

# Graham stole '79 show

Continued from Page 2

18, with only a bogey at 14 marring his performance. His 67 lifted him to 287 and a two-stroke win over Clayton Heafner.

Hogan would win the Open again in 1953, giving him four titles in six years.

## 1961 U.S. OPEN

By the time the Open made its fourth appearance at Oakland Hills, new names and new favorites had joined the tour. Hogan, the man who tamed the Monster in 1951, played, but for the first time since 1940 he failed to finish among the Open's top 10.

Everyone's favorite for the tournament was golf's hottest sensation — Arnold Palmer. Palmer had thrilled enthusiasts in the 1960 Open at Cherry Hills by charging from seven strokes behind in the final round to victory.

But at Oakland Hills Palmer was never a factor after starting with rounds of 74 and 75, which left him 10 strokes behind the leaders. Doug Sanders had a 137 and was tied with Bob Rosberg for the lead. But the drama was just starting to unfold.

After 54 holes, Sanders still clung to the lead with 210, but 13 others were within five strokes. One was Gene Littler at 213.

Hogan and Palmer finished tied for 14th. Jack Nicklaus, playing as an amateur, tied for fourth with a 284.

## 1972 PGA

South African Gary Player missed his family very much and wanted to abandon the tour for a trip home, but not before the PGA. The reason was simple: Player liked Oakland Hills. At the 1961 Open he finished ninth, and in 1964 he shot 281 at the Carling World Open to place third.

Again, the course would not allow a run-

away victory. After two rounds, Jerry Heard's one-under-par 139 was best, but nine others — including Player — were within three strokes.

After opening with a pair of 71s, Player shot himself into the lead with a 67 in round three. He bogeyed holes nine and 18, but hit five birdies, four on putts of 25 feet or better. His 209 put him one stroke ahead of Bill Casper, but the title was still up for grabs with six golfers bunched within four shots of the lead.

After his third round, Player said the tournament wouldn't be decided until the final nine holes. He made his prophesy accurate by bogeying three of the first four holes. Seven players either led or shared the lead on the front nine, but over the back nine it narrowed to a duel between Player and Jim Jamieson.

A birdie at 12 and Player's bogeys at 14 and 15 gave Jamieson a two-shot lead, but it didn't last. At 16, he missed an eight-foot putt for par, and followed that with two more bogeys to play himself out of contention. Player birdied 16 and parred 17 and 18 to win the title by two shots with a 281.

The PGA title was Player's second. His first, in 1962, earned him \$18,000. The popularity of pro golf was evident in the increase in prize money. Player's 1972 championship earned him \$45,000.

## 1979 PGA

Until this major tournament, no pro had been able to beat Oakland Hills. Three times, scores of 281 — one over par — were winners. That was not the case this time.

Rain softened the course and slowed the greens, and the rough wasn't nearly as treacherous. What would result was evident from the first round: 15 players broke

par and 10 others tied it.

Although scores plummeted on the rain-soaked course, the drama didn't diminish. Indeed, the tournament was extended to 75 holes for Ben Crenshaw and David Graham after Graham, on the 18th hole, hit two poor shots and double-bogeyed, allowing Crenshaw to tie him at 272 and force a playoff.

But Graham didn't self-destruct. In fact, he rallied with a 25-foot par putt that matched Crenshaw's two-foot effort on the first extra hole.

Crenshaw again narrowly missed the victory when an eagle effort missed by two inches. He had an easy birdie, but Graham rolled in a 10-footer of his own to stay even.

Crenshaw's victory chance went awry on the third extra hole, a 202-yard par-three. He hit his tee shot into a bunker, blasted out to within 15 feet, but missed his par putt. Graham's tee shot sailed to within eight feet of the cup. He hit his first putt for a birdie, and the victory.

Graham's win was his first in a major tournament. After three rounds, nine players were under par and had a chance at victory. Rex Caldwell's 203 was tops, with Crenshaw two strokes back and Graham within four. Midway through the final round, those three were the only ones with a chance for victory.

One stroke separated the trio with nine holes left. Crenshaw led at eight under. Caldwell dropped out of the chase with a bogey at 18, ending the day with a 71 and finishing at 274, two shots back.

Crenshaw had a brilliant final-round 67. That won for Hogan in 1951, but it wasn't good enough this time. Graham fired a 65 and, except for his near-disaster at 18, was flawless.

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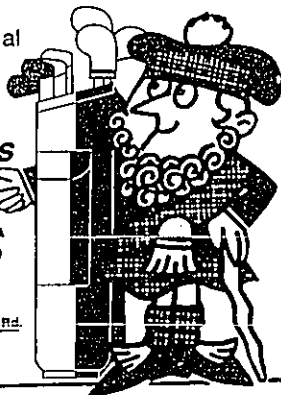
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