

Sam Snead Visits Vermont

by Dave Sprague

The appearance of Sam Snead at the first annual Hand Motors Masters in the Mountains Tournament, held on May 21-22 at the Gleneagles Golf Course at the Equinox in Manchester, made the charity event something special for everyone involved. It also set a precedent that future tournaments will strive to equal.

The "sold out" sign was posted early for the tournament. Thirty-four teams of four golfers each, from as far away as Georgia and Oregon, came to compete for prizes and the chance to meet a true golf legend.

Snead conducted an early morning clinic on Saturday to start a very busy day of golf. Using a combination of instructional tips and humorous stories, Snead held his audience captive for the entire hour.

The team best-ball competition began immediately after the clinic with a shotgun start. Snead made his

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way to the tee of the par-3 fourteenth hole. As each team approached the 121-yard hole, they were greeted by Snead, a staff photographer and a handful of onlookers. Snead hit a shot with each foursome and any player could use Snead's shot as his own.

Only one amateur golfer placed his drive inside Snead's all afternoon long. John Hand of Manchester's Hand Motors, the title sponsor, hit his ball to within five feet of the pin. When Snead stepped up to hit his shot, he quipped with a big smile, "You won't get mad if I put this inside yours, will you?" His ball landed about ten feet from the flagstick, but Hand made birdie with his own ball so Sam's wasn't needed.

first birthday, Snead amazed everyone with his shotmaking ability. Even though he was unable to see the ball

land on the green, every swing he made produced excellent results. On a number of occasions he predicted with uncanny accuracy the end result of his shot.

Admirers standing around the tee were treated to a steady stream of golf stories from the Hall of Famer. Even though he appeared uncomfortable when moving from his seat to yet another photo session with the next visiting foursome, his pleasant and entertaining demeanor never changed. The Masters in the Mountains Tournament is off to a rousing start and Sam Snead is a major reason for the event's success.

