

So The Story Goes.....

About a good natured, undersized kid, still a young and mischievous teenager in Junior High School, when over at Robert E. Lee High School they placed a sign, 'Home of Champions'! He wonders, "How do I fit into such a world of athletes, who're building such a legacy?"

"I'm not big and fast, the physicality to compete in such a burgeoning sports dynasty", but wait, the Lee Volunteers were just beginning to start a golf program. Golf in the Volunteer Red and Gray world of football, basketball, baseball, and track, this can't be? Oh, yes it can, and it's destined to be real championship golf at this 'Home of Champions'.

He works his way through the team rankings to compete, and in his Junior year of high school, he finds himself on the practice course with the formidable 1966 State Golf Champions, the 1st ever state championship team of any sport at Robert E. Lee of San Antonio. That practice course is his home during that '66 championship race, he was a second teamer, but getting the rush of what it was to win. He's bit by the 'addicting golf bug', the one that makes many a man and woman struggle with their sporting identity, until their time on earth has passed.

He's a competitive 'Player' through his remaining high school years, but then his adult responsibilities take him from his time on the links. Fast forward to the '90's, and he's back to feeding that notorious 'addictive golf bug', it's gnawing at his club grip. He kicks the grass, pitches his cap, "have I lost my touch?" Every day, he's back to the course, feeling the madness that makes many a golfer deliriously whisper the question, "What's happening to me, this game has become more important than life and death."

Practice, practice, practice, time running out, he puts his focus on the prestigious American Amateur Golf Tour, now owned and operated by the Golf Channel. Hold on, he's in his 60's and he'd be competing against younger players, and 1,000's of them at that. Does he still have the skill to compete, and more important, does he have the GRIT? We'll find out what he's made of.

He takes a run at it in 2006-2010, he qualified for the Nationals in 2007- 2010, close, but he went home empty handed. He's not in the National's picture for the next two years, maybe he's washed up.

He thinks, "Why not try again and see if I have what it takes?" Circa 2012, he's back at it and going for the National Amateur Championship, 'He won't go away', it's a long journey, this tourney stuff. 1st tournament he wins, 2nd and he wins again, and 3rd and he's forced to settle for a respectable 3rd place, waxing poetic. He's back on the 4th tournament with another win, it's now 4 tournaments and he's won 3. Not too bad! Oh no, he goes to the 5th tournament, and he matches it with a 5th place, waxing poetic again. Has he run out of gas?

Wait just a minute. He goes into the 6th, it's the Regional Major, the Red River Shootout, and he wins again. He then goes into the 7th, the Texas Masters at Barton Creek, in the sweltering heat and a 2-Hole Playoff, he wins his 2nd Regional Major title. He moves on to

the Tour Championship at TPC in his home town of San Antonio, he finishes 2nd, just one stroke out of the lead, he's headed to the 'Big One'.

September 2012, the Senior National Championship in Florida, the TPC at Saw Grass and the Pointe Vedra Inn and Club, 123 out of 1,000's of golfers have qualified. It's a 4 day, a 72-Hole Stroke Play event.

Going into the final day he's in 5th place, 11 strokes out of the lead. The 'Skill and Grit' question is answered. He WINS it all! Bob Tuttle, Robert E. Lee '67, comes from behind to win, National Amateur Champion in the Senior Sarazen Flight.



One of Ours, Bob Tuttle '67, Grit and Golf