

A Day at the Beach Online Exclusive

In the November/December 2007 issue of *Chicago District Golfer*, we talked with golf legend Jack Nicklaus about the 2009 opening of his new signature course, Harbor Shores, in Benton Harbor, Mich. During the discussion, Nicklaus also shared some insight into his own golf career and his thoughts on Tiger Woods' pursuit of Nicklaus' hallowed record of 18 professional victories in majors.



Question: What was your favorite tournament on the PGA Tour to play in?

Answer: It would be one of the majors. I loved going to the British Open because it was different. It was played in the middle of our summer and usually on a seaside course. The Masters was great, too. It was the beginning of our season, and if you wanted to win more than one major you wanted to start with the Masters. Plus, they always did a great job with the tournament. Now, the U.S. Open happens to be the championship of my country. And that was pretty special, too.

Q: What was your most memorable win?

A: The '86 Masters. I don't think there's any question about that. In all the others, I expected to win. That one, I didn't expect to finish.

Q: Who was your toughest competitor?

A: Me. I couldn't control anybody but me. And I had more trouble getting me to play than I can tell you. You can't play one or two people. I had the Watsons, Trevinos, Palmers and Players, and those guys were great players. But it didn't make any difference. I just had to be prepared and play well.

Q: How much do you feel Tiger Woods has changed the game of golf?

A: Well, I don't know that he's changed it or not. I think the game that he is playing is a lot different from the game I played. And of course, the generations before me, Hogan and Snead, they played a different game than I did. And the previous generation played a different game than they did. The game changes over time, but there's no way in the world that we can ask the players of today to go back to wooden clubs, steel shafts, balata golf balls and things like that. Whether Tiger has changed the game or it's just a different game, I don't know. But Tiger plays the game he's playing very, very well. I've never seen anybody absolutely dominate courses the way he dominates them.

Q: If Tiger does eventually break your record in the majors, will you be there?

A: Would I like to be the first one to shake his hand? Yes, I would. If he does it.