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JACK'S MAJORS
— BY —
WALT SPITZMILLER



JACK'S MAJORS

BY

WALT SPITZMILLER

This is one of a Limited Edition of 100 Portfolios
signed by Jack Nicklaus and Walt Spitzmiller
of which this is number

The story begins in 2004, with a trip to a press conference at Sebonack Golf Club, which announced the building of the new golf course designed by Jack Nicklaus and Tom Doak. I was there through an invitation from Pat Norton, a friend, business associate and neighbor of mine in Connecticut.

I had just recently moved to Bonita Springs, Florida, after living in Redding, Connecticut, for over 30 years and working from my home studio there. Redding is a bucolic small town, only 55 miles from New York City, where much of my career in editorial art was conducted. When Pat suggested I attend, I decided to go. I flew to New York, rented a car and made the trip to Southampton where the new course was to be built between National Golf Links of America and Shinnecock Hills Golf Club – two grand old dames of golf in America.

I had no idea as to why I would make such a trip just after moving to Florida but I did and it turned out to be a good move. It was a large gathering with Jack and Tom in attendance. I knew Tom but I had never met Jack, even though I had attended many gatherings where Jack was present – but I never had the opportunity to meet him. It was always admiration at a distance.

Also in attendance was Dick Chapdelaine, a long-time friend and business associate of Jack. Dick had commissioned me to do a painting of Jack for his 50th birthday present. The scene he wanted was of Jack on the 16th hole at the 1986 Masters. Dick had seen a painting of the same subject matter in the collection of the Waterville Golf Club in southwest Ireland – they owned many of my works.



He offered to buy it from them but it wasn't for sale but had been told that the artist was in the Club! Dick and I met there and then and the commission was sealed. I had no contact with Dick after that, other than a very nice letter from Jack about the work that I had created for Dick, who had then gifted it to Jack. That was special.

When I entered the press tent at the press conference, I saw many friends in the news and magazine business and in the corner sitting at a table was Dick Chapdelaine. I walked over to his table and reintroduced myself. Dick's reply was "Walt, you have a good

memory." Truth is you don't forget someone who has commissioned a painting from you, let alone one for Jack Nicklaus' 50th birthday! We chatted for a few minutes and I said to Dick that I had never met Jack. He said "...well, we can take care of that!" He marched me outside of the press tent and towards Jack, who had the inevitable crowd gathered around him. Dick parted the crowd like a bouncer in a club and said "Jack, I have someone here you must meet." Jack and I discussed how beautiful the land was on the Sebonack estate – perfect for building a golf course. It is truly magnificent. I also mentioned that I had recently moved to Florida and I lived only a short drive from Jack. He asked me to come over and meet with his staff and see if we could work together. He called over his Vice President, Corporate Communications, Scott Tolley, and the discussions started.

It has taken me almost eight years to create this collection of 18 paintings that represent 'Jack's Majors' and I am delighted to offer them as a tribute to Jack Nicklaus and his unique and enduring achievements.

A handwritten signature in gold ink, which appears to be "Walt Fitzgerald". The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first name "Walt" and last name "Fitzgerald" clearly legible.



JACK'S MAJORS

1962 U.S. Open, Oakmont Country Club, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

1963 Masters, Augusta National Golf Club, Augusta, Georgia

1963 PGA Championship, Dallas Athletic Club, Dallas, Texas

1965 Masters, Augusta National Golf Club, Augusta, Georgia

1966 Masters, Augusta National Golf Club, Augusta, Georgia

1966 British Open, Muirfield, Gullane, East Lothian, Scotland

1967 U.S. Open, Baltusrol Golf Club, Springfield, New Jersey

1970 British Open, St. Andrews, Fife, Scotland

1971 PGA Championship, PGA National Golf Club, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

1972 Masters, Augusta National Golf Club, Augusta, Georgia

1972 U.S. Open, Pebble Beach Golf Links, Pebble Beach, California

1973 PGA Championship, Canterbury Golf Club, Cleveland, Ohio

1975 Masters, Augusta National Golf Club, Augusta, Georgia

1975 PGA Championship, Firestone Country Club, Akron, Ohio

1978 British Open, St. Andrews, Fife, Scotland

1980 U.S. Open, Baltusrol Golf Club, Springfield, New Jersey

1980 PGA Championship, Oak Hill Country Club, Rochester, New York

1986 Masters, Augusta National Golf Club, Augusta, Georgia



JACK'S MAJORS

1962 U.S. Open, Oakmont Country Club, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

A Major Breakthrough

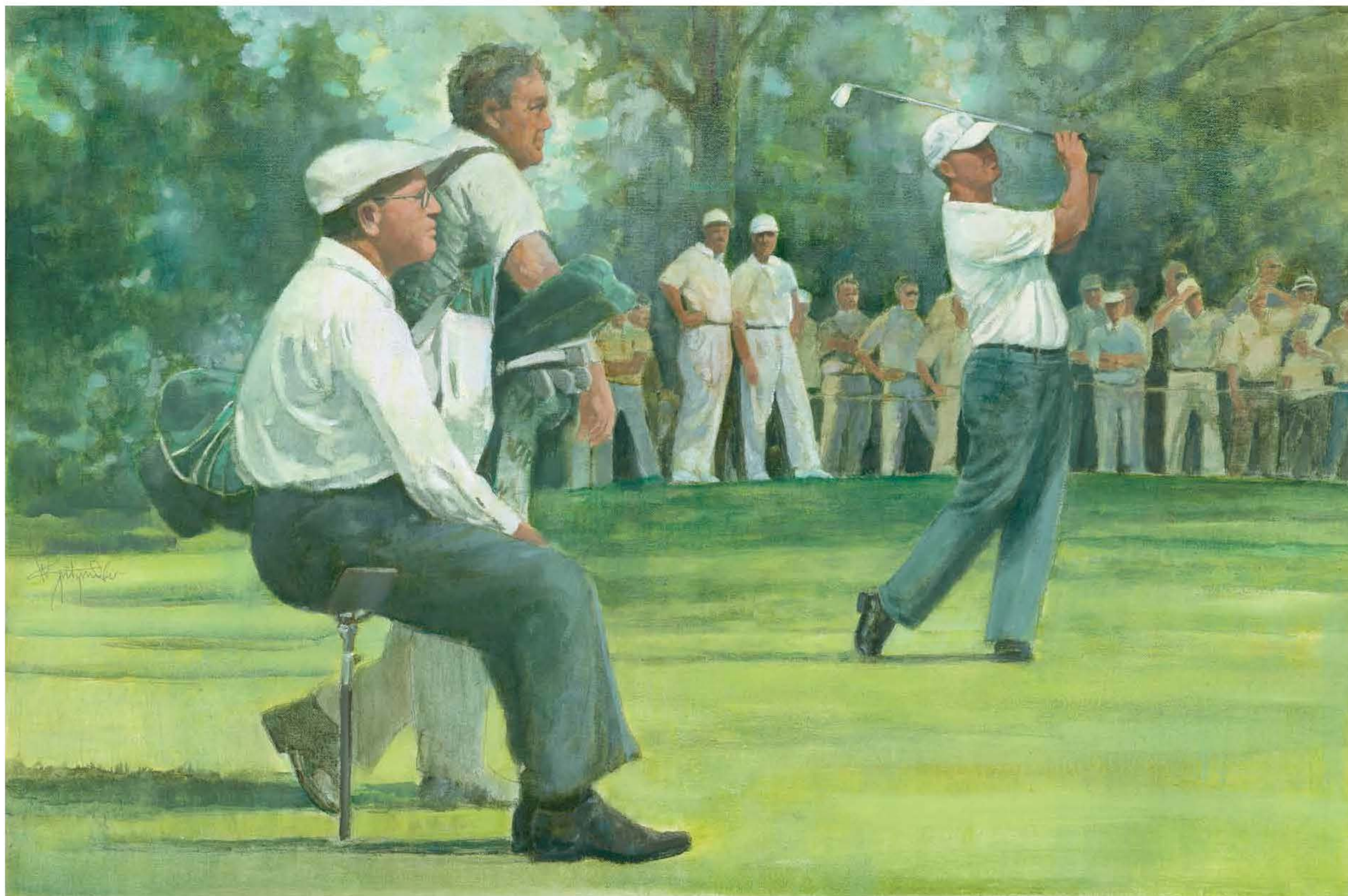
After dominating amateur golf, Jack Nicklaus turned pro and won his first of four U.S. Opens in a duel with Arnold Palmer.

In a duel for the ages, Jack Nicklaus faced Arnold Palmer, considered one of golf history's most popular players, at Oakmont Country Club – just 35 miles from Palmer's birthplace and home. Tied after 72 holes, the two met in an 18-hole playoff on Sunday. As he had all week,

Palmer played exceptionally well from tee to green but struggled on Oakmont's treacherous putting surfaces. Nicklaus, who liked the demanding course and was comfortable with the way the United States Golf Association's U.S. Open set-up, jumped out to a four-stroke lead but Palmer staged yet another of his memorable charges, making birdies on the 9th, 11th and 12th to close to within one.

But a three-putt bogey on 13 was his downfall and Nicklaus won by three strokes.

It was fitting that this Open not only established one of the greatest rivalries in sports but cemented what would prove to be a long and enduring friendship.



1962 U.S. Open, Oakmont Country Club, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



JACK'S MAJORS

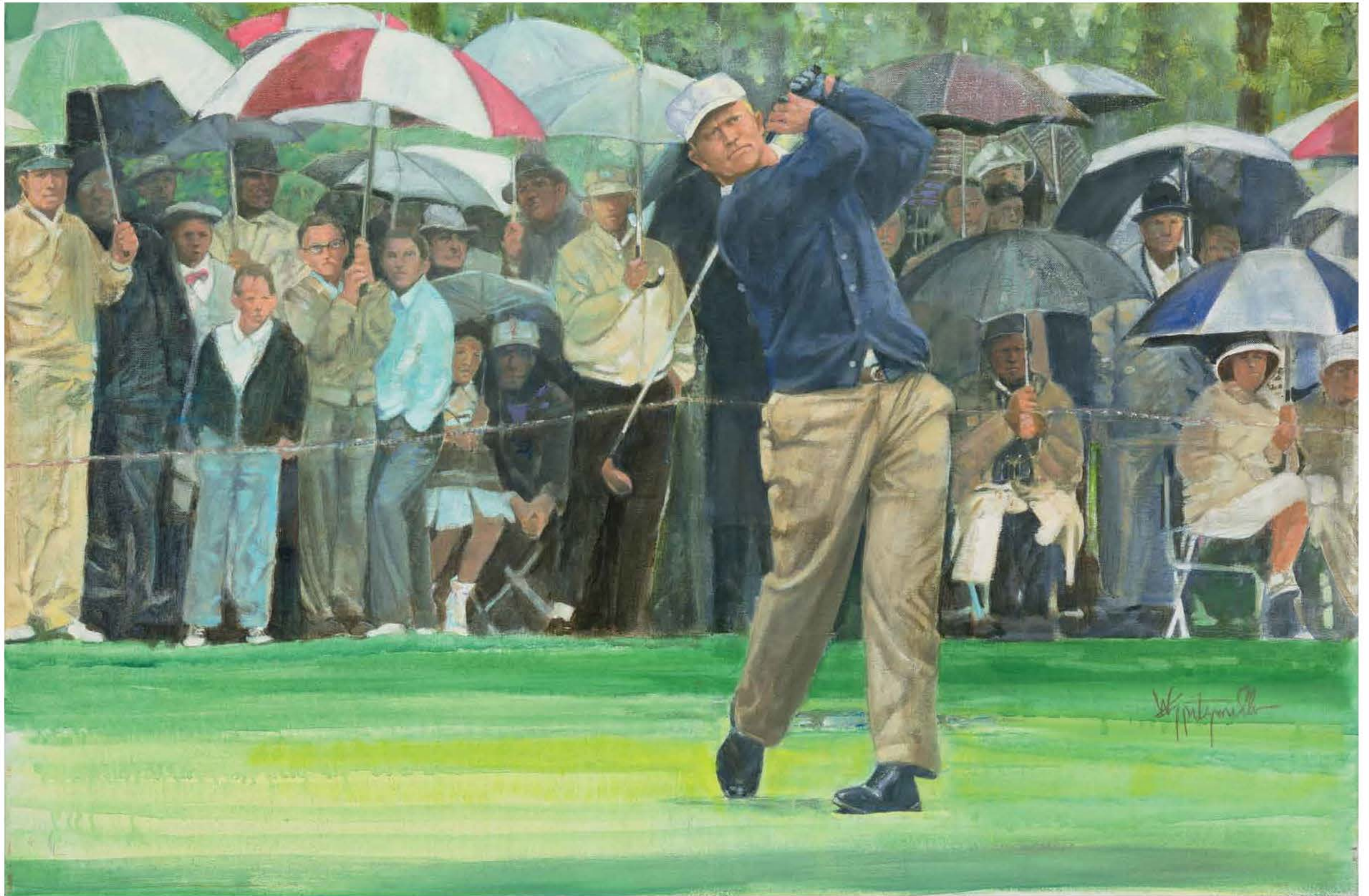
1963 Masters, Augusta National Golf Club, Augusta, Georgia

The First of Many

With his father, Charlie, and boyhood idol Bob Jones looking on, 23-year-old Jack Nicklaus served notice that Augusta National and the Masters Tournament would hold special places in his remarkable career.

Jack Nicklaus came to the Augusta National Golf Club for the 1963 Masters Tournament as the reigning U.S. Open champion. He had played in his first Masters in 1959 and, from the first, he loved the course because it set up perfectly for his game – power was a plus; second-shot accuracy was a premium. Add to the scenario that Bob Jones had been Charlie Nicklaus' sporting hero, which he passed along to his son, and it didn't take a genius to see that the stage had been ideally set for great things.

Nicklaus opened with a 74 but rallied with an inspired 66 in the second round that put him just one stroke off the lead. Then in a third round deluged with rain and unplayable by most standards, Nicklaus stood strong and eventually atop the leader board heading into the final round. His Sunday 72 withstood challenges from Tony Lema, who finished a stroke back, and third-place finishers Julius Boros, and the sentimental favorite, 50-year-old three-time champion Sam Snead, who was as much a part of the Masters lore as the Magnolias and Azaleas.



1963 Masters, Augusta National Golf Club, Augusta, Georgia



JACK'S MAJORS

1963 PGA Championship, Dallas Athletic Club, Dallas, Texas

Vindication

After a disappointing British Open, Jack Nicklaus was too hot to handle as he added the Wanamaker Trophy to his impressive – and growing – collection.

Jack Nicklaus opened 1963 with a victory at the Masters Tournament but then failed to successfully defend his U.S. Open title at The Country Club. Then, seeking his first British Open victory, he missed making a playoff with Bob Charles and Phil Rodgers by a stroke. Five days later and perhaps in a swing of 50 degrees in weather conditions, he would tee off in the PGA Championship under brutally hot and humid conditions at the Dallas Athletic Club. In temperatures that reached over 100 degrees, Nicklaus closed with a five-under-par 66 to edge Dave Ragan by two strokes. At age 23, he joined Gene Sarazen, Byron Nelson and Ben Hogan as the only players to win the Masters, the U.S. Open and the PGA Championship. At the awards ceremony, he and his wife, Barbara, were forced to use a towel to hold the blisteringly hot trophy.



1963 PGA Championship, Dallas Athletic Club, Dallas, Texas



JACK'S MAJORS

1965 Masters, Augusta National Golf Club, Augusta, Georgia

Setting a Record

If there were any doubts, his record-setting victory at Augusta National established Jack Nicklaus as the game's dominant player and set the stage for greater things to come – and sooner rather than later.

To put it simply, Jack Nicklaus overpowered Augusta National in 1965 and overwhelmed the field. His third-round, eight-under-par 64 tied the record set by Lloyd Mangrum in 1940 and his 271 total shattered Ben Hogan's 1953 standard by three strokes. His nine-stroke margin of victory over Arnold Palmer and Gary Player broke Dr. Cary Middlecoff's 1955 record by two strokes. If all that weren't enough, he had just one three-putt green over 72 holes and his power reduced the 6,925-yard course to a shadow the numbers on the scorecard suggested. At the end of the tournament, it was left to Bob Jones to put everything in perspective, when he said, "Jack Nicklaus is playing an entirely different game – a game I'm not even familiar with."



1965 Masters, Augusta National Golf Club, Augusta, Georgia



JACK'S MAJORS

1966 Masters, Augusta National Golf Club, Augusta, Georgia

A Successful Defense

Prior to 1966, no Masters champion had ever successfully defended his title. But Jack Nicklaus had set as his goal doing just that – and as history has shown, that determination became a virtual force of nature.

In 1966, Augusta National played unusually hard and fast, owing to a cold, dry winter – and perhaps some strategic decisions in course set-up by Masters Tournament officials. Nicklaus opened with a 68 to take a three-stroke lead but skied to a 76 on Friday. Remarkably, Ben Hogan shot a 71 and was just two behind the leaders, Peter Butler of England and Paul Harney. An even-par third round (despite a 38 on the inward nine) gave Nicklaus a share of the lead with Tommy Jacobs. Hogan and Arnold Palmer were two back. An even-par 72 on Sunday put him into a tie with Jacobs and Gay Brewer, and Nicklaus won the Monday playoff with a 70 to Jacobs' 72 and Brewer's 78. The even-par finish 288 in regulation was 17 shots higher than the Golden Bear's winning score a year prior.



1966 Masters, Augusta National Golf Club, Augusta, Georgia



JACK'S MAJORS

1966 British Open, Muirfield, Gullane, East Lothian, Scotland

The Champion Golfer of the Year

With his victory at Muirfield, 26-year-old Jack Nicklaus joined Gene Sarazen and Ben Hogan as the only players to complete the professional Grand Slam.

For much of his career, Jack Nicklaus could dominate by virtue of his sheer power. "Today, everyone is long but back then, Jack was *really* long," the late Bob Rosburg recalled several years ago. But at Muirfield, Nicklaus took one look at the 170 pot bunkers, the thick rough, and the menacing winds off the Firth of Forth and made a very wise decision: he would largely leave his driver in the bag.

In fact, he only used it 17 times. After opening with rounds of 70-67-75, he came to the final nine holes in a tight battle with Doug Sanders and Welsh professional Dave Thomas. Nicklaus parred Nos. 15 and 16 and just missed an eagle on 17. His birdie gave him a one-stroke lead on the home hole, which he parred for the win in the game's oldest championship and at that time become the youngest member of the Grand Slam family.



1966 British Open, Muirfield, Gullane, East Lothian, Scotland



JACK'S MAJORS

1967 U.S. Open, Baltusrol Country Club, Springfield, New Jersey

Another Duel with Arnold

Jack Nicklaus came to the Open at historic Baltusrol Country Club mired in the first serious slump of his career ... which he ended in the best way possible.

After winning the Bing Crosby National Pro-Am in January, Jack Nicklaus struggled to overcome problems with his swing, shotmaking, short game and putting. But with the determination he showed throughout his career, he managed to get all the pieces back in place for the Open at this classic A.W. Tillinghast design. He opened with a 71 (Ben Hogan bogeyed the home hole for a 72) and then followed that up with a second-round 67. At the end of three rounds, amateur Marty Fleckman held a one-stroke lead over Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer and Billy Casper. Fleckman skied to an 80 in the final round while Nicklaus turned in a brilliant 65 to beat Palmer by four strokes and set a new Open 72-hole record with a 265. The victory and record were punctuated with a 1-iron into the final green from 238 yards out that played more like 260 yards, because it was uphill, all carry, and into the wind, stirred by a darkening sky. The 1-iron carried a greenside bunker and stopped 22 feet from the hole for birdie. So much for a slump.



1967 U.S. Open, Baltusrol Country Club, Springfield, New Jersey



JACK'S MAJORS

1970 British Open, St. Andrews, Fife, Scotland

A Win at the Home of Golf

All victories in the major championships are special but for Jack Nicklaus winning at the Old Course at St. Andrews was one to savor.

Jack Nicklaus' long-time idol Bob Jones once said that no career is complete until a golfer has won on the Old Course at St. Andrews in Scotland. That sentiment rested in the back of the Golden Bear's mind as he came to the Old Course for the 1970 British Open, having not won a major championship in three years. Inspired by the memory of his father, who had passed away a few months earlier in 1970, along with his love and understanding of the game's history, the prospect of winning at the Old Course surely added just that much more motivation for Nicklaus. He opened with rounds of 68-69-73 to go into the final round tied with Doug Sanders and Tony Jacklin for second place, two strokes behind Lee Trevino, who was masterful in the windy conditions. For a time, it looked as though the championship was Sanders' for the taking. Playing in the group behind Nicklaus, he had a three-footer on the final hole for the win, but backed away and never really seemed to settle himself. He missed the putt and the 18-hole playoff was set for the next day. With five holes left to play, Nicklaus led by four strokes but Sanders picked up three strokes through No. 16. Both players parred the Road Hole. Sanders hit a fine drive on 18 and in a moment of high drama, Nicklaus peeled off his sweater before he smashed a drive of some 370 yards through the green. He then two-putted for his birdie and his second British Open victory – uncharacteristically tossing the putter in the air in celebration. In the interview room minutes later, Nicklaus was asked about his 10th major championship victory and pulling within three of Bob Jones' record. The Golden Bear confessed that until that moment, he had never even considered the championship total and the record now in his sights.



1970 British Open, St Andrews, Fife, Scotland



JACK'S MAJORS

1971 PGA Championship, PGA National Golf Club, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

A Win at Home

**Playing at PGA National Golf Club, Jack Nicklaus felt right at home
– literally – and put on a complete display of his mastery.**

The 1971 PGA Championship was unique for several reasons. For one, it was played in February, rather than in its customary August slot.

Second, it was a home game of sorts for Jack Nicklaus, as the venue at PGA National Golf Club was just minutes down the street from his North Palm Beach, Florida, home. The combination worked well for the Golden Bear. He opened the 1971 PGA Championship with a 69 that impressed his playing partner, 69-year old Gene Sarazen – a man not easily impressed. “I saw a real champion today,” said the man known as the Squire. “I never saw such power and he putted magnificently.” A second-round 69 gave Nicklaus a two-stroke lead over Miller Barber and he increased his lead to four with a 70 in windy conditions on Saturday. Nicklaus played a conservative final round, shooting a one-over-par 73, which was good enough to beat Billy Casper (68) by two strokes and 58-year-old Tommy Bolt by three.

The victory made him the first player to win all four modern Grand Slam titles twice. He was just 31.



1971 PGA Championship, PGA National Golf Club, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida



JACK'S MAJORS

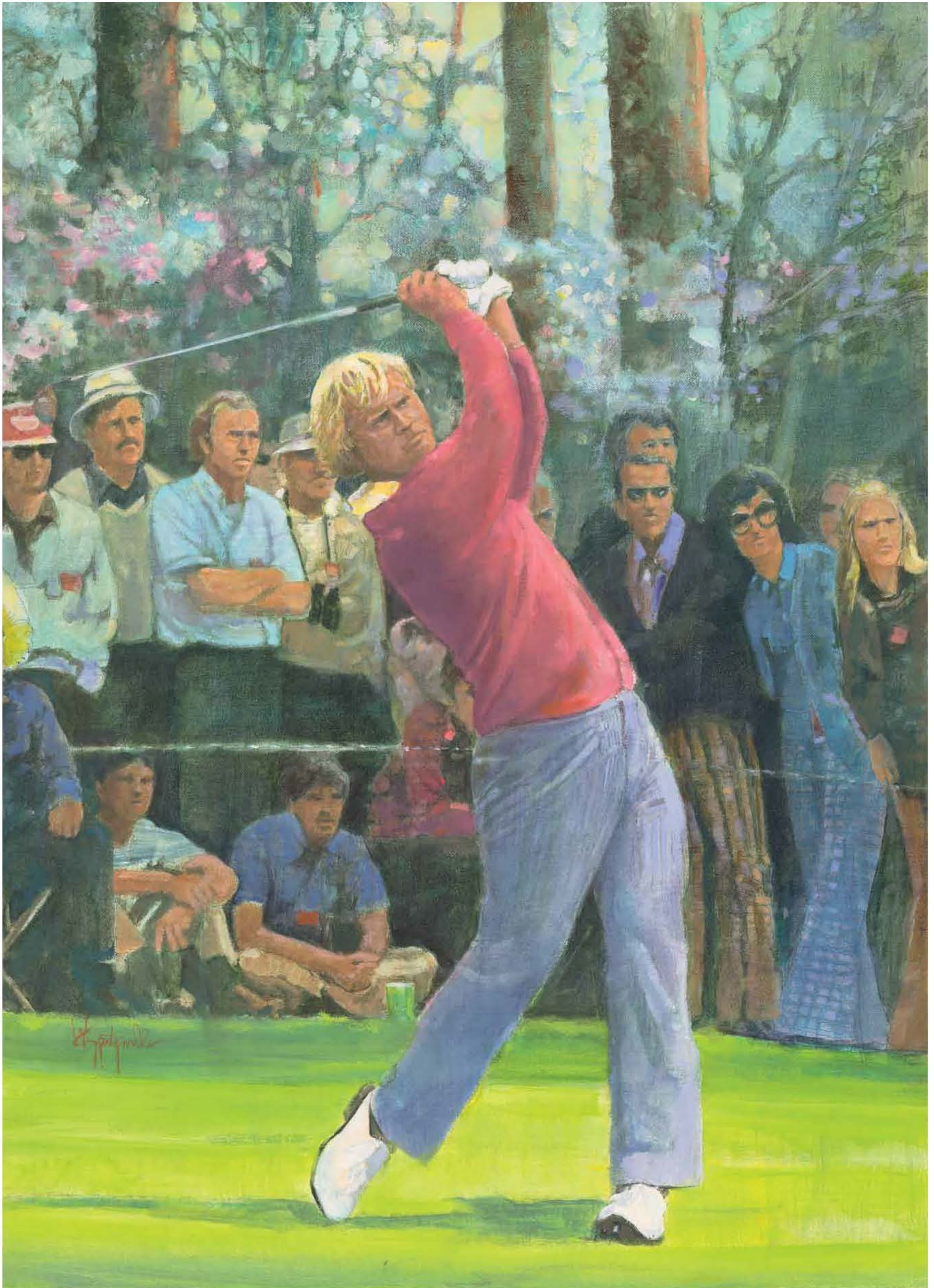
1972 Masters, Augusta National Golf Club, Augusta, Georgia

Beginning a Magical Year

**With his victory at Augusta, speculation grew that 1972 might be the year
Jack Nicklaus would sweep the major championships.**

At the start of the 1972 season, 32-year-old Jack Nicklaus was arguably playing some of his best golf. He had already won 11 major championships (including two U.S. Amateurs) and the venues of that year's four majors were places he felt comfortable. He had enjoyed success at Augusta, Pebble Beach and Muirfield in Scotland, while Oakland Hills, the site of the PGA Championship, was a Donald Ross design similar to Scioto in Columbus, Ohio, where he had learned the game as a boy. At Augusta, Nicklaus led after an opening-round 68 and then held off the remarkable Sam Snead (age 59) to hold onto his lead, just as he would after the third round despite closing with two bogeys. His final-round 74 in difficult conditions was good enough for a two-stroke win and fourth green jacket.

Now it was on to Pebble Beach and the second act of the drama.



1972 Masters, Augusta National Golf Club, Augusta, Georgia



JACK'S MAJORS

1972 U.S. Open, Pebble Beach Golf Links, Pebble Beach, California

Tying Bob Jones

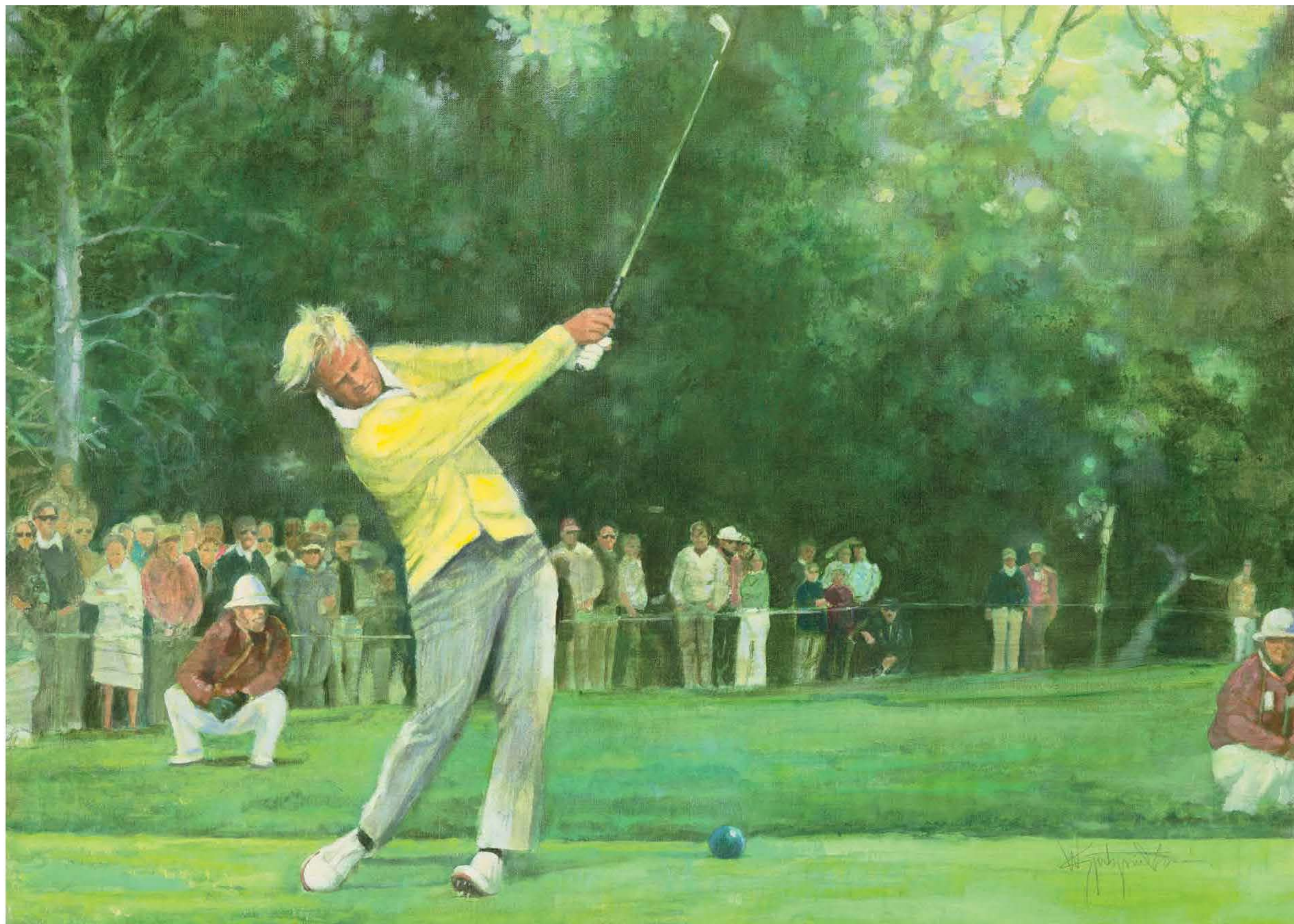
With his victory at Pebble Beach, Jack Nicklaus matched his boyhood hero Bob Jones' record of 13 victories in major championships.

The Pebble Beach Golf Links has long been one of Jack Nicklaus' favorite tests – and why not? After all, he won his second U.S. Amateur there in 1961 and coming into the 1972 U.S. Open, he had won two Bing Crosby National Pro-Ams there as well. To this day, he says that if he had just one round of golf to play, it would likely be at Pebble. After opening the 1972 U.S. Open with a one-under-par 71,

Nicklaus shared the lead with six other players. It was the highest score by a leader in the modern history of the Open and reflected the demanding conditions. A second-round 73 tied him with five players and his 72 on Saturday left him alone atop the leader board.

Paired with the defending champion Lee Trevino on Sunday, Nicklaus went double-bogey, bogey on Nos. 10 and 12 but came to the 218-yard, par-3 17th with a three-stroke lead. With the Pacific Ocean to the left and a tricky bailout right, Nicklaus opted for a 1-iron.

As he took the club back, he felt the clubface closing and the backswing working too much inside the target line. That spelled hook. But Nicklaus described his tempo that week as ideal and he was able to adjust on the downswing and square up the clubface. The ball never left the pin. He didn't see it hit, but the crowd's reaction told Nicklaus it was close. The ball rattled the pin and finished just inches from the cup. Despite a bogey on 18, he won by three strokes and now held three of the four major championship trophies, including the PGA Championship, which had been played in February of 1971. So Nicklaus turned his attention to Muirfield and the British Open where, in the end, he would finish second to Trevino by a stroke.



1972 U.S. Open, Pebble Beach Golf Links, Pebble Beach, California



JACK'S MAJORS

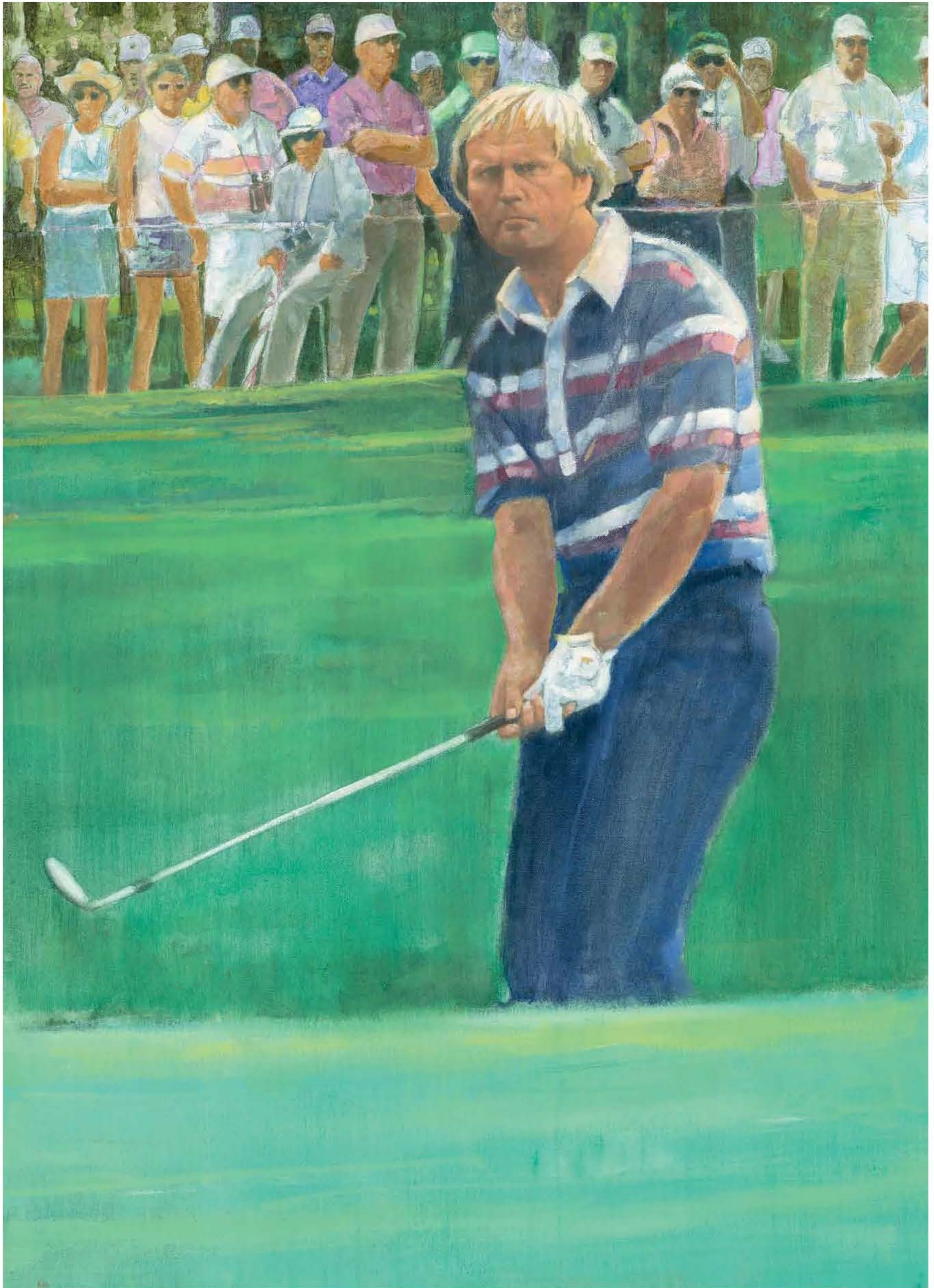
1973 PGA Championship, Canterbury Golf Club, Cleveland, Ohio

Setting a Record

Jack Nicklaus came home to Ohio to win his 14th major championship and surpass Bob Jones' 43-year-old record.

When Jack Nicklaus arrived at historic Canterbury Golf Club outside Cleveland, some critics dismissed his chances because the course "didn't suit his game," although given his record, it's hard to tell precisely what type of course didn't do just that. Nicklaus opened with an indifferent one-over-par 72 but came back with rounds of 68-68 to take a one-stroke lead over Mason Rudolph into Sunday's final round.

It's not quite fair to say he put his game on cruise control but he closed with a 69 to win by a comfortable four strokes over Australia's Bruce Crampton. It was his first major championship victory in his home state of Ohio, but a bittersweet moment as he topped the major championship record of his boyhood idol and long-time golf hero Bob Jones.



1973 PGA Championship, Canterbury Golf Club, Cleveland, Ohio



JACK'S MAJORS

1975 Masters, Augusta National Golf Club, Augusta, Georgia

A Classic Shootout

In search of his record fifth green jacket, Jack Nicklaus outdueled Johnny Miller and Tom Weiskopf in a final round for the ages.

Bobby Nichols shot a 67 to take the lead after the first round at Augusta with Jack Nicklaus a stroke back followed by – guess who?

– Arnold Palmer with a 69. A second-round 67 gave Nicklaus a five-stroke lead over Billy Casper, Tom Watson and Palmer.

In a dream pairing, Nicklaus and Palmer played together in the third round. But as they were known to do over the years, the two found themselves playing each other rather than the golf course, and neither played particularly well. Meanwhile Miller scorched the front nine with a tournament-record 30 and a 65 for his round. Paired with Watson and battling Miller and Weiskopf in what Nicklaus later called the best down-the-stretch duel of his career, the Golden Bear made one of the most dramatic putts in major championship history when he ran in a 40-footer for birdie on the par-3 16th hole. He then held on for a one-stroke victory as Miller closed with a 66 and his consolation was a tournament record for the final 36 holes. For Weiskopf, it was his fourth runner-up finish.



1975 Masters, Augusta National Golf Club, Augusta, Georgia



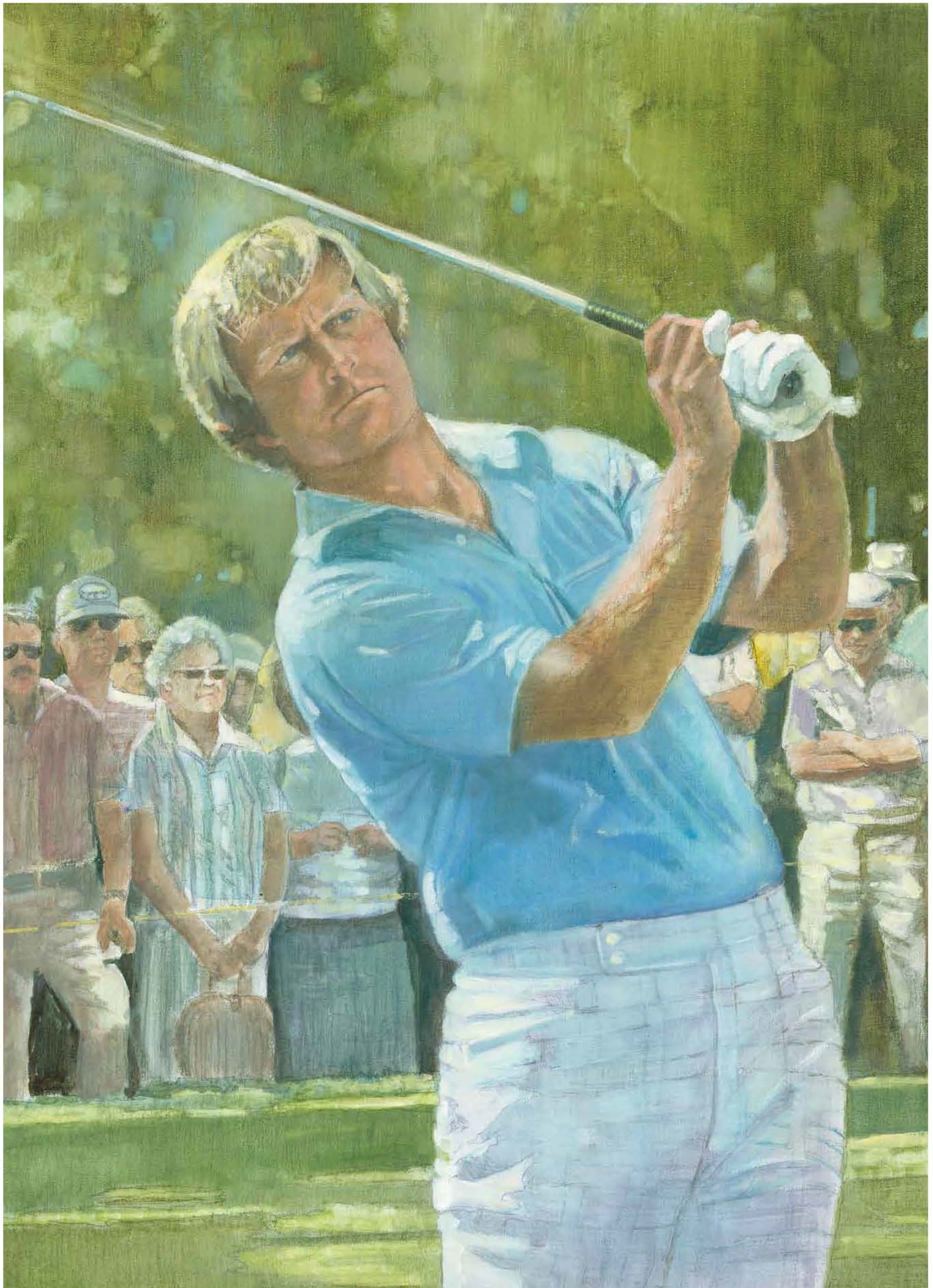
JACK'S MAJORS

1975 PGA Championship, Firestone Country Club, Akron, Ohio

Win No.6 at Firestone

Jack Nicklaus won his 16th major championship in a very comfortable setting – Firestone Country Club.

Jack Nicklaus had every reason to feel right at home when he arrived at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio, for the 1975 PGA Championship. After all, he had won one American Golf Classic and four World Series of Golf on the course, which was redesigned by Robert Trent Jones prior to the 1960 PGA Championship. Nicklaus opened with rounds of 70-68-67 to take a four-stroke lead into Sunday and then played a conservative final round, shooting a 71 to beat Bruce Crampton by two strokes. Almost as remarkable as the fact that he won the first and last majors of the year, he also came up just a combined three strokes shy of getting into playoffs at the U.S. Open and British Open as well.



1975 PGA Championship, Firestone Country Club, Akron, Ohio



JACK'S MAJORS

1978 British Open, St. Andrews, Fife, Scotland

A Return to St. Andrews

Despite playing well in 1978's first three majors, Jack Nicklaus repeatedly came up just short.

He ended that at the Old Course with his third British Open triumph.

At age 38, some of the Usual Suspects were wondering if time was running out on Jack Nicklaus' remarkable career. He answered them at St. Andrews. He opened with rounds of 71 and 71, despite putting performances that lacked his expected luster. He rallied with birdies on 14 and 15 on Saturday to shoot a 69 and enter the final round one stroke behind the leaders, Tom Watson and England's Peter Oosterhuis. Sunday's final round evolved into a duel between Nicklaus and his playing companion, New Zealand's Simon Owen. The pair came to the 16th with Owen up by a stroke. But Nicklaus' birdie to Owen's bogey brought them to the famous Road Hole with Jack holding a one-stroke lead. Nicklaus made a par. Owen made another bogey. A par on 18 and Nicklaus, resplendent in an argyle sweater and long blonde locks, once again lofted the Old Claret Jug as the "Champion Golfer of the Year" to give us what is considered an iconic image.



1978 British Open, St. Andrews, Fife, Scotland



JACK'S MAJORS

1980 U.S. Open, Baltusrol Golf Club, Springfield, New Jersey

“Jack is Back!”

With his second U.S. Open victory at Baltusrol, Jack Nicklaus won his fourth Open and became the first player to win a major in three different decades.

Right from the beginning, Jack Nicklaus appreciated the Lower Course at Baltusrol Golf Club, calling it “... marvelously fair and exceptionally challenging. A pure test of golf.” After a disappointing 1979, Nicklaus totally revamped his swing with the aid of long-time instructor and friend Jack Grout. A rejuvenated Golden Bear opened the 1980 U.S. Open with a 63, sharing the lead with Tom Weiskopf and tying the U.S. Open 18-hole record set by Johnny Miller in the final round of the 1973 Open at Oakmont. He turned in a 71 on Friday to lead Japan’s Isao Aoki by two. On Saturday, he bogeyed Nos. 14 and 15 and ended the day tied with Aoki for the lead. Nicklaus took a two-stroke lead to the 17th hole on Sunday. Both Nicklaus and Aoki – paired for all four days of that Open – closed with birdies on the last two holes, and when Nicklaus putted out for his victory, the gallery began chanting, “Jack is back! Jack is back!” And indeed he was, setting an Open scoring record of 272 (breaking his own record) and joining Willie Anderson, Bob Jones and Ben Hogan as the only four-time winners of the national championship.



1980 U.S. Open, Baltusrol Golf Club, Springfield, New Jersey



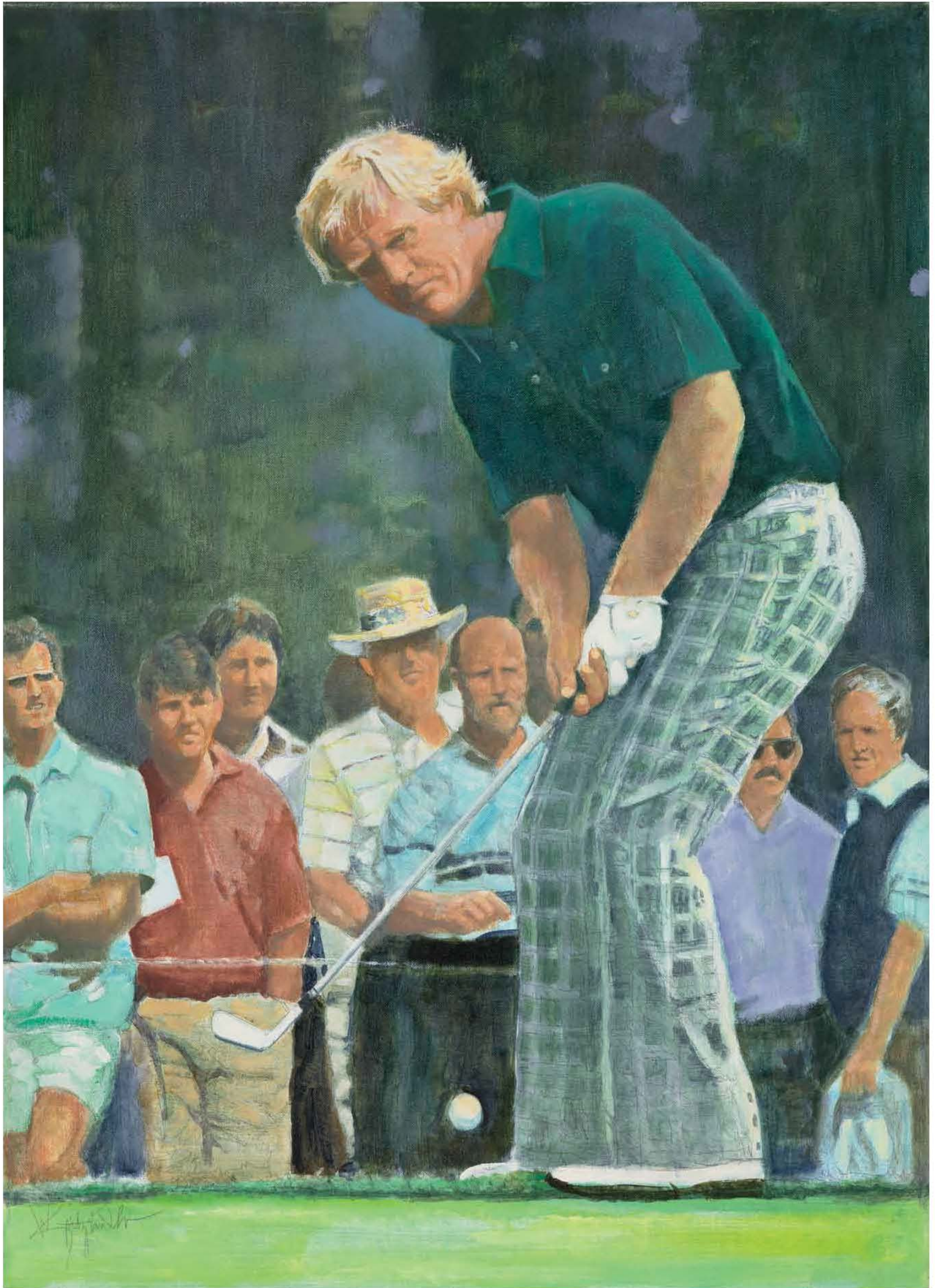
JACK'S MAJORS

1980 PGA Championship, Oak Hill Country Club, Rochester, New York

Another Win for the Record Books

With his fifth victory in the PGA Championship, Jack Nicklaus tied Walter Hagen for the most victories and set a record for the largest margin of victory.

Jack Nicklaus opened the 62nd PGA Championship with a 70 and then scrambled around Oak Hill for a 69 in the second round. On Saturday he fired a 66, the low round of the tournament, and took a three-stroke lead over Lon Hinkle into the final round. On Sunday, he turned in a 69 to beat Andy Bean by seven strokes – the largest margin of victory since the PGA Championship switched to stroke play in 1958 – and joined Gene Sarazen (1922) and Ben Hogan (1948) as the only players to win both the U.S. Open and PGA Championship in the same year.



1980 PGA Championship, Oak Hill Country Club, Rochester, New York



JACK'S MAJORS

1986 Masters, Augusta National Golf Club, Augusta, Georgia

Do You Believe in Magic?

**At age 46, it had been six years since Jack Nicklaus had won a major championship
but magical things can happen at Augusta National, as he proved one last time.**

After an opening round 74 that left him six strokes off the lead, none but the truest of true believers gave Jack Nicklaus much of a chance to win his record sixth green jacket. A second-round 71 left him just as far back. But scores improved on Saturday, led by Nick Price who shot a tournament-record 63. For his part, Nicklaus shot a 69, which left him four strokes behind the leader, Greg Norman, and tied for ninth. But on Sunday he turned back the clock and turned golf history upside down, with an "I-know-where-I-was" performance that people still talk about even today. He birdied 9, 10 and 11, then gave one back with a bogey on the treacherous par-3 12th.

But the bogey re-focused him and Nicklaus rallied with a birdie on No. 13 to close within two of the leader, Seve Ballesteros.

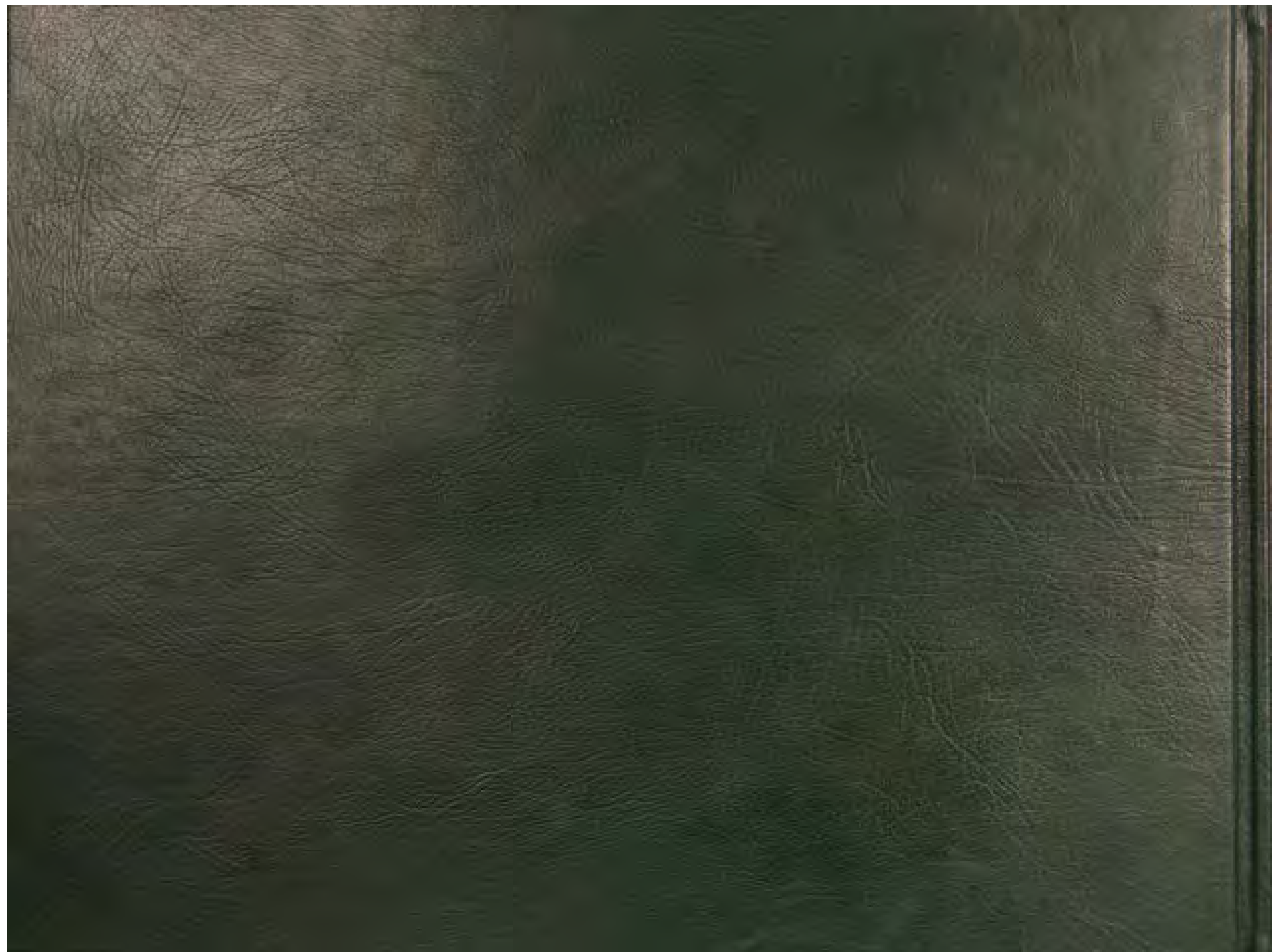
After Ballesteros eagled 13, Nicklaus responded with an eagle of his own on the par-5 15th and followed that with a birdie on 16 that came deafeningly close to being an ace. He added another birdie on 17 with a putt forever sound tracked by Verne Lundquist's "Yes sir!"

A tap-in par on the home hole gave him a record-tying 30 on the back nine. After embracing his son Jack, who caddied for him that week, all he could do was wait. After birdies on 14, 15, 16 and 17, all Norman needed was a par on 18 to force a playoff. But he fanned his approach out to the right and made a bogey. That left Tom Kite, who had a putt to tie Nicklaus. As he said later, "I made the putt. It just didn't go in."

Jack Nicklaus had won his sixth green jacket and his unparalleled 20th major championship – and it was a win for the ages.



1986 Masters, Augusta National Golf Club, Augusta, Georgia





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