

The fall and rise of Gary Player

Dressed in his trademark black outfit, pumping his arms as he tramped along, Gary Player out-cooled Dave Stockton and Tom Weiskopf Sunday afternoon to pick up his second Masters' green jacket.

Some were surprised, but those close to Player knew it couldn't be much longer before the polite, gritty South African recaptured and improved his place among the partially defunct big three: Player, Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer. They saw the signs recently that his recovery wouldn't take much longer.

According to Tom Place, a spokesman for the PGA Tournament Players Division, the Monday after the Jacksonville Open earlier this year, Palmer and Player teed it up for an exhibition at the Brookfield West Country Club in suburban Atlanta. Palmer, playing lousy golf at the moment (71st at Hawaiian Open, 41st at Florida Citrus, 49th at Bob Hope Desert Classic, etc.) exhibited a super round but Player easily won. According to Place, it went like this:

"I had a 66," Palmer said rather proudly, "but I got whipped by four strokes. Gary birdied 10 of the first 12 holes for a 62.

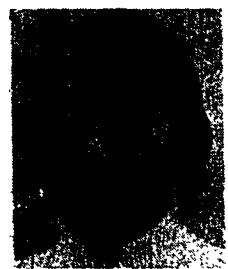
Player smiled. "And I missed four-foot putts for birdies on each of the last two holes."

So Player's return to old form has been expected, and it's also no surprise he picked one of the major tournaments to re-emerge from his invisible performance last year.

Player's drop from the upper echelons of golf was due to the fact he was hospitalized in January of last year for a bladder operation and a cyst removal from his left leg.

By May he was back out on the tour at the Atlanta Classic, but in the following event, the Kemper Open, he missed the cut and his colleagues began to wonder.

At the U.S. Open at Oakmont in mid-June, Gary grabbed the lead with a dazzling 67, held on the next day with a 70, but then fell back with a 77. At Oakmont he strutted confidently,



Rick Starr
Sports Editor

politely thanked each green attendant after having his ball mark repaired, and just generally looked Gary Playerish once again from beneath his black topper.

But after his lone victory, the Southern in September, he admitted he tried to play too soon after his operation and didn't have full strength. His total haul last year was a "measly" \$48,878. That's about \$35,000 once living expenses on the tour from May through December are subtracted. Considerable, but less than the interest he perhaps made on the first million

he's already banked on the tour.

This year, prior to the Masters, has been rather unrewarding. Through the Greater New Orleans Open Player was 73rd on the money list with \$7989 total, \$141,000 behind the top earner Johnny Miller.

Palmer was 93rd on the list with \$5,850. Nicklaus is the only member of the former money-leading trio making any real dough. Jack was 5th with \$66,643.

Palmer is the member of the fearsome threesome that continues to puzzle now that Player and Nicklaus finished strongly at Augusta after the charge of the young lions (Miller, Ben Crenshaw, Lanny Wadkins) fizzled. But Palmer does seem to be heading in the right direction, although he admits he can't win unless he stays on the tour longer than he's been there the last few years.

At the Los Angeles Open Arnie had an opening 68 followed by three bad rounds. Two weeks later at the Florida Citrus Open he had two good rounds and two not-so-good rounds. Then at Jacksonville Palmer went around three times in good form with only one bad 18.

The PGA title is the one he's looking for now, so he can put the PGA medal in the hole he has drilled for it on the coffee table in his family room.

Favorite golf quotation: By Johnny Miller to Sporting News writer Art Spander; "You know, I've always wanted to come up to the 18th green of a tournament with a six-stroke lead, have about a one-foot putt for the win and then pick up the ball and put it in my pocket. Think the PGA officials might go crazy?"

Player in bid for slam

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — A year ago, there was some question whether Gary Player would ever compete again.

Now the gritty little man from Johannesburg, South Africa is entertaining thoughts about pro golf's Grand Slam, a feat which has never been accomplished.

"One thing's certain," Player said with a big, broad smile after his victory in the Masters, "I'm the only one who can do it this year."

"I'd rather win one of the major tournaments than 10,

no, 20 of the regular tournaments. Those are the ones that people will remember you for."

"Now that I've won the Masters for the second time, I believe I've won more major championships than anyone except Americans. I've won seven."

He's one of only four men ever to win all four of the major titles. Hogan, Nicklaus

and Gene Sarazen are the others. Only Nicklaus had won them all twice.

Now, Gary is closing in. He's won two Masters, two British Opens and two PGAs, plus one U.S. Open.

"And let's don't forget the possibility — just the possibility, mind you — of winning them all in a year. Now that I have the first one, who knows?"



Gary Player

Sanguillen mending

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A rib injury has kept catcher Manny Sanguillen on the bench while his Pittsburgh Pirates teammates struggle, and the pain he feels isn't just physical.

"I'm sick because I can't help the team," the .303 lifetime hitter said while witnessing Pittsburgh's 1-7 start.

Sanguillen tore a rib cartilage in spring training, and

he's been idle since aggravating the injury in the Pirate opener.

However, he's likely to return to action sometime during an eight-game road trip that begins today against the Cubs in Chicago.

"If we were winning, it would be all right," Sanguillen said after a recent loss, "but it is harder for me to sit on the bench while we are losing."

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UNIVERSITY CALENDAR TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 1974

SPECIAL EVENTS

Bloomsburg Baroque Ensemble, sponsored by French Department, 8 p.m., Room 112 Kern.
East Asian Festival film by Kon Ichikawa, "Fires on the Plain," 7:30 p.m., Room 209 Human Development South. Free.
Dr. Herman Branson, president, Lincoln University, on "Black Colleges: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow," 2 p.m., Room 112 Kern.
Eastern Orthodox Vespers, 7:30 p.m., Eisenhower Chapel.

SEMINARS

Microbiology, 4 p.m., Room S2 Frear. D. Balkwill on "Fine Structure Revival for Indigenous Soil Microorganisms Subjected to Soil Sterilization."
Environmental Pollution Control and Solid Waste Management, 2:20 p.m., Room 140 Fenske. Ward Diethorn, nuclear engineering, on "Radioactive Wastes from Nuclear Power Plants."
Computer Science Undergraduate Colloquium, 7:30 p.m., Room 60 Willard. W.M. Bugg, IBM, Systems Development Division, on "The Future of Programming."
Comparative Literature Luncheon and Discussion, 12:15 p.m., HUB Dining Room A. Anaya Derrick on "Alexandr Solzenicyn: A Pilgrim in Life and Literature."

LECTURES

Biological Health Div., 8 p.m., Room 117 Human Development. David G. Mathiesen, chief, Fiscal Analysis Branch, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C., on "Nutrition and Development in Poor Countries from the Planners' Viewpoint."
Juan Pablo Bonta, John R. Emens Distinguished Professor of Architecture, Ball University, on "Design Semiotics," 7:30 p.m., Room 62 Willard. Sponsored by the Departments of Architectural Engineering, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Man Environment Relations, and Regional Planning.

MEETINGS

O.T.I.S., 7 p.m., Room 108 Forum.

FILMS

Commonplace Theatre, "The African Queen," 8 and 10 p.m., Room 112 Kern.

EXHIBITS

Museum of Art — Selections from the permanent Collection, Gallery A. Graphics by Six Swiss Sculptors, Gallery B. Bill Hanson, Harvard Paintings, Gallery C. Zoller Gallery — MFA Show.
Chambers Gallery — Children's Art Exhibition.
HUB Art Alley — Ukrainian Club Exhibit. HUB Arts Committee — selected pieces previewing Arts and Crafts Festival.
Hammond Gallery — Paintings by Eleanor Zyglar.

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