

RESULTS OF FLORIDA STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

JUNE 22-23 AT INDIGO LAKES (DAYTONA BEACH):

- 144 - Jeff Foster, Ponte Vedra, 72-72.
- 146 - ² Scott Ford, Lake Worth, 70-76; ² Fred Simons, Winter Park, 69-77.
- 147 - ⁴ T.R. Bowser, Valrico, 69-78; ⁴ Michael Sposa, Tamarac, 73-74;
⁴ Steve O'Neill Zephyrhills, 75-72.
- 148 - ⁷ Steve Stagg, Tampa, 77-71; ⁷ David Hyman, Orlando, 77-71.
- 149 - ⁹ Johnny Secunda, Pompano Beach, 71-78.
- 150 - ¹⁰ Anthony Mascia, Orlando, 75-75; ¹⁰ Hiroshi Matsuo, Hollywood, 74-76.
- 151 - ¹² Steve Ferguson, Daytona Beach, 79-72; ¹² Andrew Purnell, Jacksonville, 76-75; ¹² Mike Erickson, Maitland, 74-77; ¹² John Hiland, Winter Park, 75-76; ¹² Gary Griffith, Fort Pierce, 77-74; ¹² Todd Brown, Altamonte Springs, 78-73; ¹² Doug Flynn, Sarasota, 72-79.
- 152 - Eric Brito, Atlantic Beach, 78-74; Glenn Miciotta, Plantation, 76-76.
- 153 - Greg Krak, Palm Beach Gardens, 72-81; Jeff Susdorf, Ocala, 80-73;
 Marshall Boatright, Jacksonville, 77-76.
- 154 - Chris DiMarco, Longwood, 73-81; Anthony Ballestrero, Orlando, 74-80;
 Scott Brown, Lakeland, 75-79.
- 155 - Bill Moore, Tallahassee, 77-78; John Tighe, Lake Worth, 79-76;
 Gareth Henning, St. Cloud, 78-77.
- 156 - Mitch Benjamin, Dunedin, 78-78; Keith Albritton, Lakeland, 75-81.
- 157 - Danny Dloughty, Port St. Lucie, 76-81; Phillip Pitts, Coral Springs, 76-81; Eric Williams, Lakeland, 81-76; John Finster, Tampa, 77-80.
- 158 - Darrell Bryant, Holly Hill, 78-80; Ryan Konkus, Stuart, 79-79;
 Richard Kaufman, Tampa, 79-79; George Thayer, Sarasota, 79-79;
 Mark Lofye, Venice, 80-78; Buster Chapman, Fort Pierce, 82-76;
 Lee Manly, Clearwater, 74-84.
- 159 - Jeff Harris, Winter Park, 80-79; Mark Dummett, West Palm Beach, 79-80;
 Scott Baker, Cocoa, 78-81; Ken McKenna, Orlando, 79-80;
 Art Rios, St. Petersburg, 78-81.
- 160 - Jeff Wilson, Port Orange, 79-81.
- 161 - John Pochis, Crystal River, 76-85; Gary Nicklaus, North Palm Beach 80-81;
 Chad Ibbotson, Longwood, 80-81; Robbie Davis, Lakeland 80-81;
 Billy McGriff, Jacksonville, 79-82; Rod Leek, Winter Park, 83-78;
 Brent Beadling, Jacksonville, 81-80.

- 162 - Dan Walters, Sarasota, 82-80; Tom Richards, Lakeland, 78-84;
Billy Speckman, Jacksonville, 80-82.
- 163 - Chip Lafferty, Longwood, 86-77; Mark Colton, North Palm
Beach, 80-83.
- 164 - Russell Pitts, Coral Springs, 78-86; Craig Cabaniss, Longwood, 85-79.
- 165 - Rolf Riechmann, Orange Park, 84-81; David Jones, Port Orange,
85-80.
- 166 - John Pettit, Winter Springs, 80-86; Bob Wright, Englewood,
82-84; Gilbert Sanchez, 88-78; Michael Malizia, Palm City,
81-85.
- 167 - Edward Ortega, Hollywood, 88-79; Bill Pennypacker, Coral Springs,
86-81; Bo Howard, New Smyrna Beach, 84-83; Robert Redshaw,
Jacksonville, 86-81.
- 168 - David Gagnan, Port St. Lucie, 86-82; Jay McWilliams, Palm City,
84-84; Forrest Brewer, Stuart, 87-81.
- 169 - Roger Hendrickson, Deltona, 87-82.
- 171 - Robert Gazzoli, Palm Coast, 79-92.
- 172 - Mike Melton, Fort Pierce, 89-83.
- 173 - Brian Kerns, Lighthouse Point, 89-84.
- 175 - Brian Gazzoli, Palm Coast, 87-88.
- 178 - David Drewski, Palm City, 89-89.
- 179 - Justin Wyatt, Winter Park, 92-87.
- 180 - Thomas Caravati, Ormond Beach, 94-86.
- 181 - Marty Lemus, Orlando, 89-92.
- 182 - Jeff Stalcup, Lake Park, 89-93.
- 189 - Mark Jannetty, 92-97.
- DNF - Richard Ames, Jacksonville Beach, 82; Rod Malcolmson, Stuart,
84; Stan Mikalonis, Orlando, 83; Greg Swaitkowski, Windermere,
82; Andy Williams, Seminole, 82; Patrick Janis, Sarasota, 83.

12-14 DIVISION

- 153 - Chris Chuck, Jacksonville, 74-79.
- 160 - Jonathan Toland, East Palatka, 79-81.
- 162 - Bobby Doolittle, Lighthouse Point, 78-84.
- 164 - Tino Rugerio, Orlando, 88-86; B.J. Rinaldo, Zephyrhills, 80-84.
- 167 - Steve Pochis, Crystal River, 77-89; Daniel Stone, St. Petersburg, 86-81.
- 169 - Charles Walters, Sarasota, 86-83.
- 171 - P.J. Navaretta, Stuart, 88-83; Trent Collins, Windermere, 88-83.
- 176 - Sebastian Camillo, Gainesville, 90-86; Brad Lanning, Sarasota, 81-95; Dow Knight, Stuart, 85-91.
- 178 - Charles Lambert, Ponte Vedra, 88-90; Paul Tynan, Longwood, 91-87.
- 179 - Tom MacKay, New Smyrna Beach, 90-89.
- 183 - Donny Hacker, Port Orange, 90-93; Steve McWilliams, Palm City, 92-91.
- 194 - Derrick Cox, Dunedin, 104-90.
- 207 - Chris Craig, St. Augustine, 109-98.

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Ponte Vedra's Foster makes winning decision

By Bob Fowler

OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

DAYTONA BEACH — About two years ago, at age 13, Jeff Foster of Ponte Vedra made an important career decision.

He quit competing in baseball, football, basketball and soccer, and started playing golf. He knew Sunday he made the right move.

Foster shot par 72 for a second consecutive round at Indigo Lakes Country Club to capture the Boys' State Junior championship.

He edged Fred Simons III of Winter Park and Scott Ford of Lake Worth by two strokes.

"I felt I had a better chance to make something of myself in golf," said Foster, who will be a junior in high school in September.

"So, I started chipping and put-

ting in the backyard and kept getting better."

Now he hopes to attend college on a golf scholarship and eventually become a touring pro.

If nothing else, his experiences of the past few weeks should make him a top prep player in Florida the next two years.

Foster qualified for the State Amateur at Sawgrass and, as the youngest player in the field, outperformed many elders by shooting 84-78 to make the cut. His final two rounds on the long and demanding wind-swept course were 80-81.

"I've played Sawgrass a lot from the back tees," he said. "But not in wind like that."

Indigo Lakes, playing at 6,400 yards with gusting wind, was no day at the beach, either.

Simons and T.R. Bowser of Valrico had shared the opening-

round lead with 69s.

But en route to a 77 and a 78 respectively, they had troublesome front nines that made several others title contenders.

Foster started play three shots behind the leaders. But he birdied four of the first seven holes.

"I had started that way in the first round," he said. "I was 5 under after 10 holes, then I had problems.

"This time, someone told me I had a chance to win ... and I started thinking about my score. I became too conservative."

He hit his second shot on that par-5 eighth hole into a palmetto bush for a double bogey.

Foster then bogeyed No. 10 when he missed the green. He followed a birdie at the 12th hole with another double bogey on the 13th.

"I tried not to let that shake me

up," he said. "I felt I was out of the lead and concentrated on pars."

Concentrate he did, making par on the next five holes.

Simons rallied on the back nine. On the par-5 15th, he pulled his drive into the rough, then hit his next shot into water for a double bogey.

"I should have won, I had my chance," Simons, 17, said. "I tried to hit a 3-wood out of that rough instead of an iron and came over the top of it."

On No. 17, Foster started realizing what had happened.

"I looked around and there were people suddenly following my group. 'Someone said, 'Keep making pars and you can win.'

"That made me very nervous for my drive on No. 18. But I hit it into the fairway."

□ Scores ... page D-6

Jack Was Here, But Memories Hardly Golden

THE MEMORY is fading, as memories will, but it's still there. The newspaper clippings, also fading, confirm the memory.

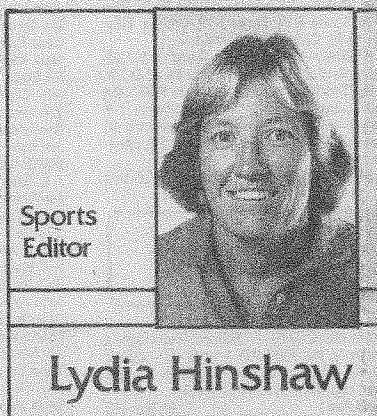
Jack Nicklaus, in town for a few hours Friday to help his strapping teenage son prepare for the Florida State Junior Golf Championships at Indigo, was asked if he'd ever played in Daytona Beach. He said yes, then racked his brain for the next two holes trying to recall a date and further details of his first visit here.

"Barbara will remember," he said. But all Barbara Nicklaus could remember was that she has never been here before.

It was not an important point, but because a writer had asked the question, the Nicklauses gave it a good try. All Jack could come up with was that he came here for an exhibition match, that a woman named Gloria had driven him around town and that he had had his picture taken flinging a pelota against the wall at the jai alai fronton.

A PHOTOGRAPH of a younger Nicklaus in the News-Journal files gave the vital clue. It was shot by a staff photographer on Feb. 29, 1968. From there, it was two steps to the drawer labeled "golf" and divided into manageable file folders according to date.

Sure enough, Nicklaus played an exhibition here 17 years ago, a year or so before son Gary, who will tee off at this morning at 8 a.m., was born. Barbara Nicklaus is right too. In the stories written about the exhibition, there is no indication that she made the trip north from Palm Beach that day, which is easy to believe. The Nicklauses had



three small children at the time.

Nicklaus, at 28, was in his seventh year on the PGA tour. He already had two Masters and two U.S. Opens on his list of 24 victories.

His trip here was sponsored by the Junior Service League, which charged fans \$5 in advance and \$7 at the gate to see Nicklaus, Doug Sanders and local residents Joe Cassata and Joe Ragan play a match on the two back nines at Daytona Beach Country Club. Ragan, at the time, was club pro.

The weather was chilly with a stiff wind, but at least a thousand fans bundled up and came out to watch. The JSL, which had scheduled the event to raise money to build the planetarium at the Museum of Arts and Sciences, cleared \$5,000, which didn't pay for the whole planetarium, but bought a lot more than that it would today.

In the match itself, Sanders and Ragan teamed against Nicklaus and Cassata. But it really didn't matter who won. Sanders made a 15 foot putt on the final hole to tie
(See MEMORIES on Page 3B)

Memories

(Continued from Page 1B)

things up and Nicklaus, who had a possible birdie putt, instead putted his ball into the crowd to end the match, symbolically at least, in a tie. He was four over for the day and Sanders was three under.

AFTER THE MATCH, Nicklaus told the gallery that he was glad so many young golfers had come out to watch. "They're the ones who will be coming along to take the place of Doug and me on the tour," he said. "I hope you'll encourage and help them, and give them a chance to play."

The next time Nicklaus came to Daytona Beach, he was the father of a recent college graduate contemplating a foray on the tour, a college student who has dropped off the volleyball team and is learning golf this summer, a 15 year old whose potential has been expounded upon in *Sports Illustrated*, and an 11 year

old who recently started playing seriously and already hates losing to his big sister. That leaves Steve, the former FSU wide receiver who hasn't played seriously but works in the business end of golf.

At home in North Palm Beach, Nicklaus has preached what he preached in the cold wind at Daytona Beach Country Club 17 years ago.

Jack left for Canada late Friday, unable to stay and root for his son due to a prior commitment he made when he mistakenly thought this tournament was on Thursday and Friday. Barbara will be following Gary today and Sunday.

Jack Nicklaus sees Gary play quite often, however. Over the years, he has flown many a mile to get home for his kids' big moments.

"They all grow up too quickly," he says.



Foster Wins Junior Title

- Scores, Page 2C
- More golf, Page 6C

By LYDIA HINSHAW
News-Journal Sports Editor

The first round leaders faltered Sunday, and steady Jeff Foster of Ponte Vedra Beach posted his second straight even par 72 for a two shot win in the 15-17 age division of the Florida State Junior Championships at Indigo Lakes.

In the 12-14 age group, Chris Chuck of Jacksonville shot a 79 to go with Saturday's 74 for a 153 total and a seven shot victory.

Foster becomes one of only a few 15 year olds who ever have won the tournament. PGA tour player Gary Koch won it three times, when he was 15, 16 and 17 and Len Mattiace, who skipped this tournament to play in the Northeastern Amateur in Providence, won it two years ago at 15.

The stocky Foster, who will be a junior at Allen Nease High in northern St. John's County in the fall, has been playing golf for only two and a half years. He came to the tournament hoping to finish in the top 10. When he was three shots behind the leaders after Saturday's round, he knew he had a chance.

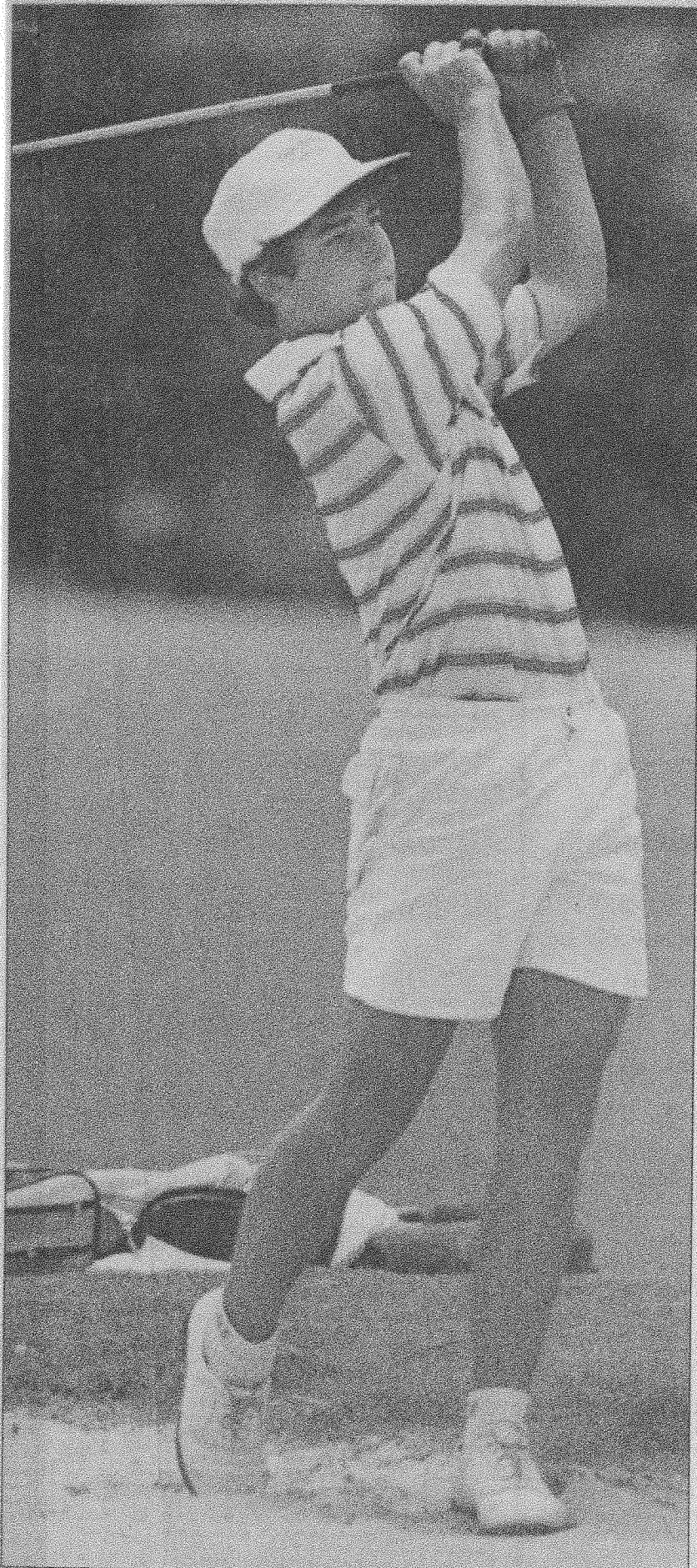
"I wanted to get a good start today, and I did," he said. "When I was four under after seven holes, it really got me going. When I got to 17, a gallery started gathering and that was the first time I knew I had a good chance. Someone told me just to play OK the last two holes and I would win."

Foster birdied three, four, five and seven before coming back to earth with a double bogey on No. 8, when he hit into a palmetto bush. He also bogeyed 10, but got the shot back on 12, then three putted 13.

Meanwhile, Saturday co-leaders Fred Simons of Winter Park and T.R. Bowser of Vairico, were struggling to a 77 and a 78, respectively. Simons tied for second with Scott Ford of Lake Worth, and Bowser tied for fourth with Michael Sposa of Tamarac and Steve O'Neill of Zephyrhills. Steve Stagg of Tampa and David Hyman of Orlando were next at 148.

Chuck, 14, had led after Saturday's round and posted a 153 total for the two days. He will be a sophomore at Wolfson High in Jacksonville in the fall. After his round, he used his first prize gift certificate to buy clothes for his

(See GOLF on Page 3C)

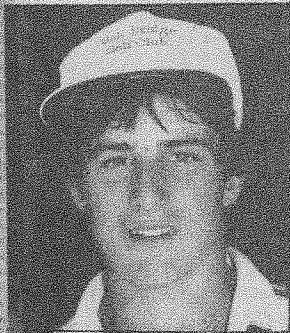


News-Journal photo by Roger Simms

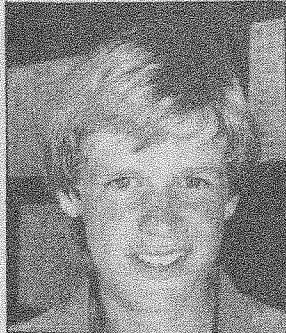
Jeff Foster started the day three down, then won by two.

Golf

(Continued from Page 1C)



Jeff Foster



Chris Chuck

parents in the Indigo Pro Shop. Second in the 12-14 division was Jonathan Toland of East Palatka, who shot 79-81 for 160.

Bobby Doolittle of Lighthouse Point was third at 162.

Top local finisher in 15-17 was Steve Ferguson, son of Indigo pro Tom Ferguson. Steve followed up Saturday's 79 with a 72 to finish at 151, seven shots back. Also, Darrell Bryant of Holly Hill (78-80—158), Bo Howard of New Smyrna Beach (84-83—167) Roger Hendrickson of Deltona (87-82—169), Robert Gazzoli of Palm Coast (79-92—171), and Brian Gazzoli of Palm Coast (87-88—175).

In the younger age division, Tom MacKay of New Smyrna Beach shot 90-89—179 for the tournament. Donny Hacker of Port Orange had a 90-93—183.



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DAYTONA BEACH -- Jeff Foster isn't even the best-known player at his own high school. He's won only one other tournament in his life. He's only 15. He's playing against a field that includes about 50 golfers with less than a five handicap, which he has.

And what does he do? Win the Florida State Golf Association Junior Championship, that's what.

"I really didn't even think about winning until a lot of people came out to the 17th green on the last round to watch," said the Ponte Vedra golfer after his 72-72--144 won by two shots at Indigo Lakes. "I was having a good time and I was glad to be playing well."

Foster will be a junior at Allan Nease High, the school which Wake Forest-bound Len Mattiace made famous in Florida golf circles. Mattiace would have been a big favorite at Indigo, but withdrew at the last minute when he received an invitation to the prestigious Northeastern Amateur in East Providence, R.I.

That left it up to Foster, who responded with 10 birdies over the 36-hole route as he overcame first-round leaders Fred Simons of Winter Park and T.R. Bowser of Valrico, who had opened with 69s.

Foster took the lead when Bowser bogied the 11th hole of the final round and then refused to wilt, paring the final seven holes.

Simons and Scott Ford of Lake Worth were second at 146, with Bowser tying Steve O'Neill of Zephyrhills and Michael Sposa of Tamarac at 147.

Chris Chuck completed a Jacksonville sweep by winning the 12-14 division by seven shots of Jonathan Toland of East Palatka. Chuck, a slim 6-footer who many feel is a budding Mattiace, shot 74-79 and never was threatened.

With Mattiace gone, most of the pre-tournament attention went to Gary Nicklaus of North Palm Beach. His father, Jack, walked nine holes during a Friday practice round before leaving for a prior committment ("I thought the tournament was Thursday and Friday," said Jack, "and had blocked off those days.") and then left the family viewing to wife Barbara.

But Gary suffered from wild tee shots and posted 80-81. About his only high point was a Saturday afternoon visit with his mother to the nearby Daytona International Speedway, where they watched Cale Yarborough prepare for the July 4 Pepsi Firecracker 400 and got to take a 100-mile per hour ride around the track.

Foster's winning effort came from good starts. He was 4-under after six holes both days before any problems started, and he was able to handle Indigo's enormous greens.

"It was the best I've ever putted over 36 holes," he said. "The greens are so big here that you're going to three-putt a few times, but on most other courses you would have missed the greens."

He had a pair of double bogies and six bogies for the tournament.

Simons, Ford, Bowser and Johnny Secunda of Pompano Beach were in the final foursome and, as Simons said, "We all played mediocre. We had one birdie among us the final day. On Saturday, we had 14."

Foster is only the third 15-year-old to win in the event's history, the others being Gary Koch of Temple Terrace, who won it three times, and Mattiace two years ago.