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Summary:

While sporting scandals often monopolize headlines, countless athletes compete with integrity. If you've ever been tempted to cynicism over athletics, *Bobby Jones: Stroke of Genius* is guaranteed to make you smile again.

Word Count 365

“The film shows Jones’s struggle to overcome his own character flaws, including a fiery temper and a tendency to perfectionism. It also poignantly develops Jones’s relationship with his wife and children....”

Freedom in Film: *Bobby Jones: Stroke of Genius* (2004)

By Kathryn Hickok

“Amateur” is French for “one who loves.” But today, the word is commonly misused to imply “mediocre.” Amateurs may love their avocations, our modern minds assume, but not enough to be “really good at it.” “Professionals,” we think, are those who truly excel.

Golf prodigy Bobby Jones was an amateur in the true sense. He played for love of the game and decided not to turn professional, retiring at the astonishingly young age of 28. The only golfer to win the U.S. Amateur, the British Amateur, the British Open, and the U.S. Open in a single year (or in an entire career), Jones is [still considered arguably to be the greatest golfer ever.](#)

If you're a golf aficionado who since last Sunday is already missing the lush greens of Augusta National, you would relish the 2004 film, [*Bobby Jones: Stroke of Genius.*](#)

Jim Caviezel stars as Bobby Jones during his rise from obscurity to golf legend. Caviezel brings color and depth to his portrayal of Jones, who was an academic genius and man of dignity, as well as a superb athlete. The film shows Jones's struggle to overcome his own character flaws, including a fiery temper and a tendency to perfectionism. It also poignantly develops Jones's relationship with his wife and children and shows how the good of his family factored into his decision to retire from golf at his peak.

Not only was Bobby Jones an outstanding athlete, but [he was universally known to be a man of genuine character.](#) Golf writer Herbert Warren Wind said of Jones, “In the opinion of many people, of all the great athletes, Jones came the closest to being what we called a great man.” (The U.S. Golf Association's award for distinguished sportsmanship is named for Bob Jones.)

(over)



While sporting scandals often monopolize headlines, countless athletes compete with integrity, honor their families, and serve their communities. A sports hero can be both an outstanding athlete and a class-act human being. One person's positive choices have the potential to inspire millions and make the world a better place. If you've ever been tempted to cynicism over athletics, *Bobby Jones: Stroke of Genius* is guaranteed to make you smile again.

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