

**Florida State Men's Amateur**

AT BAY HILL  
PAR 36-36-72  
THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Bob Stockman	35-34-69
Billy Tulen	34-35-69
Tim Fieldhouse	35-35-70
Bob Cornett	36-35-71
Bill Byrne	37-35-72
Nolan Henke	37-36-73
Dennis Deja	36-37-73
Bruce Halstead	37-36-73
Kevin Janiga	39-34-73
Lee Rinker	34-39-73
Keith Kutzer	37-36-73
Rob Burns	35-38-73
Jack Veghte	35-38-73
Joel Gross	36-38-74
Hunter Rhodes	36-38-74
David Davis	37-37-74
Lee Janzen	39-36-75
Tom Knapp	41-34-75
Tom Krystyn	37-39-75
John Pallot	39-38-75
Stephen Saterbo	34-37-75
Jay Schrader	37-38-75
Tim Wilson	37-38-75
Robert Hughes	39-35-75
Jay Williams	37-38-75
Jerry Coren	39-37-75
Louis McHughes, Jr.	39-37-76
Bill Lloyd	39-37-76
Jack Shubert	40-36-76
John Dickey	37-39-76
Dave Pesacov	38-38-75
Michael Keymont	39-38-75
Mark Bucek	35-41-76
Bill Shufelt	40-36-76
Allen Sterchi	37-39-76
Bryan Edwards	40-37-77
Adam Bazalgette	37-40-77
Frank Strataci, Jr.	37-40-77
Ronnie Tumlin	38-39-77
Jimmy Morris	40-37-77
Robbie Madigan	40-37-77
Charles Green	37-40-77
Dave Sironen	38-39-77
Jay Townsend	37-40-77
Jay Cooper	39-39-78
Tom Case, Jr.	38-39-78
Scott Behl	38-40-78
Austin Jones	36-42-78
Jeff Decker	35-43-78
Steven Czupka	39-39-78
Richard Crable	39-39-78
Steve Busboom	36-42-78
Dennis McLain	39-39-78
Mike Domalske	40-38-78
John Reeves	39-40-79
Mark Windram	38-41-79
Dan Stone	39-40-79
Scott Stewart	37-42-79
Brad Eates	38-41-79
Terry Collins	39-40-79
John Huston	35-44-79
Ralph Raymond, Jr.	40-39-79
John Keller	40-39-79
David Ragan, III	39-41-79
Gary Frazier	38-41-79
Steve Carman	40-39-79
Tom Garner	38-42-80
Kipp Minter	39-41-80

John Ward, Sr.	40-40-80
Carl Pederson	37-43-80
David Abell	37-43-80
David Brown	38-42-80
Greg Garde	40-40-80
Hap Personett	40-40-80
James Saurier	39-41-80
Mark Norman	42-39-80
Chris Souchak	38-42-80
Ron Ferrara	42-39-80
Dean Hires	37-44-81
Marco Dawson	37-44-81
Jack Nicklaus, II	39-42-81
Dennis Rouse	37-44-81
Barry Cheesman	36-45-81
Skip Smith	38-43-81
Bruce Scamehorn	37-44-81
Steve Bedford	39-42-81
John Van Vranken, III	41-40-81
Rick Fitzgerald	37-45-82
Terry Crick	40-42-82
Charles Stewart, Jr.	38-44-82
Wayne Joner	43-39-82
Earl Gibson	42-40-82
Ron LeClair	41-41-82
Mike Touhey	39-43-82
Brian Hawke	41-41-82
Gary Martinet	40-42-82
Scott Gump	39-44-83
Mountie Bedford	39-44-83
Richard Kent, Jr.	43-40-83
Ken Brooke	38-45-83
Adolfo Pena	42-42-84
Gary Reed	39-45-84
Ronnie McCann	42-42-84
Steve Maddox	41-43-84
Bobby Lundquist	43-41-84
Carl Reed	43-42-85
Carl Burnham	45-41-86
Ailan Parrish	41-45-87
Mickey van Gerbig	42-46-88
Andy Gibson	41-47-88
Chuck Sullivan	46-42-88
Phillip Baltas	41-47-88
Roland Wyatt	41-47-88
Rick Misi	45-43-88
David Rudder	39-49-88
Dan Oserud	43-44-88
Gil Foushee	45-44-88
Ron Philo	47-42-89
Bob Kouwe	WD
Teddy Phillips	WD

**Florida State Men's Amateur**

AT BAY HILL  
PAR 71-71-142

Lee Rinker	73-71-63-212
Tim Fieldhouse	70-73-73-215
Bob Cornett	71-73-73-217
Billy Tulen	69-74-76-219
Jack Veghte	73-72-75-220
Kevin Janiga	73-72-75-220
Jay Townsend	77-73-71-221
John Keller	79-74-69-222
Tom Case	78-72-72-222
Jay Schrader	75-74-73-222
Mark Bucek	76-75-73-224
Robb Burns	75-76-75-224
John Pallot	75-71-78-224
Marco Dawson	81-72-72-225
Charles Green	77-72-77-226
Jay Cooper	78-75-74-227
Austin Jones	78-74-75-227
Bob Stockman	69-84-74-227
Joel Gross	74-78-75-227
Dennis Deja	73-79-75-227
Keith Kutzer	73-76-78-227
Tim Wilson	75-73-79-227
Jack Shubert	76-78-74-228
Ron Tumlin	77-76-75-228
Bill Byrne	72-79-71-228
Bryan Edwards	77-77-75-229
John Dickey	76-77-76-229
Jerry Coren	75-76-76-229
Dave Pesacov	75-80-74-230
Lee Janzen	75-78-77-230
Steve Bedford	81-72-77-230
Bruce Halstead	73-78-79-230
Barry Cheesman	81-73-77-231
Tom Krystyn	75-79-77-231
Nolan Henke	73-81-77-231
Adam Bazalgette	77-78-75-231
Bill Lloyd	76-77-79-232
Terry Collins	79-78-76-233
Greg Garde	80-77-76-233
Tom Garner	80-74-78-233
Kipp Minter	80-74-79-233
Bruce Scamehorn	81-72-80-233
Bob Hughes	75-75-83-233
Gary Frazier	79-79-76-234
Scott Behl	78-78-78-234
Frank Strataci	77-78-78-234
Jay Williams	75-79-80-234
Louis McHughes	75-79-80-234
John Van Vranken	81-76-79-235
John Huston	79-77-79-235
Stephen Saterbo	75-79-81-235
Richard Crable	78-80-78-236
Dave Ragan III	79-78-79-236
Bill Shufelt	75-78-82-236
Mike Domalske	79-79-79-237
Allen Sterchi	76-82-79-237
Carl Pederson	80-76-81-237
Hunter Rhodes	74-80-83-237
Tom Knapp	75-79-83-237
Charles Stewart	82-76-80-238
Dennis McLain	78-77-84-238
Dave Abell	80-78-83-241
Jim Morris	77-79-86-241
Steve Busboom	78-80-86-WD
Mark Norman	80-77-NC

**TODAY'S PAIRINGS**

8:30: David Abell 241, Jimmy Morris 241, Dennis McLain 239; 9:00: Charles Stewart Jr. 234, Mike Domalske 237, Allen Sterchi 237; 9:15: Carl Pederson 237, Tom Knapp 237, Hunter Rhodes 237; 9:24: Richard Crable 236, Bill Shufelt 236, Dave Ragan III 236; 9:35: John Van Vranken III 235, John Huston 235, Stephen Saterbo 235; 9:40: Gary Frazier 234, Jay Williams 234, Scott Behl 234; 9:45: Frank Strataci Jr. 234, Louis McHughes Jr. 234, Kipp Minter 233; 9:58: Terry Collins 233, Tom Garner 233, Greg Garde 233; 9:04: Bruce Scamehorn 233, Robert Hughes 233, Bill Lloyd 232; 9:12: Barry Cheesman 231, Nolan Henke 231, Tom Krystyn 231; 9:20: Adam Bazalgette 231, David Brown 230, Steve Bedford 230; 9:28: Dave Pesacov 230, Lee Janzen 230, Bruce Halstead 230; 9:38: Bryan Edwards 229, John Dickey 229, Jerry Coren 229; 9:44: Jack Shubert 228, Ron Tumlin 228, Bill Byrne 228; 9:52: Austin Jones 227, Bob Stockman 227, Jay Cooper 227; 10:00: Joel Gross 227, Dennis Deja 227, Keith Putzer 227; 10:08: Tim Wilson 227, Charles Green 226, Marco Dawson 226; 10:18: Mark Bucek 224, Robb Burns 224, John Pallot 224; 10:24: John Keller 222, Tom Case 222, Jay Schrader 222, Jay Townsend 221; 10:32: Kevin Janiga 220, Jack Veghte 220, Billy Tulen 219; 10:40: Bob Cornett 217, Tim Fieldhouse 215, Lee Rinker 212.

**Florida State Men's Amateur**

AT BAY HILL  
PAR 71-71-142

Tim Fieldhouse	70-73-143
Billy Tulen	69-74-143
Lee Rinker	73-71-144
Bob Cornett	71-73-144
Kevin Janiga	73-72-145
Jack Veghte	73-72-145
John Pallot	75-71-146
Tim Wilson	75-73-148
Keith Kutzer	73-76-149
Robb Burns	73-76-149
Jay Schrader	75-74-146
Tom Case, Jr.	78-72-150
Robert Hughes	75-75-150
Jay Townsend	77-73-150
Charles Green	76-76-151
Mark Bucek	72-78-151
Bill Byrne	72-78-151
Bruce Halstead	73-78-151
Austin Jones	78-74-152
Joel Gross	74-78-152
Dennis Deja	73-79-152
Ronnie Tumlin	77-76-152
Jay Cooper	76-76-153
Bruce Scamehorn	81-72-153
John Keller	76-77-153
John Dickey	76-77-153
Steve Bedford	61-72-153
Jerry Coren	75-75-153
Lee Janzen	75-78-153
Marco Dawson	81-72-153
Adam Bazalgette	77-76-153
Bill Lloyd	76-77-153
Bob Stockman	69-84-153
Jack Shubert	76-78-154
Hunter Rhodes	74-80-154
Jay Williams	75-79-154
Bill Shufelt	76-78-154
Nolan Henke	73-81-154
Tom Garner	80-74-154
Tom Knapp	75-79-154
Tom Krystyn	75-79-154
Louis McHughes Jr.	76-78-154
Kipp Minter	80-74-154
Stephen Saterbo	75-79-154
Bryan Edwards	77-77-154
Barry Cheesman	81-73-154
Dennis McLain	78-77-155
David Brown	80-75-155
Frank Strataci Jr.	77-78-155
Jimmy Morris	78-78-155
Scott Behl	79-77-155
John Huston	79-77-155
Dave Pesacov	76-80-156
Carl Pederson	80-76-156
Terry Collins	79-78-157
Dave Ragan III	79-78-157
Mark Norman	80-77-157
John Van Vranken III	81-76-157
Greg Garde	80-77-157
Allen Sterchi	76-80-158
Gary Frazier	79-78-158
Richard Crable	75-80-158
Steve Busboom	78-80-158
Dave Abell	80-75-159
Mike Domalske	79-79-159
Charles Stewart Jr.	82-76-159

318—Dennis McLain, Tampa, 78-77-84-79; Jay Williams, Sarasota, 75-79-80-84

North Palm Beach, 76-80-74-83; Richard Crable, Orlando, 78-80-78-77

314—Bruce Scamehorn, Winter Haven, 81-72-80-81; John Dickey, North Palm Beach, 76-77-76-85

316—Carl Pederson, Fort Walton Beach, 80-76-81-79

317—Dave Ragan III, Orlando, 79-78-79-81

319—Allen Sterchi, Orlando, 76-82-79-82

320—David Abell, Fort Pierce, 80-78-83-78

321—Mike Domalske, Sarasota, 79-79-79-84; Hunter Rhodes, Tampa, 74-80-83-84

323—Jimmy Morris, Bartow, 77-78-86-82

326—Charles Stewart Jr., Daytona Beach, 82-76-80-88

327—Bill Shufelt, Titusville, 76-78-82-91

WD—Steve Busboom, Boca Raton, 78-80-86; Robert Hughes, Fort Myers, 75-75-83; Tim Wilson, Orlando, 75-73-79

#### Missed Cut

159—John Ward Sr., Winter Park, 80-79; Dennis Rouse, Valrico, 81-78; Robbie Madigan, Orlando, 77-82; Ralph Raymond Jr., Sarasota, 79-80; Hap Personett, Fort Myers, 80-79

160—Brad Estes, Apopka, 79-81; Bobby Lundquist, Sanford, 84-76; David Davis, St. Petersburg, 74-86; Steve Czupka, Orlando, 78-82; Ken Brooks, Clearwater, 83-77; Gary Martinet, Winter Springs, 82-78

161—Adolpho Pena, Clewiston, 84-77; Ronnie McCann, Orlando, 84-77; Chuck Sullivan, Vero Beach, 88-73; Ron Ferrara, Kissimmee, 80-81

162—Wayne Joiner, Orlando, 82-80; Steve Maddox, Lakeland, 84-78; Mike Touhey, Clearwater, 82-80; Jeff Decker, Winter Springs, 78-84

163—Scott Stewart, Kissimmee, 79-84; Dave Sironen, Seminole, 77-86; Brian Hawke, Temple Terrace, 82-81; Chris Souchak, Largo, 80-83

164—Jack Nicklaus II, North Palm Beach, 81-83; Terry Crick, St. Petersburg, 82-82; Skip Smith, Orlando, 81-83

165—Dan Stone, St. Petersburg, 79-86; Earl Gibson, Sarasota, 82-83; Curt Burnham, Sarasota, 86-79; Steve Carman, Orange Park, 79-86; Daniel Disrud, Apopka, 88-77; Montie Bedford, Pensacola, 83-82

166—Richard Kent, Jacksonville, 83-83

167—Scott Gump, Merritt Island, 83-84

168—Dean Hiers, Lake Wales, 81-87

170—Gary Reed, Jacksonville, 84-86; Carl Reed, Palm Beach Gardens, 85-85; Roland Wyant, Sarasota, 88-82; Rick Meli, Fort Lauderdale, 88-82; David Rudder, Hollywood, 88-82

171—Mark Windram, Mount Dora, 79-92

172—Gil Foushee, Avon Park, 89-83; Allan Parrish, Windermere, 87-85

173—Mickey Van Gerbig Jr., Palm Beach, 88-85; Phillip Ballas, Coral Gables, 88-85

176—Ron Philo, Casselberry, 89-87

NC—Rick Fitzgerald, Apopka; John Reeves, Winter Park; Andy Gibson, Sarasota; Ron LeClair, Oviedo; Mike Keymont, Orlando

DQ—James Saunier, Lighthouse Point

282 (2 under)—Lee Rinker, Stuart, 73-71-68-70

293—Tim Fieldhouse, Sarasota, 70-73-72-78

297—John Pallot, Coral Gables, 75-71-78-73

298—Jay Townsend, Tequesta, 77-73-71-77; John Keller, Pompano Beach, 79-74-69-76

300—Tom Case Jr., Fort Myers, 78-72-72-78; Denis Deja, Seminole, 73-79-75-73; Bob Stockman, Altamonte Springs, 69-84-74-73

301—Bob Cornett, Tampa, 71-73-73-84; Kevin Janiga, Lake Placid, 73-72-75-81

302—Jack Shubert, Altamonte Springs, 76-78-74-74

303—Jay Schrader, North Palm Beach, 75-74-73-81; David Brown, Gainesville, 80-75-75-73

304—Jack Veghte, Clearwater, 73-72-75-84; Jerry Coren, Tampa, 75-78-76-75

305—Billy Tuten, Palatka, 69-74-76-86; Robb Burns, Lake City, 73-76-75-81; Bryan Edwards, Jacksonville, 77-77-75-76

306—Terry Collins, Homosassa, 79-78-76-73; Scott Behl, Lakeland, 78-78-78-72; Nolan Henke, Fort Myers, 73-81-77-75; Mark Bucek, Winter Park, 76-75-73-82; Charles Green, Orlando, 77-72-77-80

307—Greg Garde, Jacksonville, 80-77-76-74; Tom Knapp, Tequesta, 75-79-83-70; Tom Krysten, Jacksonville, 75-79-77-76; Adam Bazalgetta, Apopka, 77-76-78-76; Joel Gross, Pembroke Pines, 74-78-75-78

308—Bill Byrne, Orlando, 72-79-77-80; Steve Bedford, Pensacola, 81-72-77-78

309—Austin Jones, Orlando, 78-74-75-82; Bill Lloyd, Orlando, 76-77-79-77; Barry Cheesman, Fort Myers, 81-73-77-78; Tom Garner, Pompano Beach, 80-74-79-76; Gary Frazier, Delray Beach, 79-79-76-75

310—John Huston, Tarpon Springs, 79-77-70-77; Frank Strafacci Jr., Miami, 77-78-79-76; Marco Dawson, Fort Lauderdale, 81-72-72-85

311—John Van Vranken III, Sarasota, 81-76-78-76; Louis McHughes Jr., Ocala, 76-78-80-77; Stephen Saterbo, Winter Haven, 75-79-81-76; Lee Janzen, Lakeland, 75-78-77-81; Ron Tumlin, Palatka, 77-75-76-83

312—Kipp Minter, Orlando, 80-74-79-79; Bruce Halstead, Pompano Beach, 73-78-79-82

313—Keith Kulzer, Ormond Beach, 73-76-78-86; Jay Cooper, Coral Gables, 78-75-74-86; Dave Pesacov,

FLORIDA STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION

FLORIDA COUNTY CLUB # 0 BOX 100

**FLORIDA**

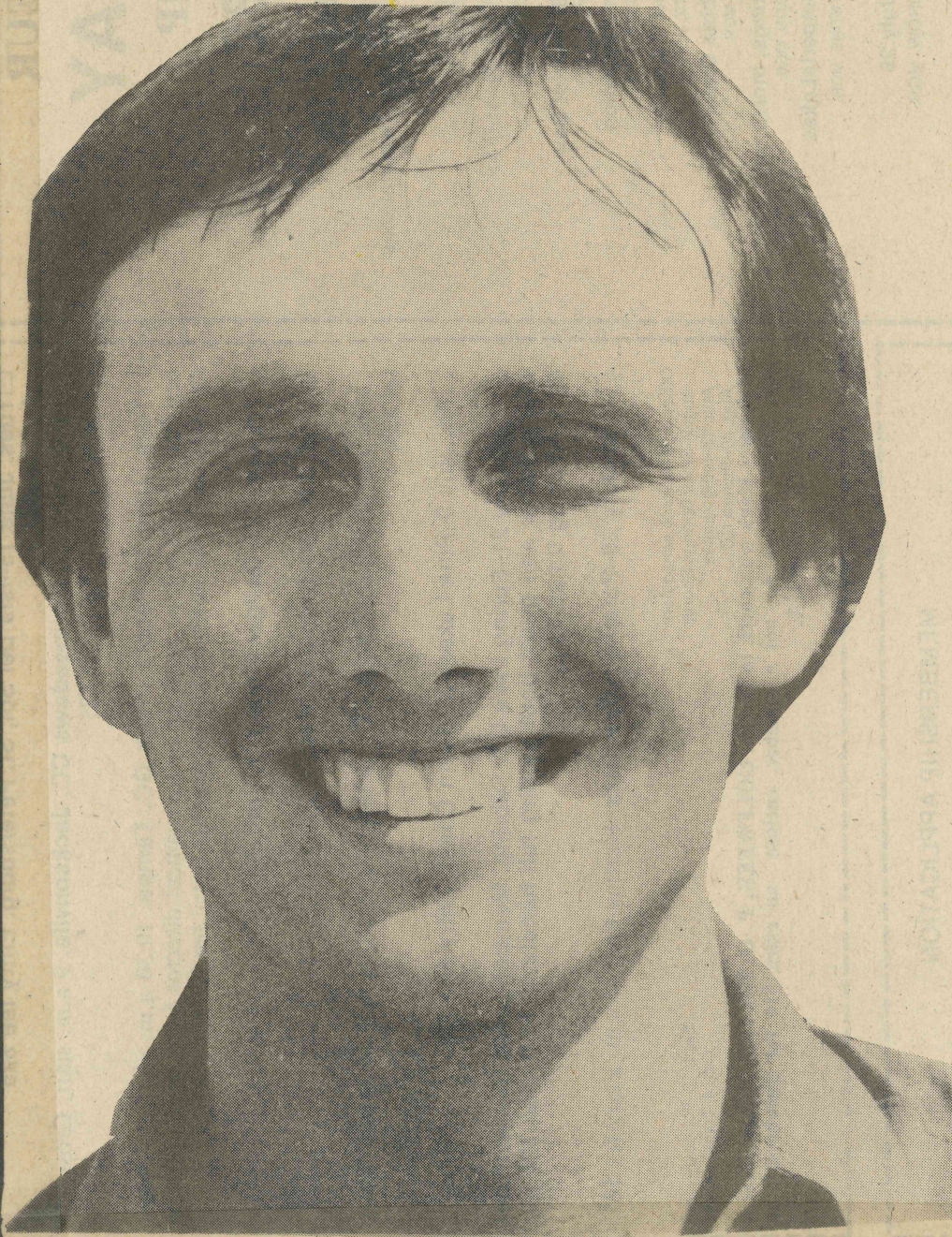
June 10, 1982

Vol. 8, No. 23

24 Pages

# GOLF WEEK

SINCE 1975



**Lee  
Rinker**

**11-stroke  
winner in  
FSGA Amateur**

*Handwritten signature*

Government Administration

# Welcome to the top, Lee Rinker

It's time to give credit where credit is due to Lee Rinker of Stuart, GOLFWEEK's new No. 1 male amateur.

Down the stretch in the FSGA State Amateur at Bay Hill, I told Larry Bush how in every men's state championship I had ever seen, the leader slipped coming in. Rinker didn't. He kept drilling the ball at the pin.

The clincher came at the par-3 17th the final day. He took his longest iron and let fly a beautiful shot which proved him oblivious to both the heat and the pressure. He performed the same way at 18, a monster par-4.

Not that Rinker came from nowhere to the top. He finished second in the Dixie. And to win at Bay Hill by 11 shots was phenomenal. It appears the No. 1 spot is his to lose now.

Nathaniel Crosby, as U.S. Amateur champion, had been the undeniable No. 1 since the panel-poll began. But as many pointed out, he's really a Californian.

As for me, I say, "Hats Off," to Nathaniel. He's a player on the move. He has the charisma. He's a gentleman. And no matter what happens, no one can ever take away his incredible performance last year at Olympic, one of the great tests of golf in the world. I wish him well this week at Pebble Beach.

## Ed Henderson



The fact that Sarasota's Tim Fieldhouse has been written about a good bit should not take away from his performance either. He's the best 16-year-old player I've ever seen. He deserves national attention. He finished No. 2 to Rinker at Bay Hill ... an amazing feat for a lad of 16. No one has protested his No. 2 standing. Fieldhouse is solid.

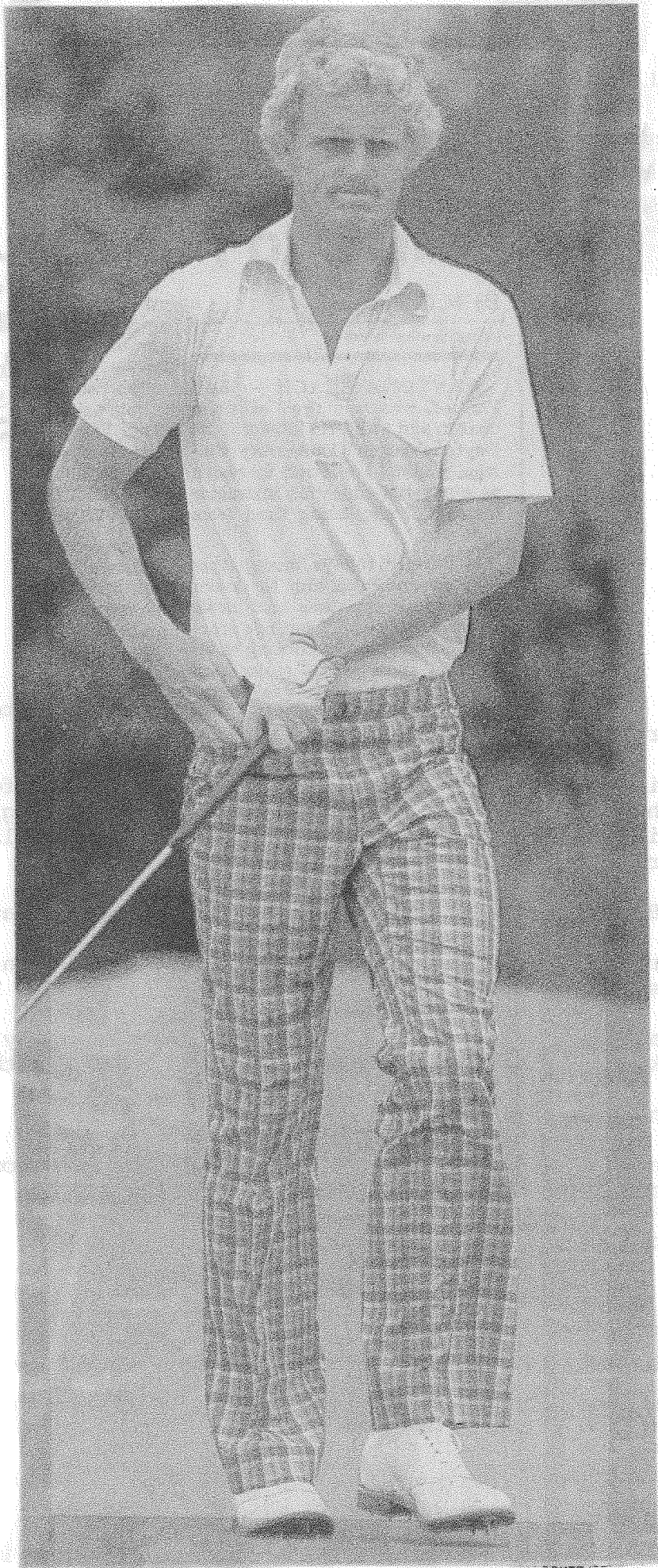
He'll prove it again at Wake Forest if not this summer. Another gentleman, through and through.

Don Burwell of Miami has fallen from the top 10. I understand he had a turbulent year at Houston and did not play.

And now all eyes turn to Pebble Beach. I've got a feeling about Arnold Palmer, that he'll do something out there as U.S. Senior Open champion. If the magic can just return to his putter this week ... maybe. Arnie can still strike it.

If not Arnie, I think it'll be Curtis Strange.

In closing, I'd like to leave a wake-up call to this state's college coaches. I've crossed paths with quite a few talented young men this year who are ready for college and competition. Most of them are still waiting, in limbo. No offers, they say. I believe an NCAA national title is waiting for the coach who picks here, in his own backyard.



### The wrong approach

Jack Nicklaus II frowns after hitting an approach shot during Thursday's opening round of the state amateur golf tournament at Bay Hill Club. Nicklaus shot an 81. Story, C-3.

BOBBY COOK/RT/SENTINEL

# Championships routine in Rinker family



Four of the six Rinkers — from left, victorious Lee, father Laine, mother Pam and young Laurie.

BY ED HENDERSON

ORLANDO

Laine Rinker Sr. wanted his four children to be happy while they were growing up on his homeplace-farm at Stuart. But he also knew there were lessons in life to be learned. So he gave them a choice.

"When I took up the game 21 years ago, there was a course at home called Martin County G&CC. They had a \$15 youth membership. I told them they should learn golf or something else after school, or work on the farm."

Today, the Rinkers are an All-American golf family.

It was 21-year-old Lee's turn last Sunday at Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club. Lee had just beaten the awesome course, trounced the field and withstood staggering heat and humidity in impressive style to win the State Amateur Championship of the Florida State GA.

Mom and Dad and sister Laurie saw him do it.

There are four Rinker children, all of

whom played collegiate golf on scholarship.

There is Laine Jr., the eldest at 28. He played at Brevard and Indian River junior colleges and now is married to and caddying for Kellii Doherty Rinker during her rookie season on the LPGA Tour.

Larry, 24, won the state Jaycee junior one year and won the Southeastern Con-

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# Champs

continued from page one

ference individual title while at the University of Florida. He qualified for the PGA Tour last spring.

Lee said the last tournament he

remembers winning was a junior event in his age group when he was 13. But he was second in the Dixie Amateur in the winter and appears to be ready for a super senior year at the University of Alabama under coach Conrad Rehling. Lee sat out this year to work on his studies in finance.

And Laurie, at 19, is the darling. She'll be a senior next year at Florida. She has

the AIAW Championship yet to go this year, then it's the major amateur circuit. She won the 1980 U.S. Junior Girls and triumphed in the prestigious Doherty Challenge Cup early this year at Coral Ridge in Fort Lauderdale.

The Rinkers were a happy crew, happy for Lee, last Sunday.

"It doesn't surprise me he played that well," Laurie said. "When he finds it out

for himself, he'll play this well all the time."

Little sister is caught up in the family spirit.

"We all are pulling for each other. That's very helpful to all of us. I know I'm trying to keep up with them."

Laurie says she is gearing toward attempting to qualify for the LPGA Tour next summer.

She understands and appreciates what her parents did in encouraging them on.

"He tried to keep us occupied, I guess," Laurie said, adding that Mrs. Rinker (Pam) was the anchor at home.

Mr. Rinker, 48, came to Stuart in 1952 from Eastern Pennsylvania. He raised flowers on his farm until 1977. Now he's in real estate and playing at Sandpiper Bay.

"I have a positive philosophy," he said regarding children and junior golf. "Idle time has a lot to do with kids involved in drugs and alcohol. I think they should be either working or in athletics. Whatever they do, they have to be happy."

Perhaps it was an easier choice than one might think — working as opposed to playing golf for the Rinker children. You see, Mr. Rinker had an ace card.

"The school bus stopped at the entrance to the farm," he revealed, smiling.

So last week it was Lee who entered the limelight. Armed with new confidence, numerous major amateur tournaments will provide his summer challenge.

That, and keeping up with the other Rinkers.





# FSGA Amateur is blowout for Stuart's Lee Rinker

BY LARRY BUSH

ORLANDO

As Lee Rinker walked up the slope from the sixth green to the seventh tee Sunday, his University of Alabama golf bag slung over his weary shoulder, he sighed to his dad, Laine Sr., "I wish this was a nine-hole day."

The remark was prompted by the oppressive heat and humidity, each of which had climbed into the 90s to take a heavy toll among the players during the final round of the 65th annual State Amateur championship of the Florida State GA.

As if the grueling task of playing four competitive rounds on this long and demanding 7065-yard, par-71 Bay Hill Club course wasn't enough, the weather had been adding to the difficulty — a hurricane threat early on followed by occasional rain and steaming heat.

But on this day, whether or not Rinker would admit it to himself, nearly everyone else knew that nine holes would be enough.

On this day, the contest already was over. Rinker had made sure of that by expanding his lead from three to seven strokes on the first four holes of the final round.

He went on to win by 11, unprecedented in recent memory, according to veteran campaigners in Florida's oldest continuous sporting event, and awesome by all reckoning from his peers.

For the record, Rinker, 21, of Stuart totaled 282, 2-under par for the distance on rounds of 73-71-68-70. Tim Fieldhouse of Sarasota missed his high school graduation Saturday night to finish a distant second at 293 with a 78 in the final round.

The 16-year-old Fieldhouse had 70-73-72 the first three days, trailing by a

stroke after one round, sharing the lead after two and trailing by three after 54 holes.

Indeed, Fieldhouse's total was only one stroke higher than the winning scores posted by Mickey Van Gerbig in 1977, the last time the event was played at Bay Hill. And in two previous championships at Bay Hill, the winning scores were 290 by Bob Murphy in '65 and 291 by Gary Koch in '72.

Here's more on Rinker's performance: His third-round 68 was the low score of the tournament.

He was the only player to have more than one score of par or better, and he had three. And but for a triple-bogey 7 on the 18th in the first round, he would have had four.

And in each of the last three rounds, Rinker had or equaled the low score of the day.

Altogether, there were only seven scores under par and four at regulation 71.

Presumably, none of this was on Rinker's mind during the final round as those around him managed to self-destruct along the way, making his task all the easier.

"I just kept trying to play as hard as I could and concentrate on the yardages," he explained later. "Because of the difficulty of the course, no one could put any pressure on me. But I didn't know how any of the people in front of me were playing."

Not to worry.

Rumors circulated briefly that Jay Townsend of Tequesta had made the final turn in 2 under to close to plus-6, tied for second by still strokes behind Rinker, who had bogeyed the eighth and

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ninth, both times driving into fairway bunkers.

This later proved to be bad information as the scoreboard showed Townsend with 36-41-77 and a 298 total, tied for fourth with recent Alabama graduate John Keller of Pompano Beach.

Keller had moved into the picture with a 69 Saturday after opening with 79-74. But even had he cut another five strokes off his score Sunday, as he had the previous two days, it wouldn't have been enough to catch Rinker.

The University of Miami's John Pallot of Coral Gables was third at 297, his best effort being a second-round 71.

No one else broke 300, or averaged 75s for the weekend.

As long as they remain amateur and residents of Florida, Rinker, Fieldhouse, Pallot, Townsend and Keller will be exempt from qualifying for the '83 tournament, scheduled June 9-12 at Grenelefe in nearby Haines City.

While pro golf may be in Rinker's future, it seems likely he will return to defend in '83. He is scheduled for graduation next spring and it would seem he would remain amateur at least long enough to try and duplicate this year's awesome display of skill.

When advised next year's tournament would be at Grenelefe, Rinker shook his head and smiled. "Those courses may be more difficult than this one, but I know Bay Hill is fairer."

This will be the third time the FSGA's State Amateur will be played at Grenelefe. Jerry Pate won with 279 in 1974 and Glen Kirk with 290 in '76.

This year's event may have been one of the best, especially considering the high quality of the field. This was, in large part, because of the fact that qualifying was conducted around the state in May, trimming the list of 495 entries to 120, including eight who were exempt.

Among those at Bay Hill, only two scores in the 90s were posted and it took 158 to survive the 36-hole cut to the low 60 and ties. When the second round was completed, there were 59 players at 157 and seven more with 158 who were included in the final two rounds.

Billy Tuten of Palatka, still riding a high from the NCAA championship he and his teammates had captured a couple of weeks earlier at Pinehurst, N.C., grabbed a late share of the first-round lead, matching a 2-under total posted earlier in the day by Bob Stockman of Altamonte Springs. Fieldhouse was one back with 70, while veteran Bob Cornett of Tampa

was fourth with 71.

Stockman disappeared quickly the following day, going 7-over par on the first five holes on his way to 84-153. But to his credit, he battled back with 74-73 and was among three players at 300 when it was over.

Meanwhile, Fieldhouse and Tuten posted 73-74, respectively, and shared the halfway lead with 1-over 143s, while Rinker and Cornett were a stroke back at 144.

Rinker's marvelous third round, during which he overhauled 45-hole leader Tuten with an incoming 33, boosted the youngster into an unchallenged lead during the third round. Rinker had tied for second a year ago at the President Club in West Palm Beach.

Tuten came back Saturday with 41-76 and merely went through the motions Sunday for 86-305. "I'm just tired and frustrated," he had said after the third round. "It's happened a lot to me lately — I come out of the box playing well but can't make a putt. It's very frustrating."

Rinker made quick work of the final round Sunday.

He pitched within two feet for birdie at the first hole, picked up another stroke when Fieldhouse bogeyed the par-3 second, and was easily able to shake off a bogey at the third because Fieldhouse also was making 5; Cornett took 6.

Now leading Fieldhouse by five and Cornett by seven, Rinker took advantage of the two-stroke swing at the fourth hole, sinking a 15-foot birdie putt as Fieldhouse missed the green and two-putted for bogey.

Leading by six at the turn, Rinker hit every green on the back nine in regulation and made birdie putts of 10 and 12 feet at the 15th and 16th holes.

Fieldhouse three-putted the 15th and Cornett's wheels, and shoes, came off at the 16th as he had to climb into a creek to hit his third shot to the green, the first of two consecutive double bogeys.

Leading Fieldhouse and Cornett by nine and 13 shots respectively, at the 18th tee, Rinker was in the enviable position of knowing that even if the former made birdie, he could force a playoff with a 12.

"I guess that was the first time I really relaxed," Rinker said later.

Instead, it was the others who backed up. Fieldhouse hit his second shot into the water and took 6. Cornett ripped second over the green out of bounds, dropped and hit his fourth into a hazard to the right of the green, never to be seen again; his sixth over the green and out again, then finally he made 9 for 84 and 301.

And Rinker parred to make victory official, but the contest had ended many holes earlier.

# Pesacov sees long irons as key to defense of State Amateur title

BY LARRY BUSH

ORLANDO

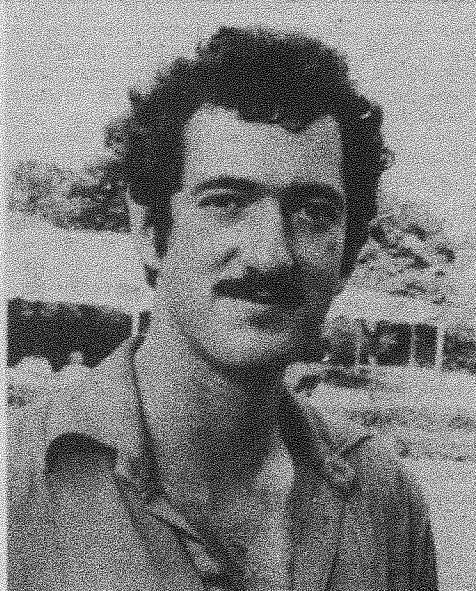
If Bay Hill is a long-iron course, as Dave Pesacov has been led to believe, then he came prepared this week to give himself every chance for a successful defense in the 65th annual State Amateur championship of the Florida State GA.

"Don Keppler (a Lake Park club-maker) made my 1-iron to my specifications," Pesacov said before leaving home earlier this week for the state's oldest continuous sporting event. "And I ordered another one from Ping. I understand I'll need to hit my long irons on that golf course."

Pesacov earned his State Amateur title last year at President CC in West Palm Beach, using every bit of local knowledge he had obtained in working at the club several years in bag storage and other assorted jobs.

His defense was to begin Thursday as he faced a field of 119 challengers to his title, including former champions Jack Veghte of Clearwater (1968, '75) and Mickey Van Gerbig of Palm Beach ('77).

Joining Pesacov, Veghte and Van Gerbig among the players exempt from qualifying late last month were Lee Rinker of Stuart, who tied for second behind Pesacov in 1981, and the top four players in the Florida Mid-Amateur in April at the Ravines GC in Middleburg.



Dave Pesacov

mostly in timing and ball placement at address. I just hope to be as consistent as I was last year."

Pesacov still bristles at suggestions that his was a cheap win in '81 because he had the advantage of playing a course in

which he was familiar in front of people he knew while staying at home every night.

While acknowledging that all these factors were in his favor, he adds, "I still had to hit the shots ... there wasn't anyone out there doing that for me. And in a lot of cases, it's harder playing at home because people expect more from you."

"Maybe, if I win again this year, people won't be able to say things about my winning last year ... and I've heard it all, too."

It should be noted at this point that there hasn't been a back-to-back winner of the FSGA State Amateur since Bob Murphy, now a veteran touring pro, succeeded in 1965 at Bay Hill and '66 at Lost Tree in North Palm Beach.

Other State Amateur winners at Bay Hill, which will be hosting for the fourth time, were Gary Koch, also a touring pro, in 1972, and Van Gerbig.

For the record, Murphy shot 290, Koch, 291, and Van Gerbig, 292.

Pesacov posted a 295 last year.

While there was no handicap limit this year for the State Amateur, which drew 496 entries, the eight regional qualifying sites insured a quality field. Only three of the eight sites qualified anyone shooting scores as high as 77.

Here is a summary of the regional qualifying by site, medalist, hometown, score and high qualifying score in parenthesis:

— West Orange, Winter Garden — Steve Czupka, Orlando, 68 (75).

— Innisbrook, Tarpon Springs — Bob Cornett, Tampa, 68 (75)

— Hidden Hills, Jacksonville — Billy Tuten, Palatka, 70 (75).

— Rio Pinar, Orlando — Jimmy Morris, Bartow, 71 (77).

— Plantation, Venice — Earl Gibson, Sarasota, and Barry Cheesman, Fort Myers, 71 (76).

— Lely Royal Palm, Naples — Nolan Henke, Fort Myers, 72 (76).

— Frenchman's Creek, North Palm Beach — Adolfo Pena, Clewiston, 72 (77).

— Bay Point, Panama City — Carl Pederson, Fort Walton Beach, and Keith Kulzer, Ormond Beach, 74 (77).

This column continued on next page.



The latter quarter included Steve Carman of Orange Park, runner-up Terry Collins of Homosassa and the beaten semifinalists Gary Martinet of Winter Springs and Gary Frazier of Delray Beach.

The FSGA State Amateur continues through Sunday over the course owned by a group headed by Arnold Palmer. After 36 holes, the field will be cut to the low 60 and ties and all those within 12 strokes of the leader.

A native of North Palm Beach — he has lived in the same house for all his 21 years — the strapping, 6-3, 190 Pesacov is a junior at the University of North Carolina.

He has played only three competitive rounds since January's International Four-Ball when he and his partner finished second.

But this lack of preparation apparently doesn't worry Pesacov too much.

"It was the same last year," he points out. "I came home from school where I hadn't played much or worked on my game for two or three weeks. I've done exactly the same thing this year — practiced two or three hours a day in addition to playing some, too."

Of course, he doesn't have the advantage of being as familiar with Bay Hill as he was with the South course at the President Club. Indeed. He never has seen Bay Hill except on television.

"I've made one change in my swing since last year," he noted. "At the President, all of the trouble is on the left side, so I worked on hitting everything left-to-right.

"The changes I'm making now are

# Fieldhouse, Tuten share lead in state amateur

By Bob Fowler

OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

They may call the left-field wall in Boston's Fenway Park the "Green Monster," but Bay Hill's back-breaking, ego-deflating golf course is one. Just ask the state's top men amateurs after two battles against it.

Again Friday it reached out like something emerging from Loch Ness to claim several victims. After 36 holes in the 65th state amateur championship, no one had broken par or matched it.

Tim Fieldhouse, the 16-year-old redhead from England who will miss his high school graduation ceremonies tonight in Sarasota, shared the second-round lead at 1-over 143 with Palatka's Billy Tuten, a 20-year-old member of the University of Houston's NCAA championship team.

Fieldhouse shot a 2-over 73 while Tuten, playing in the same foursome, posted a 74.

Lee Rinker of Stuart and the University of Alabama was one of two players who matched par with a 71 on the 7,065-yard track that was allegedly designed by the Marquis de Sade and toughened by Arnold Palmer. That left him tied for third at 144 with 43-year-old Bob Cornett (71-73), who owns a manufacturing firm in Tampa.

Clearwater's Jack Veghte, a three-time champion (1968-70-75), managed a 72 and was only 2 shots out of the lead at 145. So was Kevin Janiga of Lake Placid and the University of Tennessee (73-72).

John Pallot of Coral Gables and the University of Miami had the other 71 for a 146 total.

They were the survivors. As for the others . . .

Bob Stockman, the co-leader after the first round with a 69, bogeyed the first hole, double-bogeyed the second, double-bogeyed the third, parred the fourth and bogeyed the fifth en route to an 84.

"Everything that could go wrong did," he said.

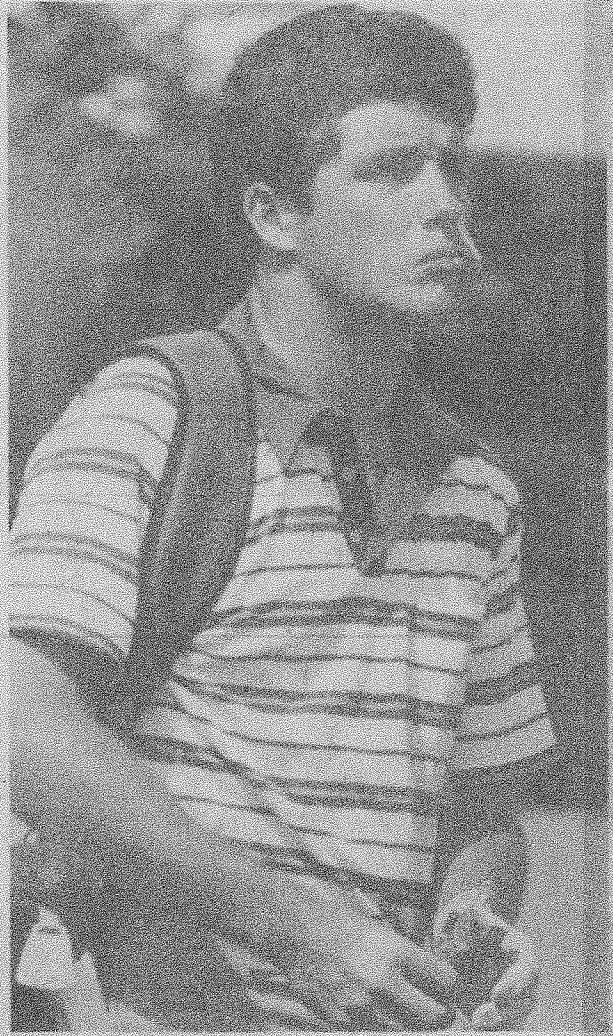
Nolan Henke returned from his high school graduation Thursday night in Fort Myers to post an 81 after an opening 73.

Dave Davis, the oldest player in the tournament at 58, followed a 74 with an 86 for a 160. He wasn't among the 67 who made the cut of 158.

John Dickey, the youngest player at age 15, had a 77 for a 153 total. But Dickey, a neighbor of Jack Nicklaus, said he was upset with his putting.

"I'm going to buy a putter I liked in a store window," he said. "Maybe I can make birdies with it."

Another of his neighbors, Jack Nicklaus II, missed the cut with rounds of 81-83. As for other sons of



ANDREW HICKMAN/SENTINEL

Co-leader Billy Tuten has a snack on No. 1 tee.

famous touring pros, Chris Souchak (80-83) missed the cut and Dave Ragan III (79-78) made it.

Defending champion Dave Pesacov was at 156 after a round of 80 in which he hit three balls into the lake between Nos. 3 and 6.

Fieldhouse, starting on the back nine, was 2 under until he three-putted the third hole. Then he hit a drive into a fairway trap at No. 4 that led to a double-bogey and missed the green at No. 5 for another bogey.

Tuten said, "I hit the ball better than Thursday, but couldn't make any putts. My only birdie (No. 6) came when I chipped within inches."

"There's just no let up, no easy hole," Cornett told Bay Hill's head pro, Dick Tiddy, who smiled knowingly.

Later Tiddy said, "We had the tees back, but the pins in the middle of the greens. We'll give them some good tournament pin placements Saturday."

And there was another monstrous smile.

☐ Scores . . . page C-6

# Rinker leads by 3 in state amateur

By Bob Fowler

OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

The 65th men's state amateur golf championship may have been decided Saturday on Bay Hill's treacherous 18th hole.

When the third round's final threesome played that 456-yard finishing hole with a lake guarding the green's right side, a 2-shot swing occurred. And that left Lee Rinker of Stuart and the University of Alabama with a 3-stroke lead entering today's final 18 holes.

Rinker started the day 1 shot behind Tim Fieldhouse, a 16-year-old from Sarasota via England, and Palatka's Billy Tuten of the University of Houston.

But 17 holes later, he was in front of Fieldhouse by a stroke and led Tuten by 5. After the challengers hit their second shots into the lake, leading to double bogeys, Rinker played a 3-iron to the green and two-putted for a par.

He finished with a 3-under-par 68 — the low round of the tournament and a 212 total. Fieldhouse had a 72 for a 215.

Bob Cornett, the 43-year-old owner of a Tampa manufacturing company, was third at 217 after a 73 and Tuten was fourth at 219 following a 76.

"A lot will be determined on the front nine," Rinker said of today's finale. "We'll see how my nerves are then. If I get off to a good start, I'll be okay."

If he doesn't, the Florida State Golf Association will still have a tournament.

Good start or not, Rinker may be ready to win. This is his seventh state amateur appearance, his best previous showing coming last year when he shared second place, a shot behind Dave Pesacov.

"The closest I got was 1 shot back," he said. "On that last round, I got off to a shaky start

and closed fast."

Rinker birdied the fifth and sixth holes by sinking putts of 6 feet. He bogeyed No. 8, hitting over the green. And on No. 10, he pulled a 9-iron second shot wide left for a bogey.

"It was a stupid shot," he said. "I tried to hit an easy 9-iron and got too cute. But I made a 20-footer on the 11th hole for a birdie that got me going."

After sinking a 15-footer on No. 13 for another birdie, he said he was "pumped up."

On the 14th tee, he said to a friend, "This is where the golf course starts."

It was hot and muggy and Tuten began to fade with bogeys. But Fieldhouse still was 1 under.

Rinker chipped in from 25 feet for a birdie on No. 15 to go 3 under and the teen-ager bogeyed the 16th by missing the green to the left with a 2-iron. But on the 223-yard 17th, he hit a 4-iron within 2 feet for a birdie.

Then came his double on No. 18.

There will be some interesting aspects to today's final threesome. Cornett will be older than the combined ages of his two playing partners, but friends say he's at his best when there's additional pressure.

Fieldhouse is sure to better his 28th- and 13th-place finishes in previous state amateurs — a good way to end high school and prepare to enter Wake Forest next fall on an Arnold Palmer scholarship.

What about Rinker, younger brother of Larry Rinker, former Space Coast star now on the PGA Tour?

"There would be a lot of prestige in winning," he said. "That would get me invitations to a lot of big amateur tournaments this summer."

"It would put me a notch up on Larry, too. He never won this tournament."

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# Stockman, Tuten fire 69, hold state amateur lead

By Bob Fowler

OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

When 120 of the state's top amateur golfers finished playing 18 holes at Bay Hill Thursday, they looked as if they had competed in the Boston Marathon. They were sweating, tired, whipped . . . and amazed that Andy Bean shot a 62 on the track last year with torn ligaments in his left hand.

"That was awesome, unbelievable," said Bob Stockman of Altamonte Springs, who shared the opening-round lead in the 65th men's state amateur tournament with Palatka's Billy Tuten. Each posted a 2-under-par 69 while Tim Fieldhouse, a 16-year-old from Sarasota, managed a 70.

With overcast skies and gusting winds, they were the only players to break par. Bob Cornett of Tampa was the one survivor at par 71. Oviedo's Bill Byrne was alone at 1-over 72. Three-time winner Jack Veghte of Clearwater was among eight at 73 while defending champion Dave Pesacov of North Palm Beach had a 76.

Meanwhile, 52 players couldn't break 80 and two more withdrew rather than play a second humbling round today.

Introducing those atop the leaderboard:

Stockman is 27, a native of Maitland and a graduate of Lyman High School and Florida Institute of Technology. He runs a harness and saddle shop across from Ben White Raceway, a business founded by his father, a former harness driver.

He took a philosophical view of his position, saying, "You can't play this course without making a bogey, so my goal was to not make a double bogey. I succeeded, but tomorrow's another day. I mean before Bean, Al Johns had the course record here, a 63, and shot 80 the next day."

Should Stockman falter, it's unlikely he'll change. "My professional aspirations are behind me," he says. "I'm a businessman now. Golf will always be with me, but I won't lose sleep over it."

Not the way he played Round One. He started at No. 10 with a bogey, but sank putts of 7 and 8 feet for birdies on No. 13 and 14. A bogey at No. 15 was offset with a 5-foot birdie putt two holes later. He birdied the fourth with a 35-footer, bogeyed No. 8 and finished by sinking a 40-footer for a birdie.

Stockman held the lead until the final foursome completed its round — Tuten matching the 69 and Fieldhouse carding his 70.

Tuten, 20 years old and a junior on the University of Houston's NCAA championship team, was in contention for this title last year until the final few holes, finishing eighth.

"I was steady at Houston, always in the top 10," he said as he relaxed at Bay Hill's swimming pool. "But I never won a tournament. While our team did well, the year was a little disappointing for me."

So was his first drive, a hook into the woods on the par-5 first hole. He got out, hit a wedge within 25 feet, and made the putt for a birdie and said, "That pumped me up."

Yes, he bogeyed the sixth hole when he hit into the lake, but birdied the seventh with a 6-footer and the ninth with a 30-footer. Birdie putts of 30 and 5 feet at No. 12 and 13 left him at 4-under par, but he bogeyed the the final two holes.

Among the leaders, Fieldhouse had the steadiest round with three birdies and two bogeys. He may be 16, but he's a "veteran."

"I hope I've improved," he said referring to his family's move from England to Florida three years ago. "I practice every day. Losing 25 pounds (he weighs 163) since November has helped, too. I feel better, I move better, and I have more endurance."

He'll need that latter quality during the next three days at Bay Hill, as 119 other amateurs can attest.

□ Scores . . . page C-6

BY ED HENDERSON

ORLANDO

Billy Tuten is one of those people just born to play golf.

And the fact that he realizes and accepts his reason for being is why he hasn't stayed down long during his rare down periods.

The pride of Palatka, Tuten talked about his life in golf during the recent Florida State GA State Amateur at Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club. He's a rising senior on the national champion University of Houston team.

Before considering Tuten's chances for future stardom, consider his stellar record.

His junior career was climaxed by a runner-up finish in the 1979 U.S. Junior Boys at Moss Creek on Hilton Head Island, S.C.

Tuten won in the International Pee Wee four times. He won the Florida Junior Invitational and Florida Junior PGA three times each. He won the Southern Junior twice and at the age of 18 set the record in winning the Future Masters with an 8-under-par total. Also in '79, he finished second in the American Junior GA Tournament of Champions and Orange Bowl Junior.

He would go on in that same summer of '79 to win a match in the U.S. Amateur.

In the fall of '79, he won two collegiate tournaments in his first semester at Houston. The following semester, though, he slumped.

In the summer of '80, Tuten reached the semifinals of the national Public Links after having claimed medalist honors.

Last year, he won the Dixie Amateur, head-to-head against Hal Sutton.

Last summer, Tuten began working on swing changes. The transition caused him to play poorly until he broke through again in the Public Links. He was runner-up to Jodie Mudd in the 36-hole final, losing 3 and 2.

This year, Tuten averaged 72.5 for Houston. He shot 301 in the national tournament at Pinehurst, N.C., with only his 75 the last day counting in the team total.

After his fast start as a freshman at Houston, Tuten's grades and game slipped, so he left school briefly and recovered at Santa Fe, a junior college in Gainesville.

He has never been one to give up. The U.S. Junior defeat in '79 could have crushed his spirit. He lost to Georgian



Billy Tuten

Jack Larkin on the final hole. Tuten's drive to the 18th came to rest too close to a tree for him to take a free swing.

"I'd won too much to let that bother me," he said. "I still think about it. I think, 'I wish that drive had cut just a little on the last hole.' But it's not like Ed Sneed at the Masters or anything."

Tuten was introduced to golf at the age of 7 by his mother, who took her son to the course when she played in the women's league at Palatka GC.

In the past year, Tuten has worked to change his swing under the guidance of Ernie Vaderson of Jacksonville.

Tuten's junior swing was shaped by Ivan Gantz, a West Palm Beach pro.

"We've been working on the lateral move," Tuten said. "What I had been playing was a blocked cut, not a released shot. I'm standing closer to the ball, with my hands higher at address. I've gone from a rigid swing to one more flowing, with better hand action. It's a swing I can use past age 40."

Tuten also has found confidence off the tee in a metal driver.

He regrets that he hasn't been able to play amateur golf nationwide. He has a goal of playing in a PGA Tour event as an amateur.

This summer, the expense of touring will limit his schedule to the Rice Planters Amateur, near Charleston, S.C., the Public Links, a few local events and the U.S. Amateur.

He feels he can win the Rice Planters, which is played on a relatively short, tight course. And he wants to reach the semis of the Amateur, so he can play in the Masters.

In the FSGA championship, Tuten was atop the leaderboard through the first two rounds, but he finished 76-86 in the

Born to play-



## Pride of Palatka won't look back

sweltering heat.

After the second round, he admitted that his heart wasn't where he wanted it.

"I know I'm not nearly enthused as I should be," he said. "It's like I'm playing in Orlando this week, and where will it be next week?"

Over the years, Tuten's physical appearance has changed to the point where you wouldn't recognize him if you had just seen him in his junior days.

Now 5-11, Tuten has abandoned wire-rimmed glasses. When he was 19, he weighed 188. Last summer, it was an all-time low of 158. Now he's leveled off at 175. His hair is beginning to gray. But he can handle that. It's hereditary, not caused by stress.

Of course there is pressure playing at Houston. There are 19 players on the squad.

"The first year, I was too young to know pressure. I didn't worry about playing bad or the coach getting on me. Now the pressure for me is for the team to win tournaments."

Playing for coach Dave Williams is tough. His doghouse has many rooms. Shooting 80 gets you in. But Williams' teams have won the NCAA 14 times in his 31 years. That's better than John Wooden's record in basketball at UCLA.

The stars he's turned out include Homero Blancas, Bill Rogers, Bruce Lietzke, Keith Fergus, John Mahaffey and Ed Fiori.

"A lot of coaches don't like him because he wins so much," Tuten said. "I went out there to visit and thought, 'If he's that bad, how does he get such good players.'"

That was good enough for Tuten. Besides, "Florida offered me chicken feed."

Billy's biggest supporter always has been his father, Bill Sr., 52, an athletic

director at the local community college.

"I'm dedicated to the game," Billy said. "I expect a lot, but I put a lot into it. My only regret is that when I was young, I wish someone had guided me in chipping and putting. I'm still not a good enough putter, mechanically. I have terrible eyesight. I've always hit the ball a lot better than most of my opponents, but I've lost a lot by putting bad, rather than won a lot by putting well."

During the week at Bay Hill, Tuten was quite relaxed. The press had to fish him out of the pool for interviews.

"This tournament is like a vacation," he said. "I haven't hit a practice ball since I've been here. At 5:30, I'll go fishing."

Tuten simply does not worry.

"I'm not one to dwell on the past, whether it's good or bad. I do wish I'd been more mature when I started in college. I got mixed up with guys who didn't have a chance of making the team anyway.

"Degrees never meant anything to me because golf is going to be my life. A diploma on the wall is a conversation piece. Even if I get out there on tour and don't make it at first, I'll work like hell. I know I've got enough talent. I've got a head on my shoulders. And I've done something about my temper.

"There's no doubt in my mind I can do it. I've put in so much time, I'm not going to let it go to waste."

His low round at home is a 62.

"I've always been a good pressure player. I don't think it'll matter whether it's for a silver cup or five Gs."



## Bob Fowler

GOLF

### In sports or life, he'll never quit

**S**EVERAL players failed to turn in scorecards due to frustration or embarrassment during the first two rounds of the men's state amateur golf championship at Bay Hill. But not Mickey van Gerbig, despite a hook here and a slice there that produced a few high numbers. Quit? Never.

Some amateurs withdrew due to nagging aches and pains. But not Mickey van Gerbig, despite suffering a succession of ailments that would awe the staff on "General Hospital."

They say golf can be a humbling game. Life can be that, too.

Mickey van Gerbig is 41, a former vintage golfer (1959-63) at Rollins College, a resident of Palm Beach, wealthy. A man with memories of those days when life was a driver and a wedge.

In 1967, he became co-owner with his brother of a National Hockey League expansion franchise, the California Golden Seals. A few years later, the brothers sold it to Charlie Finley for twice what they had paid, "although we were losing \$1 million a year."

After that, well, there was his law practice — his firm represents the PGA of America. A social circle including friends such as Frank Sinatra and Ted Kennedy. And golf. In 1977 he won the state amateur title at Bay Hill.

He was endowed with blond hair, handsome features, big bucks and no cares — each hour was a day at the beach. He never left home without his calling card, a smile.

His parade encountered rain for the first time in 1979. One of his best friends, Carroll Rosenbloom, owner of the Los Angeles Rams, was drowned. More gloom followed with a divorce.

Late that summer, recurring stomach pains that were doubling him up in agony became so violent he sought expert advice in Houston. Doctors made the diagnosis — cancer. Lymphoma. In October, they removed his stomach and spleen.

For the next 2½ years, he spent more time in hospitals than out of them. He developed glaucoma and cataracts in both eyes from the chemotherapy treatments for cancer.

His vision became almost nil. His pain was so severe he contemplated suicide. He relied on drugs to ease the hurt and became hooked . . . not once or twice, but six times an addict.

He would kick his habit, start to cry in pain, and begin popping pills again.

Once tanned and glowing, looking very much like Palm Beach wealth, he became so weak and sickly, his skin so gray, that he only let a few friends see him. He developed such a state of depression that he considered death a viable alternative.

Yet he didn't want to die without some feeling of accomplishment — "without dignity," he said. He had no kids, no wife, no family. So he began giving away his money. He ordered attorneys to donate funds to people he had met along the way who were less fortunate financially.

A caddy, a cart shop operator, an assistant pro, a nice guy, several people started receiving money from an anonymous source. He refused to let anyone know of his gifts until after his death.

He also set up college scholarship funds for kids who couldn't afford advanced educations. And he made big donations to charities. While he couldn't give away all his money, he gave himself peace of mind. He was going out of his way.

Those who benefited are still asking questions. Who? Why? No one can answer because Mickey van Gerbig has beaten a most challenging course, one with cancer, drug addiction, divorce, blindness and depression as hazards. In a sudden-death playoff,

Please see FOWLER, C-9

# FOWLER

From C-1

he triumphed 1-up.

Van Gerbig sat in the Bay Hill locker room Friday. He had just posted rounds of 88 and 85 to miss the cut by several strokes. He didn't care. Why worry about a few bogeys when you're tan again and your weight (150 pounds) is almost what it had been?

He only resumed playing golf four months ago. At first, he was afraid to try it. He feared he couldn't see the ball because he was virtually blind.

His left eye is almost worthless. An implant provides some sight in his right eye. He has no depth perception and when he lines up a putt beyond 20 feet, he sees two cups.

"I'll never forget my first shot," van Gerbig said of his comeback. "I hit the ball and saw it until it started to come down. That was an incredible moment, an incredible feeling because I knew I could play again."

Almost as incredible was his score that day — a 79. Since then, although still regaining his strength, he has had a couple of rounds in the 60s.

"For over two years, I thought I'd never play

golf, do anything again," he said. "Now, I still think — about how I want to live.

"I don't want to wear this like a badge, I want to be treated like anyone else. Also, I want to talk about it. Cancer is a hush-hush word, but I feel we should face it, discuss it."

That's why van Gerbig makes speeches, does volunteer work. He donates time and more money to others while attempting to pick up the pieces of his golf game and life.

"Cancer hangs over my head daily," he said. "Every time I have a headache I wonder if it's a tumor. Each time I have a pain, I think I'm sick again.

"I've learned to live with that. I've also learned you can't make it in life without friends. "I'm lucky to have so many good friends. Like Toni Handegard. I couldn't have made it without her. She's been with me every moment for the past year and a half, stayed with me through the worst of times.

"Now, maybe there will be some good times. I can see. I can eat. And I can play golf."

With that, Mickey van Gerbig walked out of Bay Hill's locker room. He picked up his golf bag and looped its strap over a shoulder. He placed his free arm around Toni's waist and began walking toward the parking lot.

He was the tournament's true winner — a champion with more than a trophy.



ANDREW HICKMAN/SENTINEL

Van Gerbig won the 1977 state amateur.

By Bob Fowler

OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

Those competing in the men's state amateur golf tournament have outstanding talent, but they're interesting off the course, too.

For instance, Nolan Henke of Fort Myers fled Bay Hill Club after shooting a 2-over-par 73 in Thursday's opening round. He rushed home to change clothes so he could attend his high school graduation ceremony.

Meanwhile, Tim Fieldhouse, the 16-year-old native of England who moved to Sarasota three years ago and took night classes so he could graduate early, hopes to miss a similar ceremony Saturday night. He says he would prefer to stay at Bay Hill and rest to challenge for the championship Sunday.

He just may do that, too, after shooting a 1-under 70 — one of three sub-par rounds Thursday.

Oh, yes, next year he'll be attending Wake Forest on an Arnold Palmer scholarship.

Then there was Dennis McLain, who won the Cy Young award when he was a pitcher with Detroit, shooting a 78 despite a bogey on the 456-yard 18th hole — hitting such a mammoth drive that he only had a 9-iron left to the green "and I dumped it in the water."

And there was John Dickey and Dave Davis. Despite their unique positions in the field of 120 players, they shared a common bond — a philosophy on how to play successful golf.

At 15, Dickey is the youngest player in the field while Davis, 58, is the oldest.

Dickey lives with his parents at Lost Tree Village in North Palm Beach where the neighbor three houses away is Jack Nicklaus. Gary Nicklaus, who is 13, is a teammate of Dickey's on the Benjamin School squad.

"Mr. Nicklaus watches our team practice a lot," John said. "When he does, he conducts clinics. He helps by pointing out our mistakes, mistakes he says he made when he was young.

"He's been a great help to me. If I have a problem, I'll go to his house and he'll get out a club and say, 'Let's see what we can do about that.' Then he'll give me a lesson and correct my problem. He's real nice that way."

After a 76, it seems Dickey

must have few problems.

"I try to be consistent," he said. "I'll hit 14 or 15 greens a round. Putting makes the difference for me, that's the most erratic part of my game."

That was a problem Davis shared on the final hole — he three-putted for a bogey to finish at 74.

He's a pathologist in St. Petersburg who says being the eldest in the tournament has no special meaning. "It just makes me feel old," he says.

Davis says he's able to compete with younger players because of his conservative style.

"I don't take wild chances," he said. "After you've been hurt as many times as I've been hurt on golf courses, you become cautious."

**NOTES:** Bob Stockman, who shared the first-round lead with a 69, recently won the Rolling Hills club championship with a par on the 72nd hole for an 8-under total while Jack Shubert bogeyed the hole to finish a shot behind. Peggy Brass again won the ladies' championship with a 304 total. Barbara Breen was second at 324. . . The most difficult hole at Bay Hill for the state's top amateurs was, of course, No. 18. Scott Gump of Merritt Island had a right to be grumpy after taking an 11 on that 456-yard finishing hole for an 83. Barry Cheesman of Fort Myers had a 9 there for an 81 and Charles Stewart of Daytona Beach had a 9 for an 82. . . .

Youngest, oldest  
state am golfers  
share philosophies