

CLOSE BILLIARD FINISH

Conklin Wins the Class A Tournament by One Point.

FATAL MASSE FOR THRESHIE

The Victor Will Meet Wilson P. Foss To-night at 500 Points for the Championship.

C. Fred Conklin of Chicago beat Charles Threshie of Boston last night in the tenth and concluding game of the Class A championship billiard series, played in the theatre of the Knickerbocker Athletic Club, Madison Avenue and Forty-fifth Street. It was a royal championship finish of the most important amateur billiard tournament held in the United States. Conklin defeated his opponent by one point, scoring 400 to 399. The game was at 14-inch balk-line, and required forty-eight innings for the winner to finish, Threshie being beaten before he could complete that inning.

The game was the most exciting that has been seen in the series, and was replete with features of interest.

Conklin rolled up a big lead over Threshie in the middle of the game, his highest runs being 52, 46, 45, 39, and 36, while 35 was Threshie's best single performance. At the thirty-sixth inning Conklin led by 93 points. Threshie gave a grand exhibition of nerve and steadiness, and with a run of 29 in the forty-third inning, he passed Conklin with the dangerous score of 395 to 382. Then ensued a magnificent fight to finish. The balls were left badly, and Threshie missed twice, while Conklin missed once, and then counted one. Threshie then ran 4, missing when within one of victory. Conklin only made 2, leaving the balls close together. Threshie attempted a massé, but to the consternation of the crowd, it just missed, and with 10 to make Conklin took the table. He had some difficult shots, but played with imperturbable coolness, and when he scored the tenth he was greeted with thunderous applause.

The game began slowly for a championship final. Each man was apparently a little nervous, but that condition did not last long. The brilliant runs early in the game settled the spectators down to the enjoyment of a rare game of billiards, and they had it right through to the end. A few slow innings followed, but in the ninth Conklin did all the star work, and, chieflly with nursed balls, although there were some difficult table shots in the string, he made a glorious run of 45. A run of 7 in the next gave Conklin the grand total of 119 for ten innings.

For the next eleven innings the Bostonian had the better of the game, pulling up slowly, but showing grand steadiness in his all-around game, and was called upon repeatedly to execute some of the toughest kind of shots.

Conklin jumped rapidly to the lead in the twenty-first inning by a splendid run of 36, and it proved to be the first of a brilliant series of high runs, following in close order, that gave Conklin his magnificent victory. In his run of 36, his third shot was a difficult massé with the balls lined against the right rail, the second object ball being wedged in in the lower corner.

In the thirty-second inning Conklin was going well, but, after making ten, missed the next in a long draw. Threshie, in the same inning, did some of his best playing, running a string of 35, finally missing on an easy draw. The easiest shots seemed more vulnerable for Threshie than the tough ones.

With a run of 28 in the following inning for Conklin, soon followed by one of 46 in the thirty-sixth inning, his total reached the high mark of 358, just 2 points short of an average of 10, a wonderful exhibition of amateur billiards. Threshie then had 263, 93 points behind. Then followed a series of steadily played innings by Threshie, with the final result as previously given. The scores are:

C. Fred Conklin—0 0 2 52 0 2 4 7 45 7 2 2 1 0 11 2 0 7 5 0 36 31 0 5 6 4 39 0 0 2 1 10 28 0 1 46 0 8 5 1 0 9 1 0 1 5 2 10. Total, 400; average, 8 16-48; high runs, 52 46 45 39 36 31 28 11 10 10.

Charles Threshie—1 1 1 32 0 7 4 0 3 6 1 11 0 24 3 15 4 2 9 19 0 0 12 5 20 14 0 11 5 0 15 35 0 1 1 1 29 17 15 5 23 14 29 0 0 4 0. Total, 399; average, 8 23-47; high runs, 35 32 29 29 24 23 20 19 17 15 15 15 14 14 12 11 11.

E. O. Presby was referee.

To-night at 7:30 o'clock Conklin will meet the present holder of the title, Wilson P. Foss, in the challenge round for the Class A championship.