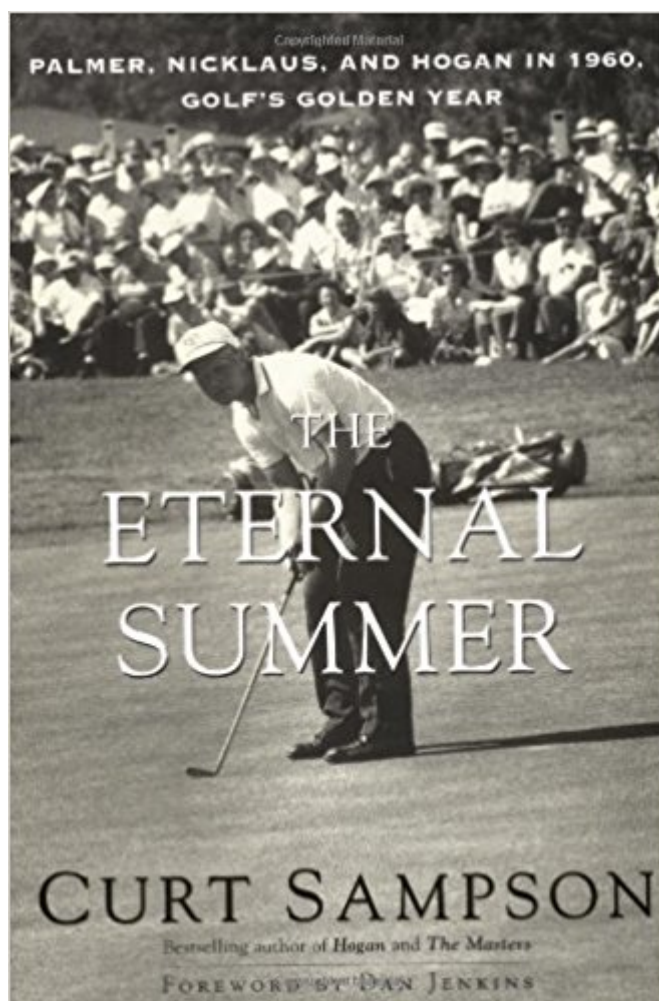


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The Eternal Summer: Palmer, Nicklaus, And Hogan In 1960, Golf's Golden Year



Synopsis

Was there ever a year in golf like 1960? It was the year that the sport and its vivid personalities exploded on the consciousness of the nation, when the past, present, and future of the sport collided. Here was Arnold Palmer, the workingman's hero, "sweating, chain-smoking, shirt-tail flying"; Ben Hogan, the greatest player of the fifties, a perfectionist battling twin demons of age and nerves; and, making his big-time debut, a crew-cut college kid who seemed to have the makings of a champion: twenty-year-old Jack Nicklaus. And of course, the rest: Ken Venturi, Chi Chi Rodriguez, Doug Sanders, Gary Player, and the many other colorful characters who chased around a little white ball--and a dream. Would Palmer win the mythical Grand Slam of golf? Could Hogan win one more major tournament? Was Nicklaus the real thing? Even more than an intimate portrait of these men and their exciting times, *The Eternal Summer* is also an entertaining, perceptive, and hypnotically readable exploration of professional golf in America.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Sampson (*Texas Golf Legends*) makes a convincing case that 1960 was a watershed for the pro links game. It was the year when the aging Ben Hogan, almost literally on his last legs (he had been badly mangled in an auto crash), was barely hanging on to his past glory; rising star Arnold Palmer was starting to draw the crowds of fans who eventually turned into Arnie's Army; and 20-year-old Jackie Nicklaus was just making his presence known. Even more significant, however, was the

increasing interest of major corporations in associating themselves with events on the pro tour and in promising larger and larger purses, a trend that did indeed change the game forever. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Although certainly not a groundbreaking book, this is a well-told reminiscence of professional golf during the 1960 season. Sampson, a former professional, writes from a love for the sport and deftly weaves in the careers of stellar performers Arnold Palmer, Sam Snead, and Jack Nicklaus. While each golfer was at a different career stage, during this one season their paths crossed at several events, most notably the U.S. Open. Chapters outlining each golfer and detailing their beginnings in the sport are included. This volume succeeds in bringing the three together, just as they were in 1960. A good selection for strong golf collections.- Jeffrey Gay, Bridgewater P.L., Mass.Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Well-written; Golf can be hard for writers to give suspense and interest to, but this book accomplishes this and more. There is great wit and flow to the multi-character drama. Enjoyed much.

Only on the fringe of my teenage years in 1960, Sampson marvelously chronicles this year in golf and society. Society we all know because of the revolution that was gaining momentum. TV is growing and would play a major role in golf's history as well. Along with three individuals, Hogan, Palmer and Nicklaus. The "y" in the road is the televised Open at Cherry Creek, when Palmer made the celebrated charge. Hogan tries but comes short, and Nicklaus, not knowing for sure his position, didn't really grind, or he likely would have tied. Palmer wins, the sport grows, and as fate seemed to dictate, the game is on the way to the marvelous heights we now see it occupy. Reading this wonderful book, it gives one more insight and compassion into those early pioneers who made it what it is. Today's pros seemed so pampered, however, the stress is large and looming larger. Sampson is articulate writer and delivers great insights: Hagen's saying to Sarazen before the shot heard round the world at Augusta: "Come on, hurry up, I've got a date tonight.

Giving as a gift

Quite a year for golf. Very interesting history of golf - Hogan, Palmer, Nicklaus and more. Could

have provided more of the back stories and details. Enjoyable read.

A good solid overview of the era, the personalities, the issues... not as robust as *The Greatest Game Ever Played* in terms of broader social history, but for a fan of the PNH trio and era, it definitely is a worthy read.

Curt and I worked together back in the days when he was selling "widgets". He was always a great guy to work with, and it was a pleasure to finally read one of his many well written books. I had heard from the guys that his books were good, but just never took the time to experience it myself. What a joy it was to be able to look back and know all of the goings on behind the scenes, and to gain a better understanding of the larger than life personalities of the time. It was an easy read, and a very thorough and comprehensive piece of work. I can't wait to start reading "Hogan". Well done Curt !!!

I really enjoy reading golf history books on the greats, and this is very typical of Curt's work - great writing, very easy to read, every page interesting and very hard to put down. One of the combatants, Kel Nagle, is still alive in Sydney as at December 2013. I read he's now the oldest living British Open Champ.....Cheers, Simon

Not all the way done but just like his other books he gives us a picture as if we were right there. The insights are a delight to what I already know about these great men. He scores an ace with this one just like his others. Thanks again Curt for a great golf read.

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