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Sunday,
June 8, 2008

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S**SPORTS****GHOLSON** continued from

holes on Saturday, and heading into the final 18, Cherry had dropped one shot behind Hogan and Nicklaus but was still one up on Palmer.

Cherry drained a 40-foot par putt on 14 and then hit a 4-iron to within three feet on the par-3 15th.

It was then that playing partner Sam Snead whispered to Cherry: "You're going to win this tournament."

Cherry missed the putt.

He also missed birdie putts on 15 and 16, then took a 7 on the final hole and ended up in tie with Hogan for ninth place.

Times Record News

IN THE NICK OF TIME**NICK GHOLSON**

The 1960 U.S. Open is considered special because it brought together golf's past, present and future — all battling it out on the back nine at Cherry Hills.

Ben Hogan was the past.

Arnold Palmer was the present.

Jack Nicklaus was the future.

Hogan, 47 at the time, came to Colorado a four-time winner of the Open.

Needing to par the final two holes to win a fifth one, Hogan made 6 and 7 and finished in a tie for ninth place.

Nicklaus, a 20-year-old amateur, would go on to win four Opens, but had to settle for second place in 1960.

The 30-year-old Palmer, eight shots behind at the midway point, drove the 313-yard par-4 No. 1 hole in the final round, birdied six of his first seven holes, shot 65 and beat Nicklaus by two shots to win his only Open title.

"In the span of 18 holes, we witnessed the arrival of Nicklaus, the coronation of Palmer and the end of Hogan," the great writer Dan Jenkins once wrote.

On Wednesday night, the day before this year's U.S. Open tees off at Torrey Pines, HBO will show a documentary on that 1960 Open.

But HBO probably won't tell you why this tournament is so important to us here in Wichita Falls.

It was the only time a Wichitan finished in the top 10 at a major tournament.

Don Cherry, at 1-under-par 141, was a shot ahead of Palmer, Nicklaus and Hogan at the midway point of the tournament.

Back then they played the final 36

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But how many people from Wichita Falls can say: "I tied Ben Hogan at the U.S. Open?"

Only one. Don Cherry.

And how many people in the world can say: "I've had a top 10 record and a top 10 finish in a major golf tournament?"

Only one.

Don Cherry.

Known more for his singing than his golf, Cherry's record *Band of Gold* reached the top-10 charts in 1955.

Just let Arnie and Jack try to beat that.

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