

Open trophy popular prize

This year marks the ninth consecutive Canadian Open Golf Championship which has awarded, in addition to steadily-increasing amounts of prize money, a Peter Jackson Trophy.

And it is the fourth consecutive year that the trophy, an original piece of Canadian Inuit art which the winner takes home, has been carved by one of the master artists of Povungnituk, a tiny settlement on the western shores of Hudson Bay.

It is unlikely that, back in 1971 when Peter Jackson Cigarettes took over sponsorship of our National Open, company executives knew they would be starting a trend that has, in the ensuing years, been copied many times.

But the idea was sound — to award a work of Canadian art, rather than another silver tray or trophy — and each of the winners, starting with Lee Trevino — has enthusiastically accepted the trophy, placing it in a place of honor in his home. Trevino and Tom Weiskopf are two-time winners.

It has always been accepted as somewhat ironic that each of the carvings presented for achievement in golf has been executed by a man who has never seen a golfer, a golf ball or even been near a golf course. That, however, is not true this year, as the artist who has carved 'Man and Seal,' has travelled as far south as Montreal, where he demonstrated his work in 1973.

The artist is Thomassie Kenuauak, 30, of Povungnituk. He is married, and he and his wife, Lucy, have two daughters, both under five years of age. Thomassie has been carving for more than 15 years.

The people at Peter Jackson also decided last year to extend the Inuit aspect of the Canadian Open, and instituted the Peter Jackson 'Low Score Awards. These awards, executed in Italian marble by Montreal sculptor David Bernett and depicting scenes from the Canadian North, were presented each day to players who had recorded the lowest score of the day. Seven such plaques were presented, all for the identical score — a 67.

An eighth plaque was presented on the final day to Tom Purtzer for his hole-in-one on the par-three 15th. That, too, was for a 'low score'!

It is all a part of the tradition which is growing at Glen Abbey along with the Open's permanent site. Each year, representatives of Imperial Tobacco Limited and the Royal Canadian Golf Association meet in lengthy session to discuss ways and means of improving the tournament so that it remains in the forefront of the world's championships. The results over nine years have been evident — the Canadian Open Golf Championship is ranked in the top five events in the world, and this year's field of competitors is again outstanding.

It is all part of a relationship that has meant much to Canadian golf and Canadian golfers. It has also meant a great deal in the way of exposure and acclaim for the Inuit carvers of Northern Quebec — from Povungnituk to Cape Smith to the Belcher Islands.

Fuzzy the name but not the game

Suddenly the world knows Frank Urban Zoeller, and the followers of sport have been smiling ever since. Fuzzy Zoeller has that effect on people, and it was that way before he won the 1979 Masters.

Although those who follow golf closely have known Fuzzy as a "good ol' boy" from Indiana who adopted his nickname from his initials, his fame has been somewhat limited. That's difficult to understand.

Fuzzy is a good-looking, 27-year-old blithe spirit. At 5 feet, 10 inches and a solid 190 pounds, Fuzzy has just enough swagger to appeal to most everyone. He also hits the golf ball as far as anyone on the PGA Tour and he keeps his gallery laughing with one-liners.

He's not a newcomer to the game. His family lived by Valley View Country Club in New Albany, Ind., and Fuzzy started playing golf when he was three years of age and entered his first tournament when he was five!

After graduating from high school in New Albany, where he was a golf star, Fuzzy enrolled in Edison Junior College, Fort Myers, Fla., and then went on to the University of Houston. He turned professional in 1973 and gained his playing privileges on the PGA Tour in the 1974 Qualifying School.

Fuzzy did more than "gain" his card. He was the medalist in the class that included Peter Oosterhuis, Bill Rogers, Roger Maltbie, Danny Edwards and Bobby Wadkins, all of whom have attained fame on the PGA Tour.

Fuzzy has improved his playing record each year on the Tour. After his rookie year of 1975, when he earned but \$7,318, he climb-



Fuzzy Zoeller

ed into the top 60 money-winners bracket in 1976, winning \$52,557 for 56th place.

It was in 1976 that Fuzzy played his way into the PGA Tour record book. He finished his first round of the Ed McMahon Quad Cities Open by scoring eight straight birds for a 63 and a course record. That also tied the all-time PGA Tour mark of consecutive birds set by Bob Goalby in the 1961 St

Petersburg Open, and now Fuzzy has joined Goalby as a Masters winner.

In 1977 Fuzzy won \$76,417 for 40th place and last year cashed checks for \$109,055 for 20th place. The sum was earned without a victory.

A durable player, Fuzzy entered 29 events last year and tied for second twice — in the Greater Greensboro Open and the 1st NBC New Orleans Open.

This year Fuzzy started fast and won the second event he entered, the Andy Williams San Diego Open. First prize of \$45,000 immediately placed him among the year's top ten money-winners and he has not fallen out of that group since.

He more than just "won" at San Diego. Playing in the worst weather of the Western swing — rain, hail and cold winds — Fuzzy won by five strokes!

Still few sports fans "knew" Fuzzy Zoeller but then came the Masters and its playoff. Seemingly within seconds, it all fell together. First it was his winning putt on the second extra hole, then the joyful launching of his putter into space, and always his infectious grin. Fuzzy arrived.

In the days that followed the Masters, the most often heard question was: "Will success spoil Fuzzy Zoeller?" Among those who know Fuzzy, the answer was, "No way." Ask Fuzzy and he'll say: "Being like I am got me this far. Man, I sure don't plan to make any changes now."

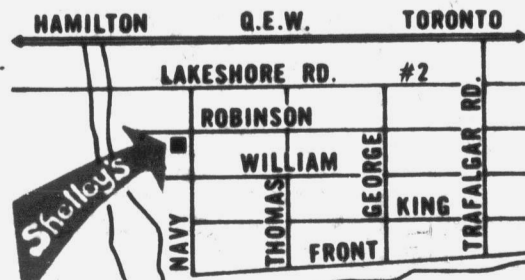
Of his play, Fuzzy says, candidly: "Sometimes I hit 'em lousy. But when I'm putting good I've got to go for every pin. It's like when you hear the music, you've got to dance."



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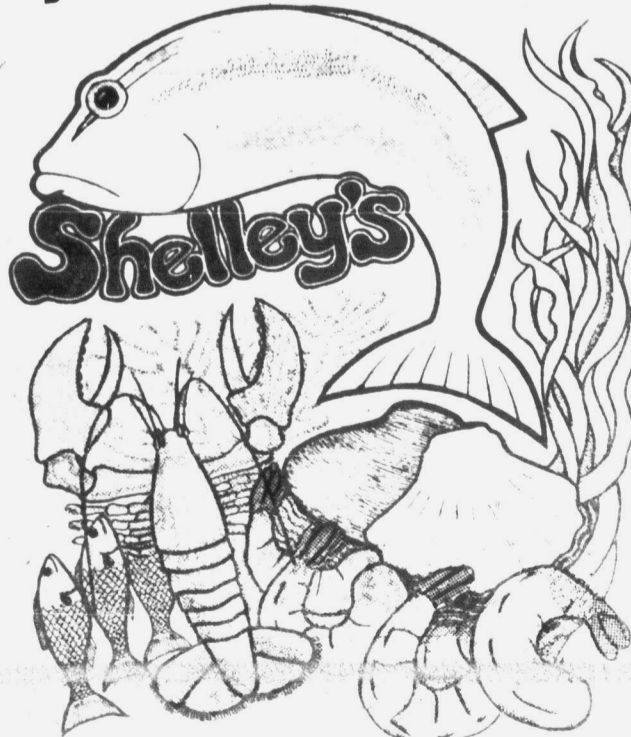
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