

Julius Boros and the Hidden Club

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There is a hidden club, a fifteenth club, which every tournament golfer must carry if he is to last more than nine holes. He must have Hope in his heart—Hope with which to beat back the dark forces of discouragement, and to open the way to all good possibilities.

Watching the great players in the Open Championship last month, you were impressed with the importance of a hopeful attitude. You knew, and they knew, that only one of them could win. But they knew that almost any one of their number could strike a hot streak that would bring him home the winner. They worked on that theory of expecting the best right down to the finish.

There was, for example, Julius Boros. Three years ago he was an accountant, an amateur golfer. Here he was now, a rising professional, in fourth place after the first 36 holes of the USGA's 52nd Open Championship at the Northwood Club in Dallas, Texas. His score of 142 left him four strokes behind Ben Hogan, the greatest player of his day. Little Ben had had two 69s in the first two rounds to tie Sam Snead's all-time record of 138 up to that point.

Julius Boros had that hidden club — that weapon of Hope — and he played many a shot with it throughout the last 36 holes. Even when he hit a ball out of bounds on the eighth hole of the third round, his two-over-par 6 did not sink him. He actually finished that round in 68 (only one other 68 was made in the tournament). He actually picked up six strokes on Hogan, who took 74.

That left Boros two strokes ahead of Hogan with 18 holes to go, and Boros clinched it with a 71 in the final round while Hogan was taking another 74.

But you felt that Hogan, too, was very much in it, in defense of his title, even when there seemed little logical reason to

hope. He started his last round by three-putting, and he did it twice again; moreover, he hit a ball disastrously out of bounds.

Yet even with just six holes to go you sensed that he felt he had a bit of a chance, because you remembered how he played the last nine at Oakland Hills in 32 the year before. The great little Champion made a doughty defense even though he did not have his touch that day. He putted for eagles on both the 13th and 14th, driving the green of the par-4 13th. To be sure, he missed both; but, to be sure, he was ever hopeful.

Hogan and Oliver

And there was Ed Oliver, Hogan's playing companion on the final day. He swung that club of Hope right down to the last putt—and on the last putt he holed out from the back edge of the 72nd green, nosed out Hogan for second place, and won \$1,500 more than he would have won if he had finished third.

The point is this: You can learn a lot from the great tournament players, not just in the execution of strokes but in the workings of the spirit. Golf, like life, can easily be discouraging if we let it. Conversely, it can be a means of bringing out the best in human character.

If all of us in our affairs were guided by Hope to the same degree as the tournament golfer, we'd have fewer failures in those affairs.

Julius Boros, the new Open Champion, is 32 years old and turned professional in December, 1949. Before that he was a strong contender for the Amateur Championship, reaching the fifth round in 1948 and the quarter-finals in 1949.

On his first venture in the Open as a pro, he finished ninth in 1950; last year he tied for fourth.

His 281 at Northwood gave him a four-stroke margin over Oliver — the largest

winning margin since 1938, when Ralph Guldahl won by six strokes.

Boros is a native of Fairfield, Conn., and is professional to the Mid Pines Club, Southern Pines, N. C. He lost his wife after childbirth last September, and he is the father of a boy.

Much of the interest in the tournament centered in Ben Hogan's attempt to win his fourth Open—a feat which only Willie Anderson and Bob Jones have achieved. When Ben played his first two rounds in 69-69—138 to tie the 36-hole record set by Sam Snead in 1948, it certainly looked as if it were his tournament.

Will Hogan ever tie the Anderson-Jones record? Hogan today is 39 years old; Jones was 28 when he retired. Hogan plays comparatively little competitive golf now.

Ben Hogan has consummate skill. He can control a golf ball perhaps as well as anyone ever could in the long history of the game. He is not only one of the great players of all time but he has great character—a thoroughgoing sportsman and gentleman.

All this makes it appear entirely pos-



James G. Jackson, of the Greenbriar Hills Country Club, Kirkwood, Mo., the leading amateur, and Julius Boros, of the Mid Pines Club, Southern Pines, N. C., the Champion, hold the Open Championship Cup. Jackson scored 296 and tied for nineteenth place. Boros scored 281 to win.

sible for Ben Hogan to win the Open again, and perhaps yet again.

Ed Oliver was particularly pleased to finish second. He had started the last two rounds five strokes behind Hogan but, with 70-72, finished one ahead of Ben. It was a hand-to-hand duel, for they were playing companions. And never did two companions get along so well together.

Here is how the leaders finished:

Julius Boros	71	71	68	71—281
Ed Oliver	71	72	70	72—285
Ben Hogan	69	69	74	74—286
Johnny Bulla	73	68	73	73—287
George Fazio	71	69	75	75—290
Dick Metz	70	74	76	71—291

Northwood and Dallas did themselves proud in entertaining the Open. Northwood's organization was superlative, thanks largely to the direction of George F. Baldwin, General Chairman. The galleries were large and appreciative.

BOROS' 281

Hole	Yards	Par	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
1	365	4	4	4	3	3
2	577	5	5	5	4	6
3	435	4	5	5	4	4
4	450	4	4	4	4	4
5	153	3	3	2	3	3
6	448	4	4	5	4	4
7	420	4	4	4	4	4
8	445	4	5	4	6	4
9	220	3	3	3	3	3
Out	3,513	35	37	36	35	35
10	394	4	4	4	4	4
11	440	4	3	4	4	4
12	200	3	3	3	3	5
13	347	4	3	4	3	4
14	483	5	5	4	4	4
15	408	4	4	4	4	4
16	210	3	3	3	3	3
17	377	4	5	5	4	4
18	410	4	4	4	4	4
In	3,269	35	34	35	33	36
Total	6,782	70	71	71	68	71