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1-21-75
THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN. *df*

RECOMMENDED TELEPHONE CALL

TO: Johnny Miller

DATE: January 21-22, 1975

RECOMMENDED BY: Dave Hoopes (Warren Rustand concurs)

PURPOSE: To congratulate him on his recent win at Dean Martin-Tucson Open, Jan. 18, and wish him luck at Crosby this week.

BACKGROUND: Last year Johnny Miller was PGA Player of the Year with 8 tournament victories, which is the first time for anyone in a decade (Palmer last to do so). He won more than \$400,000 in prize money last year, which was \$100,000+ more than anyone else. He's won first two tournaments so far this year (Pheonix Open, Jan. 12 and Dean Martin-Tucson Open, Jan. 18). He won the first three last year, and goes into the Crosby at Pebble Beach, Jan. 23-26, as defending champion.

He and his wife, Linda, have a son, John, age 5, and two daughters, Kelly, age 3 and Casey, age 6 months.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

1. Congratulations on your win in Tucson, and good luck at the Crosby.
2. If you win the Crosby, are you going to rest for a while? (He'll probably want to lay out the Hawaiian Open, Jan. 31-Feb. 2 to get in shape for the Bob Hope Desert Classic, Feb. 5-9, which he is really looking forward to. If he were to play and win at both Crosby and Hawaiian Open, it would mean four straight wins--an unprecedented achievement.)

DATE OF SUBMISSION: *01* January 21, 1975

ACTION *Decided not to / MCH*



Washington Star-News

Sports

RACING
CLASSIFIED **D**

MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 1975

Miller's High Life Has Him Bubbling

TUCSON, Ariz. (UPI) — The way Johnny Miller is destroying golf courses, you would have to doubt even Jack Nicklaus can beat him this week when the PGA tour moves to Pebble Beach, Calif., and the Bing Crosby National Pro-Am.

Not that anyone doubted Miller's star had finally ascended in 1974 when he won three tournaments at the start of the year and eight before it was all over, along with record earnings of \$353,021.

But in the event there were any who needed final convincing Miller has reached superstar status, he provided it in Arizona the last two weeks — winning the Phoenix Open by a record-tying 14 strokes and the Tucson Open by nine.

The 27-year-old Californian won at Phoenix with a 24-under-par score of 260, lowest on the tour in 20 years, and followed by winning at Tucson with a 25-under-par 263. In the two tournaments, he had three eagles and 51 birdies. He finished at Tucson Sunday with a record 61.

"THE WAY I'M playing now," Miller said Sunday, "I don't think there is anyone who can beat me."

Miller, presumably, includes Nicklaus in that group. Miller always has said that Nicklaus, winner of a record 14 major titles, was the best. Now, he isn't that sure.

"Jack is tough, he always is for me," Miller said, "but I'm looking forward to playing against him in the Crosby. It's another challenge and I feel up to it."

Miller said winning two tournaments in a row in Arizona doesn't take away anything from his desire to meet Nicklaus and play the three courses on the Monterey Peninsula this week.

"I wouldn't miss playing in the Crosby for anything," he said, "I love the three courses there and if Jack is in the tournament, so much the better. Even if I won 10 tournaments in a row I wouldn't pass up the chance to play in the Crosby. Pebble Beach, especially, is sort of a home course for me."

PEBBLE BEACH has been kind to Nicklaus over the years. He won the U.S. Amateur, a U.S. Open and three Crosby titles over the famed course and like Miller, he is fond of the layout.

Miller called his final round 61 in the Tucson "the greatest I've ever played in my life, even better than the 63 I got to win the U.S. Open two years ago."

It had to be one of the best rounds ever played period. Miller shot sub par on 10 holes and on the other eight he never was more than 15 feet away from a possible birdie. He had nine birdies and an eagle on a card of 31-30.

"I hit the ball so good," he said, "it was a joke."

MAYBE TO Johnny it was a joke. What it did to John Mahaffey and Tom Watson was shattering. The two young pros played well enough to win any tournament. Mahaffey shot rounds of 67-69-69-67 for a 16-under-par 272. Watson had 72-67-67-67—273.

But Miller, who hasn't had a round over 69 this year, shot 66-69-67-61—263. His final total bettered the tournament record by eight shots and his 61 topped the 62 he shot a year ago here in the first round.

Miller picked up \$40,000 for his win here and now has won \$70,000 in two weeks.

