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# The 1904 Olympic Golf Tournament

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The 1904 Olympic Golf Tournament, held in St. Louis, Missouri, was the second and last time golf was an Olympic sport. In 1904 the selection of Olympic events was left to the local Olympic Committee. James E. Sullivan, director of the 1904 games, added golf to the program when a number of “locally prominent” golfers requested a tournament, and donated silver cups worth \$3600 to be awarded as prizes.

The tournament drew 85 entries, more than a third of whom were from local St. Louis clubs. Among the large contingent of Chicago golfers who entered was the American Amateur Champion, H. Chandler Egan, a 20 year-old Harvard University senior. Only three foreign golfers, all Canadians, also entered.

The tournament began with a 36 hole qualifying round to reduce the field from 85. The 32 golfers with the lowest scores would then play five rounds of 36 hole match play to determine the Olympic champion.

Egan qualified with a 166. The only Canadian to qualify was George Lyon, the 1903 Canadian Amateur Champion, who shot a 169. Both Egan and Lyon defeated their preliminary round opponents to reach the championship round.

The Glen Echo golf course was soggy and rain was falling on Saturday, September 4, 1904, the day of the final round. Lyon started quickly and took a three hole lead on the first nine holes of play. Lyon shot a 37 and Egan a 40.

Both golfers faltered somewhat on the second nine of the morning round. Lyon shot a 46 and Egan a 43, but more importantly, the American picked up two holes. Lyon went into the clubhouse for the lunch break with only a one hole advantage.

The rain which had been heavy at times during the morning round had slowed to a bone-chilling mist by the time the afternoon round began. During the front nine, Lyon quickly built his lead to four holes, but subsequently the momentum of the match began to change and by the thirty-first hole Egan had cut Lyon's advantage to one hole. An American victory seemed but a matter of time.

When Egan hooked his drive on the thirty-third hole into a lake, and topped his drive on the thirty-fourth hole into the rough, Lyon won the two holes and the match. At a banquet that evening Canadian George S. Lyon was crowned the second and last Olympic Golf Champion.



Jean Leiper and Doug Richards explained that the key to successful rodeo performance was “do as I say not as I do.”