Miller's finish ranks all-time great



Miller gets a "Father's Day" reward from his wife, Linda, after getting victory cup in U.S. Open Sunday.

Miller learned

By Hack Miller

Deseret News Sports Editor Billy Casper taught Johnny Miller two things, according to Johnny Miller: patience and percentages.

Sunday they paid off with the U.S. Open title, the world's No. 1 golf honor, and handsome handout

Not many years ago when Johnny hit the pro track after gaining fame as an amateur in the 1966 U.S. Open in his native San Francisco, Miller went to Casper for around the greens.

The veteran and the youngster teamed up in many ways and in many tournaments thereafter.

Miller admitted he learned to play the percentages from the experienced Casper.

"Billy told me to wait it days and bad ones but never '72nd hole. look back on the bad ones. He could see I was a little on the frustrated side when I had a bad round. He leveled me off shanked a shot on the 16th

He was on the TV eye in the Crosby and headed for the winner's shed when he shanked a shot on the 16th

Angels batteria. and was a steadying factor in hole. my first golf play," Johnny Miller told this reporter as I went with the two pros to some of the functions recently at the Masters classic.

which I have had many times. the next one might be brighter - and bright enough to win," Johnny said.

As it turned out - in this U.S. Open Johnny's 76 on Saturday was one of those bad rounds and his record round

Sunday won for him. Miller has also established a pattern of great last-day play. In the 27 first tournaments he

finished the shot par or better the last day 23 times. This fact was noted in the PGA tournament record book.

Sunday he stayed to his last-day form.

In the last few years Johnny Milier has "cooled" considerably. Some say he has "aged" in the game. He had enough earnings that he could wait out the big ones. He was quickly out of the rabbit realm. He could eat, made enough money to make sold investments. His future was brighter than most upcomers.

He had one kink in his game. He had a tendency, as all young golfers do, to make a bad mistake or two at the wrong time.

He three-putted himself out of the Jacksonville Tournament. He had a bad tee shot in the Atlanta Classic when he out; that there would be good drove out of bounds on the

"I didn't have as much complex about those mistakes Deseret News sports writer as I thought people would have. And with the 76 round Saturday the first thing that Lake's Angels tonight, enter-"I learned from Bill that crossed my mind was that when you have that bad day, people would surely say of me again that Miller has blown

> John Miller told one reporter Sunday his next goal is to win a second U.S. Open.

> This he might have picked up from Casper, too. For it was his buddy, Billy, who said anyone can win a first U.S. Open with one good round, but immortality in golf is gained by winning two of them."

OAKMONT, PA. (UPI) - They were still talking today about Johnny Miller's remarkable finish.

They were saying it not only ranked with the greatest finishes in the U.S. Open, but also alongside some of the other great ones in sports history.

Bobby Thomson's miracle home run for the New York Giants in 1951 . . . Johnny Unitas leading the Baltimore Colts to victory in 1958 in footbail's first sudden death. the 1972 Olympic basketball final between Russia and the United States at Munich.

Joe Dey, commissioner of the PGA's tournament players division, put it this way:

"I don't know that there ever has been a greater finish, except perhaps Gene Sarazen's great charge at Fresh Meadow (L.I.) in 1932 when he played the last 28 holes in 100 shots (and won the Open by three).

"Miller's finish was really unbelievable," Dev said.

P. J. Boatwright, executive director of the U.S. Golf Association, said "I still can't believe it" after Miller had posted an eight-under-par 63 Sunday to win the 73rd U.S. Open Championship at the Oakmont Country Club and earn

Miller conquered Oakmont in the final round and broke the all-time open and Oakmont 18-hole records in the process. His five-under-par 279 total for 72 holes was four strokes better than anyone ever had done before at Oak-

In his record-shattering performance, Miller, 26, of San Francisco, had to pass Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player, Julius Boros and others.

He was six strokes off the pace when he teed off for the final round. He then birdied the first four holes and "I was sky high and I said 'Okay baby, let's go.' "

Miller picked up five more birdies and a bogey during his phenomenal round, then waited in the clubhouse while the players on the course attempted to overtake him.

They never did. John Schlee, an astrology buff who said his horoscope told him he was in "a lunar high point" and would do well in the Open, had the best chance but never quite made it.

Schlee shot a final round 70 for a 280 total and second place money of \$18,000.

Tom Weiskopf finished third with a 70 and a 281 total and joked after successive back to back wins in the previous two weeks that "I'm not used to finishing third."

In a three-way tie for fourth place at 282 were Palmer, who had a final round 72; Jack Nicklaus, who had a 68 Sunday, and Lee Trevino, with a 70.

Boros, Lanny Wadkins and Jerry Heard were another stroke back at 283, matching the best previous 72-hole score ever recorded at Oakmont. The total of nine sub-par scores for the tournament tied the all-time Open record.

"I told myself keep cool, keep cool, don't let the gallery get you excited," Miller confessed.

For much of the time, Johnny Miller did keep cool.

You shouldn've seen him after his second shot on the 17th hole when the gallery following him tendered him an ovation that could almost be heard in the next county.

Miller merely raised his right hand an inch or so above his shoulder, and to look at him you'd swear this was Charlton Heston parting the waters.

It wasn't always that way though for the tall, squarejawed, 26-year-old who also had a chance to win the Masters two years ago but let the whole thing fritter through

"Today I was so pumped up, I was super nervous," he said. "I can honestly say I gagged on those putts on seven



Ex-BYU golfer, Johnny Miller, clenched his fist as he set course record of 63 for a 279 to win U.S. Open.

Once he gets started. Miller is one of those compulsive non-stop talkers. He was so excited over what he did Sunday he was practically babbling when he came into the press tent to describe his round.

"There was one thing I kept in my head out there all day," he said, laughing some more. "'Don't shank!' I was thinking that on almost every iron shot. I know that's bad thinking, but I couldn't help it. It was always up there in my mind.

The ingenuous new U.S. Open champ laughed when he talked about it because professional golfers aren't supposed to shank the ball, only duffers are. But a shank happens to every golfer sometime in his life, and Miller didn't want it happening to him here in the U.S. Open, on nation-

Miller is much more mature than he was in the 1971 Masters where he had a two-stroke lead with eight holes to go - "And blew it, that's all you can call it."

Still, he does have lapses now and then and he had some here this past week.

The third round Saturday was a good example. Miller called it "a nightmare."

He came out to the course and forgot the card on which he had marked down the yardage of each hole. All golfers consider those vardage guides practically standard equipment. Some of them would rather venture out on the course without their blood than without those cards.

Miller has been on the tour five years now and apart from this one, managed to win only two tournaments the southern in 1971 and the Heritage last year. He has won a lot of money but few titles.

walked and gone to second on

Phoenix reliever Hartenstein

then settled down, however, to

retire pinch hitter John Doh-

erty on a fly ball and thereby

save Simpson's first victory of

"Their big hitters are doing

the job for them and ours are

not, it's that simple," Moss

said post-game in his office.

"We've gotten only four runs

in the first three games of

this series. That being the

case, we're lucky to have won

"We're simply going to have

Moss said he will start lefty

to bounce back in the final

Rick Young (5-4) in tonight's

7:30 Family Night contest

against Phoenix lefty Frank

Riccelli (6-6). The entire

family will be admitted to to-

The Phoenix at Salt Lake

series concludes Tuesday.

night's game for \$3.

two games of the series."

the season.

one game.

a walk to Bobby Marcano.

land, Steve Simpson

key factors.

straight previously from the run homer then a two-run

grab the top spot, however; for Cumberland, who silenced

they suddenly came up short the Angels' bats on six harm-

in the hitting department and less singles. The chunky lefty

fell before Phoenix twice over had shut out the Angels in his

The Giants blasted the them also. That was the week

Chuck Hartenstein being the

Ontiveros blasted a three-

homer in his first two trips to

the plate Saturday to stake

That was more than enough

previous appearance against

Sunday, Ontiveros, the PCL

hitting leader according to the

most recent stats, blasted a

two-ruh homer in the first in-

ning. Once again his effort

Phoenix hurler Simpson,

who came into the game with

an unenviable 16.88 earned run

added an insurance marker in

the seventh, when Skip James

walked, went to third on

Danny Breeden's single and

scored on a wild pitch by Salt

Lake reliever Aurelio Monte-

agudo. Monteagudo took over

for Salt Lake starter Don

Rose earlier in the inning.

Rose allowed only three hits

The Angels finally broke a

17 1/3- inning scoring drought

in the ninth, when Rich

Stelmaszek singled to score

in the six innings he worked.

Giants

before at Phoenix.

proved enough.

Meanwhile,

the Phoenicians to a 5-0 lead.

SPORTS EDITOR

HACK MILLER



The Kaslers and Torgays

CHICAGO - Saturday night was a big event in the lives of a couple dozen Utahns here in the Conrad Hilton

It was the occasion of the annual banquet of the American Academy of Achievement. Two Utahns, James E. Jensen of the Brigham Young University, and Robert L. (Bob) Rice, received famous Golden Plate Awards by the Academy for meritorious achievement.

Very much in the foreground, too, were Deseret News-KSL merit scholars who sat at a banquet as honorees with 1,900 other people (largest banquet I've ever seen) to associate with nearly 100 men and women who have attained unusual greatness in the American way.

We kids (including my wife and me who were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Rice) got to knock elbows with some of the world's greats.

There was Neil Armstrong, first man on the moon. We chatted with a charming Tenzing Norgay, the first man to put foot on the summit of the world's highest peak, and Sir Edmund Hillary, conqueror of Mt. Everest, who was the second man.

There were Anita Bryant, Jill Kinmont, Col. James Kasler (the prisoner of war for seven years who was in the same camp with Utah's Jay Hess), Senator Howard M. Baker (Watergate inqui "or). Hugh O'Brian and Jonathan Winters and Bart Starr, to "drop" several names on the illustrious roster.

In her Nepalese apparel

For a newsman this was a heydey, of course. Each honoree is a volume unto himself - or a set of volumes.

When would you get to talk to a lady like the beautiful Mrs. Torgay from Nepal, decked out in her native dress. or the man who discovered the world's largest dinosaur, or the man who discovered that there were left-handed amino acids which unlocked the time-telling clock of the world's

These people are big because of little things they have done and this brings up the conversation I had with Colonel Kasler.

He told about his time in the North Vietnam prisons, the Hanoi Hilton and other places. A sergeant tail-gunner during War II, he stayed in the service and became what they called a one-man air force. He had flown 72 missions when he was dropped - considered the hottest pilot in southwest Asia.

How did he stay alive in the incredible torturing he took at the hands of the enemy?

That question brought up the subject of Bob Rice, Utah's founder of the European Health Spa system. He asked to meet Bob, who stood nearby, and soon learned that the two of them had been corresponding.

The colonel had remained sane because he was faithful at exercising his body. "It helped my mind," he said.

And then I learned something about Bob Rice - a secret he had kept in the top of his topper.

When prisoners were released Bob suggested to appropriate military authorities that he would like the returning POWs to have access to all his health facilities.

No shadow of exploitation

Bob was sensitive about any shade of exploitation. He wanted no mention of it, no publicity. He felt so strongly about these men he wanted to contribute what he could to their recovery, their return to normality.

The offer was made: anyone who wanted to use facilities could - at their pleasure. He only asked that if they wanted to they contact Bob's office in Salt Lake and a golden card would be issued.

Coionel Kasler had accepted Bob's offer and he wanted to extend his thanks. The two men talked at length and it was Mrs. Kasler who paid highest tribute to the health

"Those were difficult days," Mrs. Kasler told us as we listened to conversation with Bob Rice. "I was in Indianapolis and to keep my mind off my problems as much as possible I went to the health places and exercised. Exercise kept me on a good keel. I endured those seven years on that schedule."

Then I pried Bob for the story - his contribution to the POWs.

The prisoner returnees were told if they were interested in using the facilities they could call Bot's office in Salt Lake City collect.

Never did Bob receive a collect call. Blanch Treharne, Bob's secretary, told her boss, that in all her secretarial days she had never talked to such appreciative people.

"Blanche would wait for the phone to ring hoping that it would be a call from one of the prisoners of war. It was

the highlight of her day to talk to these men," Bob When you visit with people like Jim Kasler, and spend days with Jay Hess, you come out believing that this old

world is a wonderful place after all and our system of doing things, though awkward and sometimes inadequate, is the best way.

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Williams wins Brigham City Open

By George Ferguson Sports managing editor

BRIGHAM CITY - It was an in-city show here Sunday as host professional Tommy Williams and amateur resident Reid Goodliffe were the only two to break par in a wet, windy and cold Brigham City Open. Williams won at 2-under

After Goodliffe, a former golfer for University of Utah, came in with a 1-under 73 to win the amateur flight, Williams was about to cancel the pro portion of the tourney.

-But a cold, north wind blew the clouds away after they had dumped much moisture on the Brigham City layout.

Williams then proceeded to card three birdies and a bogey on the par 74 course. He got a birdie deuce on No. 2, a three on the par 4 fifth hole and a four on the par 5 13th. His and Lanny Nielsen 37-37. only bogey was on the par 4 Amateur Tom Christensen sixth hole.

als. Lane Larkin had a 39-35. Packard were at 75. Four pros Bill Downs a 36-38. Joey on- carded 76s. Bob Betley Lorin



Tommy Williams

. . . wins Brigham City

signore 37-37, Chip Garriss 35-39, Rusty Guernsey 36-38,

also shot a par, 37-37. There were several par Professionals Jon Mauss, shooters among the profession- John Evans, Al Jones and Jim

Foye, Dick Kramer and Mike

By Brent Checketts

Field.

The pressure is on Salt

ing the fourth game of a five-

game home series with the

Phoenix Giants at Derks

Manager Les Moss' Salt

Lake crew enters the game

trailing Pacific Coast League

East leader Tucson by three

full games and second-place

Phoenix by two and one-half

Other amateur included Jim Blair and Bob Bradbury at 75. Steve Sharp, Don Branca and Ron Branca had 77s. Greg Sharp and Lee Markham shot 78s.

In Saturday play, Dave Christensen and Gary Howard shared A flight honors with par 74s. Tome Kase won B flight at 76. Five tied in (flight with 84s. Earl Johnston, Chuck Lofthouse, Ken Bearden. Perry Cozier and Bret

Goodliffe, who has not been able to untrack his game since returning from the U.S. Army some time ago, went out at

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Wahlin.

even par with two birds and average, blanked Salt Lake on two bogeys and slipped to five hits over the first eight in-1-under when he birdied the nings. par 5 16th hole.

Giants 3-2 in the series open-

er. That win upped the Salt

Lake win streak to six, since

the Angels had won five

Just when it looked like the

Salt Lakers had their momen-

tum at a crest necessary to

Angels 11-0 Saturday and then

Albuquerque Dukes.

the weekend.

The Angels were on the won 3-1 Sunday with the hit-

verge of tying for first place ting of Steve Ontiveros and

Friday after beating the fine pitching by John Cumber-

The top action this weekend on the Utah Golf Circuit is the 36-hole Mick Riley Memorial at Meadow Brook. It is a 36-hole event.

The 36-hole U.S. Public Links qualifying is Wednesday at Bonneville.

The Virginia Whitney Memorial Hole-In-One contest is at all courses Saturday.

The Skyway Amateur is Saturday and Sunday at Tremon-

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