

# Sports writers feel agony of course

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The bitter was that the course was too challenging. Par won. It was not a fair fight from the very beginning.

Maybe it was not meant to be, though, at least from our golfing perspective.

It's amazing, but this hacker played no better or worse than usual. Why should an individual who can't string three good shots together on a pitch-and-putt course expect to do so at a place like Oakland Hills?

**BALLS WHICH WERE** dubbed off the tee disappeared in heavy rough only 30 yards ahead. It's maddening to hit a straight shot and lose the ball.

The lost ball is bad enough. The penalty stroke is the killer.

Frustration? Just try tapping a downhill putt and watch as the little devil slides past the hole and rolls off the green on the other side like it's being attracted by a powerful magnet.

There were a couple of highlights. Budner, a virtual non-golfer, hit many good shots, especially off the tee. He cleared the water on the famous 16th hole in two and settled for a six.

O'Connor and Dillon also had their moments chipping and putting around the green.

This hacker found that when the drive was good, the wedge or putter failed. When the 9-iron was effective, five shots had already been spent to get near the green.

So, what else is new, as most golfers can testify.

We'll leave the serious golf to the professionals. We all have our element. After all, has anyone ever had the opportunity to watch Jack Nicklaus work on a production line, Tom Watson audit a ledger or Ray Floyd manage a small business for a day?

Still, it's nice to dream and even live the dream if only briefly.

# Billy Casper turns 50 in time

Billy Casper couldn't be happier that the USGA lowered the Seniors circuit age qualification to 50 years.

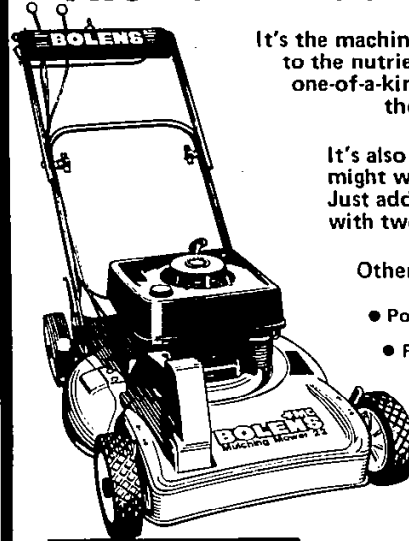
Now, Casper can compete in the 1981 U.S. Senior Open.

Casper, who turned 50 less than two weeks ago, is one of golf's all-time top

money winners. His 51 career tour victories have earned him \$1,683,618.

Casper was the leading money winner in 1966 (\$121,944) and 1968 (\$205,168). He won the U.S. Open in 1959 and 1966. The later victory helped earn his PGA Player of the Year honor in 1966.

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