

Buddy Marucci hits out of rough during Philadelphia Amateur final, while Jim Robertson tries to find a way out.

Bulletin photos by Jon Falk

Marucci Wins amateur golf

By MARK HYMAN
Of The Bulletin Staff

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Marucci, a 27-year-old stockbroker and restauranteur, slipped,滑倒了, and disaster, the closest shaves coming on with a sudden-death victory over Jimmy Robertson yesterday at Gulph Mills Golf Club. Marucci, from Waynesborough Country Club, sank the putt for par.

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• At 18, he drove beneath a rock, knocked his second shot onto the driving range, pitched to 10 feet and made a birdie to send the match into overtime.

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Donna Young wins LPGA championship: Story on page 18

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Marucci, a 27-year-old stockbroker and restauranteur, slipped,滑倒了, and sliced his way to this year's title with a sudden death victory over Jimmy Robertson yesterday at Gulph Mills Golf Club. Marucci, from Waynesborough Country Club, claimed victory on the first extra hole when Robertson three-putted for bogey at the par-4 first hole.

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- At 18, he drove beneath a rock, knocked his second shot onto the driving range, pitched to 10 feet and made a birdie to send the match into over-

time. The birdie at 18 was the most remarkable because Robertson had blasted a four-wood to 15 feet and was eyeing an eagle while Marucci dodged range balls 100 yards away.

All this magic reminded spectators of Arnold Palmer, Francis Tarkenton and other Hall of Fame scramblers. But Buddy Marucci wasn't nearly so impressed.

"That's the way I always play — having to make the pressure puts to stay in there," he said. "I don't think you can call it scrambling. Maybe I made a few putts, but, heck, the four-footers don't bother me. I've been making those for a long time."

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"Obviously, it's a thrill for me to win the Amateur," he said. "It means recognition and I've never gotten much around here. It's been my own fault. I've played well in the Middle Atlantic section in Maryland and Virginia, but never here. This week, I got a little lucky. You've got to to win a match-play tournament."

In yesterday's morning round, Marucci built a 2-up lead over Robertson despite a sloppy six-over-par 77. Robertson shot 76. In the afternoon, Marucci shot 71 to Robertson's 70. Robertson, a 21-year-old from Llanarch Country Club, had chances but failed to take advantage. He missed putts of 15 feet or less on the last four holes of regulation, including a six-footer for birdie at No. 15.

"Buddy can putt and I can't," said Robertson. "That's all there is to it. I'd been putting badly all week and I've gotten away with it because I'd been hitting the rest of my shots so solid. This time, it didn't work out. What I'm gonna do is buy a dozen putters and try to get my stroke down."

Marucci is entitled to a couple days of back-slapping. But it's doubtful he'll find the time for self-indulgence.

"As far as I'm concerned," he said, sipping a soft drink after the match, "the most exciting news of the day is Jay (Sigel) winning the British Amateur. And then there's me."

Robertson bows in Amateur

Continued From Page 21

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Marucci survives OT to win Amateur, 1-up

By Mayer Brandschain
Special to The Inquirer

It took 37 holes, but George Marucci Jr. finally outmatched long-time friend Jimmy Robertson, 1-up, to win the 80th annual Philadelphia Amateur Golf Championship in a superb test of skill for 7½ hours yesterday on the challenging Gulph Mills Golf Club course.

Marucci, 27 and a member of the Waynesborough Country Club, almost counted himself out on the 36th. He missed his tee shot, sending it low to the left, where it came to rest six feet before two huge high rock formations nestled between bushy trees.

"After Jimmy drove long down the middle, I tried to hit the ball as hard as I could, but I hit it off the neck of the club," Marucci said.

The situation called for a gamble, and the one-time University of Maryland varsity player was equal to it. With little clearance ahead, Marucci lofted an iron shot through the gap, an incredible stroke. The ball sailed left into a practice field, where a spectator's cart ran over the ball, embedding it. Jimmy Sykes, executive secretary of the Golf Association of Philadelphia and a former runner-up for the title, ruled that Marucci was entitled to improve his lie.

Now Marucci was confronted with another problem shot, a long uphill approach with tall trees on the left and traps before the green. He chose a wedge and left the ball seven feet from the cup. He curled a downhill putt in for a miraculous birdie 4 to halve the hole and send the match

into overtime.

Robertson, 21, who may enter Temple University after spending one semester at the University of Maryland, had hit a 4-wood to the elevated green and needed to make a 27-foot downhill putt for eagle 3 and victory. But it was not to be, the ball stopping two feet short.

So they went to the 37th tee. Robertson, who had held the honor since the 27th hole, where he squared the match (the 28th hole through the 35th having been halved in par), lost by three-putting the elevated first green for bogey 5. Marucci putted twice, from 27 feet downhill and two feet, for par 4 and victory.

"I never saw such fine golf in a Philadelphia Amateur," said Association president Richmond McConnell in presenting the J. Wood Platt Trophy, which bears the names of such famous winners as the legendary J. Wood Platt; Bill Hyndman, twice runner-up for the British Amateur, and once for the U.S. Amateur, and Jay Sigel, the new British Amateur Champion.

Marucci led 2-up after the morning's 18 holes. Robertson, a Llanerch Country Club member, outscored him, 35-41—76 to 39-38—77. Robertson shot two-under-par 35-34—69 in the afternoon, and Marucci was one under at 36-34—70.

"It was a matter of my putting against his longer hitting and better iron play, just as it was when I beat him last year on the 40th hole for the Llanerch club championship," said Marucci, who plays today in the Chester County Championship at the Chester Valley CC.

Robertson and Marucci gain city amateur final

By MARK HYMAN
Of The Bulletin Staff

Now that the preliminaries are over and the Philadelphia Amateur field has been pared to two, the careful observer can predict a couple things with certainty. First, the principals in Sunday's 36-hole final will be old golfing foes Jimmy Robertson and George (Buddy) Marucci Jr.

Second, come Sunday morning, the folks along Rt. 320 near the Gulph Mills Golf Club are going to feel like they're sitting in on a remake of "Goldfinger," what with all the Mercedes and Alfa Romeo's rumbling up the hill.

It promises to be that kind of final in the city amateur, the kind that attracts Delaware Valley golf fans — and luxury motorcars. The folks in the fancy autos will walk outside the gallery ropes Sunday. Jimmy Robertson and Buddy Marucci reserved paths down the center of the Gulph Mills' fairways with victories in quarter and semifinal matches yesterday. Robertson, 21, ousted Chris Lange, 4 and 3, then did away with 41-year-old Philadelphia National Bank vice president Jay Howson, 4 and 2.

Marucci, 27, dumped Terry Sawyer, 2 and 1 and Jim Shaffer, also 2 and 1. Neither Robertson nor Marucci ever made it to the city amateur final before, though each tried on a variety of occasions. For Lianerch's Robertson, this is his fourth bid. The last two

evenings waiting tables and devoted afternoons to sharpening his game, with occasional assistance from Golf Digest teaching pro Davis Love.

"It's amazing what one person can do for your game," said Robertson, whose dad, Laird, shot 80-80-160 this year and failed to qualify for city amateur match play. "Love saw me just once and the difference was unbelievable. He said my swing was too upright, moved me away from the ball. I used to hook shots under pressure. Not anymore."

The proof was in the semifinal pug-

ding yesterday as Robertson hit 15 of 16 greens and played par golf for 16 holes in his victory over the Amateur's Cinderella story, Jay Howson. Howson lost the first three holes to Robertson, won the fourth with a birdie, but never crept closer.

"He (Robertson) was like a machine out there," said Howson. "He just didn't miss."

Neither did Marucci in his ascent to the final. The stockbroker who wins clients for the Bala Cynwyd firm of Smith, Barney, Harris and Upham ("Put that in there so my boss believes I'm playing in this thing") made this his most successful city amateur with a pair victories yesterday. Still, he finds it difficult to concentrate on his game.

"All the fellas in business have the same problem," said Marucci, now of Waynesborough.

Phila. Amateur

PHILADELPHIA AMATEUR

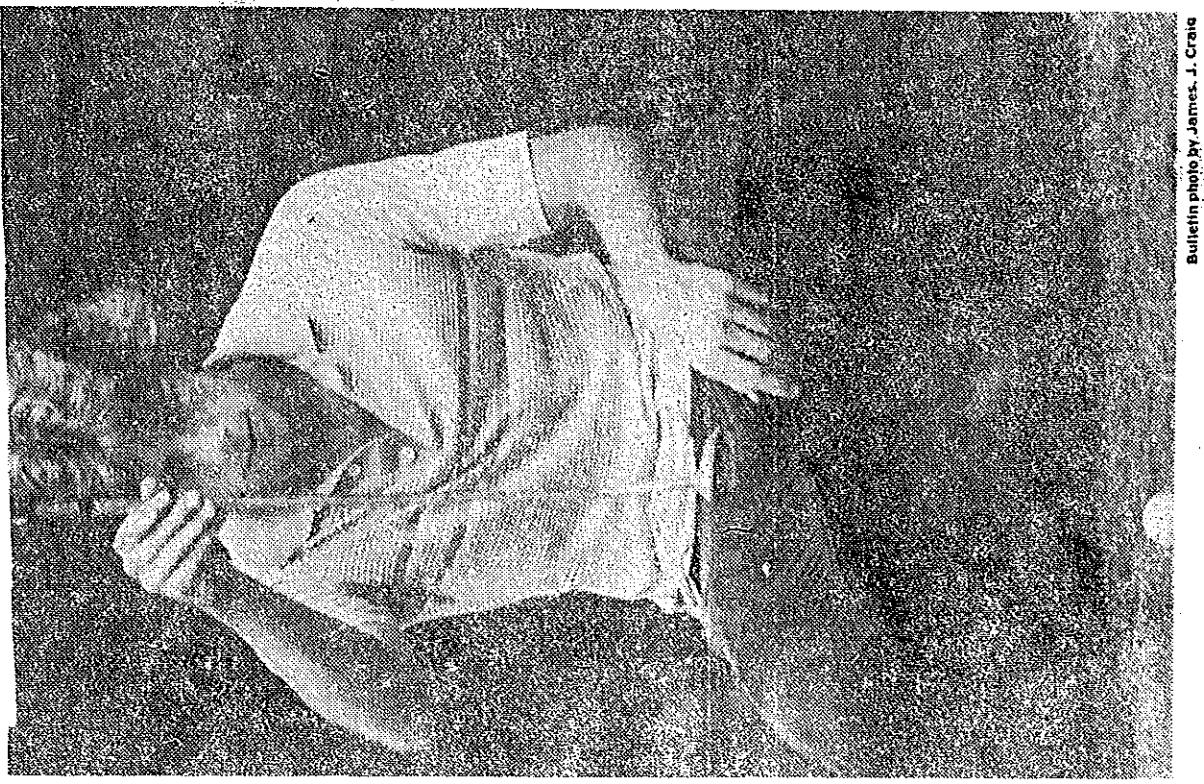
Quarterfinal round
Jay Howson, St. Davids, def. Gordon Brewer, Huntingdon Valley, one-up; James Robertson, Lianerch, def. Chris Lange, Overbrook, 4 & 3; James Shaffer, Saucon Valley, def. Mike Rose, Philmont, two-up; George Marucci Jr., Waynesborough, def. Terry Sawyer, Trenton, 2 & 1.
Robertson, def. Howson, 4 & 2; Marucci, def. Shaffer, 2 & 1.
Sunday's final
Marucci vs. Robertson.

years, he's been knocked out by eventual champions Chip Lutz and Charles Bolling Jr. Waynesborough's Marucci is in his 13th Philadelphia Amateur.

Now both players stand one match away from the title and neither needs an overactive imagination to figure Sunday's 36-hole final. Back in 1976, the two squared off for the Llanarch club championship. The match was scheduled for 36 holes and it took Marucci 40 to win it.

"Buddy got lucky," joked Robertson, the bespectacled blonde who spent the fall of 1976 at the University of Maryland, then left when he and the golf coach didn't see eye to eye. "My ball hit a tree."

These days, Robertson spends a lot of his time in trees and assorted other green plants. He lugs deadwood for his dad's landscape and tree removal business. Last winter, Robertson trimmed the deadwood from his golf game at the Cloister resort in Sea Island, Ga. He spent mornings and



Bulletin photo by James J. Craig
Ucon Valley's James Shaffer lines up a putt in Philadelphia Amateur.

Buddies matched in Amateur final

By Mayer Brandschain
Special to The Inquirer

George Marucci Jr., 27, and Jimmy Robertson, 21, spent their formative golf years on the Llanerch Country Club course, students of the game and good friends. Their fathers, George Marucci Sr. and Laird Robertson, have been golf buddies since 1950.

And now there is conflict.

Yesterday at the Gulph Mills Golf Club, George Jr. and Jimmy licked their last two opponents in the 80th Philadelphia Amateur golf championship to become rivals, albeit friendly, for the title to be decided Sunday in a 36-hole match.

Said Marucci, now playing out of Waynesborough CC, in sizing up the forthcoming final: "I'll putt better, he'll hit longer and Jimmy's a better iron player."

Two successive 18-foot putts, one into the 15th cup for a par, the other into the 16th for a birdie, enabled Marucci to defeat Saucon Valley's Jimmy Shaffer, 19, 2 and 1, in the semifinals. Marucci, who played four varsity years at the University of Maryland, had his 3-up lead after six holes narrowed to 1-up by the 11th hole, that margin holding until he made the birdie on the 16th. "I'm a bad frontrunner," Marucci said. He bir-

died four holes and was 2-over-par for the distance.

Robertson, who may enter Temple University after spending one semester at the University of Maryland, played 1-under-par golf to beat St. David's Jay Howson, 41 by 4 and 2. Robertson, employed in his father's tree surgery business, finished off the 1960 Princeton basketball player by sinking a 25-foot birdie from the fringe of the 16th green.

In the morning's quarterfinals, Robertson holed a 9-iron shot into the 15th cup for eagle 2 and a 4-and-3 conquest of Overbrook's Chris Lange. Marucci beat Trenton's Terry Sawyer, 2 and 1.

In the morning's other quarterfinals, Shaffer, a student at Northampton Community College, won three straight holes after rounding the turn 1-down and defeated Philmont's Mike Rose, 2-up; Howson won the 18th green to end the stand of Hun-

tingdon Valley's Gordon Brewer, champion in 1967 and 1976, by 1 up.

Marucci and Robertson are the survivors of a field of 80 after 108 holes of play since Tuesday. Marucci, a golfer since the age of 6, is playing in his 13th Amateur; and Robertson, who launched his golf career at 10, is in his fourth.

In their only previous tournament meeting, Marucci beat Robertson for the Llanerch club title two years ago. "I don't think either of us has the ability to beat the other badly," Marucci said.

Kiddingly, the elder Robertson, who qualified for the 1973 U.S. Amateur at age 46 but who failed to qualify for the Philadelphia match-play draw of 32, asked young Marucci what it would be worth to him to lose Sunday's encounter.

His tongue-in-cheek response: "About \$1,000 worth of tree surgery."