

# T.C.'s gaffe is a memorable one

BY STEVE STEIN  
STAFF WRITER

Tze-Chung Chen rocked the golf world during the first three rounds of the 1985 U.S. Open at Oakland Hills Country Club.

The slender 26-year-old from Taiwan scored a double eagle — the first in U.S. Open history — on the second hole of the first round and even though Chen was coming off recent victories in the Korean Open and Japan Open, he was the improbable U.S. Open leader after the first, second and third rounds.

Chen's scores of 5-under 65, 6-under 65-69—134 and 7-under 65-69-69—203 on the treacherous South Course at Oakland Hills remain among the lowest for leaders after 18, 36 and 54 holes in U.S. Open history.

Going into the final round at Oakland Hills on Sunday, June 16, Chen was two shots in front of runner up Andy North and five ahead of Dave Barr, who was alone in third place.

It didn't take long for Chen to once again etch his name into U.S. Open lore. A few days after sinking one of the most memorable shots in tournament history, Chen committed one of most bizarre mistakes.

His "double chip" from the heavy grass off the fifth green led to a double-par 8 on the hole. That gaffe

opened the door for Chen's pursuers and it turned out to be the beginning of the end for the man who was better known as "T.C."

Chen shot 7-over 77 in the final round and he finished in a tie for second place at 280 in his first U.S. Open. Denis Watson and Barr shared the bridesmaid's spot with Chen behind North, who ended up one stroke ahead of the trio at 279.

Even though he didn't win the tournament, Chen's name remains prominent in both the U.S. Open and Oakland Hills record books.

The 65 that Chen shot in the opening round established a U.S. Open record at Oakland Hills (it was equaled the following day by North and Watson) and it tied the course mark. Eleven years later, both records still stand.

Chen played in the U.S. Open three more times before joining the Japanese PGA Tour full-time, but he didn't make much noise. He failed to shoot a single sub-par round in his last three U.S. Open appearances and he even missed the cut twice.

In the 12 rounds Chen played at the U.S. Open, he averaged 73.17 and he won \$43,576.

How is Chen doing this season? He's played in 10 tournaments on the Japanese Tour and he's won \$132,148.

good for 22nd place on the money list. In his last three tourneys, Chen has tied for eighth, seventh and ninth.

Until his demise in the final round, Chen's double eagle was the talk of the 1985 U.S. Open.

The rare "2" came on the 527-yard, par-5 second hole. After hitting a driver to within 235 yards of the front edge of the green and 255 yards of the flag, Chen hauled out a 3-wood for his historic shot.

"When I hit the ball, it went straight for the pin," Chen told reporters in halting English. "I thought it would be close, but I never thought it would go in."

Despite hearing the cheers of the crowd surrounding the green, it wasn't until Chen walked near the pin that he realized the shot had landed in the hole.

Chen didn't let the double-eagle affect his concentration on the 199-yard par-3 third hole. He birdied the hole by nailing a 3-iron within four feet of the cup and knocking down the putt.

Included in Chen's 31-34—65 round were the double eagle, five birdies, nine pars and three bogeys. Chen finished with a flurry, scoring a birdie on the 17th and 18th holes.



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