



CHAPTER ONE

Firsts

Walter Hagen had a strong disdain for finishing second. He stated that no one remembers who was second, and that philosophy stayed with him throughout his career. As a young man, he entered the 1913 U.S. Open, which was won by Francis Ouimet. Walter was in the hunt until the final nine holes, finishing only three strokes behind the leaders, placing a joint fourth.

That kind of an accomplishment, a top-ten finish in a major championship, would earn a great deal of ink today, but Walter was disappointed. So discouraged was he, in fact, that he almost gave up the game for baseball and a professional contract with the Philadelphia Phillies. In spite of his showing at The Country Club, in Brookline, Massachusetts, Hagen did not intend to play the following year at Midlothian. Encouraged to enter that championship, Walter won the 1914 U.S. Open, and the golfing world gained one of the most colorful champions in history. In doing so, he became the first champion to lead after every round in the U.S. Open. While that feat has been duplicated by Jim Barnes (1921), Ben Hogan (1953), Tony Jacklin (1970), and Tiger Woods (2000 and 2002), Hagen set the standard.

What Hagen said is probably true. Golfers today can usually recall that Jack Nicklaus won 18 major professional tournaments. Little remembered is that Jack was the runner-up in 19 professional majors, and that in itself is a remarkable accomplishment.

Being the first to do anything does not necessarily mean that that person is the best, but it does indicate that he or she is a trailblazer of some sort. Whether it was as meaningful as Columbus discovering the New World or as insignificant as being the first to win a Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) Tour event using a colored golf ball, it is still a first. Others may later accomplish the same thing, but it will only be a duplication of the original.

For example, when American golfers are asked the name of the best male professional golfer from Sweden, Jesper Parnevik is probably the person most would cite. But Jesper had never won an American PGA Tour event until 1998. The honor of being the first Swede to win an American PGA Tour event went to Gabriel Hjertstedt, who won the 1997 B.C. Open. His win takes nothing away from Parnevik, a member of the victorious 1997 European Ryder Cup team. The talented Parnevik may win more tournaments before his career is over, but he can never replace Hjertstedt as the original Swedish winner on the PGA Tour.

Timing has everything to do with being first. History tells us that Willie Park, Horace Rawlins, Jim Barnes, and Horton Smith were the first to win the four majors now open to professionals. That can never change. Their accomplishments don't diminish the feat of Harry Vardon, who won six British Opens, or of Jack Nicklaus, who garnered six Masters titles. Both of those wonderful champions will always be remembered as long as golf is played. Each was first in winning six major titles in a single professional event, just as Arnold Palmer was the first to win four Masters titles. That Palmer's record was broken doesn't take away from his being the first to win four, just as Jimmy Demaret's record of being the first to win three Masters cannot be taken from him.

The first victory for any golfer, whether it comes in some obscure junior tournament or in the rookie season on the PGA or LPGA tour, is a milestone. It has been said many times that records are made to be broken. However, being first is something that can never be taken away,

no matter how insignificant. It means that the man or woman will forever be remembered for accomplishing something that no other person had done up to that time.



Generally considered the first golf professional, Allan Robertson was different than the others who made a living in the game. The others at the time worked primarily as club or ball makers, as well as caddies. Robertson was much more forward thinking. He hired men first to work as apprentices and then as employees, so he could concentrate on his golf game. He was a successful businessman, which allowed him the time and money to do what he liked the most. Many of his matches were with amateurs who would bet heavily on the outcome. Some wanted Allan as their partner, to take advantage of his sterling play. Robertson, of course, would receive his share of the bets, but he was not opposed to backing himself when the opportunity arose.

He basically served as the golf professional for the Royal and Ancient (R&A) Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, but he never had the title because the position really didn't exist in the 1850s. Still, he was always at the disposal of the members of the R&A.

At a time when the best of players could rarely break 100, Robertson was the first to return a score better than 80 on the Old Course at St. Andrews. He shot a world record 79 on September 15, 1858, when the fairways were considerably narrower, the rough rougher, and the greens less manicured than what we experience today.

It was probably natural that Robertson would become involved in golf. His father, David (or Davie), was considered the first caddie, although that was not true since there was a mention of caddies as far back as 1771, and there is even a record of a tournament that was held for ball makers, club makers, and caddies, dating back to 1819. Davie Robertson was immortalized in 1833 in George Carnegie's poem "The Golfiad" and again following his death in 1836.

One of Allan's apprentices was Tom Morris, who would go on to win four British Open championships. They had a falling-out because Morris embraced the new gutta-percha (guttie) golf ball. Robertson made a

comfortable living by producing the *featherie* and did not wish to see a new golf ball introduced. In fact, Allan went so far as to purchase as many of the gutta-perchas as he could, destroying them in an effort to keep his dominant position in producing the featherie. Naturally, when the new ball was cheaper than the old and held up better in wet conditions and traveled farther, it was impossible to impede progress. Even Robertson's record score was made with a gutty, so eventually he saw the light.

During their disagreement, Tom decided to look elsewhere for employment, and Morris was offered the position of "keeper of the green" at Prestwick, Scotland. He moved to the west of Scotland from St. Andrews. The relationship between the two was finally over.

Robertson was so dominant a golfer and personality that he was considered the champion of golf. There is speculation that, following his death, the British Open was initiated to find a successor to that title. It became the oldest of all national championships, first held in 1860 at Prestwick, continuing there for 12 years before moving to other venues. The championship became known universally as The Open or, more formally, The Open Golf Championship, and now it is commonly known as the British Open. Morris was the favorite, but the first winner was Willie Park of Musselburgh, Scotland, who went on to win a total of four titles.

In reality, the first championship wasn't actually an "open." It was only open to professionals, and there were a total of eight that entered. Even the term "professional" was a misnomer. The invitation sent to six clubs read, "Please send a respectable caddie." The following year, the committee announced that it would be "open to all the world" and thus paved the way for amateurs to play in the oldest of championships.



"Old" Tom Morris made history himself, although it wasn't because of his victories in the Open, which number four. It happened in 1868 when "Young" Tom won his first championship. They became the first father and son combination to win the British Open, a feat later duplicated in 1887, when Willie Park Jr. joined his father as a champion.

They remain the only father-son combinations to have won a major championship. The Morris family was also the first father-son duo to play in the same Open Championship.

The Park family had another first—Willie's brother Mungo won the Open in 1874. The only other brother combinations to win the same major were Alex and Willie Smith in the U.S. Open and Jay and Lionel Hebert in the PGA Championship.



There are no records as to when scorecards were introduced. As golf was initially a match game, there was probably little need for scorecards. Once stroke-play competition came into vogue, a need did arise. It is possible that a scorecard was used to record Allan Robertson's 79 at St. Andrews. Still, no one really knows the exact date.

It is recorded, however, that the first time official scorecards were used in The Open was in 1866 at Prestwick.



Long before Allan Robertson came on the scene, golf clubs hired what were then referred to as "hole-cutters." They were the first greenkeepers. The earliest mention of a hole-cutter can be found in the records of St. Andrews. In 1764, a notation indicates that a payment of one guinea a year was made to George Mill for cutting new holes, filling in old ones, and repairing rabbit scrapes.



Female golf professionals came on the scene much later. The first woman golf professional in the world is not known; but there is a record of the first in the United States. Willie Campbell was a wonderful professional golfer, who was especially adept at match play. His wife, Georgina Stewart Campbell, was teaching golf as early as 1896 at the Franklin Park Golf Course in Boston, Massachusetts. Willie was the head professional at the course, and when he died in 1900, Mrs. Campbell was appointed a professional golfer by the City of Boston.



While the Old Course at St. Andrews can claim to be the oldest, and thus the first golf course in the world, it was more accurately the first links; the first golf club was the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers, founded in 1744. It wasn't until ten years later that what is now known as the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews was formed.

For the better part of a century, the Honourable Company played its golf at Leith, Scotland, before moving to Musselburgh. The course was used by others, not just the Honourable Company. Wanting a course that was not quite as crowded, the Honourable Company built a new one, and the club moved to Muirfield. The new course opened in May 1891.

During the time the Honourable Company was at Musselburgh, the Open Championship was held regularly on its links; but when the club moved, Musselburgh no longer hosted the championship. In fact, within one year of Muirfield's opening, it was the site of the British Open, which was held there for the first time in 1892.



More than a century before the British Open was held, John Rattray, an Edinburgh surgeon, won the Silver Club in a competition conducted by the Gentlemen Golfers of Edinburgh, which is now the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers. That was in 1744, and because of the victory, Rattray was named the "Captain of the Golf." It was his responsibility to settle disputes and conduct meetings of the club.

While the records have been lost, it can be assumed that Rattray's victory came in what was possibly the first golf tournament conducted at stroke play. Prior to that time, golf was a series of matches, and the winner was the person who won the most holes, regardless of the number of strokes played. For that tournament, the Gentlemen Golfers of Edinburgh wrote a code of rules. They were as follows:

1. You must tee your ball within a club's length of the hole.
2. Your tee must be upon the ground.

3. You are not to change the ball you strike off the tee.
4. You are not to remove stones, bones, or any breakclub for the sake of playing your ball except upon the fair green, and that only within a club's length of your ball.
5. If your ball come among water, or any watery filth, you are at liberty to take out your ball and bringing it behind the hazard, and teeing it, you may play it with any club and allow your adversary a stroke for getting out your ball.
6. If your balls be found anywhere touching one another, you are to lift the first ball, till you play the last.
7. At holing, you are to play your ball honestly for the hole, and not to play on your adversary's ball not lying in your way to the hole.
8. If you should lose your ball by its being taken up, or any other way, you are to go back to the spot where you struck your last and drop another ball and allow your adversary a stroke for the misfortune.
9. No man at holing his ball is to be allowed to mark his way to the hole with his club or anything else.
10. If a ball be stop'd by any person, horse, dog, or anything else, the ball so stop'd must be played where it lyes.
11. If you draw your club in order to stroke, and proceed so far in the stroke as to be bringing down your club—If then your club break in any way, it is to be accounted a stroke.
12. He whose ball lyes farthest from the hole is obliged to play first.
13. Neither trench, ditch or dyke made for the preservation of the links, or the Scholars' holes, or the Soldiers' lines, shall be accounted a hazard, but the ball is to be taken out, teed, and played with any iron club.



*I*n 1754, William Landale won the Silver Club Challenge at St. Andrews. There is no evidence that it was an event solely for the Society of St. Andrews Golfers, which was to become the Royal and Ancient

Golf Club of St. Andrews. Still, Landale is considered the first Captain of the Golf at the cradle of the game.

The Society issued a statement for medal play that is believed to be the first identifying that method of play. It stated that “in order to remove all disputes and inconveniences with regard to the gaining of the Silver Club, it is enacted and agreed by the captain and the gentlemen golfers present that in all time coming whoever puts in the ball at the fewest strokes over the field shall be declared and sustained victor.”



Being named the Captain at the R&A has become a great honor. The driving-in ceremony is filled with tradition and takes place at 8 A.M. on the final morning of the Autumn Meeting. Members surround the first tee, while caddies position themselves on the first hole in an effort to be the person who retrieves the ball hit by the captain-elect. The ball is teed up by the honorary professional of the R&A, and with blast of a cannon at the precise moment the ball is struck, the captain-elect plays himself into office.

The caddies are anxious to get the golf ball, since tradition calls for the captain to present the caddie who retrieves it with a gold sovereign. It was only normal that the captains were Scots in the early days of the R&A. That changed in 1908 with the naming of Horace Hutchinson, the first Englishman to hold the honor.

The first American to be named captain was Francis Ouimet in 1913. He broke with tradition in that he presented caddie Arthur Spreight with a U.S. five-dollar gold piece. It was minted in 1913, the year he won the U.S. Open.



When the British Open began in 1860, a rule stated that the winner would keep possession of the Champion Belt for the year, and if any player could win it three times in succession, he would retain permanent possession. That occurred in 1870 when Young Tom Morris won his third straight title. The following year no championship was held. The belt was then replaced with a silver cup, and the British Open

Championship resumed in 1872. Young Tom won again and was the first to have his name engraved on the claret jug, although that honor had to wait another year when the work on the trophy was completed. No longer could it become the permanent possession of a three-time winner, however.

In retrospect, it was a wise decision to make the change, as Jamie Anderson won in 1877, '78, and '79, followed by Bob Ferguson with consecutive victories in the next three years. Then, seven decades later, it happened again when Peter Thomson won in 1954 and through 1956.



Only one golfer, Willie Anderson, has been able to win three consecutive U.S. Open titles. He turned the trick in 1903, '04, and '05. There is a footnote, though. Ben Hogan was the U.S. Open champion in 1948. Because of his auto accident, he could not defend the title in 1949, which was won by Cary Middlecoff. Hogan then captured the 1950 and 1951 championships. Thus, Hogan won the three in a row in which he was able to compete.

“HOYLAKE” MASSY

The first foreign-born winner of the Open Championship (the British Open) was Arnaud Massy of France, taking the championship in 1907. The importance of the Open at the time made it the “championship of the world.” Massy was so proud of his accomplishment that he named his daughter Hoylake, after the course on which he won the Open.



Massy added another distinction when he wrote an instruction book on the game. It was the first golf book written in a language other than English, and it also became the first golf book to be translated into English from another language.



Rain has caused countless cancellations of rounds and even shortened some tournaments through the years. That was not always the case in Great Britain, where the weather was considered part of the game. The first time a day's play was canceled at the British Open was in 1910, with James Braid going on to win his fifth and final championship.



Weather also had a hand in the 1988 British Open Championship. It marked the first time that the championship was completed on a Monday, as Severiano Ballesteros fired a 65 at Royal Lytham in winning his third title.



Prior to 1962, except for the early championships, every contestant had to qualify to play in the British Open, even the defending champion. A list of exempt golfers was created. From that time on, no golfer who had to go through qualifying ever won the championship until 1999. Then Paul Lawrie became the first to accomplish the feat, and he did it in style. He came from ten strokes back in the final round to capture the title following a play-off with Justin Leonard and Jean Van de Velde.



It wasn't until 1895 that the United States held its open championship, the U.S. Open. The first winner was Horace Rawlins, who was the assistant professional at the Newport Golf Club in Rhode Island, site of the first championship, serving under head professional W. F. Davis. Born on the Isle of Wight in 1874, he learned to play golf as a caddie. His rounds of 91 and 82 bested Willie Dunn by two strokes to gain the championship. The next year Horace signed a contract to become the professional at Sadaquada Golf Club in Whitesboro, New York, having benefited from winning the first U.S. Open. After holding the same position at Waumbek Golf Club in New Hampshire, Springhaven Golf Club in suburban

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Wykagyl in New York, he settled at Ekwanok Golf Club in Manchester, Vermont, for seven seasons.

Rawlins spent 19 years in the United States before returning to England in 1913, because his mother was ill. Following her death, Horace became a clothing merchant, inheriting the family business. He gave up professional golf at that time. Rawlins played in the U.S. Open 16 times. His only other top-ten finish came in 1896 as runner-up to James Foulis.

One year before the “official” first U.S. Open, the St. Andrews Golf Club invited professionals to compete in a match-play event that they called the Open Championship. Four golfers participated, with Willie Dunn defeating Willie Campbell in the final. Dunn received \$100 as well as a gold medal, which he proudly wore until he died, always proclaiming that he was the *first* United States Open golf champion. However, the United States Golf Association (USGA) still does not recognize Dunn’s accomplishment.

That first official U.S. Open in 1895 had a field of 11 golfers. The first shot hit was not made by a competitor but by Dr. E. C. Rushmore, who was playing as a marker, since there weren’t enough golfers to make proper pairings.



Counting Rawlins, five players have won the U.S. Open in their first attempt. Others were Fred Herd in 1898; Harry Vardon, 1900; George Sargent, 1909; and Francis Ouimet in 1913.



Until 1913, anyone who entered the U.S. Open could play in the championship. Then, because of the number of participants, the field had to be narrowed and a 36-hole qualifier was held at the championship site. In 1924, the USGA determined that it was very expensive for golfers to travel to the U.S. Open site without the assurance of a spot, so regional qualifying was adopted across the country for the first time. With Ouimet’s victory, it also became the first time an amateur won the U.S. Open.



The oldest instruction book was actually a handwritten journal compiled in 1687 by Thomas Kincaid of Edinburgh; the journal offers Kincaid's thoughts and advice on, for example, how to swing a club: "The ball must be straight before your breast, a little towards the left foot."

Some 170 years later, in 1857, the first golf instruction book was actually published. H. B. Farnie was the author of *The Golfer's Manual*, using the pen name "A Keen Hand." The first golf instruction book published in America was *How to Play Golf* (1898) by H. J. Whigham. It was also the first golf book to include action photographs of the golf swing.



Willie Park Jr. became the first golf professional to write a book, *The Game of Golf* (1896).



That same year, in 1896, Mrs. Edward Kinnard wrote *The Sorrows of a Golfer's Wife*, becoming the first woman to write a book about golf.



Lost in golf history, except to those who truly follow the game, is the name of Freddie Tait. The two-time British Amateur champion had his career cut short when he was killed at the age of 30 during the Boer War, where he served as an officer. Despite his young age, Freddie was a hero among the Scots. Great throngs of people would show up whenever he played a match. The St. Andrews amateur was the subject of the first golf biography ever written, when, in 1900, John Laing Low chronicled Tait's life. In 1925, Freddy was recognized with the introduction of the Freddie Tait Cup, an award given annually to the low amateur in the South African Open.



The first known written mention of golf in what was to become the United States was in an edict by Dutch officials in Fort Orange,

present-day Albany, New York. On December 10, 1659, they outlawed playing golf in the streets. A fine of 25 florin was imposed for anyone breaking the law.



*A*nother wonderful golfer who is often overlooked is Harold Hilton; he was one of only three amateurs to win the Open, and he did it twice. He was also able to win three British Amateur titles. In 1911, Hilton decided to travel to America and give the U.S. Amateur Championship a try, which was held at Apawamis in New York.

After some lopsided victories, he gained the final against Fred Herreshoff, a former national collegiate champion. It appeared that Hilton had the match well in hand when he was six up at the end of 21 holes. Then Fred began to eat away at the lead, and they finished the 36 holes all even.

Hitting first to the 37th green, all seemed lost for Hilton, as his approach headed for a mound at the right of the green that was dotted with rocks. The ball had a mind of its own, as it missed all of the rocks, bounced, and trickled down the hill and onto the putting surface. Obviously shaken, Herreshoff flubbed his shot, and Hilton became the first to win both the British and U.S. amateur titles in the same year.



*T*he first left-hander to win a major professional championship was Bob Charles of New Zealand, who captured the 1963 Open Championship at Royal Lytham, England. He was also the first left-hander to win a PGA Tour event, the 1963 Houston Classic, and the first golfer from New Zealand to win on the PGA Tour and to capture a major title.

The next left-hander to win a major was Mike Weir, taking the 2003 Masters Tournament. He also became the first Canadian to win a major. When the Sarnia, Ontario, native was 13 years old, he wrote to Jack Nicklaus, seeking advice on whether he should continue to play golf left-handed or switch and become a right-hander. Nicklaus wrote that Mike should continue as a southpaw, encouraging him to use his natural swing. The rest is history.



The first left-handed winner on the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) Tour was Bonnie Bryant. She won the 1974 Bill Branch Classic in Fort Myers, Florida. It was her lone victory, and Bonnie is still the only left-handed winner in LPGA history.



When Phil Mickelson qualified for the U.S. Ryder Cup team, in 1995, it was thought that he was the first left-hander to play in that event. He was only the first American left-hander. The honor of being the *first* left-hander on the Ryder Cup team goes to Peter Dawson who represented Great Britain and Ireland in 1977.



Mickelson wasn't the first left-hander to win a championship sponsored by the USGA either, although he did capture the 1990 U.S. Amateur. The distinction belongs to Ralph Howe III, winner of the 1988 U.S. Public Links.

With Mickelson's victory in the 2004 Masters, he set a record of sorts. It marked the first time that left-handers won the same major two consecutive years, as he followed Weir's win the previous year. Holing an 18-foot putt on the final green for a birdie, Phil edged Ernie Els by one stroke.

His triumph also set a new record, one that dates from 1860 and the inaugural Open at Prestwick. It was the first time that a first-timer won in six consecutive majors. The streak began in the 2002 PGA Championship, claimed by Rich Beem. In 2003, Weir won the Masters, Jim Furyk the U.S. Open, Ben Curtis the Open, and Shaun Micheel the PGA Championship. Phil took the total to a half-dozen.



In 2002, Katherine Hull became the first woman to attempt to qualify for the U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship.

IN OVER HER HEAD

Perhaps the first woman golfer was Mary, Queen of Scots. At least she was the first mentioned in print. When her husband was murdered, she was observed playing golf in the fields beside Seton a few days after his death. That fact was brought out at her trial, and she was later beheaded. She really lost her head over the game.



That year also marked the first time a Russian native tried to qualify for the U.S. Women's Open Championship. Although Svetlana Goundina failed in her attempt, it was an indication of how popular the sport had become in all parts of the globe.



The name Lian-Wei Zhang is not well known to most golf fans. But the native of Shenzen, China, turned professional in 1995, and in 2003, he became the first Chinese golfer to win on the European Tour with a birdie on the final hole to take the Caltex Masters. He was rewarded with an invitation to play in the 2004 Masters, another first, and shot 77-72. While he missed the cut by a single stroke, he collected a pair of crystal goblets for making an eagle on the 13th hole.



For a great many years, golfers used only six or seven clubs. Caddies would carry them under an arm so that they could quickly hand the proper implement to the golfer. The exact date is not recorded, but it is believed that the first golf bag, known as Dr. Trails Canvas Container, was introduced to the Old Course at St. Andrews in 1890. It came about because golfers began to use more and more clubs instead of the traditional six or seven.

Some of the experienced caddies were reluctant to use them and referred to those who did carry the bags in a derogatory manner as “bag toters.”



Golf is an honorable game, or it's supposed to be. Unlike other sports, seldom do fans hoot and boo, although there are some incidents that have marred the good behavior of most galleries. For example, the galleries of some Ryder Cup matches in recent years have seen behavior similar to that seen among spectators at football games. One early example of poor sportsmanship occurred in Hot Springs, Virginia, during the 1967 U.S. Women's Open. Catherine Lacoste, an outstanding amateur from France, was leading the championship, but partisan American fans didn't want to see her win. It didn't make much difference to them who won, as long as it wasn't a foreigner.

Catherine continued to play well in spite of a couple of poor shots that were loudly cheered by the partisan gallery. She held on, however, finishing two strokes better than Beth Stone and Susie Maxwell to become the first non-American and only amateur to ever win the championship.



The first British Amateur Championship was actually an informal tournament instituted by the Royal Liverpool Golf Club in 1885. It proved to be quite successful, so the club suggested that the Royal and Ancient Golf Club sponsor an amateur championship, which they did the following year. A. F. MacFie was the first winner, having defeated Horace Hutchinson, but he was not recognized as the first champion until 1922, when the Royal and Ancient decided to include his name in the official records.

With 24 entrants, setting up the matches proved to be a bit of a challenge for the club. Instead of arranging for some early-round byes, they occurred later in the tournament. For example, three golfers made it to the semifinal, with MacFie given the bye. Hutchinson had to play John Ball in the morning and then face the eventual winner in the afternoon. There was even a one-day delay before the semifinal and final were con-

tested. The club had already scheduled another event the day before the championship was to be decided, and it took precedence. Ball, Hutchinson, and MacFie all participated in the annual club event. Thus, they played in two tournaments in the same week.



During that first British Amateur competition, matches that were tied were replayed rather than decided in a play-off. Allan MacFie played the same opponent, Walter de Zoete, three times in succession before emerging with a victory.



Only once has the U.S. Women's Amateur Championship been contested at stroke play. It happened at the inaugural event in 1895, which was played at Meadowbrook in New York.

The winner was Mrs. Charles Brown, who shot 132 for 18 holes, nine holes in the morning followed by the second nine in the afternoon. Beginning the next year, the championship was conducted at match play with Beatrice Hoyt the victor at the Morris Country Club, a club founded by women in New Jersey in 1893.



The Shinnecock Hills clubhouse in Southampton, New York, was designed by Stanford White and built for \$6,550 in 1892. It was the first American golf club to have a clubhouse. White is best remembered for designing the original Madison Square Garden in New York City, site of numerous sporting events.



Having a clubhouse was not always considered a necessity. The R&A opened its clubhouse, overlooking the first tee of the Old Course, in 1854. The building was much smaller than the one used today and still exists within the walls of the current structure. Prior to that time, the R&A members would meet in the back rooms of the city's taverns, the most popular being the Black Bull Tavern.

WAR GRINDS TO HALT . . . FOR GOLF

Joe Kirkwood and Walter Hagen put on a great many exhibitions during the 1930s, including an around-the-world tour. Not all of the tour was spent golfing, as the two thoroughly enjoyed taking in the wonders of the world. Many times they would linger in a city after their scheduled match and the inevitable trick-shot clinic conducted by Kirkwood. They felt the money they earned was meant to be spent, and they, especially Hagen, were champions at that as well.

After a swing from Australia to Singapore and Manila in 1938, they received an invitation to put on their exhibition in Shanghai, China, at the Hung Jao course. Being a bit short of currency, they agreed to make the trip but were wondering how it would be accomplished, since the Sino-Japanese War was being fought and Shanghai was right in the middle of the fighting. Still, it seemed as if it would be a unique experience, so they made the travel plans.

Arriving at the city, they were put up at the Cathay Hotel, one of the only hotels not damaged in the fighting. Most of the city was in shambles, although they discovered that the local golf association was still in existence. However, the Japanese had taken over the club as a command post. The professionals saw an announcement calling for the “Golfers of Shanghai to gather at the Club” and asking the authorities to clear the dead bodies from the course. The war was actually stopped for a day in honor of the exhibition, and while a formal truce had not been signed, there were no hostilities that day.

A bomb had destroyed the 18th green the day before, and it was quickly replaced with a temporary sand green so the match could be completed. As Kirkwood and Hagen played the round, the Chinese and Japanese stood side by side, being more cordial to each other than anyone might expect. Following the

match, refreshments were served, at which time the ladies arrived: the Japanese in lovely kimonos, the Chinese in beautiful silk gowns, and the Westerners dressed to the nines. Once the refreshments had been served, it was time for Kirkwood to give his performance.

When he finished, the senior Japanese officer asked if he would repeat the last part of the exhibition where he had hit golf balls at a caddie who was downrange and had to duck and scatter as Joe hit a number of low-trajectory shots. Kirkwood agreed, and the officers gave a number of commands. What the Japanese did was to dress some enlisted men in Chinese uniforms and sent them down the fairway to await the shots. They had their rifles at port arms, with fixed bayonets, and they were ordered to charge toward Kirkwood. The shots came close, and the soldiers dodged and fell to the ground before eventually turning tail and running. Later, Joe and Walter discovered that the officers had made a movie of the soldiers that was used as propaganda in Japan to show the cowardice of the Chinese—that they would even run from golf balls. Of course, the golfers were unaware of the part they were asked to play in the film.

It was, perhaps, the only and certainly the first time in history that a war was halted for a round of golf.



*T*he oldest golf club outside the British Isles is Royal Calcutta, established in 1829, in India.



*I*n July 1895, the Van Cortland Golf Course opened in Bronx, New York, as the first public course built in the United States. It was originally a nine-hole layout named The Meadows; but in 1899, the original course was replaced with an 18-hole layout on land adjacent to the first course.



From 1895 through 2001, the U.S. Open was never played on a true public golf course. The first public course to host the championship was the Black Course at Bethpage State Park in Farmingdale, New York, on Long Island, in 2002.

Another first was established in the 2002 U.S. Open. In previous championships, all golfers began the round on the first tee. This marked the beginning of starting times on both the first and tenth tees. Dudley Hart became the first golfer to start on the 10th hole in a U.S. Open, and he recorded a bogey.



When Pebble Beach Golf Links was built in 1916, an underground irrigation system was installed. It became the first golf course in the country to be built with underground irrigation from tee to green.



Founded in 1873, Royal Montreal, Quebec, is the oldest golf club in North America. Not only is it the oldest, but it also had the first golf professional on the continent, an Englishman by the name of Willie Davis, and it also became the first club to admit women members (in 1891).



Laying claim to being the first golf club in the Western Hemisphere is the San Martín y Flores Golf Club, established in 1871, in Argentina. It was later named the Buenos Aires Golf Club and then the San Andrés Golf Club.



Proud of its many fine golf courses, Japan didn't have a layout until 1903, when Arthur Groom, a merchant from England, designed the Kobe Golf Club, which consisted of nine holes on the slopes of Mount Rokko.



On the European continent, the oldest club is Pau, in the French Pyrenees. It was organized in 1856, although some Scottish officers played there three years earlier on a makeshift course.



Arguments abound, but staking claim as the oldest golf club in Australia is Royal Adelaide. It was founded in 1871.



Following a trip to Alaska in 1923, President Warren Harding became ill and died of a cerebral hemorrhage after returning to San Francisco. The city honored the memory of one of the most enthusiastic of presidential golfers by naming a public golf course, Harding Park, after him. It was the first golf course to be named for a president.



Home of three U.S. Open championships, the Walker Cup, and the Ryder Cup, The Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts, did not have a golf course until 1892. The interests of the original 404 members centered around horses, with such pastimes as racing, fox hunting, and polo.

One of the members, Arthur Hunnewell, was introduced to golf by his niece, Florence Boit. Miss Boit, who lived in France, persuaded Hunnewell to lay out a small course on his own property. While he only had one club, a mashie presented to him by Miss Boit, Hunnewell enjoyed his attempts to hit the ball. Eventually he talked the board of directors into adding a golf course to the club's other facilities, and in April 1892, the six holes were ready.

An exhibition was held to introduce the members to the game, and hitting the first ball to the 90-yard par-3 hole was Hunnewell with his mashie. It turned out to be the shot of his life, as the ball found the cup for a hole-in-one. Those watching were not golfers. Since it had been explained to them that the object of the game was to hole the ball in the

least number of strokes, there wasn't a murmur from the onlookers after the historic shot. In fact, they were quite disappointed that the feat was not duplicated on the remaining holes. Never again was Hunnewell able to make a hole-in-one, but he will forever be remembered for making one on the first shot ever hit at The Country Club.



Only once has the British Open been held outside Great Britain, and that was in 1951 at Royal Portrush Golf Club in Ireland. The winner was Max Faulkner. The same course was also the first venue outside Great Britain for the Ladies' Championship, which took place in 1898.



Called the toughest test in professional golf, the PGA Tour Qualifying School now consists of 108 holes for those wishing to make it to the PGA Tour. There are seldom as many places available for tour aspirants as contestants would like. One bad round can mean the "minor leagues" or even the dreaded minitours.

When it was originally played, most of the entrants were young players hoping to get their card. Over the years, however, it had come to include not only those who had never played professionally but, even more, those who had lost their cards by not finishing high enough on the money list the previous year. Competition has always been fierce, but qualifying became more difficult as the years went by.

In 2002, one of the competitors in the Q School was Scott Simpson, the winner of the 1987 U.S. Open Championship, who ended the year 195th on the money list, even though he had played in 25 events. He is believed to be the first player to have entered the PGA Tour Qualifying School after having won a major title.



Professionalism leaped into the Olympic Games in 1992, when participation in the basketball competition was opened to players from the National Basketball Association. Prior to that time, all events

were supposed to be limited to amateur athletes. Still, it was a charade, as the track stars received appearance money to appear in various meets, and the athletes from the Soviet Union and other satellite nations were paid by the government to compete, whether in hockey or gymnastics.

If there was ever one sport where the line drawn between amateur and professional was truly defined, it was golf. But the sport has rarely been a part of the Olympics. That was not always the case. It was an official event in 1900 and 1904, the first in Paris and the last in St. Louis, Missouri. The winner of the gold medal in the ladies competition was Margaret Abbott, who completed nine holes with a 47 and who became the first American to ever win an Olympic medal for the United States. It didn't stop there. Charles E. Sands recorded rounds of 82 and 85 to capture the gold medal among the men.

Miss Abbott not only became the first, but she was the only gold medal winner in women's golf, as there was no competition for the ladies in 1904. Actually, golf played an important part in the Paris Olympics. In addition to the regular competition, the Olympic Committee decided to hold a handicap event as well. The winner was Albert Bond Lambert, putting his 10 handicap to good use. After finishing eighth in the regular competition, he competed in the handicap division. If the name sounds familiar, it is because his father was the founder of the company that made Listerine, Lambert Pharmaceutical, which later became Warner-Lambert. He was a flying enthusiast and the benefactor of Charles Lindbergh's transatlantic flight. He also built the airport in St. Louis, known as Lambert International Field.

Because of Lambert's enthusiasm for the Olympic golf event in Paris, he made plans for golf to be included in the 1904 games. The main competition was the match-play event won by Canadian George Lyon, who defeated H. Chandler Egan, the United States Amateur champion, in the final by a 3 and 2 margin over 36 holes. Lyon should not have been considered a surprise winner. His career included eight Canadian Amateur titles, as well as runner-up finishes in both the U.S. Open and Amateur championships. He was not the favorite, however, primarily because Lyon was 46 years old, while his opponent was just 21.

Another wrinkle was added to the Olympics golf roster—team competition. There were supposed to be six 10-man teams, but only two showed up in St. Louis. One represented the Western Golf Association (WGA) and another the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association. A third team was quickly put together from other golfers present and loosely represented the United States Golf Association. The WGA team won the competition.

That marked the end of golf in the Olympic Games. Competition had been scheduled in 1908 when the games went to England, but the Royal and Ancient got into a hassle about eligibility with the Olympic Organizing Committee and all of the British withdrew. Canadian George Lyon was the only entrant, and the committee offered to give him the gold medal, but he refused. Golf was canceled, never to make a return to the Olympic Games.



In 1979, Ryder Cup eligibility was changed to allow golfers from the European continent to participate on what had been the British team or, more accurately, the team representing Great Britain and Ireland, that combination having been in existence since 1973. The change to a team representing Europe actually was initiated by Jack Nicklaus in a letter to Lord Derby, the president of the British PGA. Jack felt it would make the matches more competitive rather than the fairly one-sided matches of previous years. At the 1977 matches, Don Padgett, president of the PGA of America, and Henry Poe, a former president of the same organization, sought out Lord Derby to also make the proposal. The change was approved by the British PGA, the PGA European Tour, and finally Mrs. Joan Scarfe, who was Samuel Ryder's daughter.

The first Spaniards to participate on a Ryder Cup team were Severiano "Seve" Ballesteros and Antonio Garrido, playing in 1979. The first German was Bernhard Langer, who made the team in 1981. Costantino Rocca became the first Italian when he qualified in 1993, as did Per-Ulrik Johansson, who was the first Swede. Denmark was represented for the first time in 1997 with the addition of Thomas Bjorn, and the first Frenchman was Jean Van de Velde, who played on the 1999 team.



From 1927 until 1995, every Ryder Cup match was conducted on a course located in Great Britain or the United States. The first to be contested on a layout outside those countries was in 1997, when Valderama staged the event at Sotogrande, Spain, with Seve Ballesteros serving as captain of the victorious European team.



It is no longer unusual for a golfer to have played on both the Walker Cup and Ryder Cup teams during his career. The first to gain that distinction, however, was Freddie Haas.



Freddie has another first. He is remembered for his victory in the 1945 Memphis Open as an amateur, and it brought an end to the longest winning streak in PGA history, the 11 straight by Byron Nelson.

Probably because he was an amateur, few people paid attention to the fact that he wore shorts during the tournament. It remains the only PGA Tour event on record that was won by a golfer wearing shorts.



While there had been a “Second Tour” in prior years, the beginning of what we now know as the Nationwide Tour began in 1990 as the Ben Hogan Tour, holding its first tournament in Bakersfield, California. The brainchild of Deane Beman, it was originally thought of as a tour for young professionals who wanted experience that might help them gain a spot on the PGA Tour, in addition to those who lost their card, who hoped to get back into the big time. It also turned out that some golfers waiting to play on the Champions Tour (originally named the PGA Senior Tour) decided it would be a good place to hone their game.

Winning the Ben Hogan Bakersfield Open to become the first champion on that circuit was Mike Springer. That experience served as a springboard for Mike. He was later able to win two PGA Tour events as well.



In 1934, the PGA began to keep track of official money won on the tour, and the first to capture the crown was Paul Runyan, who made \$6,767 in official money during the year.



The first golfer to win \$1 million in official prize money on the PGA Tour during his career was Arnold Palmer, passing the mark in 1968.



Twenty years later, Curtis Strange became the first to win \$1 million in a single year on the PGA Tour.



Karrie Webb became the first golfer to pass the million-dollar mark on the LPGA Tour in a single season, in 1996. It also marked the first time the feat was accomplished by a rookie, either man or woman.



It took another five years before a woman earned more than \$2 million on the LPGA Tour. Annika Sorenstam made \$2,105,868 in 2001, with eight victories and a host of top-ten finishes.



Lee Trevino was the first to win more than \$1 million on the Champions Tour in 1992, with \$1,027,022 in official money. Hale Irwin raised the bar, earning \$2 million in 1997 and then the first \$3 million in one season, during 2002.



It is now a common occurrence to see several golfers win that much in a season, but the first time the total prize money on the PGA Tour exceeded \$1 million for a year was in 1958.



In 1994, Fuzzy Zoeller won \$1,016,804 on the PGA Tour. It marked the first time that a player won more than \$1 million without a victory. With purses increasing, it was only a matter of time for the same thing to occur on the Champions Tour, and that happened in 1997. John Bland, the South African who had captured five senior titles in the previous two years, couldn't win in his 35 starts that year, but he was able to pocket \$1,169,707. The figure broke the record previously held by J. C. Snead of slightly more than \$700,000 in winnings without a victory. With increased purses, it took only five years before the figure earned by Zoeller was surpassed. In 1999, Davis Love III earned \$2,475,328 without a single title.



What a year 1997 was for Hale Irwin. The previous year Hale had seven runner-up finishes on the Champions Tour and was a bit tired of being a bridesmaid. The season began with a win in the MasterCard Championship and ended with a total of nine victories. It tied the record for wins in a single season, which had been previously set by Peter Thomson in 1985. Irwin became the first to win more than \$2 million in one season on any U.S. professional tour, with a total of \$2,343,364; he had entered 23 events, for an average earnings of more than \$100,000 for every week he played.



With the beginning of the Ryder Cup matches in 1927, there were no set rules as to possession of the cup itself. Naturally, it would go to the winning team, but nothing beyond that had been specified. The United States won, and the team members held a meeting to decide what should be done with the cup.

It was agreed upon that each member would keep it for a period of time with a drawing held to determine the order, which turned out to be Leo Diegel, Joe Turnesa, Johnny Golden, Gene Sarazen, Al Watrous, Al Espinosa, Walter Hagen, Johnny Farrell, and Bill Mehlhorn. After future

matches were held, the trophy was kept in the possession of the PGA of the winning team.



Part of the tradition of international cup competition is that the matches must be won from the defender for the country to gain possession of the trophy. That is true in the Ryder, Walker, and Curtis cups. Thus when the matches end in a tie, the team who last won keeps the trophy for another two years.

Originally no provision was written in the rules of competition to take care of a tie. The precedent was established in 1936, the first tie in international cup competition, when Doris Chambers, captain of the British Curtis Cup team, declined sharing the trophy following a tie at Gleneagles, Scotland, with the American team. She said her team had not won any claim to it.



When the Presidents Cup was established in 1994, the same format for a tie was adopted. The Presidents Cup pits golfers from the United States against a team of international players. International was interpreted to mean those golfers not from Europe, so they could have an opportunity to play for a cup in team competition similar to the Ryder Cup.

A decision to have a play-off in the 2003 matches was made, and the procedure was a bit unusual. Each captain would place the name of one member in a sealed envelope. The captains, Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player, actually didn't keep the names secret. Practically everyone knew it would be Tiger Woods and Ernie Els.

The matches did end up in a tie, so the two golfers went to the 18th hole to begin the sudden-death play-off. The hole was tied, as were the next two holes. Both players made pressure putts to keep the match alive. After playing the third play-off hole, the two captains huddled and determined that it was getting too dark to continue. Both Nicklaus and Player agreed that the match should be called a tie.

When it became known that the cup would remain in the Americans' possession, since they had won the previous meeting, Gary Player balked. He met with his team, and they expressed the view that the play-off should continue the next morning. In the meantime, Nicklaus opined that there might be too much pressure on any one golfer and should they continue the following day, perhaps all players should be involved.

When Jack met with the American team, they were of the opinion that the cup should be shared rather than remain in the possession of the United States. That information was relayed to Gary, who then received approval from his team to call the matches a tie. Thus, it was the first time in international cup competition that both teams shared the trophy.



The Curtis family, which gave birth to the Curtis Cup, had a first in major competition for women. In 1907, Harriot and Margaret reached the final of the U.S. Women's Amateur, with Margaret emerging as the winner by a 7 and 6 margin. To this day, it is the only time that sisters met in a final of this prestigious event.



It is still rare to have a golfer on the cover of *Time* magazine. For example, it took three major victories in a single year to gain the honor for Tiger Woods in 2000. However, the first golfer to be pictured on the cover of that magazine was a woman, Edith Cummings, the 1923 U.S. Amateur champion. The Chicago socialite appeared on the *Time* cover in August 1924.



The first victory by a U.S. Ryder Cup team on foreign soil happened in 1937. The European team wasn't able to win in the United States until 1987, when they defeated the Americans at Muirfield Village in Dublin, Ohio.

Upon accepting the trophy, Walter Hagen told the assembled crowd that it was nice to be able to win the cup at home. A patron called out that he was not in the United States but in England; Hagen responded that they were so nice to him there that he thought it was home. That brought a huge round of applause.



Only one golfer in history has won the money title on two tours in the same year. Annika Sorenstam of Sweden split her time between the LPGA Tour and the WPG (Women Professional Golfers) European Tour in 1995, capturing money honors in both.



With the success of the Swedes in women's golf, it's a bit of a surprise that the first male from Sweden didn't win on the American tour until 1997, when Gabriel Hjertstedt took the B.C. Open in Endicott, New York. His final round 70 gave him a one-stroke victory.



Mickey Wright was the first to successfully defend her U.S. Women's Open title, winning in 1958 and again the following year. She was also the first to capture both the U.S. Women's Open and LPGA Championship in the same year—1958.



The only time a reigning monarch played in a national golf championship occurred in 1939 at Le Zoute Golf Club in the Belgian Amateur, with King Leopold as the competitor. Later, in exile, he reached the quarterfinal of the 1949 French Amateur.



Hollis Stacy became the first golfer to win three consecutive USGA Junior titles when she captured the championships in 1969 through 1971. The only boy to have accomplished it was Tiger Woods in 1991–93.



No one had ever had to go through qualifying rounds for the U.S. Women's Open and then won that championship until 2003. Playing at Pumpkin Ridge, North Plains, Oregon, Hilary Lunke found herself in a play-off with Kelly Robbins and Angela Stanford after regulation play. Hilary, who had played collegiate golf at Stanford University and was once a member of the U.S. Curtis Cup team, was a short hitter. She carried woods 6, 7, 9, and 11 in her bag and made use of all of them.

When she posted a 1-under 70 in the play-off, Lunke made history as the first qualifier to win the most prestigious of all women's golf titles.



Sam Snead holds many golf records, but possibly one of his finest accomplishments was to become the first golfer to ever score better than his age in a PGA Tour event. Sam, at the age of 67, scored a 66 in the 1979 Quad Cities Open. He also had a 67 in the same tournament. With the advent of the PGA Champions Tour for golfers over 50, some felt that record might never again be duplicated, but leave it to "the King." In the fourth round of the 2001 Bob Hope Chrysler Classic, Arnold Palmer shot 71 to equal his age, becoming the oldest to shoot his age on the PGA Tour.



Timing is everything. The first Intercollegiate Golf Association champion was Louis P. Bayard Jr., who played for Princeton University. He toured Ardsley Casino in 91 strokes back in 1897, slightly higher than Jack Nicklaus, Ben Crenshaw, and Tom Kite scored in later years when they won the collegiate individual title.

Now, the winner of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), in most cases, becomes a professional in search of the large amount of money available on the various tours. Somehow we forget that university golf was played long before it became popular in the United States. The first match involving two universities was held in 1878—March 6, to be exact—and it was between Oxford and Cambridge.

The victors, led by Horace Hutchinson, won in convincing style by 24 to 0. When taken into consideration that the first Amateur Championship wasn't held until 1885, it means that the Varsity Match is the oldest amateur event in golf history.



The first golfer to win both the NCAA and U.S. Amateur in the same year was Jack Nicklaus. Only Phil Mickelson and Tiger Woods have been able to accomplish that double since Jack's initial success.



Winning the 1974 Tucson Open added some icing to the cake for Johnny Miller. His victory enabled him to become the first and only golfer to win the first three events of the year on the PGA Tour. Johnny began 1974 with wins in the Bing Crosby National Pro-Am in Monterey, California, and the Phoenix Open before moving south to the Tucson Open.



When Denny Shute won the 1936 PGA Championship, he became the first son of a golf professional to win that title. Since then Jack Burke Jr. (1956), Dave Marr (1965), Davis Love III (1997), and Rich Beem (2002) joined Burke, since their fathers were also golf professionals.

WHIFFS IN SPACE

On no particular golf course, history was made on February 6, 1971, by a golfer from Houston, although the shot wasn't made there. It wasn't even made in the United States or anywhere on the planet. There were several million people, certainly the largest gallery assembled at that time, watching Captain Alan B. Shepard Jr. on television.

He said, “Houston, you might recognize what I have in my hand as the handle for the contingency return sample. It just so happens to have a genuine 6-iron head on the bottom of it. In my left hand I have a little white pellet that’s familiar to millions of Americans. I’ll drop it down. Unfortunately, the suit is so stiff I can’t do this with two hands, but I’m going to try a little sand trap shot here.”

With that, he dropped the ball, took a swing, and missed. With him on the mission was Commander Edgar D. Mitchell. He observed, “You got more dirt than ball that time.”

Shepard dropped another ball and made contact on his next swing. Thus, golf became the first game played on the moon.

The Royal and Ancient immediately sent a telegram reminding the commander of Apollo 14 that “before leaving a bunker a player should carefully fill up and smooth over all holes and footprints made by him.”

Spalding jumped at the opportunity of issuing a commemorative “moon ball” with a picture of an astronaut hitting a shot on it. While Shepard didn’t divulge the make of the ball he used, word leaked that Jack Harden, the professional at River Oaks Country Club where Alan played, had supplied the balls. It turned out that they were his Spalding range balls, which could be used on the moon’s surface and withstand the extreme temperature changes.



History was also made in 1995 during the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic. It marked the first time that three presidents of the United States played golf together. Bill Clinton was joined by Gerald Ford and George H. W. Bush in a round that took almost six hours to complete. In addition to the “First Golfers,” Bob Hope teed it up, along with golf professional Scott Hoch. It also marked the first time that a serving

president played in a PGA-sponsored event. Just having the Secret Service walking along guaranteed a large gallery.

Scott was able to shoot a 70, which was pretty remarkable with all of the distractions. The presidents were given “newspaper scores” that listed Mr. Clinton with a 95, Mr. Bush with 93, and Mr. Ford shooting 103.



Spectators at professional golf tournaments can’t help but notice caps, shirts, and golf bags with advertising on them. There is little question that endorsements are important sources of income for touring professionals, in most cases far exceeding money won in tournaments.

The first golfer to endorse products was Harry Vardon. After winning the Open in 1899 in Sandwich, England, for the third time, Vardon was approached by various companies. He agreed to endorse only the products that he actually would consider using, such as tobacco for his ever-present pipe. Ads appeared showing him using “Player’s Navy Cut” and wearing a golfing jacket he liked.

Then, A. G. Spalding asked if he would be interested in promoting a golf ball to be named the Vardon Flyer, and he accepted the offer. Vardon shrewdly asked for a lump-sum payment rather than royalties on each ball sold. It proved to be a wise decision since the Vardon Flyer was made of gutta-percha and the introduction of the wound golf ball was just around the corner. It was a huge contract, considering the times and the cost of living. He signed the agreement in 1899, and the amount he received would be the equivalent of \$1 million today.



Possibly the first golfer to have a racehorse named after him was Gene Sarazen. Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt owned the horse, which, like its namesake, was a champion.



The Champions Tour has been called the “Greatest Mulligan in Golf” for former PGA Tour players. Winners of the various tour-

naments have generally been those who were also winners when they were younger. The first winner, for example, was Don January, a past PGA champion who captured the 1980 Atlantic City Senior International. It was one of only four senior events held that year now recognized by the PGA as official events. Other winners in 1980 were Roberto De Vicenzo, Charlie Sifford, and Arnold Palmer.

That changed in later years with club professionals rising to the top to challenge the former PGA Tour players. First to win a Champions Tour event without having won on the regular tour was Walt Zembriski, when he took the title in the 1988 Newport Cup Tournament in Newport, Rhode Island.



With the Champions Tour becoming more and more popular, it was finally decided to open the door to weekly qualifying for some of the contestants wanting to make it into the tournament proper. It wasn't easy to gain one of the few spots available, and to follow up the qualifying with a victory was even more difficult.

The first qualifier to win a tournament was Larry Mowry in the 1987 Crestar Classic.



Recording a double eagle in the 1982 Peter Jackson Championship, Al Balding became the first to accomplish that rarest of feats on the Champions Tour.



Winning the 1991 Syracuse Senior Classic broke a streak of 611 professional tournaments without a victory for Rocky Thompson. At least that's the figure quoted by Rocky. Guess what happened after he recorded his first win? The next year the tournament was canceled. When he found out about the cancellation, the always-optimistic Thompson said, "At least now, I'll be the defending champ every year."



The first U.S. Senior Open was held at Winged Foot in Mamaroneck, New York, in 1980 with Roberto De Vincenzo gaining a four-stroke victory over amateur Bill Campbell for the title. In that championship, participants had to be at least 55 years old. The USGA lowered eligibility to 50 the next year, and there was talk that it was done to assure participation by some of the better-known golfers. The other senior events already had a 50-year-old threshold. It worked, as two legends—Arnold Palmer and Billy Casper—were in the field.

Contested on the South Course at Oakland Hills in Birmingham, Michigan, the two didn't disappoint their golf fans when they finished regulation play at 289, along with Bob Stone. Palmer won the 18-hole play-off by four strokes and became the first golfer to win the U.S. Amateur, U.S. Open, and U.S. Senior Open in his career. Ten years later Jack Nicklaus duplicated the feat, and his senior title also came at Oakland Hills following a play-off.



Nicklaus also went on to win The Tradition, the PGA Seniors' Championship, and the Senior Tournament Players Championship on the Champions Tour, becoming the first to win all four designated major titles for seniors.



Absent from the list of designated major events for seniors was the Senior British Open. Actually, it didn't become an official event for the Champions Tour until 2003, and that year it was also declared a major. In its history, which began in 1987, there have been three golfers who have won both the British Open and the Senior British Open—Gary Player, Bob Charles, and Tom Watson. The first to accomplish it was Player, when he won the 1988 senior title at Turnberry in Scotland. Unfortunately, the winners from 1987 through 2002 can't claim they won a senior major title; as far as the PGA of America is concerned, they didn't even win an official event. That may change, however. It took the

PGA more than 150 years to acknowledge that the British Open was an official tournament on its tour.



*T*he longest streak of not winning a professional tournament before the first victory belongs to Bobby Wadkins. Lanny Wadkin's younger brother participated in 712 PGA Tour events and 65 on the second tour for a total of 777 professional events without once collecting the top prize. It should be pointed out, however, that Wadkins was able to win some international events during his career but nothing on U.S. soil. Bobby finally broke through in the 2001 Long Island Classic, the first senior PGA tournament he entered.

The last time a player had debuted successfully on the Champions Tour was in 2000 at the ACE Group Classic, and it was brother Lanny. It turned out to be Lanny's only victory on the senior circuit.



*A*fter struggling on the minitours for six years, Tom Lehman had a most successful season in 1991. He was able to win the money title on the Nike Tour that year, gaining playing privileges on the PGA Tour for 1992. Having previously played on the regular tour with little to show for it, he made the most of his return to the big leagues. He became the first to win money titles both on the Hogan/Nike Tour and on the PGA Tour when he collected more than \$1.7 million in 1996.



*W*ith 73 official PGA Tour victories, Jack Nicklaus trails only Sam Snead in that category. Jack's first start as a professional was in the 1962 Los Angeles Open and came on a sponsor's exemption. His check totaled \$33.33.



*I*n 1977, the Boy Scouts of America offered a merit badge in golf for the first time. The pamphlet explaining the qualification standards and the game was produced by Charles C. Hillyer of Jacksonville,

Florida, and consisted of 74 pages. Golf became the 19th sports-oriented merit badge for the organization.



Oscar Cella was given a five-year suspension by the Argentine Golf Association, after being accused of “errors” on the green. He took the case to court and had it overturned. Cella then entered the 1965 Argentina Amateur Championship. The other 31 competitors walked off the course, refusing to play if Cella was allowed in the tournament, and he was declared the winner without hitting a single shot. It marked the first time that a champion was named even though no tournament was held.



Three-putting the second play-off hole in the 1993 PGA Championship cost Greg Norman the title, adding to his reputation of being snakebitten in the majors. He actually was the second golfer to lose all four professional majors in play-offs.

First, Fuzzy Zoeller bested Norman in the 1984 U.S. Open at Winged Foot. Then it was Larry Mize’s great chip that did him in at the Masters Tournament in 1987. The other play-off loss was at the hands of Mark Calcavecchia in the 1989 British Open at Royal Troon.

As difficult as it has been for Greg, the first person to hold the record for futility in major championships belongs to Craig Wood. In the 1933 British Open at St. Andrews, Wood and Denny Shute tied after regulation play, with Shute winning the play-off scheduled over 36 holes. The following year, he made it to the final of the PGA Championship, which was then conducted as match play. At the end of the regulation 36 holes in the final, Craig was tied with Paul Runyan, who emerged as the victor on the 38th hole.

Wood’s third play-off loss came in 1935 at the Masters. Following the historic double eagle by Gene Sarazen, which enabled the Squire to catch Wood, they covered another 36 holes the following day, with Sarazen winning by five strokes. Gene, of course, became the first golfer to win all four professional majors in a career. The 1939 U.S. Open was the last of Wood’s play-off losses. This one was only scheduled over 18

holes. Shute shot 76 to be eliminated, while Craig and Byron Nelson each shot 68. So it was back for another 18, and this time Nelson prevailed with a 70 to Wood's 73.

In 1941, Craig finally got to the winner's circle in a major with victories in the Masters Tournament and the U.S. Open. He won both without a play-off and became the first golfer to win the Masters and U.S. Open in the same year.



The first and only play-off to never happen in a major occurred at the 1876 British Open. David Strath made a double bogey at the final hole, leaving him in a tie with Robert Martin. Some of Martin's backers entered a protest, stating that Strath should have been penalized for having hit into the players in front of him at the 17th hole. It was reported that the ball had struck someone.

Apparently Strath's shot was a good one, and he still needed two putts to hole out. But the committee was asked to make a ruling. They met but came to no conclusion, adjourning the meeting until the next day, when the play-off was to be held. They did make a preliminary ruling that the play-off should proceed "under protest" on Monday afternoon. Strath refused to play unless a ruling was made prior to the beginning of play. Martin was declared the winner when Strath did not appear. The penalty of disqualification apparently was never made since Strath was awarded second-place money in that championship.

There was more to the story, however. It was perhaps the most bizarre Open ever played. Today, we would never dream of holding a championship of such importance and allowing other golfers to interfere with play, but that's what happened in 1876.

The courses at St. Andrews belong to the people. At that time, only the Old Course existed. The R&A was only one club that used the course, and that year they forgot to reserve it for the British Open. The confusion was probably due to the fact that the same day Prince Leopold was to drive himself in as Captain. There was great excitement, since the prince was actually going to be at the course to complete the ceremony at eight in the morning.

Following the ceremony, members of the R&A, along with the townspeople, expected to play golf, and nothing was going to stop them, including the British Open. The solution was to alternate groups, regular golfers along with those participating in the championship. It was also necessary for the Open participants to play two rounds in one day to determine the winner. Professionals had to wait unusually long periods of time between shots, and when the championship ended, it was almost dark.



The first play-off that actually took place in British Open history occurred in 1883 at Musselburgh, Scotland. Willie Fernie was victorious over Bob Ferguson by one stroke in the 36-hole play-off. Had Ferguson prevailed, it would have been his fourth consecutive Open championship, tying the all-time record set by Tom Morris Jr.



Strath's action was more of a protest, but there was a time when the U.S. Open was threatened with a strike. It happened because of two golfers who were entered in the field of 35. John Shippen was a black man and Oscar Bunn a Native American. Both lived at the nearby Shinnecock Reservation (in New York) and were caddies at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club. The other professionals did not want them in the field and said they would withdraw unless something was done. It was a bit ironic, as golf professionals at the time were looked down upon as second-class citizens themselves, and it would seem they could understand prejudice.

The president of the USGA at that time was Theodore Havemeyer, a member of the Newport Golf Club in Rhode Island. The statement attributed to him when confronted by the professionals' demands was, "We will play the Open with you, or without you." The other competitors relented, and the championship went off as scheduled.

How well did John Shippen and Oscar Bunn do? Well, Oscar finished

21st, scoring 89-85 for a 174. John Shippen became the first African American to ever lead the U.S. Open with an opening 78. That score tied him with four others. The second round or, at least, the 13th hole was his undoing. John's ball landed on a sandy road, and he had great difficulty getting it back in play. The errant shot led to an 11 on the hole, seven over par, and the exact number of strokes he finished behind Jim Foulis, the eventual champion. Still, his 159 total was good for fifth place. Shippen was able to play in the U.S. Open on four more occasions and again finished fifth in 1902.



When Shippen played, there was no such thing as a cut. That came later, when the championship was increased to a 72-hole event. The first African American to make the cut was Ted Rhodes in 1948 at the Riveria Country Club in Los Angeles, although he finished out of the money.



There was a time when a play-off wasn't completed. In the 1911 Open at Sandwich, Arnaud Massy and Harry Vardon were tied at the end of regulation play. A 36-hole play-off was scheduled, and Vardon took command early. At the end of the first round, Vardon was five strokes ahead, a lead he increased through the 16th, the 34th hole of the day.

Massy was first on the tee for the 35th hole and hit a fine shot that settled about 12 feet from the cup. His opponent, however, knocked his ball closer than Massy's. The Frenchman turned to Vardon and conceded the entire play-off, not bothering to finish. Vardon did hole out on the 35th before the two men walked off the course.



In American tournament golf, the first play-off took place in 1899 at the Western Open in Midlothian, Chicago. The victor was Willie Smith, who shot a 74 to defeat Laurie Auchterlonie by 10 strokes.



In the U.S. Open, the first play-off occurred in 1901, with Willie Anderson besting Alex Smith by one stroke, 85 to 86. That play-off was contested three days after the final round since Myopia Hunt Club, near Boston, Massachusetts, had been reserved for members over the weekend. Membership play was much more important back then than holding a national golf championship.

Willie won that championship using a gutta-percha golf ball, but he used a wound ball for his other three titles, thus becoming the only golfer to win the U.S. Open using both types of balls.



At one time, play-offs were all conducted at 18 holes or more. The major championships were the last to change their format, although the U.S. Open continues to follow the longer distance, requiring a full round to decide who will be the champion. The first play-off in a major to be determined by sudden death was the 1979 Masters. Fuzzy Zoeller was the winner over Ed Sneed and Tom Watson.

With the U.S. Open deciding the champion over 18 holes, there is no longer a provision to have another play-off using the same number of holes if the competitors are still tied after the one play-off round. Instead, they go on to sudden death. The first time the U.S. Open winner was crowned after a tie following an 18-hole play-off was in the 1990 championship at Medinah Country Club at Medinah, Chicago, Illinois. When Hale Irwin and Mike Donald were tied after the regulation 18 holes, Irwin won on the 19th.



Breaking through for his first victory in 1997, David Duval beat Grant Waite and Duffy Waldorf with a birdie on the first extra hole in the Michelob Championship at Kingsmill, Williamsburg, Virginia. The following week Duval also won the Walt Disney World/Oldsmobile Golf Classic in Orlando, Florida, by defeating Dan Forsman in another

play-off. It marked the first time in PGA Tour history that the same player won play-offs in consecutive weeks.



The death of the gutta-percha was complete in 1902. That year Laurie Auchterlonie won the U.S. Open title with the Haskell rubber-cored ball. He was the first to break 80 in all four rounds.



Four years before, in the 1898 Open at Prestwick, Scotland, Harry Vardon broke 80 in each round with the gutta-percha ball. It marked the first time that the feat was accomplished in a national championship.



Surlyn covers have become the golf ball covers of choice for most duffers. They don't cut as easily as balata, saving many dollars for the golfer who tops a shot now and then. However, many professionals still prefer the balata covers, stating that they give better feel and control over the Surlyn ball.

The 1971 Bing Crosby National Pro-Am was won by Tom Shaw. What made it historic was Tommy's use of a Golden Ram golf ball with a Surlyn cover, the first time such a ball was used by a winner on the PGA Tour.



Wayne Levi won the 1982 Hawaiian Open using an orange golf ball, which was the first time anyone was victorious on the PGA Tour with anything but a white ball.



Most golfers use a solid-core ball instead of a wound ball. With a great deal of endorsement money available, some golf professionals also switched. The first to win a major with a solid-core ball was Nick Price, when he captured the 1992 PGA Championship using a Precept.



The only time a ball can be placed in a preferred position is on the tee. Today golfers take for granted the wooden pegs on which they place the ball in preparing to make a drive. Golfers carry their own tees, but that was not always the case.

For a great many years, each teeing area had two buckets. One was filled with water, while the other contained sand. A golfer, or usually the caddie, took a pinch of sand, dampened it in the water, and created a tee from which to hit. It was molded to the proper height and the ball placed on top of the mound. One man, George F. Grant, thought there must be a better way. Grant was a dentist and the first African American to graduate from the Harvard Dental School. Being a dentist, he probably was concerned about the damage done to his hands in the process of molding the sand mounds.

After many experiments, Dr. Grant applied for and received a patent for his wood golf tee on December 12, 1899. Unfortunately, it was not a commercial success for him. Others found ways around the patented invention, creating competition for the golf accessory.

It was in 1923 that another dentist, William Lowell, made an improved golf tee. After some tinkering, he eventually painted the little pegs, made from white birch, red. They became known as “Reddy Tees,” a name that had two meanings. Walter Hagen adopted the Reddy Tees, enticed with a bit of cash for his endorsement, and they became very popular. Walter would have a pocketful and leave them on the tee after every drive. It was not unusual to see both youngsters and adults scramble after the tees.

Like Dr. Grant, Dr. Lowell’s patent had some holes in it. Others marketed golf tees, and Lowell never realized the riches he had anticipated.



Englewood Golf Club, New Jersey, had the distinction of yielding the first score in the 60s for a U.S. Open. David Hunter, representing

Essex Country Club, Boston, shot 68 in the first round. Unfortunately, the magic was gone after he set the record, and Hunter finished with a 313 total and in a tie for 30th place.

Myopia Hunt Club, near Boston, was the site of four U.S. Open championships. The course is little remembered now, except for those who live in the area and are privileged to play it. The layout is still a stern test of a player's golf. Around the turn of the century, it might have been the most difficult course in the country. The many pot bunkers and sloping greens caused players some agonizing moments.

During the last round of the 1898 U.S. Open, Burt Whittmore was on the front part of the third green, his 12th hole in the nine-hole layout that was in use at that time. The hole was cut in the back of the green, and Burt hit his putt a bit too firmly, so firmly that it rolled down a bank and off the green into the rough. He searched for the ball along with his fellow competitors and the caddies. No luck. It was a lost ball, marking the first and only time a golfer had a lost-ball penalty on a putt in the U.S. Open.



*A*ttire for golfers has changed through the years. Even after jackets were no longer being worn, most golfers wore long-sleeved white shirts and ties on the course. The first U.S. Open champion to break that tradition was Byron Nelson in 1939, when he wore a short-sleeved, open-necked shirt, the accepted norm for today's golfer. Paul Runyan may have influenced him. There are pictures that show Runyan wearing a shirt without a tie in accepting the 1938 Wannamaker Trophy for winning the PGA Championship.



*I*t took longer for the tradition to be broken in the United Kingdom. In 1984, John Behrend drove himself in as the captain of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews. He was the first in history to do so while not wearing a tie.



William Wright of Seattle became the first African American golfer to win a USGA title when he captured the 1959 Public Links.



Three years before, Ann Gregory became the first African American woman to compete in a USGA event, participating in the U.S. Women's Open.



A name more associated with tennis than golf comes up as the first African American to play regularly on the LPGA Tour. Althea Gibson, the Wimbledon champion in 1957 and 1958, was a wonderful athlete. In 1963, she began her professional golfing career with the LPGA, eventually playing in 171 events.

While she wasn't victorious, Althea came close. In 1970, she was in a three-way play-off at the Len Immke Buick Open in Columbus, Ohio, where Mary Mills was the victor.



The first African American golfer to win the Vardon Trophy was Calvin Peete, in 1984.



Qualifying for the 1948 U.S. Open at Riviera were two Hawaiians, Toyo Shirai and Guinea Kop. They became the first Asian Americans to compete in the American championship.



Jerry Pate turned professional shortly after his victory in the U.S. Amateur. The 1976 U.S. Open was the first major he entered as a pro, and he won it in grand style at the Atlanta Athletic Club Country Club, Georgia. It marked the first time that a man won a major in his first at-

tempt as a professional, other than the inaugural events. That feat was not duplicated until Tiger Woods took the 1997 Masters. It was another six years before the third golfer was able to match the accomplishment, when Ben Curtis stunned the golf world with a victory in the 2003 Open at Royal St. George's, Kent, England.



After an outstanding amateur career and a great showing in the 1967 U.S. Open at Baltusrol, where he led after three rounds, Marty Fleckman turned professional. In his first tournament, Marty captured the Cajun Classic, but he never again won on the PGA Tour.



With one official PGA Tour victory, the 1988 Deposit Guaranty Classic in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Frank Connor never had any real dreams of making golf history. He made history, however, three years later, when he took the Knoxville Open in Knoxville, Tennessee. It was a Nike Tour event, and he became the first golfer to win titles on both tours.



Scioto Country Club in Columbus, Ohio, became the first golf course in the country to require all golfers to wear spikeless golf shoes. The club gained fame when Bobby Jones won the 1926 U.S. Open there and again as a young Jack Nicklaus honed his talents on the course.

It wasn't until the 1997 MasterCard Colonial in Fort Worth, Texas, that a PGA-sponsored tournament was won by a golfer using spikeless golf shoes. The victor was David Frost.



Although several nations had used golf as a subject for postage stamps, it wasn't until 1981 that the U.S. Postal Service first honored a golfer with a stamp, and they issued two that year. The golfers were Bobby Jones and Babe Zaharias. The only other golfer to be placed

on a stamp in the United States was Francis Ouimet. The first golfer to be featured on a postage stamp in the world was Gary Player, who appeared on a South African stamp in 1976.



Joan Harris of Clearwater, Florida, became the first woman to ever shoot her age when she scored 72 at the Hound Ears Lodge Country Club in Blowing Rock, North Carolina. Mrs. Harris accomplished the feat on October 14, 1972.



A tradition at the Karsten Manufacturing Company is to gold-plate two Ping putters whenever a golfer wins a tournament using one of the company's models. One is given to the golfer as a memento of the victory, while the other is placed in a rack at corporate headquarters.

The first golfer to ever win a PGA Tour event using a Ping model putter was John Barnum in the 1962 Cajun Classic in New Orleans. John became the oldest first-time winner on the PGA Tour at age 51. The original putter, not the gold-plated model, is on display at the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame in Farmington Hills.



Metalwoods are the rule rather than the exception for most golfers. That was not always the case. They were introduced in the 1980s, becoming standard for professionals and amateurs alike.

Prior to the 1980s, metalwoods could be found at driving ranges because of their durability, although no real golfer would carry one in the bag for a regular round of golf. Some people felt that they had been around since at least the 1940s, so they really weren't new. Actually, the metalwood predated that estimate of its introduction. The Currie Metalwood was produced in Scotland and given a British patent in 1891, which was the first time that type of club was made.

It wasn't until the early '80s that the metalwood was finally accepted, mainly because some golf professionals embraced the driver. The first to win a PGA Tour event using the implement was Jim Simons in the 1982

Bing Crosby National Pro-Am. When Lee Trevino took the 1984 PGA Championship using a metalwood, the nation's golfers rushed to have one of their own.



*A*ny first victory is one to be savored and remembered, especially when it happens on one of the professional tours. Sometimes it takes a bit longer for that first win than the golfer would like. Bruce Fleisher got his first PGA Tour win when he was 42 years, 8 months, and 29 days old. By that time, Bruce was a part-time player on the PGA Tour, having taken a club job in the mid-to-late 1980s.

When Bruce began to play on the Champions Tour, he didn't have to wait very long for his first win. Fleisher triumphed in the first two tournaments he was eligible to play in, with victories in the 1999 Royal Caribbean at Crandon Park Golf Club in Key Biscayne, Florida, and the American Express Invitational at TPC at Prestancia in Sarasota, Florida, the following week. His accomplishments didn't stop there. Fleisher won seven official events that year and became the leading money winner. He was named Rookie of the Year and Player of the Year and won the Byron Nelson Trophy for the lowest scoring average. Sometimes fine wine gets better with age.



*V*oted the greatest woman athlete in history, Mildred Zaharias was given the nickname she is most known by, "Babe," after hitting five home runs in a single baseball game, a feat that even Babe Ruth never accomplished. Turning to golf in 1935, she had an amazing career. In 1946–47, she entered 18 amateur events, winning 17 tournaments. Her victory in the 1947 British Amateur was the first by an American in the oldest of women's golf championships.



*F*or perhaps the first time in history, a dead man won a golf tournament when Kerry Packer teamed with Greg Norman to capture the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am in 1992. Packer, a 16-handicap player from

Australia, was declared dead two years before when he suffered a heart attack. He was kept alive with an artificial respirator and recovered. He and Norman teamed for a 42-under par total of 246, breaking the old tournament record by six strokes.

Now, Kerry was no average golfer in spite of his handicap. Eleven years earlier, he flew Phil Rodgers to Australia to give him golf lessons. Phil would probably be better remembered if he had won the play-off for the 1962 Open instead of losing to Bob Charles. Still, Rodgers enjoyed a reputation as an outstanding teacher, even giving Jack Nicklaus chipping lessons. Packer paid Phil \$50,000 for two weeks and probably flew him first-class as well.



Seldom has it been necessary to impose a penalty for slow play; at one time, such an action was unheard of in golf. The first competitor in the U.S. Open to receive such a penalty was Bob Impaglia in 1978. Not that it made much difference; he missed the cut by 16 strokes.



In the long history of the U.S. Open, no one had ever returned a score of fewer than 30 for nine holes until 1995. Neal Lancaster closed out his final round with a 29 at Shinnecock Hills. Then, it happened again the following year at Oakland Hills, during the second round and on the second nine. It was none other than Lancaster, who tied his own record.



The rules for gaining entry into a PGA Tour event have been altered through the years, but sponsors still are given the privilege of inviting a set number of golfers to play in their tournament. The exemptions may be given to just about anyone who the sponsors feel will benefit the event, either by drawing additional spectators or by expressing thanks to a player who was loyal to the tournament when he was a big name.

The sponsors for the Doral Ryder Open used their exemptions in the 1990s to invite sons of famous players. They have included the offspring of Julius Boros, Jack Nicklaus, and Billy Casper. By granting these ex-

emptions, the sponsors were pretty much assured that the fathers would also play.

In the 1993 Doral Ryder Open, Gary Nicklaus made the cut along with his more famous father, causing a quick scramble to see if any father and son had ever made the cut in the same tournament before. It had happened before and more than once.

Joe Kirkwood Sr. and Joe Kirkwood Jr. first completed 72 holes together in the 1946 All-American Golf Tournament at Tam O'Shanter Golf Club in Chicago. Junior finished tied for 19th place, winning \$342.13, and his father tied for 34th, worth \$216.25. Later in the year, they did it again, in the 1946 Miami Open. Both finished higher than in the All-American Golf Tournament. Junior shot 275 for joint ninth, although the check he cashed was only for \$306. Senior was only two strokes behind at 277, finishing in a tie for 19th place, and he pocketed \$73.33.

The last time they were both able to accomplish the feat was in the 1950 Miami Open. Senior tied for 45th place, not receiving any money for that finish; but his son was joint fourth and collected \$575.

Both were victorious on the PGA Tour as well. Joe Sr. won the Canadian Open twice, in addition to two North and South opens in Pinehurst, North Carolina. Junior won the 1949 Philadelphia Inquirer Open and the 1950 Ozark Open for his Tour victories. In addition, the Kirkwoods were the first father and son to both make the cut in the U.S. Open. Joining them as father-son winners on the PGA Tour were Clayton and Vance Heafner, Julius and Gay Boros, and Al and Brent Geiberger. Julius was a two-time U.S. Open champion, winning also a PGA Championship, while Guy was victorious in the 1996 Greater Vancouver Open. The younger Geiberger, Brent, was able to join his father, a 10-time winner on the PGA Tour, when he captured the 1999 Canon Greater Hartford Open.

When Brent won the 2004 Chrysler Classic at Greensboro, North Carolina, he and his father became the first to win the same tournament on the PGA Tour. Al took the title in the 1976 Greater Greensboro Open. There is a footnote, however. Once the PGA decided to make the Open an official event, two others joined the father-son group. Both Tom

Morris and his son, Tommy, along with Willie Park and Willie Park Jr., were victorious in the oldest of championships.

Claude Harmon was the 1948 Masters champion, and some people have indicated that Claude Harmon Jr., better known as “Butch,” was also a winner on the PGA Tour. Butch did win what was to become the B.C. Open in 1971, but it was an 18-hole event that was then known as the Broome County Open. He shot 69 and beat Chuck Courtney, Norman Rail, and Hal Underwood in a play-off. It was not, however, an official event.

Oh, yes, Jack Nicklaus finished tied for 10th in the 1993 Doral Ryder Open in Miami, winning \$31,033.33, while Gary tied for 66th and collected \$2,996. What a difference 43 years makes in prize money.



When Briny Baird aced the third hole at Warwick Hills during the 2004 Buick Open, he joined his father, Butch, who had made the first hole in one in Buick Open history on the same hole way back in 1962.



The only grandfather-grandson combination to win on the PGA Tour, and thus the first, were Tommy Armour, the 1927 U.S. Open champion, and Tommy Armour III, his initial victory coming in the 1990 Phoenix Open.



In February 1996, a family first occurred. Dave Stockton played in the FHP Health Care Senior Classic, while Dave Stockton Jr. was in the Doral Ryder Open. To top it off, another son, Ron, participated in the Nike Inland Empire Open. It marked the first time that members of the same family played in the regular, Champions, and Nike tours in the same week. Only father Dave made the cut.



Jerry and Tom Barber became the first father and son to play in the same event on the Champions Tour when they competed in the 1993 GTE West Classic. The 76-year-old father shot 221, one stroke better than his son, who was a mere youngster at 50 years of age.



Al and Brent Geiberger finally made history in 1998 at Sahalee. It marked the first time that a father and son played in the same PGA Championship. They weren't paired together, and only Brent made the 36-hole cut.



On March 28, 1999, the ultimate father-son accomplishment happened, as both fashioned victories in the same week. Bob Duval captured the Emerald Coast Classic on the Champions Tour, while David won The Players Championship. Both won in Florida, had a two-stroke victory margin, and played the final round in 1 over par.



With the inaugural event held in 1976, the Memorial Tournament was the creation of Jack Nicklaus. Played at Muirfield Village Golf Club, it has the unique feature of honoring a different golfing great each year. The Captain's Club selects one person to honor with a plaque in an area near the clubhouse. The first to be named was Robert Tyre Jones Jr.



Golf fans take television viewing of majors in stride, but the first televised major didn't occur until 1947, and that airing was local, shown only in St. Louis, Missouri. Lew Worsham won that U.S. Open, defeating Sam Snead in a play-off. It was estimated that only about 500 television sets were tuned in to the championship.

At Oakland Hills in 1951, the first network telecast was handled by NBC for a U.S. Open. It only covered shots at the final green.



The first color telecast of the U.S. Open was in 1965, produced by NBC. Winner Gary Player wore an all-black outfit with a white hat, which might have caused a lot of viewers to try to adjust their sets for some color.



Early telecasts of golf tournaments usually meant covering only the closing holes. The necessity of having a large number of cameras made it virtually impossible to televise much more than that.

For the 1972 U.S. Open at Pebble Beach, the American Broadcasting System decided to use 22 cameras, allowing them to cover each and every hole. It was made possible because Pebble Beach was such a compact course. That championship became the first to have every hole televised, a practice followed today for most major events.



Using radio to broadcast a golf tournament came much earlier. The first known broadcast was the 1929 Los Angeles Open over the Pacific Coast Network.



The first television telecast of the British Open was in 1955, when it was held at St. Andrews, Scotland.



It wasn't until the following year, 1956, that the Masters Tournament was televised with, Jack Burke, Jr. the winner.



Women's golf finally made the scene on national television in 1963, when the final round of the U.S. Women's Open was

shown, with Mary Mills winning the championship at Kenwood Country Club in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Tony Jacklin made the first hole-in-one captured on British television on the 16th hole at Royal St. George's during the 1967 Dunlop Masters.



W. C. Fields made what is believed to be the first film with a golf theme. In 1915, Fields's popular Ziegfield Follies' golf routine was featured in *His Lordship's Dilemma*.



Through the years, the French Open had been dominated by British professionals alongside victories by native-born Arnaud Massy. The first American to win the French Open was Walter Hagen; he captured the title in 1920, following a very unsuccessful attempt to win the British Open that same year. Hagen went on to become the first American-born winner of the British Open in 1922, and the year before he was the first American-born winner of the PGA Championship.



The first PGA champion was Jim Barnes, a transplanted Cornishman who defeated Jock Hutchinson, originally from St. Andrews, in the final. The year was 1916.



In 1901, the Professional Golfers' Association was formed in Britain, with much of the credit for the founding of the organization going to J. H. Taylor. The first tournament under its auspices was held at Tooting Bec, a club located in suburban London that no longer exists. It was appropriate that the winner was Taylor, and he took home five sovereigns as well as the trophy.

More accurately, the trophy was the Tooting Bec Cup, and it is still awarded to the player from the British Isles who scores the lowest round in the Open Golf Championship.



Many records indicate that by capturing the 1955 Mayfair Inn Open in Long Island, New York, Al Balding became the first Canadian to win on the PGA Tour. In reality, it happened 18 years before that, in the 1937 General Brock Open. The winner was Jules Huot, a French Canadian, who was also successful in his native land with several victories, including three Canadian PGA championships, to his credit.

The confusion is probably because the General Brock Open was played on Canadian soil, even though it was an official PGA Tour event. Thus, Balding became the first Canadian to win on the PGA Tour in the United States.



Another Canadian golfer, Dave Barr, who had been successful on the PGA Tour with two victories in the 1980s, became the first Canadian to win on the Champions Tour. He won the 2003 Royal Caribbean Golf Classic, beating Gil Morgan and Bobby Wadkins by one stroke.



The first printed program produced for a U.S. Open was put together by Herb and Joe Graffis in 1928.



Advertising revenue topped \$1 million in a U.S. Open program for the first time in 1980, when the championship was held at Baltusrol. The proximity to New York City likely had something to do with the total advertising income realized.



Perhaps the Graffis brothers printed the first U.S. Open program, but the first golf magazine, *Golf*, was produced in Great Britain in September 1890.



Prior to 1892, the British Open was contested over 36 holes. In that year, it was lengthened to 72 holes, with two rounds played each day. Horace Hutchinson, a former British Amateur champion, led after the first day, so if the championship had not been extended, he would have been the champion. Another amateur, Harold Hilton, won the title.



In 1968, the Royal and Ancient instituted a 54-hole cut in the British Open for the first time. Two years earlier at Muirfield, Scotland, the championship committee decided to conduct the Open over four days rather than to have 36 holes on the final day. It was patterned after the decision made by the USGA for the U.S. Open. There was a slight difference, though: the British Open began on Wednesday and finished on Saturday rather than the traditional format followed in the United States of Thursday through Sunday.



The first time qualifying was initiated for the British Open was in 1914. The fields had become large, and so two qualifying rounds were held, with 80 participants making it into the Open proper that year at Prestwick, Scotland.



With the exception of the British Open, golf tournaments for professionals were rare. In Scotland, either the Open or exhibitions were conducted. It appears that the first golf tournament other than a

national championship was held in 1867 at Carnoustie, Scotland. The winner was 16-year-old Tommy Morris, victorious after a play-off with Willie Park and Bob Andrew.

The first recorded professional golf tournament, other than the U.S. Open, in the United States took place in 1898 at the Ocean County Hunt and Country Club in Lakewood, New Jersey; it preceded the Western Open by one year. The 36-hole tournament was held on January 1–2, with Val Fitzjohn beating his brother in a play-off to carry off the \$75 first-place prize.



Receiving a royal designation is a great honor for any golf club. The first to be so named was the Royal Perth Golfing Society, which King William IV conferred on the club in 1833. The following year he granted the designation to the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews. Prior to that time, it was known as the Society of Golfers of St. Andrews.



The youngest winner of the U.S. Open was Johnny McDermott, at age 19. In winning the 1911 championship, the former Philadelphia caddie also became the first American-born champion. The year before, McDermott came close to winning but lost in a play-off.



Professional golfers wearing eyeglasses isn't an unusual occurrence today. Two recent U.S. Open champions, Hale Irwin and Tom Kite, wore them. The first to win that championship wearing eyeglasses was Willie Macfarlane in 1925.



Macfarlane had another first that year. It marked the first time a golfer won the U.S. Open using steel-shafted golf clubs. They had been approved by the USGA for play the previous year.



Actually, the introduction of steel shafts came much earlier. In 1893, Thomas Horsburgh developed a steel shaft in Scotland. He applied for and received a patent, although commercial production never materialized.



The USGA first began charging admission fees to the U.S. Open in 1922. Prior to that year, anyone wishing to watch the championship simply had to show up and walk the course. Daily passes for the event were \$1, and it cost \$5 for the entire week.



It was the same story at the British Open, but they didn't begin to charge spectators until 1926. The new charge was due to the vastness of the crowd that showed up the previous year at Prestwick, estimated to be almost 15,000 people. The fee was not necessarily to make money but to control the size of the gallery. At least, that's what the R&A said.



So that competitors and the gallery could better see the holes at the 1964 U.S. Open held at Congressional, organizers decided to paint the top inch of the cups white. This was a first, but painting the cups white became common through the years in practically every golf tournament.



Prior to the 1954 U.S. Open at Baltusrol, spectators were free to wander the course and walk right along with the competitors, held back by marshals when a golfer executed a shot. That year all of the fairways and greens were roped for the first time in a U.S. Open.

An incident at Baltusrol in the 1936 U.S. Open might have prompted the change. A California professional, Leslie Madison, had his wallet

stolen by a pickpocket during the final round. The culprit wasn't found, and Madison was out \$55. To add insult to injury, he finished 55th and received no prize money.



For many years, the size of golf balls differed between the United States and the rest of the world. In North America, the size could be 1.68 inches in circumference, while the R&A specified that a golf ball was to be 1.62 inches. The size of the golf ball eventually became universal when the R&A and USGA agreed upon the larger size. The bigger ball was made mandatory in the British Open for the first time in 1974.



Laura Davies became the first British golfer to win on the LPGA Tour. She was already an established star in Europe when she took the 1987 U.S. Women's Open. Of course, Laura went on to win and win and win. By 1995, most considered her to be one of the best women golfers in the world.



A Canadian golf architect, Stanley Thompson, had the distinction of building the first course in the world that cost more than \$1 million, Banff Springs, Alberta, in 1927. Compare that with just the first hole at Devil's Pulpit, Toronto, Ontario, which cost an estimated \$1.6 million to construct in 1992.



One of Jack Nicklaus's lofty goals was to win on the regular and Champions tours in the same year, although he was never able to accomplish the feat. Ray Floyd expressed the same desire, after capturing the 1992 Doral Ryder Open at the age of 49. With a September 4 birthday, he still had some time to wait but not in Japan.

In that country, people are considered a year older on the first day of the New Year, so Ray took off in March to play in the Fuji Electric Grand Slam. He won by seven strokes over Gary Player and thus real-

ized his wish, even though it wasn't an official Champions Tour event.

Raymond made it official when he captured the GTE North Classic, the second event he entered after turning 50. He added to the luster of that victory by graciously donating the winner's check of \$67,500 to the Hurricane Andrew relief fund.

The victory presented a problem of sorts. Floyd became eligible to participate in the Infiniti Tournament of Champions at La Costa, Carlsbad, California, both in the regular tournament as well as in the senior segment. One of the snags was that the seniors played off forward markers on some of the holes.

As the Tournament of Champions approached, the policy board made their decision. For 1993, it was decided to have the tee markers in the same positions for both the regular and senior competitors. Since Floyd had qualified for both, he was allowed to compete in each and to collect the prize money from both purses, making it the first time a golfer played in two professional events at the same time. He shot 71-72-73-73 for a 289 total. Ray tied for 22nd in the tournament proper to collect \$13,825. His score was good enough for a joint seventh-place finish among the seniors, for an additional \$17,500. Had he been able to win both segments, the payoff would have been \$196,500.

It was a good opportunity to compare both classes of professionals, even though Ray didn't win. Davis Love III won with a score of 272, while Al Geiberger took the senior event with 280. That would have placed Al ninth in the regular event and netted him a check worth \$23,025, less than half of the \$52,500 he pocketed playing against the older guys.



Taking it one step further, Craig Stadler captured his first Champions Tour event at the 2003 Ford Senior Players Championship, a designated major for seniors.

The following week Craig entered the B.C. Open, a PGA Tour stop. Coming from eight strokes behind, Stadler closed with a 63 to again reach the winner's circle. It marked the first time that a golfer over 50 won on the Champions Tour and then the PGA Tour in the same year.



Augusta National Golf Club required all contestants to use local caddies during the Masters Tournament until 1983, the first year that players were allowed to bring their regular tour caddies.

The club actually held out longer than the USGA. Local caddies were required in the U.S. Open until 1976; Medinah was the last venue that had local caddies in 1975.



When Lee Trevino won the 1968 U.S. Open, he did it in style. He became the first golfer in USGA history to play four rounds in the 60s. Lee scored 69-68-69-69 for a 275, which also tied the 72-hole record set the previous year by Jack Nicklaus at Baltusrol.



Four years before, Arnold Palmer was the first to record four consecutive rounds in the 60s in the PGA Championship at the Columbus Country Club in Ohio. He scored 68-68-69-69 for 274, but it was only good enough for a second-place tie with Jack Nicklaus. The winner was Bobby Nichols with a then championship record 271.

The next time a golfer played all four rounds in the 60s was in 1984, and the golfer was Lee Trevino. While it wasn't a first for the Merry Mex, he did have one distinction: he used a metalwood, marking the first time it was part of the champion's arsenal in a major event.



Shooting all four rounds in the 60s in the British Open didn't occur until 1993. At Royal St. George's, Greg Norman returned scores of 66-68-69-64. His 267 total was also a record, eclipsing the 268 shot by Tom Watson at Turnberry in 1977.



One of the only titles to be denied to Nancy Lopez was the U.S. Women's Open, although she finished second on four occasions.

Nancy did become the first, however, to post four rounds in the 60s during the 1997 championship. Unfortunately, she finished one stroke behind Alison Nicholas.



Joey Sindelar became the only golfer in U.S. Open history to be a first-round leader and then not make the 36-hole cut. In 1993, he scored a 66 at Baltusrol on the first day, but his score ballooned to 79 on Friday to miss the cut by one stroke.



It didn't happen in the Open Championship until 1999, when Rodney Pampling, an Australian, missed the 36-hole cut at Carnoustie. His opening 71 led the field, but a second-round 86 sent him packing.



In 1929, the U.S. Amateur was held at Pebble Beach, which marked the first time the USGA held one of its championships west of the Rocky Mountains.



By 1913, William Howard Taft had left the White House, after his defeat by Woodrow Wilson. One of the reasons for his unsuccessful bid for reelection was a split between him and Theodore Roosevelt, under whom Taft had served as Secretary of War. Roosevelt formed the Bull Moose Party, resulting in Wilson's sweep of most of the Electoral College.

Roosevelt was critical of Taft's golf, often mentioning that it gave the appearance that the President wasn't paying attention to his office. Taft was a dedicated golfer, and after leaving office, he became Professor of Constitutional Law at Yale. It was a fairly easy drive from New Haven, Connecticut, to Brookline, Massachusetts, so Taft decided to see some of the golfers competing in the U.S. Open that year. He became the first President to attend a U.S. Open, although he only stayed one day.



A memorable play-off occurred at the end of regulation play of the 1974 Monsanto Open. It took four extra holes before Lee Elder defeated Peter Oosterhuis, qualifying Elder to play in the Masters. Lee received a telephone call that evening from Clifford Roberts congratulating him and letting him know an invitation would be in the mail. Lee became the first African American to play in the Masters.



First to break 300 in a major championship was Jack White in the 1904 Open. Two years later, Alex Smith scored 295 to become the first to break the barrier in the U.S. Open.

The last winner to score higher than 300 in a major was Tommy Armour in the 1927 U.S. Open at Oakmont, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



Jack White's triumph came at Royal St. George's, founded in 1887, which was the first course to host the British Open outside of Scotland when it was the venue in 1894.



By winning his second Masters title in 1947, Jimmy Demaret became the first player to break par in all four rounds in that tournament. Through 2006, no golfer has ever returned all four rounds in the 60s.



After turning professional in 1962, Jack Nicklaus made the cut in 27 straight tournaments. Shooting 79-73 in the 1963 Lucky Invitational, Jack missed his first cut, only to win his next tournament, the Desert Classic in Las Vegas, Nevada.



Shooting a pair of 68s, Jeff Maggert was leading the 1996 AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am when the rains came. This was the

tournament once known as “The Crosby,” where weather always seemed to be a factor. It had been contested through sleet and snow in prior years.

The big problem in 1996 was that the 16th hole at Spyglass Hill, one of three courses used for the tournament, was unplayable. While champions had been declared in other rain-shortened events, not every competitor had played each of the courses in that year’s AT&T, and the layouts varied in difficulty. Officials made a decision to declare it a non-event. Every professional received \$5,000 in unofficial prize money, regardless of his score, and no champion was crowned. It marked the first time that a PGA Tour event had been canceled after a portion of it had been played.



The first and only time two members of the same golf club met in the final of the U.S. Amateur occurred in 1925. Bobby Jones and Watts Gunn were members of East Lake, Atlanta, Georgia. Jones emerged as the victor.



Chick Evans became the third amateur in four years to win the U.S. Open with his triumph at Minikahda, Minneapolis, in 1916. He did it in style, setting a championship record that stood for 20 years.

Later in the year, Evans reached the final of the U.S. Amateur. His opponent was Bob Gardner, the defending champion. It became the first and only time that the winners of the U.S. Open and U.S. Amateur met in a final. With his victory, Evans also became the first golfer to win both championships in the same year, duplicated only by Bobby Jones in 1930.



As great as Bobby Jones was, the best he could do was string together two straight victories in the U.S. Amateur. The first to win three consecutive titles was Tiger Woods, 1994–96.



During a practice round for the 1925 U.S. Open at Worcester, Massachusetts, Walter Hagen was enjoying play with Tommy Armour, Bobby Jones, and Joe Kirkwood, even though he wasn't playing that well. After Walter cut his ball while trying a shot from a brook, he started looking in his bag for another but without much luck, so Jones tossed him a new ball.

Hagen pulled a 2 iron from the bag, which he intended to use for the 180-yard one-shotter. The iron had a hickory shaft, of course, and Walter began to bend it a little over his knee in an effort to straighten it out. Clubs had a tendency to warp a bit when carried in a bag, and it was not unusual to see someone trying to eliminate the bend in that fashion. As he was working on the club, he heard a crack, so Walter returned it to the bag and pulled out a 1 iron. He opened the face a bit to add a little more loft and make it equal to the club he had originally selected to use. He proceeded to hit it in the hole.

It was an unusual combination, as it was Hagen's first hole-in-one, the first time the hole had been aced, the first time the ball had been hit, and it was accomplished with a 1 iron. Robert Ripley heard about the shot and featured it in *Ripley's Believe It or Not*.



It may have happened before, but the first recorded hole-in-one by a one-armed golfer was made by Lester Edge on the 145-yard 10th hole at Spokane Country Club on May 13, 1927.



In 1934, the first tournament of the winter tour was the Miami Open, held at the Biltmore. The winner was a professional from a municipal golf course in Indianapolis, Indiana, Ralph Stonehouse. No one is absolutely sure why Stonehouse was given the honor, although speculation is that since he won the first tournament of the year, he was designated as the first to tee off in the Masters. Of course, it wasn't called the Masters then; it was the First Annual Invitation Tournament.

His playing partner was Jim Foulis Jr. At precisely 9:45 A.M., Ralph Stonehouse was called to the tee, hit his drive in the fairway, followed with a 5 iron on the green, and two-putted for his regulation par. When the tournament was over, Stonehouse found himself tied for 16th place, earning an invitation to play again in 1935. That proved to be his final Masters, but he will always have the distinction of being the first to ever hit a shot in the now historic tournament.



Hitting a niblick, C. Ross (Sandy) Sommerville, a six-time Canadian Amateur champion, aced the 145-yard seventh hole during the first Masters Tournament. It was the first recorded hole-in-one in the tournament's history. The hole is now the 16th, since the nines have been reversed. The historic shot occurred during the second round.



Sommerville was also the only non-American to be invited to play in the 1934 Masters, thus becoming the first foreigner in the tournament.



In winning the first of four British Opens, Young Tommy Morris also became the first to score a hole-in-one in the championship. There is no record of anyone making an ace in any other medal tournament prior to that time. While it cannot be validated, Tommy's hole-in-one may be the first in any golf tournament.



It wasn't until 1907 that a hole-in-one was made at the U.S. Open. The man who experienced that great thrill was Jack Hobens at the 10th hole, a 147-yarder at the Philadelphia Cricket Club.



In the Ryder Cup, an ace wasn't scored until 1973. Peter Butler made a hole-in-one on the 16th hole at Muirfield during the foursomes. He

was partnered by Brian Barnes; Jack Nicklaus and Tom Weiskopf were their opponents.



Gertrude Lawrence, a well-known actress, supposedly scored a hole-in-one with her first tee shot in her first round of golf. That record, however, was never authenticated. It did officially happen in 1969, when Dale Dusabellon hit her first shot ever in the cup on a 115-yard hole at the Quarry Hill Golf Club in Burlington, Vermont.



Playing in the 2004 Senior British Open at Royal Portrush, Ireland, Graham Marsh aced the 11th hole in the opening round. During the third round, Marsh again recorded a hole-in-one on the same hole. It was the first time in a professional tournament that someone made two holes-in-one on the same hole in the same event.



There have been a great many holes-in-one scored on the PGA Tour. In fact, it has become so commonplace that the accomplishment usually only warrants one line in a newspaper article covering the tournament. However, there was an unusual ace scored in the 2001 Phoenix Open, on January 25, which received a great deal of comment.

Andrew Magee wasn't having the best round of his life on a day when there were several subpar scores being posted. When he got to the 332-yard, par-4 17th hole, it was a matter of getting the round over and hoping for a better score on Friday. His drive rolled on the green just as Gary Nicklaus, Steve Pate, and Tom Byrum were leaving. Magee's ball deflected off Byrum's putter and rolled directly in the hole for the first hole-in-one on a par 4 in PGA Tour history.

Questions immediately were raised about a possible penalty, but the rules clearly state that Byrum and his equipment were considered an "outside agency." Rule 19.3 reads, "If a player's ball is accidentally deflected or stopped by an opponent, his caddie or his equipment, no

penalty shall be incurred.” It helped Andrew to a 66 and renewed optimism for the next round.



*A*nother tradition at the Masters is the past champions dinner. Ben Hogan initiated the idea in 1952 as the defending champion. He hosted the dinner, and Sam Snead, Henry Picard, Jimmy Demaret, Gene Sarazen, Horton Smith, Claude Harmon, Craig Wood, Bobby Jones, and Clifford Roberts attended. The Champions Club continues to have the dinner each year, with the Masters chairman the only outsider attending. The defending champion selects the menu and pays the tab.



*W*hile the past champions dinner has been an annual event since 1952, no attempt had ever been made for such a gathering at the U.S. Open. That changed in 2000, the year that marked the 100th championship, with Pebble Beach as the venue.

Jerry Pate, the 1976 champion, worked closely with the USGA to coordinate the reception and dinner, the first of its kind. There were 21 past champions in attendance, along with their wives or guests. Tracy Stewart, the widow of Payne Stewart, was invited to attend, as he would have been the defending champion had it not been for the airplane crash that took his life earlier in the year.

Those taking part in the festivities included Tommy Bolt, Ernie Els, Lou Graham, Hale Irwin, Tony Jacklin, Lee Janzen, Steve Jones, Tom Kite, Johnny Miller, Byron Nelson, Larry Nelson, Jack Nicklaus, Andy North, Arnold Palmer, Jerry Pate, Corey Pavin, Scott Simpson, Curtis Strange, Ken Venturi, Tom Watson, and Fuzzy Zoeller.



*T*he first golfer to win a championship of any consequence shooting the same score in all four rounds was Denny Shute. He won the 1933 Open when he fired 73-73-73-73 for a 292 at St. Andrews. That also was the only time it has ever happened in a major.



George Smith was the first golfer to have the same score in all four rounds of the U.S. Open when he recorded 77-77-77-77 for a 308 in 1929. Unlike Shute's score, it wasn't good enough to win.

That year also marked the first time that a defending champion failed to make the cut. Johnny Farrell, who won in 1928, scored 167 for 36 holes and wasn't around to see Bobby Jones take home the trophy.



There was no such thing as making the cut in the early years of the U.S. Open. The first time it occurred was in 1904, when the USGA adopted the system used in Great Britain of dropping everyone who was not within 15 strokes of the leader after two rounds.



Because of the elite, smaller fields in the Masters Tournament, there was no cut of the field after two rounds until 1957, when the field was reduced to the lowest 40 players, plus ties.



Following his victory in the 1920 U.S. Open, Ted Ray returned to his home in England to resume duties at Oxhey, England. The members of the club bestowed an honorary membership on Ray. It was the first recorded incidence of such an honor to a golf professional, allowing him the privileges of the "gentlemen golfers."



Ken Venturi became the first golfer to go through both local and sectional qualifying and then to win the U.S. Open. He accomplished the feat in 1964 at Congressional in Washington, D.C. Five years later, Orville Moody became the second to do so, at Champions Golf Club, Houston, Texas, in 1969.



Germany wasn't known as a hotbed of golf before Bernhard Langer came on the scene. No German golfer made headlines in international competition. Then, Bernhard turned professional 27 days before his 15th birthday. When he entered his first tournament, at the age of 15, he won it. He went on to become the first German golfer to win a major with his victory in the Masters in 1985.



Judy Bell became the first woman member of the USGA Executive Committee, elected to the position in 1987. Rising through various positions, Judy was elected president in 1996. It has been a custom of the R&A to invite the president of the USGA into their clubhouse when the British Open is held at St. Andrews, where the headquarters is located. However, when Judy was president, she was not invited into the male-only conclave. Judy never complained and refused to comment on the incident.



Still, England had a 73-year jump on the Americans. The first female club official, Mrs. R. P. Graham, was appointed secretary to the Edgward Club in 1914.



It wasn't until 2000, however, that a British club elected a woman as its Captain. Anita Olrog was given the honor at Foxhills Club and Resort in Surrey, England. Her husband had previously been the Captain at the same club.



There was never a golf club that was established exclusively for women until 1924. That year Marion Hollins helped to establish the Women's National Golf and Tennis Club on Long Island, New York.

Up to this time, it was the first and only golf club for women. Hollins had won the 1921 U.S. Women's Amateur and went down in golf history because of her involvement with both Cypress Point Club and Pasatiempo Golf Club.

The club stayed in existence until the early 1940s, when the bank sold the property that held the mortgage.



A child prodigy in golf, Betty Jameson won the Texas State Women's Amateur when she was only 13. Later, as a professional, Betty was one of the founders of the LPGA, eventually gaining induction in their Hall of Fame. Her score of 295 in winning the U.S. Women's Open is the first recorded score under 300 by a woman over 72 holes.



The founding of what is now the United States Golf Association (USGA) came into being in part because of a controversy, mainly caused by one man, Charles Blair Macdonald.

In 1894, the Newport Golf Club held a "national championship" conducted at stroke play. Macdonald, who had learned the game as a student at St. Andrews, decided to play and lost by one stroke to W. G. Lawrence of the host club. He immediately expressed his strong opinion that a national champion could not be determined by stroke play. It must be conducted at match play. He didn't say that an event couldn't be considered a "national championship" if it was hosted by one club. That would come later.

Influenced by his opinions and strong personality, St. Andrew's Golf Club held another "national championship" the following month, this time at match play. With 28 entries, the men eliminated one another until Macdonald played L. B. Stoddard in the final. The winner, on the 19th hole, was Stoddard. Still not happy with the result, Macdonald now stated that a national championship could not be determined when it was hosted by only one golf club.

Such a forceful man was Macdonald that others began to think that a governing body had to be organized by the various existing golf clubs to

oversee the game in the United States. A dinner meeting was held in New York on December 22, 1894, with representatives from St. Andrew's Golf Club, Newport Golf Club, The Country Club, Chicago Golf Club, and Shinnecock Hills Golf Club, with the USGA the result of the meeting.

The following year, in 1895, the first official U.S. Amateur Championship was held at Newport Golf Club and Macdonald won. This time he offered no protest when he was declared the champion.



Macdonald is also credited with building the first 18-hole golf course in the United States. It was the Chicago Golf Club, constructed in 1893. A notorious slicer, Macdonald built the course so the holes followed a clockwise direction. Golfers who hooked the ball flirted with out-of-bounds, but a slice never faced that problem.



The honor of building the first course for women in the United States belongs to Shinnecock Hills, when they laid out the Red Course in 1892.



When the LPGA was formed, it was supposed to showcase women professionals. The very first tournament held under the new organization's auspices was the 1950 Tampa Open, and the winner was Polly Riley, an amateur from Texas.

Did having an amateur win its first tournament embarrass the LPGA? When the organization held a 50th-anniversary "Night of Champions," Polly wasn't invited, even though she had won the LPGA's inaugural tournament.



In winning the 1965 San Diego Open, Wes Ellis putted cross-handed, the first time a tour event was won with the champion using that style on the greens. Orville Moody became the first to win a U.S. Open putting cross-handed in 1969.



The long putter has become a familiar sight, but at first, it was more generally used on the Champions Tour. It was unusual to see professionals use it on the regular tour. Qualifying for the PGA Tour in 1986, Rocco Mediate used a 49-inch-long putter from the start, although he would switch back and forth with a conventional weapon. He was the first to win using a long putter on the PGA Tour when he captured the 1991 Doral Ryder Open.

Johnny Miller tried one of the long putters in the 1982 Los Angeles Open, and he is believed to be the first to try that type of putter on the PGA Tour.



Youngsters dream of winning major golf tournaments, and for some, the dreams even come true. During the 1979 Southern Open at Green Island Country Club in Columbus, Georgia, Larry Mize caddied for 1969 Masters champion George Archer. Eight years later, Larry won the Masters Tournament himself. He thus became the first and, to this date, only Masters champion to have been a caddie for another Masters champion.



No golfer had ever made a double eagle on a hole in the history of the U.S. Open until 1985 at Oakland Hills. Playing in his first championship, T. C. Chen, a 27-year-old from Taiwan, hit a big drive on the 527-yard second hole, but he still had 240 yards left to the green. His shot rolled directly into the cup; but with only about 20 people standing around the green, the cheering wasn't loud enough for Chen to comprehend what he had accomplished. It wasn't until he arrived at the green that he was told what had happened. The person who informed him was named Ralph Eagle.



Two years later, T. C. Chen became the first Taiwanese to win a PGA Tour event, defeating Ben Crenshaw in a sudden-death play-off to capture the Los Angeles Open.



Not counting New Zealand, the first golfer from a South Pacific island to win on the PGA Tour was Vijay Singh of Fiji. His 1993 Buick Classic victory gave him that distinction. Winning the 1998 PGA Championship also put Vijay in the record books as the first from Fiji to capture a major. Incidentally, his first name means “victory” in Hindi.



It wasn’t until 2002 that a Korean was victorious on the PGA Tour. K. J. Choi captured the Compaq Classic of New Orleans by four strokes. He also was the first from Korea to gain a PGA Tour card when he qualified in 2000.



When asked to rank the majors in order of importance, professional golfers usually rate the U.S. Open on top and the PGA Championship as the laggard. Part of the reason, they say, is the strength of the field. The argument is that many club professionals participate in the PGA, depriving some of the tour regulars of the opportunity to play. That may be, but some club professionals have produced fine performances against their tour brethren.

During the 1993 championship at Inverness, the 515-yard 13th hole proved to be the easiest hole on which to match or better par. It was reachable in two shots, resulting in numerous birdies and some eagles.

It was a club professional, however, who made history on the hole. Darrell Kestner’s wife followed him with a video recorder so she could assist the PGA of America with some footage on how a club pro performed in the championship. After nine holes, Darrell was a little concerned about having a battery problem with the recorder, so he

suggested to his wife that she not record every shot. She followed orders. Unfortunately, she missed recording his second shot on the 13th. It traveled 222 yards and found the cup for the first double eagle in the 75-year history of the PGA Championship.



The first to record a double eagle on the LPGA Tour was Marilyn Smith. She made the historic shot on the first hole in the 1971 Lady Carling Open at Pine Ridge Golf Club in Baltimore, Maryland, on June 4.



No Japanese golfer had been successful on the American tour until Isao Aoki came through in grand style in 1983. He needed a birdie on the final hole to tie Jack Renner, who had already completed his round in the Hawaiian Open and forced a play-off. Aoki's drive came to rest in the rough on the left side of the fairway, but he was only 128 yards away. Still, the shot was not an easy one. It would be very difficult to make the ball stop coming out of the high grass. Isao hit a sand wedge that found the cup for an eagle, giving him the victory. Incidentally, the following year, Renner won the Hawaiian Open without any heroics from Aoki.



Not only was Aoki the first Japanese golfer to win on the U.S. PGA Tour, but he was also the first to capture a European tour event when he took the 1983 European Open at Sunningdale. Isao did have an unofficial victory in Europe prior to that time, however, as he was the winner of the 1978 World Match Play at Wentworth, near London. Aoki also holds the distinction of being the first Japanese golfer to win on the Champions Tour.



A young man by the name of Casey Martin startled the golf world in 1998 when he sued the PGA of America under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 so that he could use a golf cart when playing on the Nike Tour. Casey has Klippel-Trenauney-Weber syndrome. It slows the blood flow in his right leg and causes swelling, making it extremely difficult to walk a course. Martin won the case and was allowed to use a cart in his attempt to qualify for the U.S. Open at Olympic.

Casey did qualify and became the first golfer to ride a cart in the U.S. Open, making the cut and finishing a very respectable 23rd.

Eventually, the PGA's suit against Martin made it through the judicial system to the Supreme Court, which heard the case in 2001. In a 7–2 decision, the Court ruled in favor of Casey based on the Americans with Disabilities Act.



*A*t one time, the PGA had a “Caucasian Only” clause in its bylaws that virtually shut out African American golfers from trying to make a living in tournaments. Breaking that barrier was not an easy task. The pioneers were Bill Spiller, Ted Rhodes, Pete Brown, and Charlie Sifford, with help from Joe Louis, the World Heavyweight Boxing Champion. Joe was an enthusiastic golfer who played as an amateur in some PGA Tour events.

The breakthrough came in 1964, when Pete Brown was able to edge Dan Sikes by one stroke in the Waco Turner Open to become the first African American golfer to win on the Tour. As a footnote, Sifford did win the Long Beach Open in 1957, but it was an “unofficial” tournament, since the total prize money was below the minimum established by the PGA.

