

ALL STATE JUNIOR GOLF TEAM DATA SHEET

NAME OF TOURNAMENT: FLORIDA STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION - STATE JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

BOYS DIVISION PLAYER'S NAME HOME TOWN TOTAL SCORE
FINISH

15 - 17 Division

| | | | | |
|-----|----|------------------|-------------------|-----|
| | 1 | Fred Benton | Jacksonv'l Bch. | 142 |
| | 2 | Roger Kennedy | Pompano Bch. | 142 |
| | 3 | Tom Tolles | Cape Coral | 145 |
| Tie | 4 | Dean Hiers | Lake Wales | 146 |
| | | Steve Lamontagne | Satellite Bch. | 146 |
| Tie | 6 | Michael Bradley | Sanibel | 147 |
| | | Larry Holland | N. Palm Beach | 147 |
| | | Ricky Crable | Orlando | 147 |
| | | Johnny Secunda | Pompano Beach | 147 |
| | | Fred Simons | Winter Park | 147 |
| | | Greg Hyde | Miami Shores | 147 |
| | 12 | Michael Valley | Jacksonville | 148 |
| Tie | 13 | John Byrd | Melbourne | 149 |
| | | James Gilleon | Ocala | 149 |
| | | Len Mattiace | Ponte Vedra Beach | 149 |
| | | Jim Sowerwine | N. Palm Beach | 149 |

12 - 14 Division

| | | | | |
|-----|----|----------------|-----------------|-----|
| | 1 | Eric Brito | Jacksonville | 148 |
| | 2 | Chris DiMarco | Longwood | 154 |
| | 3 | David Rowley | Boynton Beach | 156 |
| Tie | 4 | Gary Nicklaus | N. Palm Beach | 157 |
| | | Steve O'Neil | Zephyrhills | 157 |
| | 6 | Scott Ford | Lake Worth | 158 |
| | 7 | Scott Brown | Lakeland | 159 |
| | 8 | Bill Moore | Tallahassee | 160 |
| | 9 | Andy Williams | Seminole | 161 |
| | 10 | Dudly Hart | Miami Beach | 162 |
| | 11 | Ken McKenna | Orlando | 165 |
| Tie | 12 | David Rowley | Boynton Beach | 166 |
| | | Buster Chapman | Ft. Pierce | 166 |
| | 14 | Frank LoFaso | West Palm Beach | 173 |
| | 15 | Doug Flynn | Jacksonville | 175 |

BENTON WINS STATE JUNIOR

When Fred Benton of Jacksonville Beach sank a three-foot birdie putt on the third hole of a sudden death playoff, the thrilling State Junior Championship was finally over.

Benton edged Roger Kennedy of Pompano Beach for the title, although both played exceptionally fine golf over the Magnolia Course at Walt Disney World. Benton posted rounds of 72 and 70, while Kennedy had identical scores of 71.

Fifteen additional players broke 150, including 12-14 age group winner Eric Brito of Jacksonville. Tom Tolles of Cape Coral was third overall at 145, while Dean Hiers of Lake Wales and Steve Lamontagne of Satellite Beach tied for fourth at 146.

Benton made a marvelous save on the first playoff hole, missing the green and then getting up-and-down with a spectacular pitch over a bunker and a four-foot putt.

On the decisive third hole, a par three, Kennedy missed a 15-footer before Benton sank his three-foot birdie putt. The winner hit the green with a 7-iron shot.

Michael Bradley of Sanibel took the first round lead with a 69, but had a 78 in the closing round. Another 147 finisher, Greg Hyde of Miami Shores, had the opposite kind of performance by starting with a 77 and then improving to a 70.

Brito, the 12-14 winner, had rounds of 73 and 75 for a 148 total.



STATE JUNIOR BOYS CHAMPIONSHIP At Walt Disney World

Magnolia Course
Par 72-72 - 144

15-17 DIVISION

142 - xFred Benton, Jacksonville Beach, Roger Kennedy, Pompano Beach; 145 - Tom Tolles, Cape Coral; 146 - Dean Hiers, Lake Wales, Steve Lamontagne, Satellite Beach; 147 - Larry Holland,

North Palm Beach, Ricky Crable, Orlando, Johnny Secunda, Pompano Beach, Fred Simons, Winter Park, Greg Hyde, Miami Shores; 148 - Michael Valley, Jacksonville; 149 - John Byrd, Melbourne, James Gilleon, Ocala, Len Mattiace, Ponte Vedra Beach, Jim Sowerwine, North Palm Beach; 151 - Mark Davis, Orlando, James Curran, W. Palm Beach, G. Handler, Palm Beach Gardens, Scott Carlson, Miami Shores, Brian Schoeck, Orlando; 152 - David Turley, Longwood, Patrick Prins, Leesburg, Scott Curry, Ocala; 153 - Patrick Maloney, Plantation, Dean Refram, Zepherhills, Fred Jenkins, Lakeland, Steve Tharp, Palm Bay.; 154 - Chris Fleming, Clearwater, M. Gallagher, Palm Beach Gardens, John O'Bryan, Jacksonville; 155 - Randy Donahoo, Plant City, John Kuliesh, Palm Harbor, David Beck, Tallahassee, Stanley Grissinger, Titusville; x - won playoff.

12-14 DIVISION

148 - Eric Brito, Jacksonville; 154 - Chris DiMarco, Longwood; 156 - David Rowley, Boynton Beach; 157 - Gary Nicklaus, North Palm Beach, Steve O'Neil, Zepherhills; 158 - Scott Ford, Lake Worth; 159 - Scott Brown, Lake Land; 160 - Bill Moore, Tallahassee; 161 - Andy Williams, Seminole; 162 - Dudley Hart, Miami Beach.

Golf fails to serve majority of youths

Despite junior programs, most youngsters aren't exposed to game

By Bob Fowler

OF THE SENTINEL STAFF



GEORGE SKENE/SENTINEL

A chip off the old block? The swing sure looks familiar. Gary Nicklaus, 14, watches shot fly just like dad.

Gary Nicklaus had an advantage when he began playing golf. His father, Jack, was his teacher.

"I started when I was 7 years old, going out with my dad," Gary said. "But I stopped for two years. My mother thought I was too young to get involved."

Now 14 and a scratch player, Nicklaus is competing in the 12- to 14-year-old division in the Florida State Golf Association's junior championship on the Magnolia course at Walt Disney World. He's 5 feet 9 and with blond hair looks remarkably like his father. His swing also is similar to golf's Golden Bear.

Yet having the game's top performer (over \$4 million in earnings during a sensational career) as an instructor wasn't enough to

make Gary Nicklaus an outstanding player. He needed competition among his peers, too.

"I've been playing in Palm Beach Junior Golf Association events for about four years," Nicklaus said. "It's the best chance to play under tournament conditions."

There are numerous junior tournaments in the country, especially in Florida. But they don't begin to fill the needs of a majority of youths.

For the masses, greens fees and equipment are too expensive. Their parents don't participate in the game, or they find courses crowded with adults who gripe at kids slowing play.

In the past, a youth became a caddie in order to practice golf. But with carts, caddies are becoming an endangered species.

"We could have a lot more junior golfers than we do now," said

Please see JUNIORS, C-4

JUNIORS

From C-1

Frank Smith, president of the National Golf Foundation. "There needs to be an effort to get kids out onto the courses in this country. Kids can't learn if they can't find a place to play."

Thus, according to the A.C. Nielsen Co., golf is the nation's slowest-growing participation sport. From 1973-82, racquetball increased 334 percent and snow skiing 152 percent. Golf was at 2 percent.

This is a concern for golf executives. PGA Tour Commissioner Deane Beman, for instance, pointed out that only 2 percent of spectators at tournaments last year were under 18 years old.

In short with its lack of opportunities for juniors, golf isn't producing fans like other sports — baseball, football, soccer — are through their youth programs.

What's available now?

The American Junior Golf Association and the United States Golf Association sponsor tournaments throughout the country. The National Golf Foundation gives seminars in physical education classes, provides instructors for junior programs at private clubs and public courses and publishes how-to-play guides.

Through its Junior Golf Foundation (Jack Nicklaus is honorary chairman), the PGA of America promotes the game. It conducts introduction-to-the-game clinics, holds boys and girls championships and has a Clubs for Kids program. Last year, it collected 100,000 used clubs from golfers, shortened them and distributed them to kids who couldn't afford to buy them.

Also, at 90 percent of its tournaments, the PGA Tour conducts junior clinics featuring the game's top players.

Locally, the top youth organization is the Orlando-land Jr. Golf Association. It's a labor of love for its director, Richard Eckstein, who formed it 12 years ago.

"We have 241 players from 10-19 years old who will compete in about nine tournaments this summer," he said. "We've had one rules clinic and will have two more.

"We group the players by handicaps, not age. We have some players with handicaps as high as 100."

In addition to giving good young players tournament competition (his is one of only 12 junior associations in Florida), Eckstein provides a rare opportunity for high-handicap youths. Most kids who are starting the game aren't encouraged to compete in tournaments or to play, period.

Some Orlando-area pros conduct clinics for youths and make tee times available to them. A few clubs offer lessons and reduced rates to juniors.

And the YMCA is currently involved in a three-week program at Walt Disney World. From Monday through Friday, youths are bused to Disney's Golf Resort where they receive instruction and play the Wee Links course.

"It's top-notch for beginners because the kids are learning at their own levels and finding out that golf is fun and entertaining," said Eric Fredricksen, Disney's golf director.

Of course, anyone can play the Wee Links where clubs and balls are provided — there were almost 5,000 rounds on it last year.

But in general there isn't much available to the youth who wants to start playing golf, who can't afford private lessons or clinics and perhaps has no clubs.

"It may be hard to get kids started in golf," Fredricksen said. "But once you expose them to the game, you've got them hooked."

The problem is giving youths that initial exposure. There is no Little League in golf.

Nicklaus' son among junior stars to watch

By Bob Fowler

OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

Many amateur golf tournaments start with the top players having the last tee times. That seems to be the case in the 36-hole Florida State Golf Association's boys junior championship set to start today on the Magnolia course at the Walt Disney World resort.

In the last foursome, starting at 12:32 p.m., will be Gary Nicklaus, the 14-year-old son of Jack Nicklaus. He is a scratch player who, despite competing as an eight-grader, helped North Palm Beach Benjamin capture the Class A title in the recent Florida State High School championships.

Nicklaus finished ninth in that tournament with a 5-over 149 for two rounds. In National Long-Drive qualifying, Nicklaus, a 5-foot-9, 145-pounder, finished second with a drive of 335 yards.

Nicklaus will be competing in the 12-14 year-old division along with Benjamin teammate Greg Krak, son of Mike Krak, golf director at PGA National in Palm

Beach Gardens. Last year's winner, Len Mattiace of Ponte Vedra, is in the 15-17 year-old group.

Two other members of the Benjamin team are in the 15-17 division — David Krak and John Reynolds, son of PGA National pro Mike Reynolds.

Dean Refram of Zephyrhills, son of the former touring pro, is in the 15-17 group. In the younger division is Steve Ferguson, son of Tom Ferguson, pro at Indigo Lakes in Daytona Beach.

The 15-17 division also includes 16-year-old Michael Bradley of Sanibel, who shot a 3-under-par 69 in the final round of the state amateur at Grenelefe to finish in a tie for third. Clearwater's David Veghte, 15 and the son of three-time state amateur winner Jack Veghte, also is in that group.

There are 100 entries in the older division and 26 in the younger group. In the 15-17 category, there are several Orlando-area high school players.

They include Ricky Crable (Winter Garden West Orange), David Turley and Chris McMannus (Altamonte Springs Lake Brantley), Fred Simons and Brendan Kennedy (Winter Park), Mark Davis and J.J. Weber (Orlando Boone), Brian Schoeck (Orlando Oak Ridge), David Hyman and Brad Bachand (Orlando Bishop Moore), Ken Ottis and Mike Borgarro (Maitland Lake Howell), John Story and Matt Breen (Longwood Lyman) and Anthony Ballesterio (Orlando Lake Highland).

Local Players Lead Junior Field At Florida State Amateur Tourney

● Pairings, D4

NORTH PALM BEACH — Frenchman's Creek Country Club will be inundated with youths this weekend. More than likely, they'll do lots of damage, too — to par, and to the egos of many adults who happen to wander by and see them play.

It's the Florida State Junior Amateur Championships. The 36-hole tournament that runs today and Sunday will be the site of some awfully good golf. Gary Koch, who is seventh on the PGA money list this year, won this event three times when he was a junior.

A field of 135 players, the biggest ever, will be attacking the par-72, 6,400-yard north course. And the odds are that local players will come away victorious.

Exactly one-third of the field —

45 — is from the greater Palm Beach County area. The tournament has two age divisions — 15-to-17 and 12-to-14 — and each has its share of outstanding players.

"We have some absolutely great players," said Cal Korff, who is running the tournament, the 30th put on by the Florida State Golf Association. "Not many of the best juniors miss this. It is by far one of the best tournaments of its kind anywhere."

To wit, no less than 14 players named to *The Post's* High School All-Area team are competing.

Perhaps the best of the local players in the 15-17 group is a trio from Cardinal Newman High School. John Tighe, Mickie Gallagher and Doug Pearce were instrumental in leading Cardinal Newman to its first state golf title.

But that isn't to discount such players as Gary Nicklaus of Benjamin, who finished third last year at Disney World; Tim Shifflett of John I. Leonard and Jim Meda of Forest Hill.

Other area players who figure to make the event a tight one include Buster Chapman of Fort Pierce Central High School, Jeff Stephens of North Shore, Erick Kauppinen of Santaluces, John Reynolds of Benjamin, Gary Mawich of Twin Lakes, J.J. Sehlke of Spanish River, John Leighton of Martin County and David Pearce of Fort Pierce Westwood.

Len Mattiace of Ponte Vedra also looms as a strong threat in the 15-17 division, having been the medalist in the state high school tournament in Sarasota. He won the 12-14 division three years ago.

— Jon Marmor

FLORIDA

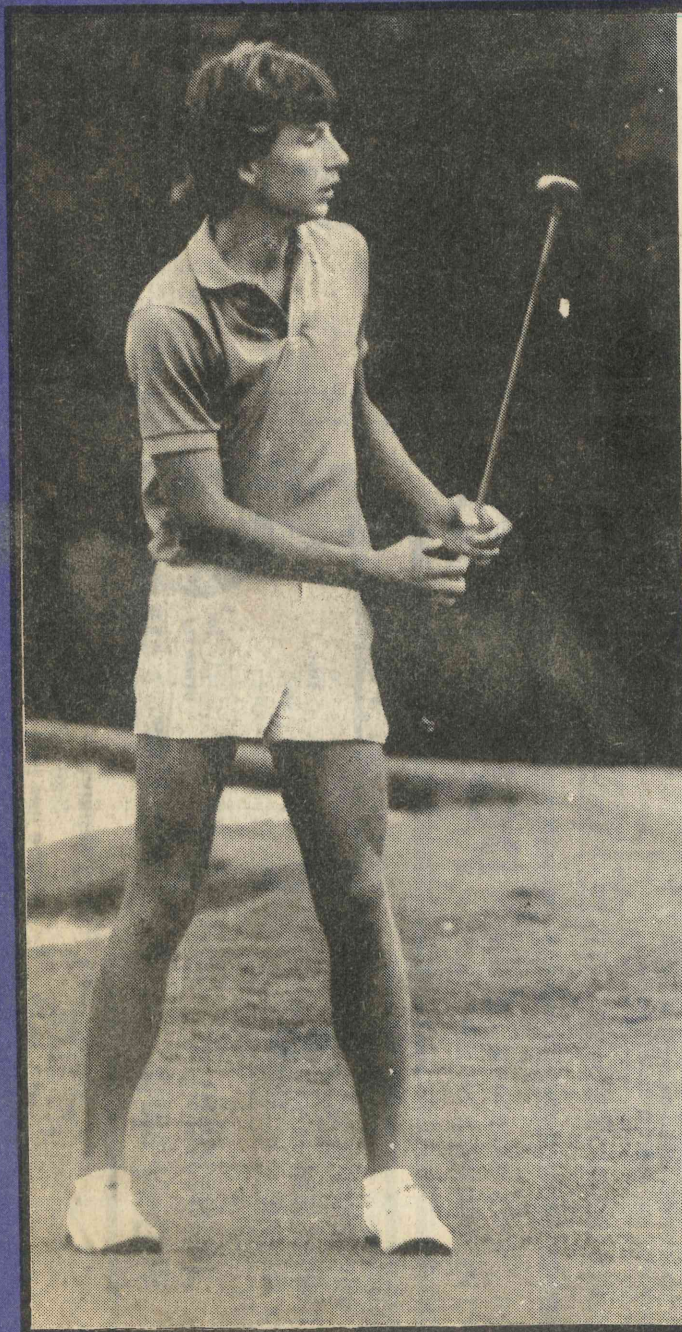
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SINCE 1975

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Florida
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Florida Open
Next Week:
400 To Play
— Page 3

McDida
Wins At
Rolling Hills
— Page 3

Pros Say You
Learn From TV
— Page 6



McDida's triumph came in the 18th hole of the 18-hole Florida Junior Open at Rolling Hills Golf Club. McDida's victory was a surprise as he had never before won a tournament. He is the youngest winner in the history of the Florida Junior Open. McDida's victory was a surprise as he had never before won a tournament. He is the youngest winner in the history of the Florida Junior Open. McDida's victory was a surprise as he had never before won a tournament. He is the youngest winner in the history of the Florida Junior Open.

**'75 Cover Boy
is new Florida
junior champ**

'Grown-up' Fred Benton is FSGA junior champ

BY ED HENDERSON

LAKE BUENA VISTA

When Fred Benton was 3 years old, his mother worked at a golf course pro shop and didn't want to leave her baby with a babysitter. So she would take him with her. It wasn't long before her toddler was out puttering around the course.

That early start in the game paid off for young Fred when he sank a four-foot birdie putt on the third extra hole to defeat Roger Kennedy of Pompano Beach in the FSGA State Junior Championship.

BENTON, FROM Jacksonville Beach, won it on June 24 at the Magnolia course at Walt Disney World. The 17-year-old rising senior at Fletcher High School shot rounds of 72 and 70 for a 2-under-par total of 142. Kennedy, son of Roger Sr., pro at Pompano Beach CC, posted 71-71. Third went to Tom Tolles of Cape Coral at 72-73—145.

Michael Bradley of Sanibel Island, who recently finished third in the FSGA State Amateur at Grenelefe-West, shot the low round of the tournament, an opening 69, but he closed with 78 to finish five shots behind.

In the 12-14 division, Eric Brito of Jacksonville, who will join Benton on the Fletcher prep team next year, won by six on 73-75. Chris DiMarco of Longwood finished second at 154. Steve O'Neil of Zephyrhills and Gary Nicklaus of North Palm Beach tied for third at 157.

For Benton, this was clearly his top moment in golf. He's trying to earn a collegiate scholarship, to Florida or Houston, he says.

"Coming in, I definitely felt I had a chance to win it," said Benton, who left immediately for Grenelefe and the North Florida PGA Junior. "This hasn't quite hit me yet. I'll feel it tomorrow."

And he'll never forget it. In his only other brush with greatness, Benton qualified for the U.S. Junior Boys last year with 73-78 but failed to qualify for match play after 36 holes at the national site.

OUR COVER

This is the second time around for Jacksonville's Fred Benton. When **GOLF WEEK** was only four months old—and he was nine years—he made the cover of our July 10, 1975 issue as an International PeeWee tournament runner-up. He was "Freddie" Benton then—but they do grow up.

In the Benton corner was Rick Famlin, who for 30 years was pro at the Ponte Vedra Club and who still today plays regularly with Jerry Pate's granddad, a man who introduced young-chap Jerry to the game. Famlin's moral support clearly helped Benton.

IN THE opening round, Benton scored 36-36, with three birdies on the front, a double bogey and bogey. On the back, he had one birdie and one bogey. His final round went 35-35, with one birdie and eight pars on the front and two birdies and a bogey on the back.

He didn't birdie one of the par 5s either day.

Kennedy, who also will be a high school senior, started young like Benton, at age 4. He's learned the swing well from his dad, a respected pro both as a player and golf businessman. The senior Kennedy has placed second in the Florida Open and represented the United States in the PGA Cup Matches, based on his play in the National Club Pro Championship.

Young Kennedy's best tournament performance prior to this was a seventh in the State High School Championships as a sophomore.

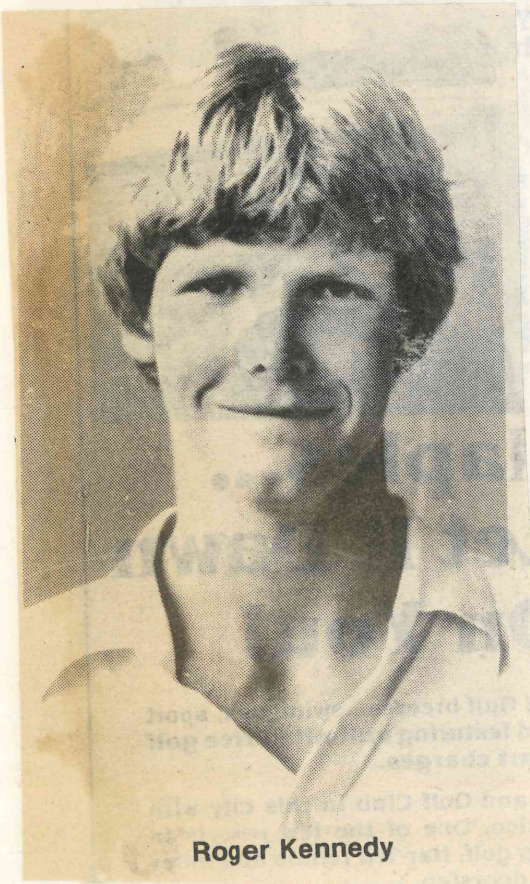
"I'm happy," Kennedy said. "I held it together. I haven't played that many big tournaments like this. I'm ready to play a lot more now."

HE SHOWED great character and concentration in the final round. His opening drive

continued on page 2



Fred Benton



Roger Kennedy

FSGA Junior

continued from page one

flew far right and into water. He double bogeyed but then followed with three consecutive birdies. At the par-5 10th, then trailing Bradley by one, Kennedy took two shots to escape a fairway bunker but drilled his fourth shot with a short iron to four feet and made the par.

Bradley looked solid enough in the lead until the ninth hole, where he four-putted from 40 feet. The third putt was a hurried poke. It stunned him.

But he held on and trailed Kennedy by one at 1 under on the 16th tee, where he drove far right into trees and hazard. He dropped and put his third shot into the water in front of the

green. That finished him.

But he did have the 69.

Brito, 14, said his final round had a lot of up-and-down in it. Twice he chipped in for birdie. The former age-group winner in the International Pee Wee will represent the state in the Insurance Youth Classic later this summer.

The 15-17 playoff was conducted in the steamy, storm-threatening weather which was the rule throughout the tournament. There were some sprinkles and a torrential downpour following completion of the first round, but no delays.

On the first hole, Benton stayed alive with a

miraculous par. His drive found the right fairway bunker and his second flew left of the green on the par-4 hole, with a bunker between himself and the pin, which was only 10 feet off the edge. He pitched up and over the trouble and saved par from 10 feet. Just putting his third shot on the green was magnificent.

On the second extra hole, No. 2, a dogleg-right par 4, Benton narrowly missed birdie from the back fringe (18 feet); Kennedy missed from 12 after a nicely wedged second shot from just in the right rough.

At the 160-yard third hole, Benton put his tee shot in tight, to four feet. Kennedy also was on line, but just beyond. Kennedy missed from 20 feet, then Benton ended it.

1983

Complete results from the FSGA State Junior Championship at the par-72, 6700-yard Magnolia course at Walt Disney World; 136 players

15-17 DIVISION

- 142 (2 under)—Fred Benton, Jacksonville, 72-70 (won playoff on third extra hole with birdie-2)
142—Roger Kennedy, Pompano Beach, 71-71
145—Tom Tolles, Cape Coral, 72-73
146—Steve Lamontagne, Satellite Beach, 74-72; Dean Hiers, Lake Wales, 71-75
147—Larry Holland, North Palm Beach, 72-75; Michael Bradley, Sanibel Island, 69-78; Ricky Crable, Orlando, 72-75; Fred Simons, Winter Park, 74-73; Greg Hyde, Miami Shores, 77-70; John Secunda, Pompano Beach, 72-75
148—Michael Valley, Jacksonville, 77-71
149—James Sowerwine, North Palm Beach, 79-70; Len Mattiace, Ponte Vedra Beach, 75-74; John Byrd, Melbourne, 73-76; James Gilleon, Ocala, 73-76
151—James Curran, West Palm Beach, 75-75; Gary Hardler, Palm Beach Gardens, 77-74; Mark Davis, Orlando, 73-78; Scott Carlson, Miami Shores, 79-72; Brian Schoeck, Orlando, 79-72
152—Patrick Prins, Leesburg, 77-75; David Turley, Longwood, 75-77; Scott Curry, Ocala, 77-75
153—Patrick Maloney, Plantation, 73-80; Dean Refram, Zephyrhills, 75-72; Freddy Jenkins, Lakeland, 75-78; Steve Tharp, Palm Bay, 80-73
154—John O'Bryan, Jacksonville, 81-73; Michael Gallagher, Palm Beach Gardens, 80-74; Chris Fleming, Clearwater, 78-76
155—David Beck, Tallahassee, 77-78; Randy Donahoe, Plant City, 76-79; John Kuliesh, Palm Harbor, 76-79; Stanley Grissinger, Titusville, 78-77
156—Tom Pelegrin, Sarasota, 79-77; Steve Stagg, Tampa, 79-77; Steve Ford, Melbourne, 75-81; Jeff Boyd, Plantation, 76-80; Paul Buchanan, Lakeland, 74-82
157—Brendan Kennedy, Winter Park, 78-79; Kemp Riechmann, Jacksonville, 74-83
158—Charles Spamer, Clearwater, 78-80; John Finster, Tampa, 74-84; David Hyman, Orlando, 74-84; Todd Vancil, Tampa, 83-75
159—Kevin Dyer, Lake Placid, 76-83; Jud Burkett, San Manteo, 79-80; Greg Martin, Plant City, 80-79
160—Scott Gump, Merritt Island, 81-79; Andrew Purnell,

Jacksonville, 81-79; Shannon O'Neil, Zephyrhills, 79-81; Nicholas Pennewell, Lakeland, 75-85; Chris Berens, Mount Dora, 79-81; Brad Bachand, Orlando, 83-77; Mark Colton, North Palm Beach, 79-81

161—John Reynolds, Palm Beach Gardens, 82-79; Geoffrey Gibson, Jacksonville, 78-83; David Krak, Palm Beach Gardens, 81-80; Doug Pearce, West Palm Beach, 86-75; Eddie Casingal, Lake Wales, 78-83; Jim Rose, Ridge Manor, 76-85; David Bledsoe, Ocala, 79-82

162—Doug LeFebvre, Plant City, 82-80; Chuck Busse, Palm Beach Gardens, 80-82; Mike Borgarro, Casselberry, 81-81
163—David Howard, Sarasota, 79-84; Shelton Keely, Plant city, 82-81; Ken Ottis, Maitland, 80-82

164—David Altenhof, Palm Bay, 85-79
165—Shawn Doty, Crystal River, 81-84; David Veghte, Clearwater, 80-85; Lloyd Vail, DeLand, 78-87

168—Greg Crutchfield, Merritt Island, 84-86; Chris McManus, Longwood, 82-86

169—Danial Lavoie, Orlando, 88-81; Gary Griffith, Fort Pierce, 81-88

171—Kelly Rice, Ridge Manor, 86-85; J.J. Weber, Orlando, 84-87

172—Paul Westberry, Bartow, 88-84; Jay Cameron, Clearwater, 93-79; Jay Rowley, Boynton Beach, 94-79; Matt Breen, Longwood, 83

173—Gilbert Sanchez, Tampa, 88-85
174—Mike Lafferty, Gainesville, 89-85

175—Jeff Stalcup, Lake Park, 89-86; Stewart Hamilton, Sorrento, 87-88

176—Matthew Schultz, Orlando, 88-88
182—Scott Maciejewski, Tampa, 87-95

183—Jay Hutcheson, Orlando, 92-91
185—David Pearce, Fort Pierce, 87-98
186—Chris McGill, Lake Wales, 99-87

191—Scott Thompson, Tallahassee, 93-98
NC—Richard Smith, Palatka, 78; Mitch Mitchell, Fernandina Beach, 78; John Story, Altamonte Springs, 87

NS—Andrew Snyder, Palm Harbor, 85; Eduardo Franky, Tampa; Jay Galbraith, Orlando; Mike Hinnant, Tampa, 97

12-14 DIVISION

148—Eric Brito, Jacksonville, 73-75
154—Chris DiMarco, Longwood, 82-72

157—Steve O'Neil, Zephyrhills, 83-74; Gary Nicklaus, North Palm Beach, 77-80

158—Scott Ford, Lake Worth, 77-81; Andy Williams, Seminole, 79-79

159—Scott Brown, Lakeland, 74-85
160—Bill Moore, Tallahassee, 81-79

161—Todd Brown, Altamonte Springs, 79-82
162—Dudley Hart, Miami Beach, 81-81

165—Ken McKenna, Orlando, 87-78
166—David Rowley, Boynton Beach, 78-78; Buster Chapman, Fort Pierce, 85-81

173—Frank LoFaso, West Palm Beach, 83-90
175—Doug Flynn, Jacksonville, 87-88

178—Glenn Mathews, Orlando, 86-92
180—Richaard Kaufman, Tampa, 94-86

183—Chuck Wamsley, Orlando, 88-95
185—David Keel, Tallahassee, 92-93; Steve Ferguson, Daytona Beach, 92-93

186—Bobby Duckett, Ocala, 91-95
187—Tony Mascia, Orlando, 92-95

188—Quinn Kuite, Port Richey, 96-92
192—Greg Krak, Palm Beach Gardens, 94-98

206—Todd Maciejewski, Tampa, 101-105
NS—Brad Orlosky, Fort Lauderdale, 96

WD—David Cohen, Longwood, 80

Benton captures junior golf title

By Bob Fowler

OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

Fred Benton of Jacksonville Beach sank a 3-foot birdie putt to defeat Roger Kennedy of Pompano Beach on the third playoff hole and capture the Florida State Golf Association's boys' junior championship Friday on Walt Disney World's Magnolia course.

But a shot Benton made on the first extra hole was just as important to his victory in the 15- to 17-year-old division.

Eric Brito of Jacksonville, the first-round leader in the 12-14 division, followed his 1-over 73 with a 75 for a 148 total to win that title.

He had a 6-shot edge over Longwood's Chris DiMarco, who rallied from an opening 82 with a 72 — the best round of the day in his age group.

David Rowley of Boynton Beach finished third at 156 and Gary Nicklaus, the 14-year-old son of Jack Nicklaus, tied for third at 157.

In the 15-17 division, first-round leader Michael Bradley of Sanibel fell out of contention with a 78 after an opening 69.

Benton shot a 2-under 70 Friday for a 2-under 142 total.

Kennedy 2-putted from 30 feet on No. 18 to finish with a second straight 1-under 71.

On the first playoff hole, Benton missed the green with his second shot.

But he hit a spectacular pitch over a trap to within 4 feet of the cup and made the putt to save par — and keep the match even.

The two 17-year-olds remained tied until the par-3 third hole when Benton hit a 7-iron within 3 feet of the pin and Kennedy put his shot 15 feet away.

Kennedy missed his birdie attempt, but Benton didn't.