

FAIRWAYS AND GREENS FOR DECEMBER FIRST WEEK

Here's hoping everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving feast with family and or friends. Instead of watching football all day, I decided to catch a few of Shell's Wonderful World of Golf matches. The one that really caught my eye was between Arnold Palmer, Gay Brewer and Chi Chi Rodriguez at El Conquistador CC in Puerto Rico. With the fairways being firm, many of their drives rolled out to 280 yards plus, even with the old persimmon drivers and ballata ball. The irons shots weren't the towering, short irons we see from today's tour players, but lower, with more release and roll out. Four iron shots were only going about 190 yards as opposed to 220 yards for a five iron today. And, with the greens running about seven on the stimp meter, the players used the old wristy, or pop putting stroke. What was really fun to watch was the three entirely different golf swings. Arnie with his closed clubface, hold off, whirlybird finish; Gay with his looping inside to outside arc and Chi Chi with his whippy full bodied all out lash at the golf ball. They all made it work but Arnie made the most putts with that classic, knees together, wristy action stroke that rolled the ball more aggressively into the hole. Each had an old blade putter which wouldn't be very advantageous on today's faster greens but worked for them. Arnie shot seven under, Gay three under and Chi Chis one under. Still pretty impressive!

Putt 'em out!

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