

Cablegram from the Hogans when I was at Muirfield in 1948. RIGHT: A typical Hogan address position — typifying concentration, control, poise, power, and his latest address and grip.

Mr Golf business!

The story of his amazing recovery to health, strength and playing skill after his car accident in 1949 was the subject of the film, 'Follow the Sun'. His wonderful come-back to the top fired the imagination of the sporting world as an example of unequalled 'guts', and he was an even better golfer after his accident than he was before.

Hogan's record is fabulous. He has won the British Open Championship, four American Opens, and tied for a fifth in 1956.

His wife Valerie has been the perfect companion for him. When Ben is playing she can usually be found in a comfortable niche at the clubhouse, knitting socks for him.

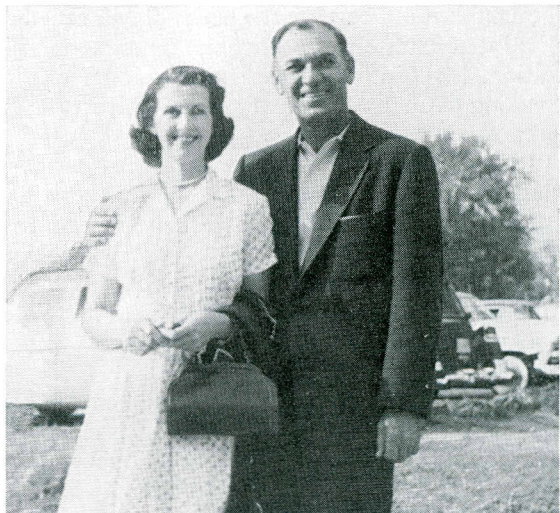
First played with Ben in 1948, before his accident, but I saw a lot of his play in 1947. He has really great golfing hands, so immensely powerful for his weight that he can almost be said never to let the club-shaft slip round in his fingers accidentally.

We played again in 1957, and I noticed he was still hitting the ball as squarely as ever. He does not possess an elegant swing in perhaps the Snead or Jones style — it might even be called flat — but he is the master of it, he knows exactly how to control it.

After building up his game from a natural draw, which caused trouble in his early days, to a controlled fade shot, he has now again reverted to a straight shot tending to draw; but now his left

hand is in a safe place, showing a maximum of two knuckles. When putting he keeps his chin tight to his chest. He says this prevents him looking up too early.

There has been no golfer quite like 'Bantam Ben', 'Battling Ben', 'The Mighty Atom' and 'The Hawk' — and he is still the biggest draw in America. It will be a sad day for the game when he decides to give up, but many professionals will, I know, raise a silent cheer.



Ben and Valerie in 1956.