

The 1927 Golf Season

The name of Georgia Tech and Watts Gunn rose to supreme heights on the golf course during the spring of 1927 when the Tech captain added a long string of scalps to his belt. For the first time Tech won the Southern Intercollegiate title terminating the long reign of Alabama.

At the first crack out of the box Gunn shot a 71, one under par and sank a 25 footer on the Charlotte Golf Club course in the 20 to 10 victory over Davidson. Alabama, the 1926 champion, defeated Tech in the dual match on the Shades Valley course at Birmingham but Gunn defeated Bobby Baugh in the match. Baugh was 2 up on Watts but Gunn won 8 of the last nine and turned 6 up. Gunn had a 79 while Baugh an 81.

The team had a very successful trip to New Orleans, defeating both Tulane University and Louisiana State University. In the match with Georgia the Jacket golfers won 16 to 2. The team of Watts Gunn, Merriman Irvin, Charlie Brumby and Joe Hi Williams carried off the honors in the southern intercollegiate at Athens. Watts rose to the top as individual champion after Tech had won the team honors. This outstanding victory broke the three-year string of titles held by Alabama and it was Watts who defeated Glenn Crisman, an outstanding collegiate golfer and Alabama's No. 1. Down the list he defeated Johnnie Thomas and Leslie Williams of Sewanee who took him to the 20th.

Later Gunn won the 72-hole medal competition in the National Intercollegiate with a score of 302 over the Garden City Country Club course at Long Island. He also won the individual title by defeating Roland McKinzie, a member of the Walker Cup team, 10 to 9. It was a most decisive victory. Gunn shot a 69, breaking the course record of 71 which had stood for fifteen years.

From June 14 to July 1 Watts played 306 holes of golf failing to qualify in the 72 holes at Oakmont, playing 54 holes at Charlotte in the southern open where he made a mighty stand, and later winning the national intercollegiate title at Garden City along with the low medalist honors in the 180 holes of play. Watts also won the Georgia State Championship by defeating Harold Calloway 8-7 in the 36-hole match.