Louisiana's Big Three have made their mark

By Vern Putney

NEW ORLEANS — As Huey Long symbolized Louisiana politics, so the brothers Lionel and Jay Hebert and Freddie Haas of nearby New Orleans communities epitomize the Pelican State's professional golf excellence.

The Heberts are the only brothers to have won the PGA Championship — Lionel in 1957, Jay in 1960.


"The South was so far behind in golf (in the 1950s), it was unbelievable. Golf took on a whole new meaning up there (North)." — Lionel Hebert

Lionel, "Golf took on a whole new meaning up there." The Heberts worked at golf clubs in New York and Pennsylvania and had some success in very competitive tournaments.

"I had no idea it would be so unbelievable. Golf took on a whole new meaning up there." — Lionel Hebert

Jay, who in 1968 married Barbara Crosby and the Texas Open. His par 70 for the victory and $11,000.

"The proudest Open moment for Haas was playing in the 1941 Open at Colonial in Fort Worth, Texas. The field included his Dad, Fred Sr., and Masters champion Ed Dudley built the first PGA course, at Dunedel, Fla.

As for continuing on the Senior Tour, Haas says, "At just the mellow side of 50, the latest influx of players are too supple and hit the ball too far. And they still think they're going to hole all the medium and long putts."

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