

Ross Coon
NEW ENGLAND
PROFESSIONAL GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION
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Ross Coon's command of the golf club made him a legend in his own time. A perennial champion or near the top finisher, Coon's success on the golf course began as a caddie and junior golfer playing out of Lynnfield Center and Sagamore Springs Golf Club in his hometown of Lynnfield, Massachusetts and at Happy Valley Golf Club, in Lynn, Massachusetts, now known as Gannon Golf Club. Beginning with a set of clubs given to him by Sagamore's PGA professional George (Apple) Apalakis, who clearly saw his potential, his early tournament successes hinted at the outstanding golf career lying ahead for Coon. Coon turned professional at age eighteen and worked at Walpole Country Club, Clausons Inn & Country Club (now Cape Cod Country Club), Canterbury Country Club in Ohio, Seminole Country Club in Florida and Newport Country Club in Rhode Island before settling in as head professional at Indian Ridge Country Club in Andover, Massachusetts for the next twenty one years. In 1968, Coon and partner Roberto DeVincenzo played an exhibition tournament against the pair of legendary Sam Snead and Dan Keefe, with the Coon/DeVincenzo team prevailing. The event benefited Children's Hospital Medical Center. The next year Coon organized the first PGA sanctioned satellite event, the Indian Ridge Hospital Open, also to benefit the Children's Hospital in Boston. Coon rounded out his club pro career by going back to his roots at Sagamore and currently volunteers at Lynnfield Center.

Coon was known as a tenacious competitor who enjoyed good, spirited rivalry with the likes of Charley Volpone and other greats of their day. Coon tied or broke many a course record while piling up credits, earning the Player of the Year-Wogan Award trophy twice, in 1965 and 1975, three New England Section PGA Championships, in 1966, 1972 and again in 1973 when he bested Charley Volpone by one shot, only to lose to Volpone by one shot the next year in an eighteen hole playoff. Coon surely had his share of second spot finishes, barely missing NEPGA and state open championships on many occasions, while providing on lookers the great entertainment of an exciting playoff. He lost the Massachusetts Open four times to all time great Paul Harney. Over the years, Coon and partners earned Section championship laurels in the Pro-Pro Stroke Play, Pro-Lady, Pro-Am and Pro Assistant Championships. Coon won the Rhode Island Open in 1968 and again in 1974. On the national level, Coon participated in numerous Club Professional Championships and Pleasant Valley Classics and played in the PGA Championship five times, making the cut four times. He also played in the U. S. Open two times, in 1960 and 1963. In 1988 after turning fifty, Coon qualified for the PGA Senior Tour's Digital Senior Open on his first try, shooting a 71 as low qualifier and in 1989 he qualified for the U. S. Senior Open.

Ross Coon's legendary talents on the golf course earned him the reputation as one of the best golfers of all time and the sincere respect and admiration of his peers.