

CONTROL IN THE OPEN AND TOMMY BOLT

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The essence of golf is control — the ability to play shots to a series of target areas, climaxing in the hole. In USGA championships there is a special premium on this ability; the more widely one misses a target area, the more difficult is the recovery likely to be, for the rough is graduated away from fairways and greens, and other pitfalls await the strayer.

Control of the stroke, however, can hardly be achieved without control of the self. The champions have always been marked by disciplined thoughts and emotions, which enable them to concentrate their playing skill effectively. Conversely, unbridled spirit often takes physical shape in dissipated, uncontrolled shots.

Now Tommy Bolt for years has had the ability to put his shots in the target areas. His fellow-professionals against whom he competes almost daily have long recognized his solid technical skill.

But Bolt has been rather late in arriving at his full capabilities. He is frank to say that he had been standing in his own way (as most of us do).

The contrast is pointed up in his record in the last two USGA Open Championships. In 1957 at Inverness he picked up early in the second round, in sheer vexation and disgust. This year, never allowing anything to ruffle him seriously, he led the field after every round at the Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa, Okla.

He had, for that tournament, a new-found way of using his inner fire constructively.

And so, regardless of what happened before or after, Tommy Bolt in this year's Open gave golf a most useful and unusual playing lesson. It was as if he had first taken a lesson from the wise Solomon, who saw that "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city" (Proverbs 16:32). Bolt went one better than Solomon and took the city, too.

The 58th Open in the USGA series was another remarkably fine tournament over a remarkably fine course. Those who have known Southern Hills over the years have long regarded it as one of the best of championship courses, and so it was for the Open.

There are a number of criteria of what constitutes a Championship course, and one is whether it provides a test for all shots. Southern Hills caused Tommy Bolt to use every one of the 14 clubs in his bag—three woods and ten irons all the way up to a No. 2, and his putter.

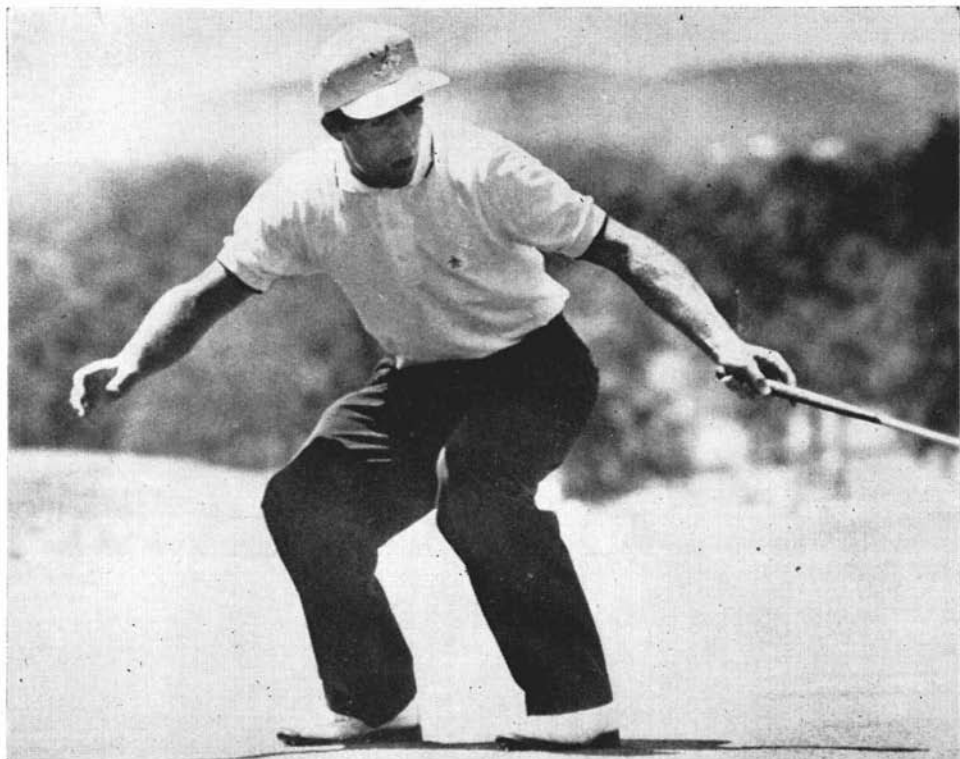
This was the third USGA Championship at Southern Hills, and all have been won by players of marked skill in their respective classes. Mrs. George Zaharias (Babe Didrikson) won the Women's Amateur there in 1946, and Rex Baxter, Jr., took the Junior Amateur there in 1953 as a forerunner to his membership in the Walker Cup Team last year.

Above and beyond the physical facilities and efficiency of planning, Southern Hills provided a warmth of hospitality and friendliness that is often difficult to appreciate in the Open, where the winning of the Championship tends to dominate all else. That things went off so happily was a testimonial to the thousands of hours of devoted volunteer effort put into the preparations by the Southern Hills committee, headed by Philip Taber as General Chairman, with F.G. McClintock, W.K. Warren and R.W. Berry as Vice-Chairmen.

It is a great thing for golf to have the Open conducted under such auspicious circumstances as Southern Hills provided.

Although the weather throughout the tournament was clear, playing conditions were not easy, with temperatures in the 90s and gusty winds of appreciable force.

In view of the test, Bolt made a remarkable performance in scoring 283 for the 72 holes—three over par. His winning margin was four strokes over the runner-up, Gary Player, an attractive 22-year-old



The brilliant young South African golfer, Gary Player, who has had outstanding success on the professional circuit and who finished second at his first attempt in the Open Championship, urges his putt towards the hole during play at the Southern Hills Country Club, Tulsa, Okla.

professional from South Africa who was playing in the Open for the first time. Julius Boros, former Champion, was third with 289. Bolt's advantage at the end was the greatest since Ben Hogan in 1953 won by six strokes at Oakmont.

Like Hogan at Oakmont, Bolt did the unusual feat of leading the field in every round. His first-round 71 was tied by Boros and Dick Metz. Then he had another 71, for a 142 total that was one stroke ahead of Player, who scored 68 in the second round. Bolt made his strongest move with a 69 in the first of the two rounds played on Saturday. His 54-hole total of 211 left him three strokes to the good over Gene Littler, whose third-round 67 was the lowest of the tournament. Bolt then closed out with a 72.

If one could fairly pin-point a single hole and aver that this was where Bolt won, it probably would be Southern Hills'

12th. This is a great par 4 of 465 yards whose fairway swings left until a creek interrupts it just in front of the green and then flows to the right alongside the green. Here the field had continuous troubles. Here Bolt scored three birdie 3s and one par in his four rounds.

This was not the first year in which Bolt has been in position to win. Just three years ago he tied for third place in the Open. He has been seventh or better in four of the last eight Championships.

It is interesting to reflect that 20 years ago this summer the USGA Amateur Public Links Championship field had as competitors three young fellows named Tommy Bolt, Ed Furgol and Walter Burkemo. Furgol, like Bolt, has been the Open Champion, and Burkemo has been PGA Champion.

The premium on qualifiers' places for the Open was higher this year than ever

before. There had been a record entry of 2,133—205 more than the previous high.

Low amateur at Southern Hills was Charles Coe, former Amateur Champion, with 295. Ben Hogan, seeking an unprecedented fifth Open title, injured his left wrist in practice and scored 294. The defending Champion, Dick Mayer, had 299. Sam Snead failed to qualify for the last 36 holes—his first such failure in 18 Opens.

There were six rounds of par 70 and six rounds under par in the 428 rounds played in the Championship.

The Open Champion of 50 years ago, Fred McLeod, of Washington, was a spectator.

Spectator attendance was unexpectedly large. Unofficial figures, for both paid and free admissions, were:

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| First day | 10,028 |
| Second day | 10,910 |
| Third day | 12,375 |
| Total | 33,313 |

The all-time total attendance was 39,696, in 1957 at Inverness, with 16,527 the third day.

Here is how the leaders stood at each stage:

18 Holes

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Tommy Bolt | 71 |
| Julius Boros | 71 |
| Dick Metz | 71 |
| Lloyd Mangrum | 72 |
| Frank Stranahan | 72 |
| Bruce Crampton | 73 |
| Jimmy Demaret | 73 |
| *E. Harvie Ward, Jr. | 74 |
| Smiley Quick | 74 |
| Labron Harris | 74 |
| Gene Littler | 74 |

36 Holes

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Tommy Bolt | 142 |
| Gary Player | 143 |
| Frank Stranahan | 144 |
| Labron Harris | 146 |
| *Charles R. Coe | 146 |
| Julius Boros | 146 |
| Gene Littler | 147 |
| Jimmy Demaret | 147 |
| Ben Hogan | 148 |
| Tom Nieporte | 148 |
| Bruce Crampton | 148 |

54 Holes

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Tommy Bolt | 211 |
| Gene Littler | 214 |

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Gary Player | 216 |
| Julius Boros | 218 |
| Frank Stranahan | 219 |
| Walter Burkemo | 219 |
| Don January | 220 |
| Dick Mayer | 221 |
| *Charles R. Coe | 221 |
| Robert A. Rosburg | 221 |

72 Holes

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Tommy Bolt | 283 |
| Gary Player | 287 |
| Julius Boros | 289 |
| Gene Littler | 290 |
| Walter Burkemo | 291 |
| Robert A. Rosburg | 291 |
| Jay Hebert | 293 |
| Dick Metz | 293 |
| Don January | 293 |
| Ben Hogan | 294 |
| Frank Stranahan | 294 |
| Tommy Jacobs | 294 |
| Billy Casper, Jr. | 295 |
| *Charles R. Coe | 295 |
| Marty Furgol | 295 |
| Robert Goetz | 296 |
| Tom Nieporte | 297 |

* Amateur.

The winner's total was compiled as follows:

BOLT'S 283

| Hole | Yards | Par | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th |
|--------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | 459 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| 2 | 450 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| 3 | 410 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| 4 | 371 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 4 |
| 5 | 592 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 177 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 7 | 401 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| 8 | 218 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| 9 | 378 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 4 |
| Out | 3,456 | 35 | 36 | 35 | 36 | 36 |
| 10 | 378 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| 11 | 167 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| 12 | 465 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| 13 | 469 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| 14 | 210 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 15 | 410 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 5 |
| 16 | 538 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| 17 | 346 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| 18 | 468 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| In | 3,451 | 35 | 35 | 36 | 33 | 36 |
| Total | 6,907 | 70 | 71 | 71 | 69 | 72 |