**The United Golfers Association (UGA)**

The UGA was formed in 1925 by a group of black businessmen to provide equal access and opportunity to the game of golf. The organization operated a series of golf tournaments for blacks during the era of racial segregation. Many talented golfers played on this tour, including Ted Rhodes, Bill Spiller, Pete Brown, Lee Elder, Willie Brown, Jr. and Charlie Sifford.

At the time, the Professional Golfers Association had an article in its by-laws stating that it was “for members of the Caucasian race.” When this by-law was repealed in 1961, the United Golfers Association eventually disbanded.

**The North-South Tournament**

After World War II, black golfers, especially returning servicemen, wanted opportunities to play. There were few courses and even fewer tournaments for them. Ray Mitchell, founder of a golf school in Harlem, N.Y., came up with the idea of a mid-winter tournament in Florida. The North-South Tournament became the largest black-sponsored competition in the nation. Over the years the tournament attracted top pro golfers such as Charlie Sifford and Althea Gibson. Well-known amateur competitors included Joe Louis and Jackie Robinson.

Entertainers, athletes and businessmen came to see and be seen, bringing 2,000 visitors to Florida.

**Use the News**

Use the news to learn about the people who have influenced you. What do you do to build strong character? How can losing a competition or making a mistake develop character? Make a list of role models you admire because of their character.

**People exercise to build stronger muscles, read to become stronger readers or practice to become stronger athletes. But developing stronger character requires a different kind of practice.**