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## 1929 Army Golf Championship

Army Navy Country Club opened its first nine holes of golf in September 1928 with the second nine following in the summer of 1929. In spite of the immaturity of the golf course, the Club was confident enough of the playing conditions to host the Army Golf Championship in September 1929. With conditions that encouraged the membership to heave rocks they found in the fairways into the rough and equip golfers with paring knives to remove weeds from the greens, the Army Championship apparently was a success. The following article from the September 29, 1929, edition of the *Washington Evening Star* provides an outstanding summary of the tournament results.



### **Maj. Bradley Proves His Pluck, But Loses Tight Links Battle**

Note: Article retyped to improve readability.

“The bat cracked smartly, driving the horsehide in a high arch over second base. The ball appeared destined to drop between second base and the deep-playing center fielder.

With the crack of the willow the tall awkward appearing fielder leaped into action. He nearly overran the ball and in pulling up shortly sat down suddenly. The ball fell into his outstretched glove.

Meanwhile a runner was rounding third base. The outfielder had no time to rise from a seated posture. From a spot many feet back from second base, he flung that ball squarely into the catcher’s mitt and the runner was out.

‘A game guy.’ Yelled the West Point supporters. ‘What a catch! What a throw!’

The chorus of commendation for the feat of the outfielder was unanimous. The scene was a diamond far up the Hudson at West Point and the man who made the catch and the great throw was Cadet O.N. Bradley. Teammates and the man who saw the performance still related tales of the gameness of this loose-jointed Army man.

Yesterday that same man, grown to maturity and now a field officer, plainly outclassed by his opponent and fighting against superior skill and golf ability, battled with such telling effect that he carried the defending title holder to the thirty-fifth green in the final round of the Army Golf

Championship at the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps Country Club. To one who saw them play, it was plain that Lieut. E.A. Baldwin of the 2d Corps Area was the better golfer. A longer hitter, more accurate with the irons and apparently a better putter, Baldwin would have won his second consecutive Army championship by a half dozen holes had he been pitted against a man with less iron in his soul than Maj. Bradley<sup>1</sup> of Fort Benning, Ga. But the infantry never quits.

### **Bradley Carries On**

Mud and high water may hold them back, but they dig in and keep fighting. So did Bradley. Outdriven from nearly every tee, the erstwhile West Point outfielder fought back with all the pertinacity of the Army mule. At one time he seemed certain to catch his powerful opponent, and then was beaten back before the baffling skill of a better golfer and a younger man. He might have won but for an extraordinarily lucky break for Baldwin on the sixteenth green, where his ball, plainly destined to overrun the green, struck the flagstaff and lay near enough to the hole to give him a putt at a birdie.

Bradley's plucky fight brought no disgrace to Baldwin. The harder Bradley fought the harder Baldwin fought back, even when he lost two holes in a row from the ninth to see his three-hole margin cut down to one.

Baldwin is a Reserve lieutenant from the 2d Corps area, with headquarters at Governor's Island. Bradley is a regular Army major stationed at Infantry School at Fort Benning, Ga. Both men are powerful hitters and good putters. Baldwin won the title last year in a tournament at Chevy Chase. Both shot 77s over the first round, with Baldwin leading by a single hole. But Bradley took three putts on the fourth and the eighth to reach the ninth three down. He scored 3s on both the ninth and the tenth to cut Baldwin's margin to a single hole. But Baldwin won the eleventh with a birdie 3 and got a half at the thirteenth by laying a pitch shot nearly dead from the woods. He then drove to the edge of the fourteenth green and won this 335-yard hole with a birdie 3, putting him 2 up.

### **Pitch Shot Hits Pin**

Bradley's bid for a birdie 4 hit the cup on the fifteenth and stayed out. And on the sixteenth Baldwin's pitch shot struck the pin and left him with a putt for a birdie, instead of over-running the green. Dormie 2 up, Baldwin put his ball on the green at the short seventeenth, and Bradley put his ball inside that of his opponent. Bradley made a gallant bid for his putt, but the ball curved to the left at the last instance and stayed out giving Baldwin the match by 2 and 1."

The consolation final was won by Capt. J.T. Menzie of Fort Riley, Kans., who defeated Maj. E.S. Hughes of Washington, 4 and 3. Maj. Hughes lost his ball on the fifteenth hole, to lose the deciding hole to Menzie.

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<sup>1</sup> Omar Bradley was a member of the Army Navy Country Club, serving as the Club in 1947.



Picture of the 1929 Army Championship Trophy  
Provided by Ed Baldwin, Lieutenant E.A. Baldwin's Grandson

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