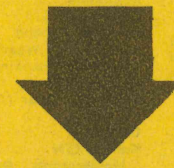


Showdown In Florida Am Finale

At Tomoka: Sun, Rain, SAND



Veghte Leads Pack; Rankin, Darr Close

By BRAD WILLSON
News-Journal Sports Writer

For three days, Jack Veghte has led the Florida State Amateur, taming Tomoka Oaks CC with a smooth tempo and a sweet swing. Today's the showdown.

After he did some scrambling for a second straight par 72 and a 212 total — four strokes ahead of the field,

** See Golf Scores On Page 2C*

the 35 year old Clearwater insurance salesman said, almost prayerfully:

"Give me one more day . . ."

Today, though, with the tees placed

farther back, the pins in tougher positions Veghte may find this plaint tigris of a course will snarl and bite back at him.

It snapped a few times in Saturday's round, but when it seemed to have him cornered — three over par with seven holes to go — Veghte coolly took charge and played the final seven in three under par.

Four strokes back at 216, is poised, steady Bob Rankin, the defending champion and also from Clearwater. Rankin started off badly on the first day with 76, but he put together a 68 Friday and a par 72 today, although his putts weren't dropping as they sometimes do.

Third with 73 and a total of 217 is young John Darr from Gainesville, who tackles a golf course arrogantly.

Interestingly, the three leaders all have won this tradition-steeped event — Darr in 1967, Veghte in 1968 and Rankin in 1969.

Tied for fourth at 218 were Ben Duncan, Quincy, Jack Rountree, Lake City, Robbie Wilson, a strong young belter from Ft. Myers and teen-ager Beau Baugh from Cocoa. Their Saturday rounds were 74, 76, 76, and 72.

There were only two sub par rounds over the 6,725 yard site of the 53rd Florida State Amateur championship in Ormond Beach Saturday. Lou Essex of Maitland and Buddy Alexander, son of famed pro Skip Alexander, St. Petersburg, both had 71s. Alexander is in the first flight.

Also still in a challenging spot for today's final round of the state's oldest continuous sports event are Jim Chancy, Lynn Haven, with 75 and a total of 220; Hal Hutchinson, Gainesville, 76 and 220; Essex, also at 220; Mike Quackenbush, Fort Lauderdale, 73 and 221; Arch Meekins, Bradenton, with 75 and 221, and several others at 224 and 225.

Earlier estimates that 280 might be good enough to win here at the Ormond Beach course have been revised. The wind Saturday, a trifle longer tee markers, and the rain which has made the grass grow slightly longer on the greens make it appear more likely that any of these top amateur golfers who shoot two under par — 286 — will have a fine chance to take home the championship.

Rankin, who turned the back nine (his starting nine) two over, regrouped and had a 34 coming in. He birdied 3 with a 30 foot putt and 7 by laying his 5 iron inches from the hole.

"I was lucky, but it was a lot of fun," said the personable Rankin, who hit 15 greens and had three one putters.

"The wind made it a little tougher but it's a good, interesting course," Rankin said.

Veghte, a former caddy who grew up next to a course in his native Gloversville, N.Y. home, birdied 3, 4, 7 and 9 with putts of from 10 to three feet. He refused to allow the double bogey on No. 2 to ruffle his composure.

He hit 13 greens, conceded, smiling: "I had to scramble for that 72." He also thought the wind was a factor in the generally higher scores in Saturday's round.

Veghte's backers were counting on his short game, which saved him several strokes Saturday, to bring him to his second championship in eight attempts in this event.

The championship flight will start today at the same time it did Saturday, but with players teeing off from the opposite tees on which they started Saturday.

The first foursome in the finale for the title will go about 12:30 p.m.



SAND SHOT

golfer Gerald H. Bartholow, Ormond Beach, sends ball toward pin after encountering Tomoka Oaks hazard

N-J Photo by Bob Pesce

The Sunday
News-Journal
section C

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DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA,
SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 1970

And Wins Florida Amateur

Veghte Keeps His Cool

Scores Listed On Page 4-C.

By JIM WARTERS

Sentinel Staff

ORMOND BEACH — "All night long I thought about last year's tournament," said Jack Veghte Sunday.

It was at the bikini-tight Longboat Key Golf Club at Sarasota that Veghte's four-stroke lead vanished on the final 18 holes of the Florida Amateur Golf Championship and he finished third behind Bob Rankin and John Darr.

"And I had a few reminders of that when I teed off today," the broad-shouldered insurance agent grinned.

But he kept saying to himself, "This is the year you're not going to lay down on the final round." He had finished second three other years and had led six amateur events in the past.

BOLSTERED by this attitude, the 35-year-old former New York amateur king played two-under par 70 at Tomoka Oaks Country Club Sunday and won his second Florida Amateur title by a whopping seven strokes. It was one of the largest winning margins in the history of the 56-year-old event.

Rankin, who plays out of the same East Bay Country Club that Veghte does, posted a struggling 74 and placed third.

Cocoa teenager Beau Baugh was the only player among the leaders who didn't fold under Veghte's precision shot-making. A recent Cocoa High graduate, Baugh fired a final day 71 and nailed down the runnerup trophy.

Veghte's scores for the 72-hole test were 68, 72, and 70 for 282, six under par. Baugh was one over for the four days at 289.

John Darr, who set the tournament record of 278 when he won the 1967 event, was in third place when he teed off with Veghte Sunday. And the University of Florida graduate student moved to as close as three shots of the leader when he ran into a three-hole string of double bogeys, finally winding up with a 79.

again he displayed his championship mettle by birdying the 195-yard 14th with a 25-foot putt and the 360-yard 16th with a 15 footer.

"That birdie on the fourth hole was the turning point," said Veghte. "And those birdies at six and seven really relaxed me."

His first amateur title two years ago was the sweetest, "but I was real pleased with the way I won this one — leading every round and shooting a 70 the last day," he said.

Central Florida also will be site of the 1971 tournament which has been set for Leesburg.

SPORTS

Orlando Sentinel

Monday, June 29, 1970 1—C



JACK VEGHTE SHOWS OFF BIG PRIZE
... Florida Amateur champ with huge trophy

TEMPLE TERRACE player Brian Hawke jetted from 17th place to fourth with a 68, best round of the day.

Winter Park's Gary Schroeder, only amateur to qualify for the Florida Citrus Open at Lakeland in March, closed with a two-under 70, good for a tie for eighth place with Mickey Van Gerbig, the 1968 Orlando City champion.

A stroke behind Schroeder's 295 was Seminole Junior College business law student Billy Gordon, while Maitland's Lou Essex was in a two-man bracket at 298. Ron Royer, Fern Park, had 299; Ed Brown, Winter Park, posted 301; and Orlando's Kipp Minter was in at 309.

Tom Schlamel, Orlando, won the third flight with 307.

Veghte, winner of the 1968 amateur, started his final round with a bogey on the first hole, but made it up with a 12-foot putt at the fourth. He bogeyed the par 3, fifth when he caught the left trap, but again rallied with consecutive birdies on the par 5, sixth and seventh holes to go one under.

ON THE BACK nine, Veghte bogied the 450-yard 13th, toughest hole on the 6,735-yard course. But