

## Haynie Won J&B Gold Putter Award By Changing Her Practice Routine At The Desert Inn



Hall of Famer Sandra Haynie is smiling triumphantly after winning the first place prize of \$50,000 in the 1983 J&B Gold Putter Award Play-offs at the Desert Inn Country Club and Spa in Las Vegas.

Hall of famer Sandra Haynie has only a fleeting recollection of her first participation in the J&B Gold Putter Award Play-Off in 1982.

"I lost my first two matches and was gone before lunch," she said.

So last year Sandra decided to change her putting routine. "Dropping three balls at one spot and putting from there to the hole became pretty boring, so about five or six of us, including JoAnne Carner, Jo Ann Washam and Pat Bradley, decided to putt around-the-clock for \$5 a hole on Friday."

"This helped my rhythm because we were preparing ourselves, on a minor scale, for the pressure we would be experiencing Saturday and Sunday. It was fun, but it was also real concentration," Sandra said.

"Who won all the money?" she was asked.

Haynie laughed and said, "You know, we putted for about three hours; and I don't believe a dollar changed hands."

Two days later, \$50,000 changed hands. Haynie received the giant top prize from tournament chairman Al Ferro, president of J&B Scotch, and Burton Cohen, president of the Desert Inn Country Club and Spa.

Sandra will get another shot at \$50,000 in the fifth annual \$100,000 J&B Gold Putter Award Play-Off at the Desert Inn, October 20-21. As defending champion, she will face the seven best putters, the seven most prolific birdie shooters and the top eagle maker on the LPGA tour this year.

Haynie admitted her victory was a fantastic feat. "I didn't think anyone could go through the tournament without losing once," she said after disposing of Lauren Howe, Jo Ann Washam, Beth Daniel, Janet Coles and finally Alice Miller in a 36-hole final.

The great JoAnne Carner has said, "The J&B Play-Off was the most difficult and pressure-strangling competition on the LPGA Tour." Haynie concurs.

"After Saturday's competition was over, I felt like I had been in a football scrimmage," she said. "My back, legs and shoulders ached so much I could barely move, and that's not counting my mental status. I was a nervous wreck. It dawned on me that I was out on the putting green for 12 hours. I think I took five minutes off to gobble down a hot dog."

"There's absolutely no let-up, no release in the J&B Play-Off. It's like a constant sudden-death situation....one miss and you're through. On a golf course, you can let off steam by taking a big swipe at a tee ball (drive) or by taking a deep breath under a shady tree."

What does she think her chances of winning

again? "Let's see," she said thoughtfully. "No one has ever repeated as champion, right? Well that should tell you something. It's really tough to win even once because so many things have to happen - positive for you and negative for your opponents."

"But I'll tell you this. I'm coming back with the same putter and even the same golf ball if I can pry it loose from the base of my J&B Trophy. The key to winning here is to keep the ball around the cup on the long holes and make some aces on the short ones. You can't leave yourself two and three footers because eventually you're going to miss one. Fortunately, making three and four footers is one of my strong suits."

Sandra said she was fortunate to play last year. "A week before the event, I didn't even know I was going to play," she revealed. "Muffin Spencer-Devlin had to drop out when she couldn't get out of a commitment in Japan so I moved in. After I won, Muffin asked me for a 10 percent cut. I said, 'How about me buying you dinner?' She said, 'You're on!'"

"I'm lucky Al Ferro and Burton Cohen changed the rules a few years back to make the champion an automatic qualifier for the next year's event. Otherwise, I wouldn't be eligible because I haven't played the necessary minimum of 70 rounds. It's a comfort knowing I'm in the Play-Off after the year I've had."

Haynie has spent more time in operating rooms this year than in clubhouse locker rooms. "It's been a horrendous year," said the winner of 42 tournaments. "I've played very little because of my second back operation and arthroscopic surgery on my left knee this August. The back surgery is actually an electrode probe into the lower back. They (surgeons) go in for the big nerve under the spine and give it an electrode probe. In their words, the probe 'turns down the volume of pain'."

Haynie said doctors removed 80 percent of the cartilage in her left knee. "If it was just the cartilage I would have been playing golf in two weeks, but the doctor also repaired some knee joint

damage I didn't even know I had. That kept me out for another three weeks."

Sandra has played in only 16 tournaments this year and has won \$26,165. She is only \$18,142 short of becoming the LPGA's ninth millionaire with lifetime earnings of \$981,858. "I can't add the \$50,000 I won in the Putter Play-Off because the LPGA says it's unofficial money. Unfortunately, the IRS doesn't make that distinction," she said with a chuckle.

Haynie has been riding a bicycle three miles each day and has hit practice balls in the morning and afternoon in her preparation to return to the Tour. "I'll start this week in the Safeco Classic and then play the San Jose Classic and see how it goes from there."

Haynie, who joined the tour in 1961, joined the incomparable Mickey Wright in 1974 as the only players to win the U.S. Open and LPGA Championship in the same year. She picked off another LPGA title and the Peter Jackson Classic (now the du Maurier) in 1982, giving her four Majors. She needs only the Nabisco Dinah Shore Invitational to become the first Grand Slam winner in women's golf.

Sandra is actually making the second comeback of her long career. Because of injuries and the onset of arthritis, she turned business woman for four years (1977-1980) before returning full-time in 1981. She earned a career high of \$94,125 and won her 40th tournament, the Henredon Classic. But that was strictly minor league compared to her 1982 performance.

She won a fantastic \$245,432, which was about half of the combined earnings of her first 16 years on the Tour. The 1970 Player of the Year also won the Rochester International and Peter Jackson titles, giving her 42 victories, fifth on the all-time list.

Haynie said, "1982 was the best year I could ever hope to have, but I paid for it, too. I played 35 times (29 official events), and that's way too much. The next year in the U.S. Open, my neck began to hurt. That's when all my physical troubles began."

### Canadian Vote Leaves Four Jewish Legislators

TORONTO (WNS) — The four Jewish members of the Canadian House of Commons survived the landslide victory of the Progressive Conservative Party in Canada's general elections.

They are: David Orlikow, of Winnipeg, a member of the New Democratic Party; Robert Kaplan of York Center, Toronto, Solicitor General of the outgoing Liberal government; Herbert Gray, of Windsor, Ontario, who also held Cabinet posts in the Liberal government; and David Berger, a Liberal of Montreal, Laurier.

Brian Mulroney, leader of the Progressive Conservatives who already took office as Prime Minister recently, has expressed himself strongly in favor of Israel and for tougher measures against war criminals. Associates of Mulroney have favored strengthening anti-hate legislation.

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