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PAUL FOSS

MONDAY MORNING QUARTERBACK

WHEN BOB REITH, JR., COMPLETED winning two major golf championships in Minnesota, the State Open and the PGA, it was culmination of 100 years of pro golf in his family.

100 years? That's right. It all started in 1870 in Edinburgh, Scotland, when Bob's maternal great-great-grandfather, Tom Corcoran, opened a golf club making firm. In 1892, Tom was asked by the Eltham Golf Club in Kent to furnish a golf pro. He promptly sent his son-in-law, William Reith, to fill the job, which he did for 34 years when he moved to Winnipeg, Canada in 1926.

BOB REITH, JR.

William Reith was a prime mover in the formation of the British PGA, serving as president in 1920. In golf circles in England he was affectionately called "Our Billy" by pros and golfers alike. Two of his sons, Arthur and Charlie, served their apprenticeship under him, and before crossing the Atlantic, they also turned professional.

Arthur was head pro first at Portrush, Ireland, and later at Wykagl in New Rochelle, N.Y. Charlie held pro jobs at Yelverton in Devonshire, England, and then at the Royal Maddeven in London before joining his father in Winnipeg in 1928. He built a reputation as the best instructor of golf in Manitoba, serving at Pine Ridge, Elmhurst, Assiniboine and Tuxedo golf clubs.

The fourth generation pro, Charlie's son Bob, Sr., came with his father to Winnipeg when he was 13, and promptly started to win championships. The first was the Manitoba Junior at 15. He then went on to win both the Manitoba Amateur and Open four times, becoming known in Canada as "the boy wonder of the fairways." In 1936, and now 21, Bob, Sr., reached the finals of the Canadian Amateur, losing to Fred Haas, Jr. of New Orleans.

His first pro assignment was as assistant to Horton Smith in Detroit. He stayed there for 14 years, before returning to the head pro job at Assiniboine in Winnipeg. His next stop was at Minikahda Club where he started as teaching pro, later taking over the top job which he has held for 12 years.

Living in St. Louis Park, the Reith clan had three boys, Bob, Jr., Phil and Chuckie. Bob, Jr., worked under his dad at Minikahda, then for Ev Stuart at Duluth's Northland. In 1965 he took a fling at the tour but left after 10 months when Arnold Chester offered him the teaching job at Edina. Two years ago he became head pro with Johnny Cook, veteran Lafayette pro, taking over the teaching job.

In his four years at Edina, Bob, Jr., won the PGA three times. His 1966 and 1967 triumphs preceded his 1969 slam. His 64 at North Oaks in this year's Open win electrified golf fans over the entire state.

The rest of the Reith clan followed pace. Phil was named head pro at Woodhill two years ago at 22. Coming up behind Bob, Jr., and Phil is Chuckie, who has enrolled at that famous golf school, Arizona State.

An interesting sidelight is that when Phil's wife presented him with a son recently, it also was in the Reith clan tradition—there never has been a daughter born to the Reiths in the past 100 years. With Bob, Jr.'s two boys, now 8 and 2 years old, it's a cinch a lot more Reiths will be winning pro golf titles for the next umpteen years.

PAUL'S POPS

THE COLORFUL SHOW OF PRO FOOTBALL completely overshadows big league baseball, more especially under the lights. However, the Vikings' offense against Denver was as drab as the Twins running ability against Baltimore.

It's fortunate that Bud Grant can give Jerry Burns two weeks to get the offense going before the next game against the St. Louis Cardinals in Memphis.

A few observations:

Carl Eller was all over the place . . . Jim Marshall hasn't lost any of his wild and frantic pass-rushing ability. With his speed getting in at the passer, the protectors have to go for Jim, leaving the hole open for Carl to do the smashing act . . . Wally Hilgenberg really plays that game rough . . . Putting the binoculars on Mick Tingelhoff reveals why he's the best in the NFL . . . Jim Hargrove impressed with his hard tackling.

It's a delight to see Dave Osborn take a flair pass and then cut sharply up field, heading home! . . . Joe Kapp's 43-yard pass to Gene Washington was a thing of beauty, leading big Gene perfectly . . . Bill Brown still is the bread and butter guy of the Vikings but with Osborn in there, Bill is not going to have another season such as he had in 1968 . . . The Vikings' offense on the ground has to be something to look forward to, even though we didn't see it unveiled Saturday night . . . Tom Hall looked good plucking a pass in heavy traffic . . .

If the Vikings are going to repeat in the division it looks as though their defense has to do the job. Bud Grant, defense-minded always, had to enjoy his front four big guys on the pass rush . . . Bob's Denver quarterbacks were throwing wildly with Eller, Alan Page, Marshall and Gary Larsen jamming them . . .

Freddie Cox looked good on both kickoffs and field goals . . . With six field goals in the first 36 minutes, Cox had to be the most valuable player on the field.

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Lovely's Lotus-Ford and Pete Gethin's McLaren.

Hobbs was able to drive hard and have his engine respond perfectly, while mechanical troubles stole he-can to set in among the field. Lothar Motschenbacher pulled to a pit spraying oil liberally around the course.

Gethin pitted with decreasing oil pressure, a problem that kept him out of contention in the second heat after not allowing him to finish the first.

As the first heat finish, Hobbs roared past the checkered flag, after letting a one-time 22-second lead vase to 14 seconds. Then Adamowicz and Lovely roared by, Adamowicz edging him for second by half a length. Jerry Hansen was fourth.

In the second heat, it became clear that Adamowicz — running Weber carburetors instead of fuel injection like the other contenders — was going all out to win the field, make up the first heat margin, and thus add an overall victory for nine series points instead of the six for second.

He boxed ahead of the pack at the start, while Hansen moved up to battle Hobbs.

After several laps, though, Hobbs got ahead of Hansen and began cutting into Adamowicz's lead.

Hobbs slipped into the lead briefly on lap 10 and definitively on lap 13, although Adamowicz stayed with him the rest of the way and even retook the lead near the finish.

"My car was overheating so badly," Hobbs said, "that the temperature gauge was off the stop—225 degrees or more. I let up right then, and Tony went past.

"But just then, I saw a fantastic cloud of smoke from Tony's car, so I decided, 'OK' and I went by him on the fifth turn."

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