

THE COMEBACK OF MRS. ZAHARIAS

by

JOSEPH C. DEY, JR.

USGA

Executive Director

THE GOOD which golf can do has been multiplied many times by the inspiring examples of three particular Champions in recent years. The flame of their influence has leaped across the boundaries of the small world of golf and warmed chill spirits in the wide world of everyday life. People who have "never shot a golf" have been helped by these golf Champions with the old problem of how to deal with great physical trouble.

Ben Hogan was thought to be through with golf after a near-fatal automobile accident in February, 1949. He came back to win the Open Championship three more times and the British Open once.

Ed Furgol, despite a crooked and withered left arm resulting from a childhood accident, made himself into a golf player. After years of struggle, he became the Open Champion this year.

In the spring of 1953 Mrs. George Zaharias, the former Babe Didrikson, underwent an operation for cancer. There was grave question about her future health. But she came back, and only last month she won the USGA Women's Open Championship in a great demonstration.

In each of these three lives there is meaning which far transcends golf ability. Unknown thousands have been uplifted by the personal examples of Ben Hogan, Ed Furgol and Babe Zaharias. Bob Jones must also be included in the list. He cannot even play golf now, crippled as he is. But he daily handles his problem like the "Grand Slam" Champion of old.

Nearly everyone at some time or other has a problem which tends to make him feel that life is being unfair. "Why does this have to happen to me?" we all have doubtless said bitterly at some time.

We are helped to understand by such

faith and courage as these winners at golf have shown: perhaps the meaning is that the development of faith is what all of us need to be winners at life.

It reminds you of the Bible miracle about a man who was blind from his birth. The disciples asked the Master who had sinned, the man or his parents, that caused him to be born blind.

The Master said that neither he nor his parents had sinned, but that he was that way in order that the power of God should be made manifest in him.

And He gave him his sight.

Mrs. Zaharias' Great Career

The athletic career of Mrs. Zaharias is in a class by itself. As far back as 1931 she won national AAU championships in the running broad jump, 80-meter hurdles and baseball throw, setting world's records in the last two. The next year she won five national track and field championships. The same year, 1932, in the Olympic Games at Los Angeles she set a new world and Olympic record for the javelin throw of 143 feet 4 inches, set an Olympic record for the 80-meter hurdles and lost the final of the high jump.

She has played professional baseball, pocket billiards and various other sports. In November, 1934, she entered her first golf tournament at Forth Worth and won the medal with 38-39-77. The following spring she took the Texas Championship. From June, 1946, to October, 1947, she won 16 consecutive tournaments.

Mrs. Zaharias has entered the USGA Women's Amateur Championship once, in 1946, the British Women's Amateur once, in 1947, and the USGA Women's Open once, in 1954. She won every time. Before the USGA assumed sponsorship of the



Courtesy of Boston Herald

MISS MARY K. WRIGHT

The leading amateur

Women's Open last year Mrs. Zaharias had won it twice.

Rarely has any golfer in a national competition dominated the proceedings as thoroughly as Mrs. Zaharias did in the Open last month at the Salem Country Club, in Peabody, Mass. Here she was, trying to make a comeback after her operation last year. She was opposed to the best women golfers in the game. She was playing a really exacting course which stretched to nearly 6,400 yards, with a women's par of 72. She faced 36 holes on the last day.

Her winning score of 291 was twelve strokes better than the next score. At that, she went three over par on the last three holes, and thus only three over par for the 72 holes. She did not have anything higher than a 5 on her card.

Miss Claire Doran, Cleveland amateur, shared the first-round lead with Mrs. Zaharias at 72. Next day Mrs. Zaharias pulled away with a 71, and her total of 143 gave her a seven-stroke lead over the defending

Champion, Miss Betsy Rawls. On the final day she had rounds of 73 and 75.

Miss Betty Hicks was the runner-up with 303, followed by Miss Louise Suggs at 307. Miss Rawls tied at 308 with the low amateur, 19-year-old Miss Mary Kathryn Wright, of La Jolla, Cal.

Prize money of \$7,500 was awarded to twelve leading professionals, with the winner receiving \$2,000.

The Salem Country Club, which had been host to the 1932 Women's Amateur Championship, provided not only a real test but excellent arrangements all around. The Club's President, Lionel MacDuff, and the General Chairman of the Club's Committees, Joseph M. Batchelder, spared no effort to insure hospitable and efficient arrangements for their guests. It was a wonderful tournament in every respect.

Mrs. Zaharias' Cards

Hole	Yards	Par	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
1	400	4	3	5	4	4
2	402	4	4	4	4	4
3	146	3	3	3	4	3
4	372	4	4	4	4	5
5	473	5	5	5	5	4
6	206	3	4	3	4	3
7	337	4	4	4	4	4
8	477	5	4	5	4	5
9	355	4	4	4	4	4
Out	3,168	36	35	37	37	36
10	361	4	5	4	4	3
11	470	5	4	5	5	5
12	144	3	3	2	3	3
13	342	4	4	4	4	5
14	193	3	4	4	3	3
15	508	5	4	4	4	5
16	400	4	5	3	4	5
17	397	4	4	4	5	5
18	375	4	4	4	4	5
In	3,190	36	37	34	36	39
Total	6,358	72	72	71	73	75

Don't Be Misled

Although some of the promotional material concerning Chick Evans' new book *Golf for Boys and Girls* may be misleading, the author has by no means sacrificed his amateur status to prepare this piece of instruction. All royalties will be turned over by the publisher directly to the Evans Scholarship Fund.