

Jack Nicklaus Leans To 'Old Guard' In Masters

By WILL GRIMSLEY
Associated Press Sports Writer
AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Jack Nicklaus likes the Old Guard over the Young Turks in the 34th Masters Golf Tournament, starting Thursday, and he hints he might be unwise to overlook the man they call the Golden Bear.

"If I didn't think I could win here, I would go home right now," said the 200-pound slugger from Columbus, Ohio, the 10-1 favorite

in a wide open international field of 83 players.

"I am hitting the ball better and feeling more confident than I have in any Masters since 1965."

That was the year Big Jack won the third of his green coats and set the scoring record of 271, provoking the great Bob Jones to remark that "this fellow plays a game with which I am not familiar."

Big Jack said he believed the

pressure in this first of the season's major championships and course knowledge would give the established players an edge over the precocious new breed.

The odds-makers apparently agree.

Nicklaus is 10-1 in the unofficial pre-tournament book, the longest odds given a favorite in years. He is followed at 12-1 by Gene Littler, the year's leading money winner; Bill Casper and

Arnold Palmer.

PGA champion Julius Boros is rated 15-1 along with Gary Player of South Africa and Roberto DeVicenzo of Argentina, with U.S. Open champion Lee Trevino, Miller Barber, Tom Weiskopf and Bob Murphy following at 20-1.

Palmer, who won the first of his four crowns in 1958 and the last in 1964, is geared for a comeback.

"I am hopeful. My sore hip

hasn't hurt me much. I'm playing the best I have in 12 months."

Many observers believe this may be the year for a foreigner to take the title for the second time. Player, who beat out Palmer in 1961, is at his peak. DeVicenzo, who lost a chance for a tie a year ago through an arithmetic error, and Bruce Crampton of Australia both are playing well.

The first round begins over

the flowering 6,980-yard Augusta course at 9 a.m., EST.

The final two rounds will be

televised nationally by NBC, 5-6 p.m. Saturday, 4-5:30 p.m. Sunday.

CS Little League Sets 1st Session

The 1969 organizational meeting for the College Station Little League will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday (April 14) in the A&M Consolidated High School auditorium, announced Dr. Page Morgan, league president.

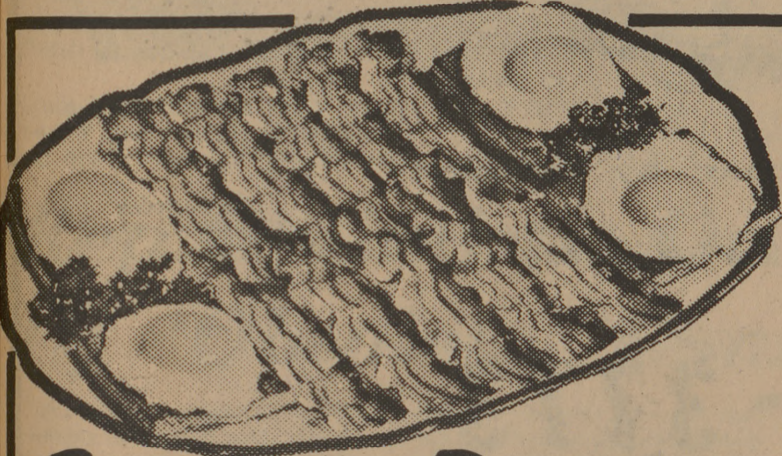
Dr. Morgan said prospective Little Leaguers, ages 8 to 12, and their parents are urged to attend the session, at which enrollment cards will be distributed and plans discussed for the coming season.



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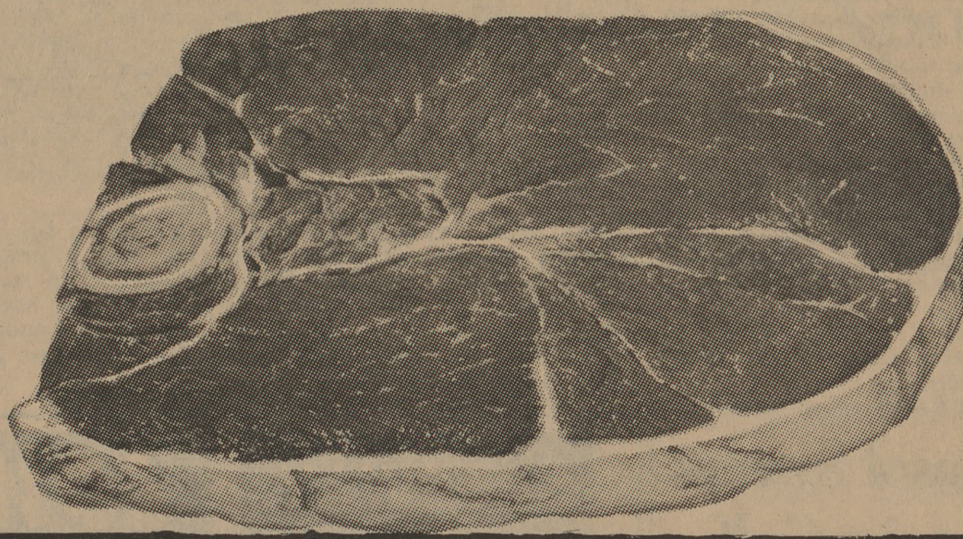
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