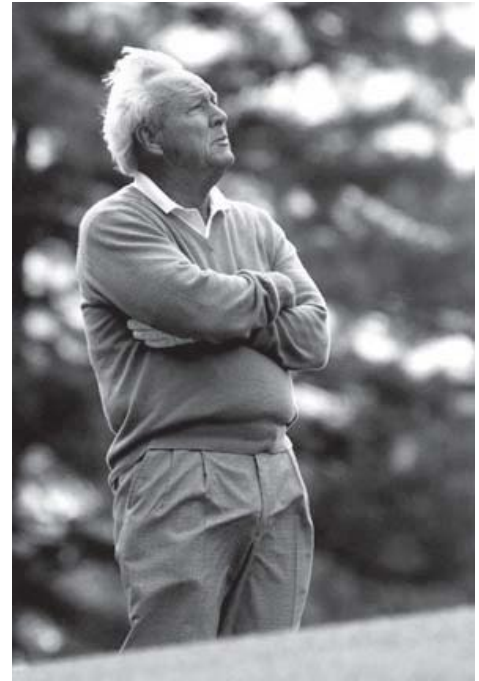


Assignment #10 Golf Champions

Arnold Palmer

Arnold Palmer is considered one of the most popular golfers in the history of golf. Palmer helped popularize golf in the late 1950's and the early 1960's. He was named "Athlete of the Decade" for the 1960's in a national Associated Press poll. Before, during and after that great decade, Palmer won 92 championships in professional competition by 1993. Sixty-one of the victories came on the U.S. PGA Tour, starting with the 1955 Canadian Open. Palmer entered the pro scene just as television began bringing golf into the homes of North Americans. His winning personality provided him an army of fans who called themselves "Arnie's Army."



Born in Youngstown, Pennsylvania, in 1929, Arnold grew up around a golf course. He began swinging golf clubs at the age of four. His father, Milfred J. Palmer was a golf professional and course superintendent at Latrobe Country Club. It was here that his dad gave Arnold his first set of clubs. He took a regular set of clubs and cut them down to fit his four year old son. Arnie's first lesson was to learn a proper grip. It wasn't long before he was playing well enough to beat the older caddies at the club.

During high school Arnold's main focus was on golf. He soon dominated the game in Western Pennsylvania. He won his first of five West Penn Amateur Championships when he was 17. He competed successfully in national junior events and went to Wake Forest University where he became the number one person on the golf team and one of the best collegiate players of the time.

When a close friend of Arnold's died in an automobile accident he was so effected that he left school and joined the Coast Guard. His interest in golf came alive again when he was stationed in Cleveland. He returned to Wake Forest and won the U.S. Amateur competition in 1954.

In 1954 he met the woman he would marry, Winifred Walzer. Arnold and Winifred became acquainted at a tournament in Eastern Pennsylvania. They were married shortly after he turned professional in the fall of 1954. Winnie traveled with him when he joined the pro tour in early 1955.



Thanks in part to his consistently strong drives and putting, Palmer came into his prime in 1958 when he won his first Masters title. In 1959, Palmer led the Masters tournament after three rounds but ended finishing third. At the 1960 Masters, Palmer birdied (one stroke under par) the eighteenth hole to again win the Masters title. At the 1960 U.S. Open, Palmer won the tournament by shooting the final round in 65 strokes. He wanted to match Ben Hogan's feat of winning both major Opens and the Masters in the same year. Arnold placed second, however, just one stroke behind Australian, Kel Nagle, in his first appearance at the British Open.

Palmer almost won his third Masters championship in 1961, but on the final hole he landed his ball in a sand bunker and finished one stroke behind Gary Player. At the British Open, however, Palmer took the title by a single stroke. In 1962 Palmer won the British Open again. This victory made him the first American since Walter Hagen in 1928 and 1929 to win two straight British Open crowns.

Palmer also won his third Masters championship after a three-way play-off in 1962. At the U.S. Open, he finished three strokes behind in a play-off with Jack Nicklaus. The leading money winner for the third time, Palmer was again named U.S. PGA Player of the Year. During Palmer's best years (1958-1964), he was considered a symbol of modern golf. His popularity led to business offers throughout the United States. Palmer introduced clothes, clubs and golf balls with his name on them. In 1964 he set a record by winning his fourth Masters title.

In 1966 and 1967 Palmer placed second at the U.S. Open. He won the Vardon Trophy for the fourth time in his career in 1967. Hip problems and difficulties with putting made Palmer less competitive in the 1970's but he was still the first professional golfer to earn more than a million dollars a year in prize money. In the 1980's Palmer showed he wasn't finished with golf yet. He helped establish and popularize the new U.S. Senior Tour, in which players must be at least 50 years old to participate. As a senior player, Palmer has earned more than 1.5 million dollars, almost as much as he did on the pro tour.



Arnold Palmer is many things to many people. He is a world famous golf hero and sportsman, a highly successful business executive, a prominent advertising spokesman, a skilled aviator, a talented golf course designer and a devoted husband, father and grandfather.

Today he is a major stockholder and member of the Board of Directors of ProGroup, Inc., a sporting goods company which manufactures and markets various golf products bearing his name and design. Arnold also actively manages Palmer Course Design Company. Since the mid-1960's Palmer has put his stamp on some 200 new courses throughout the nation and world. His modest business dealings and tournament play keep Palmer on the move much of the time. Much of his business travel is in his Cessna Citation jet aircraft with Arnold at the controls.

Jack Nicklaus

Jack William Nicklaus was born in Columbus, Ohio, on January 21, 1940. His father, a pharmacist, took up golf as therapy for an ankle injury, and young Jack tagged along on the greens. In high school Jack played many sports but his best sport was golf.

When he was just 16, Nicklaus won the Ohio state amateur championship. In 1959, he was chosen for the U.S. Walker Cup team and won both of his matches to help defeat Great Britain. At age 19, Nicklaus became the second youngest golfer ever to win the National Amateur title, losing only one match that year. In 1960 he scored the lowest total (282) ever by an amateur at the U.S. Open. He finished as runner-up to Arnold Palmer, who shot a 280 to win the title. Nicklaus ended his amateur career by winning the National Amateur title a second time in 1961.



When Nicklaus turned pro, Arnold Palmer was the king of golf, and, as was mentioned, had a huge following. He knew he could not compete with Palmer's popularity but thought he could beat him in the field of play and take the top spot in golf. That dream was realized within a few short years.

Nicklaus' rivalry with Palmer made him very unpopular during his early years. In fact, Palmer's many fans would boo Nicklaus and shout, "miss it Jack!" or cheer when he hit the ball poorly. This rivalry, however, helped the professional game become more popu-

lar than ever. At the 1962 U.S. Open, which was their first major match together, more than 62,000 spectators came out to watch. This set a new attendance record by more than 14,000 people.

Nicklaus' golf career is outstanding. He won the British Open three times, the U.S. Open four times, the PGA Championship five times and the Masters a record six times. Nicklaus was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 1974, yet he wasn't done winning. With his victory in the 1978 British Open, he earned his third set of Grand Slam Trophies, a triumph no other golfer has accomplished more than once. Sports Illustrated named Nicklaus "Sportsman of the Year." When he was 40 Nicklaus won two of his major titles, the U.S. Open and the PGA championship. At age 46, he won his sixth Masters title. This made him the oldest player ever to win this event.

In 1990 Nicklaus turned 50 and joined the U.S. Senior Tour. He won his first senior event that year and later captured the Seniors' Championship. Nicklaus was eight times the leading money winner in professional golf. He made more than \$5 million during his career. No one ever challenged his title of winning more than 18 major pro titles.

Nicklaus is also a well respected golf course designer. His company, Golden Bear, Inc., designs, builds and manages golf courses all over the world. His countless product endorsements have earned him another fortune. Nicklaus is the perfect ambassador for golf. His professionalism and sportsmanship set a standard to which even today's golfers aspire.

Eldrick "Tiger" Woods

Born on December 30, 1975, Woods grew up in Cypress, California, 35 miles southeast of Los Angeles. He was not even out of the crib when he showed an interest in golf. At only six months, he watched his father hit golf balls into a net and then imitated what he saw. Woods appeared on the "Mike Douglas Show" when he was two, putting with comedian Bob Hope. He shot 48 for nine holes at the age of three and was featured in Golf Digest by the time he was five.



Woods won the Optimist International Junior tournament six times at ages 8, 9, 12, 13, 14 and 15. At 14 he was the youngest ever to win the Insurance Youth Golf Classic. He won his first U.S. Junior Amateur the next year in 1991.



Seven more titles, including two U.S. Junior Amateurs, followed in 1992 and 1993. He played in his first professional tournament, the Nissan Los Angeles Open, in 1992, at the young age of 16. Woods played in three more PGA TOUR events in 1993.

In 1994 Woods made history by defeating Trip Kuehne in the U.S. Amateur at Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida after being behind by as many as six holes. His six other victories in 1994 included the Western Amateur and his first collegiate event at Stanford. He was selected as the 1994 Man of the Year by Golf World.

Woods played in his first major championships in 1995, making the 36-hole cuts in the Masters and the British Open at St. Andrews, Scotland, but had to withdraw from the U.S. Open at Shinnecock Hills in Southampton, New York, because of an injured wrist.

In his second year at Stanford, Woods had eight victories in 14 tournaments and finished lower than third only twice. He was chosen for the Fred Haskins and Jack Nicklaus College Player of the Year awards. Woods won the 1996 U.S. Amateur on the 38th hole over Steve Scott at Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club in Cornelius, Oregon.

Tiger became a professional golfer in the late summer of 1996. He has won 11 tournaments, eight of those on the PGA tour, including the 1997 Masters Tournament. At only 21 years, three months and 14 days, Woods was the youngest Masters champion ever. Tiger's greatest accomplishment, however, was to win at Augusta on April 8, 2001. This gave him four majors in a row which included the U.S. Open, the British Open, and the PGA. Tiger is the only man to hold all four of golf's major trophies at the same time. "I understand what I've accomplished," said Woods. "I have a better appreciation for what this means. You have to have your game peak at the right time."



His incredibly long drives and accurate putting make him a player fans love to watch. Wood's presence in golf has brought inspiration to many. In 1996, Woods established the Tiger Woods Foundation, which gives disadvantaged inner-city youth the chance to learn and play golf. Through the foundation, Tiger has taught at dozens of clinics worldwide.

