

# No dispute about Senior champ — It's Phillips

BY LARRY BUSH  
ST. AUGUSTINE

Three times second in the past six years since he started playing in the Seniors Championship sponsored by the Florida State GA, Hank Phillips finally came

through as the winner Sunday.

But barely.

"I played terribly," he said after posting a final-round 75 for 146 at Ponce de Leon Lodge&CC. "I tried desparately to give it away, but I guess nobody

wanted it."

Indeed, He had shot a 2-under-par 70 in the opening-round wind Saturday, but in ideal playing conditions for the final round, "I hit some good shots and got some bad breaks," he added, "and I hit some bad shots and got some good breaks."

He finished one stroke ahead of Bob Carter of Sebring, who was in his first major senior tournament. Carter had opened with a 71 and pulled even several times Sunday, but could never get ahead. Carter closed with 75-146.

The victory over the 6400-yard course hard by the Atlantic Ocean gave Phillips of Tampa a sweep of the state's two biggest senior tournaments, both within the past month.

The first weekend of April, while celebrating his 61st birthday, Phillips captured the Florida State Seniors GA title for the second year in a row, posting 221 at Northdale and Palma Ceia in Tampa.

"I wanted this (FSGA) real bad this year," he said. "I've given it away two or three times ... finished second three times."

He particularly remembered the 1980 FSGA Seniors at Longboat Key in Sarasota.

"I had the tournament won and hit a cartpath on the 16th hole the final round,

and the ball bounced out of bounds," giving the title to Arnold Horelick of Boca Raton.

No such disasters were awaiting Phillips Sunday. In fact, he birdied the 16th hole of the final round to pull ahead for the final time.

After a "lousy second shot," he executed a 100-yard trap shot and side-saddled in a 28-foot putt, only his second birdie of the round.

He called his five-birdie round Saturday, "unbelievable. I was making putts all over the place. And the wind was really tough. I guess when it stopped today (Sunday), we were all afraid of it."

Twice retired — as a U.S. Air Force major after 20 years of military service and six years ago after 15 years as a data processing manager for the city of Tampa — Phillips shuns traveling the seniors circuit outside the state much any more. "I've traveled so much in my life," he explains, "and I just don't travel well any more."

Carter, 56, retired last year from Civil Service. His only previous experience in senior golf came last year when he won the Highlands County Seniors Championship.

"The key on this course was putting," said Carter. "The greens are small and slick. But it's good competition and good

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sportsmanship. I'll be back next year. Second on my first try isn't too bad."

Three golfers tied for third overall with 149s. They were John McKey of Orlando, M.T. McInnis of Bradenton and Norton Harris of Lake Worth, each coincidentally with 73-76.

There was one gross and several net prizes in each age group, the number depending on the entries within each bracket.

Bill Martin of Vero Beach had the overall low net score, a 135 in the 60-64 age group. He plays to an 8-handicap and shot 151 on his own ball.

The tournament drew a field of 87 starters.

The prize winners:

55-59—Gross: Bob Carter, Sebring, 146. Net: Bud Butler, St. Petersburg, 138; Wesley Paxson, Jacksonville, 140; Billy Brownrigge, Palm Bay 141; Orv Robertson, Orlando, 143; John McMahon, Orlando, 144.

60-64—Gross: Hank Phillips, Tampa, 145. Net: Bill Martin, Vero Beach 135; John McKey, Orlando, 139; John Griffin, Maitland, 140; William Parker, Homosassa, and Bob Wallace, Pensacola, 141; Tom Grady, Winter Park, 142; Roy Chederlin, Oldsmar, and Julian Serles, Temple Terrace, 145; Bob Ahern, Homosassa, and Charles Smith, Orlando, 147.

65-69—Gross: M.T. McInnis, Bradenton, 149. Net: Victor Grassmick, Palm Bay, 136; Hugh Coates, Tampa, 141; Donald Blaze, Vero Beach, 142; Lynn Lee, Sebring, 143; George Hayden, Palm Bay, and Key Scales, Weirsdale, 144.

70-over—Gross: Norton Harris, Lake Worth, 149. Net: Verne Tietjen, Winter Park, 146; Dexter Daniels Sr., Winter Haven, 149.