

Aaron has lead; Jack one back

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Tommy Aaron, once a distraught, central figure in one of golf's greatest controversies, sauntered home with a solid, four-under-par 68 and a one stroke lead over maniac Jack Nicklaus in yesterday's first round of the Masters.

Nicklaus, the famed Golden Bear who is heavily favored to win a record fifth Masters title, had to rally from an uncertain, erratic start for his 69 that was matched by Japan's Jumbo Ozaki.

Ozaki, 25, has been a golf professional only since 1969 and spent several seasons before that as a star pitcher in the Japanese professional baseball leagues. He's the current New Zealand PGA champ and is making only his second appearance in the Masters.

Nicklaus, the defending champion, centered his rally around the par fives — he birdied the last three of them on the 6,980-yard, par 72 Augusta National Golf Club course — and lipped out a long, long birdie putt on the 18th hole that would have tied him with the softspoken, sweet-swinging Aaron.

"The wind was tricky, swirling," Nicklaus said. "Considering the conditions and the fact that I never knew what was coming out of the bag, I was quite happy with the round."

Arnold Palmer wasn't. "I'm disgusted," Palmer said after he struggled and strained for a fat 77, the highest opening round he's had in two decades of competition in this event he won four times.

"I think I'm just going to have to get away from the game for a while and practice."

"I'm gonna have to get away for a month or so, or until I start playing better, or ..."

And he left the sentence unfinished.

He wasn't alone in his difficulties in the sunny, windy weather that greeted the usual massive gallery of some 30,000. Lee Trevino and Australian Bruce Crampton, each a two-time winner already this season, matched 74s. As usual when he's had a poor round, Trevino hurried from the course without talking to newsmen.



Masters leader Tommy Aaron chips...



...Jack Nicklaus, a shot back, surveys

Gittings, Lions in G'town meet

By DAVE DUNLOP
Collegian Sports Writer

The day was dank and overcast, and a steady rain pelted down from a grey sky. "If I was running a team," Lion track coach Harry Groves said referring to distance runners' road work, "there'd be no workout on a day like this. Yet as I was coming out of the house this morning, who was jogging down the road but Gary Gittings."

Groves continued that "if he doesn't catch pneumonia, he'll be a good one."

Gittings is the Lions' two-miler, a 5-11 145-pound junior who wound up as eighth best in the nation last year and finished fourth in the Intercollegiate Amateur Athletic Association of America Championships (IC4A) 3-mile last spring.

Gittings and teammates start another season tomorrow morning, travelling to the Georgetown Relays. Field events there begin at 11 a.m., track events about an hour later.

Despite the fact Groves sees him as one of the country's best two-milers again this season, "one of the most promising runners" around, Gittings views himself as simply another runner.

"I wasn't the only runner in the rain," he said. "All the distant men were out there running. That's nothing special. I'm just an example of all the guys and coach Groves just happened to see me that day."

Gittings, a former PIAA mile and half-mile champ from Baldwin High, said he, and all the distant men, run twice a day, five miles in the morning and 10 to 15 miles in the afternoon.

"It depends," Gittings said, "but we do this Monday through Thursday then do around 10-15 miles on Friday, the meet is Saturday and then 10 or 15 more on Sunday. Usually, we are judged according to miles per week, not daily."

Gittings began talking about his best times when he stopped abruptly and said, "It's unfair to single me out. It's not fair to the whole team. You don't single out individual guys from the whole team. All the guys do the same things."

But there's no denying Groves has a solid plank to stand on when he terms Gittings an up-and-coming good one. Last March at the IC4A indoor championships in Princeton Gittings brought attention to himself by finishing third in the two-mile to a pair of dandies from Manhattan, Mike Keough and Walter Squires. His time of 8:47.7 is his career best.

Groves said no one knew it just then but "Gary showed then that he might go. His performance was no surprise to us."

Gittings remembered the big race and recalled he was "pleasantly surprised. I felt I did well."

To prove the finish was no fluke, two weeks later in Detroit Gary beat Squires in the NCAA two-mile.

Groves said in the NCAA event only 12 runners were picked, "on a performance basis." Gittings was in Detroit because he deserved to be.

Gittings, whose career best in the 3-mile, 13:54, came in last spring's IC4A, has been plagued by injuries throughout his career and was bouncing back from one when he placed fourth in the IC4A 3-mile.

"He was just an extra guy we brought along," Groves remembered, "but he impressed everyone. He improved his time 40 seconds in the trials."

Gary has run fewer events than he'd like in the past but Groves beams and says "it matters only that you finish first when it counts."

Explaining the transition from a high school miler to college three-miler, Gittings said the mile is that "I run a lousy one."

Giants stop Reds in opener; rest start play today

CINCINNATI (AP) Chris Speier's two-run single climaxed a three-run San Francisco rally in the seventh inning yesterday as the Giants defeated Cincinnati 4-1 in the opening game of the 1973 major league baseball season.

Juan Marichal survived a shaky start to go all the way

for the victory, scattering seven hits against the defending National League champion Reds.

Marichal also was involved in the Giants' winning rally, drawing a walk and scoring a run as San Francisco snapped a 1-1 tie in the seventh inning against loser Don Gullett.

With one out in the seventh,

Dave Rader and Marichal walked. Leadoff man Bobby Bonds doubled for one run and after Tito Fuentes bounced out, Speier singled for two more.

Pittsburgh's Pirates, with the ghost of Roberto Clemente continuing to hover over Three Rivers Stadium,

are about to see if they really can get along without "The Great One."

And, the American League gives birth to the "designated hitter," an innovation that keeps pitchers out of the batter's box and hopefully puts more runs on the scoreboard.

The baseball season

reaches near full throttle today with 10 openers featuring six 20-game winners and a "play-it-my-way" slugger who earns a record \$1,388 per game.

Cincinnati got the jump on everyone yesterday with its traditional early opener, but lost to the San Francisco Giants at Riverfront Stadium.

World Series winner Oakland runs its championship flag up the pole tonight and then the A's start over again with 21-game winner Jim "Catfish" Hunter facing Dutch-born Bert Blyleven of the Minnesota Twins.

At New York, Cy Young Winner Steve Carlton of Philadelphia, a 27-game winner with the last place Phillies of 1972, huris against 21-12 right-hander Tom Seaver of the Mets in a glittering duel.

Carlton had an incredible season with a 1.98 earned run average to go with a 27-10 record, plus 310 strikeouts in 346 innings.

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