

CAPTURED ON FILM

July 14, 1988

Seve Ballesteros finds himself in a spot of bother during the Open at Lytham



THE BACKGROUND

Having famously triumphed at the 1984 Open at St Andrews, Seve Ballesteros had recorded another eight top 10s in major championships but had failed to add to his tally of four. It had been a close-run thing – particularly at the Masters in 1985, '86 and '87 – but the Pedrena native was now 31, at his peak, and desperate to win again. He arrived at Royal Lytham & St Annes on the back of his eighth PGA Tour victory at the Westchester Classic (now the Northern Trust Open) and in determined mood.

THE SCENE

'Don't worry everyone, I've got a gap this big...' Even for those spectators used to seeing Seve in the cabbage – and it was by no means an unusual occurrence at any point during his career – this looked a bit deep for the genius to recover from. He found himself off the beaten track at the 14th hole and, surrounded by the crowd, photographers and television cameramen, there looked to be nowhere for the Spaniard to hide. Would it land a crippling blow to his Open chances?

THE MOMENT

In a word, no. Seve negotiated his way round Royal Lytham in an opening 67 – an effort that had him right at the top of the leaderboard – two shots clear of Brad Faxon and Wayne Grady. He followed this with a 70 and, after the third round was cancelled and replayed because of heavy rain, his 70 left him two shots adrift of Nick Price. In the first Monday finish to an Open in championship history, Seve produced one of the great finishing rounds – a 65 – to beat Price by two and win his third Claret Jug.

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