

rarely earned more than \$20 a week when Boros was growing up. Boros began playing golf as a caddy at the Greenfield (Connecticut) Country Club when he was still in elementary school. Small for his age, he was dubbed "Peanuts" by some of the adult golfers. At the time of his graduation from elementary school he stood only four feet nine inches high and weighed about 100 pounds.

While attending Roger Ludlowe High School, Boros added more than a foot to his stature and began to develop his hefty physique. At the high school he boxed, starred on the basketball team, and captained the golf team. From high school he went to the University of Bridgeport, where he majored in accounting. After college, he found a patron in the late Roger Sherman, who owned the Rockledge Country Club and a construction company in Hartford, Connecticut. Employed by Sherman as an accountant for the construction company, Boros was permitted to spend a portion of his working time on the golf course. On the Hartford course he received a little informal tutelage from Tommy Armour, but otherwise he was completely self-taught.

As a medic in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II, Boros was assigned to the air base in Biloxi, Mississippi, where the commanding general was a golfing buff. Boros remained in Biloxi throughout the war, spending much of his off-duty time playing golf with the general. After the war he returned to his sinecure at the Sherman Construction Company and established himself as a leading amateur in the New York-Connecticut area. In the national amateur competition in 1948 he reached the fifth round, and in the following year he reached the quarter final.

In December 1949 Boros turned professional. To assure himself of pocketing a profit in the tournament season, he teamed the excellent pro and golf shop concessionaire at the Mid-Pines Country Club in Southern Pines, North Carolina. The club was owned by the father of Ann Cosgrove, an amateur golfer who had encouraged Boros in his decision to turn pro. Miss Cosgrove, who married Boros in May 1950, died of a cerebral hemorrhage after giving birth to a son in September of the following year. Her death was a shattering blow to Boros, a devoted husband, who had leaned heavily on his wife for moral support. But swallowing his grief, he golfed stolidly on, because, as a friend later explained, "He knew that she would have wanted it that way."

Boros' earnings in his first two years on the pro tour were a modest \$2,000 and \$4,697. He finally hit his stride in June 1952, when he surprised prognosticators by defeating Ed Oliver and Ben Hogan in the United States Open at Dallas, Texas. "I was driving well, which is the strong part of my game, on those narrow fairways," he later said, in explaining his victory in golf's toughest and most prestigious event, "and, for once, my putting was not erratic." The following August he edged out Cary Middlecoff for what was then golf's richest prize, the \$25,000 world championship tournament at the Tam O'Shanter Country Club in Chicago. He finished the year with total earnings of \$37,032.07

In 1953 Boros failed to win a major tournament and his earnings dropped to \$5,059. The following year he won the Ardmore and Carling opens and collected \$16,987. His earnings in 1955, when he again won the Tam O'Shanter world championship, were \$62,122, and he picked up another \$56,000 from exhibition matches made possible by his championship status. He slumped in 1956 and 1957, failing to win a major tournament and bringing home \$5,358 and \$9,321 respectively. In 1958 he won the Carling and Arlington Hotel opens and pocketed \$29,817, and in 1959 he took the Dallas Open and earned \$18,044. In 1960 he won the Colonial National Invitation and the Buick Open and earned \$24,557. Although his combined earnings in 1961 and 1962 exceeded \$37,000, he failed to win a major tournament in either of those years.

In June 1963, when he was, at forty-three, already theoretically beyond his prime—Boros scored an upset over Arnold Palmer and Jackie Cupit to win his second United States Open—a prize that has eluded many other great golfers even in their best years. At that event, held in Brookline, Massachusetts, Boros, Palmer, and Cupit finished the regulation seventy-two holes tied at 293. In the eighteen-hole playoff that followed, Boros fired a 70 for a three-stroke edge over Cupit and a six-stroke margin over Palmer. He thus became the oldest golfer—by seventy-two hours over 1920 champion Ted Ray—ever to win the United States Open. Boros also won the Buick Open and the Colonial National in 1963. He collected \$77,356.67 in winnings for the year and for the second time was named Golfer of the Year by the PGA.

Following his victory in the Greensboro Open in 1964, Boros went into a two-year slump but during the year he reaped \$82,715 in fees and prizes but won no major tournaments. In 1965 he suddenly hit his old stride again, winning the Phoenix and Buick opens and the Florida Citrus Tournament and averaging 70.79 shots per round in twenty-three other tournaments. His official earnings for the year were \$126,785.

In July 1968 he won the PGA championship—with a prize of \$25,000—by shooting 281 for four rounds over the sun-baked Pecan Valley course in San Antonio, Texas. Four weeks later he overtook novice Bob Murphy on the final hole of the final round of the Westchester Golf Classic at Harrison, New York to finish first with a total score of 271. The Westchester prize of \$50,000 boosted Boros' total earnings for the year to \$144,357. Only Billy Casper, with \$146,685, earned more. In career earnings Boros ranks fourth, behind Arnold Palmer, Billy Casper, and Jack Nicklaus.

Boros' outstanding characteristic, in private as in public, is his quiet equanimity. Unflappable under stress, he never loses his temper or raises his voice, according to those close to him. Under the appearance of being "plodding" and "phlegmatic," as some observers have described him, he is actually coolly efficient. He makes decisions quickly, without wasting words or indulging in ruminations, and he follows through confidently and resolutely, at a relaxed, steady pace. On the course he pursues his



JULIUS BOROS

lips. "In an era of tortuously slow professional golfers . . ." John Underwood wrote in *Sports Illustrated* (March 25, 1968), "he calculates how he will hit the ball even as he comes on it, and once there he does not primp over it in the style of Jack Nicklaus or go through the contortions and the preening of Arnold Palmer. His is a kind of golf-polo: up to the ball into position, wham." Although he appears dour when playing, his attitude toward others, including caddies whose mistakes may cost him points and money, is friendly and considerate. "He does not make the star's social error of patronizing the people who hover around his game," John Underwood wrote in his *Sports Illustrated* article. "He is never unfriendly, is gracious and adaptable whether they play like Jack Nicklaus or have a twenty handicap."

Julius Boros' nickname is Jay, but colleagues and fans also call him Moose, Big Julie, the Bear, and similar epithets characterizing his left (six feet, 210 pounds). By his first marriage Boros has a son, Jay. In 1955, four years after the death of his first wife, Boros married Armen Boyle, a former airline stewardess and the daughter of a golf pro. By his second marriage Boros has three daughters Joy, Gay, and Jodi, and three sons, Julius, Gary, and Guy. The family's home is a house near the ocean in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. A dedicated family man, Boros has said that he would like to spend less time on tour and more at home, enjoying his family and fishing for snook. "But I've got seven kids to educate, and the first one starts college in a couple of years. Where else could I make this kind of money?"

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BOROS, JULIUS (NICHOLAS)

Mar. 3, 1920—Golfer
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Among the most enduring of American professional golfing champions is Julius Boros, whose career over a span of two decades include two United States Open crowns (1952 and 1963), the Professional Golfers Association championship (1968), and the Westchester Golf Classic trophy (1968). Boros, the oldest player ever to win the Open and PGA titles, was set for a bright, superannuated by ordinary pro golfing standards, and he suffers from arthritis, hernias, and myocarditis. But his game shows no signs of decline, and he is hitting longer than ever. He is also making more money than ever. In 1968 he collected \$144,357, and his career earnings add up to \$713,359.

One of six children of Lance and Elizabeth Boros, Julius Nicholas Boros was born in Fairfield, Con-

Boros, Julius
golf champion

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