



# FLORIDA STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION, INC.

## NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Cal Korf

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HEADLINE: FSGA STATE HANDICAP CHAMPIONSHIP

### 1. FOR RON BALICKI:

The Orlando Sentinel ran coverage of the Handicap Championship if you want to pick up results of Ron William's interviews of a couple players.

Donny Hacker of Port Orange was the overall champion for the State Handicap Championship which was conducted April 8-9 at Mission Inn Resort. Donny, at age 16, is the youngest champion for this event. The Championship, which is scored by the Stableford system, only recorded the individual players scores over or under their "quota points". Donny had a splendid round on Saturday when he was +8. His start on Sunday was somewhat ragged on the front nine where he only recorded seven points, but he rebounded with a strong back nine and ended up with a total of minus three for the day and a total of plus five for the tournament. Rich Malinski of Miami and Newt Hodgkins of Delray Beach both made strong runs on Sunday, but they ended up in a tie with overall plus three. Individual winners in flights follows:

| <u>CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT</u>    |            | <u>FIRST FLIGHT</u>           |           |
|-------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Alan Jenkins, Winter Haven    | E +1 = +1  | Ken Young, Ft Myers           | +2 -1 =+1 |
| Rod Leek, Winter Park         | E E = E    | Scott Hurlburt, Winter Pk     | +3 -5 =-2 |
| Tom Roderick, Sanibel         | -4 -2= -6  | Scott Stephens, Dunnellon     | +1 -4 =-3 |
| Phil Chanfrau, Daytona Bch    | +1 -7= -6  | Chip Landon, Longwood         | -5 E =-5  |
| <u>SECOND FLIGHT</u>          |            | <u>THIRD FLIGHT</u>           |           |
| Rich Malinski, Miami          | -2 +5 = +3 | Donny Hacker, Port Orange     | +8 -3=+5  |
| Newt Hodgkins, Delray Bch     | -4 +7 = +3 | Herb Hedgecock, Satellite Bch | -1 -1 =-2 |
| Hugh Bitter, Winter Haven     | +3 -3 = E  | Bill Epps, Sanford            | -4 -2=-6  |
| Jake Richards, Palm Bch Gdgns | -2-4 + -6  | John Griffin, Maitland        | -1 -6 =-7 |
| <u>FOURTH FLIGHT</u>          |            | <u>FIFTH FLIGHT</u>           |           |
| Wilbert McHenry, Kissimmee    | E -2 = -2  | Harry Latos, Ft Lauderdale    | E+3=+3    |
| Stan Caruthers, Hollywood     | +4 -6 = -2 | Bill Quinn, Palm Harbor       | +2 -2 =E  |
| Ed Rubich, Winter Park        | -5 +2 = -3 | Dave Rathburn, Palm Harbor    | -1+1=E    |
| Richard Smith, Satellite Bch  | -5 +1 = -4 | Elmer Roberts, Orlando        | -3+2 =-1  |

STATE SENIOR IS THIS WEEKEND, April 14-16 at Gateway in Fort Myers. Will do same transmission next Monday.

# Youthful tactics lift Hacker into State Golf lead

## 16-year-old plays solid opening round to lead Caruthers

By Joe Williams

OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

**HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS** — Donny Hacker's strategy probably was not much different than that of any other golfer in Saturday's opening round of the sixth annual Florida State Golf Association's Handicap Championship at Mission Inn Golf and Tennis Resort.

Hacker wanted to stay out of trouble, keep away from the water and trees and on the narrow fairways. He did it better than anyone else to take the lead with a plus-8 entering today's final round.

Hacker, 16, the youngest player in the tournament, has a four-point lead over Stan Caruthers of Hollywood, who is at plus-4. Scott Hurlburt of Winter Park and Hugh Bitter of Winter Haven both are at plus-3.

The tournament is being played with the Stapleford, or quota points, system. Under the system, the golfers subtract their handicaps from 36. They are awarded four points for eagle, three for birdie, two for par and one for bogey. At the end of the round, those points are matched against the golfer's adjusted handicap.

Hacker had a round of 34 points, eight more than his adjusted handicap of 26 on the 6,224-yard, par-72 course.

"I just kept the ball in play today and hit a lot of good iron shots," said Hacker, a junior and the No. 1 player on the golf



### ■ FRIENDLY RIVALRY

**JIM BOOROS and Mike Donald shot 4-under-par 66s Saturday to share the lead** after three rounds of the Deposit Guaranty Classic in Hattiesburg, Miss. Booros and Donald, close friends off the course, were at 11-under-par 199. "I would rather play with a friend like this," Booros said. "Mike said a few things that relaxed me." Robert Thompson, David Peoples and Fred Funk shot 65s, and Lance Ten Broeck, who was in third place by himself going into the round, had 67. All were at 9-under 201. P.H. Horgan III, whose 64 was Saturday's best round, Steve Lowery, and Bob Wolcott, were next at 202. Lowery shot 65 and Wolcott 66. Donald,

team at Spruce Creek High School. "My iron play and the fact that I didn't three-putt all day is why I played so well."

Caruthers, 31, considers himself fortunate to be in second. His opening round was troubled by windy conditions and poor club selection.

"It was an ugly round," said Caruthers, a fourth-flight player whose adjusted handicap is 23. "I had to chip up and putt from everywhere. I would have been

third at The Woodlands last week after leading for three rounds, started fast with three consecutive birdies. He dropped back with bogeys on the sixth and ninth holes but made three more birdies on the back nine. Booros, who has held or shared the lead in all three rounds at Hattiesburg, had an eagle-3 on the 482-yard third hole and a great save for par at No. 6. He birdied Nos. 11 and 13, had a bogey at the 15th and finished with a birdie on the 18th.

### ■ LEADING THE WAY

**NANCY BROWN shot 2-under-par 69 to take a two-shot lead over Patti Rizzo** after three rounds of the LPGA Inamori Classic at Poway, Calif. Brown, who began the day tied for the lead with Laura Davies, made four birdies and two bogeys for 7-under-par 206. Rizzo, who began the round four shots off the lead, picked up three strokes on the front nine and matched par on the back nine for 69 to finish with 208. Martha Nause, who started the day one shot behind the co-leaders, missed a short par putt on the 18th for 72 and was 4-under for the tournament. Juli Inkster, an 11-time tour winner, birdied

more satisfied if I would have hit some greens.

"I made two back-to-back birdies from about 18 feet away [on Nos. 15 and 16]. I guess that is what got me pumped up.

This is Hacker's third year in the tournament, but it is the first time he has been close to the lead. In fact, Hacker, who plays out of the third flight, never has placed in the tournament.

"I've been thinking about it [being in

the first hole and moved to 5-under with a birdie at No. 11 before a double-bogey at the par-4 13th left her tied with Penny Hammel and Jane Crafter at 210. Brown birdied the par-5 third to take sole possession of the lead. Davies plunged out of contention when she bogeyed the first, fourth and fifth holes, then hit two tee shots out of bounds on No. 6 en route to a quadruple bogey.

### ■ THIRD TIME'S A CHARM

**WINTER PARK'S David Boesel, the two-time defending champion, captured a one-shot lead** during the second round of the 43rd annual Silver Lake Invitational in Leesburg with 2-over-par 73 for a 143. Boesel entered the round in a three-way tie for the lead with Mark Pittenger of Jacksonville, the tournament's 1986 champion, and Troyce Raynes of Orlando. All three opened the tournament with 70s. Pittenger, however, fell three strokes back with 76, and Raynes fell further back with 79. Boesel has a slim lead over Gary Martinet of Winter Springs, who shot 73 for a 144.

*Compiled from staff, wire reports*

the lead] a lot already," he said. "I will probably end up thinking about it quite a bit today. I'm going to try to do things to keep my mind off it.

"I'm going to go into the final round basically trying to do the same thing that I did today. The key to this course is to hit the greens. If you do that, you've mastered the course."

Caruthers, who is playing in his fourth handicap championship, was runner-up last year and placed sixth one other year.

# Leesburg events both up for grabs

By Joe Williams

OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

LEESBURG — While the Florida State Golf Association is playing its sixth annual State Handicap Championship at Mission Inn, the second-oldest amateur tournament in the state, the 43rd annual Silver Lake Invitational tournament will be played less than 15 miles away at Silver Lake Country Club.

Actually, the Silver Lake tournament gets a head-start on the FSGA tournament. The Silver Lake Invitational is a 54-hole tournament that begins Friday. The FSGA tournament is a 36-hole event that begins Saturday.

Predicting a favorite for Silver Lake is about as difficult as deciding who the favorite is in the State Handicap tournament — but for different reasons. The State Handicap is tough to handicap because of its handicap format. The Silver Lake tournament is difficult because of the quality of its field.

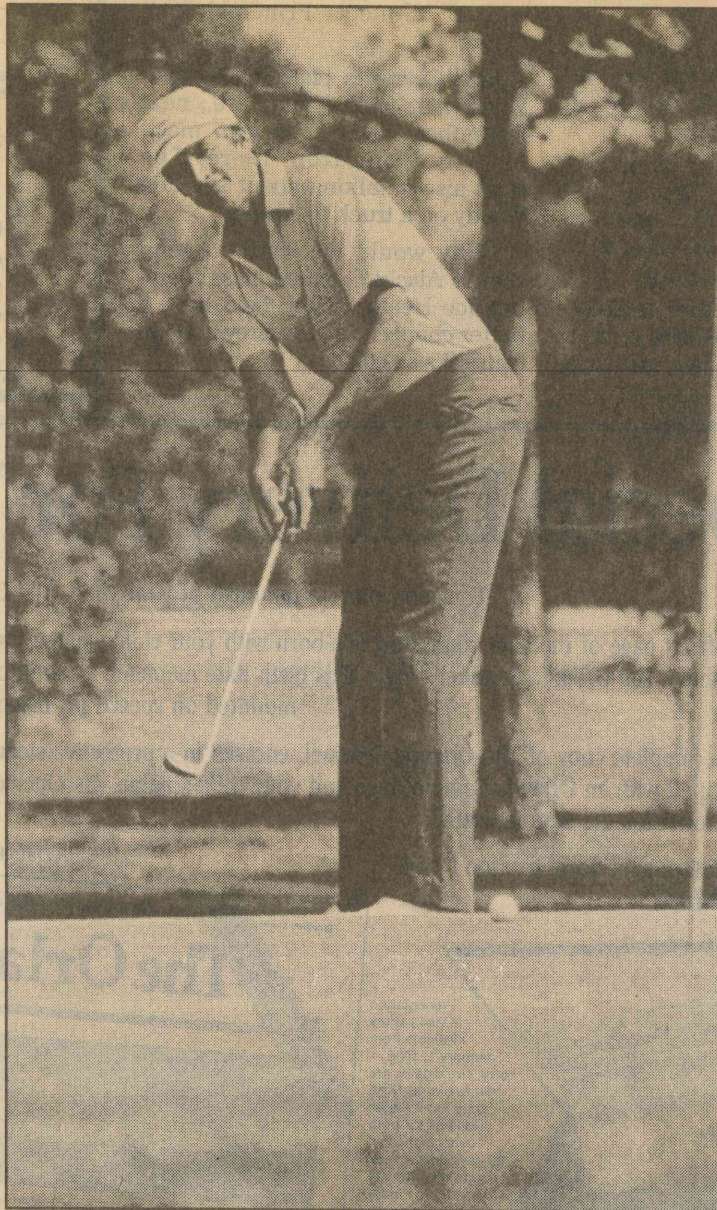
"I think we have a real strong field for the tournament," Silver Lake pro Terry Doss said. "We have 17 golfers who have zero and one handicaps. There are a lot of good golfers playing."

Although predicting a favorite is difficult, David Boesel of Winter Park is the two-time defending champion and has to be considered one of the top contenders. Boesel is a four-time winner of the tournament who also won the Silver Lake tournament in 1985 and in '83.

Mark Pittenger of Jacksonville, the man who interrupted Boesel's string by winning the tournament in 1986, is another of the top contenders, as is Brad Estes of Apopka, who was last year's runner-up.

One defending champion who won't be entered is Silver Lake member Jim Keedy, who is a five-time winner (1967, '68, '76, '79, '80) of the tournament. Keedy, whose brother Tom is the Silver Lake tournament chairman, is the president of the FSGA and is attending the State Handicap tournament.

"We scheduled the FSGA event a year ago," Jim Keedy said. "It's just the way things worked out."



BYRON SMALL/SENTINEL

Winter Park's David Boesel is considered a top contender.

# State tournament becomes popular

By Joe Williams

OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS — When the Florida State Golf Association created the State Handicap Championship six years ago, it probably never imagined the tournament's popularity growing so quickly.

The tournament has been a hit with golfers around the state because it doesn't only attract the best in the state. High handicappers have just as good of a shot at winning because of the tournament's format. The tournament also tends to be somewhat of a social event, partly because of the atmosphere created by the tournament's site, the Mission Inn Golf and Tennis Resort, and because the competition isn't nearly as intense as, say, the FSGA's State Amateur.

"The handicap championship has grown tremendously in popularity," said Jim Keedy, a Leesburg attorney and president of the FSGA. "It's one of our newest events and one of our most popular. It's a tournament that anyone can win because it is a handicap event."

For the fourth consecutive year, the tournament will be played at Mission Inn with returning champion Richard Rankin of Orlando in its field. Rankin came out of the second flight to win the championship.

Also expected in the 115-player field is Chuck Wagner, who won the first state handicap championship and proved Keedy's theory that anyone can win the tournament. Wagner is a 15-handicapper.

The tournament will be played Saturday and Sunday and the Stapleford Point System will be used. Under the system, a golfer subtracts his handicap from 36 and one point is awarded for a bogey, two for par, three for birdie and four for eagle. Those points are then matched against the golfer's handicap. The golfer with the most points, or the least negative points, wins.

Picking a favorite, because of the format, is impossible.

"It's really hard to say because it is a handicap event," Keedy said. "Everyone has a chance to win it because you are competing against an adjusted score according to your handicap."