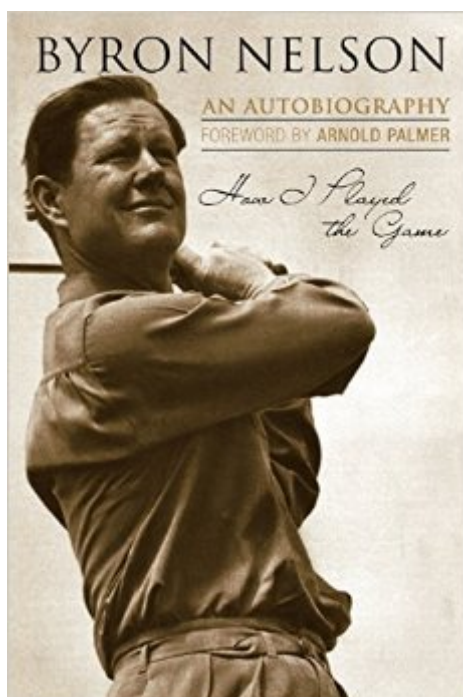


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# How I Played The Game: An Autobiography



## Synopsis

Byron Nelson was one of golf's greatest legends. He was one of the finest golfers ever to pick up a putter, and the man who had the most magnificent year any golfer has ever had—1945, when he won an incredible eighteen PGA tournaments, including eleven in a row, and finished second in seven others. *How I Played the Game* is the beautifully told tale, in his own words, of a man determined to be the best ever: his hardscrabble rural Texas upbringing and his near-death experience with typhoid fever; his early years as a caddie at Fort Worth's Glen Garden Country Club (where as a 15-year-old he beat another young caddie named Ben Hogan in the Caddie Championship); the lean years as an amateur and as a young pro during the Depression; and the golden years of the 1940s, when he invented the modern golf swing and forged the legend of "Lord Byron." Even after his sudden retirement (the real reason for which is finally revealed here) his impact on the game never lessened. Besides his many years as an insightful TV golf commentator, he was mentor to several future golf champions, Ken Venturi and Tom Watson among them. And he continued to play top-caliber golf with the greats of the game, like Hogan, Jack Nicklaus, and Arnold Palmer, and some who were less than great—President Eisenhower, Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, and a host of others. Laced throughout with scores of priceless stories, anecdotes, opinions, and even golf tips, and with an in-depth, event-by-event recreation of his golden year, 1945, *How I Played the Game* is golf writing and remembrance of the highest order—irresistible reading for every golfer and fan.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is simply a straightforward account of Nelson's life by The Man himself. It's primary focus is his poor-as-dirt childhood and rise to stardom on the PGA Tour, culminating in The Streak of eleven straight wins in 1945 (he retired the next year). His television work is also covered, as is the death of his wife of 50 years and subsequent remarriage, but the primary focus is on his rise to stardom and retirement to ranching. It turns out that he doesn't have hemophilia as I'd always heard, nor did he retire because his "nervous stomach" couldn't take the stress of competition. The big virtue of the book is that it's written in a homey style that makes you feel as though Nelson is right there speaking to you in his Texas twang. It was written with assistance from his second wife, and it reads as though she must have been transcribing tapes. There is very little discussion of swing theory and no tips to help your game, but it's fascinating if you have an interest in what it took to make a living in professional golf in the 1930s and 1940s. It should be required reading for today's pampered pros who make more for one fifth-place finish than Nelson made in his entire career as one of the all-time greats. He comes across as an extremely decent, religious man that you would've liked to have known.

As you read Byron Nelson's autobiography, you find that much of it seems familiar to you if you have read other books by the men who played the early Tour. There are all the requisite tales of the hardscrabble beginning as a caddy, financial hardship, bad accommodations, iffy food, and car travel. Those parts read much like stories of other golfers of the era. However, what makes this book special is the way it highlights the wonderful nature of Nelson. Nelson never brags or makes a big issue out of his great personal qualities, but a simple recounting of his actions lets you know very quickly that this was someone special. In a sport where feuds and publicized dislikes are common, it is hard to find anyone who didn't like and respect "Lord Byron". There just weren't any skeletons in this guy's closet. Combine this with the fact that he is very arguably in the top five golfers of all time and you get a story that is well worth the read and quite engrossing to any fan of golf. Nelson's story is a must read for fans of the history of golf, but is well worth reading for anyone who simply wishes to read the life of a wonderful human being.

.This is and always will be a fresh account of Mr. Byron Nelson's life. It is beautifully described with the contribution of his wife Peggy, who helped on the manuscript. We have a written treasure: is easy to read with everlasting lessons in life and human relationships from a dear and respectfully man. Golf, as a sport and as a way of life, has gain a good name because of man and woman with flawless integrity and Byron Nelson is one of them. I strongly recommend this book specially to all

junior golfers and all youngster in general; they'll learn to project their existence plain-fully and with gratitude. It is truly a living testimony of a man ho always had God first in all his path in life. Enjoy.

Mr. Nelson's recollections are interesting. His writing style reflects his personality very closely. If you liked him as a commentator, you'll like the book. If not, you probably won't be too impressed.

I not only loved this book a great deal, but grew to admire this man more than ever. He got into golf, made a little money and got out at 34 years old, set all kinds of records that still stand to this day, and then spent the rest of his life doing good for golf as well as man-kind. If only I could be half the caring beautiful human being this man was, I'd be so proud of myself. Totally honest, and thinks he was lucky at everything he did, and loved people all his years. Hit the ball 300 yards at times and shot 62's and 63's in a time of awful equipment and balls and courses that were a joke compared to today. How they did it back then is a mystery to me, except they must have had more talent than anyone of today is all. If you want a book about a great golfer, that is about everything that Eldrick Tont Woods (Tiger) is NOT...then this is the book for you. I could read it over and over it's that good. It shows you that being GREAT, is really nothing like what some of our star players are today, plus shows you every dime he made during his career as they built this beautiful game along the way. Wonderful read.....

Nelson should have had the book ghost-written. I think he recounted every event in his life that he could remember whether of not it had any relevance. The book is a regurgitation of events that shed little light on who Nelson was . I learned more about Byron Nelson from THE MATCH written by Mark Frost.

Nelson truly is a golfing gem, one that gets somewhat lost in all the current player hype. But this is likely due to media hype, not the players; they are humble around the like of Lord Byron, and most if not all big names play the King's, the Bear's and the Nelson's tournaments. Here is record of his life and it truly sounds like the man we have learned to like and hear on TV. Downhome, country boy, who really wanted to earn enough money to buy a ranch, which he did. In doing so, he had some amazing golf, the statistics and some of the records are still there. Might be so for quite some time. Fascinating how he is part of game most don't know, i.e. invent of good golf shoes and Footjoy connection and also the golf umbrella. Around the Hogan's since caddying youth, this guy is legend worth becoming familiar with. His humility, grace and fervor for the game are truly a treat to read

about. The tournament that bears his name is what he refers to as biggest golfing thing that ever happened to him, for the joy of helping the kids. Truly an athlete to be emulated.

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