

1970s GOLF STARS ★ HISTORY MAKER GOLF

(Date after the golfer's name denotes the year they turned professional)

TOMMY AARON (USA) 1960

Aaron only won twice on the PGA Tour, but one of those victories came at the 1973 Masters. He is also known for an error in the 1968 Masters, when he entered a 4 instead of a 3 on Roberto De Vincenzo's scorecard, which kept De Vincenzo out of a playoff for the championship.

SAM ADAMS (USA) 1969

Adams won just once in a career that neatly bookended the 1970s, his victory at the 1973 Quad Cities Open making him the first American left-hander to win on the PGA Tour.

BUD ALLIN (USA) 1969

Allin, who won five PGA Tour titles in the 1970s, served in the Army as an artillery officer during the Vietnam War, earning four decorations including the Bronze Star and an Air medal. He turned pro in 1969 and qualified for the PGA Tour on his first attempt, citing the fact that golf was no "big deal" compared to war.

SEVERIANO BALLESTEROS (Spain) 1974

Widely regarded as one of the most gifted and entertaining players ever to play the game, Ballesteros won a record 50 European Tour titles and 90 professional tournaments around the world in total. He won five majors between 1979 and 1988 and spent 61 weeks at the top of the Official World Golf Rankings in the late 1980s.

MILLER BARBER (USA) 1958

Remembered for his unusual swing with a flying right elbow, Barber holds the record for combined PGA Tour and Champions Tour starts at 1,297. He won 11 times on the PGA Tour in the 1960s and 70s, and his 24 victories on the Champions Tour place him sixth on the all-time list.

ANDY BEAN (USA) 1975

Bean won 11 times on the PGA Tour between 1977 and 1986, and he recorded eight top ten placings at major championships, including three second-place finishes.

DEANE BEMAN (USA) 1967

Beman was a short hitter by top-class standards but possessed an outstanding short game. He won four times on the PGA Tour between 1969 and 1973, and after injuries curtailed his playing career, he served as the second commissioner of the PGA Tour from 1974 until 1994.

DON BIES (USA) 1957

Bies was a stalwart member of the PGA Tour throughout the 1970s, with his only career victory coming at the 1975 Sammy Davis Jr.-Greater Hartford Open. Bies' best performance at a major was in 1968, when he finished T-5 at the U.S. Open.

HOMERO BLANCAS (USA) 1965

Blancas, who is of Mexican American descent, won four times on the PGA Tour between 1966 and 1973. In 1962 he shot a record-setting round of 55 in a college tournament, which stands as the lowest round in the history of competitive golf and earned him the nickname "Mr. 55".

BILLY CASPER (USA) 1954

Respected for his extraordinary putting and short-game skills, Casper was one of the most prolific tournament winners in PGA Tour history. He won 51 times between 1956 and 1975, placing him seventh on the all-time list, and his victories included three majors: the U.S. Open in 1959 and 1966 and the Masters in 1970.

JIM COLBERT (USA) 1965

Colbert won eight times on the PGA Tour between 1969 and 1983 and recorded four top ten finishes at major championships. He later became one of the most successful senior golfers of all time, with 20 victories on the Champions Tour.

CHARLES COODY (USA) 1963

Coody won only three times on the PGA Tour, but one of those victories came at the 1971 Masters. He had seven other top ten finishes at major championships, but there were to be no further wins on Tour after his triumph at Augusta.

BRUCE CRAMPTON (Australia) 1953

Bruce Crampton had 14 career wins on the PGA Tour between 1961 and 1975 and was runner up in four major championships – one Masters, one U.S. Open, and two PGA Championships – all to Jack Nicklaus.

BEN CRENSHAW (USA) 1973

One of the game's great putters, "Gentle Ben" won 19 events on the PGA Tour between 1973 and 1995, including the Masters in 1984 and 1995, and later went on to captain the U.S. team to their famous come-from-behind victory at Brookline in the 1999 Ryder Cup.

ROD CURL (USA) 1968

Standing at just 5 ft. 5 in., Rod Curl, whose nickname was 'Little Beaver', had 42 top ten finishes on the PGA Tour including one victory, at the 1974 Colonial National Invitation, where he became the first Native American to win a PGA Tour event.

BRUCE DEVLIN (Australia) 1961

During his PGA Tour career, Devlin had eight victories, all of which occurred between 1964 and 1972, and he also recorded 16 top ten finishes in major championships between 1964 and 1982.

BOB DICKSON (USA) 1968

Having won both the U.S. Amateur and British Amateur in 1967, the 6 ft. 3 in. Dickson turned professional and played on the PGA Tour for ten years, winning twice and finishing in the top ten 18 times during his career.

TERRY DIEHL (USA) 1972

At the age of 15 Diehl won the international long drive competition when he hit a ball 340 yds, and he would go on to have a successful career on the PGA Tour, where he had more than 20 top ten finishes, including a win at the 1974 San Antonio Texas Open.

DANNY EDWARDS (USA) 1973

Edwards earned more than three dozen top ten finishes on the PGA Tour, including five victories, the first of which came in 1977 and the last in 1985. Edwards' younger brother, David, was also a successful PGA Tour pro, winning four times in the 1980s and 90s.

DAVE EICHELBERGER (USA) 1966

Eichelberger made almost 800 starts in a long career on the PGA Tour. He earned 49 top ten finishes, including four victories, and went on to record six further wins on the Champions Tour after passing the age of 50.

LEE ELDER (USA) 1959

Lee Elder didn't play on the PGA Tour until the age of 33, but he won four times between 1974 and 1978, and in 1975 he became the first African-American to play in the Masters.

FORREST FEZLER (USA) 1969

Fezler played on the PGA Tour from 1972 to 1983, winning once and finishing in the top ten on 30 occasions, including a 2nd place finish to Hale Irwin at the 1974 U.S. Open. In 1976, Fezler tore the tendons in his left wrist and was forced to make major adjustments to his swing and to the number of tournaments he played.

PAT FITZSIMONS (USA) 1971

Fitzsimons had eleven top ten finishes in official PGA Tour events including a win at the 1975 Glen Campbell-Los Angeles Open. His best finish in a major championship was T-9 at the 1975 U.S. Open.

RAYMOND FLOYD (USA) 1961

Ray Floyd notched 22 victories, including four majors, in a long career on the PGA Tour, and played on eight Ryder Cup teams between 1969 and 1993, serving as non-playing captain in 1989. Floyd's short game was considered exemplary, and he is often acknowledged as one of the greatest chippers the game has ever seen.

JOHN FOUGHT (USA) 1977

Fought (rhymes with 'boat') played on the PGA Tour full-time from 1979–1985. He had a dozen top ten finishes including two back-to-back wins in September 1979. Injuries to his back and neck in the mid-1980s forced him to retire from full-time tour play, and he established a second career as a successful golf course architect.

ROD FUNSETH (USA) 1956

Amiable and low-key, Funseth was one of the longest hitters and fastest players of his era, but was notorious for his lack of self-confidence. He played full-time on the PGA Tour from 1963 to 1979, winning three events and earning almost 50 top ten finishes, including a 2nd place finish behind Gary Player at the 1978 Masters.

AL GEIBERGER (USA) 1959

Al Geiberger won 11 tournaments on the PGA Tour, including the 1966 PGA Championship, but he is perhaps best known for becoming the first player to post a score of 59 on Tour, at the Danny Thomas Memphis Classic in 1977.

GIBBY GILBERT (USA) 1965

Gilbert played on the PGA Tour throughout the 1970s and 1980s, winning three times and amassing well over 50 top ten finishes, including a T-2 finish at the 1980 Masters. 'Gibby' was a nickname as Gilbert had no formal first name, having been christened with merely the initials 'C.L.'.

BOB GILDER (USA) 1973

Bob Gilder played for 25 years on the PGA Tour, joining full-time in 1976 and going on to record six victories and almost 70 top ten finishes, including six in major championships.

DAVID GRAHAM (Australia) 1962

Graham won professional golf events on six different continents, including eight wins on the PGA Tour. He won the 1979 PGA Championship and the 1981 U.S. Open and also recorded a further 14 top ten finishes at major championships.

LOU GRAHAM (USA) 1964

Won just six times on the PGA Tour, but included amongst those victories was the 1975 U.S. Open at Medinah, which he won after an 18-hole Monday playoff against John Mahaffey.

HUBERT GREEN (USA) 1969

Putting with a split-handed grip and an old hickory-shafted blade, Green finished in the top-25 in a third of the PGA Tour events he entered and won 19 times, including two majors. His victory at the 1977 U.S. Open came despite being notified by police of a caller anonymously phoning in a death threat on his life.

GARY GROH (USA) 1968

Groh played full-time on the PGA Tour from 1972 to 1978, with his best year coming in 1975, when he recorded his sole victory and finished 31st on the money list.

MARK HAYES (USA) 1973

Hayes, known for his trademark bucket caps, had three victories on the PGA Tour in the 1970s, including the 1977 Tournament Players Championship, and in 1979 he played in the Ryder Cup as a late replacement for Tom Watson.

JERRY HEARD (USA) 1968

Heard won five PGA Tour titles in the 1970s and had nearly 60 top ten finishes in his career, including four top ten finishes at major championships. In 1975 he, Bobby Nichols and Lee Trevino all survived unscathed after being struck by lightning at the Western Open.

DAVE HILL (USA) 1958

Dave Hill, whose younger brother, Mike, also played on the PGA Tour, won 13 times between 1961 and 1976, but he was perhaps better known for his quick wit and biting sarcasm. He frequently led the tour in fines and was once suspended for two months after he deliberately broke his putter on national television.

MIKE HILL (USA) 1967

Mike Hill – younger brother of Dave – had three PGA Tour wins in the 1970s before going on to even greater success on the Senior PGA Tour (now PGA Tour Champions), where he won 18 times.

LON HINKLE (USA) 1972

During his PGA Tour career, Hinkle had three victories and more than 50 top ten finishes. In the first round of the 1979 U.S. Open at Inverness Club, he cut the dogleg on the par-5 8th hole by hitting onto the 17th fairway. Overnight, USGA officials planted a tree (known ever afterwards as The Hinkle Tree) to block the shortcut.

HALE IRWIN (USA) 1968

Irwin won 20 PGA Tour titles between 1971 and 1994, including three U.S. Opens, becoming the oldest ever U.S. Open champion in 1990 at the age of 45. As a senior golfer, Irwin is first all-time in PGA Tour Champions victories, and he is one of just five golfers to win official events on all six continents on which golf is played.

DON IVERSON (USA) 1968

Iverson played for nine years on the PGA Tour, from 1971 to 1979, during which time he recorded just the one victory, at the 1975 B.C. Open. Iverson's best finish in a major was T-6 at the 1973 PGA Championship where he was a co-leader after both the first and second rounds.

TONY JACKLIN (England) 1962

Jacklin was the most successful British player of his generation, winning two major championships, the 1969 Open Championship and the 1970 U.S. Open. He was also Ryder Cup captain from 1983 to 1989, Europe winning two and tying another of these four events.

BARRY JAECKEL (USA) 1971

Jaeckel, whose father, Richard, was an Oscar-nominated actor, began his professional career on the European Tour before joining the PGA Tour full-time in 1975. He went on to record over two-dozen top ten finishes and one victory, at the Tallahassee Open in 1978.

JIM JAMIESON (USA) 1968

Jamieson played full-time on the PGA Tour from 1969 until 1977, when a hand injury sustained in a fall at a hotel forced him to retire from regular play. He recorded one victory and almost 30 top ten finishes in his career, four of which came in major championships between 1971 and 1973.

DON JANUARY (USA) 1956

January won ten PGA Tour titles, most notably the 1967 PGA Championship. During the 1963 Phoenix Open, he had a putt stop on the lip of the hole; he waited for seven minutes for the ball to drop (it never did), and the rules of golf were changed as a consequence so that now players must tap the ball in within ten seconds.

GRIER JONES (USA) 1968

Jones spent 14 years on the PGA Tour, ending his career with 54 top ten finishes and three victories. His career year was 1972, when he won two Tour events and finished fourth on the final money list.

RICHIE KARL (USA) 1968

Richie Karl, who had a brief career on the PGA Tour in the early 1970s, is best known as the last golf club professional to win an event on Tour: Karl won the 1974 B.C. Open at the En-Joie Golf Club in Endicott, New York, the course where he worked and lived along the 10th fairway,

TOM KITE (USA) 1972

The bespectacled Tom Kite was a mainstay of the PGA Tour for almost 30 years following his first full-time season in 1973. His first victory on Tour came in 1976 and he would go on to record 18 more, including the 1992 U.S. Open, and he also earned over 200 top ten finishes, 27 of which came at major championships.

GEORGE KNUDSON (Canada) 1958

Knudson, along with Mike Weir, holds the record for the Canadian with the most wins on the PGA Tour, with eight career victories between 1961 and 1972. Knudson's best finish in a major championship was a tie for second at the 1969 Masters, one shot behind champion George Archer.

GARY KOCH (USA) 1975

Koch won six events on the PGA Tour during the 1970s and 1980s before becoming a highly successful sportscaster with ESPN and NBC. He is mostly known for his "Better than Most" call of Tiger Woods' long putt at the iconic island seventeenth green at TPC Sawgrass in the third round of the 2001 Players Championship.

BILLY KRATZERT (USA) 1974

Kratzert won four PGA Tour events in his career, with his most successful years coming between 1977–1980, when he finished in the top 12 on the money list three times. Kratzert's best year for majors was 1978, when he finished with a T-5 in The Masters and a T-6 in the U.S. Open.

BRUCE LIETZKE (USA) 1974

Won 13 tournaments on the PGA Tour between 1977 and 1994 and was regarded as the best "cross-handed" putter on Tour. Was well known for not practicing a great deal, and not playing in a large number of tournaments compared to his fellow competitors, electing to spend more time with his family.

GENE LITTLER (USA) 1954

In a career of sustained excellence, Littler won 29 PGA Tour tournaments, including the 1961 U.S. Open, and represented the U.S. in seven Ryder Cups. Only once from 1954 to 1979 did he finish out of the top 60 on the money list, and that was in 1972, when he was sidelined by surgery to remove a cancerous lymph node.

DICK LOTZ (USA) 1963

Lotz played on the PGA Tour from 1964 to 1978, with his career year coming in 1970, when he recorded two of his three Tour victories and finished in seventh place on the official money list.

BOB LUNN (USA) 1965

Lunn's best years in professional golf were 1968–72, during which time he won six tournaments on the PGA Tour and appeared in the top 60 on the money list in each of those years.

JOHN MAHAFFEY (USA) 1971

Mahaffey won ten PGA Tour events between 1973 and 1989, including the 1978 PGA Championship at Oakmont, where he became the best comeback winner in PGA history after trailing Tom Watson by seven strokes with 14 holes to play.

ROGER MALTBIE (USA) 1973

Maltbie played on the PGA Tour full-time from 1975 to 1996, winning five events and recording 55 top ten finishes. After his win at the 1975 Pleasant Valley Classic, Maltbie famously left his \$40,000 winner's check behind in a bar.

GRAHAM MARSH (Australia) 1969

Graham Marsh was one of the leading Australian golfers of his generation, winning over 70 tournaments around the world, including one on the PGA Tour and ten on the European Tour. Marsh's younger brother, Rod, was a distinguished Australian cricketer and was regarded as one of the finest wicket keepers in history.

RIK MASSENGALE (USA) 1969

Rik Massengale won three times on the PGA Tour in the mid-1970s, eclipsing the record of his older brother, Don, who recorded two Tour victories a decade earlier. A back injury led Massengale to retire from the PGA Tour in 1983, at the age of 36.

MAC McCLENDON (USA) 1968

McLendon won the first event he entered after turning pro in 1968, the Magnolia State Classic, and went on to win four events on the PGA Tour between 1974 and 1978. His best finish in a major championship was T22 at the 1968 U.S. Open, and he retired from the PGA Tour in 1980.

JERRY McGEE (USA) 1966

Distance off the tee was always an issue for the slender 5 feet 9½ inches, 160-pound McGee, but he was known for his short game and won four PGA Tour events in the latter half of the 1970s. He was also plagued by injuries and illnesses during his career and retired from the PGA Tour in 1981 largely due to health problems.

JOHNNY MILLER (USA) 1969

One of the top players in the world during the mid-1970s, Miller was the first to shoot 63 at a major to win the 1973 U.S. Open, and he eventually won 25 PGA Tour events, including two majors. Later became the lead golf analyst for NBC Sports, a position he held from January 1990 to February 2019.

BOBBY MITCHELL (USA) 1959

Mitchell dropped out of high school and turned pro at the age of 15. He won two PGA Tour events in the early 1970s and had more than two dozen top ten finishes in his career, including more than a half-dozen 2nd or 3rd-place finishes. His best performance in a major was T-2 at the 1972 Masters.

GIL MORGAN (USA) 1972

Known for playing tournaments with little or no practice, Morgan – a qualified Doctor of Optometry – won seven events on the PGA Tour between 1977 and 1990, as well as posting 21 second-place and 21 third-place finishes.

BOB MURPHY (USA) 1967

Murphy won the U.S. Amateur in 1965 whilst still a student at the University of Florida, and after turning professional he won five tournaments on the PGA Tour between 1968 and 1986.

LARRY NELSON (USA) 1971

Larry Nelson didn't begin playing golf until he was 21 years old after he returned from military service in Vietnam., but within three years he had turned professional and eventually won ten times on the PGA Tour, including three major championships during the 1980s.

JACK NEWTON (Australia) 1971

Newton was one of Australia's most successful golfers in the 1970s and early 80s, winning on four continents and narrowly losing to Tom Watson in an 18-hole playoff at the 1975 Open Championship. His career ended in 1983 when he survived walking into an airplane propeller, losing his right arm, eye and part of his abdomen.

BOBBY NICHOLS (USA) 1960

Won 12 times on the PGA Tour, including the 1964 PGA Championship. In his youth, Nichols recovered from serious injuries sustained in an automobile accident resulting from a 100-mph joy ride, and in 1975 he, Jerry Heard, and Lee Trevino all survived unscathed after being struck by lightning at the Western Open.

JACK NICKLAUS (USA) 1961

Nicknamed "The Golden Bear", Nicklaus is widely considered to be the greatest golfer of all time. His 73 PGA Tour victories, including a record 18 major championships, place him third on the all-time list, and he became the oldest winner in Masters history when he won a record sixth green jacket in 1986 at the age of 46.

ANDY NORTH (USA) 1972

North had a moderately successful career on the PGA Tour, made remarkable by the fact that two of his three wins on the Tour were in the U.S. Open, in 1978 and 1985. Since 1992, he has served as a respected golf analyst for ESPN.

ARNOLD PALMER (USA) 1954

Generally regarded as one of the greatest and most charismatic players in the history of golf. "The King" won 62 PGA Tour titles, including seven majors, from 1955 to 1973 and is widely credited, along with Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player, with popularizing and commercializing the sport around the world during the 1960s.

JERRY PATE (USA) 1975

As a 22-year-old rookie, Pate won the U.S. Open in 1976, and he won a further seven times on the PGA Tour before shoulder injuries curtailed his career. His final win came at age 28 at the 1982 Players Championship, the first held at TPC at Sawgrass, a victory he celebrated by jumping into the lake adjacent to the 18th green.

GARY PLAYER (South Africa) 1953

Widely considered to be one of the greatest golfers ever, Player won over 150 professional tournaments on six continents, including 24 victories on the PGA Tour between 1958 and 1978. He won nine majors, and he is the only non-American to win the career Grand Slam.

VICTOR REGALADO (Mexico) 1971

Regalado had just over 30 top ten finishes in PGA Tour events including two wins, at the 1974 Pleasant Valley Classic and the 1978 Quad Cities Open. His best finish in a major was T-10 at the 1984 PGA Championship.

JACK RENNER (USA) 1976

Renner, who was known for his outstanding short game, had three victories and 53 top ten finishes on the PGA Tour, including over a dozen 2nd or 3rd-place finishes. His best finish in a major was T-9 at the 1985 U.S. Open.

JUAN ANTONIO (“CHI CHI”) RODRIGUEZ (Puerto Rico) 1960

Recorded 37 professional victories, including 8 on the PGA Tour between 1963 and 1979. A natural showman, he quickly became a fan favourite for his habit of covering the hole with his straw hat after making a birdie, or waving his putter like a swordsman after holing a putt of any length.

JOHN SCHLEE (USA) 1964

Schlee played full-time on the PGA Tour from 1966–1977, earning more than 30 top ten finishes. His career year was 1973, when he won the Hawaiian Open and finished one stroke behind Johnny Miller in the U.S. Open.

TOM SHAW (USA) 1962

Shaw won four PGA Tour events and had over two dozen top ten finishes. In 1966, he was seriously injured in a car accident on the way to the Bob Hope Classic, but he recovered and enjoyed his best year on Tour in 1971, when he won twice and finished 15th on the money list.

JIM SIMONS (USA) 1972

Simons, who famously came close to winning the 1971 U.S. Open as an amateur, played on the PGA Tour throughout the 70s and 80s, winning three events and recording over three dozen top ten finishes. In 1982, at the Pebble Beach Pro-Am, Simons was the first player to win a televised PGA Tour event using a metal driver.

J.C. SNEAD (USA) 1964

Snead, the nephew of Sam Snead, won eight tournaments on the PGA Tour between 1971 and 1987, and whilst he never won a major, he made his career mark as one of the tour's most consistent players, with more than seven million dollars in career earnings.

ED SNEED (USA) 1967

Snead won four PGA Tour events between 1973 and 1982, but he is best known for his performance at the 1979 Masters. He began Sunday's round with a 5-stroke lead and led by three with three holes to play, but he bogeyed them all and went to a playoff with Tom Watson and Fuzzy Zoeller, losing to Zoeller on the second hole.

DAVE STOCKTON (USA) 1964

Renowned as a great putter, Stockton won ten times on the PGA Tour between 1967 and 1976, including two PGA Championships in 1970 and 1976. Stockton's son, Dave Jr., also played professionally on the PGA Tour.

LEONARD THOMPSON (USA) 1971

Thompson had more than 70 top ten finishes in PGA Tour events during his career, winning three times. His best finish in a major championship was T-7 at The Masters in 1979.

LEE TREVINO (USA) 1960

Known for his unorthodox, compact swing and for his sense of humour, “Supermex” is regarded as one of the greatest shot-makers in golf history, winning 92 career titles, including six majors and 29 events on the PGA Tour between 1968 and 1984.

LANNY WADKINS (USA) 1971

Won 21 times on the PGA Tour, including the 1977 PGA Championship, and finished in the top ten a further 17 times at majors. He played in eight Ryder Cups and is the joint-third all-time points scorer for the U.S. team. Wadkins' younger brother, Bobby, played in 715 PGA Tour events without a win between 1974 and 2007.

TOM WATSON (USA) 1971

In the 1970s and 80s, Watson was one of the leading players in the world, enjoying an intense, yet friendly rivalry with Jack Nicklaus. He won 39 times on the PGA Tour, including eight major championships, and in 2009, aged nearly 60, he finished second at the Open Championship after a playoff with Stewart Cink.

DeWITT WEAVER (USA) 1964

A spiritual man of strong Christian faith, Weaver competed on the PGA Tour from 1967 to 1976, winning twice in the early 1970s. His best year was 1971 when he finished in the top-25 on the PGA Tour money list.

TOM WEISKOPF (USA) 1964

He won 16 PGA Tour titles between 1968 and 1982, including the 1973 Open Championship at Royal Troon, and was also a four-time runner-up at The Masters and had a T2 finish at the 1976 U.S. Open. Weiskopf stood at 6 ft.3 in., and his displays of temper on the golf course earned him the nickname of "The Towering Inferno".

BERT YANCEY (USA) 1960

Yancey, who suffered from bipolar disorder, won seven PGA Tour events between 1966 and 1972, and also had six top-5 finishes in major championships. Yancey's illness resurfaced in 1974 and led him to be involved in a series of bizarre incidents, for which he was at various times arrested, incarcerated, and institutionalized.

LARRY ZIEGLER (USA) 1959

One of 14 children, Ziegler had more than 40 top ten finishes in PGA Tour events during his career including three wins. He had three top ten finishes in major championships; his best was T-3 at The Masters in 1976.

FUZZY ZOELLER (USA) 1973

Famous for his rapport with the gallery, Zoeller won ten PGA Tour events between 1979 and 1986, including two major championships, the 1979 Masters and 1984 U.S. Open, and he is one of just three golfers to have won the Masters in his first appearance in the event.