



Sporting Greats

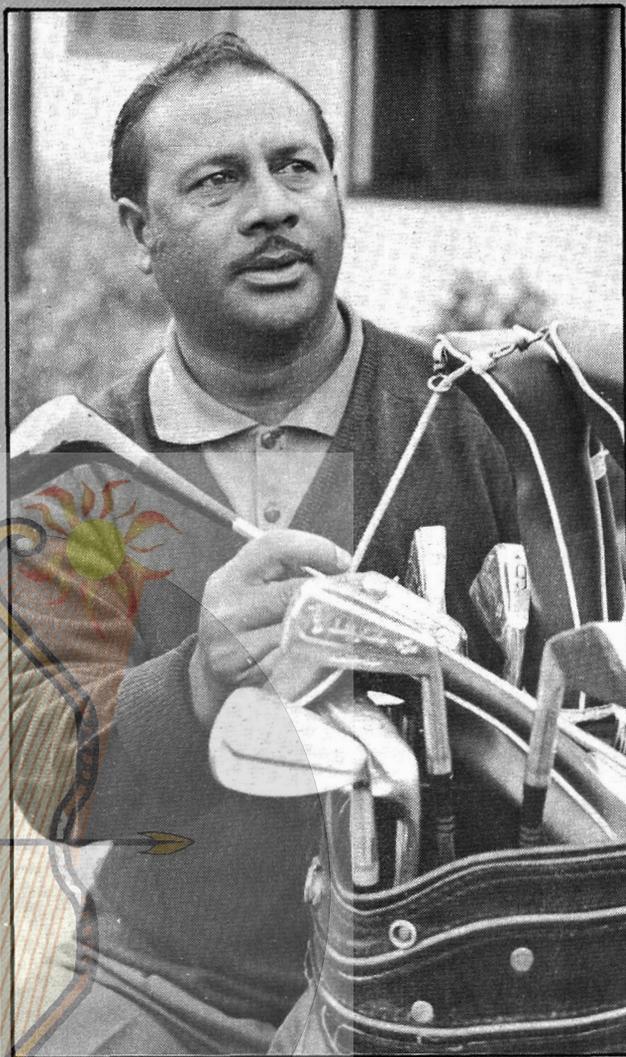


Photo: Natal Mercury

PAPWA SEWGOLAM

UKZN
Gandhi-Luthuli

SEWSUNKER Papwa Sewgolam made history 20 years ago when he won the Dutch Open in 1959 for the first time. This brilliant Indian golfer repeated this magnificent performance in 1960 and 1964, when he again won in grand style stunning his spectators with his magnificent "cack handed grip".

Born in Durban in 1929 Papwa came from a very poor family. At an early age he worked as a caddie at the Beachwood Club in Durban. It was here that Papwa learnt the art of golf by watching carefully his masters at play. As a person he excelled in humbleness and fortitude. A hardworking man, Papwa's sporting attitudes really paid dividends as he won a number of Non-White golf championships. In 1964 he won the "Cock O' North" Zambian title and in 1965 made golfing history when he became the first non-white to compete in a white tournament in South Africa. In this tournament this "legend of

golfing history" beat that all time ace Gary Player into second place.

In 1970 Papwa was invited to play in the John Player Classic, worth R130 000. During his golfing career he went overseas several times to compete in the European Circuit and also took part in golf tournaments in India and Australia. On November 17, 1971 he entered for the Christ Church Garden Classic in New Zealand where he displayed a grand performance as an "Indian First" in golf. This maestro of the Indian golfing world also played in the German and French open tourneys. His last win in professional golf was in December 1977 when he won the Natal Indian Open Championship. On his untimely death last year, Dr Koornhof, the then Minister of Sport in a telegram to his family paid tribute to this "grand master of golf" in these words "I am very sorry to hear of your great irreparable loss. He was a fine golfer, a great man and will be sorely missed".

In appreciation of his great contribution to sport a trust fund was created after his death to assist his family.