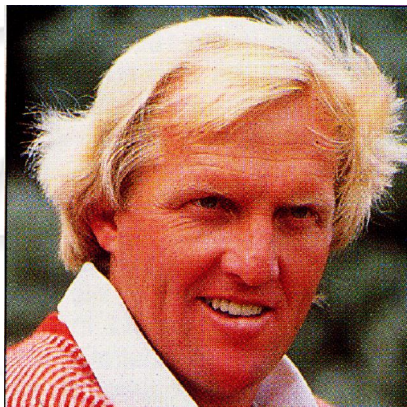


SPORTING LEGENDS: GREG NORMAN

SPORT: GOLF

COMPETITIVE ERA: 1976 - PRESENT

Greg Norman (born February 10, 1955 in Queensland, Australia), is an Australian professional golfer who spent 331 weeks as the world's number one ranked golfer in the 1980s and 1990s. He is nicknamed "The Shark".



Norman began his career as a trainee in the Royal Queensland golf shop, earning AUD 38 a week. The first professional tournament he won was the 1976 West Lakes Classic in his home country, and he soon moved on to success on the European Tour and later the PGA Tour.

Norman won The Open Championship twice, in 1986 and 1993. Despite "The Great White Shark"'s (a reference to a shark inhabiting Australian waters as well as Norman's size and blond locks) huge success on the US PGA TOUR and many wins in other events around the world, Norman will be forever regarded as underachieving given his talents by missing out in The Masters, US Open, and PGA Championship.

He was equally a victim of his own bad luck, and good luck on the part of his fellow golfers (losing a near-certain PGA Championship win in 1986 after Bob Tway holed a bunker shot, and losing The Masters the following year in a playoff by an even more miraculous 45-yard chip shot from Larry Mize), and a couple of infamous "chokes" where Norman's wobble-prone putting got the better of him.

To underscore this point, in 1986, he led all four majors after the third round, but only won The Open. Norman's most infamous "choke" may be The Masters in 1996, where he blew a six-stroke lead in the final round and lost the tournament to Nick Faldo by five strokes. He has twenty nine top ten finishes in majors.

SPORTING LEGENDS: GREG NORMAN



Greg Norman has achieved consistent success all throughout his career.

After Jack Nicklaus, Norman was regarded as one of the game's greatest long hitters. In his heyday, driving off the tee, usually incredibly straight, he intimidated most of his fellow professionals. This was all with a persimmon (wood) head on the driver.

With the advent of the "metal wood" by Taylor Made and subsequently the great advances in golf club technology especially the variable face depth driver, his dominance became much diminished. This was because the "new technology" enabled less precise ball striking with equal or even better results in accuracy and distance.

Subsequent advances in golf ball technology, enabling the ball to be hit further and stopped faster than ever before has only served to even out the abilities of players. Both the Royal and Ancient and the greatest golfer of all time, Jack Nicklaus, have argued against the advances in technology, saying that it makes classic courses obsolete and even out the competition too much.

The greatest case for and against this has been Tiger Woods, whose achievements have ridiculed the great courses of the past, but placed him well ahead of the rest of the professional golfers in the world.

In 1986 Norman was awarded the BBC Sports Personality of the Year Overseas Personality Award, a feat he replicated in 1993 to join Muhammad Ali and Björn Borg as multiple winners.

Norman had 29 top-ten finishes in the majors between 1979 and 1999. In 2005 he qualified to play on the Champions Tour. He will probably continue to enter some majors as a senior, but he is unlikely to contend for further major titles.

SPORTING LEGENDS: GREG NORMAN



The White Shark has always been an extremely laid-back character.

PGA Tour wins

1984	Kemper Open, Canadian Open
1986	Panasonic Las Vegas Invitational, Kemper Open, The Open Championship
1988	CI Heritage Golf Classic
1989	The International, Greater Milwaukee Open
1990	Doral-Ryder Open, Memorial Tournament
1992	Canadian Open
1993	Doral-Ryder Open, The Open Championship
1994	The Players Championship
1995	Memorial Tournament, Canon Greater Hartford Open, NEC World Series
1996	Doral-Ryder Open
1997	FedEx St. Jude Classic, NEC World Series of Golf

European Tour wins

1977	Martini International
1979	Martini International
1980	Open de France, Scandinavian Enterprise Open, State Express Classic
1981	Martini International, Dunlop Masters
1982	Dunlop Masters, State Express English Classic.
1986	The Open Championship, Panasonic European Open
1988	Lancia Italian Open
1993	The Open Championship
1994	Johnnie Walker Classic

SPORTING LEGENDS: GREG NORMAN



Norman's short-game is a key attribute to his success.

Other Wins:

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1977 | Kuzuhz International (Japan) |
| 1979 | Hong Kong Open |
| 1980 | Suntory World Match Play Championship |
| 1983 | Hong Kong Open, Cannes Invitational |
| 1985 | Alfred Dunhill Cup (United Kingdom - team) |
| 1986 | Suntory World Match Play Championship |
| 1989 | Chunichi Crowns (Japan) |
| 1993 | Taiheyo Masters (Japan), PGA Grand Slam of Golf (U.S. - unofficial event) |
| 1994 | PGA Grand Slam of Golf (U.S. - unofficial event) |
| 1995 | Fred Meyer Challenge (with Brad Faxon) |
| 1996 | Fred Meyer Challenge (with Brad Faxon) |
| 1997 | Fred Meyer Challenge (with Brad Faxon) |
| 1998 | Franklin Templeton Shootout (with Steve Elkington) |

SPORTING LEGENDS: GREG NORMAN



Scott Burton's Final Thought

Greg Norman is one of the original old-school legends of golf. He has been winning tournaments for over 30 years, and can be considered as one of the true greats.

His driving, short-game and putting are all excellent. The only doubting factor in his overall game has been his mental focus. He has choked on a few major occasions.

But like everyone else, he is only human, and his track record in golf is superb. A likeable character and sound businessman, he has also helped to design some of the world's finest golf courses.

Whether or not he wins another major from here on in doesn't matter - his legendary status is already secure.



Always focused, always a tough competitor - that's Greg Norman!