green to within fifteen feet of the pin for a half.

#### Winner Is Long Off Tees.

But it is doubtful whether or not Rudy could have taken the measure of the Yale representative who, for a youngster, showed great poise and demonstrated that, in addition to possessing a future champion's stock of golf shots, he also possesses an ideal temperament for the game, plus a zeal to win that will carry him far. Throughout the tournament it has been his remarkable power to propel a golf ball that has caused amazement. It is doubtful if there is any player in the country, amateur or pro, who can equal him in this respect. This gave him a great advantage over Knepper in that he was generally straight. But the other essentials of his game are as well developed as is his driving. He is, or at least has been throughout the tournament and was today, an excellent putter, especially sure on the yarders or less that prove so troublesome.

And when it came to extricating himself from trouble he proved almost Knepper's equal. He might have proven himself on a par with the Tiger in this respect had he had as much opportunity for demonstrating his ability in this line as Knepper did. He didn't, but whenever he had he proved his mettle. At the second hole in the afternoon round, after two wayward shots, his ball was on the side hill at the right of the green and in the rough. Knepper, with a great second, had reached the green and was apparently headed

for a win. Cummings, however, pitched up to within eighteen inches and gained a half in 4.

#### Knepper Best Off Sixteenth.

Knepper had one heart-breaking hole which, coming as close to the finish as it did, settled him. That was at the sixteenth. He had just won the fifteenth and was 2 down with three holes left. After the tea shots the Tiger had all the best of it, for his drive was straight down the middle of the course, in an excellent location for the second shot, while Cummings's drive had a bad slice and left him with a ticklish approach to the postage-stamp green. Knepper was in a fine position to win the hole, and that would have left him only 1 down with two to play. A win there might have changed the whole complexion of things. Cummings's shot was off to the right, hit a tree and the little kick it got thereby saved him. His ball, instead of being trapped or down in the rough, hopped up a pathway and stopped on the green. Knepper's approach bit the turf and he had to putt first. As a result Cummings was able to earn a half.

That sealed the Princetonian's doom. But it was actually sealed far ahead of that. His massacre of the first hole in both morning and afternoon reduced his chances in more ways than the actual loss of these holes. It gave Cummings confidence, if he needed any, and it put Knepper in the struggler's class. And that's what he was doing all day—struggling. Outdriven, sometimes by forty yards, he was seldom inside Cummings on the green. Added to that he was putting nowhere near the way his opponent was.

His real downfall started at the tenth hole in the afternoon. By playing even 4s for every hole after the first, he had led Cummings even and was 2 down leaving the clubhouse. With the honor in his possession, he unbosomed himself of a wicked slice which eventually ended up in the brook. That cost him a penalty stroke and that stroke lost him the hole. At the next, after Cummings had failed to get the green through underplaying his iron from the tee, Knepper again sliced his ball and it went into a trap. That mishap didn't cost him the hole, for Cummings gave him a half by taking three strokes to hole out from where he was. But it didn't win him the hole. A par would have done that.

#### Biggest Mistake at Twelfth.

His worst mistake came at the twelfth. Knepper's ball after his second shot was on the green not far from the pin. Cummings, with a poor tee shot and a poorer second, was in the rough at the right of the green and his chip went scampering clear across the green. He chipped back close to the hole and Knepper had two for a win which would have left him only 1 down. His approach putt was nowhere near the hole, a yard off the line, and he then missed that, a half resulting.

Opportunity again beckoned at the next hole, where Cummings was in the rough above the green. Knepper's tee shot was just short and his approach left him with eight feet still to go. As it was he holed it and saved his half. Cummings's approach being a corker to within two feet. Another chance came at the fourteenth. Knepper was in the rough off the tee. Cummings plumped his approach into a trap and Knepper then played his second shot poorly. It was off the line to the left and almost into the stone wall. His next was twelve feet short, while Cummings, after barely getting out of the sand, stuck his fourth up to within three feet and holed the putt for a half in 5.

Rudy won the next when Cummings played two balls out of bounds, and then came the crucial sixteenth and the finishing seventeenth.

The cards:

MORNING ROUND.	
Out—	
Par .....	4 4 3 5 5 3 4 4 4—36
Cummings .....	5 5 3 4 4 4 4 4 3—36
Knepper .....	7 5 3 5 6 3 5 3 4—41
In—	
Par .....	4 3 4 3 4 4 4 4 4—35
Cummings .....	4 3 4 4 4 4 5 5 5—39—74
Knepper .....	4 3 4 4 4 5 4 4 5—37—73
AFTERNOON ROUND.	
Out—	
Cummings .....	3 4 3 5 5 3 5 4 4—36
Knepper .....	6 4 4 4 5 3 4 4 4—39
In—	
Cummings .....	4 4 5 3 5 7 4 4
Knepper .....	5 4 5 3 5 4 4 4

The summary:  
 Championship, Division, Final Round—Dexter Cummings, Yale, defeated R. E. Knepper, Princeton, 2 and 1.