

Bean reaped 3 wins in 1978

Andy Bean, entering his third year on the PGA tour, won the 1977 Doral-Eastern Open and finished 12th on the money list that year with more than \$127,000. But no one could have anticipated the kind of year he had in 1978, a year in which he won three tournaments and was the third leading money winner on the tour.

Bean's first victory of '78 did not come until the Kemper Open in June, but by that time he had already garnered nearly half of his 13 top-10 finishes, including a tie for second in the Andy Williams-San Diego Open and a solo second in the Houston Open. In the latter event, Bean held a three-shot lead after three rounds. His 18-under total of 198 was the lowest 54-hole score on the tour up until then (Ben Crenshaw had a 12-under 198 at the San Antonio-Texas Open late in the year).

But after opening 67-65-66, Bean slipped to a 73 on Sunday, while Gary Player recorded a 69 for a one-stroke

victory, his third consecutive triumph.

At the Kemper, Bean was one shot off the lead after rounds of 72, 67 and 68. He finished with a six-under 66 to win by five strokes over Andy North and Mark Hayes.

The very next week, at the Danny Thomas Memphis Classic, Bean struck again. After three rounds (70-68-69) he shared the lead with Rod Curl, and shot a closing 70 to finish at 11-under 277. But Lee Trevino caught him with a 65 that forced a playoff.

On the first extra hole, Bean rolled in a 35-foot birdie putt for his second win in as many weeks.

Bean's third triumph came three weeks later, also in a playoff. A fantastic fourth round — he shot another six-under 66 on the difficult Butler National Golf Course — brought him from six strokes off the pace to tie Bill Rogers at 282. Bean again won the playoff on the first extra hole, making par to Rogers' bogey.

In his first tour victory at Doral, Andy led all four days on the Blue Monster course, shooting 67-67-71-72 — 277. The win became a birthday present. He turned 24 on the final day, March 13.

During his rookie year of 1976, Bean's play was disappointing, especially to himself. "It was mainly temperament," he says. "I knew I had the game to play out here, but when I'd make a mistake I'd get hot at myself, and that would make everything worse. I wasn't able to manage my game."

Bean certainly had the background to become a professional golfer. As a youngster he lived on Jekyll Island, Ga., where his father was associated with a golf course. When he was 15, the family moved to Lakeland, Fla., where his father bought a course.

"I've been lucky," says Bean, "because my parents never made me do much work around the course. They let me go play." And play he did.



ANDY BEAN

Palmer looking for first PGA crown

In 1978, the year in which he turned 49, Arnold Palmer's performance on the PGA tour was better than it had been the two previous campaigns.

In '76 and '77, Arnie had no finishes in the top 10. Last year he placed in the top 10 twice.

In his first start of the year, the Phoenix

Open, Palmer shot four solid rounds — 69, 68, 71 and 67 — to finish fifth, nine under par and just three shots behind winner Miller Barber. Arnie's other high finish was a tie for eighth in the Canadian Open on the demanding Glen Abbey layout.

Palmer thrilled his millions of fans with

great opening rounds in three other events — the Florida Citrus Open, the Byron Nelson Classic and the Kemper Open. At the Orlando tournament, he started with a seven-under 65 that gave him a share of the lead, but finished 73-71-71 and tied for 14th.

In the Byron Nelson and the Kemper, Arnie was just one shot back after the first round, but couldn't sustain the pace, dropping back to a tie for 63rd and 20th, respectively.

The PGA Championship is the only major title that Palmer has never won.

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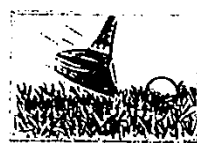
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