

# Trevino leads Masters

## Scores opening round 67 after missing cut in '88

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Lee Trevino left the Masters last year hang-dog and bitter, and returned Thursday the life of the party he dislikes so much.

Trevino, who has never played well at Augusta National Golf Club, shot an opening round 67, 5 under par and his best round in 18 Masters appearances.

"If a man came up to me this morning and offered to bet me I couldn't break 76 today, I wouldn't have taken one quarter of it. And I'm a betting man," Trevino said.

He was not alone. He had only several dozen followers as he and Jose Marie Olazabal of Spain teed off, but by the time he finished the front nine at 4 under par, his following had swelled to around 15,000.

A year ago, Trevino shot 81 and missed the cut, and a handful of reporters who saw him off heard him say he hoped he was not invited back.

But his on-again-off-again relationship with the course he refused to play in 1970 and 1971 — to his later regret — changed quickly.

When he got this year's invitation, he said, he "returned it the same day."

Trevino, who still changes his

shoes in the parking lot because he is uncomfortable with the elitism of the venerable club, said he still feels the same way as always about the course.

Augusta National favors big hitters off the tee and right to left shots. He has never been a long driver, and he cuts the ball, making for a left-to-right flight.

"Jack (Nicklaus) was always telling me I could play this golf course. I told him once I'll play you for a \$1,000 Nassau, and you play my tee ball and I'll play yours. He never said another word," he said.

Trevino has twice won the other three major golf tournaments — the U.S. Open, the British Open and PGA.

His previous best finish here was a tie for 10th in 1975 and 1985.

Trevino cited a variety of factors for his inspired performance in the opening round, including a happy family life, the realization that his Masters qualification via his 1984 victory in the PGA runs out after this year, and his goal to play more and better golf in preparation for the Senior Tour, which he will join next year after turning 50.

He said he did not practice putting and played only the back nine during a practice round.

Trevino found a groove, he said,

by hitting 2,000 practice balls and by seeing a 20-year-old picture of himself putting that served as a reminder to keep his right elbow in.

Still, he said, at 49 he must battle mental lapses, such as hitting shots on 17 and 18 without factoring in the strong wind at his back.

"I've gone to old addresses before ... forgot that I moved," Trevino said.

His previous best round in the Masters was a 68 he shot in the opening round in 1984. He finished 43rd that year.

Trevino said this year, he is prepared for a change of fortune.

"I may come back with three 80s," Trevino said. "But this is a confidence builder. I did it on a golf course that has never been suitable to my game."

Trevino, of Mexican ancestry and the only American minority in this year's tournament, was oblique in his general references to the elite Augusta National, mindful that he had said things before he was sorry for later.

Trevino said he was entertaining no thoughts about winning the tournament.

"If I'm leading Saturday night, I might not show up," Trevino said. "I might have a heart attack."

# Texas leads A&M golf; A&M is 9th

HOUSTON (AP) — Kyle Jerome shot a three-under-par 69 Thursday to lead the Texas golf team to a seven-stroke lead after the first round of the 35th Annual All-American Intercollegiate Invitational at the Bear Creek World of Golf.

Ulfar Jonsson of Houston Baptist also shot a 69 to tie Jerome after the first day of the tournament.

The Southwest Conference is using the event, along with the Harvey Penick and Border Olympics tournaments, to determine its regular-season champion. Texas leads the points-system competition with 170 after winning the Border Olympics tournament and placing third at the Harvey Penick.

Arkansas and Texas A&M are tied for second with 135 points.

The Longhorns posted a total of 288 Thursday, with Oklahoma State and Texas Christian tied for second at 295. Texas-El Paso is fourth at 296, while Houston and Houston Baptist are tied at 297.

Arkansas' Chad Magee, Zoran Zoric of Houston and TCU's Kirk Johnson shot one-under-par 71 to tie for third place.

Arkansas and Southern Methodist are tied at 305, followed by Texas A&M at 308, Baylor at 311, and Rice and Texas Tech at 314.

# Prep hurler uses both arms equally well

FLORESVILLE (AP) — While mowing down high school batters, Floresville High School pitcher Billy Flores pretends his victims are major leaguers.

"I act like every pitch is like I'm pitching in the World Series," Flores said. "I get ahead on the count and just want to strike the batter out."

But never in his wildest imagination did Flores believe he could turn in a performance like his 101-pitch masterpiece March 29, when he struck out 21 San Antonio Cole batters in a 4-3, seven-inning triumph.

Only two SA Cole players made outs where they made contact with the ball. There are only 21 outs in seven innings, but two batters reached base on passed balls after strikeouts.

The victory over Cole was Flores' fifth straight after a loss to Devine in the Tigers' first game of the season.

Flores' ERA for the season fell to 1.84 after the game. He had 75 strikeouts and 24 walks in 38 innings, allowing the opposition only 13 hits.

"I just went out there and pitched," Flores said about his performance, which raised his strikeout total for the year to 46 in three 7-inning games.

As amazing as Flores' strikeout performance is the fact that he is also a right-handed throwing fielder on the days when he doesn't pitch.

When Flores is rested, he is a right-handed throwing first baseman or center fielder. Against five hitters this year, he even pitched right-handed, although he says he cannot throw nearly as well that way as he can left-handed.

"We like to take some of the wear

off of his arm when he's not pitching," Floresville Coach John Baker said. "I've talked to him and we don't like for him to throw right-handed if we can help it. But sometimes we've been in jams and had to use him. He's almost as consistent with his right hand as he is with his left."

The root of his right-handed

throwing came during his pee-wee career when coaches thought Flores should throw right-handed.

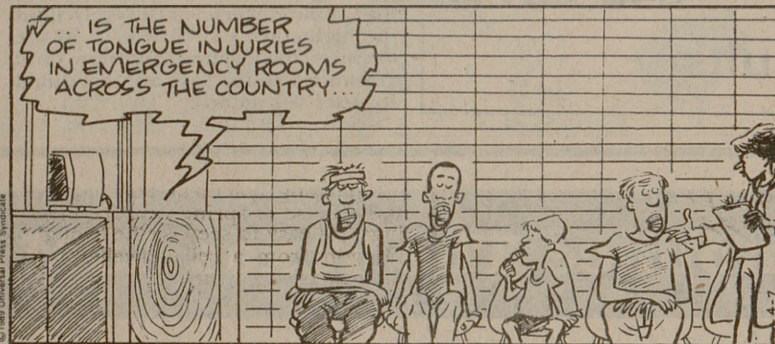
"When I was 9 or 10 years old, my cousin took me to the troutyts, Flores said. "He didn't know I was left-handed, so they made me throw right-handed. I guess it all started there."

Flores learned to toss with either arm, but still feels more comfortable throwing left-handed.

"He has a good fastball at about 82 or 83 mph, but what really makes him effective is his breaking pitch," Baker said. "I've never seen it move like it did (against Cole)."

## TANK MCNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



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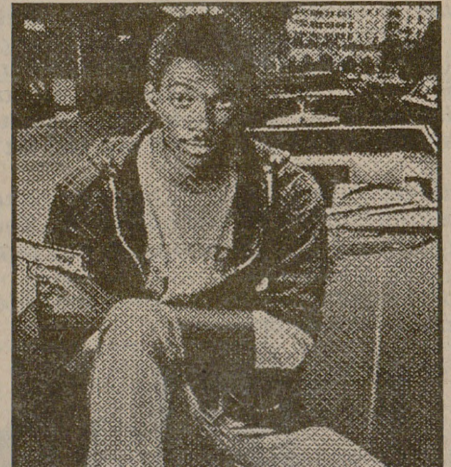
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