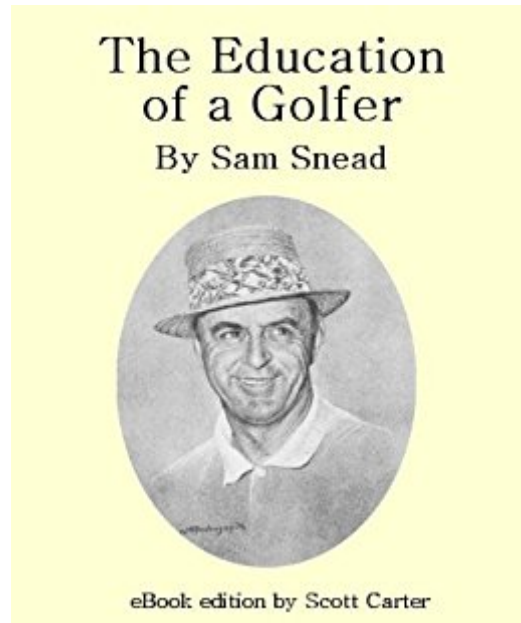




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The Education Of A Golfer



Synopsis

If you thought an autobiography was about going through uninteresting circumstances in someone's boring life or if you thought you could not learn a thing about golf by reading a book, it's time you read this. From the pen of the late Sam Snead, this is the incredible true story of how a poor kid who, while eking out a living in the backwoods of the state of Virginia grew to become one of America's most talented and respected professional golf champions in the 20th century. For those who love to get something practical out of a book, each chapter ends with short comments on the various aspects of golf, getting right down to simple illustrations and valuable pointers that could only come from a golf master. Sam writes about how his elder brother's golfing drew him into the game. Swinging big shots came from sheer practice, and at the age of seven, Sam had a hole in one window at the local church. With a knack for hunting, the outdoor kid tried to earn dimes and nickels, hard money in the Depression of the 1930s. Caddying for local golfers almost gets Sam killed, but the kid hung on to golf. After being noticed by Fred Martin, who stuck with him throughout his golf lifespan, Sam is handed a pro job at a local hotel, and with the fire that burnt in his blood, all he needed was a break. "Slammin' Sam" goes on to become a pro and a sensation in the year 1934. He "wow"s the crowd and pros alike with his artillery shots and his "perfect-swing". Sam went on to win 3 PGA championships, 3 Masters and a British Open, apart from a myriad of other titles. Sam's account of his golfing career comes with many hilarious and not-so hilarious incidents. In the times when golfing and making big money were not synonymous, he writes about a pro who ate oranges for 4 days to survive a tournament and about times when rearing exotic monkeys seemed the only way to make more money. The star writes in a modest manner about how he, "kept close count of his nickels and dimes, stayed away from whiskey and never conceded a putt", unlike many pros of his day. He got famous for his straw hat, for playing barefoot at tournaments and for not indulging in hard drinks. He writes about the kind of betting that could hook itself to a pro and ruin his game. He talks about travelling which leaves him none the better, about telling the President a thing or two about golf and other similar and remarkable stories. Sam is also honest about his failures. He discussed how other players like Picard helped him with his game and about how he had to teach himself to hold both his tongue and his temper. For those looking at golf as a beginner, the book could be a hilarious and simple guide to the sport. Sam's technique at golf is simple to grasp owing to the self-learning that he put himself through. He lays down chunks of it throughout the book, dealing with all major issues like putting, chipping and sand traps that even an experienced golfer would love to read. Sam Snead is gracious enough to pack a book with wisdom about his time on the green, when it could

easily have been another boring and insignificant autobiography. That itself just goes on to show that the passionate golf-crazy kid in him isn't finished yet.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Sam Snead describes himself as a hayseed hillbilly who made it on the PGA tour, and he convinced me beyond a doubt that was both a success in life, and that as a young man, he was a proverbial southern hillbilly from mountains of western Virginia. In this first person account, he tells his story. I bought the book because I enjoy reading about golf, love autobiographies, didn't know much about his life, and this book was cheap on . I was very entertained, throughout the book. I learned a lot about his contemporaries of which the book is loaded with anecdotes. I have to say that because of other books that I have read that mentions Sam anecdotally, I didn't expect such an honest entertaining read. I really have a new appreciation of this amazing character

One of the first golf books I ever read and this was "back in the day". I recently acquired it again for

my Kindle and then purchased a hard bound copy (pre-owned) for my son who was graduating from college. I was stunned to learn that one of his 20-something golfer friend already had the book and loved it. This book is a timeless gem and now, decades later, the swing tips and strategy are just as valuable as ever and Snead's stories of the tour and its many characters and stars is a wonderful trip down memory lane.

Learn and laugh at the same time. More importantly the stories that compose the book give you a great appreciation for the incredible grit of the golf pros of old. Imagine a \$600 first prize for winning the 1946 British open? We have had inflation, but not that much inflation! Great stuff and Sneadisms will stick with you forever.

If your a golfer, it is a must read. The book gives an interesting perspective of the early days of the PGA. Despite how long ago the book was written, it gives great instructional tips of the golf swing and how to play a variety of shots from different situations. In his unique style, he also imparts valuable tips on the mental part of the game.

Great book at a great price equals great value. I loved reading about Sam Snead's life and golf experiences. It motivated me to obtain some of his *much* older used books, historical golf videos (Snead vs. Hogan, Snead vs Nicklaus) and finally his more current golf instructional video with Jim McLean.

Great book and learning a lot about a pro golfer that doesn't get much name recognition as most from his time period. Only bad thing the book has small print but that's the only bad thing. Must get for any golfer.

It's been a while since the 1940's and styles have changed, but this is still an entertaining look at the life and times of one of golf's legendary players. Somehow I doubt he was ever quite as "country" as Sam and his publicist's and biographer's would have us believe, but he certainly was a great and durable player and a generous and compassionate human being. And when he talks about how he came to understand his golf swing, it's way better than merely good!

Loved the stuff about the early days of pro golf and his struggles + how he over came them. This book is worth a read.

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