

YOUR QUESTIONS ON THE OPEN ANSWERED

By

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Bill Inghis works on the copy desk in the news department of The Daily Oklahoman. In his spare time he researches the records of major golf championships and digests the results.

There follows a sampling of various facts he has developed concerning the Open Championship through 1958. We publish only a sampling solely because space does not permit us to publish more, but there is a good deal more.

We consider the painstaking effort which Bill has put into the development of these statistics a tremendous service to the game of golf and to its press corps.

SCORING RECORDS

SCORING, GENERAL

Nine Holes—30 by *James B. McHale, Jr. at St. Louis, 1947.

First Round—64 by Lee Mackey, Jr. at Merion, 1950.

Second Round—66 by *John Goodman at North Shore, 1933; Jimmy Thomson at Oakland Hills, 1937, and Johnny Bulla at Merion, 1950.

Third Round—65 by *McHale at St. Louis, 1947.

Fourth Round—65 by Walter Burkemo at Inverness, 1957.

First 36 Holes—138 by Sam Snead at Riviera, 1948; Ben Hogan at Northwood, 1952; Dick Mayer and *Billy Joe Patton at Inverness, 1957.

Last 36 Holes—136 by Gene Sarazen at Fresh Meadow, 1932, and Cary Middlecoff at Inverness, 1957.

First 54 Holes—207 by Hogan at Riviera, 1948.

72 Holes—276 by Hogan at Riviera, 1948.

* Denotes amateur.

SCORING, AMATEUR

72 Holes—285 by Marvin H. Ward at Spring Mill, 1939.

SCORING, FOREIGNERS

72 Holes—282 by Bobby Locke at Riviera, 1948.

TEN LOWEST 72-HOLE SCORES

276 by Ben Hogan at Riviera, 1948.

*278 by Jimmy Demaret at Riviera, 1948.

*280 by Jimmy Turnesa at Riviera, 1948.

281 by Ralph Guldahl at Oakland Hills, 1937.

281 by Julius Boros at Northwood, 1952.

281 by Cary Middlecoff at Oak Hill, 1956.

282 by Tony Manero at Baltusrol, 1936.

282 by Lew Worsham at St. Louis, 1947.

*282 by Sam Snead at St. Louis, 1947.

*282 by Bobby Locke at Riviera, 1948.

*282 by Boros at Oak Hill, 1956.

*282 by Hogan at Oak Hill, 1956.

282 by Dick Mayer at Inverness, 1957.

*282 by Middlecoff at Inverness, 1957.

* Did not win title.

SUBPAR 72-HOLE TOTALS

Ben Hogan and Sam Snead have three subpar 72-hole totals to their credit, a record.

The first man to break par for 72 holes was Alex Smith, who turned the trick at Onwentsia in 1906. Chick Evans was the first amateur to do so, at Minikahda in 1916.

In all, par has been broken 32 times for the full distance. Nine men broke par at Canterbury in 1946, another high.

36-HOLE CUTOFFS

The all-time low for the 36-hole cut is 148, the figure needed at Riviera in 1948.

The modern high is 155, the total required at Olympic in 1955.

SCORING, MISCELLANEOUS

INDIVIDUAL

Most 72-hole scores under 300—16 by Sam Snead, the last 15 of which were in succession (1939-57).

Most 72-hole scores under 290—11 by Ben Hogan, in successive appearances (1941-56).

Most subpar 18-hole rounds—15 by Hogan and Snead.

Most par or better 18-hole rounds—22 by Hogan. (He has played 62 rounds in 17 Open starts.)

Most rounds under 70—11 by Hogan.

Exceptional performance—Gene Sarazen played the last 28 holes in 100 strokes at Fresh Meadow, 1932.

Exceptional performance—Hogan had at least one round of par or better in 12 straight Open appearances (1940-56).

Most subpar rounds, one Open—3 by Harry Cooper at Baltusrol, 1936; Ralph Guldahl, Snead and Ed Dudley at Oakland Hills, 1937; Byron Nelson and Ed Oliver at Canterbury, 1946; Snead at St. Louis, 1947; Hogan, Jimmy Demaret, Jimmy Turnesa and Bobby Locke at Riviera, 1948.

FIELD

Most 72-hole scores over 300—61 at Columbia in 1921 and Oakmont in 1935. (There were 59 at Baltusrol in 1903 and at Fresh Meadow in 1932.)

Most 72-hole scores under 290—14 at Canterbury in 1946. (There were 13 at Riviera in 1948.)

Most subpar rounds—42 at Canterbury in 1946.

AMATEUR RECORDS

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES

Robert T. Jones, Jr. won the Open in 1923-26-29-30, Francis Ouimet in 1913, Jerome D. Travers in 1915, Chick Evans in 1916 and John Goodman in 1933.

Jones also was second in 1922-24-25-28, fifth in 1921 and eighth in 1920. Only once (1927) did he finish out of the first 10 in his 11 Open starts.

TEN LOWEST SCORES BY AMATEURS

285 by Marvin H. Ward at Spring Mill, 1939.

286 by Chick Evans at Minikahda, 1916.

287 by Robert T. Jones, Jr. at Interlachen, 1930.

287 by John Goodman at North Shore, 1933.

287 by Ward at St. Louis, 1947.

289 by Jones at Skokie, 1922.

289 by Billy Joe Patton at Baltusrol, 1954.

289 by Ken Venturi at Oak Hill, 1956.

290 by Goodman at Oakland Hills, 1937.

290 by Patton at Inverness, 1957.

AMATEURS COMPLETING 72 HOLES

Twelve amateurs completed the 72 holes at Baltusrol in 1903, a record. Ten were around all the way at Merion in 1934 and St. Louis in 1947.

Chick Evans completed the 72 holes 12

times, a record for an amateur. Bob Jones stood at 11, in successive years, when he retired following his "Grand Slam" in 1930.

The leaders among the actives are Billy Joe Patton and Harvie Ward with 5 complete Opens to their credit.

MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS

FATE OF PACESETTERS

18 HOLES

Sam Snead led the field four times at the 18-hole mark (1939-40-46-51) but did not win the title. Willie Anderson (1897-99-1903-04-06) led five times, winning in 1903-04. (He also won in 1901-5).

The man who led the field at the 18-hole mark, however, won 12 of the 58 Opens, approximately one-fifth.

36 HOLES

Alex Smith led the Open five times at the halfway mark in 1901-5-6-10-12. He won in 1906-10.

The man who led the field after 36 holes won 17 of the previous 55 Opens at 72 holes.

54 HOLES

Robert T. Jones, Jr., led the Open at the 54-hole mark six times, winning three of his four titles in this manner (1923-29-30).

The man who led at 54 holes won 27 of the 55 Opens at 72 holes, more than half.

CONTINUITY

Starting in 1920, Gene Sarazen teed off in 31 successive Opens. His streak was interrupted in 1955 when he assisted with the telecasting at Olympic.

Sarazen played through 22 Opens in a row from 1920 through 1941, a feat matched by Walter Hagen in 1913-36.

Sam Snead has appeared in 18 straight Opens dating from 1937, the high among the moderns. His 72-hole string came to an end at Southern Hills in 1958 when he failed to qualify for the last 36 holes.

Sarazen, also, did not survive the cut at Southern Hills, but extended his career span to 39 years.

FINISHES IN FIRST TEN

Walter Hagen finished in the first 10 in 16 Opens, a record.

Gene Sarazen is next with 14 and Ben Hogan third with 13.

Willie Anderson and Alex Smith have

11 finishes in the first 10, and Bob Jones and Sam Snead 10 each .(Jones played in only 11 Opens.)

HIGHS AND LOWS BY CHAMPIONS

BEST START

67 by Ben Hogan at Riviera, 1948, and Oakmont, 1953.

WORST START

91 by Horace Rawlins at Newport, 1895.

Modern high—76 by Hogan at Oakland Hills, 1951, and Jack Fleck at Olympic, 1955.

Previously—78s by Walter Hagen at Brae Burn, 1919, and Tommy Armour at Oakmont, 1927.

BEST ROUND

66 by Gene Sarazen at Fresh Meadow, 1932, and John Goodman at North Shore, 1933.

WORST ROUND

91 by Rawlins at Newport, 1895.

Modern high—76 by Hogan at Oakland Hills, 1951, and Fleck at Olympic, 1955.

Previously—79s by Bob Jones at Scioto, 1926, and Winged Foot, 1929.

BEST FINISH

66 by Sarazen at Fresh Meadow, 1932.

Modern low—67 by Hogan at Oakland Hills, 1951, and Fleck at Olympic, 1955.

WORST FINISH

84 by Fred Herd at Myopia, 1898.

Modern high—75 by Cary Middlecoff at Medinah, 1949.

Previously—79 by Jones at Winged Foot, 1929.

LEFTHANDERS IN THE OPEN

Loddie Kempa is believed to be the only lefthander to play through 72 holes in the Open. Kempa, an Oklahoma professional, did it twice. He shot 306 at Merion in 1950 after a 71-74 start, and 310 at Baltusrol in 1954.

CHAMPIONS WHO LED ALL THE WAY

Tommy Bolt, the 1958 champion, is the seventh man in Open history to have led from start to finish.

The others are Willie Anderson, 1903; Alex Smith, 1906; Walter Hagen, 1914; Chick Evans, 1916; Jim Barnes, 1921, and Ben Hogan, 1953.

Bolt, Evans and Smith were tied for the lead after 18 holes. Anderson won in a playoff.

Barnes won by nine strokes, Smith

seven, Hogan six, Bolt four, Evans two and Hagen one.

AGES OF CHAMPIONS

Horace Rawlins, the first champion at Newport in 1895, also was the youngest, being only 19. Ted Ray, the Briton who triumphed at Inverness in 1920, was the oldest, being 43.

Francis Ouimet was 20 when he won at Brookline in 1913 and Gene Sarazen 20 when he succeeded at Skokie in 1922. Macdonald Smith was 20 when he lost in a playoff at Philadelphia in 1910.

Bob Jones was 21 when he took the first of his four Opens at Inwood in 1923 and Walter Hagen 21 when he excelled for the first time at Midlothian in 1914.

The youngest champion since Jones is Johnny Goodman, who was 23 when he prevailed at North Shore in 1933. Youngest of the post-World War II winners is Cary Middlecoff, who was 28 when he won for the first time at Medinah in 1949.

Oldest of the recent champions is Ben Hogan, who was 40 when he won for the fourth time at Oakmont in 1953. Tommy Bolt, the 1958 champion, was 39.

LONGEVITY

Gene Sarazen has played through 26 Opens, a record.

He began his amazing string as an 18-year old at Inverness in 1920 and proceeded to play through 22 straight Opens, the last in the series being at Colonial in 1941.

His streak came to an end at Canterbury in 1946 when his 152 failed by one stroke to qualify for the final 36 holes. However, he came back to add to his record in 1947-50-51-52 and still takes his swings in the Championship every year.

Only two others in Open history have 20 or more complete Opens to their credit. Walter Hagen notched 22 from 1913-36, all in succession, and Alex Campbell got in 20 from 1899 through 1924.

UNDER-70 FINISHES BY CHAMPIONS

The following champions broke 70 on the final round; Jack Fleck at Olympic, 1955; Ben Hogan at Oakland Hills, 1951, and Riviera, 1948; Byron Nelson at Spring Mill, 1939; Ralph Guldahl at Cherry Hills, 1938, and Oakland Hills, 1937; Tony Manero at Baltusrol, 1936; Gene Sarazen at Fresh Meadow, 1932, and Skokie, 1922.

COURSES

COMPARISON OF SCORING

Canterbury yielded the most subpar 18-hole rounds, 42, and the most subpar 72-hole totals, nine, both in 1946.

Baltusrol gave up 14 subpar rounds in the first round and 12 in the second in 1936, both records. St. Louis yielded 10 subpar rounds in the third round in 1947 and Canterbury 12 in the last round in 1946.

Riviera yielded the lowest 72-hole score, 276, to Ben Hogan in 1948, Chicago the highest, 393, to John Harrison in 1900.

HOME COURSE PLAYERS

Horace Rawlins, a young assistant at Newport, won the first Open over his home course in 1895. He was an assistant to W. F. Davis, the Newport professional. No home course player has since won.

Only one home course player has finished in the first 10 since 1921—Frank Souchak at Oakmont in 1953.

COURSE LENGTH

Longest course on which the Open has been conducted is Oakland Hills, which was 7,037 yards for the 1937 Championship.

Shortest course on which the Open has been played in modern times is St. Louis, which was 6,532 yards for the 1947 Championship.

MONEY WINNINGS

Ben Hogan has finished in the money in 13 Opens, winning \$25,711.11.

Cary Middlecoff earned \$13,451.15 in 10 Opens, Julius Boros \$13,280 in nine, Sam Snead \$10,835.84 in 16, and Tommy Bolt \$10,745 in six.

Walter Hagen finished in the money 19 times, a record. Snead finished in the money 15 straight years, Hogan 13 times in successive appearances.

The oldest money winner was Bobby Cruickshank, who was 55 when he tied for 25th place and earned \$100 at Merion in 1950.

The youngest money winner was John Shippen, a 16 year-old caddie, who tied for fifth and won \$10 at Shinnecock Hills in 1896.

The winningest foreigner is Bobby Locke, who won \$5,060 in six Opens.

PLAYOFFS

Playoffs occur at the rate of approximately once every three Opens. There have been 20 in the 58 Championships.

Three-way playoffs resulted in 1910-11-13-39-46-50. Two men were involved in 1901-03-08-19-23-25 27-28-29-31-40-47-55-57.

The champion at playoffs is Bob Jones, who took part in four within seven years. He won two and lost two. Jones averaged 72.7 for seven playoff rounds, his scores ranging from 69 to 76.

Most won—Two by Willie Anderson (at Myopia, 1901, and Baltusrol, 1903) and Jones (at Inwood, 1923, and Winged Foot, 1929.)

Most lost—Two by Mike Brady (at Chicago, 1911, and Brae Burn, 1919) and Jones (at Worcester, 1925, and Olympia Fields, 1928.)

Most in which a participant—Four by Jones (in 1923-25-28-29.)

Most decisive victory—23 strokes by Jones at Winged Foot in 1929. He shot 141 to 164 for Al Espinosa, a difference of more than a half-stroke per hole.

Longest playoff—72 holes at Inverness, 1931. Billy Burke defeated George Von Elm, 297 to 298, after a tie at 292.

Lowest score—68 by Byron Nelson and Craig Wood at Spring Mill, 1939.

FOREIGNERS' RECORDS

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES

Harry Vardon and Edward "Ted" Ray are the only foreign players ever to win the Open. Vardon won at Chicago in 1900, Ray at Inverness in 1920.

Both lost in a playoff to Francis Ouimet at Brookline in 1913. Vardon and Ray represented England.

TEN LOWEST 72-HOLE SCORES

282 by Bobby Locke at Riviera, 1948.

285 by Locke at St. Louis, 1947; Peter Thomson at Oak Hill, 1956.

287 by Gary Player at Southern Hills, 1958.

288 by Locke at Baltusrol, 1954.

289 by Locke at Medinah, 1949.

290 by Roberto de Vicenzo at Inverness, 1957.

291 by Locke at Oakland Hills, 1951; Rudy Horvath at Baltusrol, 1954.

294 by Thomson at Inverness, 1957.