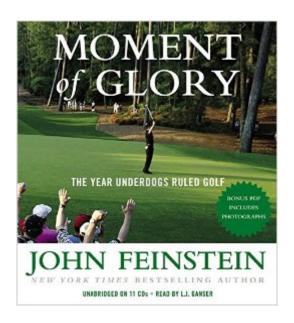
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Moment Of Glory: The Year Underdogs Ruled Golf





Synopsis

In 2003, after winning six of the twelve majors from 2000 to 2002, Tiger Woods struggled with his swing, leaving him lagging behind the field at both the U.S. Open and the PGA Championship. With Woods out of the picture, the stage was set for a newcomer to claim the top position. Nobody expected that four virtually unknown players would rise to become first-time champions. In his debut appearance in a major, Ben Curtis became the only player since Francis Ouimet in 1913 to prevail on his first time out. Mike Weir--who was considered a good player but not a great one--triumphed in The Masters, becoming the first Canadian to win a major. In the U.S. Open, Jim Furyk was victorious, and the PGA Championship was claimed by the unknown Shawn Micheel. But after each player's history-making season, the four have had little further success. 2008 is the first year since that unexpected year, when it will be possible for the four golfers to qualify for the tour. In MOMENT OF GLORY, John Feinstein returns to the unlikely year of 2003 and chronicle the personal and professional struggles of these four players. With great affection for the underdog and extraordinary access to the players, he then looks to the 2008 season, giving readers an insider's look into to how winning (and losing) major championships changes players' lives.

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Customer Reviews

I can't profess to have read any of John Feinstein's books prior to this one. Once on myself I had a copy of his acclaimed book "A Good Walk Spoiled", but I never knew what happened to it. I considered over the years reading some of his other books, but the reviews always seem mixed, and I found other things to read. Finally I became determined to read his latest offering when I saw it

was scheduled for a May release, and I am glad that I did. I'm a casual golf fan these days, and haven't picked up a club since 2003. I'm more likely to turn on the PGA Tour if Tiger Woods is in contention, but at the same time I do keep aware of the other players on the PGA Tour because there are plenty of phenomenal golfers out there. Feinstein decided with this book to focus on the 4 majors of the 2003 PGA season when all of the majors were won by players not named Tiger Woods. Most know Tiger began the process of retooling his swing at this point and only seriously contended at one major that year; the Open Championship.Naturally Tiger Woods has to be discussed in this book. There is simply no way to write this story without discussing him in some form because it is central to the main point Feinstein makes. The book starts off in June of 2002 during the United States Open at Bethpage Black on the driving range with Tiger and his then swing coach Butch Harmon. At this point Tiger was becoming less pleased with his golf swing, and was looking to improve it in spite of absolutely dominating the majors starting in June of 2000. A month later at the 2002 Open Championship, Tiger would tell Butch Harmon his services were no longer required thus ending their long partnership. Ironically, Feinstein's book comes out a few weeks after Hank Haney decided to part ways with Tiger Woods.

It might take a moment to realize what John Feinstein is talking about when reading the subtitle to his 2010 book, "The Year Underdogs Ruled Golf." A clue is right on the cover, as shown above. There's a golfer obviously celebrating a victory. Some golf fans might recognize the man on the green as Mike Weir, but maybe not a ton of them outside of Canada. It's Weir, all right, obviously thrilled about winning the Masters in Augusta. In 2003. That's the year chronicled by Feinstein, a prolific and talented reporter and writer. It's taken a while, but Feinstein has come up with another very readable effort in his usual thorough style. The 2003 season was unusual for its time because Tiger Woods wasn't much of a factor in the major tournaments. Feinstein starts the book with the story about how Woods went about firing his swing coach at the time, Butch Harmon. Woods, a constant at majors in that era, rebuilt his swing and didn't really come too close to winning of the major championships in 2003. Thus, the door was open, and four men marched through it. After Weir took the Masters, Jim Furyk had the moment of his career by taking the U.S. Open. Ben Curtis followed in the British Open, winning in the first major he ever played in. Shaun Micheel was only a slightly more likely winner in the PGA. There's no such thing as an overnight success on the progolf tour, except for the odd superstar like Woods or Phil Mickelson. Usually it's a long grind, filled with stops and starts. Feinstein gives short biographies of these four champions as they went into the tournament. In their own way, all four are interesting stories. Then it's on to the tournaments, and

Feinstein always does a good job of bringing such events to life.

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