

MRS. BOWER GAINS STATE GOLF TITLE

**Beats Mrs. Berger, 6 and 5,
in Final at Poughkeepsie—
Loser 3-Putts 9 Times**

By MAUREEN ORCUTT

Special to The New York Times

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., July 18—Mrs. Albert Bower of Pelham, N. Y., won the women's New York State golf championship today by defeating Mrs. Maxon Berger of Buffalo in the final, 6 and 5.

Playing as if she owned the Dutchess Golf and Country Club's 6,007-yard, par-72 course, Mrs. Bower was never behind. She scored a 76 in the morning and was only three over par during the afternoon in the match scheduled for 36 holes.

Mrs. Bower, who won the 35th annual tournament on her

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first attempt, said: "I would like to wrap up the Dutchess greens and put them in my pocket."

While the new champion was chipping and putting excellently, her opponent was having trouble. She three-putted five greens during the morning round and four during the afternoon. Most of the time Mrs. Berger, winner of the state title in 1953, was out-driving Mrs. Bower.

With today's victory Mrs. Bower, mother of four children, three of whom followed her today for the first time, can claim four state titles.

Mrs. Bower won the Kentucky title, at the age of 16. She followed this with victory in Maryland and, in 1956, triumphed in Massachusetts. She moved to Pelham in the fall of 1962.

Mrs. Berger, who usually is a fine putter, never did get started and was fighting an uphill battle from the first hole, which she three-putted to lose.

Mrs. Bower, on the other hand, won the fourth and fifth holes with putts of 10 and 15 feet, respectively. The only hole Mrs. Berger was able to win on the first nine was the short sixth, but she immediately lost the eighth and ninth to reach the turn four down. Mrs. Bower had scored a one-over-par 37 while Mrs. Berger had 41.

Mrs. Berger, the former Cookie Swift, won the 10th in par, but missed a short putt on the 14th to go four down again. The first putt of any size that she was able to make was a 20-footer for a birdie 3 on the 16th. This seemed to give her encouragement, because she immediately won the 17th in par.

Both women were on nicely in regulation on the 18th, but Mrs. Bower went to lunch 3 up when her opponent once again three-putted. Mrs. Berger carded a 79.

At the start of the afternoon round, Mrs. Bower put her second shot to the right of the green, while Mrs. Berger hit a beautiful shot that just rolled over the back edge. With a chance to reduce her deficit, Mrs. Berger was too strong on her approach and then three-putted for the sixth time in the match.

Mrs. Bower, instead of losing the hole, became 4 up and from that point played with renewed confidence. She lost the 20th, but Mrs. Berger three-putted to halve the 21st. By the time the 27th hole was reached, Mrs. Bower stood 6 up with a 39 to Mrs. Berger's 42.

The 28th hole went to Mrs. Berger, but she missed another opportunity by taking three from the edge of the 29th. Mrs. Bower became dormie 6 as Mrs. Berger three-putted the 30th and the match ended on the 31st when both women got pars.

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