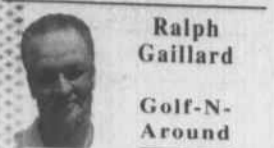


In golf, as in life, extreme pressure must be overcome to succeed



Ralph Gaillard
Golf-N-Around

The last round of The Players Championship this past weekend was something to behold. Several relatively unknown pro golfers demonstrated the true magnificence of golf.

These young men playing in the final round of the richest golf tournament in the world were not expected to even be on the leader board. They gave us an upfront and somewhat personal glimpse of the emotion and pressure involved in playing professional golf. As in life, they did their best and overcame adversity, and the naysayers.

The winner, Craig Perks, made seven bogeys, five birdies, and one eagle, posting a round of 72, and put \$1.08 million in his bank account. It was not his best golf and more than once he almost blew his chances to

win. However, he did overcome and made golf history. He is the first player to make this prestigious tournament his first win on the PGA Tour.

As I watched the final round of the tournament, I began to reflect on the first African-American golf pros, such as Charlie Sifford, Lee Elder, Jim Dent and another man who overcame extreme pressure, emotion, adversity, and blatant racism. The other man I was thinking about was Charles Lewis. He preferred to be called Chuck.

Chuck Lewis was one of the first African Americans hired by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. as a sales representative. Lewis began his career in the early 1950s, selling Reynolds products on the Southside of Chicago. Lewis was the first African American promoted to management in Reynolds' field sales organization, and the entire tobacco industry. In 1971, RJR promoted him again and brought him to



Lewis

office sales department.

Lewis attended Tuskegee Institute and graduated from George Williams College in Chicago. He served as a truck driver during World War II with the famous all-black "Red Ball Express" in the U.S. Army.

Lewis was a natural teacher and coach. Before going to work for Reynolds, he taught and was the football coach at St. Elizabeth Catholic High School in Chicago. He had all the gifts and used them. Within five minutes of meeting him, it was as if you had known him all your life.

He was a student of life and his fellowman. Proud to be a Christian, he possessed

great wisdom, knowledge, personality, character, and love; he had the whole package.

He had the God-given talent of looking beyond adversity and even racism. He was one of the most positive individuals you ever met. He always turned the negative into positive.

He had the unique verbal ability to put things into context and perspective. One of his most memorable sayings was, "When having a conversation with an idiot, make sure that he or she is not doing the same."

Another one that comes to mind is, "When you settle for mediocre work, you're in the middle of the pack. When you are in the middle of the pack, you are as far from the top as you are from the bottom. Don't just be good at what you do; be great at what you do."

If you had the great honor of knowing and working with Lewis, you knew in an instant that he was great

at everything he did. Countless young African Americans and other minorities began their careers, were and are successful at RJR and other major corporations because of folks such as Lewis. He took it all and despite it all stayed the task and overcame the naysayers, adversity and racial discrimination. RJR and other corporations are better because the Chuck Lewises of the world were in their employ.

Likewise, you are a bet-

ter person if you knew Chuck Lewis. He was and still is one of my best friends and heroes. I miss him every day.

This week is the most important week of Christianity. Jesus died, was buried, and rose from the dead to save us all. Get to church on Sunday and every Sunday. Like Chuck Lewis, you will be blessed in your life if you do.

Until next time, keep it in the fairway.

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Hanes Hosiery

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olds faced a physical Zebulon team in the semifinals. But the Hosiery showed a lot of interes-

tinal fortitude in grabbing the lead and holding on down the stretch.

In the championship game, Hanes Hosiery came out strong in the beginning of the game and took a lead to the locker

room at intermission. However, the scrappy Washington team fought back in the second half and finally took the lead midway through and beat back Hanes Hosiery's advances in the final minutes.



Hanes Hosiery 16's All-Stars

Three-Time Champions

Womble Carlyle is proud to salute our partner in education, R.J. Reynolds High School, and to congratulate the Black Demons on their third 4A Basketball Championship in a row.



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HOURS: Daily 7:30 am-6 pm; Sat. 7:30 am-12:30 pm