

Redemption

Golf's Life lessons

Sometimes life throws us a curveball. That is certainly the case for everyone dealing with the Covid-19 global pandemic. Life would be easier if such obstacles did not exist but, of course, that is not how it works. For most of us, our lives will not be defined by our easily won victories. It will be our ability to overcome, and our determination to succeed regardless of circumstances that will define our greatest accomplishments. We hope that you will enjoy reading the following short stories about golfers who have overcome life-altering incidents through hard work and determination to find redemption, and that their stories will help you find strength as we all work to overcome together.

-Mark, Kyle, John, and Lisa

Ben Hogan

Ben Hogan was one of the greatest golfers in the game's history, but his life almost came to an end when the car he was driving in 1949 collided with a Greyhound bus.

Hogan sustained numerous injuries, including a broken collarbone, pelvis and ankle. The accident also crushed one of his ribs.

It appeared questionable that Hogan would ever walk again, let alone return to his golf career. However, the gutsy Hogan worked tirelessly to rehab from the injuries.

A year later, he was back playing competitive golf on the tour even though he was weakened and in pain. His redemption story reached the heights when he won the 1950 U.S. Open, beating the legendary Lloyd Mangrum and George Fazio in an 18-hole playoff. (source: *Golf Digest*)

Babe Didrickson Zaharias

Babe Didrickson Zaharias was one of the nation's most dominant female athletes of the 20th century.

While she excelled in all sports, her excellence on the golf course made her a legend.

However, while she had a bigger than life persona—much like her namesake Babe Ruth—she was quite human.

In 1953, she was diagnosed with colon cancer. Despite the illness, she played successfully on the LPGA tour in 1954. She eventually underwent colon cancer surgery in 1954.

Less than a month after the operation, she was back at her sport, competing in the U.S. Women's Open Championship. Despite the pain and weakness caused by the surgery and illness, she won the championship.

She wore a colostomy bag while competing, but she did not let that stop her, and she took home her 10th major championship (source: *Golf Digest*).