

Wrapping up National Golf Month and celebrating Alex "Nipper" Campbell

Alex Campbell, a native of Scotland, had served as head pro for 16 years at The Country Club in Brookline, MA before he settled in Dayton and designed the golf courses at Eaton Country Club (1921), the Meadowbrook Country Club (1927), the Moraine Country Club (1929), Madden Park (1929) and the Mound Golf Course (1936) in Miamisburg.

Campbell, who served as head pro at Miami Valley Golf Club, Moraine, Meadowbrook and Madden during the 17 years he was in Dayton, was 19 years old in November of 1898 when he came to the United States to become head pro at Brookline.

Only minutes after their boat arrived in Boston Harbor, the five foot five Campbell and his brother, Matt, walked into a saloon. "Two beers!" Nipper said to the bartender. "We don't serve minors," the bartender replied.



"Dammit, mon," Nipper countered in his heavy brogue, "I'm no miner, I'm a golf professional."

At Brookline, Campbell is credited with urging one of his students, 20-year-old caddy Francis Ouimet, to enter the 1913 U.S. Open held at The Country Club. Ouimet won the tournament in an 18-hole playoff with famed English golfers Harry Vardon and Ted Ray. Ouimet's shocking victory is said to have been responsible for moving golf from the society pages to the sports sections of U.S. newspapers.

Campbell, who was an excellent player, finished nine strokes behind the leaders in 1913. He missed qualifying for the Open only four times over a span of 34 years.

Campbell had an excellent chance to win it in 1907 when it was played at the Philadelphia Cricket Club. He was being paid to use a "silk pneumatic" golf ball that had just been introduced by the Goodrich company. It was filled with compressed air.

Campbell was six shots off the lead going into the final round, but he moved quickly to the front when the third round leader faded. According to an article written in 1933 by James Reston, Campbell knocked the air out of his ball when he hit his drive on the fourth hole. The ball fluttered



into a trap, and the rules at the time only allowed golfers to change balls between holes.

It took Campbell seven strokes to complete the relatively easy par 4 hole. Shaken by his misfortune and leery of the stability of the other balls in his bag, he bogeyed the next two holes before settling down to shoot 74. He finished third, three strokes behind winner Alex Ross.

Campbell moved from Brookline to Baltimore Country Club in 1915 and then moved to Losantiville Country Club in Cincinnati four years later. In 1925 he came to Dayton to work at Miami Valley Golf Club, which had a course designed in 1919 by the famed Donald Ross. Campbell's first move was to rebuild all of the greens.

While at Miami Valley, he tutored Bob Servis, who would win the Ohio Amateur five times, Janet Shock (Beardsley) and former City Champion Joe Higgins.

He supervised the construction of nine holes at Meadowbrook in 1927 and worked on the city-owned Fairmount (Madden) course at the same time. In 1929 he was hired to design the Moraine Country Club course, which has holes patterned after holes at Troon, Prestwick and the The Old Course at St. Andrews in Scotland.

Later he designed the Eaton Country Club course and Miamisburg's Mound course.

Campbell was serving his second tour at Meadowbrook when he died at the age of 63 on December 16, 1942. He is located in Woodland Cemetery in Section 126 Lot 157.



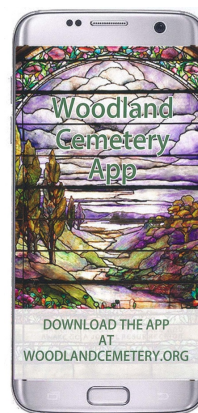
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