

One of the best young players on the Met scene today is Miss Patty Ann Keating, former National Junior star. This year she demonstrated her abilities by defeating former women's L.I. Champion, Mrs. Walter Cooperstein, in the 36 hole Club Championship final at Lake Success.

Below:

Right: Mrs. Cici
Left: Miss Keating



SII! SII!
JEAN
CICI!

By Maureen Orcutt

1967 New Jersey State
Champion

The Women's Metropolitan Golf Association founded in 1899, is the largest organization of women golfers in this district. Each season it's membership gets larger and more active with a total of 1,565 enthusiastic women golfers for this year of 1967.

This section which covers a distance of 50 to 60 miles radius from the middle of New York City, also has six other organizations, two each from Long Island, Westchester and New Jersey, making seven women's associations who play golf.

Who is the star of all these women golfers?

It is Mrs. Pat Cici of Cedar Brook Country Club, Brookville, L.I.

Does it help to have been born into a golfing family? Maybe it did for Mrs. Cici, the former Jean Stuhler, who became the 64th Women's Metropolitan golf champion. Not only is Jean the wife of the head pro at Cedar Brook, former Metropolitan P.G.A. President, Pat Cici, but she has six brothers who were golf pros.

In her victory at the Somerset Hills C.C., Bernardsville, N.J., in June, Mrs. Cici was hitting the ball long and straight off the tee and putting excellently. Her opponent was Mrs. Lee Beard of Essex Fells. She is a small, lithe young matron, who also comes by her golfing ability naturally. Her father is Ken Rutherford, a well known professional in the Philadelphia area for many years.

It was back in 1959 that the Metropolitan district first heard of Mrs. Cici when she played in her first district championship. She really made herself known by reaching the final round defeating several well known champions, such as Mrs. R.N. Torgerson, a three time champion and Mrs. Bruce McGhie, New York State champion, at the time. However, in that final round a gal by the name of Maureen Orcutt, with a great putting touch (wish I had it now) won the match to become a nine time champion.

That was one of my most memorable years, since I not only won the Metropolitan for the ninth time, but I also won my 10th New Jersey Women's Association's 54 hole medal play championship with a record score of 226 and the Women's Metropolitan senior title as well.

That year I was also honored at the Metropolitan Golf Writers dinner along with such celebrities as Robert T. Jones (Bobby to his friends), Jack Nicklaus (remember him?) he was the National amateur champion, and former Vice-President Richard M. Nixon.

But I'm getting away from my story. Right after her final round appearance, Mrs. Cici stopped playing tournament golf on a big scale. Oh, she won Long Island championships, but didn't play in the district event. We needed new names and players then as now. The same group were playing in the championship each year. Mrs. Marge Mason of Ridgewood C.C., who incidently is also having a great year, and Mrs. Walter Cooperstein of Harbor Hills were the winners of the title until Mrs. Philip Cudone started to

take over the reins.

Mrs. Cudone had won the title back in 1955, but for the next three years a youngster by the name of Judy Frank won the Championship in 1956, 1957 and 1958, with myself and Mrs. Cudone in the role of runners-up. However, during the years of 1963, 64, and 65 it was Mrs. Cudone, who with her third victory in a row in 1965 became a five time winner of the Women's Metropolitan title.

Right after her 5th win, the Cudones decided to retire from the Metropolitan district moving to Myrtle Beach, S.C. So now new faces are coming to the fore with Mrs. Albert Bower of Pelham C.C. winning in 1966 and Mrs. Cici in 1967.

Who said a medalist can't win the championship?

That's just a fallacy, as Mrs. Cici won the medal with an 80 and didn't have any trouble winning her first Metropolitan title on her second attempt. By the way, one of her victims on the way to the title, was that person who had defeated her in the 1959 championship, me! Thus Jean got revenge, for that defeat.

This year Mrs. Cici has really played golf in a big way. In the seven years between her first and second appearance on the Metropolitan scene, we saw very little of Jean Cici. Oh she did win a tournament or two on the Island, but her heart wasn't in it. It seems to be a different story this year, however, as Mrs. Cici started her string of victories by winning the Cross County Women's 54 hole medal play championship, then she won the Metropolitan and followed this with a victory in the Women's Metropolitan New Jersey Shore. Maybe playing continually this season has helped Mrs. Cici's game because she won the 54 hole Shore tournament with a ten stroke margin over her nearest opponents.

With so many women golfers in the Metropolitan district and so many new clubs being built, the professionals at these clubs have their hands full. They can do so much good around their clubs, not only in teaching the women golfers the fundamentals of the game, but by teaching them the rules of the game. Rules of the game you say?

Yes, particularly to those in the higher handicap brackets who are learning the game for the first time. They should inform the new women golfers of the rules of the course and that they should not hold up faster players!

It is the duty of the women members of their clubs to patronize the home club professional's shop and help him in any way they can.

Something the professionals might try in order to help women golfers, is to have more tournaments in which they can compete with their women members. How about a pro-junior event with two members, either girls or boys of their club to encourage new golfers? '

There is so much to be gained in golf these days that everybody connected with it or who love it should get together for the betterment of the game. The best to all those dedicated to this wonderful game of golf.