

# Patty Berg

LPGA Founder

**Deceased:** 9/10/06  
**Rookie year:** Founder  
**Career victories (last):** 60 (1962)  
**Majors won:** 15 (3 as an amateur)  
**Career-low round:** 64  
**Career earnings (rank):** \$190,760# (343)  
**LPGA career holes-in-one:** 1  
**Playoff record:** 4-4



# Due to loss of early LPGA records, this figure falls short of Berg's true career earnings.

## Professional

### Career

- One of the LPGA's 13 founding members in 1950.
- Was the honorary chairperson for the 2002 Solheim Cup, which was held at her home course, Interlachen Country Club in Edina, Minn.; raised the U.S. flag during the event's Opening Ceremony.
- Was one of six members of the inaugural class inducted into the LPGA Teaching and Club Professional (T&CP) Hall of Fame in October 2000.
- In the summer of 1991, recorded a hole-in-one at the age of 73.
- Berg's hole-in-one during the 1959 U.S. Women's Open at Churchill Valley Country Club in Pittsburgh made her the first woman to record an ace in a USGA competition.
- A three-time winner of the *Golf Digest* Performance Average Award from 1955-57.
- Was the LPGA money leader from 1954-55 and in 1957.
- Of her 60 career victories, 22 came before the LPGA was founded in 1950, including eight of her 15 major championships.
- Won an LPGA record 15 major championship titles in her career, the first of which was in 1937 as an amateur.
- Was one of the six inaugural inductees into the LPGA Tour Hall of Fame, which was created in 1967; the LPGA recognized her induction year into the Hall of Fame of Women's Golf as her official induction year into the LPGA Tour Hall of Fame (1951).
- Was the first LPGA president from 1950-52.
- Between 1948 and 1962, won 44 professional titles.
- Led the Women's Professional Golf Association (WPGA), the LPGA's predecessor, with three victories in both 1948 and 1949.
- Her first five professional victories came before the formation of the WPGA in 1944.
- Turned professional in June 1940.

## Amateur

Berg picked up golf at the age of 13 and just three years later won the 1934 Minneapolis City Championship. This marked the first of 28 amateur championship victories in a seven-year period for Berg. Her amateur victories include three Titleholders Championships (1937-39), the 1938 U.S. Women's Amateur, 1938 Western Amateur, 1938-39 Trans-Mississippi Championships, 1938 Western Derby and five Helen Lee Doherty Championships (1936-40). Berg also was a member of the U.S. Curtis Cup Team in 1936 and 1938.

## Personal

Given name: Patricia Jane Berg...Was quarterback on the "50<sup>th</sup> Street Tigers" that featured Bud Wilkinson at tackle...Injuries and illnesses plagued her much of her adult life: sidelined 18 months after a car crash in 1941; cancer surgery in 1971; major hip surgery in 1980; back surgery in 1989...Was active promoting the game and working with children...Served as a lieutenant in Marine Corps during WWII (1942-45)...Represented Wilson Sporting Goods since 1940...First woman pro to give an exhibition in Japan (1962)...University of Minnesota has the Patty Berg Development Fund...Berg's honors and achievements are numerous, including induction into the LPGA Tour and World Golf Halls of Fame, LPGA T&CP Hall of Fame, Women's Sports Hall of Fame, PGA of America Golf Hall of Fame, University of Minnesota Hall of Fame, American, Minnesota and Florida Sports Halls of Fame...A three-time winner of the Associated Press Athlete of the Year Award (1938, 1943 and 1955), Berg was named the 1963 Bob Jones Award honoree by the USGA to recognize a person who emulates the sportsmanship of the award's namesake...Received the 1959 William D. Richardson Award from the Golf Writers Association of America (GWAA) for consistent outstanding contributions to golf...The National Golf Foundation (NGF) added Berg's name to its honor roll on three occasions, awarding her the Joe Graffis Award in 1975 and the Herb Graffis Award in 1981, in addition to naming her as a NGF honorary consultant in 1983...Berg also was honored with the 1975 Ben Hogan Award given annually by the GWAA...The LPGA established the Patty Berg Award in 1978 to be granted to a person for outstanding contributions to women's golf...Received the Metropolitan New York Golf Writers' Gold Tee Award in 1978, the year she was granted Class A honorary status in the LPGA T&CP...Authored three books on golf and, in 1976, became the first woman to ever receive the Humanitarian Sports Award from the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation...Received the 1982 Charles Bartlett Award from the GWAA for unselfish contributions to the betterment of society...Received the 1987 Female Contributor to Sport Award given by the United States Sports Academy...Was named one of the "100 Heroes of Golf" and also "Golfer of the Decade" for the period 1938-47 by *GOLF Magazine* during the 1988 Centennial of Golf in America celebrations...Was the annual honoree of Jack Nicklaus' 1988 Memorial Tournament...Was the 1990 recipient of the Patty Berg

Award...Was inducted into the All-American Collegiate Hall of Fame in 1991...Was one of 15 selected by PGA of America as Golf's Legendary Teachers...Southwest Florida Regional Medical Center dedicated the Patty Berg Cancer Center in 1993...In 1994, was honored with the Meritorious Golf Award, Courage Award, Lifetime Achievement Award and Van Patrick Lifetime Achievement Award...The 1994 McDonald's LPGA Championship was dedicated to Berg...Received the 1995 PGA Distinguished Service Award and 1995 Big Ten Centennial Award...In 1995, inducted in the University of Minnesota Women's Athletics Department Hall of Fame...University of Minnesota named its women's athletic program the Patty Berg Foundation...Won the 1995 Sisterhood Award and the National Conference of Christians and Jewish Award...Received the 1995 EWG Leadership Award given by the Executive Women's Golf League and the first ever Volvo Legend Series Award...Presented with the Warren J. Reibold Distinguished Service Award in 1996...Honored with the Sprint Lifetime Achievement Award in May 1997...Received 1998 National Golf Course Owners Association Award of Merit...First honoree of the Naples LPGA Memorial tournament in 1999...Presented with the 1999 *Gulfshore Life Magazine* Woman of the Year for Sports and Recreation award...Was named one of the 50 Greatest Golfers of All Time by *Golf Digest* in 2000 (48<sup>th</sup>)...Received the LPGA T&CP membership's Eagle Award from the Southeast Section in 2000...Recognized during the LPGA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2000 as one of the LPGA's top-50 players and teachers...Received the National Golf Coaches Association's Rolex/Gladys Palmer Meritorious Service Award...Named the 2002 Solheim Cup honorary chairperson...Inducted into the United States Marine Corps Sports Hall of Fame in 2003...In 2004, was named Honorary Chair of Keller Golf Course's (Minn.) 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration...In 2005, received the Distinguished Achievement Award from The Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research Foundation.

### LPGA Victories, Awards, Etc.

**Professional Victories (57): 1941 Western Open**, North Carolina Open, New York Invitational. **1943 Western Open**, All-American Open. **1945 All-American Open**. **1946 Northern California Open**, Northern California Medal Tournament, Pebble Beach Open, **U.S. Women's Open**. **1947 Northern California Open**, Pebble Beach Open, Northern California Medal Tournament. **1948 Titleholders Championship, Western Open**, Hardscrabble Open. **1949 Tampa Open**, Texas PGA Championship, Hardscrabble Open. **1950 Eastern Open**, Sunset Hills Open, Hardscrabble Women's Invitational. **1951 Sandhills Women's Open**, Pebble Beach Weathervane, New York Weathervane, **Women's Western Open**, 144-hole Weathervane. **1952 New Orleans Women's Open**, Richmond Open, New York Weathervane. **1953 Jacksonville Open, Titleholders Championship**, New Orleans Women's Open, Phoenix Weathervane (tied with Louise Suggs), Reno Open, All-American Tom O'Shanter, World Championship. **1954 Triangle Round Robin Invitational**, World Championship, Ardmore Open. **1955 St. Petersburg Open, Titleholders Championship, Western Open**, Clock Open, World Championship, All-American Open. **1956 Dallas Open**, Arkansas Open. **1957 Havana Open, Titleholders Championship, Western Open**, All-American Open, World Championship. **1958 Western Open**, American Women's Open. **1960 American Women's Open**. **1962 Muskogee Civitan Open**. **Major Victories as an Amateur (3): 1937 Titleholders Championship. 1938 Titleholders Championship. 1939 Titleholders Championship.**  
**Unofficial Victories (3): 1944 Pro-Lady Victory National** (with Johnny Revolta). **1950 Orlando Two-Ball** (with Earl Stewart). **1954 Orlando Two-Ball** (with Pete Cooper).  
**LPGA Awards (5): Vare Trophy (3). 1953, 1955, 1956 Vare Trophy. 1990 Patty Berg Award. 2000 Commissioner's Award** (LPGA Founders).

### Major Championship History\*

	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57*	58*	59
<b>KNC</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>LPGA</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	DNP	2	6	12	2
<b>OPEN</b>	1	9	T4	T4	5	8	9	3	12	5	T3	2	T9	6
<b>DM</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73
<b>KNC</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>LPGA</b>	4	20	T12	DNP	12	T11	DNP	T22	T22	T17	T17	DNP	MC	T51
<b>OPEN</b>	17	18	T13	T29	10	T22	T18	39	T29	MC	31	DNP	DNP	MC
<b>DM</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
<b>KNC</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>LPGA</b>	MC	NP	DNP	DNP	MC	DNP	DNP
<b>OPEN</b>	DNP	MC	MC	DNP	MC	MC	DNP
<b>DM</b>	X	X	X	X	X	DNP	DNP

\*Won seven Western Opens, which was a major from 1930-67, and seven Titleholders Championships, which was a major from 1937-42, 1946-66 and in 1972.

## Berg's LPGA Record

(Year, number of events, best finish, money, rank, scoring average)

<b>1950</b>	12	1	\$ 5,837	2	77.64	<b>1966</b>	13	6	\$3,177	28	75.78
<b>1951</b>	17	1	13,237	2	75.76	<b>1967</b>	10	9	4,562	34	75.68
<b>1952</b>	21	1	7,588	4	75.39	<b>1968</b>	10	9	3,909	37	75.45
<b>1953</b>	22	1	18,623	2	74.94	<b>1969</b>	14	3	6,460	32	75.54
<b>1954</b>	16	1	16,011	1	75.94	<b>1970</b>	7	T11	3,213	39	75.13
<b>1955</b>	17	1	16,487	1	74.47	<b>1971</b>	DNP				
<b>1956</b>	21	1	12,560	1	75.54	<b>1972</b>	8	T32	1,975	71	78.05
<b>1957</b>	19	1	16,272	7	74.83	<b>1973</b>	9	T30	1,512	79	79.11
<b>1958</b>	16	1	8,014	4	75.13	<b>1974</b>	8	T39	1,077	86	77.82
<b>1959</b>	22	2	11,495	7	74.95	<b>1975</b>	8	T50	522	100	78.05
<b>1960</b>	17	1	9,019	7	75.27	<b>1976</b>	7	T49	738	105	78.78
<b>1961</b>	8	4	4,574	15	76.63	<b>1977</b>	3	MC	N/A	N/A	81.00
<b>1962</b>	19	1	11,552	7	74.47	<b>1978</b>	5	66	190	119	81.71
<b>1963</b>	5	6	998	33	78.05	<b>1979</b>	4	67	200	130	83.75
<b>1964</b>	16	4	4,791	17	75.54	<b>1980</b>	1	71	220	153	83.00
<b>1965</b>	14	2	6,065	24	75.76						