Friday, April 25, 1986

Tom Watson Enters 1986 Pansonic Las Vegas Invitational

LAS VEGAS, NV -Tom Watson, who held the lead through the third and fourth rounds of last year's Panasonic Las Vegas Invitational only to finish tied for fourth, hopes to change the closing script this year.

Watson announced that he will be participating in golf's richest tournament for the third time when it gets underway April 30-May 4.

No one has been as dominant in the game as Tom Watson over the past decade. Six times he has been named PGA Player of the Year. Five times he has been the leading money winner.

Watson is still looking for his first tournament win in '86. However, he has three top-10 finishes. Earlier in the season he finished third in both the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am and the Hawaiian Open and seventh in the USF&G Classic in New Orleans.

Watson and 155 golfers will be competing for a PGA TOUR record first prize of

\$207,000 from a record PGA TOUR total tournament purse of \$1,211,000. The 90-hole event will be played on the Desert Inn, Spanish Trail and Las Vegas Country Club courses.

Last year at the Panasonic Las Vegas Invitational, Watson held the lead through the third and fourth rounds. He couldn't make anything happen on the last day. He stayed close until his drive went out of bounds into a construction site on the 12th hole at the Las Vegas Country Club. This led to a double bogey. A bogey on the next hole ended his chances for victory. His finishing 71 put

him in fourth place tied with Fred Couples at 341, three strokes behind tournament winner Curtis Strange,

two behind second place finisher Mike Smith, and one behind third place Mac O'Grady.

His 31 PGA TOUR victories places him in a tie for ninth place with Jimmy Damaret among all-time winners. He has won five British Opens, two **Masters Tournaments** and a United States Open crown.

As long as the game is played Watson will be remembered for the brilliantly-executed pitch shot he made from off the 17th green at Pebble Beach in the 1982 United States Open.

His biggest year was in 1980 when he won six times on the PGA TOUR, plus the British Open, and won a record \$530,808. That record was broken last year by 1985 Panasonic Las Vegas Invitational winner Curtis Strange who won \$542,321.

TEL AVIV (WNS) - Manfred Woerner, the West German Defense Minister, arrived in Israel for a four-day visit as the guest of Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin who welcomed Woerner and his wife at Ben Gurion Airport. Both men spoke of peace and stressed that the good relations between Israel and West Germany must be nurtured without either forgetting the

past.

Las Vegas Israelite

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