



This exceptional book relates the story of the 1913 US Golf Open at Brookline. Apart from capturing the start of golf in America it is a story about humanity. It is a brilliant read whether you are into golf or not. The story was made into a film by Walt Disney starring Shia LaBeouf (also famous for his leading role in Transformers).

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWU0O4iC Od8>

For his contribution to Golf, Francis Ouimet was honoured with the Captaincy of the Royal & Ancient in 1951. His signature can be seen on the Royal Cinque Ports Golf Course frame that hangs in the Putters Inn at Royal Malta. Eddie Lowery, his little caddie, became a self-made millionaire.

**Harry Vardon:** [to Lord Northcliff] Let me tell you something. I came here to win a trophy. And on the face of it Ted Ray or I should carry it off. Not for you, not for England, but for sheer bloody pride at being the best, that's why we do this. And if Mr. Ouimet wins tomorrow, it's because he's the best, because of who he is. Not who his father was, not how much money he's got, because of who he bloody is! And I'll thank you to remember that. And I'll thank you to show the respect a gentleman gives as a matter of course.

An award-winning TV writer (Hill Street Blues) turned novelist Frost (The Six Messiahs, 1995, etc.) proves just as skilled at non-fiction in his affectionate recreation of the dramatic 1913 US Open Golf Championship. Beginning with interwoven biographies of Harry Vardon and Francis Ouimet, Frost slowly builds to the dramatic finish at the Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts. Born on the Channel Island of Jersey in 1870, Vardon had won five British Open titles by 1913. He had contracted tuberculosis in 1903, but returned to top-level golf despite neurological damage in his right hand caused by the disease. With a demure, stay-at-home wife and a brother gone to America, Harry battled loneliness. On this side of the Atlantic, 20-year-old Ouimet was the Massachusetts state amateur champion and had been a caddie at the Country Club; his invitation to the Open was unexpected. The long, wonderful second portion of the story dramatizes the exciting week in September when Vardon, Ouimet, and others battled for the coveted title. Frost paints a lively supporting cast. Ouimet's mother, brother, and sister were supportive, but his father had no truck with the silly game. English newspaper publisher Lord Northcliff was blatantly nationalistic. Bernard Darwin, the scientist's grandson, found his niche as a first-generation golf journalist. Ted Ray, a big bear of a man, punched out a fellow English golfer before joining friend Vardon and Ouimet in a three-man playoff. Walter Hagen was the first American playboy golfer, and ten-year-old caddie Eddie Lowery almost stole the show with his pugnacious confidence and sage advice for Francis. The shot-by-shot account of the 18-hole playoff captures the excitement of the day with its appreciation of the subtle shifts of the game and of the beauty of the Country Club. Throughout, Frost demonstrates a detailed knowledge of the different rules, equipment, and terminology used in 1913. Striking photographs complement the first-rate narrative. (Kirkus Reviews)