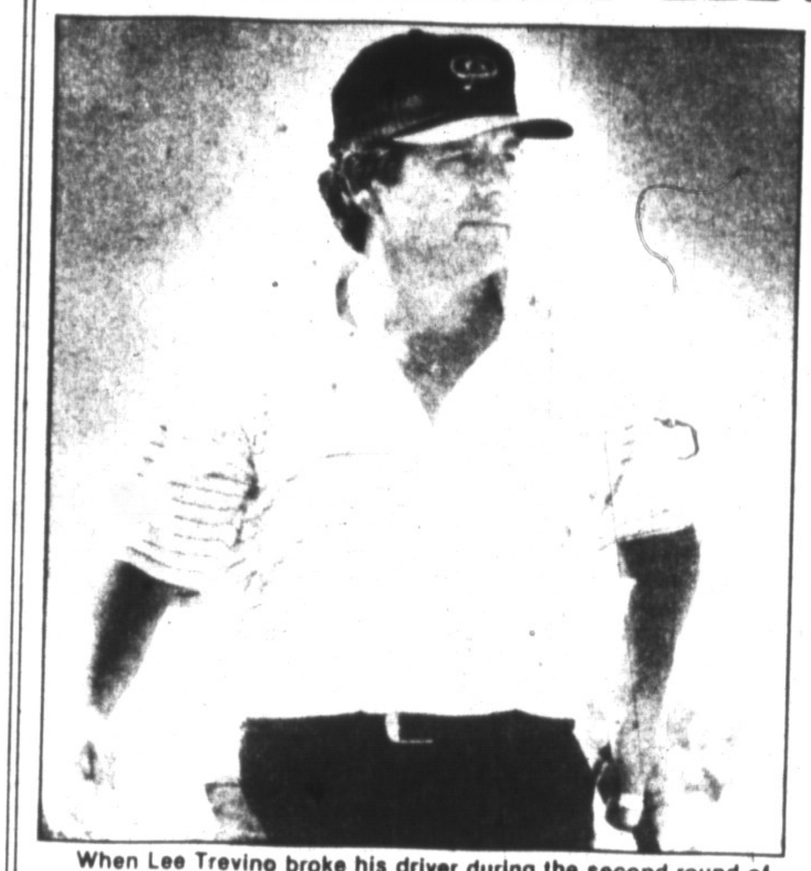
Canadian firm comes to the rescue



When Lee Trevino broke his driver during the second round of the Canadian Open last year he was worried, but not for long. He brought it to Accuform Golf Ltd. — Canadian maker of the world's most precise golf clubs — and it was ready for play in just three hours.

By DAVID KAZLOVSKIS
Sports Editor

When Lee Trevino broke his driver during the second round of the Canadian Open last year it was like losing a loved one.

What was the three-time Canadian Open champ going to do with his cherished number one wood on the critical list?

Not to worry. He took it to Accuform Golf Ltd. in nearby Etobicoke and three hours later it was ready for third round play.

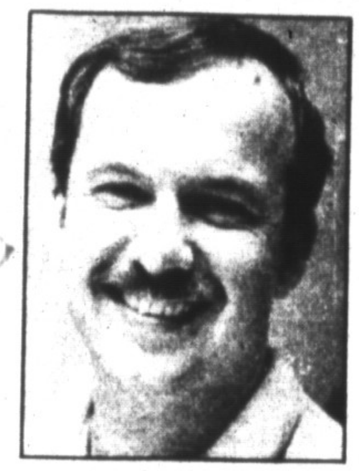
No, Accuform Golf Ltd. isn't a hospital paramedic unit for injured golf clubs. It's Canadian and it's a pioneer in the world of golf club manufacturing.

It's also part of the company that keeps the Canadian aircraft industry airborne and played a role in the launching of Canada's first satellite, the Alouette.

So what's a supplier to Canada's aerospace industry doing making golf clubs?

The answer is simple. The same attention to detail and precision necessary to survive in the aerospace parts industry has been applied to making the perfect golf club.

Accuform's parent company, The Queensway Machine Products Ltd., has been making precision machined products to critical tolerances for more than 30 years.



JOHN SAKSUN, JR.

In 1978, Queensway Machine Products founder John B. Saksun decided it was time to diversify. That's when it took over complete control of the struggling Tri Sports Ltd. of which Saksun was a part owner.

"The aircraft industry has its up and downs and we thought golf clubs were something we could easily make, but it created a whole new set of problems," said Accuform treasurer John B. Saksun, Jr., whose Czechoslovakian-born father heads up the Queensway operation.

NO IDEA

"When we first got involved, we had no idea what we were doing," he went on to say.

"Our first step was to examine and measure golf clubs already being made. What we discovered was that most manufacturers displayed no control with respect to their club tolerances," Saksun explained.

"We'd find a driver that was square (in face orientation) but a three iron that was 3° closed and a five iron that was 5° open — all in the same set of clubs," he recalls.

In practical terms, a ball hit with an open faced club will go to the right while a closed face orientation will send the ball left — no matter how well it's struck.

"We were amazed at the inconsistency of major golf clubs," Saksun explained. "And we're not talking Sears (department store) clubs, we're talking top of the line clubs from a pro shop."

Armed with the above information, the Saksuns then set out to make the perfect golf club.

(See 'Golf', pg. C7)