

**The association is proud to recognize and induct
Clint Russell
into its inaugural 2007 class of the Hall of Fame.**

In 1924, Clint Russell of Duluth, Minnesota lost his sight when a tire exploded in his face. In 1925, he began playing blind golf. Clint slowly reduced his scores and by early 1930 had shot an 84 for 18 holes.

In 1932, Robert Ripley's 'Believe It or Not' carried an article on Clint as the world's only blind golfer. However, six years later Ripley did a similar story, this time saying that Dr. Beach Oxenham of London, England was the "world's only blind golfer." Noting the discrepancy, several of Clint's friends challenged Ripley to sponsor the world's first blind golfer's championship, Ripley accepted. Then, on August 20, 1938, at the Ridgeview Country Club in Duluth, Minnesota, Mr. Russell defeated Dr. Oxenham, 5 and 4.

Because of the publicity, Clint Russell received communications from others who had lost their sight. In 1941, the second tournament was held between Clint and Marvin Shannon of Fort Worth, Texas. It was staged as three separate matches. Clint won the first. His opponent won the second. Unfortunately, Pearl Harbor prevented the third match.

Toward the close of World War II, Clint contacted several people in the Veterans Administration and suggested golf as therapy for those who had lost their sight. The Veterans Administration agreed. They have continued to offer golf as therapy to this day.

In 1946, the National Blind Golfer's Championship was played in Inglewood, California, this time with more than two golfers. Again, Clint Russell won.

Clint Russell was the first known American to take on the challenge of learning how to play blind golf. More significantly, he encouraged others to take up the game. Many of those blind golfers, who owe their start in blind golf to Clint's example, became the core of the United States Blind Golf Association in 1948.