

USGA®

CHARACTER OF A CHAMPION:

# WOMEN WINNING FREEDOM ON THE FAIRWAYS





1890 – 1900

# Women Discover the Joy of Golf

Today we know that exercise is good for everyone’s health – boys and girls, men and women. As such, women have the freedom to participate in sports. With hard work, determination, and a healthy dose of the competitive spirit, they push the boundaries of what is possible. Why? Because of a love and enthusiasm for sports!

In the late 1800s, only about 100 women in the United States played golf.

But that was not always the case.

Imagine being told that you can’t do something you love to do. Or that you are forced to wear clothing that makes it hard to do what you love to do. Or that you can’t find anyone to join you in your favorite activity.

How would you feel? Frustrated? Lonely? Sad? Angry?

Then you know how many women felt in the early years of golf.

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### Attention Teachers!

The FREE teacher guide for *Character of a Champion: Women Winning Freedom on the Fairways* is available as a PDF file. To get your copy please call the Museum at (908) 234-2300.

## ENTHUSIASM



Since the late 1800s, opportunities for women to play golf have grown immensely. Today, millions of women of all ages and from all around the world enjoy and compete, thanks to the hard work, perseverance, and especially the enthusiasm that generations of women have had for the game.

## Playing Against the Odds

At the end of the nineteenth century, when our country was already 100 years old, women were discouraged from playing sports. Many doctors of the time believed that too much physical activity was bad for women.



In the 1890s, a popular magazine of the time called *The Ladies Home Journal* challenged that idea by asking, “If very young children and very old men can compete in golf,

finding both pleasure and healthful exercise in it, why should it not be played also by women?”

Eventually, a few sports were deemed acceptable for women to play, and golf was one. “It has the advantage of giving plenty of moderate and healthful exercise, without any of that other exertion that tennis may call forth and which every young lady is not equal to,” claimed *Outing* magazine in the 1890s.

**USE THE NEWS:** Imagine you lived at the turn of the 20th century. Write a letter to the editor of *The Ladies Home Journal* either in support of women playing golf or in defense of keeping golf a sport for men only.



*“No one who has wielded a club can forget the feeling of ... self-satisfaction which was experienced by the sight of the clean-hit ball soaring into a wall of azure, a tiny, white speck in the far distance.”*

*– The Gentlewoman’s Book of Sports, 1892*

**PROFILE IN ENTHUSIASM**



In 1894, an enthusiasm for golf led a group of women in New Jersey to form a golf club for women. They named it the Morris County Golf Club. Once the course was built, 200 men were allowed “associate” membership.

Soon, the men wanted to expand the course. In a meeting in 1895, they managed to get a man elected president of the club, replacing Miss Cornelia Howland, the club’s first president. Eventually, all the officers of the club were replaced by men. They offered her the post of honorary president, but Miss Howland angrily refused and quit the club.



The 1900 Ladies Team at the Morris County Golf Club

## Beatrix Hoyt

With the 1895 launch of the U.S. Women’s Amateur Championship came champions that attracted fans and admiration. Beatrix Hoyt was only 16 when she qualified and won the second U.S. Women’s Amateur Championship in 1896. She went on to win the next two years.

Until 1971, Beatrix Hoyt held the distinction of being the youngest woman golfer to win this championship.



Beatrix’s enthusiasm, youth, and athletic exuberance brought attention to the U.S. Women’s Amateur Championship. There were so many fans following her progress on the course that officials had to put up ropes to keep the spectators from getting too close.

Beatrix’s enthusiasm and love for her chosen sport was infectious. As the world followed her every stroke, more and more women picked up clubs to give the game a try.

In 1895, a national championship for women was created by the USGA; the U.S. Women’s Amateur Championship. This was the same year of the first U.S. Men’s Amateur Championship as well.

The U.S. Women’s Amateur Championship brought more attention to golf, and more women began to take up the game.

### Playing By The Numbers

The Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts, had restricted times that women could play golf on their course. Do the math to reveal when women could and could not play.

Even numbered answers are YES, odd numbers are NO.

**After 2:00 p.m. on weekdays:**  $35 + 135 + 18 = \underline{\quad}$   YES  NO

**Anytime on Saturdays:**  $164 + 21 + 22 = \underline{\quad}$   YES  NO

**Holidays:**  $187 + 37 + 91 = \underline{\quad}$   YES  NO

### Let’s Talk!

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, golf was one of the few acceptable sports for women, but few clubs allowed them. The clubs that did allow women often had limited days and times women could play. Would this affect how well women could play? How so?



1900 – 1920

# The Bravery of the Modern Girl

Despite being frowned upon for the desire to play golf. Despite the fact that there were few places and opportunities to play. Despite the fact that their clothing made playing even more difficult. Despite all of these obstacles, women kept playing golf in the early 1900s.

It took commitment and courage to pursue the joy of golf in the face of social criticism.

By the year 1900, the number of women attending college had gone up over 700% from 1870.

## WOMEN WANT TO COMPETE

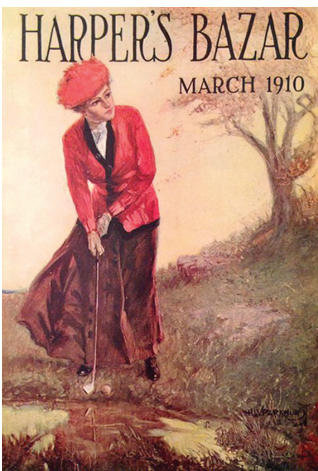
After the establishment of the USGA's U.S. Women's Amateur Championship in 1895, the enthusiasm for golf in the United States grew, and grew quickly.

Women's rights activist, golfer, and author, Lillian Brooks, charged that women needed

more competitions to improve. She wrote, "with all our new independence and liberty and power, men still watch over us with the old chivalry."

Women golfers soon demanded that they have more control over the game they loved to play. The

USGA Women's Committee was formed in 1917, giving women a greater say in where and how the U.S. Women's Amateur Championship was conducted. In 1926, the Women's Committee would take over the running of the championship.



C O U R A G E

## RECALLS WOES OF 1897 GOLF

Florence McNeely Tells Of 7-Yard Petticoats And High Scores

Philadelphian, In Tournament Here, Says 175-Yard Drive Was News

By FRANCES TURNER

Golfers participating in the three-day Women's Eastern Golf Association tournament at the Five Farms course of the Baltimore Country Club, range in experience from 18-year-old Anne K. Milcke, of Baltimore, to Miss Florence McNeely, of Philadelphia, who started the game in 1897.

Miss McNeely reminisced about her first tournament as a member of the Merion (Pa.) Cricket Club team in that year.

"We played with gutta-percha balls in wore skirts touching the ground and measuring five yards around," she laughed. "If the ground was muddy we came in with mud reaching a foot up on our skirts, and worse, on our 7-yards-around ruffled petticoats. Sailor hats topped the costume."



An early gutta-percha golf ball.

## Would you like to play golf wearing this?

Up until the 1920s, women wore clothing that made playing golf much harder for them than men. Lillian Brooks referred to the discomfort women's golf outfits made them feel as a "tyranny of clothes."

But it wasn't just the skirts that were a problem. Player's blouses were made with long sleeves and stiff, starched collars. On top of all this, women were expected to wear jackets, heavy shoes and broad-brimmed hats held in place with hat pins or veils tucked under the chin.

The above article from *The Baltimore Sun* shows that early women golfers faced challenges posed by their clothing. **How much do you think all those clothes weighed?**

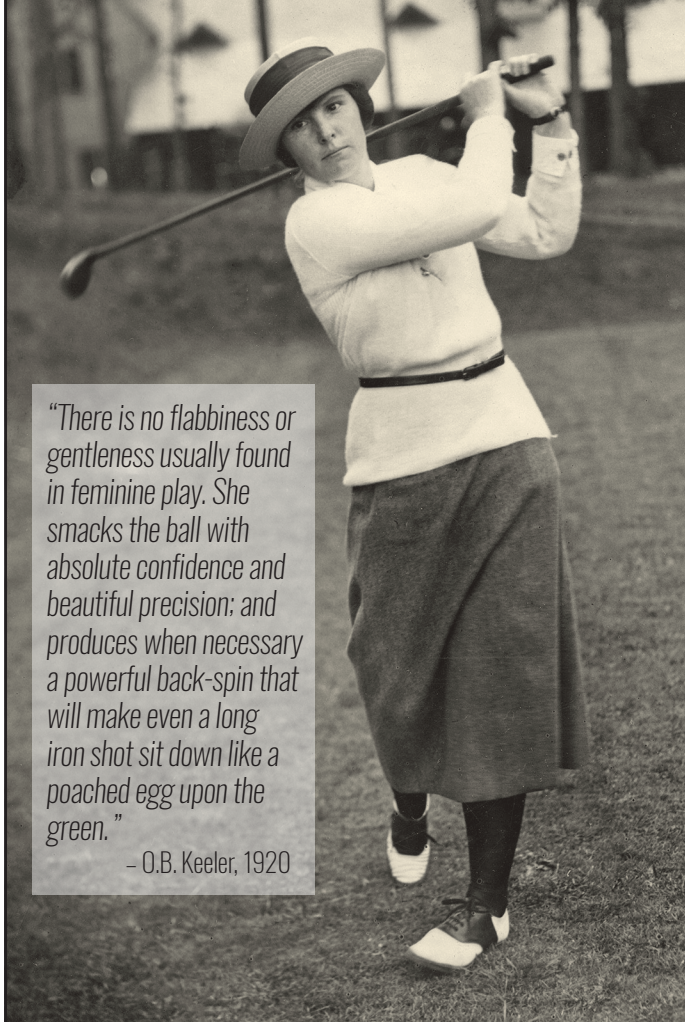
**USE THE NEWS:** Skim through the newspaper to look for acts of courage. Summarize who, what, when, where and why.



*“The modern girl is very brave. Independence is her watchword. She resents the idea of clinging, helpless femininity, and sturdily fights her own battle in the world.”*

– Mary Ross, 1915

PROFILE IN COURAGE



*“There is no flabbiness or gentleness usually found in feminine play. She smacks the ball with absolute confidence and beautiful precision; and produces when necessary a powerful back-spin that will make even a long iron shot sit down like a poached egg upon the green.”*

– O.B. Keeler, 1920

course, she became one of the greatest golfers of her time. She enjoyed competing, even with a neighbor boy who would also become one of the world’s greatest champions, Bob Jones.

In fact, she is known as the “Girl Who Beat Bobby Jones.” She was 12 and he was six; she beat him in a local tournament. But Frank Meador, who was acting as scorer, awarded the cup to young Bob, saying, “We couldn’t have a girl beat us.”

This didn’t stop Alexa. She bravely continued to improve her game and opportunities for women in golf.



Stirling and Jones remained friends and friendly competitors throughout their lives.

In the early part of the 20th century, the world was changing, and with it opportunities for women.

WORLD WAR I

Between 1914 to 1918, American men were sent to Europe to fight World War I. Women stayed home and went to work in factories to support the war effort.

Golf competitions virtually ended. The USGA suspended its three championships, the U.S. Open, the U.S. Amateur and the U.S. Women’s Amateur.

When the war ended, the number of women working outside the home had nearly doubled. Women were now earning their own money and finding satisfaction in their independence from parents and husbands.

Alexa Stirling

Alexa Stirling’s parents built a home near the East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta so their daughters could “grow up in the health-giving atmosphere of outdoor sports of nearly all kinds.”

At 18, Alexa was a semi-finalist in the 1915 U.S. Women’s Amateur Championship. In 1916, she won the first of her three national championships. One year later, she was elected to the first USGA Women’s Tournament Committee.

Stirling had a natural talent for golf. Combined with her family’s support and access to a golf

HOW I BECAME A CHAMPION

Replace the missing words to reveal Alexa Stirling’s secret.

**SAME REPETITION PRACTICE REPEATED**  
**PERFECTION HOURS PERFORMANCE**

“I have been asked many times why I spent \_\_\_\_\_ standing in one place, hitting ball after ball in the \_\_\_\_\_ direction. The answer is this: it has always been my theory that as \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of all musical instruments is gained only by constant \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, the same rule holds good in attempting to attain perfection in the performance of \_\_\_\_\_ shots.”

Let’s Talk!

In 1916, the night before Alexa Stirling’s first Women’s Amateur Championship win, she did something that would establish her reputation for good sportsmanship. Her opponent, Mildred Caverly, was worried about her mashie shot. Alexa took her to the practice area to help Mildred with the shot, which was one of Alexa’s favorites. The next day Mildred came close to beating Alexa and some people thought she should not have helped her opponent. **What would you do?**



1920 – 1940

# Finally! Women are Free to Vote

**A**lexa Stirling was a young woman with intelligence and ambition, who was not afraid to voice her opinions.

She wrote about how clothing and golf courses favored men. “As women’s shots are always, on the average, shorter than men’s she must use less advantageous clubs than his, the hazards are misplaced for women, and generally continue so after the tees have been put forward.”

Many women, like Alexa, had grave concerns about women not being taken seriously. They couldn’t even vote. But after decades of struggle, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified in 1920, giving women the right to vote.

In the 1920s more women began to obtain college degrees, drive cars, and work outside the home.

## ARRESTED FOR VOTING?

On Election Day, Nov. 5, 1872, Susan B. Anthony walked into her polling place and voted. Two weeks later, a U.S. marshal knocked on her door.



He told Susan that he had a warrant for her arrest. She was charged with voting without the right to vote.

In 1872, by U.S. law, a person had to be 21 years or older to vote. Susan was born in 1820. Was she old enough to vote? Susan met two other requirements for the right to vote. She was a U.S. citizen and she had never been convicted of a felony crime. Why was she arrested for voting?

F R E E D O M



## Free to Move!

Women golfers in the 1920s started to hit the ball harder and drive it farther than a woman had before. One reason was the change in golf clothing for women.

By the late 1920s, clothing was changing in every sport such as the one-piece bathing suit and the sleeveless tennis outfit.

Fashion followed women’s increased freedoms in the 1920s.

**USE THE NEWS:** Freedoms are different in different parts of the world. Use today’s newspaper to locate three articles that describe local, national or global freedom – or where freedom is being denied.



*“We belonged to a generation of young women who felt extraordinarily free.”*

—Margaret Mead, recalling her college days in the 1920s

PROFILE IN FREEDOM



The American Golfer wrote of how she went after the ball “with a grim determination and wallops it hard, and if she gets into a bad place, why she wastes no time worrying or thinking of consequences, but just keeps her mind on the ball, goes after it and wallops it hard again.”

Between 1922 and 1935, Glenna remained one of the world’s leading women golfers, winning six U.S. Women’s Amateur Championships.

“She taught us a new game,” asserted another champion golfer, Dorothy Campbell Hurd. “Before Glenna, we ladies used to aim just for the green. Glenna showed us that ladies can play for the flag.”



This began to change when public, or municipal, golf courses opened in greater numbers. Public courses allowed people to play golf without joining a club or paying large membership fees. This gave more people, including women, access to playing golf.

In 1915, the median household income in the U.S. was just \$687 a year.

The cost to be a serious golfer was \$100 to \$400 a year, making golf a sport for the wealthy.

In 1910, there were only 25 public golf courses where people could play without large membership fees. By 1920, the number of these courses tripled. By 1931, there were 543 public courses in 46 states. An estimated two to three million people were playing the game by then.

## Glenna Collett Vare

Alexa Stirling inspired a new generation of women golfers. One of these was Glenna Collett Vare who saw Alexa play in a Red Cross exhibition in 1917.

Glenna loved sports and her family gave her the freedom to play. As a young girl, she played baseball with her brother Ned. At 13 years old, she played her first game of golf with her father and she was hooked, “As I came off the course ... my destiny was settled. I would become a golfer.” Her experience batting a baseball gave her a powerful, golf swing. In 1919, she won her first round match in the U.S. Women’s Amateur Championship.

### WORDSEARCH

Find the words in the puzzle. Then find them on pages 6 and 7.

COLLEGE COMPETITIVE DECADES    EQUALLY EXHIBITION FELONY    GENERATION INCOME POWERFUL    STRENGTH VOTING WALLOPS

G	Q	R	J	G	E	M	O	C	N	I
I	C	L	U	F	R	E	W	O	P	Q
E	P	O	Y	D	X	I	M	F	Z	
R	E	R	L	E	X	T	F	P	L	I
S	P	O	L	L	A	W	C	E	A	D
G	V	S	T	R	E	N	G	T	H	Q
C	W	I	E	E	U	G	L	I	C	X
R	S	N	R	B	V	W	E	T	U	Y
I	E	X	H	I	B	I	T	I	O	N
G	Q	O	G	N	I	T	O	V	F	O
N	U	C	D	E	C	A	D	E	S	L
L	A	I	E	N	L	O	T	E	N	E
O	L	I	T	B	H	F	C	D	A	F
Q	L	M	L	U	J	D	Y	D	D	Z
M	Y	T	Q	O	U	X	G	N	O	R

### Let’s Talk!

Glenna Collett Vare played baseball with her brother and learned how to move her body and develop physical strength to compete. Should girls and boys play on the same or different teams? What are the advantages or disadvantages of separating teams by gender?



1920 – 1930

# Golf for International Friendship

Women didn't just want to *play* golf. Early on, they showed a zeal for competition that was contrary to the era's view of women as docile. They wanted opportunities to compete and, through competition, excel.

Laurence Curtis, President of the United States Golf Association in 1897-98, encouraged his cousins, Harriot and Margaret Curtis, to take up the game of golf. The sisters fell in love with golf and competition – even against each other.



Harriot won the Woman's Amateur Championship in 1906 and Margaret defeated her older sister in 1907. Margaret won again in 1911 and 1912.

The Curtis Cup is a silver bowl of Paul Revere design.



Left to right: Hill, Vare (U.S.), Wethered, Morgan (GB&I) during the 1932 Curtis Cup at Wentworth.

## The Curtis Cup

In 1905, Margaret and Harriot were two of eight American women who traveled to England to compete. The American women only won a single match against their British competitors, but left wanting more competitions to promote international friendship in the world of women's golf.

They had an innovative idea! The idea was to hold an international women's competition. For years people talked about it, but the necessary funds were scarce. The Curtis sisters didn't give up. In 1927, the sisters donated a trophy for an international match.

In 1931, the Ladies Golf Union of Great Britain agreed to regular matches with the U.S. and the USGA sponsored the American team. The official series began the following year at Wentworth Golf Club in England, with the United States beating Great Britain 5½ to 3½.

Since then, the Curtis Cup has fostered international competition and friendships. Many winners of the U.S. Women's Amateur Championship have been members of Curtis Cup teams — an innovation that has lasted more than 80 years!



Curtis Cup teams through the years. Above: 1930. At left: 2014.



The Curtis sisters left their beloved game a legacy – the Curtis Cup. The inscription on the Cup reads: "To stimulate friendly rivalry among the women golfers of many lands."

## CHANGING PAR

The chart below shows the difference between the women's par and men's par for similar length courses in 1930 and 2015.

Compare the charts. Estimate the difference between the men and women's par in 1930 championships. Repeat for 2015.

1930 CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT	COURSE	PAR
U.S. OPEN (MEN)	6,609 YARDS	72
U.S. AMATEUR (MEN)	6,515 YARDS	70
U.S. WOMEN'S AMATEUR	6,635 YARDS	81

2015 CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT	COURSE	PAR
U.S. OPEN (MEN)	7,695 YARDS	70
U.S. AMATEUR (MEN)	7,234 YARDS	70
U.S. WOMEN'S AMATEUR	6,360 YARDS	72

**USE THE NEWS:** Look through the newspaper to locate an article about a 21st century innovation. Use the information in the article to invent trivia questions and quiz a friend or family member.



“Golf is my game and I love it. I’d play it with rocks if I had to.”

–Margaret Curtis

PROFILE IN INNOVATION



In addition to spearheading the development of Cypress Point Golf Club, Marion Hollins suggested hole No. 16, which required a shot over the Pacific Ocean, be a par 3 rather than a par 4. This is now one of golf’s most famous holes.



Women’s shots, on average, are shorter than those of men. Despite that, women played their national championship at the same yardage as their male counterparts. Rather than adjust the placement of tees and yardages so women could hit similar shots into the greens, women were forced to adapt their games to the courses.

Alexa Stirling in the January 1917 issue of *Golf Illustrated* wrote, “All the best courses laid out in recent years have been constructed on the most scientific lines, and as is natural, have been designed for men. Consequently all distances, traps, bunkers and greens have been measured for men alone.”

## Marion Hollins

Marion Hollins was one of America’s finest female golfers in the 1920s and an innovator in golf course design.



At 20, she was the runner-up in the 1913 U.S. Women’s Amateur Championship. She won that competition in 1921 and captained the victorious U.S. Curtis Cup team in 1932.

In 1924, she founded the Women’s National Golf & Tennis Club in New York, and built a course designed specifically to suit the female game. The total yardage was 5,990 yards, and par was 73.

“I felt a course of this kind should not be the usual standard type designed for men because it is impossible for women players, despite the great advance made by their sex during the past few seasons, to cope with a man’s course on equal terms with par of even bogey.”

Marion traveled extensively to study courses. She used the average carry distance of Alexa Stirling’s drives, about 175 yards, to determine the placement of hazards and tees. Her goal was to, “create a course that would bring out the best in women’s golf without sacrificing length or hazards.”

Marion’s concept of a women’s-only course was revolutionary, but financial problems arising in World War II forced the club to close.

### Let’s Talk!

As the 1930s wore on, the most prestigious golf events for women were only open to amateurs. While some tournaments, such as the Titleholders Championship, were open to professionals, they did not offer women prize money until 1948. With no opportunities to win money or endorsements, how could women golfers make a living? Why would not being able to make a living make it hard for women to excel at playing golf?



1940 – 1950

# A Professional Tour for Women

On September 13, 1941, when Betty Hicks won the U.S. Women's Amateur Championship, she was awarded the trophy on the porch of The Country Club in Brookline, Mass.

Why the porch? Even in 1941, after getting the right to vote and other freedoms, women were still not allowed in the clubhouse itself.

During World War II, the USGA cancelled all of its championships and wouldn't start them again until after the war. It was hard to find golf balls or clubs during the war, as the War Production Board stopped their manufacture.

The years 1940-1945 saw a 10% increase in the female workforce.



British Champion golfer, Pam Barton, shown during her training for the Volunteer Ambulance Service in England.



*in a* **VICTORY JOB**  
APPLY AT YOUR NEAREST NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICE

## SERVING ON THE HOMEFRONT

One of the first professional women golfers, winner of the Women's Western Open Championship in 1939 and one of the 13 founders of the Ladies Professional Golf Association, Helen Dettweiler, served her country as a WASP (Women Airforce Service Pilot) from 1943 to 1944, logging 750 hours ferrying



B-17s from factories to military bases to free male pilots for combat roles.

In 1946, Helen joined another female pilot, Jacqueline Cochran, to design a nine-hole golf course in Indio, Calif.



## World War II, Women and Golf

December of 1941 witnessed events that would change a woman's role in society, the world of golf and the history of the world. The United States entered World War II.

War is not won by soldiers alone. Because the men were at war, women were needed to fill jobs at home. They worked in factories, served in the military, raised money for war bonds, planted Victory Gardens, rolled bandages and more.

By the end of the war, the number of married women holding jobs had doubled and the age of the female labor force rose. Women found satisfaction in working outside the home and after the war, they wanted to keep working and enjoying new found freedoms.



Women took on the jobs previously held by men allowing industry to expand and meet wartime needs.

**USE THE NEWS:** Locate articles in the business section about contemporary companies and the people who manage them. What leadership roles are filled by females?



*“Golf in wartime has a mission—to help keep us fit and to aid war charities. If it is patriotic to be in shape physically, mentally, and spiritually, then it is patriotic to play golf.”*

– USGA President George Blossom, Jr.

## PROFILE IN PERSEVERANCE

### Anne Quast Sander

Anne Quast Sander persevered by playing in over 90 USGA events and won seven championships. She played on eight Curtis Cup teams.

At 13 she played on the boys’ golf team at her high school because there wasn’t a girls team. Her determination to play and win was evident at that young age, “the guys on the team weren’t very good, but some players from the other schools were excellent. Since I did not like losing, I began practicing harder.”

As a student at Stanford University in the 1950s, she was not treated the same as male players. After winning the 1958 U.S. Women’s Amateur Championship, she applied for a fee waiver. Stanford’s athletic

director turned her down, saying, “a woman’s place is in the classroom or the kitchen. The next thing you know, you’ll be on the football field.”

Undeterred, Anne continued to compete and would have one of the most impressive careers of any golfer, male or female. With seven USGA championship wins, Anne ranks behind only Bob Jones and Tiger Woods [nine], JoAnne Gunderson Carner and Jack Nicklaus [eight].



Just before the war began, there were four small tournaments for women that awarded prize money totaling a mere \$500. Between 1944 and 1953, events led to the U.S. Women’s Open Championship – the pre-eminent professional competition for women.

### Let’s Talk!

Think of jobs today – pilots, soldiers, engineers, doctors, bus drivers, technicians, teachers, etc. Are there any contemporary careers unique to only men or only women? What might be a reason why certain careers are more popular with one gender than the other?

## Timeline to a Tour of Their Own

#### 1944: Betty Hicks Wins All-American Open

Betty Hicks won \$500 in war bonds in the women’s division of The All-American Open Championship. This event was hosted by George S. May, an American businessman and golf promoter at his club, the Tam O’Shanter Country Club. By contrast, Byron Nelson, the winner of the men’s division, won \$10,000.



#### 1949: LPGA Formed

The WPGA was failing due to a lack of funding. Two top golfers of the day, Babe Zaharias and Patty Berg formed the Ladies Professional Golf Association. They were able to get Wilson Sporting Goods and a women’s sportswear company, Weathervane, to sponsor the organization and prize money.



#### 1953: Weathervane Pulls Sponsorship

Alvin Handmacher of Weathervane sportswear pulled his sponsorship of the women’s tournaments after players staged a sit-in protesting low prize money.

1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949 1950 1951 1952 1953

#### 1944: Women’s Professional Golf Association Founded

To combat inequality in women’s competitions, Betty Hicks (at right), Hope Seignious and Ellen Griffin, founded the Women’s Professional Golf Association (WPGA) in November 1944. According to Hicks, “Our objectives were to promote money tournaments for women, which Hope would do, and for Ellen and myself to promote golf for women in schools and colleges.”

The WPGA didn’t earn enough money through clinics, exhibitions and ticket sales to survive. Hope Seignious used her own family money to fund it for a while. But the professional women golfers were struggling to find an audience and sponsors. Many people still did not think women should play professional sports.



#### 1953: USGA Steps Up

The USGA took over the running of the LPGA Women’s Open, but with no sponsors, women competitors had to do more than just play golf. They had to set up the courses, make the pairings, enforce the rules, give out the checks and more. It wasn’t easy. Before each tournament, clinics were scheduled as well as parties for sponsors. These meant more work for the players, but they helped to build a fan base, attract funding and open the door for more opportunity for women golfers.



1950 – 1980

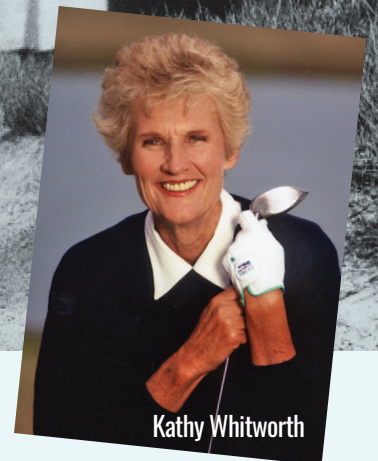
# Popularity of Women's Golf Grows

**B**y the 1950s, social change was stirring. Women and people of color were seeking equal treatment in all areas of American life. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Montgomery bus boycott in 1955 ignited the Civil Rights Movement. In 1961, President Kennedy established the commission on the Status of Women to examine issues of equality in employment, education and more.

All people looked to bring into reality the second paragraph of the United States Declaration of Independence which states: *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."*

In 1953 only a handful of women played professional golf.

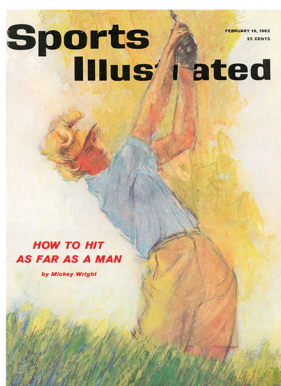
Blasting out of a sand trap, Mickey Wright went on to win the 1958 U.S. Women's Open Championship.



Kathy Whitworth

## WINNING FOR WOMEN

Mickey Wright dominated professional golf from 1961 to 1964, winning 44 tournaments in those years.



She worked hard, traveled extensively and faced the stress of sponsors threatening to cancel events if she did not play. And they expected her to win every time.

Mickey rose to the challenge, attracted more women to the world of golf and paved the way for the aspiring professional women after her.

## Title IX: Equality for Women in Sports!

In 1972, the United States Congress passed the Education Amendments Act, which put in place rules for schools receiving money from the federal government. One part of the Act, called Title IX, banned sex discrimination in schools, including sports.

Schools with sports programs for boys, had to have equal sports programs for girls. Title IX changed the world of women's sports, including golf.

In 1971, about 294,000 girls in the U.S. participated in high school sports. By the year 2000, the number was 2,675,874 – a 900 percent increase.

With equality in school sports the law of the land, girls began to get better coaching, facilities, and opportunities. The result? Women started playing better.

However, inequality in prize money continued. In 1972, the year Title IX was passed, Kathy Whitworth was the top money earner on the LPGA Tour with \$65,000, while Jack Nicklaus of the PGA Tour won \$320,000.

**USE THE NEWS:** Using the sports section, create a graph to compare the number of articles featuring female athletes vs. male athletes. Which gender has more coverage?



*“My tax dollars are taking care of the big course, and there’s no way you can bar me from it. Just send the police out to get me.”*

– Ann Gregory, paying her green fees for a “white” public course in Gary, Indiana

PROFILE IN INCLUSION

## Ann Gregory

Ann Gregory never won a USGA event, but she paved the way for other African-American golfers. Jolyn Robichaux, a friend of Ann’s, said she “dispelled many myths that black women couldn’t play golf.”

Orphaned as a child and raised by a white Southern family, Ann took up golf in 1942 in her mid-20s. She became known as she won tournaments in her native Indiana and in United Golfers Association (UGA) events. The UGA was a group of African-American professional golfers who operated a separate series of professional golf tournaments for blacks during the era of racial segregation in the United States.

On September 17, 1956, Ann teed off in the U.S. Women’s Amateur Championship, becoming the first African-American woman to play in that event.

Ann, because of her skin color, was not allowed to attend a dinner at the 1959 U.S. Women’s Amateur Championship. In Tulsa, Okla. in 1960, a hotel would not honor her reservation.

Ann did not let these and other acts of discrimination deter her and her love of golf. “It was better for me to remember that the flaw was in the racist, not in myself.”



The work to establish a women’s professional tour continued into the 1950s. At the same time, the women’s amateur game was attracting more and more women.

The National Golf Foundation found that the number of women playing golf increased 52 percent from 1948 to 1958. In this same time period, the number of men and juniors participating in golf also increased, but not as much as women.



*Business Week* noted in 1955 that “while golf used to be a snooty pastime, indulged in mostly by male members of the carriage trade,” its patrons now

numbered an “estimated five million factory workers, school teachers, grocery clerks, housewives, and businessmen of all ranks.” The article also highlighted increased participation by blacks and the elderly.

Women also proved to be good for business. A club professional in New York said, “Today women take more lessons than men. If it weren’t for the women, the pros wouldn’t make the living they do today.”

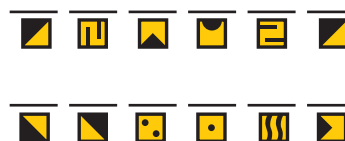
## PIONEERS OF INCLUSION

Use this secret code to reveal the name of two pioneering women golfers.

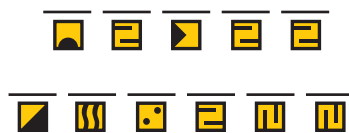
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This former U.S. and Wimbledon tennis champion was the first African-American woman to join the LPGA.



The second African-American woman to join the LPGA is currently the head professional at Clearview Golf Club in Ohio.



## Let’s Talk!

Should prize money and lucrative sports contracts be the same regardless of gender identification?



YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

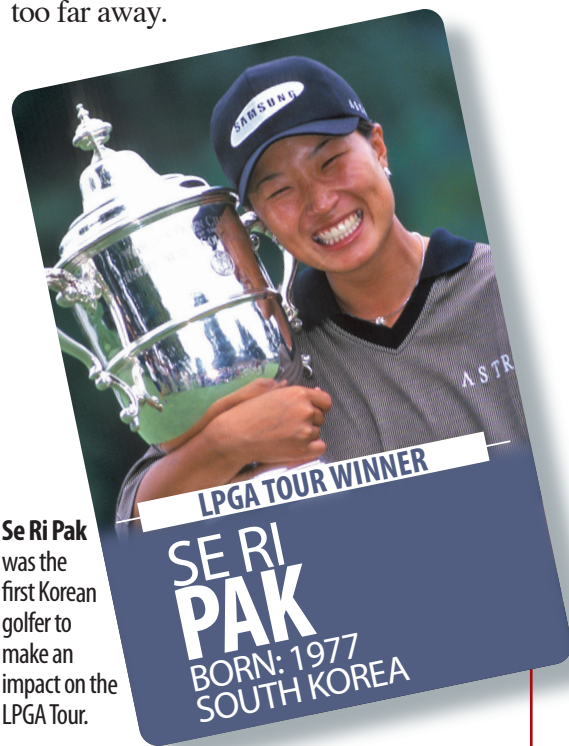
# Great Women Golfers

In the late 1800s, very few women played golf. Today, golf is enjoyed by millions of women around the world.

## WHAT IS NEXT FOR WOMEN?

According to USGA Ambassador Annika Sorenstam, “If you want to play, you have to play with boys. If you want to stick around, you have to beat them.”

The new generation of women golfers, like Annika, believe that the day when women have true equality on the fairway – when they can score and earn the same money as men – is not too far away.



Se Ri Pak was the first Korean golfer to make an impact on the LPGA Tour.

Within 10 years of joining the LPGA, Se Ri had qualified for the Hall of Fame. At 30 years old, she became the youngest living player inducted. She has 25 LPGA Tour victories including 5 major championships. Se Ri opened the door for dozens of Korean golfers who followed her to America, starting one of the most important trends in women's golf at the turn of the 21st century.

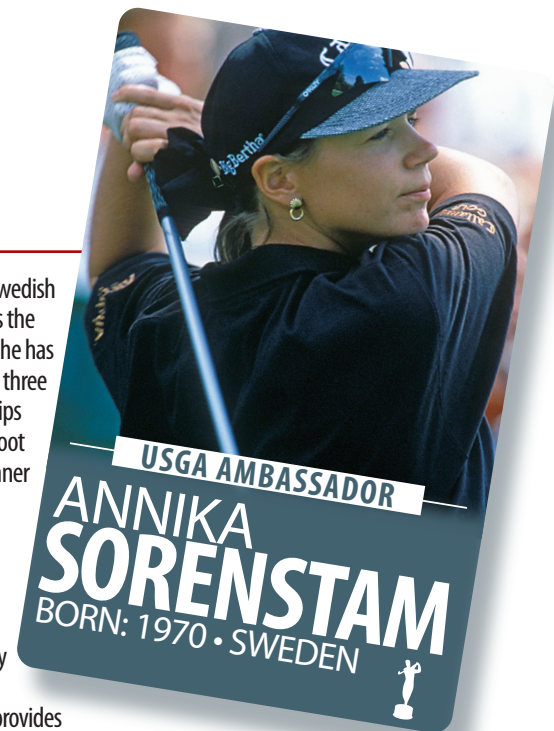


JoAnne Carner was an icon in women's golf during the 1970s and 1980s. She originally gained national notice in 1956 when she won the U.S. Girls' Junior Championship.

JoAnne started winning amateur events in her teens and compiled one of the finest amateur records of any woman golfer. She turned professional at the age of 30, and continued making records well into her 60s. Her 43 victories on the LPGA Tour led to her induction in the World Golf Hall of Fame. She is the only woman to have won the U.S. Girls' Junior Championship, U.S. Women's Amateur, and U.S. Women's Open titles, and was the first person ever to win three different USGA championship events.

Annika Sorenstam, a retired Swedish professional golfer, is regarded as the greatest modern female golfer. She has 89 worldwide victories including three U.S. Women's Open Championships and is the only LPGA player to shoot 59 in an official tournament. Winner of countless other awards, she changed the way women's golf was played, viewed and covered.

In 2008, Annika became just the second ambassador in the history of the USGA. The first was Arnold Palmer. As ambassador, Annika provides an important connection between the public and the USGA and makes the game more relevant and accessible to golfers of all skill levels.



Michelle Wie won her first major at the 2014 U.S. Women's Open.

Prior to Lucy Li, Michelle Wie was the youngest player to qualify for a USGA amateur championship. In 2003, at the age of 13, Michelle became the youngest player ever to win a USGA event for adults, the Women's Amateur Public Links Championship. In 2005, she became the first female golfer to qualify for a USGA national men's tournament. Growing to a height of 6 feet, the “Big Wiesy” became known for her long drives. Her average drive was about 275 yards at the age of 21.

## GREAT WOMEN GOLFER CARDS

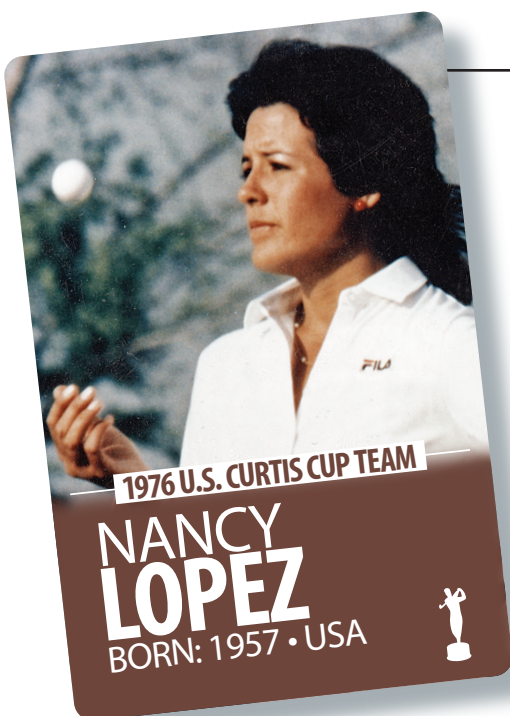
Read the golf cards we created on this page. Then answer the following questions:

1. How many different countries do these golfers represent?
2. What obstacles did some of these women overcome?
3. How old were they when they played professionally?
4. List ways these women are different from women who played in the 1800s.



“If everything was given to you, it wouldn't feel as good when you achieve it.”

– Annika Sorenstam, USGA Ambassador



1976 U.S. CURTIS CUP TEAM

**NANCY LOPEZ**  
BORN: 1957 • USA



From humble beginnings, **Nancy Lopez** attracted new fans to the game of golf. Thousands of people became part of “Nancy’s Navy,” showing up at events to cheer her on.

Nancy Lopez had 48 LPGA Tour victories, winning three major championships over her career. Reaching that level of skill didn’t come easy. Her high school didn’t have a girl’s golf team, so Nancy wanted to play on the boy’s team. Her family had to threaten a lawsuit. At first the boys weren’t sure they liked having a girl on the team. In the end, it was the boys on the opposing teams that had the biggest problems with her. They didn’t like being beaten by a girl!



YOUNGEST QUALIFIER

**LUCY LI**  
BORN: 2002 • USA

**Lucy Li** made golf history in 2013, when at 10 years, 10 months and 4 days she became the youngest golfer to qualify for the U.S. Women’s Amateur Championship.

At age 11, she currently holds the record as the youngest golfer ever to qualify for the U.S. Women’s Open Championship. Lucy is homeschooled and spends the winter months training in Florida. Even though her parents have tried to interest her in other activities, all she wants to do is play golf and is often found happily skipping down fairways. Her dedication has already earned her a place in golf history.



LPGA TOUR WINNER

**LORENA OCHOA**  
BORN: 1981 • MEXICO



**Lorena Ochoa** was the first Mexican-born winner on the LPGA Tour in 2004.

Lorena dominated the Tour from 2003 to 2010 before retiring at age 28. She launched a foundation that has benefited hundreds of Mexico’s underprivileged children. While her golf achievements are significant, she is also known for her contributions to humanity, starting a grow-the-game program not just in Mexico, but throughout Latin America.



2014 U.S. CURTIS CUP TEAM

**MARIAH STACKHOUSE**  
BORN: 1994 • USA

**Mariah Stackhouse** was the first African-American woman to play in the Curtis Cup.

Mariah started playing golf at the age of 2. She played in her first tournament at the age of six and debuted her professional career in 2016 at the age of 23. While becoming one of the leading up-and-coming young golfers, she maintained a 4.0 average at Stanford University and helped her school win the NCAA title in 2015.



YOUNGEST #1 PLAYER

**LYDIA KO**  
BORN: 1997  
NEW ZEALAND

At 17 years-old, **Lydia Ko** became the youngest-ever Number 1 ranked woman professional golfer.

In 2015 when she won the Evian Championship in France, she became the youngest woman to win a major championship. As of October 2016, at the age of 19, only 38 LPGA Tour players have won more titles.

## Let’s Talk!

When describing an athlete who plays fair, respects fellow athletes and follows the rules of the game, we use the term “sportsmanship.”

Should we use the term **sportswomanship** to be more accurate? Why or why not?



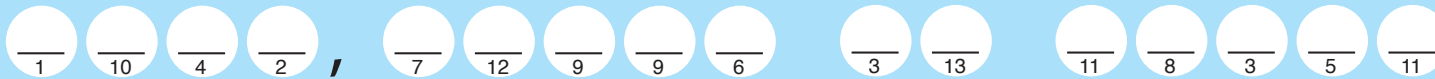
# The Mystery Spot

Fill in the missing words. Then match the letters to the numbers and spell the answer to the question.

## Q: WHO IS KNOWN AS “THE MOTHER OF GOLF”?

Hint: Her portrait hangs in a golf museum in St. Andrews, Scotland and she was one of the first women known to have played golf.

ANSWER:



- In the late 1800s, only about 100  $\frac{\quad}{\quad}$  played golf.
- In 1894, a group of women in  $\frac{\quad}{\quad}$  formed a golf club for women.
- In 1941, Betty Hicks was given her U.S. Women’s Championship trophy on the  $\frac{\quad}{\quad}$ .
- Alexa  $\frac{\quad}{\quad}$  is known as the “girl who beat Bobby Jones.”
- In 1920 with the ratification of the 19th Amendment, women got the right to  $\frac{\quad}{\quad}$ .
- The Curtis Cup competition promotes international  $\frac{\quad}{\quad}$ .
- $\frac{\quad}{\quad}$  had to play on her high school boy’s golf team because there was no girl’s team at the time.
- With the passage of Title IX,  $\frac{\quad}{\quad}$  had to have equal sports programs for boys and girls.
- In the late 1800s and early 1900s, women’s clothing made playing golf  $\frac{\quad}{\quad}$  for women than for men.
- Margaret Curtis loved golf. She said she would play it with  $\frac{\quad}{\quad}$  if she had to.
- Mariah Stackhouse was the first African-American woman to play on the  $\frac{\quad}{\quad}$  team.
- During WWII, the War Production Board stopped the manufacture of  $\frac{\quad}{\quad}$ .



USGA Museum  
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Far Hills, NJ 07931  
(908) 234-2300

[www.usgamuseum.com](http://www.usgamuseum.com)

Open Tuesday to Sunday  
10 a.m. — 5 p.m.

Closed Mondays and major holidays

### Attention Teachers!

The FREE teacher guide for *Character of a Champion: Winning Freedom on the Fairways* is available as a PDF file. To get your copy, please call the Museum at (908) 234-2300.

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**Page 2:** The Ladies Home Journal; Getty Images.  
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