



**Lee Buck Trevino**  
**1939 —**  
**Golf**  
**Inducted 1974**

The world should not have been so startled by Lee Trevino's slingshot rise to the summit of professional golf. For old Super Mex really had given 'em all fair warning.

Anyone who had ever been peeled by this driving-range handyman on a \$100 Nassau bet at Dallas' Tenison Park Municipal course could have told you the pro tour would be a cakewalk for Lee Buck Trevino. After all, on the pro tour a man wouldn't have to con a side bet by playing the back nine with a Dr Pepper bottle.

And Trevino trumpeted his warning during his very first year on the tour by playing his way into the 1967 United States Open and finishing in fifth place to take home a check for \$6,000.

Still, the world simply was not ready for that sun-bathed June day just one short year later at stern old Oak Hill Country club in upstate New York. It had never occurred to anyone that Cinderella's missing slipper really was a huarache . . . size 9D.

But when the shouts of "Ole!" "Ole!" finally died enough to hear his words there on the fringe of Oak Hill's 18th green, Trevino reached out to clutch the \$30,000 check and the championship trophy of the 67th United States Open and laughed out loud: "I'm so happy I'm gonna buy the Alamo and give it back to Mexico."

The world laughed out loud with him, as it has almost every moment since, as it has followed his stalking strides, joking and wisecracking all the way, down the fairways of the earth to take his place alongside the true giants the game has known.

No man ever made such a mark in golf's hallowed halls in such a short time as Trevino after that incredible start at Oak Hill. He had claimed an astounding five major championships and 17 total tour victories by the end of 1974.

And except for back problems during a bleak period from 1975 to 1977, ol' Super Mex's record might stagger the imagination.

Trevino was golf's leading money winner in 1970, was runner-up in money-winnings in both 1971 and 1972 and fourth in 1973 and '74. In fact, seventh was his poorest finish until the back problems began to nag him in '75, when he finished ninth. He slipped to 13th as the pain became almost unbearable in '76 and he finally agreed to surgery to repair the herniated disc in November of '77.

His miraculous comeback starting with the '78 tour is almost as startling as that heralded beginning in '68. He captured the title at Fort Worth's renowned Colonial in May of 1978 to proclaim to the world that Trevino indeed was back. He climbed back to the No. 6 spot on the 1978 money list with a total of \$228,723. Then he whittled away a couple of more rungs back to the top in '79, finishing fourth with a total of \$238,732.

But it was 1980 that he really punctuated his amazing comeback. He started the year with a March victory in the Tournament Players Championship, the players' own tournament and one destined for major championship status. Before the year was over, he had added titles at the Danny Thomas-Memphis Classic and the Texas Open at San Antonio. And he had pocketed the staggering prize money total of \$385,814. The only man ever to have earned more in a single year at that time was Tom Watson, who pocketed \$530,808 in 1980 and \$462,636 in 1979.

Even more gratifying to Trevino during the 1980 tour was besting Watson for the coveted Vardon trophy, which goes annually to the PGA tour golfer with the lowest stroke average per round for the entire year. Trevino won it for the fifth time with an average of 69.73 for 82 rounds. It was the lowest Vardon