

# CHARLEY COE FINDS THE SECRET AGAIN

BY

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**F**or those who have followed junior golf on a national plane over the last decade, the recent Amateur Championship at the Olympic Country Club, in San Francisco, represented pretty nearly the break-through.

There, in the quarter-final round, the boys lined up against the men in the age-old rivalry, as if the draw for match play had been carefully prearranged by two opposing infantry generals of an earlier era.

On the line for the men were:

Charles R. Coe, 34, of Oklahoma City  
Roger T. McManus, 34, of Cincinnati  
Dr. Frank M. Taylor, 41, of Pomona, Cal.

Charles R. Kocsis, 45, of Royal Oak, Mich.

Opposing them were, in the same order:

Deane R. Beman, 20, of Bethesda, Md.

Junior, University of Maryland

Ward Wettlaufer, 22, of Buffalo, N.Y.

Senior, Hamilton College

Dick Foote, 20, of Santa Ana, Cal.

Junior, UCLA

Thomas D. Aaron, 21, of Gainesville, Ga.

Senior, University of Florida

If a ball or two bounced the right way, four of the boys who have been consistently prominent in junior golf in the last few years could join hands in the semi-final round.

It didn't go that way—quite—however. The men and the boys drew in the quarter-final round, two victories going each way, and Charley Coe won the ultimate victory for the men by beating young Tommy Aaron in the final, 5 and 4.

In thus staving off for one more year the surge of youth, Coe accomplished one of the great feats of self-discipline in amateur golf. He keyed himself up once again to deliver to his great potential.

When young Charley Coe moved into the national scene, he was almost unbeatable and won his first Amateur Cham-

## TOMMY AARON

(Reprinted from the USGA Journal of  
September, 1954.)

Tommy Aaron, of Gainesville, Ga., is 17 and serious about golf. He went all the way to The Los Angeles Country Club last month, not to make a half-hearted effort but to do the best he could in the Junior Amateur Championship. It was his last year of eligibility and he had missed out the previous year because of a broken ankle.

Tommy's best is good, in both golf and football, and he shortly found himself playing in the quarter-final round against Allen L. Geiberger, of Santa Barbara, Cal., who holds the California, Southern California and Los Angeles City Junior Championships.

Geiberger was 1 up going to the sixteenth hole, a 444-yard-affair, and he rifled his second shot onto the green. Aaron's went into the dry, fragile Bermuda rough behind the green, so that he was still away.

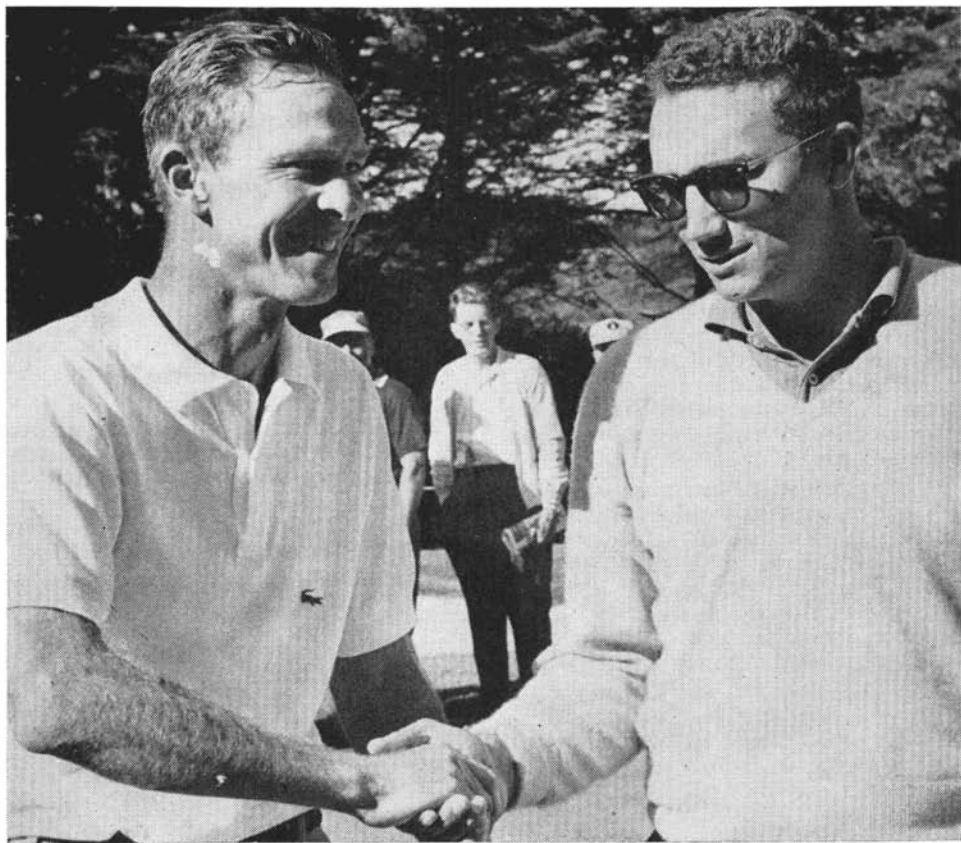
Charles P. Stevenson, of Buffalo, N.Y., the referee, walked into the rough with Aaron and stood by while he played his critical third shot out of the long grass and onto the green.

The stroke seemed routine, and Aaron seemed to have at least a chance for a half returning to the green. Suddenly he said: "I concede the hole. My ball turned over in the rough while I was addressing it. I lie four."

Not even the referee, who was standing by for just an eventuality, had seen the ball move, but Aaron knew he had to call it on himself—even though no one else had seen the movement and it made his opponent dormie-two.

Geiberger went on to win the match, 3 and 1, but Aaron won something just as important.

## TO THE VICTOR GOES THE HANDSHAKE



—San Francisco Examiner

Charley Coe (left) receives congratulations in the customary form from young Tommy Aaron after the final of the Amateur Championship at San Francisco. The score was 5 and 4.

pionship at the age of 25, in 1949. He went on to play for the United States in the Walker Cup Matches of 1949, 1951 and 1953 and the Americas Cup Matches of 1952, when he was captain, and 1954.

Then, somehow, it appeared that his competitive fire began to flicker. He obviously continued to enjoy the game and the companionship of his fellow-amateurs, but in spite of his superb skill he lost to little-known players in the first round of the Amateur Championship in both 1954 and 1955. Others came forward and filled the Walker Cup Team of 1955 and the Americas Cup Team of 1956. When the USGA selected its Walker Cup Team for 1957, it named Coe as non-

playing captain.

It was Bud Wilkinson, the famed coach of University of Oklahoma football teams and an amateur golfer of both enthusiasm and ability, who kindled the fire again. Using a psychological approach, Wilkinson gradually rebuilt Coe's will-to-win and then his conviction that he still could win. He gave him advice on training, too—how to govern his diet to obtain the utmost strength and energy (he has a hard time keeping his weight up to 150 pounds) and how to come into a tournament keyed up mentally but relaxed physically.

"Bud Wilkinson doesn't win all those games on his knowledge of football alone," Charley commented during the

Championship. "He wins them on his skill as a trainer and psychologist."

The first results of this training became apparent when Coe led the amateurs in the Open Championship last June, finishing in a tie for thirteenth at 295 twelve strokes behind Tommy Bolt. Actually, he started 75-71 and was trailing by only four strokes going into the final day when Bolt ran away from everyone.

Without the training, too, Coe probably would have had a harder time with Aaron. Tommy had been improving steadily as he neared the final. In the quarter-finals he played thirteen holes in three under par to beat Chuck Kocsis, a former Walker Cup player, 7 and 5. In the semi-final, he played the morning round in 67, three under par, and the first nine in 35, even par, against Dick Foote, to win, 10 and 9.

A strapping six-footer who was recently an all-Georgia high school quarter-back, Aaron seemed to be coming on, young and strong, while Coe was beginning to show signs of fatigue. Although Charley was even par in disposing of Deane Beman, 1 up, in the quarter-finals, he was six over par in defeating Roger McManus, 3 and 2, in the semi-finals.

However, Coe's fatigue must have been more apparent than real, because he had all the shots when he needed them in the final. He gained a 2 up lead in the morning round, with a 74, and then won six of the first nine holes in the afternoon to pull away. A birdie 3 on the 410-yard fourteenth hole gave him a 5 and 4 victory and left him five over par.

It seems certain, however, that the youngsters who have been developing so spectacularly in recent years with the spread of junior golf programs will soon have the days which Coe denied them in the autumn sunshine at San Francisco.

The Amateur Championship was the second USGA event in recent years on the Lake Course of the Olympic Country Club. It was there that Jack Fleck defeated Ben Hogan in a play-off for the Open Championship only three years earlier.

The special stimulus for San Francisco was, of course, the return to competition of their fellow-townsmen, E. Harvie Ward, Jr., the 1955 and 1956 Champion, who had been on probation as a non-amateur dur-

ing 1957. Harvie came back with a brilliant putter to win three exciting matches despite some erratic play, but he finally fell afoul of young Ward Wettlaufer in the fifth round, 3 and 2.

Another attraction was the presence in the field of the amateur golfers from Canada and Mexico, who had come to compete in the Americas Cup Match. While the 21-year-old Mexican Champion Juan A. Estrada lost in the first round to Deane Beman, 1 up, and the Canadian Champion Bruce Castator lost in the third round to William H. Williamson, of Charlotte, N.C., also 1 up, Mauricio Urdanetta, of Mexico, did reach the third round and Eric Hanson, of Canada, played in the round of sixteen.

Somewhat less happy was the fate of Hillman Robbins, Jr., of Memphis, Tenn., the defending Champion, whose tour of active duty in the Air Force clearly has not helped his game. Although Hillman played with courage and wonderful good cheer in the circumstances, he could recapture his old brilliance only in flashes, and he finally succumbed to Martin Stanovich, of Chicago, in the third round, 4 and 2. It was his final appearance as an amateur.

No report on the Championship can overlook its vivid illustration of the vast scope of golf.

On one side were two distinguished youngsters, 14-year-old George Boutell, of Tucson, Ariz., who was making his debut at the same age as Bob Jones made his back in 1916, and 16-year-old Dixie Chapman, of Osterville, Mass., who qualified and came with his father, Richard D. Chapman, the 1940 Champion, the first father-and-son pair in an Amateur field since Emerson Carey, Jr., and Emerson Carey, III, of Denver, accomplished the feat at Minneapolis in 1950.

On the other side was 68-year-old Charles Evans, Jr., of Chicago, who drew a bye, won a match and carried Alfred Sams, of Macon, Ga., to the nineteenth hole before bowing in the third round. Sams, a left-hander, also had beaten Evans in the third round a year earlier. It was Evans' forty-sixth Amateur Championship, his thirty-second appearance in match play and the victory in the second round was his fifty-seventh.