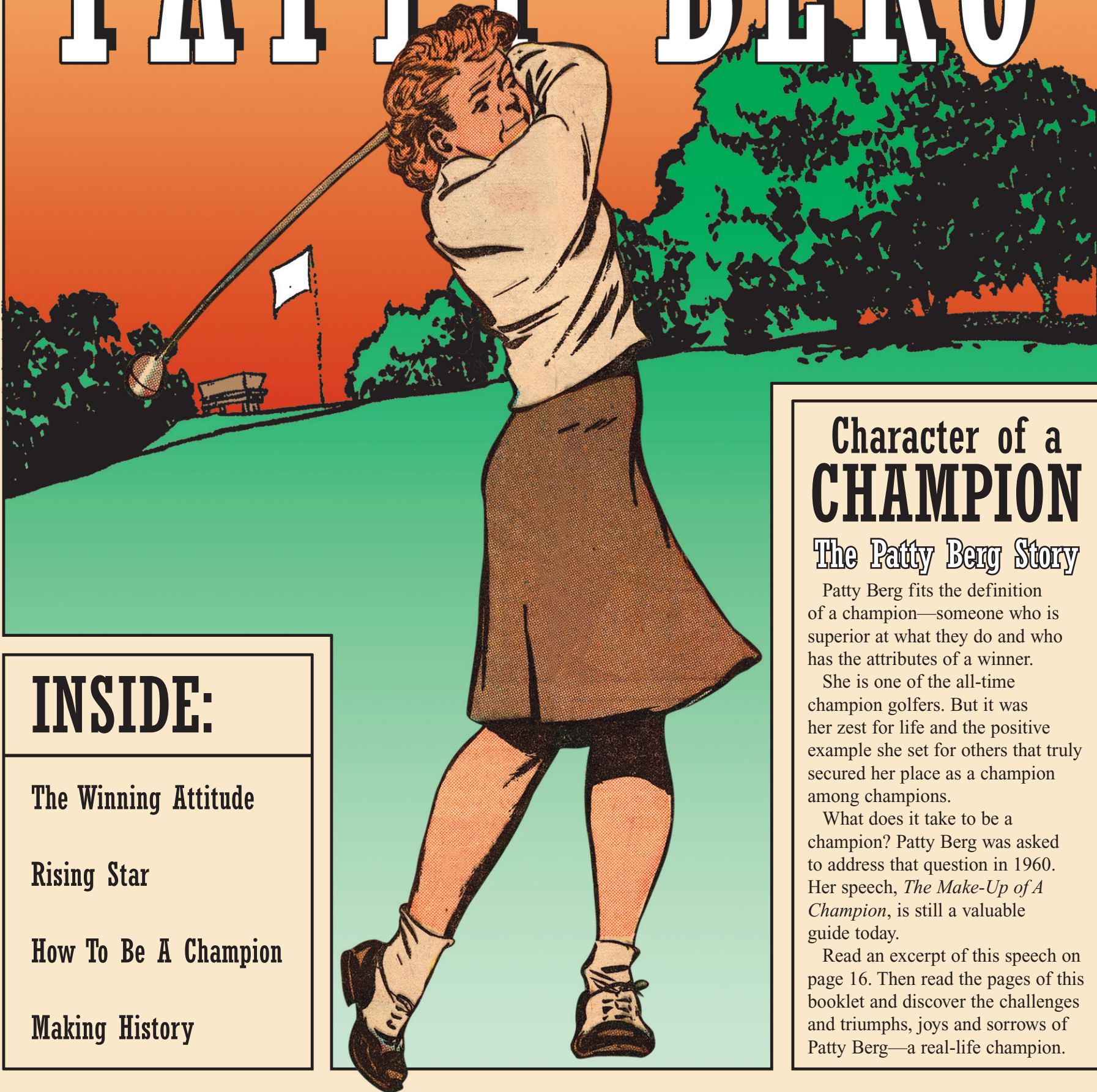


PATTY BERG



INSIDE:

The Winning Attitude

Rising Star

How To Be A Champion

Making History

Character of a CHAMPION

The Patty Berg Story

Patty Berg fits the definition of a champion—someone who is superior at what they do and who has the attributes of a winner.

She is one of the all-time champion golfers. But it was her zest for life and the positive example she set for others that truly secured her place as a champion among champions.

What does it take to be a champion? Patty Berg was asked to address that question in 1960. Her speech, *The Make-Up of A Champion*, is still a valuable guide today.

Read an excerpt of this speech on page 16. Then read the pages of this booklet and discover the challenges and triumphs, joys and sorrows of Patty Berg—a real-life champion.

PRESENTED BY:
United States Golf Association

USGA MUSEUM
ARNOLD PALMER CENTER FOR GOLF HISTORY

ROLEX

NEWSPAPER LOGO

Early Life



With a tradition of perfection, Rolex has been the ultimate symbol of performance and prestige for more than a century. Rolex is a timeless supporter of the game of golf, especially for women and juniors. I am honored to count Rolex as my personal partner, and proud that the company is sponsoring the USGA Museum's "Newspapers in Education" series. This unique series offers children the opportunity to enjoy inspiring stories of past USGA champions and the character they displayed. I hope that you will enjoy this particular story about Patty Berg, a true champion and an LPGA Founding Member. After all, golf is a game that teaches the importance of integrity, tradition, and character; values that we can apply to our own lives every day.

Follow your dreams!

Annika Sorenstam

C O N F I D E N C E

It didn't take long for Patty Berg, an extraordinary natural athlete, to make her mark as one of the greatest golfers of all time. Although she won more than 80 golf tournaments in her lifetime, including 15 major championships, it was Patty's genuine love for and dedication to the game, as well as her desire to give back to the world of golf, that made her unique. Known for her charismatic personality and warm spirit, Patty was respected and loved dearly by everyone who crossed her path, and it was this warmth, charisma and dedication that separated her from many other great golfers in history.

"Twenty-two!" shouted the young girl, not yet a teen, as she clutched a football in her hand and watched her all-male team run helter-skelter. Spotting an open teammate, she propelled the ball with power and uncanny accuracy. The young girl was Patricia Jane Berg. In a vacant lot behind her childhood home, she played football as the star quarterback with the neighborhood boys for a team called the "50th Street Tigers."

Born February 13, 1918, in Minneapolis, Minn., to Theresa and Herman Berg, Patty had two older sisters, Helen and Mary, and a younger brother, Herman Jr. Her father owned a grain company and had played semi-pro baseball, making Patty no stranger to athletics. Everyone liked Patty. The charming little redhead always had a cheerful smile on her freckled face. She loved football and for a time aspired to be a football player when she grew up — this when women



Patty was runner-up for the National Junior Speed Skating title in 1934.

didn't often play sports! Little did young Patty know that one day she would profoundly influence women's sports.

One day, after Patty ruined a new dress, her mother put an end to Patty's football playing. When she could no longer play football, she didn't waste any time and soon joined a famous speed-skating club called the Powder Horn Club and won medals competing in national championships. She later quit ice skating because she felt

she wasn't good enough, saying, "I lost too many races by a nose!" At John Burroughs Grammar School, Patty competed in baseball, hockey and track, setting a grammar school record for the 50-yard dash.

Favorite Sport

It wasn't until she was 13 years old that Patty found her true niche — golf. One day, her father caught her clumsily swinging one of his old golf clubs in the back yard and said, "How'd you like to put a golf ball in front of that swing?" To which Patty replied, "Gee, that'd be great!" Her father then offered to take her to Interlachen Country



The freckle-face, redhead Patty Berg started playing golf at the age of 13. She is photographed here at age 17 in 1935, the year she won the Minnesota State Championship and was runner-up in the U.S. Women's Amateur Championship.

“Patience and concentration and control and relaxation are all important. Those are the ingredients of a Champion.” — Patty Berg

Club to teach her how to play. He gave her four of his old clubs and cut down a 2-wood so it would fit her small frame.

He was always supportive of her athletic interests and encouraged her desire to play golf by telling her that she could be a great golfer if she practiced and studied the game. They spent many delightful hours together playing golf. At first, Patty had a tough time mastering the basics. Her first day on the course, she lost six golf balls, frequently hitting into the rough. Once, when in a bunker, Patty swung at the ball wildly and almost hit a golfer 30 yards away. But Patty did not get discouraged — her confidence and drive kept her going.

When she wasn't at the course, she would practice at home in any weather. Neighbors would walk by the Berg home and see a young girl bundled up in the dead of winter endlessly swinging golf clubs. It was unbearably cold outside, but that was Patty's choice. She was dedicated not to the belief that practice makes perfect ... but that perfect practice makes perfect!



Patty's first love was football. Bud Wilkinson, the captain of a neighborhood team—the 50th Street Tigers—made her the quarterback. The reason, he explained, was because she was the only one who could remember the signals. Apparently they never lost a game, only teeth.

Patty Taught Me

Bud Wilkinson, the captain of the 50th Street Tigers, eventually played football for the University of Oklahoma, and went on to become that school's head coach from 1947 to 1963. Wilkinson's teams compiled a spectacular .826 winning percentage and won three national championships. He would later introduce Patty to his team as “the girl who taught me to play football.”

TIMELINE: 1918-1932

1918: Born February 13, 1918, in Minneapolis

1930: Set track record (first athletic event she ever won) for 50-yard dash at John Burroughs Grammar School

1931: Takes up golf, takes lessons at Interlachen Country Club

Let's Talk It Over

What kinds of things did Patty do as a child that were not typical of girls her age?

Do you think self-confidence helped her to do these things?

What do you feel self-confident about in your life?

The Last Football Game

Patty's football career ended one afternoon when she ripped her brand-new dress in a rough after-school game with her brother and his friends. Her knees were bruised, her face was scratched, the pretty collar on her dress was torn and she couldn't even find the belt that went with it. Running home as fast as she could, Patty was determined to fix her

dress before her mother saw it, but her brother told her all of the sewing machines in the world wouldn't be able to fix it. Patty's mother was understandably upset when she saw the remains of the dress, since it was newly acquired. It was then that her parents decided she shouldn't play rough-and-tumble football anymore.

Find the two Pattys that look exactly the same.



Rising Star



in Patty's OWN Words

“I said to myself, ‘I’m going home and practicing for one year. I’m going to work and I’m going to work and I’m going to see if I can’t do better.’ And I worked and concentrated and took my lessons. Finally, a year later, I came back and I won that same Minneapolis championship.”

USE THE NEWSPAPER

DETERMINATION

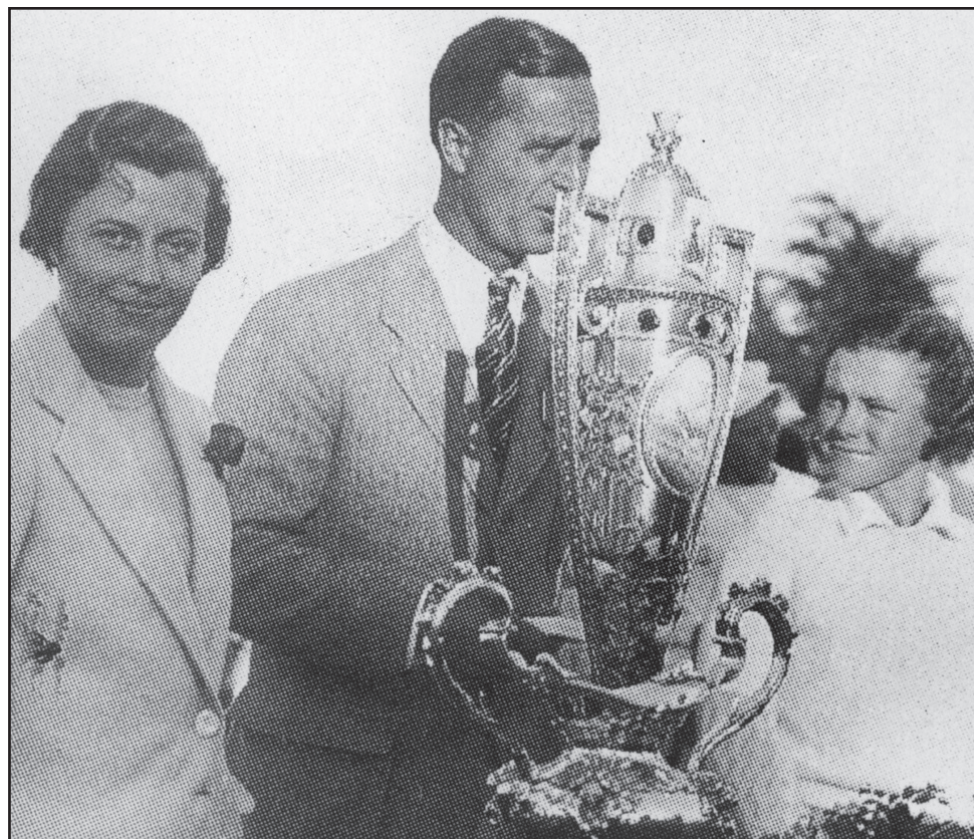
It took a lot of determination for Patty to practice golf every day. Find an article about a person who is successful. What kinds of things do you think this person had to do to become so successful? Create a timeline for one imaginary day in this person’s life. Look for at least one way you are the same as this person.

DETERMINATION

While teaching her the fundamentals of golf, Patty’s father recognized such tremendous potential in his daughter that he brought in some expert instructors to improve her game, including Les Bolstad, one of the nation’s best golf teachers. Bolstad fine-tuned Patty’s natural golf swing. She also learned how to make imaginative shots around the greens, something that would soon make her stand out from other players. It didn’t matter where the ball landed, Patty would come up with a creative way of making the shot work. Nothing could deter, defeat or distract her—she would figure out a way.

When Patty was 15, she qualified for her first amateur golf tournament, the Minneapolis Women’s City Championship. She lost by a large margin, racking up the highest score in the tournament, a run-and-hide 122. Instead of quitting, young Patty vowed never to play so poorly again. She decided she would practice every day of the year, even at night. She practiced at least an hour daily and if she played poorly, she practiced even more. Not only did she work on her game, but she concentrated on developing her determination, a never-give-up attitude and the will to win.

The hard work paid off in 1934 when she won the Minneapolis Women’s City Championship. As a reward, her father bought her a brand new set of golf clubs—10 irons and five woods. She cherished them so dearly she would line them against her bedroom wall before



In 1935, at her home club of Interlachen, Patty was runner-up to Glenna Collett Vare in the most important women’s golf tournament—the U.S. Women’s Amateur Championship. Patty had a never-give-up attitude and practiced diligently to improve her game.

going to sleep at night.

The following year, 17-year-old Patty won the Minnesota State Championship.

Sometimes Patty got nervous playing with some of the country’s finest golfers.

Once that summer, while playing in an exhibition with professionals Walter Hagen, John Revolta and Horton Smith, Patty was so nervous she couldn’t hit the ball straight, and repeatedly hit into the rough. To make matters worse, on the first nine holes, she hit five people in the crowd! Later, Patty admitted to reporters that she was so scared her freckles “seemed to be popping out.” Although Patty was discouraged, her mother’s

reassurances kept her going.

With renewed determination and relentless practice, Patty became more confident with her game and conquered her nerves.

Later that summer, Patty made it to the final of the U.S. Women’s Amateur Championship, the most important women’s golf tournament in the nation. She won five matches in a row, but was runner-up to Glenna Collett Vare, one of the finest female golfers of the 20th century. Patty and her father celebrated after the tournament with an ice cream cone. It was this championship that brought the charismatic young golfer to national attention. Thousands of spectators watched and took note of her phenomenal putting stroke. Putting was the best part of her game and if

“When I go to hit the ball, I tackle it.” — Patty Berg

The Winning Attitude

Patty disciplined herself both on and off the course. She ate a wholesome diet and got plenty of rest during tournaments by bedding down early. Above all, Patty had the right attitude. If she didn't win, she would admit her mistakes without making excuses, praise the winner and say, "I did the best I could."

Imagine that you just lost a game, got a bad grade or had a bad day. What would Patty Berg most likely say to you?

her way to becoming a true champion.

The Curtis Cup is the best-known team trophy for female amateur golfers, and is awarded to the winner of a competition between the top women golfers from America and from Great Britain and Ireland. The first Curtis Cup match was in 1932. Many women who have played on Curtis Cup teams have gone on to become professional golf stars.

she missed one, she would work harder and practice even more. Many fans said she stroked the ball as well as Bobby Jones.

In 1936, Patty putted well enough to finish in the winner's circle in five of the 12 tournaments she entered. She was also selected to play on the USA Curtis Cup team by the United States Golf Association, with Glenna Collett Vare serving as the team captain. Eighteen-year-old Patty Berg was on

TIMELINE: 1933-1936

- 1933: Qualified for first tournament; the Minneapolis Women's City Championship**
- 1934: Won Minneapolis City Championship**
- 1935: Won Minnesota Women's Amateur Championship**
- 1936: Won five tournaments: Champion of Champions, Helen Lee Doherty Championship, Minnesota Women's Amateur Championship, Mason and Dixon International, Equinox International**

Member of USA Curtis Cup team



Patty Berg was a great favorite among the caddies. Here she's surrounded by caddies seeking autographs after she advanced to the quarterfinals in the 1938 U.S. Women's Amateur Championship. She went on to win the championship.

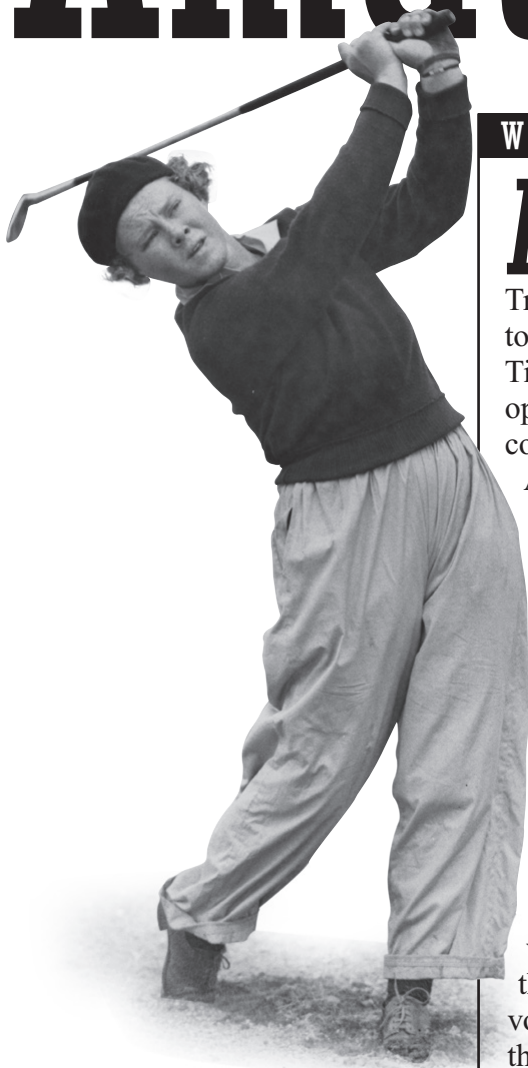
Let's Talk It Over

It took hours and hours of practice for Patty to become a star athlete. What incidents in her early life are examples of her determination to become the best golfer she could?

Think about a dream or goal you have for yourself. What steps can you take to achieve your goal or make your dream come true?

Which one of these steps could you start working on today?

Amateur Years



W I L L T O W I N

At the age of 19, Patty said her ambition was to “make the very best out of life that I can.” True to her ambition, she won four tournaments in 1937, including the Titleholders, a major championship open to professionals. Again she competed in the U.S. Women’s Amateur Championship but lost to Estelle Lawson Page in the finals. She was so nervous during that tournament that she could barely hold a club. By making the best out of life, Patty took this as a learning experience from which she could grow. She practiced with renewed resolve and the following year beat Page in the final match of the U.S. Women’s Amateur. That year she won 10 of the 13 tournaments she entered, was again elected a member of the USA Curtis Cup team, and was voted Woman Athlete of the Year by the Associated Press. Patty was also made an honorary lifetime member at Interlachen Country Club. Once again, her hard work paid off.

In the fall of 1938, Patty enrolled at the University of Minnesota to study business. She practiced golf in the afternoon and studied at night. Sometimes she missed school for tournaments, but still maintained her studies. Being an avid athlete, and remembering her childhood days as a star quarterback, Patty was one of the football team’s biggest fans. She played softball with a women’s team, frequently hitting home runs. Just as in her



At age 20, on her fourth attempt and with a record score, Patty won the coveted United States Women’s Amateur trophy at Westmoreland Country Club, Willamette, Illinois. She won ten titles during that same year, 1938.

childhood, people continued to love the blue-eyed, curly-haired redhead. She was quite popular in school.

Thanks to many hours of practice, in 1939 Patty won six tournaments, including her third

Titleholders Championship. She spent endless hours eagerly practicing and studying her swing. To Patty, practicing was as much fun as playing, and through her years of practice and hard work, she developed grace, timing and rhythm. She was just as careful with her swing during practice as she was in a tournament. By now she had attracted a fan base that loved her. She always had a pleasant grin for the crowd and never became angry. If she was frustrated or disappointed after hitting a bad shot, she would shout, “Patricia!” and never use inappropriate language.

Tough Times

Later that year, Patty was faced with a series of unexpected hardships. A month before the 1939 U.S. Women’s Amateur, she had her appendix removed. Since she could not play in the championship, she was unable to defend her title.

On Christmas day, Patty’s mother passed away. Like her father, Patty’s mother had been a source of support and encouragement throughout her life. Although these were difficult challenges, Patty was able to face and overcome them, knowing her mother would have wanted her to keep playing.

Patty won only two tournaments in 1940, the last she would win before turning professional.

Patty is the one getting a ride during heavy rainfall at the Trans-Mississippi Women’s Amateur. The rain certainly did not seem to dampen her spirits.



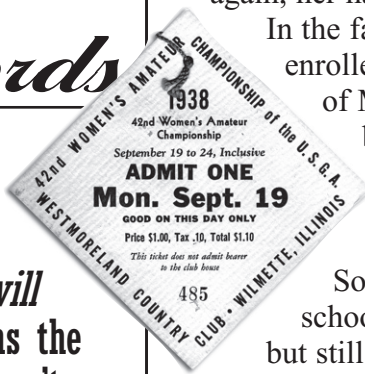
in Patty’s OWN Words

“The wish to win is not enough to make a champion. It is the will to win. The will turns the dreams to reality. I can’t stress this too much.”

USE THE NEWSPAPER

THE WILL TO WIN

Patty’s road to success started out with challenges. Find an article about a person who is facing challenges in his or her life. Identify the challenges and write a suggestion for overcoming each one.



“The mental side of golf is just as important as the physical side. It’s very important that we swing within ourselves, play within ourselves and think within ourselves.” – Patty Berg

Golfing to Help

As an amateur, Patty won 28 tournaments. Equally remarkable is that during her eight years as an amateur, Patty played every Saturday and Sunday in a hometown charity exhibition at her father’s request. She never forgot her father’s concern for



Patty takes time out on the practice tee to read a Happy Birthday telegram.

humankind, and helping charities was something that remained with her for the rest of her life. Patty once said, “Like my mother, my dad was super and terrific. He, too, helped and encouraged me. In fact, my whole family was a tremendous support to me — as were my friends, the golfing public, and the golf news media.”

Scorecard Math

Can you find the scores missing from the empty boxes on the scorecard? What are the total scores?* Were the scores above or below par? Which player won the match?

HOLES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	OUT	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	IN	TOTALS
YARDAGE	442	293	550	214	441	325	140	417	390	3212	356	163	375	375	181	346	414	331	411	2952	6164
PAR	5	4	5	4	5	4	3	5	5	40	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	4	5	36	76
Player 1	4	4	5	5	<input type="text"/>	6	4	6	5	44	4	3	3	5	5	<input type="text"/>	5	3	6	39	<input type="text"/>
Player 2	5	4	<input type="text"/>	3	4	6	4	4	5	35	6	3	4	4	3	4	5	<input type="text"/>	5	34	<input type="text"/>

GREAT BRITAIN							UNITED STATES																				
Caddy Number							Caddy Number																				
1.	MISS JESSIE ANDERSON	8.	MISS PATRICIA BERG	2.	MISS NAN BAIRD	9.	MISS CHARLOTTE GLUTTING	3.	MISS ELSIE CORLETT	10.	MISS KATHRYN HEMPHILL	4.	MRS. A. M. HOLM	11.	MISS MARION MILEY	5.	MISS CLARRIE TIERNAN	12.	MISS MAUREEN ORCUTT	6.	MISS PHYLLIS WADE	13.	MRS. JULIUS A. PAGE, JR.	7.	MRS. J. B. WALKER	14.	MRS. EDWIN H. VARE, JR.
CAPTAIN - MANAGER — MRS. WALLACE WILLIAMSON							NON-PLAYING CAPTAIN — MISS FRANCES E. STEBBINS																				

* The scores are subtotaled in the “OUT” and “IN” columns. Do not add these numbers to the totals.



With concentration and determination, Patty checks the surface of the green before lining up a putt at the Trans-Mississippi Women’s Amateur in San Antonio, Texas.

TIMELINE: 1937-1940

1937: Won Titleholders, Helen Lee Doherty, Palm Beach Championship, Aiken Invitational

1938: Won Titleholders, Helen Lee Doherty, South Atlantic, Mid-South, Trans-Mississippi, Minnesota Women’s Amateur, U.S. Women’s Amateur Championships, Western Derby, Women’s Western Amateur; Member of USA Curtis Cup Team; Woman Athlete of the Year

1939: Won Titleholders, 3rd Helen Lee Doherty, South Atlantic, Florida East Coast, Mid-South, Trans-Mississippi Championships

1940: Won Helen Lee Doherty, Mid-Florida Championships

Let’s Talk It Over

While Patty was a confident person, she sometimes got nervous. She also did not win every tournament. Yet she did not give up.

Do you think champions win every time they compete?

Have you ever messed up or lost in a game? How did you feel?

What do you think Patty would say to you?

How To Be 1



Comic Book Hero | By 1945, Patty Berg was a national hero and an inspirational role model for children to follow. Sh

PAGE 1: LT. PATRICIA BERG, USMCR — A NEW TITLE FOR A COURAGEOUS, SPORTS-LOVING PATTY BERG WHO HAS MADE GOLF HISTORY.

AT THIRTEEN, PATTY COULD BE FOUND ALMOST ANY AFTERNOON IN A MINNEAPOLIS PLAYGROUND.

“Got it ... oops!”

“I have to go home now fellows. See you tomorrow.”

“Okay, Patty.”

“What a tomboy she is!”

PAGE 2: FIVE MINUTES LATER ...

“Son, here’s your membership card for the golf club.”

“Hi, everybody!”

“Patricia Berg! You’ve torn your clothes again playing football! What am I going to do with you?”

“I’ve a suggestion, Mom ...

“Tell dad to get me a golf club membership and some clubs, and I’ll switch from football to golf.”

“That’s an idea, Herman! Golf will be easier on her clothes.”

“All right, Patty. You win! I’ll get you a membership card and clubs tomorrow!”

THREE YEARS LATER, IN 1935 ...

“The Minnesota State Golf Championship Title was won today by seventeen-year-old Patty Berg, who shows plenty of promise.”

LATER THAT YEAR, PATTY ENTERED THE NATIONAL WOMEN’S AMATEUR TOURNAMENT. THE FAMOUS GLENNA VARE DEFEATED HER.

“You didn’t win Patty, but you played a fine game.”

PAGE 3: IN THE 1937 WOMEN’S NATIONAL, PATTY PLAYED AGAINST ESTELLE LAWSON PAGE, AND LOST AGAIN!

“Patty, you dope!”

IN 1938, WHEN PATTY AGAIN FACED MRS. PAGE ...

A Champion



"Patty Berg" was originally published in the January/February 1945 issue of True Comics.

She was featured in a special-edition comic book telling her story. Read the text of the comic below.

"Imagine ... Twenty years old, and she's National Women's Golf Champion!"

TWO YEARS LATER, PATTY LEFT THE AMATEUR RANKS.

"My firm will pay you a weekly salary to travel around and speak to schools about golf."

"It's a deal!"

DEC.. 8, 1941, ON THE ROAD TO PALESTINE, TEXAS ...

A SMASH-UP!

"It's Patty Berg, the golf star!"

"Patty you dope! Get hold of yourself!"

PATTY CAME OUT OF THE ACCIDENT WITH A LACERATED JAW, A BROKEN LEFT KNEE AND GRIM PROSPECTS AS A CRIPPLED ATHLETE BUT PATTY DID "GET HOLD!"

PAGE 4: SHE TRAINED AS A BOXER TRAINS. SHE WALKED, BICYCLED, PUNCHED THE BAG FOR TIMING, AND RESHAPED HER GOLF GAME.

IN JULY, 1943, PATTY MADE HER COMEBACK! LIMPING, USING HER CLUBS AS WALKING STICKS, SHE WON THE WOMEN'S WESTERN TITLE.

SEVERAL WEEKS LATER, PATTY GAVE SPORTS WRITERS SOME NEWS.

"No more golf for me for a while, boys! There's more important work to be done — from now on, I'm strictly a marine!"

AT CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA, ON NOVEMBER 17, 1945 ...

"You have been commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marines. Congratulations!"

"BE A MARINE — FREE A MARINE TO FIGHT!" THAT'S THE SLOGAN OF THE WOMEN MARINES AND THAT'S WHY GOLF WILL HAVE TO TAKE SECOND PLACE WITH PATTY BERG UNTIL THE WAR IS WON.

Turning Pro



COURAGE

Having won virtually every amateur tournament available at the time, Patty was approached by the Wilson Sporting Goods Company to turn professional. When Wilson first offered her a contract, Patty was not interested in the amount of money she could earn, but rather how much she would be able

to contribute to the improvement of women's golf. Upon accepting the company's offer and turning professional, Patty joined Wilson's advisory staff and began hosting golf clinics and exhibitions — something she would do tirelessly for the rest of her life.

When not organizing exhibitions, the 5-foot-1 powerhouse entered golf tournaments. At that time, there were only five female professional golfers and only three tournaments available to them: the Titleholders, the Women's Western Open and the Asheville Invitational. In 1941, Patty won the Women's Western Open, her first professional



Patty called Babe Didrikson Zaharias her friend. They shared not only their love of golf but also a great sense of humor. They made golf history by forming the LPGA—Ladies' Professional Golf Association.

Harbor, Patty was faced with another life-changing hardship. While driving with a friend from Texas to Memphis, Tenn., to play in a British War Relief exhibition, she was involved in a serious head-on car accident. Patty was thrown into the windshield and fractured her left knee in three places. At first, Patty thought this would be the end of her golfing career, but because of her indomitable courage, she mustered the will to do whatever it might take to overcome this challenge.

When her cast was finally removed, she was unable to bend her knee properly and would ultimately regain only 75 percent of its use. After a year of recuperation and intensive therapy, she went to Mobile, Ala., to work out with boxer Tommy Littleton every day at his gym. Through her tireless commitment, Patty was able to return to top physical condition.

She bicycled to build strength and agility and punched a punching bag to regain timing. Patty did whatever it took to keep playing the game she loved so dearly, and she succeeded. "After working with Tommy for about six months, I was back home and coming along fine."

in Patty's OWN Words

"The mental side of golf is so important: Emotions, desire, attitude. You must have control of them. You've got to play one golf shot at a time — just like you live one day at a time."

USE THE NEWSPAPER

COURAGE

Patty Berg displayed courage during her recovery from her automobile accident and she inspired people with her hard work to get herself back in shape to play golf. When war was declared, she enlisted, displaying the courage to serve her country.

Newspapers have many examples of courage — from soldiers serving their country to individuals helping one another. Find an article about a person you think displays courage. Summarize the article in a paragraph and present it to your class as an oral report.

tournament, and donated her first-prize money to charity. The 23-year-old went on to win both the Asheville Open and the Lake Champlain Invitational.

Automobile Accident

On Dec. 8, 1941, just one day after Pearl

Patty's Comeback

In July 1943 — after an 18-month recovery — Patty made her



“I never look backward or sideways. I look straight ahead.” – Patty Berg

comeback in the Women’s Western Open, shooting a 76, winning the qualifying medal and four matches in a row! In the final match she was three down on the 31st hole, but before teeing off that morning, the courageous Patty had said she would never give up. She won the next four holes and pulled ahead with a birdie on the 35th hole to win the tournament. That same year, she won the Women’s All-American Open as well. Honoring her comeback, Patty was voted the Woman Athlete of the Year for the second time by the Associated Press.



Patty was a great patriot and felt it her duty to sign up and help the war effort. She served as a recruiting officer.

Service to Country

War was declared in 1941. In 1943, Patty enlisted in the Marine Corps Women’s Reserve and went to Officers’ Training School. Because she had always been a woman of service, it was only natural for her to serve her country. Committed to her golf game, she still practiced daily. In 1944, she won the Pro-Lady Victory National Tournament paired with Johnny Revolta, and in 1945 First Lt. Patty Berg received an honorable discharge from the Marines. She went on to win the All-American Open for the second time that same year.

TIMELINE: 1940-1945

- 1940:** Turned professional and joined the Wilson Sporting Goods women’s advisory staff
- 1941:** Won Western Open, Asheville Open, Lake Champlain Invitational Open
- 1943:** Made her comeback winning her second Women’s Western Open, All-American Open; Voted Woman Athlete of the Year for the second time
- 1943:** Enlisted in Marine Corps Women’s Reserve
- 1944:** Won Pro-Lady Victory National Tournament, paired with Johnny Revolta
- 1945:** Received honorable discharge from Marine Corps, rank of first lieutenant
- 1945:** Won second All-American Open

Directions

Read about Patty in this booklet and then answer the questions to complete the crossword puzzle.

SKATING
INTERLACHEN
FOUR
MINNESOTA
CURTIS
SKIRT
BUSINESS
DREAM
BEST
WILSON
BOXER
BABE
CLINICS
PRESIDENT
CHARITY

Across

- 2. How many old clubs did her father give Patty when she first started to play?
- 4. _____ CUP The name of the trophy for which the American women’s amateur team played against the Great Britain and Ireland amateur women’s team.
- 5. Patty would make her fans laugh at these events.
- 8. Most women wore these when playing golf in the earlier days.
- 9. At which country club did Patty first play?
- 10. “Do your _____, no matter what.” Fill in the missing word from Patty’s quote.
- 11. When the Ladies Professional Golf Association was formed, Patty was the first one of these.
- 13. Tommy Littleton helped Patty recover from a knee injury—what was his job?

Down

- 1. What did Patty study at the University of Minnesota?
- 3. Patty won this state championship when she was seventeen.
- 5. Patty’s father believed in helping others and at his request, Patty played hometown _____ exhibitions every Saturday and Sunday.
- 6. Before golf, Patty was good at this.
- 7. Which sporting goods company did Patty represent as a professional golfer?
- 10. This was the first name of Patty’s friend.
- 12. Patty thought to do this was “one of the greatest things in life.”

Let’s Talk It Over

How did Patty demonstrate courage after her automobile accident? What do you think she did that inspired people? What can we learn from her example? Do you think it is possible to develop courage without challenges?

Making History



in *Patty's* OWN Words

“Through these clinics and exhibitions, I feel I can give something back by helping other people with their game of golf. And we have humor in our golf show. So if I can get them to play a little better, or if I can put a smile on people’s faces and joy in their hearts, that makes me feel just super.”

USE THE NEWSPAPER

OPTIMISM

Patty Berg believed an optimistic attitude was key to becoming a champion. Look through the newspaper for a headline that you think is negative. Using antonyms, rewrite the headline so that it says something optimistic.

O P T I M I S M

After leaving the Marines, Patty returned to golf. She was one of the most popular golfers alive at this time. Fans cheered her along everywhere she played.

After years of a world war, the country was eager for the optimism

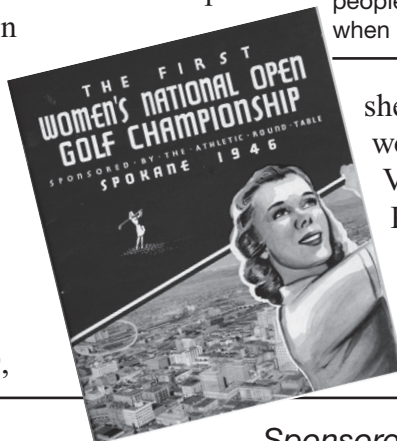
and inspiration Patty represented. In 1946, Patty won four tournaments, including the very first United States Women’s Open.

Her positive thinking and skill helped her win three tournaments in 1947 and again in 1948, all the while touring the country, visiting schools and speaking to young people about golf. At the clinics, her positive attitude provided encouragement and her boisterous humor provided laughs. “You’ve heard Mark Twain’s definition of golf, haven’t you?” she’d ask. When no one answered, she’d respond, “He called it ‘a good walk spoiled.’”

In 1948 she won her fourth Titleholders Championship and her third Women’s Western Open. Always wanting to encourage women’s golf, she donated without hesitation her \$500 earnings from the Western Open to the Women’s Professional Golf Association to promote junior golf among girls.

Changing Women’s Professional Golf

Patty was determined to improve and strengthen professional golf for women, and through her optimistic attitude she achieved her dream. In January 1949,



While traveling the country for tournaments, Patty gave clinics and often talked to young people about golf. “I enjoy these golf shows because I love people and I love golf. Even when I played competitive golf ... I always took some time out to put on golf shows.”

she would change professional women’s golf forever. At the Venetian Hotel in Miami, Fla., Patty met with good friend and fellow professional golfer Babe Zaharias, Babe’s husband, George, and Babe’s manager, Fred Corcoran.

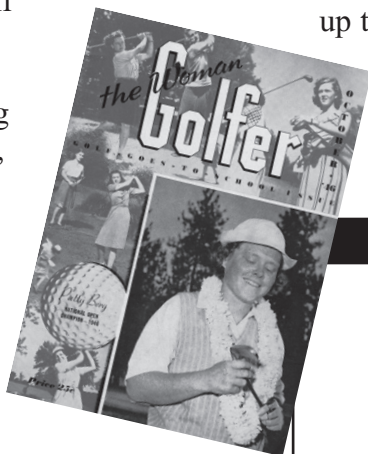
Together, with the financial backing of Wilson Sporting Goods, they reorganized the pro tour for women and renamed the group the Ladies’ Professional Golf Association (LPGA). Patty was elected its first president, holding the title for four years. With Patty’s perseverance and

“Don’t rush, and play one shot at a time just like you live one day at a time. And don’t think beyond the ball. The minute you think beyond the ball, that’s when you see all the trouble.” – Patty Berg

the help of her friends, women’s professional golf quickly went from a mere three tournaments to nine.

In spite of the hard work and commitment it took to organize the LPGA, Patty still found the time to play in tournaments. That same year, 1949, at age 31, Patty opened her tournament campaign by winning the Tampa Open, then went on to win two more competitions and took the runner-up position in the World Championship. Because of her outstanding play, the *Los Angeles Times* voted Patty the Woman Golfer of the Year. The following year she won four tournaments and was elected into the U.S. Women’s Golf Hall of Fame.

In 1951, during the Weathervane tournament, she beat her dear friend Babe Didrikson Zaharias in a 36-hole playoff by one stroke, finishing with a 146. By winning that tournament, she became captain of the Weathervane International women’s team, a team that toured Great Britain playing teams of all-female or all-male golfers.



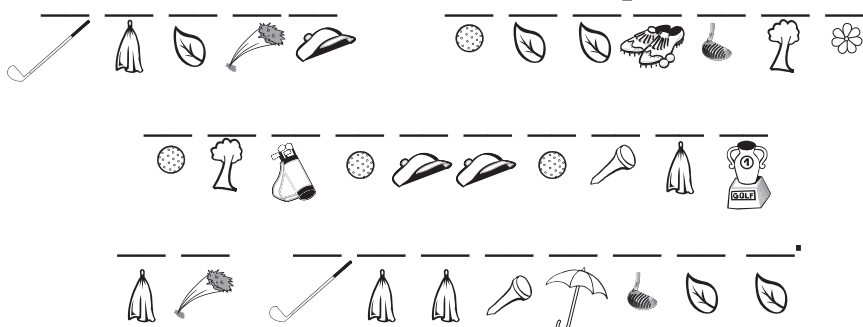
On April 26, 1952, during the Richmond Open, Patty set two world records for women, shooting a 30 for nine holes and 64 for 18: records that stood for 12 years.

Patty recognized that everyone had strengths, but knew it was up to the individual to develop these talents and not be discouraged by what was lacking. “Not everybody is going to be the longest

driver. Not everybody is going to be the greatest bunker player, or the greatest 2- or 3-iron player, or the greatest putter,” Patty said. “Take what you have and make it better.” Her winning attitude and optimism enabled her to make history,

Use the code to find the answer.

Patty's great contributions to the game of golf earned her the title of:



R -	W -	A -	M -	B -
F -	L -	G -	E -	D -
T -	S -	I -	O -	

U.S. Women’s Open

The first U.S. Women’s Open in 1946 was started by Hope Seignious, who founded the Women’s Professional Golf Association (WPGA) in 1944. Its grueling format consisted of 36 holes of qualifying rounds, then 18-hole matches with a 36-hole semifinal and a 36-hole final.

TIMELINE: 1946-1952

- 1946: Won N. Calif. Medal Tournament, N. Calif., Pebble Beach, & U.S. Women’s Opens
- 1947: Won N. Calif. Women’s, & Pebble Beach Opens, N. Calif. Medal Tournament
- 1948: Won Titleholders, Women’s Western, & Hardscrabble Opens
- 1949: Won Tampa, Women’s Texas, & Hardscrabble Opens
- 1950: Won Orlando Mixed Two-Ball, Eastern, Sunset Hills, & Hardscrabble Opens
- 1951: Won two Weathervane Women’s Opens, Weathervane Women’s Open Playoff, Sandhills & Women’s Western Opens
- 1952: Won & set two world records at Richmond Open, won New Orleans, & New York Weathervane Opens

Let’s Talk It Over

What things did Patty say and do that show her optimism?
 How do you think her optimistic attitude made her so popular?
 Are there some things in your life that seem negative? How could you look at those things in a positive or optimistic way?

Years of Accomplishment

“Well into her senior years, Patty’s enthusiasm and achievements continued. She made numerous public appearances. Many were to accept the awards she so richly deserved, but others were to spread the word about the game she loved. Patty Berg died in 2006 at the age of 83. As a symbol of sportsmanship, athletic ability, faith and charity, she left a void that will never be filled.” –Rhonda Glenn, women’s golf historian

S P O R T S M A N S H I P

Use the timeline to answer the following questions:

1. In her lifetime, Patty was inducted into 12 halls of fame. How many was she inducted into between 1953 and 2006?
2. List the names of the awards Patty was given in the 1980s.
3. In what year was the Patty Berg Charity Golf Classic established?
4. Patty was the first woman to give golf clinics in which country?
5. In what year did the LPGA create the Patty Berg Award?
6. Patty faced and overcame several challenges during these years, what were they?



Her Father Influenced a Lifetime of Giving: Patty’s father instilled in her the importance of giving back to the game of golf. She fondly recalled him telling her, “There’s one thing I want you to know. If you’re going to play golf and travel and have everything great and wonderful, you must share it with other people. That was the sentence ... you must share. He said that the minute I forgot about sharing that he didn’t want me to play anymore.”

in Patty's OWN Words

“I think the greatest thing in life is to be able to dream, to have great aspirations. But I think it is equally important that you can have a will that can turn that dream into reality.”

USE THE NEWSPAPER

SPORTSMANSHIP

Patty Berg was recognized for her sportsmanship on and off the course. Find 10 words in today’s newspaper that describe Patty’s sportsmanship. Use these words to write a paragraph about sportsmanship.

TIMELINE: 1953 — 2006

1953: Won Jacksonville Open, 5th Titleholders, New Orleans Open, Reno Open, 3rd All-American Open, World Championship, tied for Phoenix Weathervane

Won Vare Trophy, voted Woman Athlete of the Year by the Associated Press, voted Woman Professional Golfer of the Year by the *Los Angeles Times*

Won Vare Trophy, voted Most Outstanding Woman Athlete of the Year by Minnesota Sports Writers

1954: Won Orlando Mixed Two-Ball with Pete Cooper, Triangle Round Robin, 2nd World Championship, Ardmore Open

Elected into Helms Foundation Hall of Fame

1955: Won St. Petersburg Women’s Open, 6th Titleholders, 5th Women’s Western Open, 3rd World Championship, Clock Open, 4th All-American Open



1956: Won Dallas Open, Arkansas Open; Vare Trophy, Kappa Kappa Gamma Alumnae achievement award

1957: Won Havana Open, 7th Titleholders, 6th Women’s Western Open, 5th All-American Open, 4th World Championship

1958: Won 7th Women’s Western Open, American Open; First woman elected and inducted into Minnesota Sports Hall of Fame

1959: Received William Richardson Award, Women’s Golf Personality Award of the Year; Scored first ever hole-in-one at U.S. Women’s Open Championship

14 Character of a Champion: Patty Berg

Sponsored by Rolex

NEWSPAPER LOGO HERE

“I have the same spirit, the same drive, the same enthusiasm, the same love for the game and for people that I’ve always had. I’m very happy.” –Patty Berg

1960: Won 2nd American Open

1961: Elected and inducted into Florida Sports Hall of Fame, made Honorary Life Member of two more country clubs

1962: Won Muskegee Open; First woman to give golf clinics in Japan

Patty’s father, Herman, dies

1963: Conducted clinics and exhibitions throughout Great Britain and Europe; Received Bob Jones Award for sportsmanship from the USGA, Boston Achievement Award

1966: Honorary chairman of 1966 U.S. Women’s Open Championship; Honorary life member of Hazeltine National Golf Club in Minnesota

1969: Patty Berg Golf Classic (LPGA) established

1971: Cancer surgery

1972: American Golf Hall of Fame

1974: World Golf Hall of Fame; Made honorary life member of two more clubs

1975: Received Frank Leahy Golf Award, Joe Graffis Award, Ben Hogan Award; Churchman’s Sports Hall of Fame, All-American Collegiate Golf Hall of Fame; St. Paul Jaycees Ladies Golf Tournament renamed “Patty Berg Golf Classic”

1976: First woman to receive humanitarian sportsman’s award of the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Westchester County

1979: Received City of Hope Special Victor Award; LPGA created the Patty Berg Award

1980: Hip replacement surgery

Elected and inducted into the Women’s Sports Hall of Fame

1983: Selected as one of the five most influential women in golf by *Golf Digest*; Received Role Model Award from the Older Women’s League, Courage Award from the St. Paul-Minneapolis Minute Men

1984: Outstanding Professional Athlete Award of Sports Society; Presented on Honor Roll of Distinguished Good Neighbors

1985: Established the Patty Berg Charity Golf Classic

1986: Received Old Tom Morris Award, the highest honor Golf Course Superintendents Association of America offered

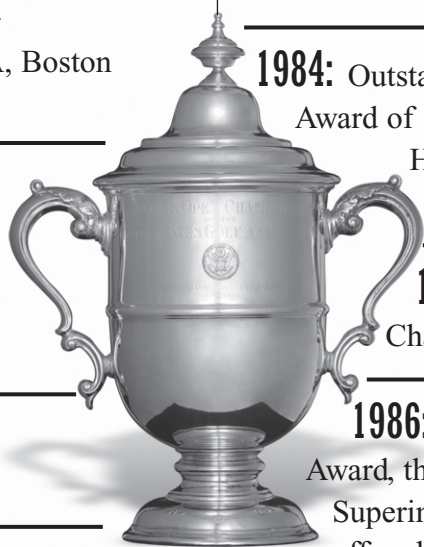
1988: Selected as one of the 100 Golf Heroes by *Golf Magazine*

1989: First recipient of Spirit of Golf Award

1990: Received Patty Berg Award from LPGA; Marked her 50th year as a golf professional and representative of Wilson Sporting Goods Co.

2006: Professional and representative of Wilson Sporting Goods Co.

Died September 10 from complications of Alzheimer’s



Comedic Routines

Patty’s dedication to golf went far beyond playing tournaments. She hosted clinics and exhibitions worldwide and was known for her solid golf knowledge as well as comedic routines and silly costumes. She discovered humor was a healthy addition to her clinics in 1921 when she accidentally stumbled over some clubs during an exhibition that prompted a huge laugh from the crowd. Patty was ever-enthusiastic and filled with boundless energy. She maintained a quick wit and a genuine warmth for others. These were her trademarks, and she was repeatedly recognized for them throughout her storied career. But in 1963 one award topped all the others. In that year, Patty received the USGA’s highest honor recognizing the golfer who embodied distinguished sportsmanship and good will: the Bob Jones Award.

Let’s Talk It Over

When she lost, Patty made a point of congratulating her opponent. She became good friends with many of her competitors. Why do you think she is admired for that? Is being a champion just about winning?

The Make-Up of A Champion

by Patty Berg

I have found that there are certain basic qualities and characteristics you absolutely must have to become a winner and a champion, and here is what I sincerely believe:

I believe you've got to have the *will* to win and not merely the *wish* to win.

And while this *will to win* is so important in all aspects of life and our American lifestyles, it is the most important ingredient that *must* prevail in the thinking of every athlete.

I think the greatest thing in life is to be able to dream, to have great aspirations. But I think it is equally important that you can have a *will* that can turn that dream into reality.

I also believe if you are going to be great in sports — or life in general — you must have something else. You've got to have *inspiration*. You show me someone who has no inspiration and I'll show you someone as



good as dead. Show me someone with no challenges, no goals, no great inspiration, and I'll show you someone who won't make anything in life.

You've got to be inspired. Let some great thing pull you up. In living, let some goal, some great ideal: a great coach, some close friend, a minister or a priest ... let almighty *God* inspire you *up to the heights* to "catch a vision of what you can be."

I don't think you really win until you *live up to that high ideal within you* that tells you "Do your best, no matter what." That is so important ... "Do your best" ... do your very best. Because the

essential thing in life is not conquering but fighting well. This does not mean that you won't conquer. It doesn't mean that you won't find victory. It simply means that when you do your best ... your very best ... you find the deepest kind of triumph, the deepest kind of victory.

And it is positively vital that you never give up. A champion never gives up, he refuses to give up no matter what the circumstances may be.

A champion has a heart that refuses to *falter*, *refuses to skip a beat*. The quality of spirit that cannot be beaten, no matter what happens, the soul to carry him through.

It's that *top-class quality* that makes a champion in athletics, it's that refusal to let down, that refusal to give up.

It's that resolve in the mind to go on, no matter what may happen. I've come to believe that it is necessary in life, too. I don't care what avenue of life you're walking, you've got to have this *mental attitude*.



Patty Berg Swing Parade History: United States Women's Open

The Patty Berg Swing Parade, a clinic featuring great champions, was reinstated at the 1995 U.S. Women's Open on the 50th anniversary of the championship and has been a popular feature ever since.

The Swing Parade began in the early 1950s. Patty Berg, the consummate performer and the first U.S. Women's Open champion, hosted the clinics. Patty would enlist about a dozen players to hit golf shots in a clinic in which she would serve as the moderator. While the players amazed spectators with their golf shots, Berg's great showmanship and comedic talents carried the day.

Berg continued these performances until she retired from competition in the mid-1960s.

When the USGA celebrated the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Women's Open in 1995 at the Broadmoor Golf Club in Colorado Springs, Patty Berg was asked to again host her Swing Parade. She agreed and it was a great hit, attracting nearly 1,000 people. Patty told jokes and hit a few balls while all of the past champions hit shots.

The Swing Parade was such a success that it has been staged at every Women's Open since. After Patty's death in 2006, it was determined that the event would be called The Patty Berg Swing Parade in her memory. Kathy Whitworth, who has won 84 official LPGA tournaments, serves as the moderator. Participating players have included pioneers of women's golf Peggy Kirk Bell and Marilyn Smith as well as modern champions Pat Bradley, Sandra Haynie and Betsy King.

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Fairway, "Interview: Patty Berg." Official Publication of the LPGA, 1989

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"Patty Berg's Clinic" Country Club Golfer. February, 1980

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Page 16: Her speech, "The Make-Up of a Champion."

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