

# HOGAN BLAZES HOME TO NAB LINKS CROWN

## Harbert 2nd in \$15,000 Tourney

BY CHARLES CURTIS

Ben Hogan added another hair-raising thrill finish chapter to the story of his golfing conquests yesterday when he birdied two of the last three holes and nosed out Melvin (Chick) Harbert by a single stroke for first prize money in the richest links event ever held in Southern California, the \$15,000 Golden State open at California Country Club.

Hogan shot a 70 for a 72-hole total of 275, pocketed a first prize check of \$2500 in hanging up his 11th tournament victory of the year, and increased his 1946 earnings to \$35,877.

### Hogan Comes Through

Harbert finished earlier in the day with a 66 round for a 276 total and when Hogan teed off at the 16th hole he was 1 over par and needed to get a birdie in one of the last three holes to tie Harbert.

Two powerful wood shots left Hogan a chip shot short of the green at that 534-yard 16th, second longest hole of the course. The chip left him a 6-foot putt. He dropped that. And he needed two pars to tie Harbert.

The 17th hole measures 334 yards, a dog leg with a screen and trees along the left corner. Hogan went for the close corner, a booming wood shot that soared over the trees. His chip shot headed straight for the pin but halted 14 feet short and from there he ran down the putt over a sloping green for his second straight birdie.

While the thrilled gallery of 4000 fans trudged up the 18th hole to join the 2000 who were already there to cheer in the winner, Hogan took a methodical par 4 for his victorious total.

Harbert pocketed \$1800 for his second place, the biggest links purse he has ever bagged.

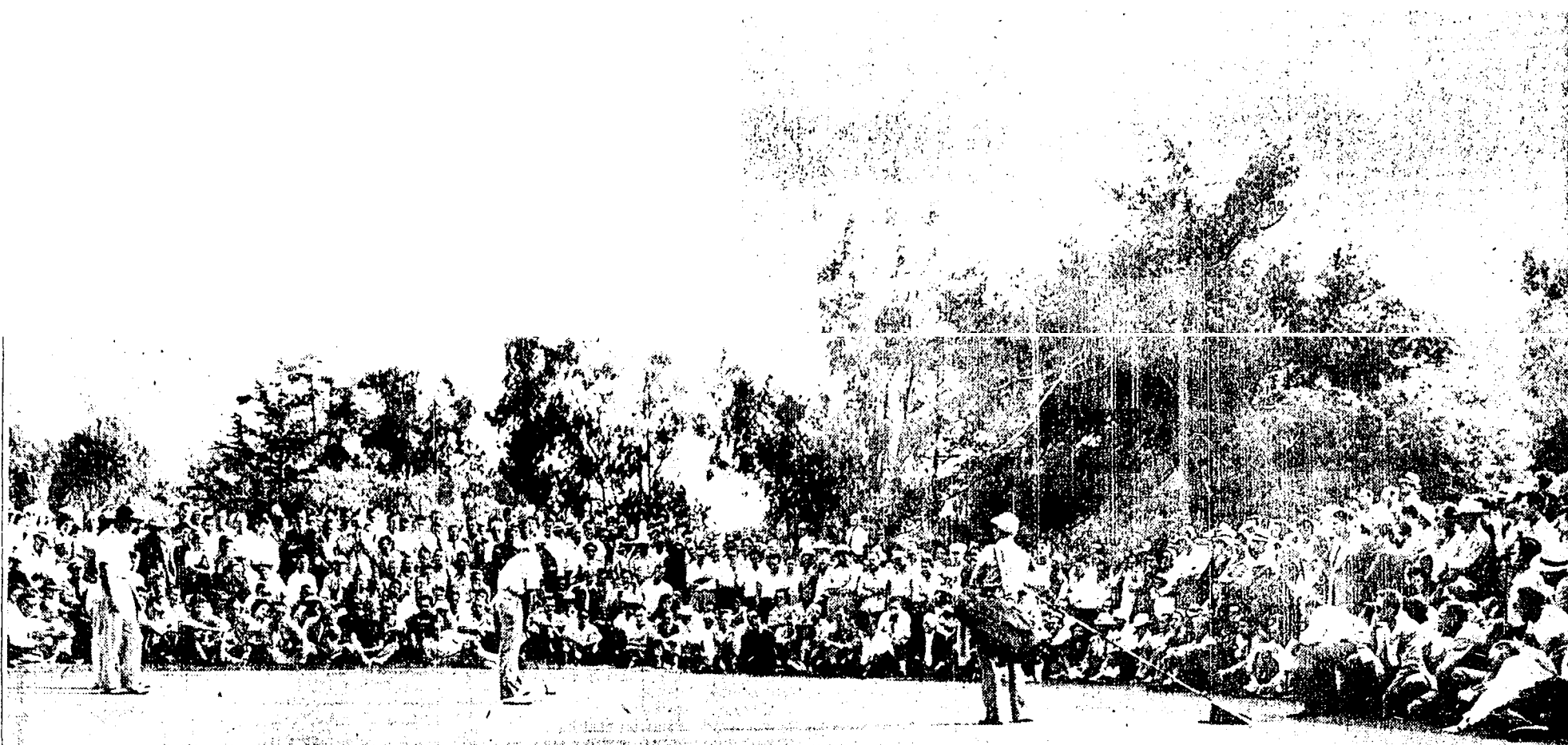
### Gage Fades

Tied for third were Lloyd Mangrum and Herman Keiser who shot final day 70's for 277 totals. Jack Gage, the San Bernardino mite, shared fifth spot with Jimmy Demaret at 278. Gage had his poorest round of the tourney, a 72, to lose his chance at first place. Jim Ferrier finished with 69 for 280 and Herman Barron had 72 for 281. Vic Ghezzi shared the last day's low honors with Harbert as he closed on a 66 for 283 where he was tied with Joe Kirkwood Jr., who shot 68 yesterday.

For most of yesterday's final round it looked like Harbert in the winner's circle. He had four birdies on the first nine and wrapped a couple more around one lone bogey on the second side. His 66 and 276 looked mighty potent on the scoreboard, especially when Hogan took an even par 36 on the first side and then slipped a stroke over par when his second shot was trapped on the long 4-par 12th. Ben's recovery from the sand left him an 18-foot putt which he missed.

### Chips and Putts

Barron's \$700 for eighth spot pulled him ahead of Byron Nelson into second spot in the year's money-winning lists with \$21,562.40 . . . Gage had a wobbly time on the last nine. He went over at the 10th. He was short with a second shot at the long 4-par 12th and went one over. He holed a 10-footer at the 14th but three putted the 15th. Then he dropped a 12-footer on the 17th. The 10th hole, 146 yards long, cost him the tournament victory because he took a one-over-par 4 every day . . . Harbert had a plane reservation to fly home to Detroit for the Michigan P.G.A. championship which starts today, and was dashing madly between the telephone and the 18th green when it looked like a play-off with Hogan. He made the plane . . .



**HOGAN PARS 13TH**—While thousands watch, Ben Hogan putts into cup for a par on No. 13 in Golden State golf finals at the California Country Club. Chick Harper is

at left, foreground. The Hershey (Pa.) ace went on to finish with 1-under-par 70 to capture \$2500 first prize which boosted his '46 earnings to \$35,877.



Times photos by Julian Robinson

**THE WINNING PUTT**—Hogan watches ball roll into cup on 17th green for birdie. Subpar shot was the decider.