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Palmer's statue to be near hotel on interim basis

By John Mills
Staff Writer

Georgia Golf Hall of Fame officials announced on Tuesday that a statue of Arnold Palmer will temporarily be placed outside the Radisson Riverfront Hotel Augusta.

The Palmer statue, part of plans for the Hall of Fame that is scheduled to open during Masters Week of 1997, will depict the golf legend looking intently down the 10th fairway of the Augusta National Golf Club during a past Masters Tournament.

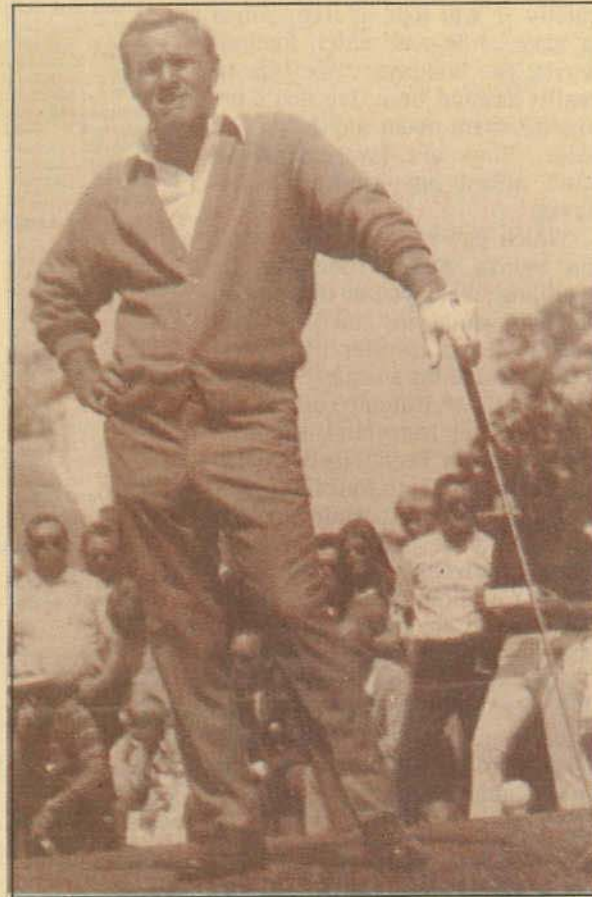
Philadelphia-based sculptor Zenos Frudakis has been commissioned for the sculpture. Bankers First sponsored the work, which will cost \$82,000 not including transportation and mounting costs, said Ted Sprague, executive director of the Hall of Fame.

The final bronze version of the statue will be unveiled by Palmer on April 9, 1996, the second practice-round day of the Masters, Sprague said.

The initial statue, to be placed Jan. 6 in the traffic circle between the hotel and the Augusta Riverfront Center on 10th Street at the riverwalk, will be a preliminary plaster.

Monty Osteen, chairman and chief executive officer of Bankers First, was responsible for selecting Palmer as the sculpture's subject.

The Hall of Fame expects to announce a final completion date for the overall attraction in



SPECIAL/GEORGIA GOLF HALL OF FAME

Typical pose by Arnold Palmer during heyday in golf to be model for Golf Hall of Fame statue.

January, Sprague said.

Palmer was honored with a plaque on a water fountain behind the 16th tee of the Augusta National Golf Club during Arnold Palmer Day last April at the Masters.