



Bobby Jones & Horton Smith at the Masters

Horton Smith

Springfield 1908-1963
Winner of the 1st & 3rd Masters.



Horton Smith



Horton Smith, Byron Nelson, Gene Sarazen, Henry Picard, Ralph Guldahl.

Winners of the first six Masters, 1934-1939

Cash Awards At Augusta

AUGUSTA, Ga., March 25.—(AP)—The four-round scores and the aggregate 72-hole totals of leading players in the Masters' Invitation Golf tournament, together with cash awards to the money winners, follow:

Horton Smith, Chicago	70-72-70-72—284—\$1,500
Craig Wood, Deal, N. Y.	71-74-69-71—285—800
Bill Burke, Cleveland	72-71-70-73—285—550
Paul Runyan, White Plains, N. Y.	74-71-70-71—286—550
E. Dudley, Augusta, Georgia	74-69-71-74—285—400
Willie MacFarlane, Tuckahoe, N. Y.	74-73-70-74—291—300
Harold McSpaden, Kansas City	77-74-72-69—292—175
Al Espinosa, Akron, Ohio	75-70-75-72—292—175
Jimmy Hines, Timber Point, N. Y.	70-74-74-74—292—175
MacDonald Smith, Nashville	74-70-74-74—292—175
Mortie Dutra, Detroit	74-75-71-73—293—100
Al Watrous, Birmingham, Mich.	74-74-71-74—293—100
Denny Shute, Philadelphia	73-73-76-72—294—
Robert T. Jones Jr., Atlanta, Ga.	76-74-73-73—294—
Walter Hagen, Detroit	71-75-70-77—294—

1934 Masters payout. Note Kansas City's "Jug" McSpaden in 7th place.



Walter Hagen & Horton Smith, 1929

Horton Smith won the 1934 and 1936 Masters Invitational.

Horton Smith grew up on a farm seven miles from the center of Springfield. Today, that land is about fifty yards from the 8th tee at Highland Springs CC. In 1925 he and his brother Ren traveled to Kansas City to play in the Missouri Amateur. The 17 year-old Horton lost to Eliot Whitbread in the second round.

In 1926 Horton turned professional and was at the Springfield CC as an assistant. For the 1927 season he was the head pro at both the Sedalia and Jefferson City Country Clubs. In 1928 and 1929 he was the head pro at Joplin's Oak Hill CC, now Twin Hills.

Smith and Walter Hagen staged an exhibition in Jefferson City on October 1, 1929. a gallery estimated at 500 followed them around the 9 hole Jefferson City Country Club course. Hagen shot 70, Smith 72.

During his peak playing years Smith wrote a golf instructional column that appeared in newspapers nationwide. One such column was titled "How to play mashie shots." Horton was a rarity among pros at the time: he had attended college; Southwest Missouri State in Springfield.

Before the stock market crash in October of October of 1929, Smith won eight of the 22 pro tournaments he entered, finishing second six times. In February, 1930 he beat Bobby Jones by a stroke at the Savannah Open. It was the last loss Jones suffered, as he retired after achieving the Grand Slam that year.

Horton Smith's overall professional career record was 32 wins and 37 second place finishes. He was the leading money winner on the tour in 1936 with \$7,682.

From 1932-1936 he represented Oak Park CC near Chicago, Illinois. He still lived in Springfield while representing the Chicago club on the PGA tour.

Smith was on five Ryder Cup teams from 1929-1937, with a 3-0-1 record. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942 and served until 1945, discharged as a Captain in special services.

He represented the Detroit GC from 1946-1963. President of the PGA 1952-54, he was elected into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 1990.

Smith died of Hodgkins lymphoma in Detroit in 1963. He is buried in Springfield.

On Oct. 1-2, 2019 Horton Smith and Karen MacGee will be inducted into the MGA Hall of Fame.

Horton Smith was 3rd in the 1930 and 1940 U.S. Opens.

He was 4th in the 1930 British Open.

In this era of the 1920s and 30s the PGA tour was in it's infancy. Pros played the tour in the winter months in Florida and California. In the summer they would be at their home course or at the major tournaments: the U.S. Open, PGA and British Open.

Smith was sometimes referred to as the anti-Hagen. He neither smoked nor drank, as Walter Hagen was known to do.