

Leader of the Moo Crew

He started his career on the Senior PGA Tour wearing tennis shoes and \$2 pants. He had no glove. He carried a \$20 golf bag and a \$70 set of clubs.

He is pot-bellied, has long sideburns and plays with a wide stance and a strong right grip. He holds his hands high and away, and uses about a three-quarter swing. (That's not the way the PGA pros teach the game.)

The person described is Robert Landers, a cattle farmer from Azle, Texas, who had to be the most improbable candidate to ever make the touring pros' prestigious seniors tournament schedule. A movie scriptwriter could never have sold this one to Hollywood.

Born in 1944, Landers started playing golf at age 22 and entered his first tournament at 28. Between 1983 and 1991, back problems prevented him from playing or practicing the game he loved. He was completely self-taught. Never read a golf book or took a lesson.

Landers became a popular figure on the Senior PGA Tour (now called the Champions Tour) after receiving his card at qualifying school, and was followed by fans who called themselves the Moo Crew. He played on the tour in 1995 and 1996.



This golfer has had more than his share of ups and downs. The store where he worked earning \$18,000 a year went out of business, and he lost his job. He helped make ends meet by cutting and selling firewood, and in the process strengthened his hands.

He has a small farm, and practiced hitting golf balls over his barn and over his cows. He cashed in \$4,000 of a \$10,000 IRA in order to finance his trip to Florida to qualify for the tour in 1995. Amazingly enough, he made it.

Here's the point of his story: Robert Landers had a dream – a most improbable one. He made the commitment to go for it and took advantage of every opportunity to practice and prepare for the challenge.

He avoided the PLOM (Poor Little Ol' Me) disease and capitalized on his natural ability and winning attitude.

Maybe – just maybe – the same approach will work for you as you pursue your dream.

Enlarge the place of your tent, and let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; do not spare; lengthen your cords, and strengthen your stakes (Isaiah 54:2 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter