

# A CLASSIC AMATEUR BENEATH THE ROCKIES

By

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The final had the ingredients of classic drama.

On one side was Charlie Coe, of Oklahoma City, Okla., the defending champion, already a winner on two previous occasions, captain of the Walker Cup Team and a man who melded great native skill with the experience of 35 years.

On the other was Jack Nicklaus, of Columbus, Ohio, a boy wonder in his early 'teens, the baby of last spring's Walker Cup Team, a strong contender—but still a boy of 19.

It might not have been hard to choose between them. Crowds almost invariably are susceptible to the appeal of a young athlete challenging an entrenched veteran.

This time it was hard, though.

Charlie Coe is one of the most gentlemanly and popular golfers in the distinguished history of American amateur golf—and here he was, seeking his third victory. If he succeeded, he would be the first since Bob Jones to win so many. (Jones and Jerry Travers won four times each, Walter J. Travers won three times.)

Jack Nicklaus has the same gentlemanliness and sportsmanship, plus the attraction which challenging youth always generates.

One could only cheer for both and hope it would be a good match. It was just that and 3,500 saw the classic at Broadmoor Golf Club in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Coe, fired to a high pitch, started the final by rolling in a slippery, downhill 35 footer for a birdie 3 on the first green.

Nicklaus countered by holing a 15 footer for a birdie 3 on the second, and Coe put a 14 footer in on top of it for the half, to remain 1 up.

Both easily carried the pond in front of the third green and made 4s for another half in birdies.

At this point, while the dew was still heavy on the fairways, Coe had started birdie-birdie-birdie and was only 1 up. Or to put it another way, Nicklaus had started par-birdie-birdie and was 1 down.

Wild horses could not have torn the gallery away from this one, although, of course, the initial velocity could hardly be maintained.

Coe did, however, complete the morning round in 69, two under par, and enjoyed a two-hole lead as he took his iced tea, heavily sugared, at noontime. Or to put it another way, Nicklaus had played the round in par 71 and was 2 down.

Errors on two of the first three holes in the afternoon cost Coe his entire hard-earned lead. He pulled his drive into the woods on the first hole, and he failed to get home in two to match Nicklaus' birdie at the third.

Although Coe drew ahead again by holing a five footer for a birdie 3 at the sixth, he erred seriously once more on the 220-yard twelfth, where he hit the green and then three-putted from twenty-five feet, allowing Nicklaus to win with a chip and a putt and square the match a second time. Nicklaus was playing at a one-under-par clip to this point and allowing no leeway for such mistakes.

It was still even, after one more exchange, as they came to the final hole, a 430-yard monster with a fairway which slopes to the right and a pond which can catch a careless, long tee shot.

Both played straight down the fairway, safely short of the pond.

Coe played the odd with a No. 8 iron. His ball flew true but a little low. While it landed only a third of the way onto the green, it skidded all the way over and trickled down into the rough in a depression behind the green.

Nicklaus then played a No. 9 iron—and masterfully. His ball hit and came to an abrupt stop about eight feet short of the hole, dead on the target.

Coe faced a difficult chip from long grass, up over a banking to a green which sloped away from him. It had to be a perfect shot—and it was.

The ball lofted lightly out of the grass, landed just on the green and trickled



Runner-up and former Champion Charles R. Coe, right, congratulates the 1959 Amateur Champion Jack Nicklaus.

slowly but ever so surely toward the center of the hole.

The gallery instinctively drew in its breath and prepared to let out a roar. It seemed, almost surely, that the old master had holed his chip for a birdie 3, stretching Nicklaus' putt into one of the longest eight footers in history for a half to keep the match alive.

But the roar never came. As abruptly as if someone had slammed on brakes, the ball stopped on the very brink of the hole, looking down into it but not falling.

Both players stepped up to see whether there was any chance that it might be moving almost imperceptibly. After only a quick look, Coe made the decision that it was not.

So it became Nicklaus' turn to putt, and his putt now was a somewhat easier one for a win and the Amateur Champion-

ship, rather than for a tie and extra holes.

While the gallery hushed, he looked the line over with great care, tested his stroke several times and then knocked his ball squarely into the hole to become, at 19 years and 8 months, the second youngest Amateur Champion, by a margin of 1 up. Nicklaus' score for the afternoon round was a two-under-par 69, matching Coe's morning round. Coe faded to a 73.

The youngest winner, incidentally, was the late Robert A. Gardner, of Chicago, who won in 1909 at the age of 19 years 5 months while a student at Yale. Nicklaus is a pharmacy sophomore at Ohio State. The only other 19-year-old winner was the late Louis N. James, who won in 1902 at the age of 19 years 10 months.

For sheer excitement and drama, the match reminded old hands of the 1936

final when young Johnny Fischer finished with three successive birdies at the Garden City (N.Y.) Golf Club to beat Jack McLean, of Scotland, on the 37th hole. Of course, there was nothing dull about Gene Littler's victory over Dale Morey in 1953 at the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club. Leading 2 up with three holes to play, Littler lost the next two holes to birdies and then made a twenty footer for a birdie of his own on the last green to win the title, 1 up.

Veterans at the Broadmoor had some difficulty in recognizing the course as set up for the first Amateur Championship in Colorado. Broadmoor prides itself on its long, tangled rough and icy fast, undulating greens. Normally, fairways are generous, but he who leaves them does so at a real peril and the key to success is everlastingly to place one's approach so the ball stops below the hole. However, for the Amateur the rough was cut back to the traditional four inches, with borders shorter, and the mowers were raised a trifle to slow a couple of the more sloping greens.

This changed the character of the course and confounded some of those who figured to have an advantage in local knowledge. But it didn't appear to make it any easier. Par golf would still get a fellow a long way.

Coe and Nicklaus may have benefited particularly from the editing of the rough since they do not always rank among the world's straightest drivers.

Coe, as a westerner who has vacationed and played at the Broadmoor many times over the years, showed the advantages of familiarity with greens, although he is invariably a fine putter, as witness his play in the quarter-finals against William Hyndman, II, the 43-year-old Philadelphian who so richly deserves a Championship some day.

After losing a stroke to par on the first hole, Coe putted superbly and hit the turn in 34, two under par, at which point he was 3 up. Then, to spice the punch, he holed birdie putts for 3s on the tenth and eleventh to go four under par and 5 up with seven holes to play.

It was now or never for Hyndman, and he rallied magnificently. A 2 on the short twelfth and a birdie 3 on the thirteenth cut Coe's margin to 3 up again. A par 4 won the fifteenth, when Coe for once

three-putted, and a six-foot putt for a 2 won the sixteenth. At the eighteenth tee, Coe was only 1 up and holding on for his life.

Neither hit the right drive off the eighteenth tee, and both were in the rough. Hyndman's ball nestled at the bottom of a thick, tangled clump of wet grass which gave him little chance to bring off his shot, and his mighty effort only knocked his ball into the pond guarding the green. Coe, from a more fortunate lie, played safely onto the green, whence he had two putts for a 68, and that was the match.

Nicklaus' semi-final victory over Gene Andrews, of Los Angeles, Cal., the 46-year-old veteran who spends the practice days compiling notes on the course and then plays out of his notebook, was another of the great give-and-take matches of the week. Nicklaus went 3 up by doing the course in 70 in the morning, but Andrews won four of a run of six holes to pull even at the ninth tee in the afternoon. Nicklaus won the ninth with a conceded eagle 3, but Andrews came back with a birdie and a par to win the tenth and eleventh and go ahead by a hole. Nicklaus then made birdie 3s on the thirteenth and fourteenth to regain the one-hole lead which he held to the end. His score for the afternoon round was 76.

Coe had a less hectic semi-final with young Dudley Wysong, 20, of Dallas, who was in the process of transferring from the University of Houston to North Texas State. Wysong had a muscle hemorrhage behind his right shoulder and when he did settle down it was too late to get back in the match. Coe won, 6 and 4, with three-over-par golf.

Weather in Colorado Springs generally was comfortable, clear and beautiful except for a freak cloud-bank and icy rain which enshrouded the course on Thursday and delayed the round of sixteen and quarter-finals. Although play started on time, the fog thickened steadily and three of the eight morning matches finally were suspended with two or three holes to play. The other five matches were played out by the players' choice despite the murk. Teh fog lifted enough to permit the three suspended matches to finish in early afternoon, however, and the quarter-finals, although delayed, were finished before dusk fell.

Similar delays due to fog were encountered at the Baltusrol Golf Club, Springfield, N.J., in 1946 and at the Knollwood Club, Lake Forest, Ill., in 1956.

The only matches which had to be carried over were the last few of the first round on Monday. Darkness falls early in Colorado, where there is no daylight saving time, and even though the first round was started at 7:30 A.M. they were cut off near the finish and had to complete their matches on Tuesday morning.

The losing quarter-finalists, in addition to Hyndman, were:

David (Spec) Goldman, 50, of Dallas, Texas, the runner-up in 1934, who lost to his fellow-townsmen Wysong, 3 and 1;

Charles W. Harrison, 28, of Atlanta, the current Georgia Champion, who bowed to Andrews, 1 down; and

Richard Yost, 29, of Portland, Ore., a member of the 1955 Walker Cup Team, who lost his clubs in a clubhouse fire just before the Championship but won five matches with a borrowed set before yielding to Nicklaus, 2 and 1.

On his unassuming way to the quarter-finals, Goldman beat Richard Crawford, 19, of El Dorado, Ark., and the University of Houston, the Southern Amateur Champion and National Collegiate Athletic Association Champion, 4 and 3; Roger T. McManus, of Cincinnati, Ohio, a semifinalist last year, 4 and 3; and E. Harvie Ward, Jr., of San Francisco, Cal., the 1955 and 1956 Champion, in the round of sixteen, 3 and 1.

Harrison and Yost both beat current Walker Cup players in the round of sixteen. Harrison defeated his fellow-Georgian, Thomas D. Aaron, of Gainesville, 4 and 2, and Yost stopped Dr. Frank M. (Bud) Taylor, of Pomona, Cal., 3 and 1.

Billy Joe Patton, of Morganton, N. C., another Walker Cup player and perennial favorite of the galleries, kept his supporters in high hopes through three rounds but fell in the fourth before 45-year-old Tom Draper, of Royal Oak, Mich., 4 and 3. Draper also took out Rep. Jack Westland, of Everett, Wash., the 1952 Champion, 1 up, in the third round, and equalled the best first-nine score of the week, a 32, in disposing of Ron Moore, of Denver, Colo., 4 and 2, in the second round.

Ward Wettlaufer, of Buffalo, N. Y., one of the four Whiz Kids of the Walker Cup team, was eliminated, 2 and 1, in the very first round by Robert W. Allen, of Pawtucket, R. I. Deane Beman, of Washington, D. C., another of the Whiz Kids and reigning British Amateur Champion, also lost his first match, after drawing a bye. Dee Replogle, of Oklahoma City, Okla., a solid veteran of 40 years, beat him with par golf, 4 and 3.

Among others who vanished from the competition in the hurly-burly of the first four rounds, during which the field was cut from 200 players to 16, were Dr. Edgar R. Updegraff, of Tucson, Ariz., the Western Amateur Champion, a 2 up victim of Robert A. Brue, of Milwaukee, Wis., in the first round; Brue himself, the national leader in sectional qualifying, a 4 and 3 victim of Richard Davies, of Pasadena, Cal., in the third round; William A. Wright, of Seattle, Wash., the USGA Public Links Champion and first Negro to play in the Amateur, a 2-and-1 victim of Robert W. Knowles, of Aiken, S. C., in the first round.

The oldest player once again was the smiling former champion, Charles Evans, Jr., of Chicago, who won in 1916 and 1920. Chick was 69 last July 18. This was his 47th consecutive Amateur; the string began at Cleveland, Ohio, in 1907. Since then he has played 91 matches, winning 57 and losing 34. The 34th loss came at Broadmoor when Don Hoenig, of Wethersfield, Conn., current New England Amateur Champion, beat him in the second round. Chick had received a first round bye.

Chick's return to Broadmoor was a sentimental occasion in another respect. He played in the exhibition which opened the original Broadmoor course on July 4, 1918.

The youngest player was Bob Littler, a 16-year-old high school boy from Athens, Ohio, who won his first-round match.

Broadmoor is used to entertaining and has outstanding facilities for it. The President of the Club, Thayer Tutt, and the General Chairman, L. B. (Bud) Maytag, displayed the ultimate in efficiency and hospitality, and the players responded with sincere and generous compliments. Everyone hopes to return another day.