SPORTS

Spieth becomes second youngest to win Masters

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Golf's grandest stage never fails to deliver, and this past weekend, it delivered again in the person of Jordan Spieth.

It was a week of story lines for the 79 Masters tournament that included Tiger Woods' return to Augusta National from injury; Rory McIlroy going for a career grand slam; Ben Crenshaw playing his final Masters after 44 consecutive years; Phil Mickelson finding his game; and Bubba Watson going for his third green jacket in four years. Even the great Jack Nicklaus, at 75 years old, hit a hole-in-one in the annual Par-3 challenge.

But, in the end, Spieth stole the show.

The 21-year-old became the second-youngest player to win the Masters and put on the coveted green jacket, separated by just five months from Woods in 1997.

From early Thursday to the final putt on Sunday, Spieth dominated. Each night he went to bed as the Masters leader.

Spieth had been there before though, despite this being only his second Masters to date. In the 2014 Masters, he made a run at the green jacket at the ripe young age of 20. While he fell short on Sunday, it was evident he would eventually be a major champion.

It only took a year.

On Thursday, Spieth shot a first-round 64, one stroke shy of tying the course record. This put him at -8, good enough for a three-stroke lead over the field.

So how do you follow a first round like that? With a bogey-free round of 66 on Friday to get to -14. This two-day total of 130 was a new Masters record and tied the record for the lowest two-day score in major championship history. His lead had been extended to five strokes.

Spieth kept his pace into the weekend, shooting a 70 on Saturday. This put him at -16 for the Tournament, and his three-hole total of 200 broke the previous record for lowest 54-hole total in Masters history. While Spieth held a four-stroke lead on the field, the Top 10 included some of the best golfers of this era.

In sole-second at -12 was 2013 U.S. open winner Justin Rose; in third place at -11 was a man who had won the Masters three times before and five total majors in Mickelson; and the top-ranked golfer in 25-year-old, four-time major winner McIlroy was in fifth

Jordan Spieth (left) broke records at the 79 Masters tournament and, at age 21, became the second youngest person to win the tournament.

at -6 and seeking a career grand slam.

Then there was another man tied for fifth: four-time green jacket winner and 14-time major-winner Tiger Woods in his first tournament back since withdrawing from the Farmers Insurance Open in February.

The competition was there, and despite a small Sunday push from Rose and Mickelson, Spieth prevailed. He ended the tournament four strokes in front of the field

at -18 with a final round 70 to cap off a brilliant four days.

Spieth also tied the record for lowest 72-hole round in Masters history, replicating the 270 Woods posted in the 1997 Masters.

From the 18 green, Spieth made his way to the clubhouse to sign his final scorecard and then to the basement of Butler's Cabin.

CBS sportscaster Jim Nantz and chairman of Augusta National Golf Course Billy Payne

greeted him there for the ceremonial green jacket presentation.

As last year's champion Bubba Watson put the green jacket on Spieth, the cameras got a still shot of the young champion's beaming face. With this, they also got a glimpse of the future of golf.

It was the perfect way to wrap up another magical week in Augusta, showing why the Masters is truly a tradition unlike any other.