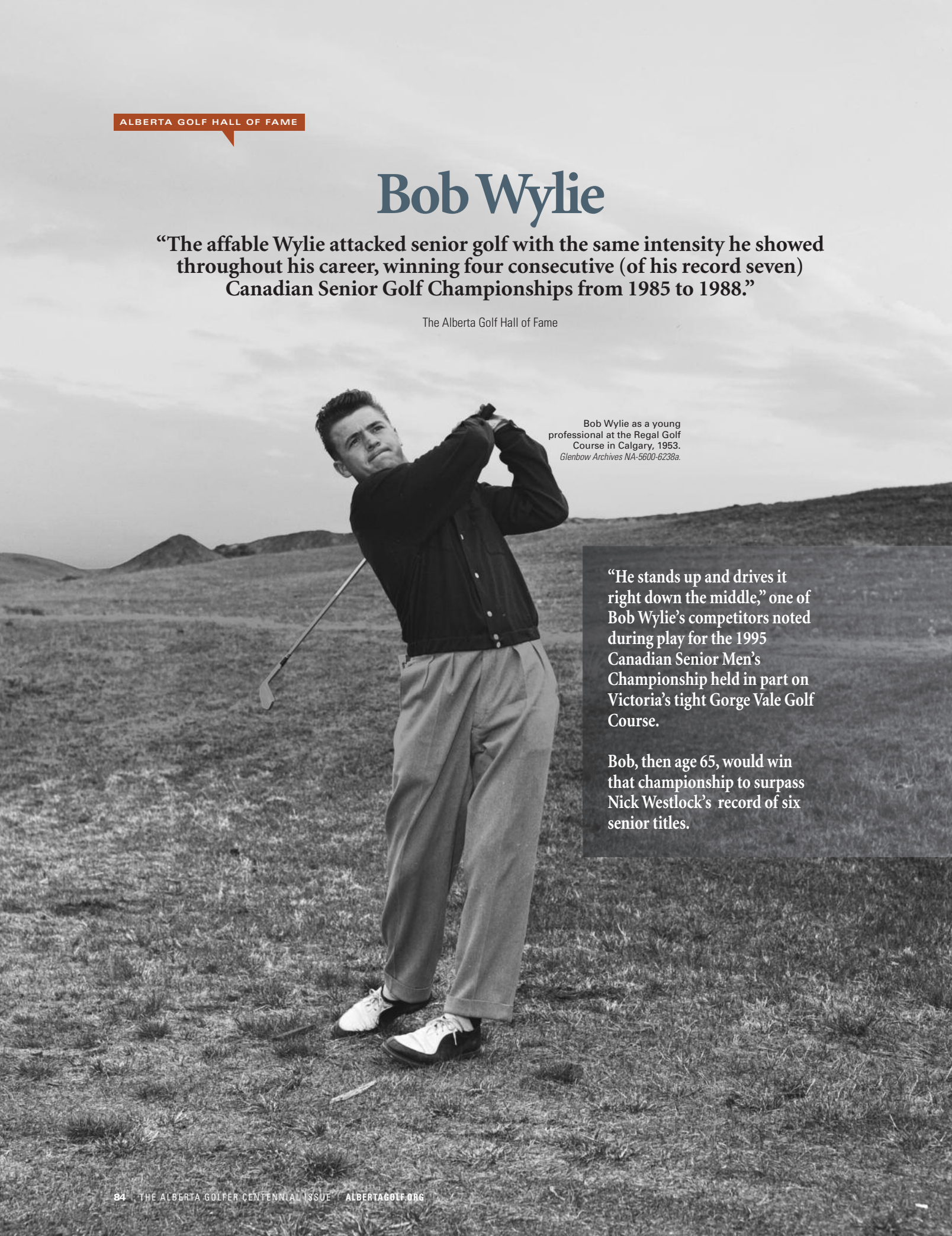


Bob Wylie

“The affable Wylie attacked senior golf with the same intensity he showed throughout his career, winning four consecutive (of his record seven) Canadian Senior Golf Championships from 1985 to 1988.”

The Alberta Golf Hall of Fame



Bob Wylie as a young professional at the Regal Golf Course in Calgary, 1953.
Glenbow Archives NA-5600-6238a.

“He stands up and drives it right down the middle,” one of Bob Wylie’s competitors noted during play for the 1995 Canadian Senior Men’s Championship held in part on Victoria’s tight Gorge Vale Golf Course.

Bob, then age 65, would win that championship to surpass Nick Westlock’s record of six senior titles.

Bob Wylie, the senior, never lost his competitive nature.



While Bob's seven Senior Championships are a record, they are absolutely astounding when it is noted that, in the year prior to his first senior victory, Bob represented Canada on the World Amateur Team with teammates as young as 19.

On Canadian courses from coast to coast, Bob Wylie, born in 1929, has always been regarded as not only an outstanding golfer but also as a genuinely good guy. Mention his name in any clubhouse and everybody has something positive to say.

Meeting him is a pleasure and an education in modesty. His blue eyes are lit with genuine charm. He's soft-spoken and seems almost taken aback when people show an interest in his golf, although he has gotten a little used to the attention since his 1995 induction into the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame and its Alberta counterpart in 2005.

A natural athlete, Bob could have chosen to pursue any one of the handful of sports he played in his Calgary high school. Bob's younger brother, Harvey, played for the Calgary Stampeders and another brother, Cliff, played hockey.

Struggling to break 80

Bob played all the schools sports, from football to baseball, but it wasn't until friends in his last year of school introduced him to golf that he found the one that he liked enough to challenge him all his life.

Struggling to break 80 and knowing "everyone in town could lick me," Bob enrolled at Martin Allred's indoor golf school. "I hit balls all winter," he recalls, "and in the spring Martin still wouldn't let me on a course."

Allred, who also developed Keith Alexander's swing, had a unique system involving a shortened club shaft, a chain and weights. As complicated as Allred's system appeared, the end result was that in his first summer of competitive golf, Bob won the city amateur championship (1949).

Over the next 60 years, Bob's swing would take him all over the world and he would win bookcases full of trophies and medals. He would compete on 14 Willingdon Cup teams, 11 interprovincial senior teams, two Americas Cup teams, and four World Amateur teams.



While there are also numerous individual titles in his collection, including five Alberta Amateurs, two Alberta Opens and the 1960 Mexican Amateur, it is the international matches that Bob counts as his highlights.

"My biggest thrill," he told *The Calgary Herald* in 1969, "comes each time I am named to an international team and I'm playing for Canada. It sounds corny, but it's true. I get choked up standing there during the opening ceremonies when they play our national anthem. I think the other boys would tell you the same."

"You have to like what you're doing."

Looking back, Bob hints that his success in golf is based on something much simpler than his swing or his athletic ability, as critical as they are.

"I like golf," he says. "I play golf because I really like it. I had to like it to play it. Otherwise I would have chosen another sport. I could have played hockey, or football or baseball. But I didn't.

"You have to like what you're doing."

At first, this sounds too simple an explanation for Bob's unparalleled record, especially when considered in the context of modern, motivational coaching and training. While always ready to take lessons to improve, Bob has always been motivated to practice and play simply because he 'likes golf.'

Bob understands this today, but early in his career he hoped that golf would also be a way for him to earn a living. He turned professional in 1953 as the pro at the Regal Club in Calgary (now the Calgary Elks Lodge and Golf Club) and showed a profit for the year of less than \$500.

Hired as the assistant to Jack Cuthbert at the Calgary Golf and Country Club in 1954, Bob began giving lessons and found his game improving because of the lessons.

"I began playing better. I knew what I wanted to do."

Bob tried to qualify in American tournaments over the winters. Without much financial return for his efforts after four years, he returned to Calgary and applied for reinstatement as an amateur.

"I don't know what went wrong," he says. "I think I got 'too zinged up' by everything."

At Least Four Course Records

While waiting to regain his amateur standing, Bob was offered a sales job with a construction company specializing in gas plants.

"First, you're going to have to play golf with me today," his new boss told him.

On that round, Bob shot a new course record of 61 that still stands today. During the 1960's he would hold at least four course records including a 68 at the Royal Sydney Golf and Country Club in Australia.

With a steady paycheck and time for all the golf he could play, Bob found that, once again, he 'liked golf.'

On February 26, 1963 – a date he will never forget – he married Joan Cuthbert who he still refers to as "a great kid," and settled into a wonderful life with her and her children who he adopted.

"He was a pretty nice looking guy. And he had a great smile," Joan says.

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“I couldn’t putt.”

“Everything went swimmingly,” Bob recalls until “I lost all of the 1970’s. I couldn’t putt.”

The record books attest to Bob’s putting problems: he can’t claim one significant win or team participation between 1969 and 1982.

The problem wasn’t really the putting. The problem was alcohol. “Bob is really a shy person,” Joan explains. “Drinking helped that.”

In 1980 Bob’s boss called him in and told him he was taking away his car, his credit cards – everything – until Bob got things sorted out. That was the bottom of Bob’s world: he couldn’t putt, and he couldn’t work.

“A guy sent me to a psychologist’s office,” Bob says. “I spent two hours with him. I haven’t had a drink since.”

At age 51, Bob got his job back. “I went to my boss and said ‘I can work if you can trust me.’”

“It took him three years.”

Getting his golf game back was more difficult. “It took him three years,” Joan says.

Bob can still recall the day he thought “I can putt again.” It was as if golf was giving him a chance to make up for the years that had slipped away. “I began to play as well as I had in the 1950’s and 60’s.” By 1982 he was on a Willingdon Cup team and, age 54, he competed in Hong Kong for Canada on the 1984 World Amateur Team.

Not winning a Canadian title had always been one of Bob’s regrets. “I had had many chances in the Canadian Amateurs, but I never won. I made the semi’s and the quarter finals but I always seemed to go to pot.”

However, he did have one last chance at a national title – the Canadian Seniors.

“I was determined to win a national title.”

“When I turned 55 I told myself ‘I’m not going to blow this.’ I was determined I was going to win a national title. I was fortunate. I ended up winning seven of them.”

Today Bob continues to practice year round with the same enthusiasm he started with 60 years ago. On Saturdays, he helps a group on the other side of the city with their golf and coaches a young student.

That’s how much Bob Wylie, 83, likes golf ... and how much golf likes Bob Wylie.

ALBERTA GOLF HALL OF FAME

Diane Williams



Diane Williams of Calgary has compiled an unrivaled amateur golf record since the early 1990’s. She has won city, provincial, national and international individual titles while also earning multiple provincial team positions.

Her calm demeanor and professional approach to the game smoothly paved the way for her to becoming a non-playing team captain for two Canadian World Amateur Teams.

Beyond her playing and coaching career, Diane has also taken the time to give back to the game by volunteering her services to the Canadian Ladies’ Golf Association and then Golf Canada Player Development Committees for 13 years as well as serving as a Calgary Ladies’ Golf Association executive member for 25 years!

ALBERTA GOLF HALL OF FAME

Buddy Loftus



Buddy Loftus began his career as a youthful prodigy roaming courses in Edmonton, playing the old Prince Rupert Course, where his parents managed the concession. By 1947, at the age of 17, Buddy had already won three Edmonton and two Alberta Junior championships.

In 1948, Buddy made the Alberta Willingdon Cup team. He also went on to win the Alberta Open defeating highly talented players of the day such as Henry Martell of Edmonton and a young Walter McElroy, of Vancouver.

Buddy turned pro when he was just 19 years of age and went to work for Henry Martell at the Edmonton Highlands Golf Club. He would then put aside a career as a touring golf professional to be close to his family. By 1963 he became the head golf professional at the Calgary Golf and Country Club and served in that position for 13 years before retiring to B.C. Amongst his notable accomplishments are three Alberta Open Championships.